

NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012

The Surrey Shadows Club



HELD AT THE HERSHAM SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, HERSHAM ROAD, WALTON ON THAMES
EVERY THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

www.hershamsportsandsocialclub.co.uk

www.shadowmusic.co.uk

BACK TO NORMAL

HELLO and welcome everyone to our third meeting of the year. Last month was a very good meeting with 17 players and singers attending to entertain everyone. There was a slight change to *The Silver Shadows* as Brian could not make the evening but we had a couple of members who very ably stood in for Brian. John Boulden and Terry Bryant were the gentlemen who stood in and they did a very good job indeed! Thank you both for helping out. It is back to normal tonight with the usual "all-star" line-up!

The evening went very well indeed with a vast array of talent playing for our entertainment. John Cade with his fabulous sounding 1960s Strat was his usual brilliant self as was Derek Misselbrook with his latest creation: a Strat he made that is the Rolls Royce of all Strats. Take a look at it and you will see what I mean! Derek builds guitars as a hobby and if you would like one made for you to your specifications have a word with him. I am sure he will be more than happy to build one for you.

One now for the technos. Have you ever noticed the difference in the volumes of the guitars when the players use them? Some are quiet and some are louder. I know some players change their pick-ups to a different spec. but the average Strat pick-ups vary so much. Some players "pluck" harder than others but you put, say, 12 basic as-bought Strats in a row and get the same player to play the same riff or tune on them they will invariably sound different. Not being technically minded I know I am on dangerous ground here and no doubt someone can tell me why this is so! Just listen to John Cade's 1960s Strat and then a modern one.... what a difference in sound! I love the sound of John's guitar personally.

There are some other very interesting guitars that turn up at our meetings one of which is the Burns Apache of Bob Withrington. That has a very unique sound as well. Dave Borley has a "road worn" Strat which is a new one but has that 1960s sound to it as well. The band have occasionally used their Burns Marvin guitars and they also have a different sound again. I love as certain guitars sound great for certain tunes. Bruce Welch commented on his visit to us last April how much technology has moved on and players can now reproduce the authentic sound of The Shadows so much easier. All the equipment is there for you if you do your homework. I still have a Watkins Copycat in perfect working order and when I was using it years ago I thought it was the business. Now I have a Yamaha Magic Stomp with the Charlie Hall "Echoes From The Past" patches installed and I use a Roland XL80 Cube amp the sound is as near as I could expect to The Shadows. Not a lot of money spent here but you could then go up a couple of notches (price-wise) and get an Alesis Q2 or Q20 and a modern Vox AC30 and you are in business with a little bit of fiddling about. It would be nice to hear from other players what they use for their sound.

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SMALL ADS COLUMN

We intend to start a "small ads section in this newsletter in the coming editions starting in April. So if you have items relating to what we are all about be it guitars, amps etc. please let me know and I will insert the ad in the letter. But please, no washing machines, garden bits etc only music items. Thank you! Just let Mike Norris have your ad and he will put it in the next edition....no charge.

OTHER SHADOWS CLUBS

There are plenty of Shadows clubs in the country and if you would like to know what is going on in them you can log on to the official Shadows web site which is:

www.shadowmusic.co.uk

THE NEW CLUB JACKETS ETC.

For those who ordered the new club jackets, they are here for you tonight, so go and see Charlotte Withrington at her table and you can collect it. Also available now are baseball caps and polo shirts with the club logo on them and if you are interested see Charlotte for those.

JET HARRIS MEMORIAL FUND

If you feel you would like to donate to the Jet Harris Memorial Fund then you can do so by sending a cheque to the address below or go to the website.

Jet Harris Memorial Fund
PO Box 6260, Thatcham RG19 9JL
or visit the website:
www.jetharrismemorialfund.org

Everything you donate in memory of Jet will go towards supporting Cancer ResearchUK's work and specifically the research into Cancer of Unknown Primary.

WHO STARTED IT ALL?

Next month there will be an article about how the club was started and who was involved. It will name the guilty party and all those who were connected with it. Should be a very interesting article.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bruce Heyden, Bob Withrington, and Mike Norris. If you have any queries or questions about the club you can talk to any of the above about it.

CLUB MEETING DATES FOR 2012

APRIL 20
MAY 18
JUNE 15
JULY 20
AUGUST 17

SEPTEMBER 21
OCTOBER 19
NOVEMBER 16
DECEMBER 14

ALL DATES ARE ON FRIDAYS AND THE PLAYING STARTS AROUND 7.30pm
We look forward to meeting you all