

BAND THAT SAVED THE DAY

REMEMBER WHEN

DEREK AJ LISTER continues his look back at movers and shakers on Bradford's rock 'n' roll scene:

FORMED in the early 1960s, The Telecasters were probably one of the most professional local groups, taking top billing with Mike Sagar, The Cresters and The Dingos.

The Telecasters consisted of Raymond Smith, bass guitar; Brian Fillingham, drums; Dave Wiggins, lead guitar; and Mike Stephenson, rhythm guitar (he also acted as their manager). In 1962 the group was joined by Terry Sexton on vocals and their name was changed to Terry Sexton and the Telecasters. It was a sound move, as Terry brought several things to the group: his good looks, a reliable Commer van, which could be used for engagements, and best of all his girlfriend. Barbara Pell could sing and, known as Diana Stevens, was soon part of the group.

The Telecasters became one of the best-dressed groups in the region, Terry being resplendent in a silver lamé suit.

He also had a bronze satin suit, and the other group members mirrored his fashion by wearing lime green and turquoise outfits. Later, more sophisticated classical grey mohair suits were worn.

Soon Terry and the group became so



The Telecasters in action. Image: Derek AJ Lister

popular that many local dance halls and other venues competed for their talent. Diana, with her talent and beauty, was a very popular group member and was an audience favourite. She had originally trained as a classical soprano, although she

adapted well to rock 'n' roll: her renditions, with Terry, of the duets Hey Paula and Deep Purple were always requested. The musical ability of the group was of the same high standard, and their rendition of The Animals' hit The House of the Rising

Sun was always a favourite.

It was during this period that The Telecasters loaned Gerry and the Pacemakers their musical instruments and equipment for their show at the Majestic ballroom, when the van carrying the Pacemakers'

equipment broke down in Manchester. The Telecasters saved the day, preventing what could have been a riot.

In 1964 a change of name took place, to Terry Sexton and the Shakes. They still had the same line-up, except that rhythm guitarist Mike Stephenson had moved on to join Vince Wayne and the Falcons. It was during this time that Diana was taken onto the payroll, although she was not paid as much as the male members.

Everything was going well, with many bookings; they also shared a billing with The Hollies. It seemed that the world was their oyster.

In late 1964 The Shakes passed auditions for Butlin's and Continental Tours, but they couldn't persuade one or other of their band members to go (a usual occurrence at this time).

They continued into 1965, until their last booking at Thornton Working Men's Club. A short while later they became part of Pete Nelson and the Telecasters for a short time with a new female vocalist, Ann Broadbent.

The group finally folded in the mid-1960s. This group was a favourite of Dal (Derek A J Lister) and Dadio over the years, both at the Gaumont and the Majestic.

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

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