

[00:00:00] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, okay. This is Jarek Zaba for the Amp Kingston Project from Creative Youth exploring art, music and pop fashion heritage in the Kingston Borough and beyond. Uh, and also this is part of the Community Brain's Industrial Estates Project as well. It's Wednesday the 12th of April, uh, 2023, and I'm with Tony Banks at the Museum of Today, in Surbiton.

[00:00:22] **Jarek Zaba:** Tony is a local resident. Um, who has memories of the Kingston music scene in the seventies and eighties, and also worked on the industrial estate. Um, Tony, do you mind stating your name for the tape as well as your dates and place of birth, please?

[00:00:36] **Tony Banks:** Tony Banks, born 28th of March, 1959. Epsom, Surrey.

[00:00:42] **Jarek Zaba:** Lovely. Um, so yeah, so just right from the start, uh, you were, you were born locally clearly.

[00:00:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Have you always been, uh, around this area?

[00:00:50] **Tony Banks:** Grew up in Chessington, born in Epsom, grew up in Chessington. Knocked about Kingston, Surbiton for the most of my life, apart from the period when I went, went away to [00:01:00] university and I then came back to this very area.

[00:01:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, sorry, when did you say you were born again?

[00:01:05] **Jarek Zaba:** What was the

[00:01:05] **Tony Banks:** 1959.

[00:01:06] **Jarek Zaba:** 59, right? Okay. Yeah. So, so, so of seventies would've been your. Your sort of formative years, I guess

[00:01:12] **Tony Banks:** in terms of music?

[00:01:13] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, in terms of music.

[00:01:14] **Tony Banks:** In terms. In terms of music, it's probably sort of mid to late seventies, uh, and obviously onwards.

[00:01:21] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:01:21] **Tony Banks:** Um, but yeah, when I first started becoming in interested in music, I would say, Early seventies, early to mid seventies. Yeah.

[00:01:30] **Jarek Zaba:** And in terms of your relationship to the, the local area, I mean, have you, did you always like this area? Did you, like growing up here? How, what were your, what were your sort of reflections on, on, on early years here?

[00:01:40] **Tony Banks:** Well, in as much as you have any choice as this is where your parents live, I never really liked Kingston.

[00:01:48] **Tony Banks:** I thought it was a spectacularly dull town. Um, it's, I think, It's probably better. It's got better over the years and my kids tell me it's okay now, but I thought it [00:02:00] was quite a dull town, I have to say, in many ways. Certainly as far as music goes, I used to go to Richmond quite a lot cuz I thought it was more bohemian town.

[00:02:09] **Tony Banks:** I had friends in Richmond and it was much more sort of, uh, a bit more rock and roll. And of course it had a big music scene, Richmond, for many, many years, as you'll know, with the Eel Pie island and, and the folk club and all that sort of thing. Kingston didn't have a lot. For a long time.

[00:02:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. That's interesting.

[00:02:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Um, I mean in terms of your own tastes, what are your earliest memories of music? The first things you listened to, first things you remember seeing live?

[00:02:37] **Tony Banks:** Well, the first things I listened to were mainly sort of K-tel, sort of compilations and uh, but I got into rock and roll through that and, um, Little Richard and Chuck Berry and Buddy Holly, I was way off the pace cuz most of my friends were into Disco and Soul, and I wasn't into any of that at all. And then Punk came along.

[00:02:57] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

[00:02:59] **Tony Banks:** And punk was [00:03:00] the thing for me really that changed everything. But I've always had a big liking for Rhythm and Blues as

well in that sort of sub text. And, and, uh, I've always loved a bit of R&B and pub- Pub rock, R&B .

[00:03:13] **Jarek Zaba:** So that punk revolution, I mean, how do you remember that coming about? Who were, who were the early flag flag bearers of, of that? Who do you remember listening to?

[00:03:21] **Tony Banks:** Well, I mean, I used to read the NME, um, from roundabout 17 onwards at, in sixth form. And you were kind of guided as to, um, what was going on by that.

[00:03:36] **Tony Banks:** Or by the Melody Maker or Sounds depending, which you read. I read the NME and they were heavily into Punk. And then, so I remember going to see a gig at the Roundhouse in the summer of 1976, and it was actually a, an, um, a rock and roll band, The Flamin' Groovies. But they, they were supported by The Stranglers.

[00:03:59] **Tony Banks:** [00:04:00] And. The Ramones who nobody'd heard of, and The Ramones were just amazing. It was, it was like, I dunno if you know The Ramones. Do you know The Ramones?

[00:04:10] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, I, I, i, I, I don't, I'm not, I'm not like Tim Joy, Tim Lovejoy, who claims to be a fan. And, uh-

[00:04:15] **Tony Banks:** but they were amazing. It was just 1, 2, 3, 4, boom, boom, boom. And, and you know, it was like that.

[00:04:22] **Tony Banks:** And I'm basically a rock and roller, but I love that sort of energy of punk as well. And I think that all feeds into the rhythm and blues as well. Dr. Feelgood were crucial at this period. I saw Dr. Feelgood several times and that fast R&B, pub rock scene was, was brilliant and that led into punk, Eddie and the Hot Rods was another great band of about that time. I was talking about that to somebody today, of somebody of similar vintage but fast, hard, energetic, and it just sort of, it was great cuz the other stuff around that time was Genesis and Yes. And.

[00:04:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Not to your [00:05:00] taste?

[00:05:00] **Tony Banks:** Queen. And I didn't mind Queen. I had friends who liked Queen, um, but some of the Queen stuff, but Genesis and Yes and. Nah. Not for me. Pink Floyd, I've grown to like in later years, but at the time I bought Dark Side of the Moon, I thought... I'm not, I'm not getting this.

[00:05:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:05:24] **Tony Banks:** I'm just not getting it. You know, and then also Led Zeppelin and people like that. We, in, in our sixth form, we had a, we had, we had a sort of set of people, heavy metal, the soul boys and the rest of us who liked sort of punk and rock & roll and stuff. And then, and the soul boys were out into stuff like, Parliament and Funkadelic.

[00:05:48] **Tony Banks:** And also there was another group of people who sort of liked Santana and people like that. And then there was us, me and, me and one other probably.

[00:05:57] **Jarek Zaba:** Would these tastes kind of dictate the clothes you wore as well?

[00:05:59] **Tony Banks:** [00:06:00] Yeah

[00:06:00] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:06:01] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. But I went, I never went in for the old sort of ripped bin bags. I just wore black.

[00:06:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:06:06] **Tony Banks:** I still am, you know

[00:06:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Things haven't changed.

[00:06:12] **Tony Banks:** Just wore black and I greased my hair back and short hair and not for a while though, cuz it took a while to sort of kick in. Um, and I didn't go up to London that much. Because A) money was a factor you couldn't afford to, and B), it was sort of, you didn't really feel part of it.

[00:06:34] **Tony Banks:** You, you're on, you are in the suburbs. Yeah. And this is all going on in London. You're reading about it. And then I went away to college as well, which of course does now.

[00:06:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm-hmm.

[00:06:44] **Tony Banks:** In the summer of 78, so, and I'm up in Bradford.

[00:06:48] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. And the, uh, the soul boys, were they dressed a certain way as well?

[00:06:54] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah. Baggies and sort of wide shirts and see now [00:07:00] the thing, one of the things which really annoyed me about Kingston was there were a couple of nightclubs. Don't ask me. I think Cinderella's Rockefellers was one of them.

[00:07:08] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm. Cinderella's I think became McCluskeys.

[00:07:11] **Tony Banks:** Yes, it did. Yeah. And there were a couple of others, but not many.

[00:07:16] **Tony Banks:** And they were discos. And all the boys used to go dressed in suits with ties. Are you going for an interview, mate? And my, my, I talked to my sister about this and she said "oh they looked really smart, they're nice" and my wife says it now. "Oh yeah. They were good. They, that was the way everybody dressed." Well, it wasn't the way we dressed.

