

John Simons

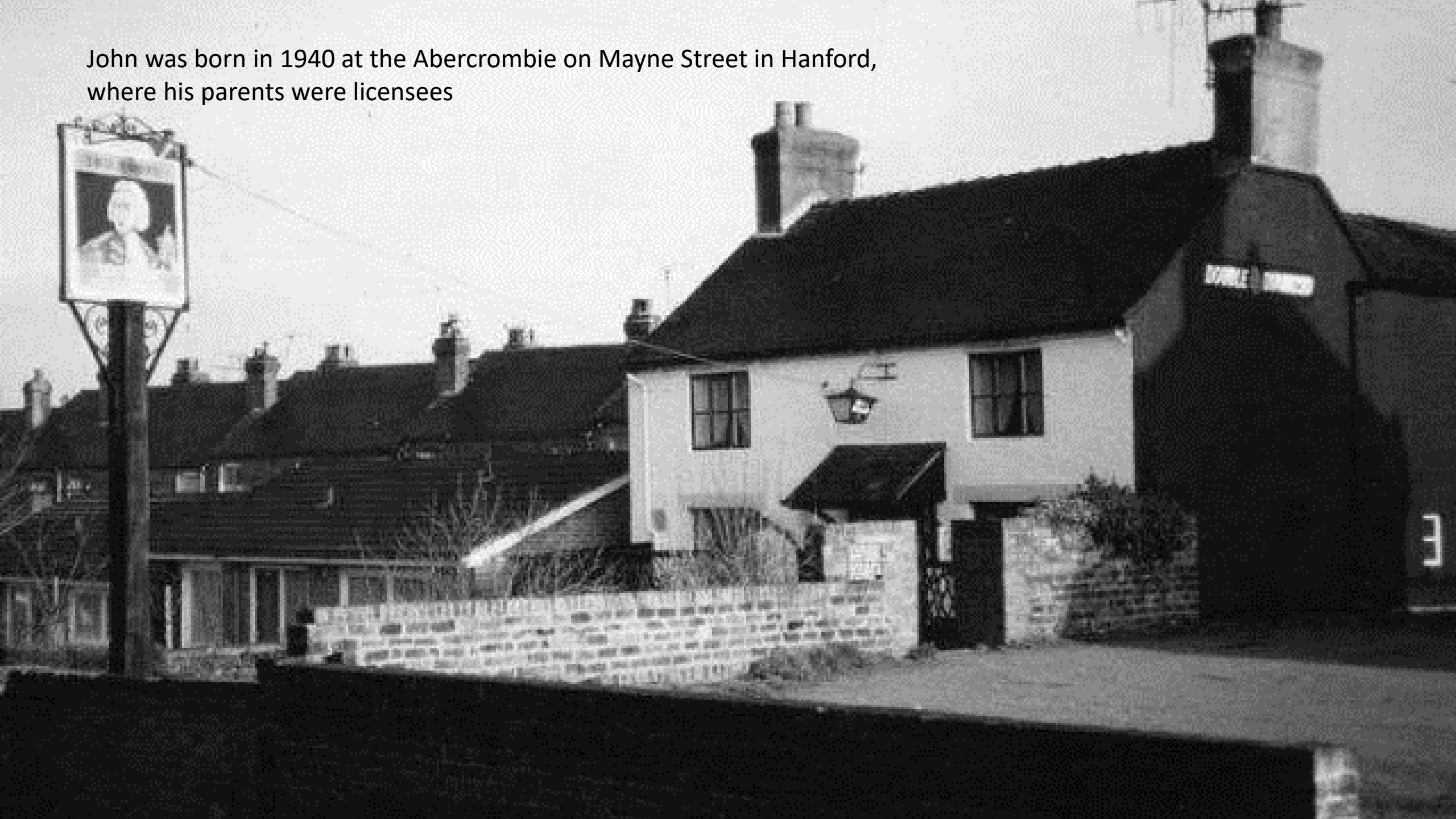
My Life in Music

including vintage film clip of Jollees



CREATIVITY
UNWRAPPED

John was born in 1940 at the Abercrombie on Mayne Street in Hanford,
where his parents were licensees



Early Years

After a short stay in Weston Coyney the family moved to the Station Hotel in Meir in 1943.



Station Hotel, shortly before demolition

Both of John's parents were musical

He had private piano tuition with Spencer Jones, head of music at Wolstanton Grammar School.

His father insisted he practise for an hour every evening.

He attended primary school in Meir and High School in Hanley.



John aged 9



John's parents on a cruise
in 1955

Starting work

John left school at 16 and went to work for the furniture company Brown Bros and Taylor Ltd. He worked at each of their local branches, in Stoke on Trent, Tunstall and Newcastle.

At the same time he was playing jazz three or four nights a week in the Cameo Lounge at the Embassy Hall in Waterloo Road, Burslem.

MUSIC FOR DANCING—
featuring the Clavoline
at the
EMBASSY HALL, BURSLEM
commencing
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th
and every Wednesday
7.45 to 10.45 :: Admission 1/3
Top 20 Tunes Played Nightly
also every
Mon.: Kim Cordon Tues.: Old Time
Wed.: Music For Dancing
Fri.: Traditional Jazz

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ELECTRIC
WASHER



Here's the lowest-priced family washing machine offering you all the practical features you need to cure your Monday blues. Porcelain-enamel finish, gentle agitator action, sprung wringer, many built-in extras.

£34-16-0
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See an
EASICLENE
'washing without tears'

DEMONSTRATIONS DAILY
TUESDAY, MAR. 1st—SATURDAY, MAR. 5th
from 10.30 a.m. daily
Less than £4 Down — Payments over 2 years
BROWN BROS. & TAYLOR Ltd.
45, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent

XMAS BARGAINS



VALUES THAT WERE NEVER SO GOOD

NO DEPOSIT TERMS

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Brown Bros & Taylor

TUNSTALL 101 High St. NEWCASTLE 60 Drummarket
STONE 449's Corner, 130 Church St. 02 Kingsway
TOTTENHAM: 14 BRIDGE STREET LONDON: 17 GERRARD

The Crystal

The Crystal Ballroom was the first of this type of ballroom in the area, built by Eddie Fenton and opened in November 1958.

"There was a 12/14 piece band in the main ballroom and then underneath he had another ballroom called the Gold Mine. It opened on Christmas Eve December 1959. It later changed its name to The Bali Ha'i.

This band was a six-piece, playing a kind of a bebop funky rock as opposed to the traditional jazz. It was fronted by a man named Kim Corden, who was the grandfather of James Corden. He was a great jazz player. I learned a lot from Kim."

Crystal BALLROOM

NEWCASTLE-U-LYME



GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY NEXT

NOVEMBER 29th, at 7.30 p.m.

Dancing until 11.45 p.m.

