

T&A’S ROCK N ROLL MAN

REMEMBER WHEN

DEREK AJ LISTER looks back at former T&A rock ‘n’ roll writer Stan Pearson:

There was only one early Telegraph & Argus correspondent who sought out and wrote features on local groups and their members and that was Stanley (Stan) Pearson. Born in Allerton in 1933 and educated at Bradford City High School, he joined the T&A aged 14 and spent over 40 years with the newspaper, becoming a most respected golf journalist.

In his spare time Stan did freelance work for the world’s oldest weekly music newspaper, The Melody Maker. However it is relevant that his part-time work was really ‘moonlighting’ between 1955-1972.

He also wrote a pop music and jazz column based on the Yorkshire scene for the old Daily Herald newspaper. He did this under the pen name of Fred Armstrong. When he retired there was no need to keep this secret anymore, thus at last the world knew who Fred Armstrong was!

With his notepad and pencil he would wander into the Majestic and Gaumont ballrooms on rock ‘n’ roll nights and write snippets on who was who of the local groups. On most occasions these would be published in the Melody Maker and the Daily Herald. Stan served a purpose when no other



Stan Pearson, left, with Vince Eager Vince, a pop singer who was performing at the Gaumont

The following Sunday afternoon I was working in our front garden at Ascot Avenue, Horton Bank Top, when a couple came walking up the road and stopped at our front gate. “Are you Stanley Pearson?” the husband asked and when I said “Yes” he introduced them as Mr and Mrs Matthews, the parents of Pauline.

He went on to say he was an old friend of Don Alred of the T&A and had asked him how to have someone in the record industry listen to Pauline. Don had replied: “Stanley’s your man.” He gave Mr Matthews my details. To this day, the thing that amazes me is that Mr and Mrs Matthews would travel by bus from Bankfoot to Bank Top and expect me to be in. I know that telephones were not that usual back then, but even so...

Through Bradford band leader Les Garrett, Ken Macintosh and the Melody Maker I had got to know Walter Ridley, A&R manager of HMV Records in London, so I gave the Matthews his phone number. The Matthews fixed up to take Pauline down to London for an audition and the day after Walter rang me to say he’d been very impressed and would be signing her up. The rest as they say is history. Incidentally, it was Walter Ridley who changed her name to Kiki Dee after signing her up.

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

journalists were really interested. Serious, but with a wonderful sense of humour, Stan was a credit to his profession who saw the chance to promote the local talent. A good friend of disc jockeys Dal and Dadio, he’d always request the same record, The

Shadows’ instrumental Apache. Stan still has that sense of humour. Now retired, he lives in Menston with his wife Sandra. Here’s Stan’s reflecting on his Kiki Dee connection, as told to me in 2011: ‘I believe she worked at Boots in

Bradford and lived at Bankfoot at the time (when she was Pauline Matthews). She won a small talent contest in the city, I was there that night but had no contact with her afterwards. Indeed, to this day I have never met her.

★★★★★

★ Trustpilot

By Coach from Bradford

Reader travel

Telegraph & Argus

HARRY POTTER STUDIO TOUR & LONDON

Departing Sat 12 Jul ‘25, Sat 2 Aug ‘25, Sat 30 Aug ‘25, Sat 29 Nov ‘25

Join us as we enter the spectacular world of Harry Potter and look behind the scenes of this worldwide phenomenon at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London. With time to enjoy the attractions of London and hotel accommodation included, a magical break is assured!

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bradford**
- ✓ Overnight stay at the Hilton London Watford (JG3 rating) with breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter
- ✓ Free time in London for shopping & sightseeing

2 Days by Coach *only* £229

Single Supplement £60

NEWQUAY, ST IVES & THE EDEN PROJECT

Departing Sun 13 Jul ‘25

Enjoy a holiday paradise with sandy beaches, sparkling seas, idyllic villages, secret coves and smugglers’ cottages on this special break to Cornwall. Don’t miss your chance to visit the Eden Project, St Ives and the most southernly tip of the UK, Land’s End.

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bradford**
- ✓ 5 nights at the Pentire Hotel, Newquay (JG3 rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Entertainment some evenings
- ✓ Free time in Newquay
- ✓ Excursions to Land’s End, St Ives & the Eden Project

Optional excursion to Padstow (£12pp)

6 Days by Coach *only* £579

Single Supplement £100

TUTANKHAMUN LONDON THE IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION

Departing Sun 29 Jun ‘25

The Tutankhamun London exhibition takes us into the world of ancient Egypt and unravels the life and legacy of the famous pharaoh. This immersive experience combines interactive technology with historical artefacts to bring the story of the king to life!

SO MUCH INCLUDED...

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bradford**
- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel in London (JG3 or JG4 rating) with buffet breakfast
- ✓ Admission to Tutankhamun - The Immersive Exhibition, Excel Waterfront, Immerse LDN
- ✓ Free time in London for shopping & sightseeing

► **SAVE £10 - Quote NQC**

- Book by 30 May 2025

2 Days by Coach *only* £149

Single Supplement £50

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

Coach package holidays are operated by & bookings made subject to Just Go! Holidays terms & conditions which can be found on our website. Your booking is protected by Bonded Coach Holidays (BCH) and the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT). Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices per person, based on two people sharing a room; a small number of pickup points may incur a supplement. Calls to 033 numbers are free within inclusive minute packages otherwise standard rates apply. Prices are correct at the time of printing and will be honoured for bookings made on or before 7 days after publication. Prices after this date are subject to fluctuation.