

# The Crackly Valve

Editor in Chief: The Prof



**March 2012**

## Third Anniversary Edition

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, The Pavilion Complex, Dundonald - the date and venue for the Northern Ireland Shadows Club 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Concert.*

This year's gig was especially dedicated to the memory of The Shadows first bass player, Terence 'Jet' Harris MBE who sadly passed away on the day of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Gig last March. The proceeds from ticket sales, the raffle and the DVD of this year's concert will be donated to the Jet Harris Memorial Fund, supporting Cancer Research UK.



It looks like the evening raised over £750 through ticket sales, the ballot and DVDs.

On behalf of all the members we'd like to pass on our thanks to some people who worked to make the gig a real success.

- *To Sheena and Janet who dressed the tables with candles, daffodils and balloons.*
- *To George and Mike who printed the programmes and the players' mug shots so we knew who to blame.*
- *To Alberta, John and Claire who sold the ballot tickets.*
- *To Simon for arranging the venue.*
- *To Hall who sat at the drums all night and acted as announcer.*
- *To Charlie who filmed the event and made the DVDs.*
- *To all the players*
- *To the 90 strong audience for their support.*
- *To everyone who donated prizes for the raffle.*
- *To Maggie for putting up with me (sez Des).*

*And last but definitely not least,*

*To Dougie for giving us the best sound we have ever had.*

## **Let's Get the Show on the Road**

Gear set up, amps miked, guitars tuned, sound checks completed, lights faded and the House Band of Jim T, George, Des and Hall got the show under way with the one

that started it all back in 1961, Apache followed by The Stranger with a quick segue into Kon-Tiki. From the first notes we knew it was going to be a great night and that's certainly how it turned out.

The sound out front amongst the audience was excellent and the on-stage sound was the best we've had. The only snag was the heat of the lights adding to the sweaty palm syndrome but all the musicians performed admirably – *all that practice was worth it!*

Mike took to the stage following the House Bands rousing opening set and continued the good work, ably accompanied by Simon, George and David with A Place in the Sun and Dance On which seemed to act as a cue to the audience who were soon joining in with some moves of their own.

John Bell took the lead duties on Frightened City, Theme for Young Lovers and The Miracle with Philip on rhythm and David on bass.

Philip then made a quick dash to the other side of the stage, changing guitars en route to play the lead on Peace Pipe, Don't Cry for Me Argentina and The Savage. Mike just about survived the battering handed out during the latter with his rhythm arm intact with Terry keeping the whole thing ticking on bass.

### **Cliff Branniff**

In a welcome departure from our usual instrumental numbers John 'Cliff' Branniff stepped up to the microphone to sing Cliff and the Shadows numbers Move It, The Young Ones (renamed for the night The Old Ones), Summer Holiday and Lucky Lips.

Branniff Jnr (Chris) supported his old fella by performing a very accurate impression of Hank on lead with Jim T as Bruce and Terry as Jet. Two 'younger' backing singers aka Mike and Simon, better known as 'Old Spice', helped fill in the harmonies.

The audience clearly enjoyed this burst of vocals as most of them could be seen singing along at the top of their voices.

John stepped off the stage to rapturous applause leaving Chris, Jim and Terry to resume the instrumentals with Foot Tapper and Flingel Bunt, Chris on lead for these two foot stompers.



### **Movie Themes**

In this, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Titanic, Jim T made sure we wouldn't forget it as he gave a lovely rendition of 'My Heart Will Go On' better known as the Titanic Theme followed by another movie theme Cavatina aka the Theme from The Deer Hunter.

George slotted in a lovely rendition of Guitar Tango with son David on bass and Mike on rhythm. Hopefully it wasn't spoiled by the rush to the buffet table due to an over-eager announcement from Hall behind the drums – well he was hungry after bashing away on the skins all night.

### **Second Half Gets Under Way**

With everyone well fed from the excellent buffet Jim Bennett got the second half going with two Shadows classics Wonderful Land and Atlantis supported on rhythm and bass by Philip and David respectively. Stanley then played an unscheduled but excellent Guitar Boogie Shuffle.

### **Jet Set**

The life and musical influence of Jet Harris was recalled as the special Tribute section of the show got underway. Des strapped on

his newly acquired 'rarity' a Fender VI, 6 string bass complete with tremolo arm and gave us, with the aid of Terry on a 'normal' Fender bass, Jim T on rhythm and vocalisations by Simon, Besame Mucho.

George then took the lead on Applejack, and Scarlett O'Hara. Nivram followed and featured George and Jim T trading jazzy licks.

Simon strapped on his guitar and led the way through Diamonds and Theme for Something Really Important before David took over on bass and Des put on his Burns Marvin as he and George shared the lead duties to bring the special set to an emotional conclusion with Here I Stand.

## ***Two Cliffs***



Simon 'Cliff' Corlett and Mike 'Cliff' Clarke grabbed the microphones and, with some additional harmonies provided by Jim 'Cliff' Bennett, lead us through Don't Make My Baby Blue, Travelling Light and Please Don't Tease with enthusiastic audience participation and a packed dance floor. Bernard supplied the tasty Hank-esque licks on this set with Terry grooving along on bass.

***NEXT CLUB MEETING***

***Sunday 1st April***

## ***Cliff Bennett***



Jim 'Cliff' Bennett then took centre stage and put on a great show with Living Doll, Voice in the Wilderness, Don't Talk to Him, Do You Wanna Dance (they did!) and I Could Easily Fall. Bernard was Hank again with George as Bruce and Des emulated Jet. Once again the audience response was excellent so it looks like we'll be including more vocal numbers in future Club meetings.

## ***Play Us Out Guys***

Chris got his chance to shine as he took lead keyboard on Time Is Tight and Telstar before Bernard played lead on FBI and Going Home with George and Jim T on rhythm and Terry on bass.



## ***They Think it's All Over***

Audience calls for an encore were answered in the affirmative as the House Band re-convened to close the show as they started it, with the most famous Shadows tune of all – Apache.

***It is Now!***