ADMISSION 5/-

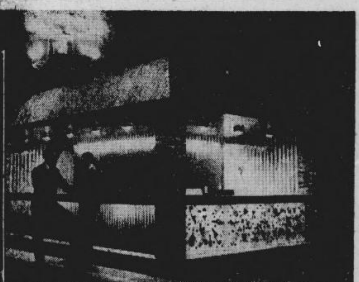
Late buses
Tickets at door only

This magnificent Ballroom has been carefully planned and built to cater for the needs of dancers of all ages, and admission prices are within the reach of everyone. And will accommodate over 1,200 people.

The Crystal Ballroom Orchestra is under the directorship of Mr. Ken Griffiths.

THE GOLD MINE

NEWCASTLE, STAFFS.



SITUATED BENEATH THE

CRYSTAL BALLROOM

GRAND OPENING CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME			
CHRISTMAS EVE	7.30 to 11.45 p.m.	7/6	
BOXING DAY	7.30 to 11.45 p.m.	10/-	
NEW YEAR'S EVE	8.0 to 2.0 a.m.	15/-	

Tickets from the usual agencies

LICENSED BARS	LATE BUSES
No Unorthodox Dress	Balloons, Novelties and Dance Prizes
Hassell Street Car Park	

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

MONDAY FOR CATS, 7.30 to 11 p.m. 2/6
in the Main Ballroom, with our Weekly Talent Competitions

RENDEZVOUS WEDNESDAY, 7.30 to 11 p.m. 3/-
At 10.00 p.m. in the Main Ballroom
Also Another Night for Cats in the Gold Mine (Minors Only)
7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

THURSDAY—The Crystal Ballroom and the Gold Mine available for Private Bookings

FRIDAY FOR CATS, 7.30 to 11 p.m. 2/6
in the Gold Mine

THE MAIN BALLROOM IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE BOOKINGS with Ken Griffiths and the Crystal Ballroom Orchestra

CARNIVAL SATURDAY, 7.30 to 11.45 p.m. 5/-
Two Bands — Two Ballrooms — ONE Ticket (Over 18's Only)

SUNDAY CLUB OPENING JANUARY 3rd, 1960
Membership invited—Members Only. Perms obtainable in the Ballroom.

Dance in TWO BALLROOMS to TWO BANDS with ONE TICKET

On CHRISTMAS EVE, BOXING DAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE and EVERY SATURDAY to

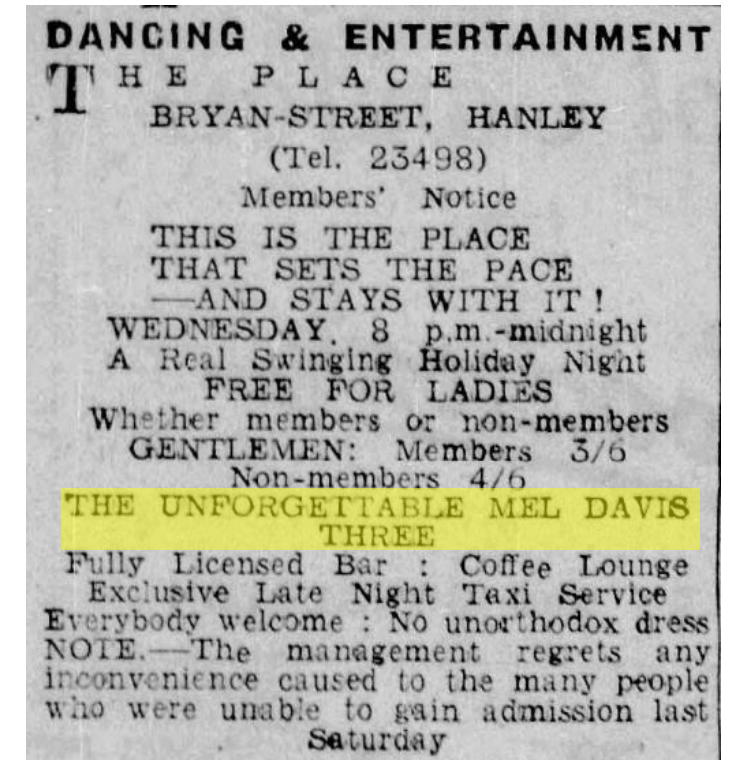
Ken Griffiths and the Crystal Ballroom Orchestra and Kim (Trumpet) Corden and the Gold Diggers

The Place

John played in the first small band in The Place when Kevin Donovan opened it in the early 60s. It was called the Mel Davis Three.

“They originally opened The Place without a band – they were hoping to do it with records, as the first discotheque in the area. But it didn’t work, so I got a call and was given the job. It was a trio, only semi professional, because I was a sales rep then.

We changed the format of the group; we threw the piano out, got a Hammond organ in, a bass guitar instead of a string bass, a guitar player, a trumpet player and a drummer. But then Donovan started to bring in pop groups which killed us dead.”



Turning Professional

John was very pleased that he was working at the furniture store when National Service ended, because he was due to be called up.

As a Private he'd have earned £1.50 a week and he was making £40 a week, working at the store and the Embassy jazz club.

His first professional music job was in the Safari and Lake Club Casino which opened in 1961 at Weston Coyney in the grounds of Park Hall. He played piano with a drummer, six nights a week, for £17 per week, cash.

"In those days there was a lot of music going on in Stoke on Trent. There were three or four big bands. Norman Jones was one, taken over by Ken Jones when he retired, and Ken Griffiths was another. All these bands were doing three or four nights a week for dances and functions."

**SAFARI LAKE CLUB
& CASINO**
PARK HALL-RD., WESTON COYNEY
Tel. 39615

Your Country Night Spot
NOT THE LARGEST OR THE
NOISIEST CLUB IN THE POTTERIES
BUT THE-E-E
NICEST & MOST EXCLUSIVE
YOU CAN SHUFFLE AND HAVE
SOUFFLE with
Dave & The Safari Sounds
(Resident)
"PLEASURE AT LEISURE"

In Our Casino
ALL GAMES PLAYED UNDER
STRICT SUPERVISION

MEMBERS NOTE:
Owing to increasing popularity, please
Come Early to avoid disappointment
b 257

The Adulte

In 1968 Eddie Fenton, the manager of the Crystal Ballroom in Newcastle, built a new dance hall in Waterloo Road, Burslem, on the site of a demolished potbank, calling it The Adulte. This was a sophisticated ballroom.

Eddie said at the time: *"The Adulte is for grown-ups and not teenagers. They've already got plenty of places to shuffle around in. The Adulte is for proper dancing."*

"Eddie never experienced any trouble. He always insisted on people being dressed correctly. You had to have a tie, jacket, the guys, your hair couldn't be on your collar. He banned the Earl of Lichfield from the Adulte because his hair was on his collar."



