

" Oh what a night, late December back in '63"

(Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons)

By Alan Miles ([email](#))

The Stones Sonic attack on E17.

Before I give details of The Stones at The Assembly Hall, I wish to write a little of the prelude, to the blasting that The Stones gave on 27th September 1963.

I have previously written on Walthamstow Memories, that Peter Chisnall one of the leaders of The Walthamstow Rockers, came up with the splendid idea to get rock bands (Beat Groups in those days) to play for them ,to raise money for The Contemporary Youth Club. I don't know whether or not it was due to Keith Richards aunt , who was once Mayoress of Walthamstow , that asked The Stones to play at The Assembly Hall or not.

I do know that Mrs Rose Feinsilver, had contacted Andrew Loog-Oldham, asking him if he could let The Stones play at The Assembly Hall in order to raise some funds for The Contemporary Youth Club. They obliged Mrs Feinsilver, and played for the cut-price of £150, so The Rockers weren't all bad I suppose.

I recall many of us used to go to The Walthamstow Granada (R.I.P.) on Sunday afternoons, partly to see a film, partly to parade our new fashions, and also to meet girls. The show opened with the playing of The Top Ten as people filed in, and sat down. What was more fantastic is that they would have a group playing in the interlude between the films, and these were usually local bands.

I played there once with The Motives in a beat competition with a local band called The Peeping Toms. The Motives won the competition due to the loudest applause from the audience. I can't remember what we won, perhaps it was an orange given to us by Uncle Ernie.

Anyway, I met two of my lovely friends there, called Pat and Kathy. They were mildly hysterical, and told me that they got The Stones to autograph their arms. On Kathys' arm and in great letters was Brian Jones autograph, and on Pats' arm a huge autograph of Keith Richards. I remember Kathy rolling up her cardigan and showing me this, swearing never to wash her arm again.

They told me that they had been chatting away to Keith Richards and Brian Jones, whilst The Stones sat on the wall of the car park that joins Lloyds Park. Brian Jones, I was told sat crossed-legged on the wall, and actually allowed Kathy to comb his hair. I asked Kathy what Brian was talking about, and she said he was telling her 'elephant-jokes' which were popular at that time. There The Stones sat chatting, signing autographs until 1am.

When The Stones appeared at The Assembly Hall, it seemed that half of London must have been there. A queue of hopeful fans, stretched from the steps of The Assembly Hall up the slope, that leads to the entrance from Forest Road. Most of the fans could not get in, and worse for The Stones, due to the mass of fans waiting outside after they had finished playing, they could not get into their van, so they had to run through the town hall, pursued by hundreds of fans, they turned left at Farnham Avenue, along Forest Road past the Bell Pub, until they reached Lloyds Park, all puffed-out. It was there that they sat and chatted as I have reported.

The spot where they sat ironically seems to be commemorated, by a public toilet. What a way to remember the worlds' Greatest Rock Band.

I wish to thank Billy Cox, who passed-away a several years ago, who actually saw The Stones play and gave me the details about The Stones being pursued by their fans, and then sitting on the wall chatting to them.

Regards

Alan Miles