CHELMSFORD CORN EXCHANGE

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CORN EXCHANGE GIG HISTORY

FEBRURAY 1963 - At the Corn Exchange, 'Rock'n'Twist every Saturday. Grand opening on Saturday March 2nd with The Bachelors plus Dave Martin & the Martells. Open 7.30 admission 5/-. ENH 5TH March 1963, includes photo.

April 1963 - American recording artiste Chris Montez to play at the Corn Exchange on 13th April. Will be supported by Mark Douglas & the Prowlers.

September 1963 - At the Corn Exchange, Do the' Blues' every Saturday. 28th September with Bernard Delfont artistes 'Alex and the Blue Strangers'. Admission 4/- or 3/- with advert.

October 1963 - At the Corn Exchange the 'Blues' with the 'Classmates', TV and recording artistes. At the Corn Exchange 'Twist 'n Blues every Saturday

April 1964 - The Interns, an international recording group, at the Corn Exchange. They have a TV appearance at 6.30 and play in Chelmsford at 8.30. 'Their Saturday spot heralds the entrance of a new session of beat night at Chelmsford Corn Exchange for the 'Mods'. Anthony Archer, the organiser, is bringing artistes from London and well-known groups to town – all helping to establish Chelmsford as a regular "pop" minded town with the modern trend. 'Danny Storm and the Strollers at the Saturday Scene, supported by Chelmsford group the Roulettes.

June 1964 -Chris Farlowe & the Thunderbirds at the Saturday Scene with Dean Austen also Saturday Scene to have R&B group The Cherokees supported by the Plainsmen

July 1964 - The Gravediggers and Mark Shelley & the Deans at the Corn Exchange

September 1964 - 'It's back the Saturday Scene re-opening on 5th 'with your favourite raving R & B group The Fairies new on Decca 'Don't Think Twice It's Alright' Plus 'Record Scene DJ spot – with the most on discs. On 12th. Sept 'He's back Plus one Sax – Big, Big Sound Zoot Money. John Mayall and the Blues Breakers 5/- only before 8.30. Mark Four (On Mercury 'Rock Around the Clock)

October 1964 - The Clique – wild R & B outfit. Also this month The Wild Ones and Georgie Fame & the Blue Flames plus The R.B.Q and Zoot Money & the Big roll Band and on the 31^{s}st The Pickwicks

November 1964 - The Great John Lee Hooker and John Lee's Groundhogs and Zoot Money also the most mod group on the Scene The Who

December 1964 - Now holding me to ransom since they took up climbing fountains = The Fairies, also From the USA Howlin Wolf also Rufus Thomas and for Boxing Day, The Fabulous Mojos.

January 1965 - Spencer Davies also this month Georgie Fame & The Blue Flames plus The Plainsmen also at the Corn Exchange The Roulettes plus RVQ (RBQ?) . The electronic most mod group THE WHO. At the end of the month Dave Berry and the Cruisers to top the bill at the Saturday Scene.

February 1965 - Double attraction at the Saturday Scene The Cops 'N' Robbers plus Dave Davani and the D Men. The Animals at the Saturday Scene. 'Anthony Archer, organiser of the Saturday Scene at Chelmsford Corn Exchange, seems to have excelled himself on this occasion. He has recently booked the Mojos, Dave Berry, Howling Wolf and many other rock and R&B artistes. Many fans bought their tickets at last Saturday's Corn Exchange when the Cops and Robbers appeared, but it is a fair bet that

there will be a queue stretching along Tindal Street this week. Chelmsford it seems is becoming really R&B minded. Artistes such as Georgie Fame attract full capacity crowds, and even the Who, an excellent rhythm and blues group, who have not yet made the hit parade in a big way, attracted 600 people. Yet Adam Faith's Roulettes, who have had several TV appearances, drew several hundred less.

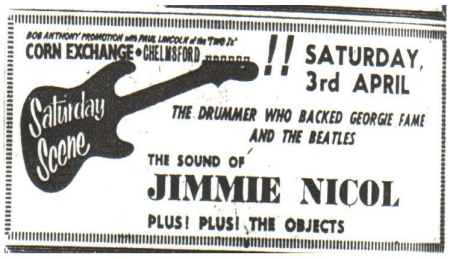
Over 400 people crowded into the Corn Exchange which, less than a month ago, was the scene of a packed Georgie Fame Show. The concert was to launch Alex Campbell's book 'Frae Glesga Toon'. Internationally-famous Shirley Collins "First Lady of Folk Music" at Chelmsfor Folk Club. Essex Chronicle 12th February 1965 Saturday Scene the soul-digging Animals plus! plus! The Stormville Shakers. Local newspaper report 16th February 1965 'They Came in Thousands' = headline. 'Britain's top group, The Animals, were topping the bill'. The crowd was mainly 'Mod' with just a sprinkling of 'Rockers'. Organiser of the Saturday Scene, Anthony Archer, said 'The response was fantastic…It's good to know that when I book top-line groups the fans appreciate it and readily turn out to see them'

TV Record Stars The Riot Squad Mark Shelley & the Deans



March 1965 – add quote - Saturday Scene Your own fabulous, The Fairies plus the Nite Beats. Also this month Zoot Money.

