

[00:00:00] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, this is Jarek Zaba with the AMP Kingston Project, from Creative Youth, exploring art, music and pop fashion heritage in the Kingston Borough and beyond. It's Monday the 24th of July, 2023, and I'm with Donna Frankcom-Ball, Frankcom? Is that - yeah, Frankcom-Ball at her home in Worcester Park. Uh, Donna's a local resident who spent much of her youth attending gigs in the Kingston area, and today runs a Facebook group for people to share memories of the borough's music scene in the 1980s.

[00:00:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, Donna, um, do you mind sort of leaning sort of into the mic a little bit, and uh, yeah, just stating your name for the tape, as well as your date and place of birth.

[00:00:40] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I'm Donna Frankcom-Ball, my date of birth is 13. 4. 1967 and I was born in Kingston Hospital.

[00:00:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Lovely. Yeah, so you know my first question was going to be about your early years, your childhood and your relationship to Kingston.

[00:00:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, so obviously if you were born in Kingston, presumably you're raised in Kingston as well? [00:01:00]

[00:01:00] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, I was raised in New Malden. So my mum and dad bought a house there and I lived there all through my teenage years and didn't move out until I was 19. So... Being born in 67, I was lucky enough to be a kid in the 70s, which was fun, and a teenager in the 1980s, which was even more fun.

[00:01:23] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep, yep. Um, I mean, do you remember much about, kind of, music in your household growing up? Were your parents big music fans?

[00:01:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** My dad was in a band. He was a singer, so I've always had a, um, a musical history, if you like, because we used to go and see my dad. Um He started off in a band called The Not Rockers, which was a bit rock and roll.

[00:01:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Despite the name.

[00:01:48] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It's a great name, isn't it? And, uh, then he moved on to, uh, like dance band music. So he'd play at weddings and, you know, did cover versions of Neil Diamond. [00:02:00] That sort of thing,

whatever was popular in the charts. So I was used to going to see him live And he used to enter talent contests as well. So, you know, we had this family history of being used to seeing people that you know up on stage performing. So of course when my friends started doing the same thing locally with the the Cardiacs and GNI It was, um, an ordinary transition for me, whereas all my friends were like, Wow, you know, look, they're all up on stage.

[00:02:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** But it was quite normal for me to, to see that. So, uh, it was pretty cool.

[00:02:37] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, and what, what were the sort of the first records you remember buying, or the first things you liked off the radio, or any of...

[00:02:44] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I was a big Bay City's Roll, Bay City Rollers fan.

[00:02:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay, yeah.

[00:02:48] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, and then I remember being into pop music until I was about...

[00:02:53] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** 14, 15 and then my friend Emma introduced me to Rush [00:03:00] and she played me their album 2112. I remember sitting in her bedroom in Kingston and she played me it and I was just hooked and from then on all the pop music kind of went out the window and I got into Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, Hawkwind,

[00:03:22] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And that was my love of music. My first gig was 1983 Iron Maiden Hammersmith.

[00:03:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh wow, yeah, good first gig.

[00:03:33] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** First proper gig, yeah.

[00:03:34] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, do you remember much about that gig?

[00:03:37] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yes, my boyfriend at the time lent me his Iron Maiden t shirt and I thought I was the bee's knees. We were I think four or five rows from the front.

[00:03:45] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was absolutely awesome. Very, very loud. Loved every second of it. And that was it, I was off then. I have actually got a list of all the gigs that I went to from 1983 to 1985. [00:04:00] Because I did keep diaries back then.

[00:04:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Ah, okay.

[00:04:02] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So, um...

[00:04:04] **Jarek Zaba:** How many gigs would that have been?

[00:04:05] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Quite a few, yes.

[00:04:08] **Jarek Zaba:** So the Iron Maiden was just the start of...

[00:04:10] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Iron Maiden was the start, and then I discovered all the local bands. And, um, I did Reading Rock Festival in 1983 as well, which was... It's one of the best weekends I've ever had because back then the headliners were Thin Lizzy, Black Sabbath, Stranglers, all the little bands in between. And that was just like, hey, wow, I love this.

[00:04:34] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah, and um, so this whole time, what, what, how old were you in, uh, 83

[00:04:41] **aa:** '83, I was 16.

[00:04:42] **Jarek Zaba:** 16, right, okay. And in this whole time when you're growing up and your music tastes are developing, how, how are you feeling about your, your local environment, uh, you know, the Kingston area? Uh, did you enjoy, did you like it growing up?

[00:04:54] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was brilliant. We, we had quite a large circle of friends. Um, and [00:05:00] there was a few local pubs that back then, we had no ID. Um, so we could go drinking at 15, 16. Um, a lot of the pubs have been knocked down since. But there was one in particular called the White Horse. Who, he knew that, that... The owner knew that we were underage, and he would only serve us beer, no spirits.

[00:05:21] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, but they used to have discos on there, um, I just remember dancing around to the bands like The Sweet, all the glam rock stuff.

[00:05:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Was that in New Malden? The White Horse?

[00:05:34] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Uh, no, it was in Kingston.

[00:05:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, okay.

[00:05:37] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Near to the Norbiton pub, you know, where the railway bridge is.

[00:05:40] **Jarek Zaba:** Got ya, yeah.

[00:05:41] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It's just on that main road on the left, where all the flats are now.

[00:05:45] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:05:47] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Sadly, got no pictures of it.

[00:05:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, really.

[00:05:49] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** At all.

[00:05:50] **Jarek Zaba:** And nothing's come up on the group, no?

[00:05:52] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** No.

[00:05:53] **Jarek Zaba:** No. I've not heard of that one actually, the White Horse. Obviously there's the Grey Horse in Richmond Road.

[00:05:59] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, that [00:06:00] was another good venue. That's still going, um,

[00:06:02] **Jarek Zaba:** still going, yes, yes. I think it's recently changed ownership, I think.

[00:06:05] **Jarek Zaba:** But, um, but yeah. I like that compromise, by the way, with underage drinkers. We're just going to give them beer, but not spirits.

[00:06:14] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yes, yes. Back in the good old fashioned days.