[00:07:39] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. And that wasn't in any way what I wanted to do. It was. Yeah. It, it, it just felt weird. I never dressed like that going to work, not that I was at work, you know? So Was your sister older or you younger? She's two years younger than me and she was well into, um, [00:08:00] clubs. She's a girl, so she was into dancing.

[00:08:03] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Oops. But you know much more into soul music and disco. And my wife was, my wife was at that age as well, but not me.

[00:08:12] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, I was gonna mention disco actually, cuz uh, was that, that was, that was big at the time as well.

[00:08:17] **Tony Banks:** Huge. Yeah. Hated it. Yeah. Mm-hmm. Yeah. Like it now much more. Go back and there were certain songs which you quite liked, you couldn't get away with it.

[00:08:28] **Tony Banks:** There was a disco every Thursday night, the assembly rooms in Surbiton.

[00:08:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm.

[00:08:34] **Tony Banks:** And that was kind. And there was also the Coronation Bars. They used to do stuff and the Assembly Rooms. There were, I, I seem to

remember it was every Thursday night, I hated the music, but it was the only place to go and the only place, ironically, to go and have a remote chance of meeting a girl.

[00:08:51] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Because I went to an all- boys' school.

[00:08:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Ah, okay. Ah, yeah.

[00:08:55] **Tony Banks:** And uh, of course you failed to meet girls entirely there. And, [00:09:00] uh-

[00:09:00] **Jarek Zaba:** But there was the chance, there was the outside-

[00:09:01] **Tony Banks:** it was a minute chance. And, uh, and then we just, I stood around sort of miserably for about three hours and then went home.

[00:09:10] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. So, yeah. So you've spoken, yeah. You've mentioned a few venues there, but, uh, were, were pubs sort of, uh, big for music at this time, or did you say you had to more go to Richmond?

[00:09:20] **Tony Banks:** I don't, I don't think they were in Kingston, I've gotta be honest. Except for the, um, uh, Uh, the one by the Mill Street, down by the, um, Impala's Rock and Roll Club.

[00:09:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, The Swan.

[00:09:34] **Tony Banks:** The Swan, went there occasionally and that was great. Couple of times I went there. Um, I sometimes mix up the period when I came back from university from the period before, but I think the period before when I was younger, clearly there was very little and I didn't go that much. But the period after from, say roughly about 81, 80/ 81.

[00:09:59] **Tony Banks:** I used to go to [00:10:00] these places. There wasn't, you know, and uh, it got slightly better. Then there were more music venues as the eighties. Drew on, but the Impalas was probably the only place we could go and hear anything which wasn't disco.

[00:10:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, that's interesting cuz we, we've spoken to, uh, people who used to play the Swan in the sixties, including from the band called The Impalas.

[00:10:20] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, I, but the Impalas that you are talking about, that was the name of the night. Is that right?

[00:10:24] **Tony Banks:** I thought it was, I thought it was the Impala's Rock and Roll Club.

[00:10:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, yeah, I think, I think it was, but I think it was named after the band that had had a residency in the sixties.

[00:10:32] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:10:33] **Jarek Zaba:** There was, there was a rock and roll band called The Impalas, as I've spoken to one of their members.

[00:10:36] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:10:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, and they went on to like support Gene Vincent and things over the years.

[00:10:40] **Tony Banks:** Wow.

[00:10:41] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, but um, but yeah, they, they, they sort of had a, I think a Friday night residency at The Swan.

[00:10:47] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, that makes sense.

[00:10:48] **Jarek Zaba:** Which then would've become The Impalas night that you then would've visited.

[00:10:51] **Tony Banks:** Wish I'd seen. I didn't go, I only went a couple of times and there were a few Ted's in Kingston.

[00:10:56] **Tony Banks:** Um, a famous one Winston used to wander around town. [00:11:00]

[00:11:00] **Jarek Zaba:** Ted's being Teddy boys?

[00:11:01] **Tony Banks:** Teddy boys.

[00:11:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:11:02] **Tony Banks:** If you ask anybody of a certain vintage, they will know Winston, used to walk around had'n immaculate drape sort of different colors. One of them was sort of a blue, uh, with the, the brothel creepers and the quiff.

[00:11:18] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:11:18] **Tony Banks:** He was, he was brilliant.

[00:11:19] **Tony Banks:** Winston mad as a fish, you know when you talk to him, he was a a dustman and he's dead now. Died many years ago, but when he died there was a lot of tributes to him in The Comet and stuff like that. Cause he was a well known figure. He'd be striding around Kingston in his, in his teddy boy gear and he was there all the time.

[00:11:38] **Tony Banks:** And he'd dance, he would. Off he go Winston. He was brilliant.

[00:11:41] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, I've spoken to people about Teddy boys, but I always thought it was more of a sixties. It was thing.

[00:11:46] **Tony Banks:** It was. But he was a real throwback.

[00:11:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, right. I see. Right. Yeah.

[00:11:50] **Tony Banks:** And if they were there they would be at that. But I only went a couple of times and it was quite scary cuz it was, you know, there was a lot of older blokes than us there. And [00:12:00] also not everybody of my friends liked rock and roll. So I tended to go on my own and uh

[00:12:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. So those rock and roll nights, uh, at, at the spot, were they live bands or -

[00:12:11] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. No, no, it was music,

[00:12:12] **Jarek Zaba:** Right

[00:12:13] **Tony Banks:** Just they used to play records. Yeah, I think, no, they might have had a band on once, old rock and roll bands, but it was mainly records I seem to recall in the back hall.

[00:12:23] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay.

[00:12:24] **Tony Banks:** The one down by the river.

[00:12:26] **Jarek Zaba:** And just out of interest, when you went up to Bradford, did you, did you like, was it a culture shock? Did you notice like, uh-

[00:12:35] **Tony Banks:** huge, yeah, huge culture shock.

[00:12:36] **Jarek Zaba:** But, but, but not just, I mean, in terms of music, but in terms of just gen- culture more generally.

[00:12:40] **Tony Banks:** Totally, yeah. You know, I came from around here, I got on a train, I got off at Bradford, um, Metro, and I walked to the center of Bradford.

[00:12:51] **Tony Banks:** And there were a lot of us, you could tell the ones who were coming up for their first year at uni cuz they would just, wow, [00:13:00] this is different. And then we all had to walk up to our various points where halls of residents were and stuff like that. That was, uh, yeah, it was different. Loved it though. Loved it.

[00:13:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Because I get, being from Kingston at that time, would you have considered yourself a Londoner or not? No, it was Kingston-

[00:13:18] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, probably. But, but, but, but a suburbanite.

[00:13:20] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:13:20] **Tony Banks:** A sort of Paul Weller type figure, you know?

[00:13:23] **Jarek Zaba:** So, so Bradford was still a big city for you as a, as like, in comparison to what you were used to?

[00:13:29] **Tony Banks:** No, not really. It was, it was, no, no. Well, it was in a way, but it was north.

[00:13:35] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. It was the northern element that made it-

[00:13:37] **Tony Banks:** it was the north and a totally unknown north. The only time I'd been north, I think probably was on holiday sometime to the Lake

district or something, and I went for an interview at Manchester University once, failed it to come back down again. But I didn't know the north at all. So that was a huge culture shock. Yeah. Especially Bradford by the way, which, if you go to [00:14:00] Manchester and you go to Sheffield, I think you, you're likely to meet a more metropolitan kind of, outlook, which is not hugely different to London. Bradford was very different.

[00:14:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:14:14] **Tony Banks:** For a multitude of reasons, you know.

[00:14:17] **Jarek Zaba:** And, and music wise up there. Did your taste evolve while you were a student?

[00:14:20] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, hugely. Cuz I saw loads of bands there. You see. I mean, I was the, it was a, the second division of the college circuit, so The Undertones, Stiff Little Fingers. Uh, who else? X- XTC , X-ray Spex, um, a little bit later. UB40, uh, Stray Cats. Um, Buzzcocks. Brilliant. Absolutely. And I hadn't seen those bands in London for various reasons, but there they were right in front of me for like 50p to get [00:15:00] in in the student union.

[00:15:01] **Jarek Zaba:** I was just gonna ask, was that at the Uni?