Zoot Money and the Big Roll Band at the Corn Exchange, 'their reception by the fans proves once again that R&B is IN' Fame Again Please. Georgie Fame makes a comeback at the Corn Exchange. Fame, whose latest record 'In the Meantime' has reached the charts, has achieved tremendous popularity in Chelmsford and always draws a capacity audience. Anthony Archer, 'Scene' promoter, told me last week: 'Georgie and the boys really dig playing Chelmsford; the reception and atmosphere when he plays is truly something. The fans here are rhythm and blues all the way. Owen Hand at Chelmsford Folk Club Dave Cronin and Neil Hornick at White Hart Folk Club . Essex Chronicle 12th March 1965 Saturday Scene - Georgie Fame & the Blue Flames 16th March 1965 All girl group Goldie & the Gingerbreads top of the bill at the Saturday Scene. Their disc, 'Can't you hear my heart beat' has soared into the top charts.



April 1965 - The drummer who backed Georgie Fame & the Blue Flames: The sound of Jimmie Nicol plus The Objects. Saturday Scene on 10th = Spencer Davies EC 15th April 1965 Saturday Scene = Zoot Money Essex Chonicle 23rd April 1965 Saturday Scene = The Yardbirds 27th April 1965 Yardbirds played at the Saturday Scene. Interviewed by Rodney Andrews in the saloon bar of a public house by the Corn Exchange. Previous week Spencer Davis. (local press) .



May 1965 - The Moody Blues will play at the Saturday Scene on 1st The Moody Blues also at Corn Exchenge Saturday Scene Memphis Slim, the coloured American R&B artiste with the Alex Harvey Soul Band . Saturday Scene = The Night-Timers with Coloured American Great Herbie Goins . (quotes from local nespapers)



August 1965 – After a summer break The Hollies Re-opening of Saturdaty Scene 28th August.

September 1965 – The return by popular demand of The Alex Harvey Soul Band. Local paper review of what's coming up at Corn exchange Georgie Fame, The Moody Blues, Bo Diddley. Alos this month The Mark Four, Sean Buckley and the Breadcrumbs,

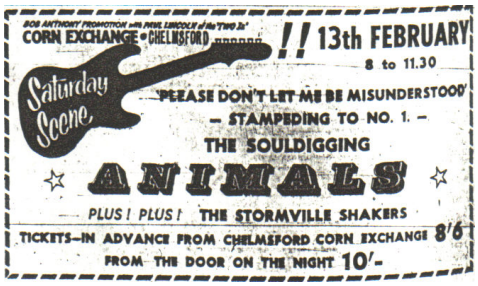
October 1965 Saturday Scence - The Fortunes + The Essex 5 also Sean Buckley and the Breadcrumbs, a group from Dagenham, are a big success and have turned professional. (local press quote) Also this month Goldie & the Gingerbreads. On the 19th October 1965 Interview with Georgie Fame in his dressing room at the Corn Exchange. "We are continuing doing the clubs in London and dates such as this one. These are all right but normally in these large halls the ceilings are too high and we cannot create the atmosphere we like".

Alos at Saturday Scene - The Nitetimers , The Objects plus the Coletrane Union and The Cops'n'Robbers plus The Basic Five

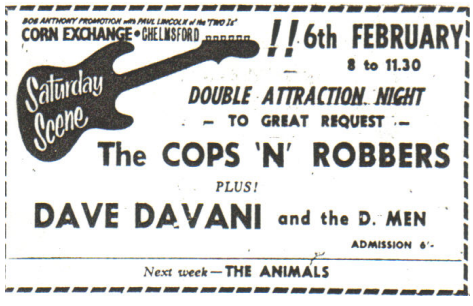
November 1965 - Sir Douglas Quintet plus The Next Move also Wilson Pickett and backing group plus The Basic Five. Also The Mark Four plus The High Numbers



December 1965 - Chart-toppers The Who star at the Scene on Saturday. "Promoters reminded me that they were one of the first to book this group before they achieved the much-envied position of A.1 money-earners. A sell-out is expected. Advert for 'My Generation' THE WHO plus the Coletrane Union. Tickets 10/- Essex Chronicle 4th December 1965 Saturday Scene = The Who plus The Coletrane Union, 7th December 1965 Interview with The Who. "Then they went back on stage, to give a rocking performance, the unusual dynamic sound thrilling the audience and living up to their "wild" reputation. Next week at the Saturday SceneThe Objects backed by Sean Buckley and the Breadcrumbs. Future artistes Zoot Money and the Big Roll Band and Chris Farlowe and the Thunderbirds. Zoot Money plus Grant Tracy and the Sunsets. Also Zooy Money.