[00:06:18] **Jarek Zaba:** And so you said, so that was a place where they'd sort of, they'd play music, sort of, uh, and people would have a dance. Um, when did you first remember sort of frequenting like live music venues?

[00:06:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, a friend of mine, um, Claire, her best friend at school, she, um, was dating a guy called Ashley. And they were in a band called GNI, which stands for Granny's New Intentionz.

[00:06:46] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And the first gig we went to, um, they played at Tiffin Boys School. And all my school friends were in. Um, they were absolutely brilliant. Um, they played some really catchy tunes. Uh, one of them [00:07:00] was called Carousel, which got everybody up dancing at the end. And, uh, just to see these guys perform on a stage at the school was just amazing.

[00:07:11] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And, Paul Blake, the lead singer who now lives in America, uh, he's been sending me, um, pictures and some music as well that, uh, they, he remastered. Um, and I was a proper GNI. fan.

[00:07:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, you were a fangirl.

[00:07:34] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yes, maybe because I dated the guitarist for a little while.

[00:07:36] **Jarek Zaba:** I see, yeah.

[00:07:38] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** But don't put that in.

[00:07:41] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, yeah, so how would you describe their music, uh, GNI?

[00:07:46] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Ooh, um, they were definitely Cardiacs um, influenced, um, Kind of like, um, space rock, a bit Hawkwind [00:08:00] y, that kind of thing. Um, I have actually got some tracks. I could send you if you wanted, just a couple.

[00:08:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah definitely, definitely. Just so you know, this interview and everything we're doing at the minute, we're going to be doing more exhibitions sort of later in the year.

[00:08:18] **Jarek Zaba:** We're going to do like a little touring thing that'll come to different parts of the borough. So, um, so yeah, yeah, anything you can send

us we may, we may, we may well include like clips of their music. So, um, yeah, yeah, that'd be great.

[00:08:28] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I'll make sure I get permission first before-.

[00:08:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Of course, yeah, yeah, yeah, of course.

[00:08:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, but, um, yeah, so, um, yeah, you mentioned Cardiacs as well. I mean, when you first, uh, were introduced to GNI, were you aware of Cardiacs? Did they already exist? Were they Cardiac Arrest at that time?

[00:08:45] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, the GNI group knew, uh, Tim Smith of Cardiacs. Uh, we used to go drinking with him in Kingston. Um, and then going to a Cardiacs gig was just amazing.

[00:08:57] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So my first one was at, [00:09:00] um, where was it, Fulham. I don't, I didn't write the pub name down, but 12th of April, day before my birthday, uh, we went to see Cardiacs in Fulham. And then after that, any time they played locally, uh, Surbiton Assembly Rooms, um, the Marquee.

[00:09:21] **Jarek Zaba:** Which one's the Marquee?

[00:09:22] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** The Marquee was up in London.

[00:09:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, right, yes, yes, yes, sorry, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:09:26] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** When they got a bit more of a following.

[00:09:28] **Jarek Zaba:** I was going to say, I think that's, didn't Rolling Stones play at the Marquee as well.

[00:09:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Quite possibly, yes.

[00:09:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, I think it was, it was quite a big, well known venue, right?

[00:09:36] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah.

[00:09:37] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:09:37] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** They had all the supports as well, like, you know, uh, The Trudy, Jelly Diamonds, Here and Now, Private Patients.

[00:09:45] **Jarek Zaba:** These were all local bands?

[00:09:46] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** All local Kingston bands, yeah.

[00:09:48] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, um, and so that first Cardiacs gig, is that around the same time, mid 80s?

[00:09:55] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, that was 84.

[00:09:56] **Jarek Zaba:** 84, yeah, yeah. Um, yeah, how [00:10:00] interesting, I mean, I know, when I've asked people, including, uh, Peter Tagg who was of course in, Cardiac Arrest when they first found-

[00:10:08] **Jarek Zaba:** when I've asked them to describe how would you describe the Cardiacs sound, people find it very difficult. I mean, they, they, they, they were kind of- defied genre in a lot of ways?

[00:10:17] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yes, it's, it's unique. It's, it's absolute genius. And I think Cardiacs music, you either love it or you hate it. My husband, first time I played it, he was like...

[00:10:28] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** This is awful, it sounds like Norwegian in reverse. So I was like, well, you know, you kind of have to listen to it a couple of times. And then I played him some, some better tracks that I thought he'd get on with. And, uh, Is This The Life, which is the most, I say famous, um, well known song. Uh, he listened to that one day and he was like, Oh, I actually remember hearing this at the time.

[00:10:55] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And then he, he, he will tolerate Cardiacs now. [00:11:00] Um, but since, um, I actually, uh, stopped following them for a while because I went off and did the biker thing. Um, going to bike rallies and stuff and, you know, Motörhead concerts, things like that. Uh, moved away from Kingston even though I still worked there.

[00:11:17] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, and then when I joined Facebook in 2009, um, I rediscovered Cardiacs. And I thought, oh wow, I remember these. You know, and you get into the music again, and it brought back so many memories of, you know, people throwing themselves in the water pit, uh, just going crazy to songs like R. E. S., which was completely mad.

[00:11:41] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, and I was so upset to hear that Tim Smith had, uh, his demise, he had a stroke, and... was not very well, so I thought, oh, I'm never going to be able to go and see them again. Because it really rekindled my love of the music.

[00:11:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:11:56] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, and of course then, I found out all these, uh, [00:12:00] bands that have kind of been influenced by Cardiacs.

[00:12:03] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** You know, the Sea Nymphs, Chubbies, North Sea Radio Orchestra, Arch Garrison, um, Scaramanga 6, Spratley Japs, John Paul, William D. Drake, Lost Crown, Sea Nymphs. The list was just endless and every time I clicked on a YouTube video, it would come up with all this other music and I was like, wow, this is awesome.

[00:12:26] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And it just reignited something in me and brought back all these memories. And then, obviously being on Facebook, um, you track down friends and they track down you. And you end up meeting up again and it was like, wow, this is great. And that's when I decided to get the group together.

[00:12:45] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:12:45] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** In 2017.

[00:12:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:12:48] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** You know, there was a handful of us that I was friends with and I thought, you know, we'll just get together and put all the photos in one place. And we can have a little bit of a, a reminisce about it.

