

[00:00:00] **Jarek Zaba:** 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. Today is Monday the 24th of July, 2023, and I'm with Pat Pritchard at her home in Kingston. Um, along with many other artists Pat saw David Bowie at Kingston Polytechnic in May ne- in May, 1972, three months after he'd launched Ziggy Stardust at the Toby Jug in nearby Tolworth.

[00:00:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, Pat, do you mind stating your name for the tape as well as your date and place of birth?

[00:00:33] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, I'm Pat Pritchard. I was born in Kingston upon Thames on 21st of January, 1955.

[00:00:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Thank you very much. We'll wait for that plane before we... Dive into the main, main interview. Right, perfect. Um, right, um, right, you know, normally I start these by asking about, uh, early years and childhood and relationship to Kingston.

[00:00:55] **Jarek Zaba:** So you say you were born in Kingston Hospital, so presumably you were raised in this area. Whereabouts were you brought up?

[00:00:59] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, [00:01:00] Kings Road, Kings Road, which is in North Kingston. Um, I went to Coombe Girls School after I'd been to Latchmere, um, which is a local primary school. Um, along with Jacqueline Wilson who had the same path.

[00:01:14] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, Sandy Denny had been at Coombe Girls School.

[00:01:18] **Jarek Zaba:** Were you at school with them?

[00:01:20] **Pat Pritchard:** No, no, they're older than me. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Much older, well, like seven years or whatever, which is a whole academic pathway, isn't it?

[00:01:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm hmm.

[00:01:28] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, so I was an only child. Um... Quite sort of self sufficient, was given a dance set, record player, which was the kind of norm.

[00:01:40] **Pat Pritchard:** Uh, which was in my bedroom. Uh, the kind of music that my parents were, um, deemed suitable was things like Carousel and

South Pacific and all those sort of Rodgers and Hammerstein things, which, you know, were not up my street. Um, but obviously I was around when the Beatles were. [00:02:00] At their heyday and, uh, yeah, it was an amazing time.

[00:02:04] **Pat Pritchard:** Miniskirts, Mary Quant, uh, even at primary school. Um, some quite funky get up, PVC stuff, and the black and white Mary Quant.

[00:02:16] **Jarek Zaba:** How old were you when the Beatles first...

[00:02:18] **Pat Pritchard:** Well, I suppose I first came across the Beatles when I was about eight.

[00:02:21] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:02:21] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, and then... As I kind of got older, went to, went to Coombe, um, got into what was known as underground music.

[00:02:31] **Pat Pritchard:** So, in other words, not chart music, but the more, like, Pink Floyd and, um, just the, not mainstream stuff. Having said that, there were certain bands with, like, Peter Frampton was in a band called The Herd, who was a real sort of sex object, and Stevie Marriott's In The Faces, you know, which was... Um, I don't know.

[00:02:53] **Pat Pritchard:** Slightly, slightly alternative. There was an amazing record shop in Kingston in Thames Street on the right. [00:03:00] Very narrow, long, thin record shop. So we'd spend ages poring in there over albums. And that's where we used to get our tickets sometimes for the Poly gigs.

[00:03:08] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, right.

[00:03:09] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, uh, my... Best friend at the time had a brother who was 10 years older and he was a student at the Poly.

[00:03:16] **Pat Pritchard:** So he said, well, why don't you go to the folk club? And at that time, the kind of folk, John Martyn um, Nick Drake, that kind of genre was, was, um, A kind of entree, I suppose it had taken over from jazz.

[00:03:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:03:32] **Pat Pritchard:** That jazz thing. Um, so we used to, age 15, head off down to the folk club at the Poly, which was in an SU building that was, you got to it from Grove Crescent.

[00:03:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:03:44] **Pat Pritchard:** So it was on the side. From memory, it didn't seem like a very permanent building. But, you know, at 15 we could just go in there, there was a bar, nobody asked your age. And the big giveaway, of course, is that we had to scurry off at 9.30 to go home.

[00:04:00]

[00:04:01] **Pat Pritchard:** But, I mean, we're talking about, apparently, John Renbourn, who was in Pentangle and, um, you know, big in the folk scene, um, from the 60s onwards, was, um, a Kingston Poly student, art school student, and I think he was quite instrumental in getting that thing going, the folk club. Um, so... From there, um, then we went sort of round the corner into the main hall to see the bands that were on pretty much every week.

[00:04:32] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, the likes of, um, Climax Chicago Blues Band, um, Atomic Rooster, The Faces, um,

[00:04:45] **Pat Pritchard:** Oh, I know, um, what was it, uh, Woo! Can't think of the name of the band, they were absolutely everywhere and they've got such a weird name and I don't imagine anyone's ever heard of them anymore.

[00:05:00] Anyway, that'll come back to me.

[00:05:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, no worries.

[00:05:02] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, Hawkwind for instance, it was called the, it was the Edgar Broughton Band.

[00:05:07] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, right.

[00:05:08] **Pat Pritchard:** And then for more kind of folky things you'd have The Strawbs

[00:05:11] **Jarek Zaba:** right.

[00:05:12] **Pat Pritchard:** Which Rick Wakeman was the pianist, keyboard player for.