January 1966 - Georgie Fame, also this month Ronnie Jones and the Blue Jays and Chris Farlowe & the Thunderbirds .January 1966 Advert for The Shevelles and Dave Anthony's Moods at the Saturday Scene . 1966 R&Bs Fling. The Coletrane Union played well and showed some versatility. The stand-in drummer was Brian McAllister. Attendance was a little disappointing.



February 1966 - Roulettes also Phase Five also The Statesmen. Advert for The Action at the Saturday Scene .and Beryl Marsden and the Crew . Advert for Cops 'N' Robbers at the Saturday Scene. Advert for The Gass plus The Essex Five at the Saturday Scene .

25th February 1966 Advert for David Bowie plus the Coletrane Union at the Saturday Scene Essex Chronicle 4th March 1966 Advert for Goldie of the famous Gingerbreads with Dave Anthony's Moods at the Saturday Scene> Local newspaper 8th March 1966- Singer David Bowie, making his first appearance at Chelmsford, collapsed mid-way through his act on Saturday at the Saturday Scene. He was suffering from flu, bordering on pneumonia.

March 1966 - (local newspaper quote) Cliff Bennett and the Rebel Rousers, who had their first taste of chart success with 'One Way Love', are at the Saturday Scene next Saturday. March 19th is a big day for fans of real earthy R&B and soul when the famous Steam Packet from London visits town. This widely praised package show includes that fine organist Brian Auger, with his Trinity, famous for his jam sessions in the London clubs – the massive 6ft7in Long John Baldry – young attractive female singer Julie Driscoll – and Rod Stewart, the subject of a recent television documentary. Essex Chronicle 11th March 1966 Advert for Cliff Bennett and the Rebel Rousers at the Saturday Scene CN 15th March 1966 Saturday Scene to be the Steam Packet plus the Coletrane Union. The last time Rodney Andrews to write for the Chelmsford Newsman. Heading .Time to Say Our Goodbyes "Well friends, all good things must come to an end. Today is the last time that 'Round the Soundtrack' will appear in the Chelmsford Newsman. For some time we have been introducing you to stars, national personalities and local figures. We have become known to a great many of you – and you have become known to us. Myself, I have worked at providing a lively interesting page for the youngsters – and I think it ended up being read by a good many parents as well. But I am moving on to pastures new, and 'Soundtrack' must at last come to an end. But even in finishing we bring you a packed page of pop interest. Our last edition includes: A local LP release, folk concert, disc jockeys in town, local singers, group news. As for me, as one lady is currently saying " These boots are made for walking" – and it's just what mine are going to do' The page includes an article about Barry Peters, a printer for the Essex Chronicle, once a singer with the George Mitchell Singers and a story about Radio Caroline DJ Keith Skues out on the streets in Chelmsford – say his catchphrase and you win a prize. CN 22nd March 1966 The Shevelles plus The Objects at the Saturday Scene. Add 29th March 1966 The Big Soul Band Show Train plus the Dyaks at Saturday Scence.

April 1966 Saturday Scene local paper add 5th April 1966 Zoot Money and the Big Roll Band at Saturday Scene, Essex Chronicle 15th April 1966 Advert for T.Bones at the Saturday Scene, also 22nd April 1966 Advert foreChris Farlowe and the Thunderbirds plus The Essex Five at the Saturday Scene . 26th April 1966 The Who plus the Coletrane Union. Add for 10th May 1966 The Graham Bond Organisation plus The Essex Five at Saturday Scence.

May 1966 – Advert 17th May 1966 Screaming!! Lord Sutch plus the Amboy Duke Big Band at the Saturday Scene.

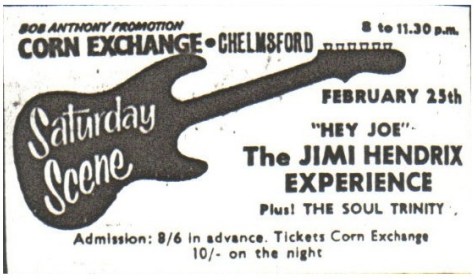
September 1966 Advert for Georgie Fame & the Blue Flames at the Saturday Scene also Advert for The Shevelles plus the Mooch at the Saturday Scene also September 1966 Advert for Zoot Money and the Big Roll Band at the Saturday Scene also 23rd September 1966 Advert for The steaming Brian Auger Trinity with Julie Driscoll from The steam Packet plus the Coletrane Union at the Saturday Scene 30th September

October 1966 Advert for Geno Washington and the Ram Jam at the Saturday Scene 7th October 1966 Advert for The Chessmen at the Saturday Scene ,14th October 1966 Advert for The Who plus the Coletrane Union at the Saturday Scene, 21st October 1966 Advert for The Move at the Saturday Scene , 28th October 1966 Advert for the Carl Douglas Set at the Saturday Scene.