[00:13:00] Thinking it would last for, you know, a month or two. Um, interest would fizzle out. Because there's only so many photos you've got back then.

[00:13:08] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** We didn't have the phone cameras. You know, it was taking a picture with a camera, sending the film off to get developed, getting the photos back two weeks later and half of them would be rubbish, because the quality of the cameras were not so good. So yeah, everybody started putting photos up and ticket stubs and memories and now there's 315 people in it, it's been going for six years.

[00:13:33] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** We've had three or four reunion drinks, which have been quite successful. Um, I've met up with old friends, made some new friends, um, and it's, it's been amazing. Um, of course it's led to this interview today.

[00:13:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:13:48] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Which, you know wouldn't have happened without me setting up the Kingston group.

[00:13:52] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, and uh, yeah, items in the exhibition and all of that.

[00:13:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, yeah, yeah, really-

[00:13:58] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I remember sitting in Marks & [00:14:00] Spencer's cafe with um, my friend Lisa and Dave, who used to be in, he was the drummer in GNI.

[00:14:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm hmm.

[00:14:07] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And Lisa was a very good friend of mine. Uh, we met up again, just had lunch together and I just chucked this idea in the air. I'm thinking about doing a Facebook group, you know, just for us lot.

[00:14:21] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Uh, I said I'm not really sure if it would work or, you know, if people would be interested in it. And both of them got really excited and said, yeah, I think we should do it. So, and that's how it started.

[00:14:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, amazing. Um, and, uh, yeah, just, just on the, on the Cardiacs story, um, cause you mentioned a few bands they've influenced, but then I know there's, there's quotes from Damon Albarn and Radiohead that talk about how they were an influence.

[00:14:49] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, they were a band that sort of never had huge chart success, but they clearly had a big following and I think they've sold out the Astoria and, you know, so, so did you sort of witness them [00:15:00] grow bigger and bigger and?

[00:15:02] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes,

[00:15:02] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I was lucky enough to see them support Marillion at Hammersmith Odeon. Me and Lisa, who I met, um, we went to go, we went there for the evening and we were the only two that stood up and danced to Cardiacs supporting Marillion.

[00:15:20] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** They did not go down well, it's quite a famous gig where the audience was not impressed. Fish of Meridian loved them, he thought they were a great band. And we used to spot them up at the Marquee, watching them. So he rightly thought, you know, they'd be a great support band, and they were, if you were into that kind of music.

[00:15:42] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** A lot of Marillion fans, different genre, not quite gelling with the band because they were very lively on stage with the make up and, you know, the... Tim's stage presence was awesome. You know, I don't know if you've seen any of the old videos. You know, Torn [00:16:00] and Feathered, that kind of thing. You know, the mad jumping around and crazy crazy.

[00:16:06] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, but Lisa and I went backstage afterwards. Uh, only time I've ever been backstage at the Hammersmith. Um, We got in because Lisa said she was Tim Smith's sister. So, uh, yeah, that was pretty awesome. But I, I, I was kind of disappointed that I didn't get to meet any of Marillion because I was quite a big fan of Marillion at the time.

[00:16:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:16:32] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So I was, I was sort of stuck backstage with Cardiacs who were people that I knew already and I was like, I'm not even going to get to see Fish. But, you know, had I... Realised the significance of the event.

[00:16:45] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:16:46] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I would have been there taking notes and photos and everything.

[00:16:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, of course. Um, I mean, speaking to Peter and Derek, they sort of suggested that Tim was actually quite a quiet guy offstage.

[00:16:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, you know, he [00:17:00] wasn't, he wasn't this sort of big centre of attention character.

[00:17:03] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** No.

[00:17:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, but a huge character on it. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, how interesting. Um.

[00:17:09] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Very talented.

[00:17:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, yes, yes. So yeah, I gather he could just pick up any instrument and basically, you know, sight read and all of that sort of thing. Yeah. Do you play yourself, by the way?

[00:17:21] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** No. Not at all.

[00:17:22] **Jarek Zaba:** No?

[00:17:22] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I can't sing, I can't play any instruments. I'm completely rubbish.

[00:17:25] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:17:26] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So the musical side of my family did not get passed down to me.

[00:17:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. And, um, so I'll talk a little bit about Granny's New Intentionz as well. I mean, um, what people ask me in the exhibition, and what's your favourite item in here?

[00:17:39] **Jarek Zaba:** And I think it genuinely is that cassette tape, uh, Granny's New Intentionz cassette tape. Yeah, because of the hand drawn liner notes, which I just think are so, they're so beautiful. And there's, there's, there's humour in there. There's like a thing that says this album is sponsored by a Rizla paper, um.

[00:17:58] **Jarek Zaba:** And, uh, so, [00:18:00] did they used to do that for all of their tapes? Or, you know, was it...

[00:18:05] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Well, my, uh, one of my friends has got a bootleg cassette, which is, um, all the songs are handwritten. Um, but I, I don't remember seeing any more cassettes with that kind of detail on it. Um, but they, they bought out a magazine to accompany the gigs called Grantacy magazine.

[00:18:28] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And, uh, I've got a few copies of those, uh, pictures of them saved, but they're not very good copies, so you can't really read what was going on, but I can't even remember who they were written by, but it was just like a little grotesque fan mag that got distributed at gigs and that, and some, some of the stories in there were hilarious, I just seem to remember laughing, uh, and the little, um, cartoons and drawings and stuff.

[00:18:57] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was just, it was a really good [00:19:00] addition to a gig, and I remember they were on sale for 15p.

[00:19:05] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, because one of the things we talk about in, um, as just part of this project overall, the project's called AMP, which stands for Art, Music and Pop Fashion. So, on the art side, we are interested in how art and music, you know, the, so whether it's album covers or, uh, posters or that sort of thing. Um, and I think...

[00:19:24] **Jarek Zaba:** In the streaming world, you do lose a lot of that, you know, you don't have the album covers and the liner notes to look through anymore.

[00:19:33] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** No, it's completely different now.

[00:19:35] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, so it's lovely to see an item like that, like that tape. Um, I mean, even the cassette tape in its own right is a bit of a novelty.