[00:15:03] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Not all of it, cuz there was a St. George's Hall famous venue in Bradford, St. George's Hall, and I saw the Buzzcocks there supported by Joy Division a little bit later, about a year later. And um, uh, Yeah, that was just eyeopening. You know, there were so many bands that you, you'd read about, but now you saw 'em, now you have the chance to see em.

[00:15:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, I mean we, cuz cuz we are looking at the, the Polytechnic, the Kingston Polytechnic as a, as a venue. Um, and it is interesting that back then there was so much more of a culture of student unions hosting-

[00:15:41] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:15:41] **Jarek Zaba:** -big, big large scale gigs.

[00:15:43] **Tony Banks:** Totally.

[00:15:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:15:44] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, totally. And I, but I seem to recall that, that. And I might be wrong about this, but I don't recall the Poly putting on many gigs before I went away to Bradford. In other words, before about 78. But afterwards they did, but I've since [00:16:00] learned they put that Genesis played there.

[00:16:02] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. And, but, and Bowie himself, but, but Bowie, uh, a few months, a few months after he did The Toby Jug, Bowie did, uh

[00:16:08] **Tony Banks:** So what year would that have been?

[00:16:09] **Jarek Zaba:** 72.

[00:16:10] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:16:10] **Jarek Zaba:** It was, it was part of the Ziggy Stardust tour. Yeah. He, he, he sort of came back three months after the

[00:16:14] **Tony Banks:** Well, that slipped by me. I was way off the pace there. But, um, I, I don't recall the Poly putting on many gigs. I've gotta be honest. Yeah, we did see a few, but, uh, over the, yeah, we did saw a band called Burlesque there who's disappeared into the mists of history.

[00:16:35] **Tony Banks:** Um, and I think we saw The Cardiacs there. Uh, but that, but that would've been later, I think.

[00:16:40] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Um, yeah, we've sort of got, in the exhibition, we've got a list of some of the high profile names that played the Poly, not necessarily high profile at the time, of course

[00:16:47] **Tony Banks:** but just, yeah.

[00:16:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, and you know, there's some incredible, like Elton John is on there

[00:16:52] **Tony Banks:** Really?

[00:16:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, yeah. Yes and Queen on the same bill. Um, um

[00:16:58] **Tony Banks:** That would've been before [00:17:00] 78 then.

[00:17:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. I think so.

[00:17:02] **Jarek Zaba:** I think so.

[00:17:03] **Tony Banks:** Uh, but see, I wouldn't have gone to those gigs cause I didn't like them anyway. Although I had a mate who was majorly into Queen, cuz don't forget, Queen, were very rock early on.

[00:17:12] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm-hmm.

[00:17:12] **Tony Banks:** Killer Queen and all that sort of thing.

[00:17:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm-hmm.

[00:17:14] **Tony Banks:** And I had a few mates who were into them, but I, I never really liked them. So

[00:17:19] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:17:19] **Tony Banks:** I probably wouldn't have gone and seen Yes at the Poly anyway. In fact, I certainly wouldn't. In fact I didn't.

[00:17:25] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Uh, I mean, yeah, so. Um, getting the sense you didn't, you didn't necess in Kingston, you didn't necessarily have any regular haunts or, you know, you said you went to the Swan a couple of times.

[00:17:37] **Tony Banks:** Oh, well not to, not for mu- For music you mean?

[00:17:40] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:17:40] **Tony Banks:** Not really because there weren't any, uh, The Swan a couple of times, The Three Tuns out on the, opposite Tiffins, it's now called something else, Kingston One or something.

[00:17:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh yeah, I know the one. Yeah.

[00:17:51] **Tony Banks:** It was a pub called the Three Tuns and we saw a couple of little local bands there.

[00:17:56] **Tony Banks:** Uh, the Three Fishes, I think. I don't remember the Three [00:18:00] Fishes putting on gigs, but it was a music sort of place. Um,

the Three Tuns, we saw a band called the Pharaohs, and the lead singer came on in bandages, as you'd expect. It was gradually unwrapped as he got through the set, and he hadn't put any underpants on, remember that. So that was an eyeopener, frankly.

[00:18:19] **Tony Banks:** Uh, but I don't remember that many pubs that had music on. And maybe that's cuz- except for the Toby Jug,

[00:18:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. Well, yeah,

[00:18:31] **Tony Banks:** Because I used to go to Richard Challenor School, so I used to cycle home past the Toby Jug, um, every day. And we're talking about, uh, about the time punk was starting and I vividly remember that The Vibrators played there.

[00:18:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay.

[00:18:52] **Tony Banks:** And I remember them sound checking. I heard them sound checking, I was in sixth- form, as cycle past, but [00:19:00] the NME didn't rate The Vibrators, so I never went.

[00:19:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, yeah. So you were, you, you were fully um, yeah. Devoted to what the NME to- um

[00:19:13] **Tony Banks:** Sadly,

[00:19:13] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah.

[00:19:14] **Tony Banks:** Mm. So The clash, you know, and, um, Sex Pistols had kind of come and gone really by then.

[00:19:23] **Tony Banks:** But The Clash and Clash were the ones really, and they, but I don't think they ever played around here.

[00:19:29] **Jarek Zaba:** No, no. Not that I'm aware of. Um, but yeah, so the Toby Jug, it was still going as it, because I, because you know, the Toby Jug's sort of glory is, are seen as around sort of 68 to 72.

[00:19:39] **Tony Banks:** Mm-hmm.

[00:19:39] **Jarek Zaba:** That's when they had a lot of the classic blues based rock and roll

[00:19:42] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:19:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Bands.

[00:19:44] **Tony Banks:** But it had declined as a pub. As well by the, by 76, 77, it wasn't a great venue. I, I almost, I think I only ever went for a drink there once or twice. It wasn't the sort, and it's also out the way.

[00:19:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm-hmm.

[00:19:56] **Tony Banks:** If you're gonna go out, you're gonna go into Kingston.

[00:19:57] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm-hmm.

[00:19:58] **Tony Banks:** I'm not going to, [00:20:00] you know, go down from Roebuck Road to the Toby Jug for a night out

[00:20:06] **Tony Banks:** Because it's in Tolworth. Why? You know, I'm gonna go into Kingston. We used to get the Spring Grove and. The, um, Bishop and places like that on the river, but, uh, I think it was declining a lot. And um, but they still had gigs on and um, I remember The Vibrators playing there,

[00:20:28] **Tony Banks:** A few other sort of dodgy, ropey, old lower division punk bands, I think might have played The Cortinas might have played there as well. Yeah,

[00:20:37] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Um, I mean, was it still. You know, remembered as a place where these legendary acts like

[00:20:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Led Zep and Bowie had played.

[00:20:46] **Tony Banks:** Not in my generation. We didn't know that.

[00:20:48] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:20:48] **Tony Banks:** Then we didn't know that.

[00:20:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, that's interesting.

[00:20:51] **Tony Banks:** Um, older people than me at the time might have remembered it, but we didn't know that at the time, you know? I mean, it's only relatively [00:21:00] recently that. We realised all of this, you know, thanks to your work and the work of, of all your colleagues.

[00:21:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:21:07] **Tony Banks:** I mean, it's, we, I mean, I cycled past the, and walked past the Toby Jug a million times when it was open as a pub.

[00:21:13] **Tony Banks:** Very rarely went in for a drink. Was conscious of it as a music pub though. But the acts that were on there were. Chicken Shack, maybe. Bands like that.

[00:21:25] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Well, Chicken Shack were part of the early, the early years.

[00:21:27] **Tony Banks:** I think they were still around.

[00:21:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:21:29] **Tony Banks:** Uh, and some of the sort of, it might have been part of the pub rock scene, but again, if I was gonna go into the pub rock scene, I'd have gone into town.

[00:21:38] **Jarek Zaba:** Sure.

[00:21:38] **Tony Banks:** Because it was better.

[00:21:40] **Jarek Zaba:** Sure.

[00:21:41] **Tony Banks:** I don't think Dr. Feelgood ever played there. If they had, or someone like, say, Eddie and Hot Rods. I'd have gone, I'd have been in there, but I don't think they did.