November 1966 Advert for Ronnie Jones & the Blue Jays at the Saturday Scene, 18th November 1966 Advert for The Eyes of Blue at the Saturday Scene , 25th November add for Cream at the Saturday Scence.

December 1966 Advert for Gino Washington and the Ram Jam Band plus The Mooch at the Saturday Scene, 9th December 1966, r "The Surfin" Summerset plus The Essex Five at the Saturday Scene , 16th December 1966 The Big Sound 'Alan Price Set' at the Saturday Scene, 23rd December 1966 Advert for Zoot Moneys Big roll Band plus The Coletrane Union at the Saturday Scene , 30th Decemberr Carl Douglas and the Big Stampede plus The Clique at the Corn Exchange Saturday Scene.

January 1967 Advert for The Shotgun Express with Beryl Marsden, Rod Stewart and the Peter B's plus Staceys Circle at the Saturday Scene , 13th January Ronnie Jones and the Blue Jays, Essex Chronicle add 20th January 1967, The Small Faces plus Dave Anthonys Moods at the , 27th January 1967 Advert for Jimmy Jones and the Vagabonds. 3rd February 1967 Advert for Zoot Money and the Big Roll Band , 10th February 1967, Cotton with American Star Lucas, 17th February 1967 Advert for Psychedelic Freak Out with the Soft Machine plus The Mooche at the Saturday Scene



February 1967 – Essex Chronicle - E24th February 1967 Advert for "Hey Joe" The Jimi Hendrix Experience plus The Soul Trinity at the Saturday Scene.

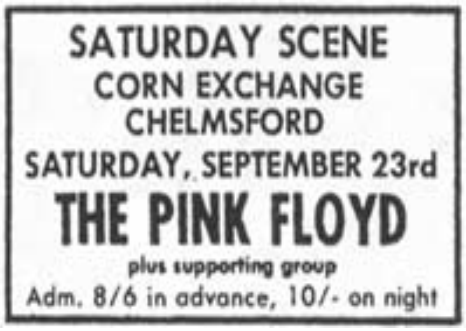


March 1967 3rd rd March 1967 Advert for The Eyes of Blue plus The Good Time Losers at the Saturday Scene, 10th March The Summerset at the Saturday Scene. Essex Chronicel 17th March 1967 Advert for The Shevelles at the Corn Exchange also on 23rd March 1967 Advert for Geno Washingtons Ram Jam Band plus The Coletrane Union at the Saturday Scene and on 31st March 1967 Advert for Zoot Moneys Big Roll Band plus The Feel for Soul at the Corn Exchange Saturday Scene.

April 1967 Advert for Sonny Childe and the TNT at the Saturday Scene. Essex Chronicle 14th April 1967 Advert for King George & the Harlem Kiddies at the SS 21st April 1967 Advert for Bo Diddley at the SS and 28th April 1967 Advert for Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band at the Saturday Scene.

May 1967 Prince Buster and the Bees plus The Mooche at the Saturday Scene

August 1967 After a summer break A Flower Power Light Show with Zoot Moneys Dantalians Chariot plus The Coletrane Union at the Corn Exchange Saturday Scene



September 1967 Advert for The Soul Trinity at the Saturday Scene Essex Chronicle 8th September 1967 Advert for 'Excerpt from a Teenage Opera Keith West and the Tomorrow , also The Crazy World of Arthur Brown and Pink Floyd. At the Saturday Scene 29th September 1967 Advert for The Shevelles plus Alan sword .

October 1967 – Essex Chronicle 6th Advert for The Fleetwood Mac with Peter Green plus Alan Sword at the Saturday Scene also Advert for The Webb with John L Watson plus Alan Sword at the and Back by popular demand Fleetwood Mac with Peter Green also Advert for Carl Douglas and the New Stampede .

November 1967 - Advert for TV Stars The Spectrum also 'Mr Blues' John Mayall and the Blues Breakers and Advert for JJ Jackson plus the Urchins at the Saturday Scene

December 1967 Advert for Glen Oakley Ruby James and the Stax also The Feel for Soul plus The Coletrane Union .Advert for Ace Blues Guitarist Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac plus ex-Radio London DJ Ian (Wombat) Damon and Advert for Xmas Party Night The Pretty Things . December 1967 Advert for American R&B star Ronnie Jones and the Q Set



January 1968 'Mr Blues' John Mayall and the Blues Breakers plus The Mooche ,The Yardbirds add 'Back from big success in the States' also Champion Jack Dupree with Black Cat Bones and Georgie Fame & the Blue Flames .