[00:19:43] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I know, I know. I daren't play it.

[00:19:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes.

[00:19:46] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Because it will probably fall apart.

[00:19:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Absolutely, absolutely, yeah. Yes, I think anyone of a certain age knows what it's like to try and fiddle around with those. With the tape as it comes unstuck.

[00:19:57] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I know, I wish I'd have kept more, but you know, back [00:20:00] then you just thought that would...

[00:20:01] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** That was life, and it would carry on like that.

[00:20:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. Um, and while we're on there, the items you kindly loaned to us for the exhibition, um, I think there were some ticket stubs in there as well, there was one for, um, I think it was Here and Now at the Grove Tavern.

[00:20:17] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah.

[00:20:19] **Jarek Zaba:** So neither of those mean a lot to me.

[00:20:21] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, I know of the Grove Tavern.

[00:20:24] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was in the middle of the Cambridge Estate.

[00:20:27] **Jarek Zaba:** That's right, yeah. And so was that a regular music venue? Would you often go there to see gigs?

[00:20:34] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, it was a good venue for bands. It was, it was just fun. It was a, it was a little bit of a rough pub.

[00:20:42] **Jarek Zaba:** Was it a sort of pub with a, with a back room for music or was the music-

[00:20:45] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah there was a separate room for the music and then the bar was, uh, in the other bit.

[00:20:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** But you found that with a lot of the pubs, you know, there was always a back bit. Like the Grey Horse had the back room for the music and the bar separate, so.

[00:20:59] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:20:59] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** The [00:21:00] Grove was a great venue and the Swan as well, um, down Mill Street.

[00:21:05] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes.

[00:21:05] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Right on the Hogsmill River. The building's still there.

[00:21:08] **Jarek Zaba:** The building is now used by the university for its art courses.

[00:21:12] **Jarek Zaba:** They sometimes have exhibitions in there.

[00:21:13] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Oh, I did not know that.

[00:21:15] **Jarek Zaba:** So we are, we are hoping to use it for an exhibition ourselves. And we can put up some, some of the Swan's history in there. Because I've been speaking to, um, there's an old rock and roll band called the Impalas there.

[00:21:26] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Oh yeah, I've heard, yeah.

[00:21:26] **Jarek Zaba:** And, um, so that would have been before your time.

[00:21:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Because I think they would have been like in the 60s was their main. But I've been speaking to one of the members of the Impalas. I'm hoping to interview him. Um, and then yeah, if we can get the Swan as an, as an exhibition space, it'd be amazing.

[00:21:41] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Oh, that would be really cool.

[00:21:42] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. Um, but, um, but yeah, so they were still doing live music there when you were, when, when you were growing up and you were in your youth.

[00:21:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, the Dolphin, uh, down Fife Road, which is where Bentalls is.

[00:21:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep.

[00:21:56] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** That was, uh, I remember that from a very early age because my father used to [00:22:00] comper there. Um, and he used to take me in a pram when I was a baby. And leave me in the doorway, in the pram, while he went in and did a bit of compering. So, um, that was probably the first ever pub that I went to as a baby.

[00:22:15] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, but it was a great venue for music, live music and discos. And also Jester's, the old Crown pub, which is on the marketplace where the flower stall is. The building's still there, pub's not. But

that was when, um, we discovered Nick London, the DJ. I don't know if you've, he's in my group, but he was, um. DJ up at the Clarendon, which was a massive venue in Hammersmith, which everybody used to go to as rock, rock Weekends, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night.

[00:22:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:22:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And Nick London used to do the, the DJing there. And also Jesters in Kingston,

[00:22:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Jesters, is that in the town centre? That is that, um,

[00:22:59] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** The old Crown [00:23:00] Pub and Jesters was like a rock club upstairs,

[00:23:04] **Jarek Zaba:** right yeah. Yeah. So this isn't what became Bacchus no. Or

[00:23:08] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** no.

[00:23:09] **Jarek Zaba:** No. There's

[00:23:09] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Bacchus, so that's, uh, Julian's.

[00:23:12] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, Julian's, Julian's club.

[00:23:14] **Jarek Zaba:** But that did have a former name as well, I'm trying to remember what it was. Uh, I can't remember what it was, but yeah. Um, yeah, so Jester's is separate, but, uh, but also in the town centre. Um, yeah, yeah, interesting. Um, and with all of these, all of these venues... Uh, would it be like a live band, you know, once or twice a week, uh, or was it more regular?

[00:23:35] **Jarek Zaba:** Was it, were you pretty much, was there live music pretty much any night that you, that you wanted it?

[00:23:40] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, well we sort of had a set routine, there was um, Wednesday night used to be the Southampton in, Uh, Surbiton

[00:23:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Surbiton, is that near the station somewhere?

[00:23:51] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah.

[00:23:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, it was. Um, yes. I think it's what's now the office block on the, on the right when you come out.

[00:23:56] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Very boring.

[00:23:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

[00:23:58] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I remember all the bikes used to be
[00:24:00] parked outside

[00:24:01] **Jarek Zaba:** motorbikes?

[00:24:02] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah,

[00:24:02] **Jarek Zaba:** because it was a, it was a biker pub.

[00:24:04] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah.

[00:24:04] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, and I heard it was a bit of a rock, rock venue.

[00:24:08] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, a little bit. But I remember one night, um, a drunk driver reversed into one of the bikes and I remember them all falling down like dominoes.

[00:24:20] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And, uh, this poor, I think it was a woman in a car, she just got surrounded by all these angry hairy bikers who were not too pleased. But, uh, that's quite an outstanding memory. Yeah, so we had like the Southampton, Clarendon was weekends, Friday, Saturday, Sunday evening. Plus all the local bands, you had Hammersmith Odeon as well, so it did feel like we were having gigs.

[00:24:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Because I didn't write down all of the ones I went to, just the ones that, you know, were special and meaningful. So, you know, seeing other local bands [00:25:00] in pubs didn't really get mentioned, because it was just normal life back then.

[00:25:05] **Jarek Zaba:** Was it, um, did you tend to pay a cover charge to see these bands, or was it like the music was just free in the pub?