[00:21:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Interesting. Um, yeah. Are there, are there any particular individual gigs that, that really stand out [00:22:00] to you, other than those you mentioned,

[00:22:02] **Tony Banks:** I remember Burlesque who were a band nobody will remember at Kingston Poly and they were supported by someone else, but Burlesque were quite good. Um, they were kind of art rock.

[00:22:15] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay.

[00:22:15] **Tony Banks:** Sort of. And they were quite funny and they were quite good. Remember, I can't remember who else I saw at the Poly, but a standout gigs in Kingston. You mean in any,

[00:22:26] **Jarek Zaba:** Any venue?

[00:22:26] **Tony Banks:** Post university as well?

[00:22:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:22:28] **Tony Banks:** Well, I remember seeing the Ca- um, The Fall played the Assembly Rooms.

[00:22:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. Okay.

[00:22:33] **Tony Banks:** And of course I'm a huge Fall fan, and that was bizarre. But they do, they did play bizarre venues. Like they used to play real out of the world, out of the way working class clubs and they suddenly played, um, Surbiton Assembly Rooms.

[00:22:51] **Tony Banks:** This is The Fall, you know, great band. Do you know the Fall?

[00:22:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:22:56] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:22:56] **Jarek Zaba:** John, John Peel was a big,

[00:22:58] **Tony Banks:** John Peel was a huge fan. And I, [00:23:00] you know, those, there's a certain generation of us who look like me, who. Loved The Fall and they played there and I, me and a few mates went amazing. But I remember The Sound who were a big Kingston band and very well known for a while, and very, very highly rated for a while.

[00:23:21] **Tony Banks:** They were sort of supposed to be for a while. Adrian Borland was the lead singer, committed suicide. Do you know all this?

[00:23:29] **Jarek Zaba:** No. No.

[00:23:32] **Tony Banks:** I can't remember the label they were on anyway. They were supposed to be London's answer to Echo and the Bunnymen.

[00:23:42] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay.

[00:23:43] **Tony Banks:** They were dark good tunes and they were very Kingston cuz he went, I think he went to Tiffin and um, and I knew some of them, they were in that circle of Cardiacs and Trudy people, but they were better.[00:24:00]

[00:24:00] **Tony Banks:** And they had at least two or three albums out, and then they kind of faded. And I remember seeing them supported by the Cardiacs and someone else at the Assembly Rooms. And, um, they were quite good, The Sound, but it never really happened. And then Borland committed suicide at Wimbledon Station many years later, and it was a sad story that, yeah.

[00:24:21] **Tony Banks:** Um, And the Cardiacs. See now the car. How, how much have you talked to people about the Cardiacs?

[00:24:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, I've spoken to Peter Tagg, who was a founding member.

[00:24:32] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:24:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, I think he's, I think he's a drummer.

[00:24:35] **Tony Banks:** Mm-hmm.

[00:24:35] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, him and his brother Derek now play in the Trudy who are still going.

[00:24:40] **Tony Banks:** Mm-hmm.

[00:24:40] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, and we feature a little bit about the Cardiacs in the exhibition, but.

[00:24:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Really, I, I, I, I've still got a lot more to, to learn on that front.

[00:24:48] **Tony Banks:** Well, they would, they were called Cardiac Arrest.

[00:24:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, that's right.

[00:24:51] **Tony Banks:** To start with. And they were just always around and like they were, they had video, uh, not videos. Tapes, people had tapes of them and [00:25:00] you were aware of them and they played lots of gigs around here in pubs and stuff.

[00:25:04] **Tony Banks:** Post university. I'm talking about 80, 81. 80 eighties onwards.

[00:25:08] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:25:08] **Tony Banks:** When stuff started to happen, in my view, in this town. And so they played loads of gigs. They didn't really say much notice of them cuz they were just like a local band, you know? And then sort of they became later on quite a big local band.

[00:25:23] **Jarek Zaba:** Seems like they were kind of a cult band.

[00:25:24] **Tony Banks:** They were very much a cult band. And I have to say you, it's a, it's a, an acquired taste.

[00:25:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Fair enough. I mean, yeah, I mean, from what I gather their sound sort of ch shifted in, changed

[00:25:38] **Tony Banks:** Oh totally.

[00:25:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Quite a lot. Like

[00:25:39] **Tony Banks:** key changes and,

[00:25:41] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah,

[00:25:41] **Tony Banks:** changes in rhythm.

[00:25:42] **Tony Banks:** They had a hit sort of minor hit, and I, I've got it in my mind. I can't remember the title of it and I can remember the video, and they all used to be, Act like they were barmy, act like - on stage. They had these sort of uniforms and they were all kind of [00:26:00] looked like they were ill. Yeah. And I'm not sure it's a, it's a, it's a, it's an act that would go down that well in these days.

[00:26:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:26:10] **Tony Banks:** totally. Cuz you're sort of, you think, oh, they're taking the piss out of

[00:26:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. A little politically incorrect.

[00:26:17] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. But at the time it was quite an. A way of doing it. And Tim Smith was really good, really brilliant, intelligent, great musician, and a very, very, very bright bloke. Met him a few times, didn't know him, I'm not claiming to know, but I met him a few cuz he was around.

[00:26:35] **Tony Banks:** Um, and they used to play everywhere, you know, and they supported. I think they might even have supported The Fall, but they certainly supported The Sound. That was a big gig. And one of the biggest gigs in this area, in that era was when New Order played Tolworth Recreation Centre.

[00:26:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:26:51] **Tony Banks:** As part of the student union thing.

[00:26:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep. Yeah.

[00:26:54] **Tony Banks:** And I was working on The Informer at that point, and we all went to that. Um, there were [00:27:00] quite a few gigs actually also at Tolworth Recreation Centre. I remember seeing Peter Green there.

[00:27:05] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm-hmm.

[00:27:06] **Tony Banks:** Do you know him?

[00:27:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Uh uh, Fleetwood Mac.

[00:27:08] **Tony Banks:** Fleetwood Mac yeah. He played there. I remember a few gigs there.

[00:27:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, he, he, uh, lived in New Malden.

[00:27:14] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:27:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, and, and so, but what he was among the early Toby Jug Blues Club performers.

[00:27:20] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:27:20] **Jarek Zaba:** And Fleetwood Mac played there a few times.

[00:27:22] **Tony Banks:** Well, they were a blues band to start with.

[00:27:23] **Jarek Zaba:** Exactly.

[00:27:24] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:27:24] **Jarek Zaba:** And he used to apparently walk there from his, from his parents place in New Malden.

[00:27:28] **Jarek Zaba:** So he, he certainly has local.

[00:27:30] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:27:30] **Jarek Zaba:** What, what year would've the New Order gig have been?

[00:27:35] **Tony Banks:** I'd say that's 85, 86.

[00:27:37] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay.

[00:27:38] **Tony Banks:** Something like that. But, um, it should be easy to find that out, I would've thought. Um, but it was a huge gig at the time. I mean, that was the biggest band to have played Kingston since those days of the big gigs at the Poly.

[00:27:53] **Tony Banks:** And, and they were, it was bigger than that because New Order had Blue, Blue Monday out by then and were big. [00:28:00] Um, Yeah, so that was a huge gig. Other gigs in this town

[00:28:07] **Jarek Zaba:** Were, were you a fan of New Order? When, when you, when you

[00:28:09] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, I liked New Order.

[00:28:10] **Jarek Zaba:** Did they, did they, did they live up to expectations?

[00:28:12] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Uh, more or less.

[00:28:14] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. I wasn't knocked out by them, but they were, they were pretty good. It wasn't. It was a big venue. It was a bit cavernous, but there was loads of people there. It was a huge thing at the time.

[00:28:26] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, I've, I've never been to Tolworth Rec, so, uh, sort of

[00:28:29] **Tony Banks:** the Main Hall.

[00:28:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes. So it's a big, just a big sort of hall it,

[00:28:32] **Tony Banks:** Big hall.