February 1968 - Savoy Brown Blues Band,The Webb with John L Watson, Gino Washington and the Ram Jam Band and Simon K and the Meantimers.

March - 1968 Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac , The Mike Quinn Show plus The Reaction , Cliff Bennett and his Band featuring 'A Rock 'N Roll Revival Show plus The Precious Few at the Saturday Scene 22nd March 1968 Ten Years After at the Saturday Scene 29th March 1968 John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers (local adds)

May - 1968 Article about redevelopment and demolition of the Corn Exchange. Quote from Cllr Tony Carpenter 'We have scrapped one plan for a hall to replace the Corn Exchange because it wasn't right for Bingo and wrestling. But don't let's fool

ourselves – a new hall, for activities like these, is included in the plan'

October 1968 - Saturday Scene Chelmsford Corn Exchange 'Opening with a BANG! Saturday 26. Don't miss the unequalled EQUALS fantastic stage act plus The Artists (local add)

November 1968 - The Fantastic Freddy Mack Show plus Apricot Brandi at the. Troggs unable to appear because of illness. 15th November 1968 Sweet Soul Music from that great coloured artist direct from the USA The Conley Soul-Show plus The District Line at the SS 22nd November 1968 Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band plus Apricot Brand (local newspaper)

January 1969, Boulevard Soult supported by The Haze 7/6 Corn Exchange on 18th Stephan Sobell. 24th January 1969 At the Corn Exchange .

February 1969 Corn Exchange under new management Blues and Souls Night The Joyce Bond Show plus the exciting new Peter Croft's Blues Band Please disregard any' cancelled' slips on any posters.

March 1969 -THE END

May 1969 - Demolition of the Exchange

Jimi Hendrix in Concert, Corn Exchange,

Chelmsford, February 1967

We Would Like To Thank Shaun Everett For His Kind Permission To Publish The Following Excellent Article .

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Funny sometimes how your path crosses with a complete stranger that has something in common: the love of good music. No matter the age gap, once your preferences are in the open, your bond is secured. So when I crossed the path of another 'cyberstranger' the other day and just happened to mention I went to that Hendrix gig in Chelmsford in 1967, I had no idea it would end up in this belated review of that night.

I cannot say that I have constantly thought of it for the last 42 years, although it was on my mind a couple of years ago, but when it was mentioned that a DVD was out with some old film from the Chelmsford gig, I just had to find out more. The first place one always looks these days is on Youtube and sure enough there was the 'Corn'ole' stage vibrating away to the Jimi Hendrix Experience! The sounds and the smells came flooding back. Well when I say flooding, it was so long ago I can't say that I remember the whole gig and my recollections as they are, are slim on accuracy but immense on feeling.

The Corn'ole (that's what us local mods called the Chelmsford Corn Exchange on a Saturday night in the dark winters of the mid 1960s) became electric when sacks of corn and barley gave way to the sight of Marshall amps and the smell of the Hammond's hardwood surface as bands like Zoot Money and Geogie Fame belted out those R&B standards and we strutted our stuff to the bluest of beats. Those were heady nights and the place had a great reputation for pulling in the latest bands. It was well in tune with the forces of Ready Steady Go!

Then once in awhile there came a 'ten bobber' which basically meant the entrance went up to ten shillings (50p in today's funny money) and it was a large chunk of a then 19 year old mod's wages from doing as little as he could get away with at work. It probably meant going without that Ben Sherman for yet another week, but what the hell it's Hendrix. This February night was one of those nights. Hendrix was going to be 10 shillings! It also meant the crowd was going to be large so it meant a special journey after work Friday to make sure of getting a ticket for the gig. Internet sales there was not!

Thing with the Corn'ole was its smallness and closeness to the artists performing on that makeshift stage. That is clear from the old film clip how close you got to the acts. The promoters had a hard time keeping us mods from getting too close sometimes, but generally it went off in an orderly manner. I have often wondered how much the youth of today have missed since security and celebrity has taken gigs to the other extreme of today's far off stadium sound stages.

It was fairly full that Saturday night, but not overbearing I recall. I can't remember the supporting act, but have seen a poster since that claims to be 'The Soul Trinity', It could have been anyone though since we had come to see this Hendrix. I cannot say what Hendrix's play list was, but I do remember 'Purple Haze' to much audience appreciation. I am no Hendrix aficionado, but given the timing of the former song's release in March 1967, which was after this gig, I recollect we already knew that song at the time of this gig. He must have played it on the TV at some time before the gig is all I can think. If anyone knows better then I bow to your greater knowledge.

Hendrix gave two sets. That was the normal arrangement for the Corn'ole. Both sets usually 45 minutes to one hour each and there was absolutely no music to be had after 11.30pm. The promoters often pulled the plug at 11.30 on Zoot Money and others to avoid losing their music license for the venue. The film suggests this was post the break between sets, which would have been about 30 minutes maximum. It could though, have been the introduction, but usually that would have been a much bigger introduction than the one given by the MC as seen on that clip.

