

THE SUNDAY MORNING ROCKERS

REMEMBER WHEN

IN the latest of his profiles of leading figures on Bradford's rock 'n' roll scene, DEREK AJ LISTER looks back at drummer Keith Artist:

KEITH was born in St Luke's Hospital in 1941 and lived in Wilsden and Thornton before moving to Swaine House. He later went to Belle Vue Boys School and the family moved to Delph Hill in Wyke.

Leaving school, he worked in the office at a fruit and vegetable merchants. Keith became interested in early skiffle music and whilst living in Delph Hill made friends with three other musically minded lads. They formed The 789 Skiffle Group, later changing the name to The Delph Boys, practising in a front room on Sunday afternoons. At one time he wanted to play guitar, but gave up as some rhythm section was required in the group; he could play the washboard.

After the demise of The Delph Boys Keith became a self-taught drummer. Hooked on rock 'n' roll, he purchased a drum kit from Harmony House in Bridge Street. Around this time he left his job in the market to join the Atlas Haulage Company in the traffic office. He spent most of his free time practising drumming sequences of 1950s hits. It paid off; he was soon a proficient drummer. For a short time he joined a seven-piece group, The Sobey Dance Band, soon reduced to a quartet. His



first move to rock 'n' roll was 1959-60 joining Dal Stevens and the Four Dukes, a good learning curve for a new drummer although he nearly didn't make it to any future career. The group needed somewhere to practise and for the sum of 5/- Dal procured the local swimming baths in Storr Hill, Wyke, on

Sunday mornings. The first practise went well. Come the second Sunday, local residents had already had enough! Not again would they be awakened by an up-and-coming rock 'n' roll group spoiling their Sunday morning lie-ins. The group set their equipment up and had barely got through Cliff Richard's

Move It when a deadly missile in the shape of a half-brick came crashing through one of the windows, narrowly missing Keith's head and his prized drumkit. No group has ever dismantled guitars, amplifiers and drums in such record time. They left Wyke behind, to probably the sound of laughter from

Keith Artist (1941-2012) was a talented drummer and played with several Bradford groups

Storr Hill residents who had put to flight what might become one of the world's leading groups, with one missile.

The next group Keith joined, 1961-1962 were The Crusaders, a tip top band with excellent musicians co-ordinated by the popular Cliff Dutton, however as the group had obtained a season in Germany, Keith declined the invitation because of family and career commitments. In 1963 he decided it was time to form his own group, The Four Musketeers. The group was popular on the local circuit and in South Yorkshire doing Beatles, Rolling Stones, Chuck Berry covers. They folded late 1965. In the mid-sixties Keith was playing with Dave Lee and Dennis Oliver at the Red Lion pub, Bankfoot. From the 1970s he played with Tony Earl and the Revelation and a band called Shambles. In the 1980s he re-formed The Four Musketeers under Resurrection and from 2002-04 played with many groups until 2006 when he retired from the Atlas Haulage Company after 44 years. After years as a drummer he played guitar, ukulele, harmonica and keyboard. He was a cyclist and he and Anne, his wife of 46 years, enjoyed their caravan in Cumbria and the family home in Queensbury.

Keith was one of Bradford's original rock 'n' roll musicians, a well respected, exciting, inventive drummer who could recreate parts perfectly from records. His drum solos were memorable. Quite shy, a man of not too many words, but a great talent.



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