

Hob Nobbing with well known musicians

In our time as musicians on the local scene my late son Mark and I were fortunate to meet some well known musicians.

First up was Georgie Fame. The Blue Flames were an early backing group for the late Billy Fury, they were gigging on their own at Dereham. During the interval the pianist stayed on the stage so I decided to go and talk to him. I cannot recall what we talked about but it lasted the 45 minutes of the interval. It was only later that I discovered that he was later managed by the notorious Larry Parnes who renamed his Georgie Fame! As for Billy Fury I met him on the street in Great Yarmouth where he was doing a summer season. In spite of his surprising small stature he was big enough to give me that time of day and his autograph!

Fast forward some years and Mark and I were at a music fair when we came across Brian Locking who had been bass player with the Shadows for a while. He gave up most of his lunch break to talk to us and we found that he was a very nice chap indeed.

Fast forward a few more years and Noel Redding former bass Player with Jimi Hendrix was doing a gig in Norwich. After the gig Mark and I got the OK to go and see him in his dressing room. Here we talked about a shared gig that we had with our respective bands back in the 1960s. In spite of where he had been and what he had done in the meantime he remembered it well.

John Coglan was the original drummer with Status Quo he now had his own quo tribute band. Mark had already been in contact with him so when he had a gig in Dereham Mark thought that he would reacquaint himself with him. This time I was with him and we spent a good half hour talking about our shared interest of aviation and the RAF Air cadets. John was pleased about this since all the others were lined up ready to analyse the new band and pull it to pieces!

Another of Mark's contacts was Steve Walwyn the guitarist with Dr Feelgood again a good half hour was spent with him while he showed us a home-made guitar that he was using on stage, yet another nice man who was prepared to give us his time.

As a postscript a Yorkshire band ' Mostly Autumn' came to play in Norwich now and again and Mark and I would go and see them. Mark had built a friendship with the guitarist Bryan. After Mark died I went to see the band and told Bryan what had happened. Before the final number he made an announcement about it and dedicated the last number to Mark. It was 'Heroes Never Die'!