I have spent a long time looking for myself on that film clip but to no avail. I was probably still at the rear of the venue or even more likely in the local pub for the break! I know I spent the last part of the gig by the wall you see in the background. That was the closest place to the cloakroom, which also doubled up as the act's dressing room. This was no O2 venue. Hendrix, at the end of the performance, walked straight up to a few of us standing just there and one of my mates lit his joint for him. They were so knocked out by that I recall. My recollection was more nasal. Rock musicians have this uncanny ability to harbour their own post-set aromas about themselves: in this case that unmistakeable aroma of cannabis. That's something you don't experience at a Stadium gig, unless you bring your own! I will always remember that part even if my music recollections are a bit sparse. I have also 'dined out' on that anecdote for many years since. I had passed close by the 'God'.

This had been my first and my last sighting of Hendrix in the raw. He was soft spoken on stage and just played liked to play the music. He paid his dues to the blues and that was all I could ever have asked. I desperately hoped that Hendrix would maintain his raw blues feel for a long time to come. That night was a raw night indeed. I believe he did a short rendition of the 'Star Spangled Banner', well before it offended middle America in the later 1960s, but there was so much improvisation I may be confusing it with one of his many improvised riffs.

This was 1967 and the mod revolution was on the wane. Hendrix was not a mod act, he never was that. The audience of mods was home grown Chelmsford and surrounding towns with a sprinkling of the London 'set'. They always appreciated good music and Hendrix did not disappoint. I have specifically not mentioned the other members of the 'Experience'. They need no intro from me, but they did their thing. The night though, belonged to Hendrix and I will never forget it even though the distant past can sometimes be difficult to recall. I have done the best I can. Now where's that joint?

Dick Everett

February 2009

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Peter Springett Memories

I was heavily into the music scene, especially during the 60s and 70s and attended most of the gigs at the Chelmsford Corn Exchange. I read through your list of acts that appeared at the CCE and note that several of the major ones appear to be missing. For example: Georgie Fame and the Blue Flames, Geno Washington (what a huge following he had), The Steam Packet, which included - Long John Baldry, Julie Driscol (This wheels on fire was her new release ie now the Ab Fab theme), Brian Auger and the Trinity and a very young Rod 'the mod' Stewart (he was dreadful!). Not sure if you know, Long John Baldry discovered Rod Stewart on Chelmsford railway station. Other acts included Chris Farlow and the Thunderbirds, I seem to remember Emerson, Lake and Palmer (Rondo and Fanfare for the Common Man) and Roy Wood and Wizard playing there, but can't guarantee that, as I would had had about 10 pints of light and bitter down the Spotted Dog, the Fleece (Golden Fleece) or the Animals (Lion & Lamb) by then. Without doubt, the star of them all, for me, was the great Zoot Money's Big Roll Band. The best showman of all. There are many others missing..

Another quick memory that I have of the CCE, was when the Who first played there. For some reason, I had to go into the room where the Who were getting ready for the set. The room had old church pews around the edge, for the artists to sit on and get changed etc. I met Keith Moon, who was sitting on one of the pews and was hacking at it with a small tomahawk. He was so nervous. Needless to say it was a sensational show, Keith smashed up his drum kit and Pete Townsend kept ramming his guitar into the amps and speakers etc and eventually smashed his guitar up on stage. The stage was covered in smoke and the place went black. No one was sure what had happened!! Needless to say, that was the start of them becoming an all time super group

Keith Moom



Roger Daltry



Pete Townsend



(all 3 photo's from the Chelmsford Corn Exchange)

As the CCE was a council building, everyone had to be out of the building and the doors locked by mid night. After the CCE closed, we would then go to either the Studio in Southend or the Famingo or Marquee in Wardour Street, in London's west end. As you would be much younger than me, to give you an idea of what the music scene was like in the 60s and 70s, a typical night at the Studio, you would 2/6 (two shillings and six pence ie half a crown) for the all nighter and would see the Animals (House of the rising Sun etc), Yardbirds (with a young Eric Clapton) and the Paramounts (I think they were), who became Procol Harum. At the Marquee and Flamingo you would see more of Georgie Fame & the Blue Flames, Zoot Money & the Big Roll Band, Jethro Tull (Ian Anderson would hand out ciggies and the end of a session, to keep the audience there), John Mayall's Blusbreakers (with Eric Clapton), Alexis Korner's Blues Inc, Graham Bond Organisation, Chris Farlow, Tony Knights Chessman, plus many more. I am sure that most of the above acts also performed at the CCE.

