

MICK WAS A GIFTED SINGER

REMEMBER WHEN

IN the latest of his profiles of figures on Bradford's rock 'n' roll scene, DEREK AJ LISTER looks at vocalist and rhythm guitarist Mick Judge.

Of Italian descent, Mick was born in 1940 and attended St Mary's RC School. Leaving aged 15, he became an apprentice tailor's cutter for Robert Hirst Raincoats of Bradford. After learning the trade, he decided to go into business on his own, working in the local markets and selling raincoats (seconds) as well as other products. He had such entrepreneurial skills that he soon developed a successful business.

A good vocalist and a get-by rhythm guitarist, Mick's introduction to rock 'n' roll was when he helped to establish The Hi-Ti's in 1959. Although this only lasted a few months, he was soon back on the scene with his own group, Mick Judge and the Jurymen. With a title apparently from a Wild West film, they couldn't fail - and from 1962 until early 1965 they were successful. The group members were talented musicians: Mick Judge, vocals and rhythm guitar; John Powell, bass guitar; Brendan Wynne, drums, and the jewel in the crown Allan Holdsworth, lead guitar. With a top repertoire of rock 'n' roll numbers, they were playing at many clubs and dance halls in Yorkshire throughout 1963. Later they attracted



Mick Judge and the Jurymen, in 'look-alike Beatles pose'. L-R: John Powell, Brendan Wynne, Mick Judge and Allan Holdsworth

with two children) and bass player John Powell could not accept. The group folded early in 1965.

In 1965 when the group disbanded, Mick was the DJ at the Somerset Ballroom on Idle Road for a time, while still running his clothes business. However, he was soon back doing the circuits in Bradford:

Being an accomplished vocalist with a flair for singing like Elvis Presley (ballads only), he was accompanied by his own mobile backing. He followed other Bradford performers like Dave Lee and Harry Foster, around venues including the Cock and Bottle, The Churchill, The Peckover and Hoffman's Club, all in the Little Germany district.

In the early 1990s, when karaoke became popular, Mick hired six top of the range karaoke machines to franchise around Yorkshire, and he turned this into another successful business.

Having suffered rheumatoid arthritis in his hands for some years, he soon went into semi-retirement, but with his daughter Maza he was still working in the world of personalised gifts. Now retired, Mick is still active as ever and lives in Greengates with his family

* 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

the Owen Hammond Agency, which immediately signed them up - and in early 1964 got them a booking, without an audition, at Butlins Skegness. On their return they appeared at Bradford's newly-opened Silver Blades Ice Rink, with advertising in the Telegraph & Argus referring to 'their successful season at Butlins'.

The same happened at The Mecca (Locarno) on Manningham Lane. Such was the popularity of the group that Owen Hammond really pushed them forward and they backed the young Pauline Matthews (Kiki Dee) at

many local venues. Then came the crunch. Owen Hammond wanted the group to tour Germany. Mick Judge jumped at the chance as did Allan Holdsworth, but the other two members, drummer Brendan Wynn (who was married

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