[00:28:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:28:33] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:28:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:28:34] **Tony Banks:** And it, it mean it was quite full cuz were loads of people there. I mean, that's a big gig to have. That's, I dunno, compare it these days, that's like, Uh, who can I think of these days whose big.

[00:28:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, I mean, Banquet got Stormzy down at the Rose, so that's, that's a, you know, that's a good modern day. Sort of a,

[00:28:52] **Tony Banks:** Someone like that, you know, or Jay-Z or someone like that in, in, in, and it's a big venue and they didn't do many [00:29:00] gigs.

Peter Green was another gig I remember there, and um, there might have been a few others. I'm trying to think of gigs I actually saw in Kingston, there were lots of little pub gigs later on after I came back, um, like, um, like Peter Green and uh, Like New Order and a few other, because by then there were a few other pubs and clubs that were playing music.

[00:29:34] **Tony Banks:** There were also a few other clubs like Cinderella's, Rockefellers, which I think opened about 84, 85. And although it was very much a disco, I think the club scene had changed a little bit, become a bit less, sort of Saturday night underneath the plastic palm trees sort of thing had become the best, a little bit less that.

[00:29:55] **Tony Banks:** Um, I don't think there were a huge number of pubs that did gigs though, still.

[00:29:59] **Jarek Zaba:** [00:30:00] Mm. Even in, yeah.

[00:30:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Even in that later period.

[00:30:02] **Tony Banks:** And obviously, you know about, um, the Yardbirds and

[00:30:07] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, yes. Sort of

[00:30:08] **Tony Banks:** all of that

[00:30:08] **Jarek Zaba:** in the earlier

[00:30:09] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. In the years. In the sixties.

[00:30:11] **Jarek Zaba:** In the sixties, yeah.

[00:30:12] **Tony Banks:** From Surbiton.

[00:30:13] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:30:15] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, I would've just, just go, uh, some of these venues, if you could just kinda describe how they were, so Surbiton Assembly Rooms, is that again? Was that a big hall?

[00:30:25] **Tony Banks:** Medium sized hall.

[00:30:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:30:27] **Tony Banks:** Um, the main hall in there, they used to have discos on a Thursday. I remember when I was pre uni, probably went on all the way through early eighties, I'm talking about.

[00:30:40] **Tony Banks:** And then they used to put gigs on. Not many though. Just the odd one or two. The Sound playing there was a big thing cuz they were a big local band. The Fall playing there was. A bit bizarre. I would imagine a lot of people didn't quite know what to make of that.

[00:30:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:30:56] **Tony Banks:** Uh, although the musos in the area would've gone to it, there must have been a few others [00:31:00] played there, but it was quite a medium-sized venue.

[00:31:02] **Tony Banks:** Um, probably ideal for the bands of that size then, you know, um, too small for New Order at that point, I would've thought. But, um, for mar like those touring bands, yeah, they'd have played there.

[00:31:20] **Jarek Zaba:** Just get hit. Yeah. Okay. Uh, right. Uh, yes. So we just talked about the Assembly Rooms and the Swan. What was that like as a space?

[00:31:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Like, cause I've been in it now that it's no longer a pub and is now the university sort of, uh, have it as a, as a kind of art studio space. What was it like as a, as a

[00:31:39] **Tony Banks:** Quite small, quite tight, I seem to remember, um, quite narrow, but big enough like to have a dance floor. So it was kind of, uh, also by then, I think, and I'm thinking now I've got that wrong, I think it's later on when places like McCluskey's started to spring up and- is McCluskey's the one opposite Boots.[00:32:00]

[00:32:00] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, McCluskey's is the, uh, the, the, the night, Well, the former, the ex nightclub.

[00:32:05] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:32:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, it's the one that's by Kingston Bridge. I think it's the one that you're saying used to be Cinderella's yes.

[00:32:10] **Tony Banks:** What's the one that, that is opposite Boots on the sort of corner there. There was a, there was

[00:32:15] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, Bacchus

[00:32:15] **Tony Banks:** Bacchus,

[00:32:16] **Jarek Zaba:** Bacchus yes. Yes, yes, yes.

[00:32:17] **Tony Banks:** But that's later.

[00:32:18] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes.

[00:32:18] **Tony Banks:** That's later when that springs into action.

[00:32:21] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Well, Bacchus is one of the ones that we've already, so we spoke to the guy from Dodgy who

[00:32:26] **Tony Banks:** Oh yeah.

[00:32:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Who launched his, you know, Dodgy's career was sort of kicked off from Bacchus.

[00:32:30] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:32:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Um,

[00:32:32] **Tony Banks:** They all lived in Hounslow, didn't they?

[00:32:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes. Yeah. Yeah. So he, but he's originally from my neck of the woods. Nigel, the front man. He's from Worcestershire,

[00:32:39] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:32:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, Redditch, I think it is.

[00:32:41] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:32:41] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, and, uh, yeah, so, but I was really happy when I discovered that story because Bacchus is where me and my uni mates used to.

[00:32:49] **Tony Banks:** Oh.

[00:32:50] **Jarek Zaba:** That, that was our regular haunt.

[00:32:51] **Tony Banks:** What year would that be?

[00:32:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, when we were at uni.

[00:32:54] **Tony Banks:** Mm.

[00:32:54] **Jarek Zaba:** 2006. Yeah. Yeah. But yeah, we had no idea about  
[00:33:00] this whole Dodgy, so we knew like the tunes, we knew like Good  
Enough and

[00:33:02] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Yeah.

[00:33:03] **Jarek Zaba:** And that sort of stuff.

[00:33:04] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:33:04] **Jarek Zaba:** And we would've been in Bacchus listening because  
I'm sure they would've played that tune a lot.

[00:33:07] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Yeah.

[00:33:07] **Jarek Zaba:** But had no idea of the significance.

[00:33:09] **Tony Banks:** No.

[00:33:10] **Jarek Zaba:** And then, and then when I started this project, I  
discovered that story. Got in touch with Nigel. He agreed to an interview.

[00:33:15] **Tony Banks:** Oh, brilliant.

[00:33:15] **Jarek Zaba:** We did it in Bacchus it was, uh,

[00:33:17] **Tony Banks:** good.

[00:33:17] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. It's um, yeah, but that's a funny old venue  
just cause of the, the size of the thing tight.

[00:33:22] **Tony Banks:** It's not very big. It's tiny.

[00:33:23] **Jarek Zaba:** It's about the size of this room.

[00:33:24] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:33:25] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh,

[00:33:25] **Tony Banks:** if that

[00:33:26] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, exactly. Exactly.

[00:33:27] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:33:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. So it's,

[00:33:29] **Tony Banks:** But I mean, that was, I can't re that. I think that was a wine bar early eighties to nineties. I think that was a wine bar. There was a wine bar in Esher, which used to play kind of, Decent music and I can't remember the name of it.

[00:33:44] **Tony Banks:** It used to place somebody, a mate of mine said, come over to Esher. It's really good. They play Smiths. They played the Smiths and the Cure and all that. And I can't remember the name of it. It was a wine bar in Esher.

[00:33:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:33:56] **Tony Banks:** And um, I still found Kingston [00:34:00] very, there just wasn't a lot. Really, in all honesty, you know.

[00:34:04] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, there's one other, uh, venue, which I think you mentioned already that I'm quite intrigued by knowing a little bit about its setup is the, the Coronation Hall or the Coronation Baths. Um, because I think they were actually the rest of the time, they were actually swimming pools, weren't they?

[00:34:18] **Tony Banks:** They were two baths, pool number one and pool number two.

[00:34:21] **Tony Banks:** And you'd go there and have your swim and your hot Ribena and there's a little cafe and you go home. You know where it was, don't you?

[00:34:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, Denmark Road, is that right?

[00:34:32] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Yeah. Or what's, yeah.

[00:34:34] **Jarek Zaba:** Near the uni.

[00:34:35] **Tony Banks:** Near the uni, just around the corner from the uni. Um, and they used to put on gigs occasionally. Sham 69 played there at the height of their sort of, and I hated Sham 69.