Q My broother in Law David Freeman who used to attend gigs at the Corn Exchange said there were many fights outside

You are right about there often being fights outside the CCE. This was right in the middle of the mods and rockers era and the CCE was mainly frequented by mods, as it was mainly 'mod' bands that played there. Sometimes the rockers would come up from the 'greasy spoon' cafe and cause trouble, but not that often, as they were heavily outnumbered. The trouble was more often than not caused by the same five or six guys, who were neither mods or rockers, but just liked a fight. I knew them all very well.

There was also a big gang of mods that used to come down from Basildon. Their leader was a guy called S--- T----, who was a really nice guy really. Personally, I didn't get involved in all of that crap, as I was there purely for the music, a few beers with my mates and a lady for the night, if you were lucky. If you did manage to 'pull' a lady, you would normally take then down to where the market stalls were, at the back of the corn exchange, near the park. There were loads of scooters about, which were owned by the mods. They would usually have either chrome or bronze bubbles and looked quite spectactular. If you can still get it, check out a movie (DVD or video) by the Who, called Quadrophenia. That will give you an idea of what the 'mods' were all about. The rockers were the greasy haired guys who rode motorbikes and liked rock and roll ie Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis etc. Personally, I never owned a scooter, as I always had a nice car from as soon as I was old enough to drive. There was only two of us that had cars at the time, the other was a guy called Roger Wicks, who had an old mark 10 Jag. Roger was about three years older than me and became one of the local lawyers. I think he still lives in the Chelmsford area, but would have retired by now. At the time (about 1968)

Q Do you remember the Two Eys's Club

I hadn't heard of the Two Eyes Club, must have been after my time. We did used to go over to the US air force base at Wethersfield (out near Braintree). They would often get black American acts over there, which didn't usually come to Chelmsford. We used to go to a cafe which was downstairs in London Road, near the river. That was where all the mods used to hang out and there were always loads of scooters outside. The cafe was later taken over by another mate of mine called Martin Havalin, who turned it into the 'Pop In' record store. He used to get my imported records in eg Sca and blue beat music, I was also heavily into black R&B and spiritualist music and acts like Curtis Mayfield, Chuck Berry, Tamla Motown (only some were released in the UK), Ray Charles, Little Stevie Wonder, Sonny Terry, Brownie Magee, Big Bill Brunsey, Jimmy Smith, Booker T and the MGs, Sam & Dave, Arthur Connolly etc. You just couldn't buy this stuff over the shelf or 'on the net'.

As I mentioned, I used to knock about with Bernard Doherty, who is still heavily involved in the UK music scene. We used to go to loads of gigs around the Essex and London areas. There was a very good club in the back of the White Heart in Brentwood High Street, called Bluesville. I saw Cream do one of their first performances there. They had to carry Ginger Baker (the drummer) onto his stool at the start of the set and carry him off afterwards. They were the very first 'Super Group' with Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Ginger Baker. They also had most of the 'London based' bands that used to play at the Flamingo and Marquee, in Wardour Street, London. We used to go out to a hall in Sawbridgeworth to see Roy Wood and Wizard, Emerson Lake & Palmer etc. There were many, many other clubs around at the time. It was just a sensational time to be young.

Peter Springett

As an exiled Chelmsfordian of 30 years in Cornwall (which incidentally had its own Flamingo Club in Penzance) the memories of the Corn Exchange you provided were marvellous. Do you remember the ultra-violet marks that the doormen placed on your hand so you could go in and out? We worked out that because white shirts were so luminescent under the lamp they used to check the sign, that if you used a washing powder solution to put the mark on, you could get in free of charge. I carried a small bottle of the solution, asked a friendly spirit who had been in what the mark was, and me and friends put it on at the bar of the Saracens Head. We sometimes got bounced out when we got the sign wrong, but most Saturdays we had free entry to the greatest bands the world has ever seen.Fond memories.

Regards
DickPowell

Bob Wiffen Memories

What a great site! Love all the 60's stuff as that was when I was playing drums with the Exchequers then with Ray Ford and the Statesmen. When the Statesmen were playing in the Essex/Suffolk area in the 60's we supported many of the big names at the Corn Exchange including The Who, Chris Farlowe,

Rufus Thomas and many more. In fact the memory listed on the site of Keith Moon in the 'dressing room' with the pews was the night we supported them. I too remember him offering pills to all and sundry. Wish I had kept the posters.

Of all the great acts at the Corno, my favs were Zoot Money (still going!) and Georgie Fame (still going!). Chris Farlowe is still great but Cliff Bennett not so. I remember Georgie Fame strolling along the queue in his trade mark sports jacket as we all waited to get in to see him. We played and also saw loads of good bands at the Odeon too. Anyone remember Jobsworth who was a real pain at the end of the night wanting to close up!