[00:05:16] **Jarek Zaba:** So this would have been...

[00:05:17] **Pat Pritchard:** This would have been...

[00:05:18] **Jarek Zaba:** Sort of... The late 60s,

[00:05:21] **Pat Pritchard:** No, this would have been early 70s.

[00:05:22] **Jarek Zaba:** Early 70s, yeah.

[00:05:24] **Pat Pritchard:** 70 to 70, well, I, yeah, how old am I? 73 is the kind of cut off for Kingston.

[00:05:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:05:31] **Pat Pritchard:** To teacher training college when I was 18, so.

[00:05:33] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, yeah. So, the folk thing is interesting because I'm aware of like the folk barge where John Martyn used to play on the river. Was thaa kind of spin off from that, t do you know? Was it linked, or was...

[00:05:47] **Pat Pritchard:** I think, uh, they also used to use Surbiton Assembly Rooms upstairs at Surbiton Assembly Rooms for folk.

[00:05:50] **Pat Pritchard:** We used to go there as well.

[00:05:52] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:05:52] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, and also the Hanging Lantern in Richmond.

[00:05:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:05:56] **Pat Pritchard:** Which was amazing. I saw John Martyn there, a fabulous gig, [00:06:00] and I was 16, so that would have been 1971.

[00:06:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm hmm.

[00:06:04] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, yeah. The heritage is amazing, what was available.

[00:06:09] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, in terms of, um, your relationship with Kingston more, more, more widely, I mean, were you, did you like growing up here?

[00:06:16] **Jarek Zaba:** Were you fond of the area?

[00:06:17] **Pat Pritchard:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. How could you not be? You've got the river, you've got the park, you've got, um, the access to, to what the Poly had to offer in terms of the gigs. My husband's from North Wales and um, you know, the things that I've done were just not possible. He had no idea of A, what university life was like because he wasn't exposed to it and B, they had to go to Manchester or Liverpool if they wanted to see someone.

[00:06:42] **Pat Pritchard:** Whereas a drop of a hat, we just expected it. It was the norm and we were seeing the likes of Davey Bowie, the likes of The Faces, you know, Ronnie Lane and that kind of heritage that he's left. A spin off from that. [00:07:00] And I suppose I just got so into music and reading the NME every week. Finding out, I mean, to think now, how did we get the tickets?

[00:07:08] **Pat Pritchard:** You know, no internet, no mobile phones. And not just for the local gigs, but you know, if you went to the Festival Hall or the Albert Hall, I used to go to the Roundhouse every week with a boyfriend who lived in Croydon, to something called Implosion, which was just mind blowing on a Sunday, all afternoon and evening.

[00:07:28] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, I know the Roundhouse has nothing to do with Kingston, but it was just all part of that massive underground scene.

[00:07:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Um. And you mentioned you were sort of reading NME. I mean, how were your, your tastes evolving over this time? What kind of music did you gravitate towards to, in terms of the records you were buying or things you listened to on the radio?

[00:07:49] **Pat Pritchard:** Well, uh, listening to the radio was the pirate stations. Um, I would, um, go from anything like the Incredible String Band. Um, if you've [00:08:00] heard of them?

[00:08:00] **Jarek Zaba:** No, I don't think so.

[00:08:01] **Pat Pritchard:** Well they were a big influence on, um, currently we're kind of into Americana psych. And a lot of the people that we know through, you know, who play in, in that genre are influenced by, um, the Incredible String Band.

[00:08:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay.

[00:08:15] **Pat Pritchard:** Uh, well, I say a lot of them. I know of people who are. Um, I mean, okay, so you'd, there'd be, there'd be music that would be, like, It might slightly be influenced as a young pubescent woman by the look of the people in the band. You know, the sex gods.

[00:08:34] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes.

[00:08:35] **Pat Pritchard:** But having said that, I was never really into Robert Plant or, or, or that band.

[00:08:41] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, or a lot, not really the sort of heavy metal stuff. It was, um...

[00:08:50] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah. Yeah. I, I always feel they, that's kinda like bloke's music, Led Zeppelin, um, to a certain extent. Pink Floyd.

[00:08:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:08:58] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, yeah. [00:09:00] So, uh, that's the way my tastes went.

[00:09:04] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. Um, and so, I mean, did you, and were you into the folk thing at all or was that, that was just

[00:09:12] **Pat Pritchard:** No, no, no. Love the folk thing. Still love the folk thing.

[00:09:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:09:15] **Pat Pritchard:** Always have done. Yeah.

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

[00:09:16] **Pat Pritchard:** Love it.

[00:09:17] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. And then, so these, these folk nights at the Poly, they would, they would, they'd be like multiple performers over a night.

[00:09:23] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, a couple of, yeah, yeah. But it was very relaxed, it was just like in the bar, in the student union bar.

[00:09:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:09:30] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, I think, and also we went to things at Knights Park.

[00:09:32] **Pat Pritchard:** The other thing to remember is as well that we, we also went to gigs at Gypsy Hill.

[00:09:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, the, the, yes, the campus on Kingston Hill.

[00:09:39] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, which was the teacher training college at the time. And Canbury Park Road.

