

A POPULAR ROCK N ROLLER

REMEMBER WHEN

IN the latest of his profiles of movers and shakers of Bradford's rock 'n' roll scene, DEREK AJ LISTER celebrates

vocalist and guitarist Dave Arran. Dave Arran (1942-2015) attended Green Lane Infants School and Drummond Road Secondary School. Leaving school at the age of 15, he was employed by Grattan Warehouse on Ingleby Road.

He was born into a musical and theatrical family: his mother and father were both pianists and his sister appeared for three years as a Sunbeam at the Alhambra Theatre. Dave originally wanted to become a dancer and attended dance, ballet and tap classes. By the age of 13 he was performing at the Gaumont ballroom in the musicals Carousel and South Pacific, where his dance talents and his vocal skills were noted. However, along came skiffle, guitars and rock 'n' roll - and he was hooked.

With a schoolfriend, Terry Lee, Dave eventually learned four chords on the guitar, enough at that time to sing any hit songs. With Terry on bass guitar and Dave on rhythm guitar and vocals, Paul White on lead guitar and Dave Murgatroyd on drums, this young group called itself Dave Arran and



Dave Arran and the Crusaders. Dave is the singer in front of the mic. Drummer Colin Houghton is top left. Cliff Dutton is bottom left. Top right is Kenny Rhodes. If anyone knows the name of the other band member, please email emma. clayton@nqyne.co.uk

having been almost 40 years in the business. It had been a long time since, as a 14-year-old guitar vocalist in 1956, he had sung at the Towers Hall cinema on Manchester Road under the name Danny Collins. The cinema advertisement outside said: 'Today, Danny Collins, Bradford's Tommy Steele'.

It wasn't so long ago that Dave was persuaded by his son and daughter to enter a 'senior star trail' while on holiday at Havens Reighton site, backed by the resident trio, Festival. He won the competition trophy singing the popular Unchained Melody. Coincidentally, with the trio was another Bradford icon of the early 1960s - Mick Kershaw of Mick and the Tornados.

Now retired, Dave still kept his hand in by entertaining at the Alzheimer's Society's Well Being Café in Bradford with melodies of Cliff Richard, Elvis and other stars of that era. As he said, 'Once you have the bug...'

Sadly Dave passed away in 2015 where he still lived in the West Bowling area of Bradford with his wife Jeanne.

* Derek and collaborator, musician Reuben Davison, have profiled singers, bands and musicians from Bradford's 1950s and 60s music scene in their website: www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk

the Dakotas.

After much rehearsal they were soon playing at local working men's clubs and even a free show for the YMCA.

However, after a short time Dave met The Crusaders by chance in

the Craven Heifer pub on Manchester Road, and discovered they were looking for a vocalist. After a short audition singing Cliff Richard's D in Love and Move It, he was offered the job, and The Crusaders became Dave Arran and the Crusaders.

This move brought Dave travel and success, with a three year contract in Germany.

Dave left the group scene after a few years to go solo, working from the late 1970s in working men's clubs and nightclubs until 1991,

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