[00:34:46] **Tony Banks:** And there was a, I mean, there was just a riot. There was like shop windows in the town centre smashed and stuff like that. And, um, yeah, it wasn't, that wasn't a good [00:35:00] one. I, I never, I didn't go to that. Uh, it might well have been while I was away. No, I don't think it was. I think I was around, but I didn't like them.

[00:35:08] **Tony Banks:** Anyway, Jimmy Pursey, of course, comes from Walton, the lead singer. So he is a local boy and, uh, I think all the local skinheads, cuz it was a skinhead band. But, um, off they went.

[00:35:22] **Tony Banks:** But that venue, what they, they, they. They would literally just cover up the pools with boards, I guess. Yeah.

[00:35:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:35:29] **Tony Banks:** And then you, and I think they used to have discos there, right?

[00:35:33] **Tony Banks:** So check with somebody on that. I went maybe once, and I don't remember that many gigs, but I do remember Sham 69. I've got a feeling that somebody like Stiff Little Fingers played there or.

[00:35:53] **Tony Banks:** Bad Manners or someone like that, you know? Okay. Scar.

[00:35:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:35:57] **Tony Banks:** Um, but [00:36:00] not many couple. But the Sham 69 1, I think if you mention it to a few other people, ring bells because they off, off, they went to the town centre. They must have had a bar in there, obviously. And, uh, it got lively.

[00:36:13] **Jarek Zaba:** Speaking of which, uh, I've heard of one of the Assembly Rooms that turned into a, a full scale riot, um, in which the special, they used to have a London Special Force, uh, police force for, for such a, for such disturbances.

[00:36:26] **Tony Banks:** Right.

[00:36:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, you don't know anything about this?

[00:36:29] **Tony Banks:** Uh, well, which gig? Which,

[00:36:30] **Jarek Zaba:** uh, I was told it was an anarchic punk band, but I can't

[00:36:33] **Jarek Zaba:** remember the,

[00:36:34] **Tony Banks:** oh. Crass or someone like that.

[00:36:35] **Jarek Zaba:** I think it might have been someone like that. Yeah.

[00:36:37] **Tony Banks:** No.

[00:36:37] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, I, I, I, I've heard different names as to who the people were. I think I've heard different years.

[00:36:43] **Jarek Zaba:** So I'm, I'm yet to get to the bottom of this, but I, I'm gonna get the, I'm gonna get more solid facts off Tim Harrison, who used to be a, uh

[00:36:50] **Tony Banks:** oh, well, Tim would know.

[00:36:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:36:52] **Tony Banks:** but

[00:36:52] **Jarek Zaba:** cuz he was a journalist on the Comet

[00:36:53] **Tony Banks:** I know

[00:36:53] **Jarek Zaba:** at the time. And he said he covered it.

[00:36:55] **Tony Banks:** He was my contemporary. Yeah. And I was on the Informer.

[00:36:58] **Tony Banks:** He was on the Comet. We were at that. [00:37:00] Peter Green concert together. Uh, Tim knows everything. He will know that

[00:37:05] **Jarek Zaba:** he's, he, he spoke to me about it. Uh, I need to go back over his interview and, and, and, and, and check, check the facts.

[00:37:10] **Tony Banks:** Well, I don't remember that. And that is odd because if it had been Crass or someone like that, I might have gone cuz there were an anarchy band.

[00:37:17] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:37:18] **Tony Banks:** And I saw them in Bradford.

[00:37:19] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. Okay.

[00:37:20] **Tony Banks:** So I knew about them. Um, Feeding of the 5,000 was. An

[00:37:27] **Tony Banks:** album.

[00:37:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, here we are. Uh, so I've, I've got the transcript from Tim's interview here. He says it was the Lost Cherrees, a Worcester Park band. Uh, and in 1977, approximately he reckons, um, um, just

[00:37:43] **Tony Banks:** punk band?

[00:37:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, he doesn't actually mention the.

[00:37:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. He says this is the real height of punk, so I assume it is

[00:37:52] **Tony Banks:** right. I don't remember them at all.

[00:37:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Um,

[00:37:54] **Tony Banks:** don't remember them.

[00:37:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, he says it was like an all day thing. Seven or eight bands playing through the day attracted a huge [00:38:00] crowd. There were fights in the call, uh, uh, fights in the hall. Police were called local police couldn't.

[00:38:06] **Jarek Zaba:** So a territorial support group turned up, uh, in their plated Ford Transits, uh, and made about 60 arrests in the end. Um, so yeah.

[00:38:15] **Tony Banks:** Did he say when

[00:38:17] **Jarek Zaba:** he says he reckons, we're probably talking 77, so,

[00:38:22] **Tony Banks:** well, I went up. I went north in 78.

[00:38:24] **Jarek Zaba:** So maybe it was just after you went or, or something.

[00:38:28] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Um, 77, 78.

[00:38:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. I

[00:38:30] **Tony Banks:** I would, I would've thought I might've, I would've gone to that.

[00:38:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:38:33] **Tony Banks:** So I clearly missed it for some reason or other. I remember going to, I used to go up to town to see gigs, you see, and I also remember going to Blackbushe Airport to see Bob Dylan.

[00:38:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, really? What airport? Sorry,

[00:38:47] **Tony Banks:** Blackbushe.

[00:38:48] **Jarek Zaba:** Where's that

[00:38:48] **Tony Banks:** In Surrey.

[00:38:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh right

[00:38:49] **Tony Banks:** Deepest Surrey and it was an open air gig and, uh, me and two other mates, cuz a mate of mine was into Bob Dylan and there were several other bands obviously on with him and I can't remember who. [00:39:00]

[00:39:00] **Tony Banks:** And, um, we went there, we didn't have a tent, we just wrapped ourselves in, um, plastic sheet. Slept on the, on the grass.

[00:39:11] **Jarek Zaba:** What era, Dylan would that have been?

[00:39:13] **Tony Banks:** Seven seventies, mid seventies. Yeah. So,

[00:39:16] **Jarek Zaba:** So it's kind of like Desire and, uh,

[00:39:18] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, about then I'm, I'm not a Dylan expert, but yeah. Yeah, maybe that, um,

[00:39:24] **Jarek Zaba:** I think Blood on the Tracks is like 75, 76 maybe.

[00:39:26] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Would've been about that.

[00:39:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:39:27] **Tony Banks:** And we went to see him at Blackbushe Airport. I dunno why? Well, just cuz a mate. Likes them. So you go. So I might have missed that gig in Kingston probably because it was local bands and I thought local bands. And, um, I went, I was uptown. I used to go uptown a lot to gigs.

[00:39:46] **Tony Banks:** So,

[00:39:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, yeah. So we covered a lot of the venues. If I just throw a few other names that have come up in my research and see if, if these mean anything. Yeah. The Southampton, is that a pub?

[00:39:57] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. But um, that was a [00:40:00] biker pub. Um, I don't remember gigs there.

[00:40:04] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. Interesting. So I think, yeah, it's been mentioned.

[00:40:06] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, maybe it's just mentioned as a place to listen to certain kinds of music.

[00:40:09] **Tony Banks:** It was a place to listen to certain kind of music. Um, definitely a biker pub, you know, you know where it was

[00:40:16] **Jarek Zaba:** In Surbiton, is it,

[00:40:18] **Tony Banks:** You know, where that big office block is onto the right of the, you come out the station, there's a big office block

[00:40:23] **Jarek Zaba:** mm-hmm.

[00:40:23] **Tony Banks:** With an entrance there.

[00:40:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:40:24] **Tony Banks:** It was there. It was that it was just there and it was sort of, A bit of a sort of, um, grungy sort of biker pub. Um, and, uh, but not, yeah, it was, I would imagine it'd be heavy metal. Heavy metal or, or you know, sort of, uh, Thin Lizzy type.

[00:40:44] **Jarek Zaba:** The Peel. Was that going, uh, when. As a, as a music venue.

[00:40:48] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Couple of gigs at the Peel, local bands, but it was mainly a stripper's pub.

[00:40:52] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. That's not, that's how I remember it in my student days.