Ballroom opening swings

The new "for adults only" ballroom at Burslem, The Adulte got off the ground with a bang last night with a spectacular opening night.

The £250,000 building in Waterloo-road was filled with civic heads, magistrates, aldermen and councillors who sampled the delights of the first night.

The Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Alderman

Arthur Moran, paid tribute to the proprietor Mr. Eddie Fenton for what he described as an "excellent commercial enterprise" and to the architects and designers, James F. A. Moss.

Although there were more than 1,000 guests present last night, the vast ballroom and plush seating accommodation gave ample room for a 1,000 more.

The guests all over 20, were given a champagne buffet to mark the occasion.

The Lord Mayor is seen in the picture on stage with the Lady Mayoress, the Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle, Alderman and Mrs. Norman Salmon, and Mr. Eddie Fenton, the owner and Managing Director of the Ballroom.



BE A GUEST . . . AT THE **ADULTE & CUPIDS PARLOUR BURSLEM**

4 Nights a Week for Adults Only

TO-NIGHT

CARNIVAL SATURDAY

8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Admission 7/-

SUNDAY 8 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.
Admission 4/6

TUESDAY 8 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.
Admission 4/-

THURSDAY 8 p.m. - midnight
Admission 5/-

FULLY LICENSED BARS — No Unorthodox Dress
DANCING, DINING & ENTERTAINMENT—COME EARLY

No admittance under 20 years of age

cut out these Complimentary Tickets and be a
guest of Eddie Fenton

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19th

Complimentary
Ticket

8.0 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Fully Licensed till 11.30

2 Band Dancing to 11.30

PRESENT AT PAY DESK

Admission without this Ticket - 4/-

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21st

Complimentary
Ticket

THE BIG NIGHT OUT — Dancing
to 2 Bands and

Fully Licensed till 12 Midnight

PRESENT AT PAY DESK

Admission without this Ticket - 5/-

The Adulte

“At all Eddie Fenton ballrooms, if you went before nine o’clock, it was half price and half price at the bar.”

The Adulte was open four nights a week with good regular attendances:

1,000 on Tuesdays.

1,800 on Thursdays

2,000 on *Saturdays and Sundays.

*These were particularly popular nights as there were two bands and John had the big band.

On New Year’s Eves tickets 2,500 tickets were sold in advance. The Adulte had 18 bars side by side, making it the longest bar in the country.



New Years Eve at the Adulte in 1973

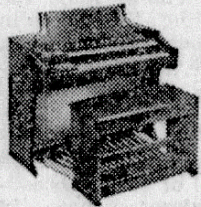
The Adulte

"At the Adulte they used to have this turntable with the two bands. There'd be a three or four piece and a big band, so the music was continuous. We used to go round and the music never stopped. We used Hammond Organs with the big cabinets and a reverb unit.

Typically, Eddie Fenton bought the turntable from British Rail at Camden. It was one of those used to turn an engine round.

It regularly used to stick. To get it going again the musicians used to jump up and down on the stage. The reverb unit would make a loud noise like thunder.

Never a dull moment!"



**"MUSIC THE WAY
YOU LIKE IT"**

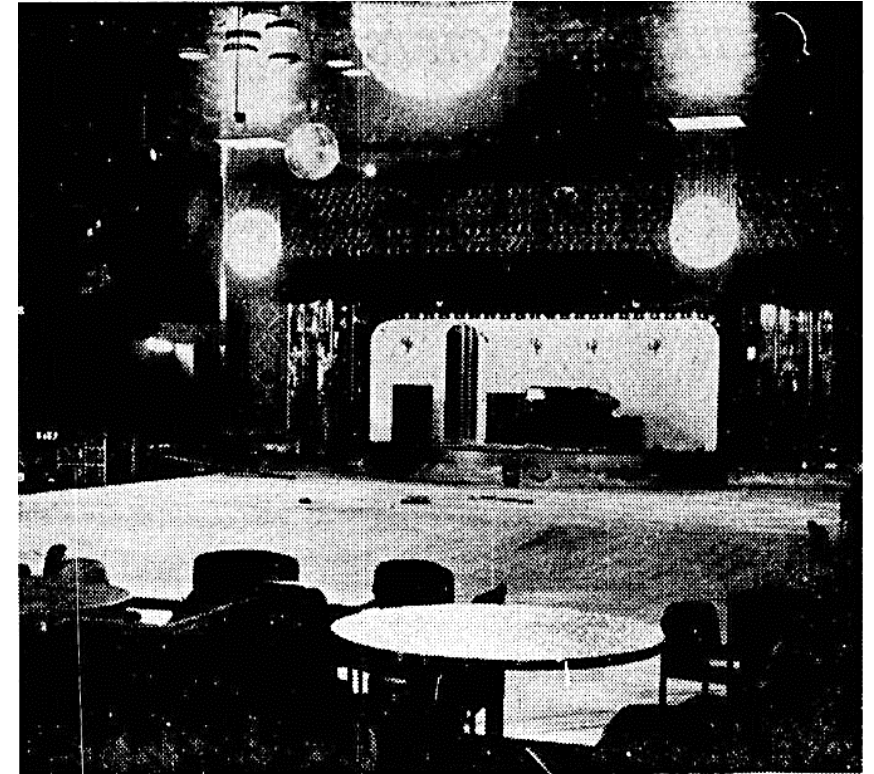
at **THE ADULTE BALLROOM**

Dance to the superb music of
THE HAMMOND and FARFISA ★
Organ Installation by

SHERWINS

of **HANLEY**

★ Hear them also in our Showrooms



A view looking across the main ballroom, showing the rotating stage.

Luxurious surroundings
modelled on a famous
Parisian night spot

Trentham Gardens

"I sometimes played at the Trentham Gardens ballroom for Norman Jones. Later for Ken Jones who was a pianist for Norman until he retired, then Ken took over from him.

There wasn't a lot of work at Trentham Gardens in those days.

The Ballroom itself really only operated at weekends and the licensing rules were such that you couldn't go past midnight on a Saturday night."



Norman Jones Orchestra

Trentham Church

"When needed, I used to deputise for Philip Harrison, the organist at Trentham Church.



The church organ is very old and rather than just go in, turn it on and play, being somewhat of a perfectionist, I used to go across a couple of days before and familiarise myself again.

I was used to playing big Hammonds and this is a traditional church organ with a full concave power pedal board. But with organs like this one, there is a time lag, you play something and the sound comes about a second later, and it takes a bit of getting used to. So you have to ignore it when you're playing.

Eric Hamlyn was the vicar at that time."



The Jollees' Years

"Jollees came along in 1973. I walked around it when there was a chalk mark where the stage would be.

We had eight years as the Show Band at Jollees with all the big names in entertainment.