The big names are well represented on the site but what about the other good local bands like the Roulettes, the Fairies, the Mooche all great with a big following. Where is John Gandy (bass player with the Fairies) Where is Dave Winthrop(?) who played sax in the Mooche and Albert the singer. Mike Clarke who played bass with The Mooche is still playing with 60s band fat Old Dad. Steve Marriot and the Moments were almost local before Steve went onto join Rod Stewart and Co. Where is Ted Speakman drummer of the Roulettes now?

Trevor White who played dums before me then keyboards with the Statesmen is in Oz and played with Sounds Incorporated after the Statesmen packed up then played the lead in Jesus Christ Superstar in Sydney in the 70's.
I could go on....

Keep it up.
Bob Wiffen (now in Lincolnshire)

Q Were was the Corn Exchange

A Take a look at this photo below from pre 1945 taken from outside the Shire Hall. The Cannon is now at Oakland's Park but you can see Judge Tindals statue in front of the Corn Exchange. So its about were the Fusion night club and Ristorante on the Square (formally known as Gerrardos) is. Club Fusion is now hosting bands on the former Corn Exchange.



COMMENTS

Colin T

Ref some comments **The Two Eyes Club** locally known as just "Eyes" was in a scout hut behind the swimming pool in what is now the car park. It was nearly opposite the Countryman Pub (which also used to put on bands)and also now gone.

COMMENTS (new March 2010)

Name:

Comments:

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VIEW HERE **http://chelmsfordrocks.com/fsguestbook.html**

Hi Dave

Glad you found us , would it be possible to scan some of those photo's and newspaper cuttings to me.

If you could email in on chelmsfordrocks@yahoo.co.uk , Thnaks Maurice

Name: Dave Pickett



The Coltraine Union

Comments: My name is Dave Pickett I was the lead guitarist in The Coltraine Union I played with The Who, David Bowie, Geno Washington, The Brian Auger Trinity, The Steam Packet, Spencer Davis etc in the mid 60's at The Corn Exchange. Other members of The Coltraine Union were Martin Dobson, Bob Bennett, Dick Gowers, Graham Deakin and Philip Shergold. I have a few photos of the band and some newspaper cuttings. September 3, 2011 00:51:57 (GMT Time)

Name: ray nicholls
Comments: CAME FROM MALDON IN THE 60S TO CHELMSFORD TO SEE --THE WHO --- HAD TO STAND ON THE RADIATOR IN THE HALL AT THE BACK IT WAS THAT PACKED ,CHELMSFORD WAS A MOD TOWN AND SO WAS I, CAME OVER SUNDAY AFTERNOONS THE HIGH STREET WAS FULL OF SCOOTERS GREAT DAYS HAD BY ALL-- CHEERS GREAT SITE
March 28, 2010 20:16:46 (GMT Time)

Name: Kelvin Bullen
Comments: JIMI HENDIX CHELMSFORD CORN EXCHANGE Just fantastic what a buzz I was there 17 years old with my brother Hugh Bullen .as guitarist of the Soul Trinity the Reading based band,that was 43 years ago .What has stayed with me was

backstage with Gentleman Jimi Hendrix coming to me and telling me he enjoyed my playing.what kindness humility encouragment and love.That evening Jimi won a special place in my heart forever.

March 23, 2010 23:17:51 (GMT Time)

Name: Maurice

Comments: TWO EYES CLUB Thanks for the info Colin – will update – I was beginning to wonder if the Eyes club ever existed. As sad as it all is I still look forward to the band list if you find it. Any photo's of Stormy Monday?

March 23, 2010 21:41:57 (GMT Time)

Name: Colin T

Comments: Ref some comments The Two Eyes Club locally known as just "Eyes" was in a scout hut behind the swimming pool in what is now the car park. It was nearly opposite the Countryman Pub (which also used to put on bands)and also now gone.

March 23, 2010 15:41:19 (GMT Time)

Name: Patrick Vinet

Comments: I like a lot your web site about chelmsford scene I search info about Screaming Lord Sutch and the Savages A friend of us, guitarist Ivor Tomlin told us that his band The Big T Show had backed Screaming Lord Sutch and Wee Willie Harris at Chelmsford Corn Exchange in summer 65. Do you know about it? In your web site, I have read that Screaming Lord Sutch played there with the Amboy Duke Big Band, in May 1966. Wasn’t Sutch backed by his Savages that night? Have you got the ad, a poster or flyer of this gig? Do you know who were the Amboy Duke Big Band? Were they connected with the Amboy Dukes?

March 9, 2010 17:25:27 (GMT Time)

Name: Albie Morhall
Comments:
To answer the question from my old mate Bob Wiffen. Albert Morhall is now living in France (since 2004) As lead singer with The Mooche, remember the gigs at the Corn Exchange and it's demise. Just before close down I remember we supported "the Soft Machine" who were at the start of the Physocodelic scene but were not received well on this night so we had to fill in for the rest of the session. Went down very well
November 14, 2011 12:56:10 (GMT Time)

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