[00:25:12] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was just free in the pub. You know, occasionally you'd have to pay like 50p or a pound or 1. 50 for a ticket. Which seems like crazy, crazy.

[00:25:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, um, just to say, because I know you mentioned, uh, you, you started getting into Led Zeppelin and Hawkwind and things like this. Were you, I know it was before your time, but were you aware of, like, the Toby Jug kind of hosting these bands?

[00:25:37] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I wasn't. It was a bit before my time, unfortunately.

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

[00:25:43] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, but, you know, you get to hear about these things and all the murals of, um... Ziggy Stardust and all the great, I mean, I wish I'd have been born a bit earlier actually. And then I could have come to see some of these awesome [00:26:00] bands.

[00:26:00] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, there's plenty of people who were born at the right time but still didn't see them because, you know, they, I mean... Certainly when it came to Bowie and Ziggy Stardust, but also quite a few of them, you know, they weren't at the height of their fame at that point. We, um, in the exhibition we have a quote from someone, taken from his diary, in which he simply writes, uh, went to the Toby Jug today, David Bowie was on, didn't bother.

[00:26:23] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, and so he sat in the main, at the main bar and didn't go into the, you know, didn't go into the music room for Bowie. And then, three, six months later Bowie was an international superstar.

[00:26:35] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Wow.

[00:26:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, yes. Yeah,

[00:26:37] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** there are a lot of, um, a lot of... quite- I think Rolling Stones played Kingston or Eel Pie Club. I think that's, that's got some history.

[00:26:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. The Rolling Stones. I think they played, so the, I think in the sixties they used to have these big kind of cinema gigs like the ABC

Cinema and Granada Cinema, and I think The Rolling Stones played one of those. Certainly.

[00:26:56] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah.

[00:26:56] **Jarek Zaba:** And then they were regulars at Eel Pie Island as well.

[00:26:58] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Mm-hmm.

[00:26:58] **Jarek Zaba:** just down the river.

[00:26:59] **Jarek Zaba:** [00:27:00] Um, so yeah, yeah, it's really interesting. Um, yeah. Are there any specific, uh, like nights or gigs that really stand out as like, you know, this was just an amazing live experience, um, that, that, that you were part of in, in, in, whether in Kingston or, or outside?

[00:27:20] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, no, I just remember it was good fun. Um. And you thought those days would go on forever.

[00:27:28] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So you kind of took them for granted. Uh, which is why it makes things like this all the more special. You know, remembering back then. Because you're not going to get that kind of atmosphere ever again. In, uh, local venues. But, you know, I've still got to see local bands. Um, Hoaxwind, they're a Hawkwind cover band.

[00:27:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** They play in The Oak in Kingston sometimes. Um, we were... there last weekend watching Ransom, who do rock covers. They're a [00:28:00] very good band. Um, so it's still happening. Um, you know, occasionally I'll, I'll, I'll go to a gig and I'll be, I'll just be transported back to the 80s. You know, because you, you still see the characters in Kingston.

[00:28:14] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** They're still, they're still there doing it. Some people have never moved away. Um, you know, that is, that's been their social scene forever. I kind of took a step away from it and came back in. Kingston has changed quite a lot.

[00:28:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes.

[00:28:30] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Now, it's not the same as it used to be. Um.

[00:28:35] **Jarek Zaba:** How would you say the town has, or the borough has changed over time?

[00:28:40] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It's, uh, I think since they put the one way system in, they knocked down a load of pubs. All the good venues went. There's still some good venues though, I mean, the Fighting Cocks is one of the better ones. You still get [00:29:00] local bands in local pubs still. So it's still happening, but the vibe is a little bit different.

[00:29:09] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I don't know, it's just, it's, it's, it's kind of more modern, but... It's a bit run down in places as well, you know, you get the beggars on the streets and you know, quite a few, when we lived in Kingston, um, there were people with beds out in the high street. Um, and unfortunately when, when I lived there, a couple of years ago is when lockdown happened and you know I had all these grand plans of you know meeting up with some old friends and getting you know reunion stuff together and we were all stuck in our houses for months and months so um that gave it a different vibe um and the knife crime there's not good it's uh we have two stabbings either side of our road while we live there and uh but unfortunately, that's generic [00:30:00] everywhere really, isn't it, these days?

[00:30:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:30:02] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It's quite sad.

[00:30:03] **Jarek Zaba:** And, um, you know, you mentioned all those, uh, venues closing. Um, I mean, do you think it's now, if you're a young artist or a performer and you're trying to make a, uh, start, uh, with your music, do you think it's now harder for bands?

[00:30:19] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I think so, yeah, because, um, I'm still friends with people who are doing, uh, music and bands and stuff, and they're quite often advertised saying, you know, we haven't got any gigs lined up, can anyone suggest anywhere?

[00:30:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So, I think that has had an impact. Because you really do have to... find, uh, a good venue that, you know, will keep having you back. Um, you know, the Fighting Cocks is great for that. you know,

[00:30:47] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** But obviously - because I'm so deaf these days, I can't cope with loud music all the time anymore so. y'know it limits me on what I can do.

[00:30:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah, it's interesting because, um, I, I moved to Kingston for university [00:31:00] in 2006 and, uh, basically, Um, over the course of this project, I've realised we've lost loads of places that were open when I was, um, when I was at uni. But it's actually clubs that we've lost rather than pubs.

[00:31:13] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, so like, you know, the Hippodrome has now been knocked down. And then there's lots of smaller clubs at Ama-gi and Essence, and all those that have all disappeared. So it's interesting that, yeah, there's another phase of sort of losing things. And it seems everything just becomes flats, doesn't it? Um, but, um...

[00:31:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, things change very quickly, don't they?

[00:31:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, absolutely, absolutely. Um...

[00:31:36] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** One thing I remember is all the house parties that used to go on as well.

[00:31:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:31:40] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Because, uh, you know, we had such a wide circle of friends. Um, there was always a party somewhere going on. You know, you just had to kind of listen..., 'Oh, so and so's having a party, let's go there'.