We had to do the cabaret, as well as all the other dancing. Similar clubs had a pop group to play for the dancing."



John Simons [front left] with his showband

"Jollees helped to put Stoke on the map. No doubt about it!"

Jollees Proudly Presents...

Jollees became the UK's biggest live cabaret venue. It played host to popular stars from music and comedy including: Cliff Richard, Cilla Black, Cannon and Ball, David Essex, Morecambe and Wise, Petula Clark and Ken Dodd.

American performers came too, like Andy Williams and Roy Orbison, Jack Jones and the Three Degrees.



CENTRE BLOCK

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KINGCROSS HOUSE
COMMERCE STREET
LONGTON, STOKE-ON-TRENT
Telephone : 317491/2

LEWIS'S TRAVEL BUREAU
proudly presents

Buddy Greco

ADMIT ONE
Monday, April 15th, 1974
Open 8.0 p.m. until 2.0 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE
Tickets cannot be exchanged or moneys refunded.
The management reserves the right to refuse admission at all times.
Jacket, collar and tie must be worn by gentlemen.
Under no circumstances will stag parties be admitted.



Proudly Presents TONIGHT



THE SHADOWS



EDDIE FLANAGAN





Your Resident Band
THE JOHN SIMONS SHOWBAND
Musical Director
JOHN SIMONS

DANCING ★ DINING ★ DRINKING
INTERNATIONAL STAR CABARET
TABLE SERVICE ★ SENSIBLE PRICES

BRITAINS BREATHTAKING BEST
COMMERCE STREET, LONGTON, STOKE-ON-TRENT, TEL: 321611
PARTY BOOKING (20-1700 persons) Telephone 321 333
Managing Director MIKE MASSEY - General Manager ALAN WALKLET

Tickets Now On Sale For The Following....



Star Shows THIS WEEK

MAY 26th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 1977
Wednesday £1.75 Thursday £1.75 Friday £2.00 Saturday £2.00

JOLLEES' FIRST VARIETY SHOW
Featuring
DON MACLEAN ★ FAITH BROWN ★ DENIS WALTER
FREEWHEELIN' + MAXINE & MANDY

MAY 30th, 31st, JUNE 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 1977
Mon./Tues./Wed. Private Hire Thurs. £2.00 Fri. £2.25 Sat. £2.50



VINCE HILL
plus
MIKE TERRY

JUNE 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 1977
Monday Private Hire Tuesday £1.50 Wednesday £1.50 Thursday £1.75
Friday £2.00 Saturday £2.00

Bank Holiday Jubilee Spectacular
featuring
CANDLEWICK GREEN ★ TOM WAITE
NOEL TALBOT ★ DARK HORSE

JUNE 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 1977
Wednesday PRIVATE HIRE Thursday £2.00 Friday £2.25 Saturday £2.25



BOB MONKHOUSE
plus
THE CARAVELLES

ADVANCE NOTICE
JUNE 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 1977
Mon. Private Hire Tues. £1.25 Wed. £1.50 Thurs. £1.75 Fri. £2.00
Saturday, £2.25

BLACK ABBOTTS
On Sale from 9.30 a.m.
on SATURDAY, 21st MAY, 1977

ADVANCE SEATS AND TABLES
CAN BE RESERVED FOR THE ABOVE TOP-CLASS SHOWS AT THE FOLLOWING BOOKING OFFICES:-
JOLLEES:- DAYTIMES: Monday to Saturday (inclusive) 9.0am until 5.0pm
EVENINGS: Wednesday and Thursday 7.30pm until 1.0am
Friday and Saturday 7.30pm until 2.0am

MIKE LLOYD (MUSIC LTD) HANLEY, NEWCASTLE, TUNSTALL
JOLLEES' Entertainment attractions are regularly advertised in the Evening Sentinel
AS A GESTURE OF OUR APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT THIS EVENING
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACCEPT THIS PROGRAMME WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS

Jollees' Pin Up Party News Posters

OK UP
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Tues. 3rd May - JOHNNY MATHIS

W	4th	May	£1.75	(£1.25)
Th	5th	May	£1.75	(£1.25)
F	6th	May	£2.00	(£1.75)
S	7th	May	£2.00	

MIKE & BERNIE WINTERS

THE MINI TONES

Mon 9th May - THE DRIFTERS

W	11th	May	£1.75	(£1.25)
Th	12th	May	£1.75	(£1.25)
F	13th	May	£2.00	(£1.75)
S	14th	May	£2.00	

MARTIN ST. JAMES CANNON & BALL

JACK JONES

DAVE ISMAY

JOLLEES FIRST VARIETY SHOW

★ DON MACLEAN ★ ★ FAITH BROWN ★

23rd & 24th - THE SHADOWS

W	25th	May	£1.75	(£1.25)
Th	26th	May	£1.75	(£1.25)
F	27th	May	£2.00	(£1.50)
S	28th	May	£2.00	

DENIS WALTER

FREEWHEELIN' MAXINE & MANDY

Mon 30th May (Private Hire)

Tue 31st May (Private Hire)

Wed 1st June (Private Hire)

Th	2nd	June	£2.00	(£1.75)
F	3rd	June	£2.25	(£2.00)
S	4th	June	£2.50	

VINCE HILL

MIKE TERRY

BANK HOLIDAY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mon. 6th June - Poss. JUBILEE SPECTACULAR

Childrens Show.

Mon	6th	June (Private Hire)		
Tue	7th	June	£1.50	(£1.00)
Wed	8th	June	£1.50	(£1.00)
Thurs	9th	June	£1.75	(£1.25)
Fri	10th	June	£2.00	(£1.75)
Sat	11th	June	£2.00	

CANDLEWICK GREEN★TOM WAITE

NOEL TALBOT★DARK HORSE

Sun 12th June - Sarah Vaughan Trio - Band Probably not required.