[00:40:57] **Tony Banks:** Um, I think we did see a band there. I think [00:41:00] they did have music on there, punk bands. Uh, but, but this is later on. This isn't the height of punk. This was the sort of dregs of punk sort of thing played there and they, they weren't great.

[00:41:14] **Tony Banks:** Um, it's a bit like the sort of bands you see on at the, um, what's the one in Kingston on the London Road?

[00:41:20] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, Fighting Cocks.

[00:41:21] **Tony Banks:** Some of the punk bands you see on there. Um, some may be quite good. I haven't been.

[00:41:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:41:28] **Tony Banks:** But they were kind of a bit, uh, their time had come and gone.

[00:41:34] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:41:34] **Tony Banks:** By then, punk, you know,

[00:41:36] **Jarek Zaba:** uh, the Grey Horse. Did you ever go there? That's, that, that's sort of

[00:41:40] **Tony Banks:** Oh yeah, of course. The Grey Horse. My God, yes. I've forgotten the Grey Horse entirely. Um, yeah, loads of bands in there. John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett. I saw them there. Uh, I saw several bands there. Um, completely forgot about it. Yeah, you're right. A very big venue.

[00:41:57] **Tony Banks:** And quite a lot of people used to play [00:42:00] there. Many, many, for many, many years. But, um, I think it was just in the back room. You know that bit, which is now the comedy club, which is out the back. Yeah. I don't think it was that. It was just the back room, which is, you know, there's a dividing line between the

[00:42:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:42:15] **Tony Banks:** it was in that back bit.

[00:42:16] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, I've,

[00:42:16] **Tony Banks:** oh, yeah,

[00:42:17] **Jarek Zaba:** I've seen, yeah, when I first went to the Grey Horse, it was essentially three, three music venues in one. They sometimes had music in the front room.

[00:42:24] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:42:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Sometimes in that back room.

[00:42:25] **Tony Banks:** Back room.

[00:42:25] **Jarek Zaba:** And sometimes in the Ram Jam club, which is the one out the,

[00:42:28] **Tony Banks:** yeah,

[00:42:28] **Jarek Zaba:** out the back.

[00:42:28] **Tony Banks:** But I don't think the Ram Jam Club had started up properly in the early days, and it was always in the back room.

[00:42:33] **Tony Banks:** John Otway. That was definitely one. Oh gosh. Might have seen Billy Bragg in there, but I don't think so. It was that kind of small band thing. Friends of mine, here's a name which you will stretch to find any balls to remember. I had some friends who were in a band called, um, Big Bladder. Um, well first of all, they're called Blad the [00:43:00] Impaler.

[00:43:01] **Tony Banks:** No, no, they were Big Bladder first and then they were Blad the Impaler and they were, they were a Kingston band. They played about four gigs. You still got loads of records because they had a record press. They played there. So I went to see them, uh, you know, what was, um, the Bun Shop?

[00:43:20] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, that was actually next, next on my list is the Bun Shop,

[00:43:23] **Tony Banks:** then became the Yellow Heaven Soup Kitchen. I saw a few, I saw Blad there. Yeah. Plus a couple of other little local bands and they had comedy on as well at the back.

[00:43:32] **Jarek Zaba:** That's what is now Brave New world, isn't it?

[00:43:34] **Tony Banks:** Brave New World.

[00:43:35] **Jarek Zaba:** Near Berrylands.

[00:43:36] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, and they used to have quite a few bands on there, but again, I don't remember sort of seeing anybody specific apart from friends bands.

[00:43:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Adam Lewis from the Lamb mentioned, mentioned Yellow Heaven Soup to me, it was,

[00:43:49] **Tony Banks:** They did have bands on there.

[00:43:50] **Jarek Zaba:** They might have just had like sort of disco nights or

[00:43:54] **Tony Banks:** Oh yeah. And comedy.

[00:43:54] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:43:55] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. They had that on as well there.

[00:43:57] **Jarek Zaba:** Interesting name, Yellow Heaven. Any, any idea where  
[00:44:00] that ?

[00:44:00] **Tony Banks:** Because the original Yellow Heaven Soup Kitchen was on the Richmond Road and it was just one of those wacky names.

[00:44:07] **Tony Banks:** They, and it had all sorts of, Bits and bobs. It was like a bric-a-brac type painted yellow. And it was, you know, where that row of shops is, is you go along the London Road, there's a ke uh, the Richmond Road, and you go opposite Sainbury's. There's a row of shops that it was there. And then I think they, they either tried to expand and op and take over the Bun Shop, or they just used the Bun Shop.

[00:44:38] **Tony Banks:** Because they got kicked out the other one. Because the Kingston Informer's offices were there, where I worked and um, although I'd left by then, um, and that's where Richer Sounds were, was still is I think actually where you used to get all your stereo equipment.

[00:44:54] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep. Richer Sounds is still on Richmond Road.

[00:44:56] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, it was there and there's a pub on the end.

[00:45:00] Is it the Oak or something? Um, And, uh, oh, the Grey Horse. I completely forgot the Grey Horse. Shameful of me. That was, that was a very well known venue. In fact, that was one of only a few where you'd regularly see a band. Can't remember too many of them. They were all local, Rugalator, bands like that.

[00:45:18] **Tony Banks:** Um,

[00:45:19] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah, I think it, I think it used to, I think it has a history as a jazz venue back in the, back, in the sort of fifties, sixties, and then, and then, and then, Yeah. And then it's evolved, I think, I think less so these days. I think since, since it's, it's changed ownership has become a bit more of a gastro pub.

[00:45:34] **Tony Banks:** Oh, definitely. And more food now. Yeah. Yeah. Um, trying to think of any others. There were others. I mean, obviously there was, um, you know where the, um, Ram is now?

[00:45:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep.

[00:45:51] **Tony Banks:** The pub.

[00:45:52] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep.

[00:45:52] **Tony Banks:** Where you live.

[00:45:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep. Yeah, on the river side,

[00:45:54] **Tony Banks:** Just down from there. Around the back of there, there was a venue in the sixties where the Stones [00:46:00] played.

[00:46:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, right. I think this is the Cellar Club.

[00:46:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Is that,

[00:46:03] **Tony Banks:** that's it. That's it.

[00:46:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:46:04] **Tony Banks:** And it was quite famous, but it, it long gone by the time that we, um, we were, uh, and of course, The Stones and various other people played the ABC Cinema

[00:46:18] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:46:19] **Tony Banks:** As well. You know all about that.

[00:46:20] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, we did.

[00:46:21] **Jarek Zaba:** So, so I mean this is actually, this, this project is like a sequel to one that we did

[00:46:26] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:46:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, a few years back. Yeah. And that one we focused more 40 to sixties.

[00:46:30] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:46:30] **Jarek Zaba:** And we looked at the big cinemas.

[00:46:31] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:46:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Cellar Club came

[00:46:33] **Tony Banks:** Granada

[00:46:33] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah. Yeah. And, and yeah. All the, yeah. The names that played those venues.

[00:46:38] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. They were, they were, they were no longer doing stuff like that. Um, I'm trying to think of anywhere else. Um, Spring Grove never did gigs, but

[00:46:46] **Jarek Zaba:** What the place that became the Hippodrome that has now been knocked down was, was that, was that a a a a club?

[00:46:54] **Tony Banks:** It was a club. I don't remember any gigs.

[00:46:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Back, back in the, back. In the,

[00:46:57] **Tony Banks:** might have been gig. Oh [00:47:00] yeah. When it became the Hippodrome. I think they put gigs on, didn't they?

[00:47:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. I mean, Jon Tolley and Banquet put gigs on.

[00:47:05] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. But that was later on.

[00:47:06] **Jarek Zaba:** But that's, that's in more recent years.

[00:47:08] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:47:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Up until it closed.

[00:47:09] **Tony Banks:** I think a few sort of hiphop people and

[00:47:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:47:13] **Tony Banks:** people played there, but I don't remember, um, in my era of gig going much going on there. Grey Horse. Swan, the occasional gig, New Malden, was there anywhere in New Malden

[00:47:27] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean in terms of clubs, did they, did, did, were there different clubs for different kind of people? Um, in terms of like what Cinderellas, would they serve a certain type of person in town?