[00:31:51] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And they were usually all nighters. You know, parents were not as worried. Back then, you know, I, I had pretty much free reign to do what I [00:32:00] wanted from 16 onwards. So, you know, it wasn't unusual to go out to a mate's party and, you know, not come home until lunchtime the next day. And that was when video recorders came in, so we'd all go to the video shop and get a load of videos to watch overnight to keep the party going.

[00:32:18] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And another thing we used to do was go and sit in Richmond Park. Um, you know Kingston Gate? You know the round bo- roundabout as you go in? It used to be quite big. And we always used to go and sit on that. And we used to call it The Moon. So after all the pubs up, if we didn't go to the Kaleidoscope Club for food, we'd go and we'd all say, shall we go and sit on The Moon for a bit?

[00:32:43] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And we just go and sit on The Moon in Kingston.

[00:32:47] **Jarek Zaba:** I love that. That's like a, an unofficial venue. Uh, ,

[00:32:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** it was an unofficial venue.

[00:32:51] **Jarek Zaba:** there should be a little plaque on it. Uh, yeah. That's really-

[00:32:54] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** had a few beers, you know, have a few spliffs you know.

[00:32:57] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. Interesting. Yeah. [00:33:00] Um, you just mentioned a place that, uh, Peter and Derek mentioned in their interview actually, which is the Kaleidoscope.

[00:33:05] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, What, this is one that I'm less familiar with, but it sort of did food rather than just being a pub, is that right?

[00:33:13] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** No, it wasn't a pub, it was a church.

[00:33:15] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, yes.

[00:33:16] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was a drug rehabilitation centre, and it still was until quite recently. Because when I lived in Hardman Road, down Kingston, the Kaleidoscope was on the end of the road.

[00:33:26] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, right.

[00:33:28] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And we used to get a few unsavoury characters, you know, shouting and fighting in the streets. And, uh, I said to Mark, my husband, I said, uh, I used to go in there after pubs shut. Because back then pubs shut at half ten, eleven. And the Kaleidoscope was open for food. They did like tea, jacket potatoes.

[00:33:48] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** There was a tramp living in the corner who just looked like a big pile of coats. So you had to warn people not to step on the tramp who lived in the corner. But it was just such a weird, weird [00:34:00] place. It was like a basement. Very dark and dingy, um, the vicars used to come out and chat to people, or pastor or whatever you called him.

[00:34:09] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And I think that's where Cardiac Arrest did their first gig.

[00:34:13] **Jarek Zaba:** That's, that's, that's why it came up. Yes, that's why, that's why Peter mentioned it.

[00:34:17] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So it's not your average venue.

[00:34:20] **Jarek Zaba:** No, it sounds very unusual. And where, where was it?

[00:34:22] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** The end of Hardman Road, um, just by Tiffin Boys School, where the um, Lovekyn Chapel is.

[00:34:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:34:28] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It's pretty much opposite that.

[00:34:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah.

[00:34:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And uh, it has recently, I think it's been recently sold and closed.

[00:34:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, right.

[00:34:36] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So I think the residents are quite happy.

[00:34:38] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, so it was open up until quite recently as-

[00:34:41] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** yeah, I'm sure it used to be open quite late.

[00:34:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:34:44] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Until, you know, gone midnight, one o'clock.

[00:34:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, that's interesting, yeah.

[00:34:49] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And also, we used to, um... Drinking in Kingston, the pubs were shut at half ten, the White Hart over the bridge, because it was in Hampton Wick, had a [00:35:00] licence to open till eleven. So of course, the pubs were shut at half ten. Tear over the bridge to the White

Hart to get a few last bevvies in, and then at 11 o'clock we'd all tear back over the bridge to catch the last bus home.

[00:35:12] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And that last, I used to get the 213 bus home at, I think it was 10 past 11 was the latest one. If you missed that you had to walk. And the top deck was just like a massive party on a Friday, Saturday night. You know, because you could smoke on the buses back then, you could drink, uh, you know, there was people getting off on it- with each other on the back seats.

[00:35:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was, it was quite a wild ride. I felt sorry for the bus drivers.

[00:35:37] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, well, I've been on some night buses recently. I think this can still be the case today, but, uh, but yeah, that sounds, it sounds really, uh, yeah, really fun. Um, And in terms of, I mean, we've spoken a little bit about the items you gave us for the exhibition, but in terms of sort of things that you've held on to, memorabilia, I mean, what have you held on to over these years and why did you hold on to them?

[00:35:57] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, the only other memorabilia I've
[00:36:00] got is my diaries, which I don't tend to read because it's teenage, you know, meanderings. Um, all the, um... Um, ticket stubs for things like Iron Maiden at Hammersmith, Hawkwind at Hammersmith. Um, I've got quite a few Marillion, um, what do you call them? The programmes that came with that.

[00:36:25] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So I've got all of those. Eric Clapton um, Oh, I've got an interesting anecdote about Eric Clapton

[00:36:32] **Jarek Zaba:** oh yeah, go on.

[00:36:33] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, when I was living at home with Mum and Dad in Beaconsfield Road in New Malden, Um, we got new neighbours in and the guy happened to be Eric Clapton's manager.

[00:36:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh.

[00:36:44] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, I got to know him quite well, they were a really nice couple.

[00:36:47] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, and then one day, um, I think, The woman had lent me something and I thought I, I needed to return it. I think it

was a record or something. And I went and knocked on the door and she went, [00:37:00] Donna, she said, I'm so pleased you come. She said, do you want to come in? I was like, no, no, no. I'm just, just giving you your, uh, your record back.

[00:37:06] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And she said, no, I really think you should come in the house. So I was like, okay. And I walked in and sitting on the, on the, uh, sofa was Eric Clapton and Pattie Boyd.

[00:37:16] **Jarek Zaba:** Wow.

[00:37:17] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And I was, I just walked in and my jaw went. And he looked at me and he went, Oh, hello, uh, do you want a fag? So I said, Oh, alright. So I sat and had a fag with Eric Clapton in the front room.

[00:37:32] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And I said, all I could say to him was, I've got a massive poster of you on my bedroom wall next door.

[00:37:37] **Jarek Zaba:** What year would this have been?

[00:37:41] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** My claim to fame, meeting Eric Clapton. I did meet him twice as well because I watched him, um, pull up in his car a while after that.