W	15th	June (Private Hire)		
Thurs	16th	June	£2.00	(£1.50)
F	17th	June	£2.25	(£2.00)
S	18th	June	£2.25	

BOB MONKHOUSE

THE CARAVELLES

Mon 20th June (Private Hire)

Tue	21st	June	£1.25	(£1.00)
Wed	22nd	June	£1.50	(£1.25)
Thurs	23rd	June	£1.75	(£1.50)
Fri	24th	June	£2.00	(£1.75)
Sat	25th	June	£2.25	

BLACK ABBOTTS

ROY WALKER

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS. REOPENING WED. JULY 13th

★ Mel Scholes Summer Show ★

CARLO SANTANNA★TONY VENNER

★ JOANNA STARR★ ★ ★

W	13th	July	£1.50	(£1.20)
Th	14th	July	£1.50	(£1.20)
F	15th	July	£1.75	(£1.50)
S	16th	July	£2.00	

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 2nd APRIL

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 9th APRIL

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 16th APRIL

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 23rd APRIL

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 30th APRIL

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 7th MAY

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 14th MAY

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 21st MAY

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 28th MAY

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Mon 7th March (Private Hire)

Tues	8th	March	£2.00	(£1.50)
Wed	9th	March	£2.50	(£2.20)
Thurs	10th	March	£2.50	(£2.20)
Fri	11th	March	£2.75	
Sat	12th	March	£2.95	

ROY ORBISON

IAN SANDS

Wed 16th March (Private Hire)

Thurs	17th	March	£1.80	(£1.50)
Fri	18th	March	£2.00	(£1.75)
Sat	19th	March	£2.00	

TOM O'CONNOR

RONNIE HILTON

children

Wed	23rd	March	£1.75	(£1.25)
Thurs	24th	March	£1.75	(£1.25)
Fri	25th	March	£2.00	(£1.50)
Sat	26th	March	£2.00	

EDWIN HEATH

ALLAN STEWART

Mon 28th March

Tues 29th March

Wed 30th March

Thurs 31st March

Fri	1st	April	£3.75	
Sat	2nd	April	£4.00	

THE STYLISTICS

FROM AMERICA

Wed 6th April

Thurs 7th April

Thurs	7th	April	£1.50	(£1.00)
Sat	9th	April	£1.75	(£1.00)

DAVE EVANS

AL DEAN

Mon 11th April

Tues 12th April

Wed 13th April

Thurs 14th April

Fri	15th	April	£2.25	(£1.75)
Sat	16th	April	£2.50	

GRUMBLEWEEDS

BACK BY PHENOMENAL DEMAND !!

Wed 20th April

Thurs 21st April

Fri	22nd	April	£1.75	(£1.50)
Sat	23rd	April	£2.00	

Mel Scholes Spring Show

Special GUEST STAR

JIM 'Nick Nick' DAVIDSON

PLUS FULL SUPPORTING CAST

Mon 25th April Private Hire

Tues	26th	April	£1.50	(£1.00)
Wed	27th	April	£1.75	(£1.25)
Thurs	28th	April	£1.75	(£1.25)
Fri	29th	April	£2.00	(£1.75)
Sat	30th	April	£2.00	

DANA

Plus LES DENNIS

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 5th FEB

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 12th FEB

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 19th FEB

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 26th FEB

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 5th MARCH

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 12th MARCH

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 19th MARCH

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 26th MARCH

More big names from the 1970s



FREDDIE STARR

Sunshine Girls

After his sell-out week during April, we had so many requests for his return that we promptly took this week in October. To improve on past performances is a feat in itself but Freddie excelled himself proving that he is the most talented artist in the country today, combining impressions with comedy and song. Most importantly he seems to have matured to the responsibility of his position in the entertainment business far more seriously than he did, to the benefit of all concerned.

Day	Date	Gold Seats	Silver Seats
Mon	1st Oct	£4.00	£3.50
Tue	2nd Oct	£4.00	£3.50
Wed	3rd Oct	£4.50	£4.00
Thur	4th Oct	£4.50	£4.00
Fri	5th Oct	£4.75	£4.25
Sat	6th Oct	£5.00	£4.50

Parties of 20 to 40 25p reduction per seat. Parties over 40 50p reduction per seat.

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 25th AUGUST.

The KEN DODD Show



JOLLEES welcomes back KEN DODD after too long an absence. This man is astonishing! Recently breaking the world record for non-stop humour is no wonder to JOLLEES' audiences, who are kept pinned to their seats by this taffaricious comic. Can't get him off the stage!

Your evening's entertainment can be guaranteed by Ken whose particular brand of comedy and song are appreciated by all.

Day	Date	Gold Seats	Silver Seats
Wed	10th Oct	£3.00	£2.50
Thur	11th Oct	£3.00	£2.50
Fri	12th Oct	£3.50	£3.00
Sat	13th Oct	£4.00	£3.50

Parties of 20 to 40 25p reduction per seat. Parties over 40 50p reduction per seat.

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

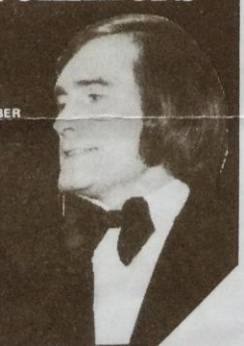
CANNON & BALL

'Rock on Tommy' has the effect of becoming a household saying, this duo bring it over so well. Their style of comedy verging on the pathetic, must be everybody's cup of tea, so 'come to see them Tommy' and enjoy one of the best acts in the country, they seem destined to replace Little and Large on the Cabaret circuit.

Day	Date	Gold Seats	Silver Seats
Wed	17th Oct	£2.75	£2.25
Thur	18th Oct	£2.75	£2.25
Fri	19th Oct	PRIVATE HIRE	
Sat	20th Oct	£3.75	£3.25

Parties of 20 to 40 25p reduction per seat. Parties over 40 50p reduction per seat.

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER



THE BARRON KNIGHTS

At the top for 20 years, these talented lads maintain their perennial position in the league of entertainers. Regularly hitting the charts with their records, working very hard at perfection. Their act is one of the most professional in the country and the hard work they put into it is rewarded on stage, coming over as perfection.

Fresh Aire



Day	Date	Gold Seats	Silver Seats
Mon	22nd Oct	£2.75	£2.25
Tues	23rd Oct	PRIVATE HIRE	
Wed	24th Oct	£3.25	£2.75
Thurs	25th Oct	£3.25	£2.75
Fri	26th Oct	£3.75	£3.25
Sat	27th Oct	£4.25	£3.75

Parties of 20 to 40 25p reduction per seat. Parties over 40 50p reduction per seat.

PUBLIC SALES FROM SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

FEBRUARY REMINDER

WEDNESDAY 4th - SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY

Medium Wave Band

THURSDAY 12th - SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY

JANET BROWN

THURSDAY 19th - SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY

TREMELOES

On Stage SUNDAY 22nd FEB + MONDAY 23rd FEB *On Stage*

TUESDAY 24th + WEDNESDAY 25th FEBRUARY

GENE PITNEY

FRIDAY 27th - SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY

Bob Monkhouse

MARCH ATTRACTIONS

THURSDAY 5th - SATURDAY 7th MARCH.

☆☆ **Paul Melba** ☆☆

ONE NIGHT ONLY - Tuesday 10th March

☆☆ **Cleo Laine** ☆☆

☆☆ **Johnny Dankworth** ☆☆

THURSDAY 12th - SATURDAY 14th MARCH.

☆☆ **George Roper** **Ivy League** ☆☆

THURSDAY 19th - SATURDAY 21st MARCH.

☆☆ **Salena Jones** ☆☆

MONDAY 23rd MARCH.

☆☆ **Max Boyce** ☆☆

THURSDAY 26th - SATURDAY 28th MARCH.

