

# THE RAVERS' BIG BREAK

## REMEMBER WHEN

IN the latest of his profiles of figures on Bradford's rock 'n' roll scene, DEREK AJ LISTER looks back at Lee Chevin and the Ravers:

Lee Chevin and the Ravers were another of Bradford's very successful groups who were part of the scene from 1959. The original members were Ian Normington, lead guitar; Dave Archer, drums; Kenny Raper, rhythm guitar; and Dave Pannett, bass guitar. They were known simply as The Ravers, one of their first bookings was a staff dance in 1959 at the Queens Hall. As with all new groups, a corner of the ballroom was found for the Ravers to make their mark - and it was not a very encouraging start!

For a short while in the early days, they were managed by local lad and entrepreneur Tony Gilfoyle.

Some members left and new ones joined, and the line-up changed to Dave Pannett, bass guitar; Brian (Baz) Bastow, rhythm guitar; Rod Wright, lead guitar; Dave Archer, drums, and Lee Chevin, vocals.

This line-up continued for the next four years; the group was known first as Lee Chevin and the Ravers and then The Riders.

Local venues and dance halls were entertained many times by these young Bradford lads, who made lots of friends and fans - especially at the Majestic dance hall, where they probably played



more often than any other group.

Becoming quite successful, the group was only a few months old when it was offered work in Germany; but for this they had to have a girl singer as well as Lee. They auditioned one or two, but the girl who got the job was Pauline

Matthews (who later became Kiki Dee). However, the tour was called off before it began, as Pauline was not only too young but also had other commitments. The group's first real break came in early 1963, after a chance in a million meeting with Russ Conway on the

forecourt of the Central Garage in Bradford town centre.

They had stopped for petrol when they saw Russ's Rolls-Royce convertible. Soon they had told him all about the group, and a few weeks later Lee Chevin and the Ravers had passed an audition for

George Martin, of Beatles fame. In July 1963 they made a record at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London. This was released in November 1963. The A-side was Darling Jean, written by Brian Bastow and Dave Pannett, and this was a chart. Memories of You was also recorded by The Applejacks, who were number one at the time with Tell Me When.

A song called In Love with an Angel, written by lead guitarist Rod Wright, was put on a disc by a singer called Draffi and released in Germany. About this time the group was offered a five-year contract by impresario Tito Burns, who was the manager of Cliff Richard and the Shadows, Shirley Bassey and many more stars. Needless to say, The Riders signed.

For the next few years the group travelled throughout the UK, appearing with many of the pop stars of the time, notably Lulu, Manfred Mann, Merseybeats, Applejacks, Jess Conrad, Vince Eager, Mike Sarne and Edna Savage.

They were the type of group that always drew a good crowd and had many teenage fans. After four years, however, and with music and fashions changing, in 1964 one of Bradford's premier groups finally called it a day.

\* Derek and collaborator, musician Reuben Davison, profile singers, bands and musicians from Bradford's 1950s and 60s music scene in their website: [www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk](http://www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk)

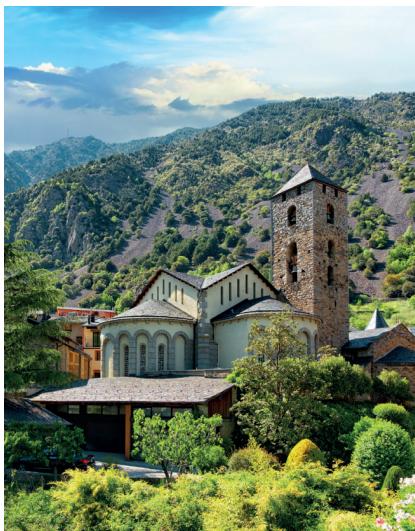
just **go.**holidays

★★★★★ Trustpilot

By Coach from Bradford, Keighley

Reader Travel

Telegraph & Argus



## ANDORRA, MONTSERRAT & THE PYRENEES

Departing Thu 7 May '26

### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel & ferry crossings **from Bradford, Keighley**
- ✓ First & last night on a bed & breakfast basis in France (JG3 rating) (last night with a light evening meal)
- ✓ Additional overnight stays on outward & return journey on a half-board basis
- ✓ 5 nights at a selected hotel in Andorra la Vella (JG4 rating) with welcome drink, dinner & breakfast, wine & water with dinner, free bar (8:30pm-10:30pm) on selected wine, beer, local spirits, soft drinks, tea & coffee, fruit & water in room on arrival & porterage
- ✓ Scenic tours of Andorra & the Pyrenees (La Seu d'Urgell, Puigcerdà, Soldeu, Lake Engolasters, Meritxell & Os de Civís)
- ✓ Free time in Andorra la Vella
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Excursion to Montserrat
- ✓ En-route visits to Bourges, Étang de Thau, Rocamadour & Paris

► **SAVE £75 - Quote NQC - Book by 30 Jan 2026**

**10 Days by Coach only £1099**

Single Supplement £280



## PORTOFINO, SAN REMO & MONTE CARLO

Departing Thu 7 May '26

### SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel & ferry crossings **from Bradford, Keighley**
- ✓ First & last night on a bed & breakfast basis in France (last night with a light evening meal)
- ✓ Additional overnight stay on the outward journey on a half-board basis in France
- ✓ 6 nights at a selected hotel in Diano Marina (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast (includes one Ligurian speciality dinner)
- ✓ Welcome drink, portage, water in room on arrival & live music on some evenings
- ✓ **Free bar** (7pm-10pm on local brands (spirits, beer, wine, soft drinks & tea & coffee))
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Excursions to Monaco, Monte Carlo, Portofino, San Remo & en-route visit to Dijon
- ✓ Scenic boat trip from Rapallo to Portofino & free time in Diano Marina

Optional Wines of Liguria excursion (£39pp)

► **SAVE £75 - Quote NQC - Book by 30 Jan 2026**

**10 Days by Coach Only £1199**

Single Supplement £250

For more information, or to book, please call

**03332 342 523** Quote NQC

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

or visit us online at

[justgoholidays.com/NQC](http://justgoholidays.com/NQC)

These packages are subject to Just Go! Holidays terms & conditions. Coach bookings are protected by Bonded Coach Holidays & the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Ltd. Air holidays are ATOL protected NoJ0889. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing a room & honoured bookings made up to 7 days post publication, after which prices may fluctuate. Calls to 033 numbers are free with inclusive minute packages, else standard rates apply. Choices of date, hotel, airport or pick up location may incur a supplement. Please see website or call for full details.