[00:37:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:37:51] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I think I knew it was his birthday or something so I rushed out with a card for him. I said you probably won't remember me, he says I will never forget you Donna, I was [00:38:00] like, oh.

[00:38:00] **Jarek Zaba:** It'd be good to track him down and find out if that's true. If I manage to get an interview with Eric Clapton for this project I'll show him a photo of you and see if he remembers. Uh, what year would that have been? That, that, that time where he was in the...

[00:38:16] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Oh, that must have been 80- 83, 84.

[00:38:19] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:38:19] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, I think I was 17.

[00:38:22] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah, so he would have been at the height of his fame pretty much, yeah.

[00:38:26] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Oh, yes.

[00:38:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:38:27] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Because we went to see him at, uh, Wembley, I think.

[00:38:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Um, uh, yeah, just go back to the, um, the Facebook group. Um, I mean, you've spoken about how you've spoken about why, why you, how you came to set it up, um, I just wonder why, why do you think it's proven so popular and you know, how, how, how do people engage with it and why do you think?

[00:38:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I have absolutely no idea. It's, I mean, I think the people that are in it make it because. You look at [00:39:00] other Facebook groups and they've got rules and, you know, they vet people and, you know, they, um, quite often have to delete posts and everything. I've never had any of that with the people in the group.

[00:39:13] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Everybody is just lovely. Everyone gets on. Everybody remembers certain things. Um, It has been quite busy for me trying to, at first, because I put all my pictures up and then my friend Claire put all her pictures up and somebody else did, and then I thought, There aren't any more pictures. So I had to kind of invent ways of rehashing pictures with, you know, caption this or memories of this pub.

[00:39:41] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And then of course going through Facebook you can see old pictures of pubs that have closed down, like the Three Fishes, we've not mentioned that one.

[00:39:48] **Jarek Zaba:** Yep.

[00:39:49] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** That got knocked down for the one way system.

[00:39:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Where was that one?

[00:39:53] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, just past Kingston Station.

[00:39:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yes.

[00:39:56] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Very loud pub.

[00:39:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:39:58] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah. [00:40:00] Yeah, absolutely brilliant. Um, I think friends of friends of friends have joined. We don't let any, any old people in

[00:40:08] **Jarek Zaba:** mm-hmm.

[00:40:09] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, if you know someone in the, in the group, you, you are automatically accepted.

[00:40:13] **Jarek Zaba:** Right

[00:40:14] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** But you have to kind of remember those pubs, you know, I've- one of the questions is, do you remember The Dolphin? The, you know, The Swan da da, um, so, you know, with 300 people, it-

[00:40:27] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I really didn't think I would have it in me to keep the interest going. But, you know, I've started putting up current things. Um, this exhibition has been brilliant. Because the last post I put up, all the comments and extra pictures and everything. It's really engaging with people, so.

[00:40:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that's kind of exactly, you know.

[00:40:50] **Jarek Zaba:** As much as, uh, yeah, we like, we like sort of putting up the exhibition and doing what we- we also like getting new stuff off the back of it and, you know, so I think this is a big part of it, is to [00:41:00] get people... Talking about their memories and remembering these...

[00:41:03] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** yeah, I'm forever asking people, dig out your old photos and your old ticket stubs, you know, just put them up.

[00:41:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:41:10] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Please, you know.

[00:41:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, exactly, exactly.

[00:41:11] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And they all say, oh yeah, yeah, I'll get round to it one day.

[00:41:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Because when this project comes to an end, we'll have a website that will have... Pretty much all of our research on there, so any photos and stuff we'll, we'll, we'll, we'll, we'll, we'll, we'll, we'll put up on there.

[00:41:25] **Jarek Zaba:** So, um, so yeah, that'd be, that'd be good to, to sort out when we, when we do it.

[00:41:30] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yes, I think the people in the group make it, definitely.

[00:41:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, yes, absolutely, absolutely. Um, right, I think, uh, we've covered most of what I wanted to cover. Is there anything that we haven't talked about, like any specific bands or venues or,

[00:41:44] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** um, there was- Um, Malden Manor Pavilion was an odd venue.

[00:41:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay.

[00:41:49] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It was like a, a, a scout hut in Worcester Park, .

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

[00:41:53] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** In the middle of, um, the middle of the Manor Park, I think it's called,

[00:41:58] **Jarek Zaba:** right.

[00:41:58] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** That used to be, [00:42:00] uh, a little obscure place for gigs. I remember seeing The Enid there, um, um, Cardiacs, which was, you know, in the middle of a field kind of thing. Yeah,

[00:42:12] **Jarek Zaba:** so it was what, sort of, undercover, but sort of out in the field.

[00:42:17] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, it was like a scout hut building. I remember going to, you know, teenage discos in there. So many different, uh...

[00:42:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, I know, I know one question I meant to ask you but, um, I haven't got around to it. Uh, Granny's New Intentionz. The name. Do you know where the name came from?

[00:42:34] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** No, I don't. I really don't. I will have to, I'll do some fishing for you.

[00:42:40] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Is it, is it spelled with a Z? Is that right? On the

[00:42:43] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** intentions?

[00:42:44] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Granny'z New Intentions.

[00:42:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. No, it's, yeah, I mean, I, I, I'm forever asking people where band names come from, half the time even the band members are like, I have no idea. I can't remember.

[00:42:57] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah.

[00:42:59] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, there was a point where [00:43:00] obviously where Cardiac Arrest became Cardiacs.

[00:43:03] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yes.

[00:43:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, and, and I was- I think Peter wasn't, couldn't quite recall why that was. I think he'd left the band by that point, but

[00:43:10] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, I think so.

[00:43:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:43:12] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** But yeah, you can't call them *the* Cardiacs either, people get very upset about that.

[00:43:16] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes. Yes, I, um, yeah, it's, it's, it's an easy one to get wrong and there's also The Trudy, not the Trudys

[00:43:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Actually, do you remember The Trudy coming about? Because that was...

[00:43:29] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Oh yeah, yeah,

[00:43:30] **Jarek Zaba:** that was Peter...

[00:43:31] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I went to see them quite a lot, yeah. Trudy, Here and Now, um, yeah.