☆☆ **Eve Graham & Danny Finn** ☆☆

FROM THE NEW SEEKERS

We Invite You To Try Our Well Established 5 Star Restaurant

The Celebrity Suite

TEL: S-O-T 321611 for Booking Details

It is essential to purchase normal admission tickets before making a Restaurant Reservation.

SUNDAY LUNCH FAMILY SHOW

SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY 1981 with

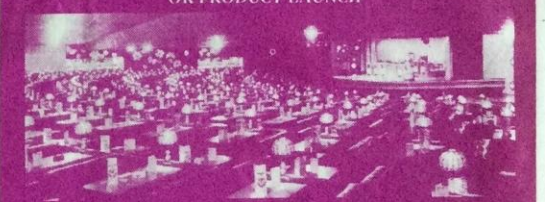
STU FRANCIS

Star of B.B.C.'s 'Crackerjack'— and his Guests

TICKETS: £1.65, Child or Adult

Something Special

WEDDING - ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY BUSINESS CONFERENCES EXHIBITION OR PRODUCT LAUNCH



RING BRIAN JONES ON

321611 Ext 30

FOR DETAILS OR APPOINTMENT

Jollees' Drinks and Decor



Your Complete Evening

"JOLLEES" Licensed Bar Tariff

(All prices include V.A.T.)

For Food Menu and Wine List see separate ORDER CARD

Would you please state if you require ice with your drink

	1/2 pint	Pint
DRAUGHT		
DOUBLE DIAMOND	10p	20p
SUPER DRAUGHT BITTER	10p	20p
PALE MILD	9p	18p
SKOL LAGER		
GUINNESS	13p	26p
SHANDY	13p	25p
FRUIT JUICES:	10p	20p
TOMATO, GRAPEFRUIT, ORANGE, PINEAPPLE	per bottle	
BITTER LEMON	10p	10p
TONIC WATER	10p	10p
CANADA DRY	10p	10p
AMERICAN DRY	10p	10p
SODA WATER	5p	

BABYCHAM	18p
CHERRY 'B'	20p
PONY	20p
CALYPSO	20p
TRIPLE 'A'	18p
PEPSI COLA	10p
LEMONADE	10p
GINGER BEER	10p

BOTTLED BEERS

MACKESON	15p
DOUBLE DIAMOND	15p
BROWN PETER	15p
LIGHT PETER	15p
GUINNESS	15p
CIDER	15p

TABLE SERVICE
Please ensure that you
receive a receipt with all
orders which should be
torn and retained upon pay-
ment.

SPIRITS Etc.	
WHISKY	21p
GIN	21p
VODKA	21p
RUM	21p
BACARDI	23p
BRANDY	26p
RYE WHISKY	24p
BOURBON	24p
IRISH WHISKEY	24p
SOUTHERN COMFORT	30p
MARTINI SWEET	20p
MARTINI DRY	20p
MARTINI BIANCO	20p
NOILLY PRAT	20p
MEDIUM SWEET SHERRY	20p
MEDIUM DRY SHERRY	20p
HARVEYS BRISTOL CREAM SHERRY	20p
PORT	18p
DUBONNET	18p
STONES GINGER	10p
CAMPARI	20p
ADVOCAT	26p
SNOWBALL	26p
PERNOD	27p
CORDIALS	
Lime, Orange, Blackcurrant, Peppermint	2p

LIQUEURS

DRAMBUJE	30p
BENEDICTINE	30p
TIA MARIA	30p
CHERRYBRANDY	30p
COINTREAU	30p
CREME de MENTHE	30p
ORANGE CURACAO	30p

Whisky, Gin, Rum & Vodka are sold in quantities of 1/6th of a gill
CIGARETTES, CIGARS etc. available at the Kiosk adjacent to the
Cloakroom.

Although it is unlikely the terms of this programme may be changed
without notice.