[00:47:40] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. Well, in, I'm a -. Yeah. I mean, um, that was the sort of, disco crowd still probably moved on from disco into more trendy sort of funk stuff, probably in the nineties.

[00:47:54] **Tony Banks:** But, um, that was still mainly that kind of thing. By then, I think the Hippodrome had opened and [00:48:00] maybe some of those other little clubs you were talking about, but I, I didn't really go to them.

[00:48:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:48:04] **Tony Banks:** I was still into going into, into gigs. Really.

[00:48:08] **Jarek Zaba:** The hip, the Hippodrome is The Works. When I, when I first,

[00:48:10] **Tony Banks:** that's right.

[00:48:11] **Jarek Zaba:** First came to uni.

[00:48:11] **Tony Banks:** I remember that.

[00:48:12] **Jarek Zaba:** I wonder if it opened as that, well, I think it did have another name before The Works, but I forget what it was. Um,

[00:48:17] **Tony Banks:** There used to be a pub in a little circular pub in that area, in, you know, that open space? There was a pub there,

[00:48:25] **Jarek Zaba:** right

[00:48:25] **Tony Banks:** It was called The Seven Saxons.

[00:48:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, okay.

[00:48:28] **Tony Banks:** And then it became the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society.

[00:48:31] **Jarek Zaba:** That's a rubbish name for a pub.

[00:48:33] **Tony Banks:** It's not great.

[00:48:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, right. I just, right, we'll, we'll move on to industrial estates in a second. Just do that quickly,

[00:48:41] **Tony Banks:** which is of course, uh, a great song by The Fall.

[00:48:45] **Jarek Zaba:** Industrial Estate?

[00:48:45] **Tony Banks:** Mm-hmm.

[00:48:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, I didn't know that.

[00:48:47] **Tony Banks:** I recommend you.

[00:48:47] **Jarek Zaba:** What, what, what a perfect segue. Yeah. That'll be the theme song for this interview.

[00:48:54] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, but just before we sort of move on from the music, I just wonder if, I dunno if [00:49:00] you have much opportunity these days to go and see live music in the area or. Whether you just have reflections on the fact that, you know, we are losing a lot of, uh, music venues in, in, not, not just in Kingston, but in the country overall.

[00:49:13] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, I mean, what direction do you think we're traveling in, in terms of live music? I is sort of live music under threat by these closures?

[00:49:21] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, it definitely, because loads of pubs are closing, aren't they? There's a big thing about pub closure and, uh, lots of venues have now been either gone or turned into other things.

[00:49:31] **Tony Banks:** Like for instance, the Assembly Rooms now part of the school, Coronation Hall gone. The Assembly Rooms is part of the school, and loads of those halls, uh, just, just don't function. The Claremont, for instance, Claremont Halls used to be a place where you had discos. It's now a nursery. I remember discos there.

[00:49:50] **Tony Banks:** Um, and loads of pubs have gone. I mean the amount of the pubs. That's another subject, isn't it? For pubs that have gone round here.

[00:49:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:49:58] **Tony Banks:** Um, is quite [00:50:00] astounding, really. So yeah, it is a worry. And, uh, also the times we've lived through, you hope that it catches fire again. The, the need and the desire to see live music.

[00:50:14] **Tony Banks:** I think it is coming back, recovering from, you know, post covid recovering. But it, it, it's still a long way to go, I think. Um, it's a matter of venues. Are there enough venues? You know, that's the key.

[00:50:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Well, I know when the, the Hippodrome closed, it was essentially, you know, our biggest, our biggest music venue had, uh, had shut down Banquet, had to move their stuff to PRYZYM.

[00:50:42] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:50:42] **Jarek Zaba:** Um,

[00:50:43] **Tony Banks:** Which is all right.

[00:50:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:50:44] **Tony Banks:** I mean, I've seen Johnny Marr there and I've saw someone else there. Um, And it's okay. It's quite a nice, it's my favourite sort of size of venue as well. Not too big, but not too small ideal for that level of [00:51:00] band. Um, it's quite good, I think PRYZYM

[00:51:03] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah. So yeah, there are still places,

[00:51:04] **Tony Banks:** but it's kind of on its own, isn't it?

[00:51:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. In terms of that large scale or, or even medium scale. I mean there's, you know, we, we, we, we mentioned in the exhibition, you know, we've mentioned the Fighting Cocks that's still going obviously for, for, for sort of rock and uh, that sort of stuff. And then obviously just up the road the Lamb is, is, is, is doing music to twice, at least twice a week

[00:51:26] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:51:26] **Jarek Zaba:** Has its own festival in the summer.

[00:51:28] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:51:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, so there are still places going, but

[00:51:30] **Tony Banks:** Yeah.

[00:51:31] **Jarek Zaba:** But, you know, but we've. Over the course of this interview, you mentioned 20 places that have gone.

[00:51:37] **Tony Banks:** That have gone. Yeah. So, and uh, probably won't come back or aren't gonna come back cause I'm just simply not there. But there are lots of, um, you know, the Grey Horse still does stuff, doesn't it?

[00:51:47] **Tony Banks:** Yeah. And does jazz, um, and, uh, well The Lamb obviously carrying on a and and, uh, um, the Black Lion.

[00:51:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:51:58] **Tony Banks:** Does gigs occasionally, [00:52:00] doesn't it? You know?

[00:52:00] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. You get the odd Oasis cover band in O'Neills, you know?

[00:52:04] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, yeah, exactly. Yeah. Uh, but, uh, again, I know of course you got the Fighting Cox, but there aren't that many, are there, really?

[00:52:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Okay.

[00:52:15] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, unless you've got anything else to say on the music front?

[00:52:18] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, anything else?

[00:52:20] **Tony Banks:** No, I, I just think that. Before I went to uni in 78, I thought Kingston was a very dull town. There was occasional bit of stuff and it was mainly going, going on London when I came back. And in the buildup to your era, I thought it got better, there was more stuff going on.

[00:52:36] **Tony Banks:** Probably cuz there were more students, you know, the university increased in size and it just got better. There were more venues and more gigs and stuff and I'm wondering now whether. We might have had a golden era there and it's starting to fade again, you know?

[00:52:52] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:52:52] **Tony Banks:** That's it really. Yeah.

[00:52:53] **Jarek Zaba:** All right. Well, uh, unless there's anything else that you feel, uh, you haven't mentioned that you would like to mention, I think

[00:52:59] **Jarek Zaba:** we're, I think [00:53:00] that's good to,

[00:53:00] **Tony Banks:** Something may occur to me. Um, I mean, it's good that you mentioned, the Grey Horse, cuz that had slipped my mind.

[00:53:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:53:08] **Tony Banks:** But I don't recall too many other pubs that had music. Can't speak about New Malden really. There may have been one or two in New Malden.

[00:53:17] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:53:17] **Tony Banks:** I know there was a folk club.

[00:53:19] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. Okay. Yeah. No, New Malden hasn't come up too much for people we've chatted to so far.

[00:53:25] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, The Fountain might have had some stuff, I'm not sure.

[00:53:28] **Tony Banks:** Uh, don't think Surbiton. No, I don't think so.

[00:53:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:53:37] **Tony Banks:** You know the pubs that used, I mean, there's a pub at the top of the hill, The Railway

[00:53:41] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm.

[00:53:41] **Tony Banks:** Now gone. Don't think they ever had gigs. The Southampton might have done.

[00:53:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, I think people have mentioned it, but they might have just mentioned it as a rocky

[00:53:51] **Jarek Zaba:** pub rather than,

[00:53:52] **Tony Banks:** yeah, I don't recall.

[00:53:52] **Jarek Zaba:** Rather than a live pub or something.

[00:53:53] **Tony Banks:** Yeah, don't think The Oak did.

[00:53:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:53:56] **Tony Banks:** don't think so. But there was a big student pub though, as you probably remember. [00:54:00] Um, no. Anyway.

[00:54:02] **Jarek Zaba:** Hey, good stuff. Thank, thank you Tony.

[00:54:04] **Tony Banks:** No worries.