[00:43:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:43:36] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** trudy...

[00:43:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Who were Here and Now out of- because we've got that ticket stub of Here and Now at the Grove.

[00:43:40] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, I have, um... They're on Facebook here in our group.

[00:43:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, right.

[00:43:45] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** So, uh, you can do some fishing in there.

[00:43:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, another kind of rock band?

[00:43:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Uh, yeah, yeah.

[00:43:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. Good stuff. Um, yeah, is there anything else that you, um...

[00:43:57] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Uh, Kingston Green Fair, Canbury Gardens

[00:43:59] **Jarek Zaba:** [00:44:00] ah, yes, yes, so I know, I know Des who used to run Kingston Green Fair. Um, yeah, yeah, yeah. Um, or he was a big part of running it anyway.

[00:44:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, I think there was a sort of team of them and Des and... There's also Sam Hermitage who is involved in Kingston Green Radio, uh, based in New Malden. Um, in fact Kingston Green Radio I think was

basically Kingston Green Fair people set up a radio station. Yeah, so what do you remember about the Green Fair?

[00:44:24] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Oh, I just used to love going there because the venue was fantastic right by the river. Um, all the stores were just amazing. It was, it was just, because I was a bit of a hippie back then as well. You know, I used to have all the, all the scarves and the bangles and you know, the long skirts and everything.

[00:44:40] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, just sort of walking up and down, you know, the jewellery stores and the food and... I'm sure there was music as well.

[00:44:47] **Jarek Zaba:** There was, yeah, definitely, yeah, yeah, yeah. We know, we know there was music and we know like arts was a big component, you know, there's, we'd have people creating all this amazing artwork.

[00:44:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Um,

[00:44:57] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Again, no photos. I haven't got any photos.

[00:44:59] **Jarek Zaba:** [00:45:00] Ah, you see, I've just seen a load of photos. I've just been to the, the History Centre and they have a, uh, some, two boxes full of Green Fair archives, so I've just gone through and there's... A lot of photos, but you know, all sort of, um, you know, the, obviously the old film, film photos that have, yeah, so they come in the little, the little packet and then, yeah, yeah.

[00:45:19] **Jarek Zaba:** So there's, there's plenty out there, um, and yeah, there's, there's bands and, you know, um, things like that. And this was... Is this towards the end of the 80s? Is this 90s? Because I know it went on, I think it went on till around 2000, I think.

[00:45:33] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I can't remember when it stopped, but it used, it was like an annual thing that everyone would go to.

[00:45:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yes, I think, I think it, um, I think 2000 ish, or maybe early 2000s, I think is when they had their last one. Uh, it's interesting, within those archive documents that I looked through, there's... There's discussions between the organisers about the fact that it's got too popular, and they're saying, Ah, crowd management has now [00:46:00] become an issue, um, and they thought, Oh, some of the environmental messaging is getting lost

here, because that's the sort of point of it, was it was all supposed to be about, uh, promoting the pla- but they're saying...

[00:46:10] **Jarek Zaba:** People are now just coming to get drunk and, you know, have a good time. Um, so, yes, it's an interesting one, yeah.

[00:46:18] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, no, that was always a good one to go to. Because you'd always bump into someone you'd not seen for years and, 'Oh hi, still doing it'...

[00:46:26] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, amazing, amazing. Any others on your list?

[00:46:30] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, I'm just trying to think if, uh, if there's any other ones that are... I think we've covered everything. In terms of the Surbiton Assembly Rooms, um, what do you remember about that as a venue?

[00:46:43] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, just, well, the building's still there.

[00:46:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, yes, part of Surbiton High School now.

[00:46:48] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Yeah, it had quite a big history.

[00:46:50] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It used to be a ballroom, I think, back in the day. So it's, uh, it always had a musical, um... [00:47:00] history. But yeah, it was just another good venue for bands. I seem to remember it was quite a decent size. And I think Cardiacs have actually got a video of... One of the gigs.

[00:47:13] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:47:14] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** That I discovered on YouTube a little while ago, and I was like, 'I was at that one' oh, cool.

[00:47:20] **Jarek Zaba:** There is a story of there being quite a big sort of riot essentially that happened there. Uh, do you, do you know the story? Um, it was, it was, I think there was like a kind of punk band played and it all kicked off and... Um, the Met had to send their special police force down to contain it and

[00:47:39] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** It wasn't me.

[00:47:42] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I wasn't there that night. I've heard about it. Some of the people in the group, um, mentioned it a little while ago and I was like, oh, I had no idea.

[00:47:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, no, it's interesting. It is a story that, um, yeah, I don't, I mean, I've been speaking with... Tim Harrison, who's a local journalist, he [00:48:00] does the Good Life newspaper, and uh, he was working on the Surrey Comet at the time, so he was telling me about what a big, big front page of the Comet for three, four days running kind of thing it was, you know, um, but yeah.

[00:48:11] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** When you've got 300 odd people in a group, you know, yeah.

[00:48:15] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** They all remember different things and it just takes one question to spot something off.

[00:48:20] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, I know there's, yeah, um, yeah, just this weekend I met up with a bunch of old friends who I hadn't seen for years and years and years and people just remind you of memories that you've, you've, you forgot you even had, you know, they'll say, Oh, I remember this night and I was like, Oh my God, I completely forgot that happened and you've just brought back that memory.

[00:48:41] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** I mean, this is like 40 years ago for me.

[00:48:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:48:43] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** And, uh, oh, GNI are doing a live stream.

[00:48:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, okay.

[00:48:47] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Together for their 40th anniversary. So I think Paul came over from America and the guys all got together and they took a picture of them. Um, sadly one of the guys [00:49:00] died quite a few years ago. Um, but yeah, they're getting together to do this live stream event, so that should be quite exciting.

[00:49:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, when's that?

[00:49:10] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Um, I'm not sure of the date, I can't remember, but they're gonna put it up in the group, so keep an eye.

[00:49:17] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, will do. I will do. Good stuff. Um, okay. Yeah, I think that's that's that's perfect Donna. Thank you so much for all your time.

[00:49:24] **Donna Frankcom-Ball:** Okay. I hope that was all right

[00:49:26] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, no, great