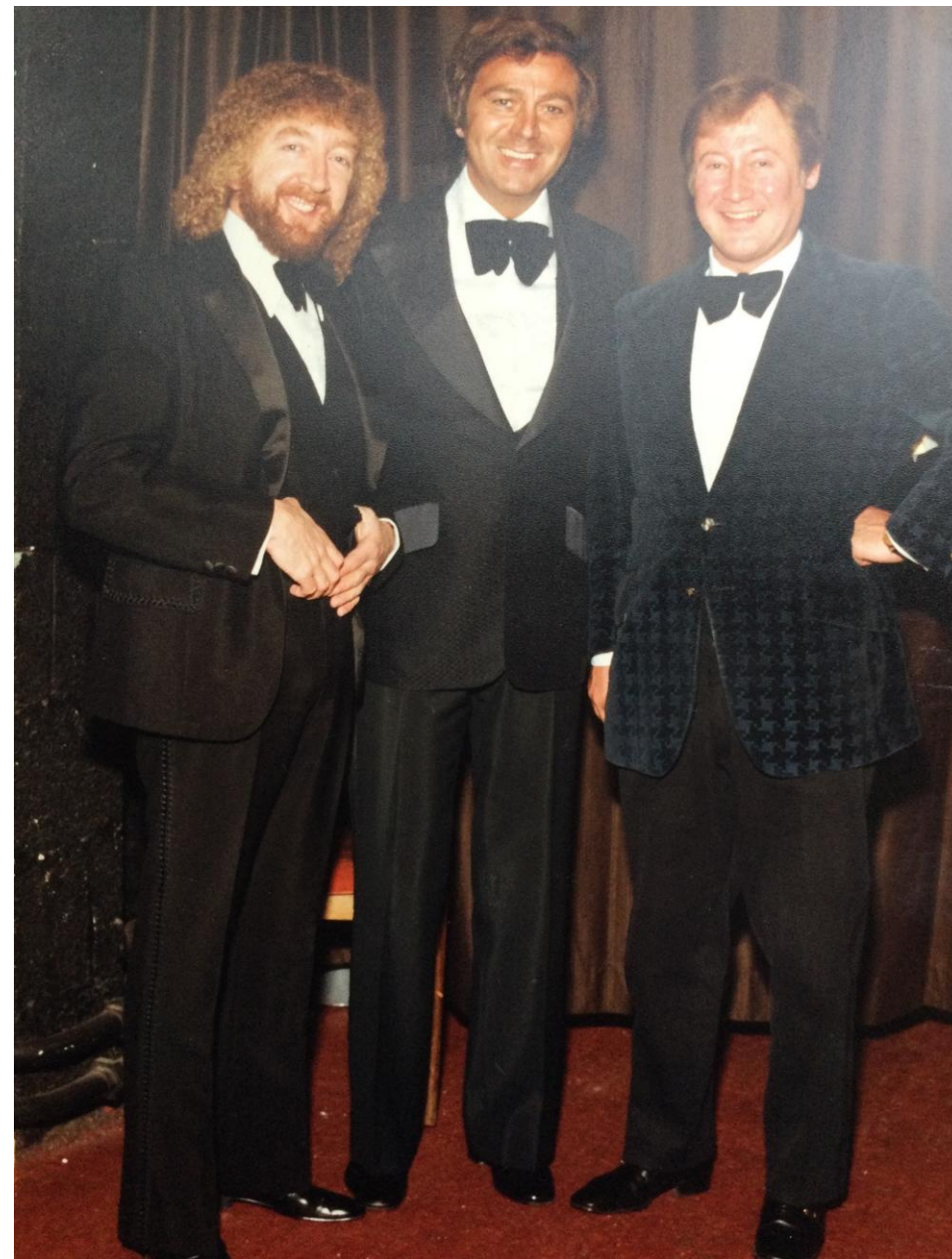
Performers at Jollees
in the 1970s



John and the Black Abbotts



John with Little and Large and band members in the band's own bar



John with Des O'Connor and Des's manager



THE
JOHN SIMONS
SHOW BAND
with
resident singers
Wendy Jane and
Alan Grainger
in 1981



Clip not available in this scrollable version
Go to
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TrenthamHeritage>

The Circus at Alton Towers

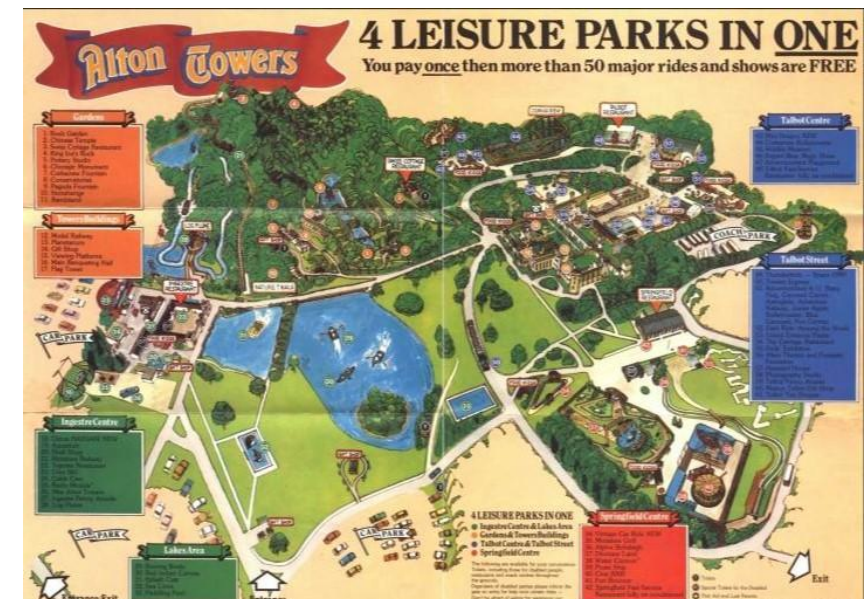
In 1983 John worked at Alton Towers where Circus Hassani put on four to five shows a day, seven days a week.

His band was delighted with this contract, as it was a day job and left the evenings free for other work.

During the school holidays he was able to take his two daughters with him to Alton Towers.

They were each allowed to take a friend and were able to go on the rides free of charge.

There was also a big fireworks display where John had an 18-piece orchestra.



Contacts

“When approached, I used to form bands depending on what was required. I have trunks full of arrangements. Plus numerous band uniforms, all shapes, sizes, colours.

My band was basically a ten piece, but a performer like Cilla Black would want a much bigger orchestra, she’d want maybe four trumpets and three trombones.

I knew who to book. I paid them cash at the end of the evening.

Freddy Garrity rang me and offered me a job. I turned it down. So did Ken Dodd and I turned him down too.”

But when Joe Loss contacted John to play piano in his band on a world cruise on the QE2 in 1985, he said yes. And he repeated the experience in 1986.

John playing piano with the Joe Loss band



Musical Director – West Side Story

"In 1986, the City of Stoke on Trent Operatic Society came to me to be musical director for West Side Story. It was the first time they had used a professional full orchestra."

EVENING SENTINEL, Friday, January 23, 1987 11

John is show's top-line capture

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed musician John Simons is the musical director for the City of Stoke-on-Trent Amateur Operatic Society's latest show "West Side Story."

It is the first time the 47-year-old professional has had such a title with a local society.

John, (pictured), who lives at Trentham, will lead a full orchestra of musicians who played in the production's professional tour.

The show, last performed in North Staffordshire 20 years ago, opens at the Odeon Theatre, Hanley, on Monday for a week-long run.

The musical, set in the slums of New York, tells



the story of two young people from rival gangs, who meet at a dance hall and fall in love. Linda Lloyd, of Meir, takes on the role of Maria, while Tony, her boyfriend

is played by Greg Walker.

The show, produced by Alan Hulme, can be seen each evening at 7.15 p.m., with matinees at 3.45 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday.



West Side bravery pays off

"West Side Story" was a brave and ambitious choice by the City of Stoke-on-Trent Amateur Operatic Society, but it paid off wonderfully.

The music was brilliant, the dancing was breathtaking, and the packed house was spellbound. It has cost the society £20,000 to stage the magnificent musical at the Odeon Theatre, Hanley, for one week. Judging from last night's opening performance it was worth every penny.

And the controversial decision by musical director John Simons to import a full orchestra of musicians who played in the production's professional tour rather than use local talent was fully vindicated. They were fantastic.

But the stars of the show were the modern-day Romeo and Juliet, Tony and Maria, played by Greg Walker and lovely Linda Lloyd. Their performances were powerful and polished.

Not far behind them was Anita, Fran Johnson, whose dancing was electric.

Full marks to choreographer Judith Tweedale, producer Alan Hulme, chorus mistress Susan Talbot, and musical director Simons, for doing justice to the phenomenal Leonard Bernstein-Stephen Sondheim score.

Pictured in a scene from the production are Riff (Craig Armstrong), Anita (Fran Johnson), and Bernardo (Ian Mayer).

Gary Slater

John Simons all set to direct West Side Story music

INTERNATIONALLY famous musician John Simons (pictured) has added yet another string to his bow ... he's become the musical director with the City of Stoke-on-Trent Operatic Society.

It is the first time the 46-year-old professional has held such a title with a local society.



Musical Director - Theatre Royal

"In 1990 I became musical director of the Theatre Royal and got roped in to do two or three pantomimes at the Theatre Royal, like Babes in Wood and Mother Goose.

Nothing like this Dame in team-effort pantomime

IT'S difficult to know who to nominate for the 'Best Legs in the Show' award — Susan Maughan ... or John Inman.

Shapely pins are a pre-requisite of all pantomime principal boys, together with robust thighs to sustain regular slapping.

But there is nothing like a Dame when camped up in the glorious style of John Inman, in 'Babes in the Wood', which opened for the Christmas season at Hanley's Theatre Royal last night. Mr Inman, as Nurse Wanda, is quite simply the best panto Dame the theatre has seen in many a long year.

Team

A risqué sense of fun, an easy rapport with his audience, trading frequently on his 'I'm free' catchphrase — and some of the most outrageous costumes ever — a minor feat in itself to make the necessary quick-changes off-stage.

But then everything about this year's panto is good. The Theatre Royal have found the perfect formula, after never completely hitting the mark in previous shows — good script, great sets, fine costumes — terrific entertainment.

Rather than a vehicle for a one-man show, 'Babes in the Wood' is a 'team effort', with none of the



'Dame' John Inman, centre, as Nurse Wanda, with Gerry Marsden, who plays 'Gerry', and Susan Maughan (Robin Hood).

stars selfishly hogging the limelight.

Shapely Susan Maughan, as Robin Hood, whose classy singing voice puts just about everyone else's in the shade; Gerry Marsden and his Pacemakers as 'Gerry' and the 'Merry Men' — who feature a medley of Sixties' hits to break up the proceedings; Rowena Mohr, of 'Neighbours' infamy, loses her outback

'twang' to become a graceful Maid Marian; Christopher Farries elicits the boos and hisses as the wicked Sheriff; and the idiot humour of Barnaby and Howard Grace, as the Robbers, is clean and cheerful.

As for the story — well, you know it anyway. Verdict: great festive fun.

Martin Bell

The manager at the time had the idea of bringing over actors from the TV programme Neighbours and putting them in pantomimes.

He put on six or eight pantomimes there."



Carry On Cruising

As a musical director for Cunard for nine years, John formed his own show band and played for cabaret and dancing on five world cruises on the QE2 between 1988 and 1995. He also worked on Cunard's Countess and Princess ships.

He played in a spectacular celebratory concert for the 150th anniversary of Cunard in 1990.



John playing in the Cunard celebratory concert



Aboard the QE2 in 1990

Cruising with The John Simons Show Band in the 2000s

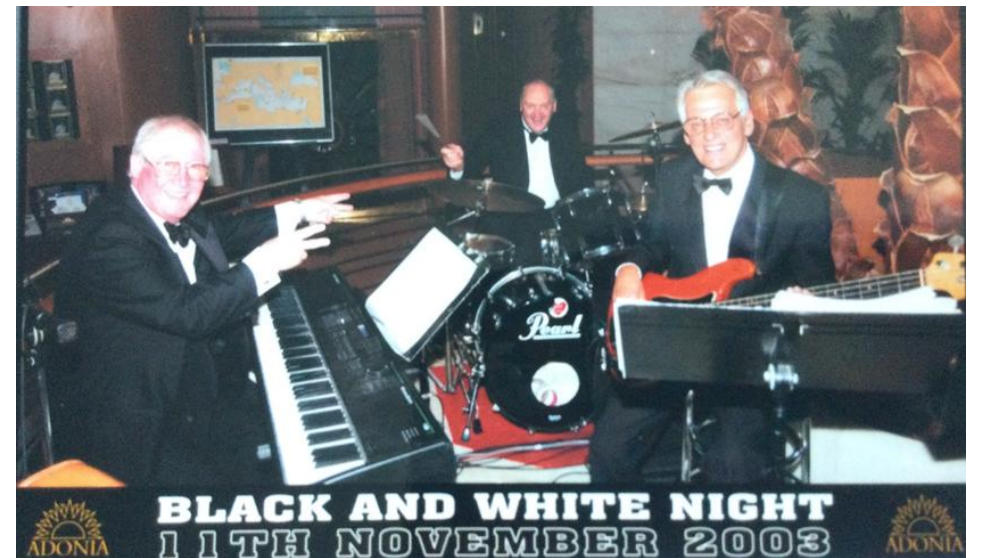
John was musical director for P&O for 10 years, including cruises on The Arcadia, Victoria and Oriana



P&O 2005



P&O Cruise August 2001 - John Simons Orchestra



P&O's Adonia, November 2003

John Simons – High Flyer

In 1963, John married Zeb and moved to Trentham. They have lived in the same house ever since.

Besides music, flying and instructing have been another passion. John learned to fly at Halfpenny Green, Wolverhampton, in 1965 and took his instructor's course at Cranfield.

Flying fitted in well with his music work. He could fly during the day and play music at night.

He bought a small French plane with friends in 1965 and kept it at Meir Airport. He held a pilot's licence for several decades.

"I once flew my wife up to Edinburgh, just to have some fish and chips!"



John and a share-owned Cessna at Tatenhill in 2020



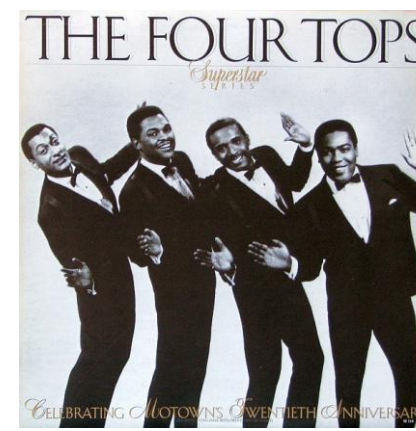
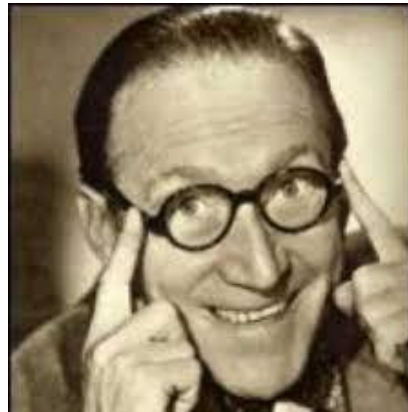
John and a friend in a Boeing Stearman in Florida

Round the World and Back Again

Now retired, at home in Trentham, John can look back on TV and radio appearances, musical direction and performance at many local venues, as well as the years playing on cruise ships all over the world.

He met and played for many of the best-known names in entertainment, often with little rehearsal time.

Entertainers ranged from Arthur Askey to Mike Yarwood, vocal groups from The Three Degrees to The Four Tops and singers from Petula Clarke to Sacha Distel and Roy Orbison.



P.S. from John "I still play every day; it's like therapy for me. I can sit down and play for hours without music."



John Simons - My Life in Music

**Huge thanks to John Simons for sharing his memories
and his archive collection**

**Produced for Heritage Open Day 2023
by Cynthia Dumbelton and Katie Forest-Hay
and the Trentham Heritage Project**

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING

Email : trenthamheritage@gmail.com

trenthamheritage.org.uk/

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