[00:09:44] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. Was that Uni?

[00:09:46] **Pat Pritchard:** Yes.

[00:09:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, Poly, sorry.

[00:09:48] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, it was a Poly, it had been the Hawker Siddeley factory.

[00:09:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Ah.

[00:09:52] **Pat Pritchard:** And they used it for engineering.

[00:09:53] **Jarek Zaba:** Oh, yes, of course.

[00:09:54] **Pat Pritchard:** And they had, um, I can't quite really remember whether we went to [00:10:00] disco. I think it's more like discos there. But there was certainly music going on there. So, all these venues. So, if we hadn't got anything, we'd usually go to Gypsy Hill in the week. Say, maybe on a Wednesday night, see a band at Gypsy Hill.

[00:10:10] **Pat Pritchard:** And then, you Every other Saturday or whatever, um, there'll be something good on at Penrhyn Road. Apart from seeing things, well, what we used to do, we used to write like something, if we found something that was good at the Poly, we'd put it on the blackboard in our form room, so that people would know. And when I told Ruth that, she said, what's a blackboard?

[00:10:34] **Jarek Zaba:** Blimey!

[00:10:34] **Pat Pritchard:** I know!

[00:10:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Incredible. She's got no excuse, it's not like she's 15

[00:10:43] **Pat Pritchard:** I know and she's a historian, isn't she? She's a curator. Yes, but for the purposes of not being misconstrued, it's a black painted board that you write on with chalk.

[00:10:59] **Jarek Zaba:** I mean, [00:11:00] how, so that main hall, that Penrhyn Road main hall, how would you describe that as a venue?

[00:11:05] **Pat Pritchard:** Well, it was just a big hall with a stage, one end, uh, I think the bar was upstairs from memory.

[00:11:11] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm hmm.

[00:11:12] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, so it, you know, it was a, it was a reasonable size where, where you, you'd always see the band. There'd never be any problem with, um, and it wasn't packed to the gunnels like it is now with everyone else.

[00:11:25] **Pat Pritchard:** I mean, you'd be able to jig around and...

[00:11:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:11:29] **Pat Pritchard:** Have a good time.

[00:11:31] **Jarek Zaba:** And speaking of which, uh, so May 1972 you see, you see David Bowie there, um. Do you recall how your interest in that gig came about? Were you already a Bowie fan?

[00:11:42] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. But it was just the norm to be a Bowie fan and, uh, you know, love that theatricality, that sort of, um, bivalence to....

[00:11:53] **Pat Pritchard:** sexuality or whatever. And it wasn't like, Oh my God, we're going to see David Bowie.

[00:11:59] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:11:59] **Pat Pritchard:** I [00:12:00] mean, I'd just seen Springsteen in Hyde Park and that was like, Oh my God! Oh yes, we haven't seen him for six years. Yes, yes, yes. It was nothing like that. It was just like, you took it as a piece of cake. It was just the norm.

[00:12:11] **Pat Pritchard:** You weren't overly, um, overly excited. It was, yeah, this is Saturday night. And the thing that really, I can really remember about it was not Mick Ronson doing anything or Bowie doing anything, but it was Angie Bowie gyrating on the, um, speakers of all things, if I'm really honest.

[00:12:35] **Jarek Zaba:** What, just on top of them?

[00:12:36] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, yeah. Just gyrating about.

[00:12:38] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, I've heard a couple of different accounts that she was kind of on one that night.

[00:12:42] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah.

[00:12:43] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, and she was a student student at the Poly.

[00:12:45] **Pat Pritchard:** She was apparently, yes. Yeah. We didn't know that at the time, but that's...

[00:12:49] **Jarek Zaba:** So I guess for her it was almost a home, a home gig, yeah, in a way.

[00:12:53] **Pat Pritchard:** I suppose so.

[00:12:54] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, but yeah, um, I mean he was only... So he'd only just started [00:13:00] becoming famous at that because he'd just released Ziggy

Stardust and, and, um, um, because I think when he played at the Toby Jug, which was three months earlier, I think he was seen as much more obscure.

[00:13:11] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, that was the breakthrough gig, wasn't it?

[00:13:14] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, and then, um, and then he, I think, I think he plays Top of the Pops a couple months later, July 72, and that's when he really goes huge.

[00:13:23] **Pat Pritchard:** Okay.

[00:13:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, but yeah, I mean, do you remember much about... The performance itself, the songs he played, or were there...

[00:13:30] **Pat Pritchard:** I'd be lying if I said I did. Because it was just so matter of fact.

[00:13:34] **Pat Pritchard:** We were not in awe of anything. It was, you know, we were just having a good time.

[00:13:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Do you remember if he did any costume changes?

[00:13:41] **Pat Pritchard:** No, I don't remember at all, I'm sorry.

[00:13:42] **Jarek Zaba:** No, that's quite alright. No, no, no, no, it's just...

[00:13:44] **Pat Pritchard:** I doubt, I somehow doubt it.

[00:13:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:13:46] **Pat Pritchard:** I don't think there was a sort of period of him not being on stage.

[00:13:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. Um... And of course you've got the record, which is that bootleg copy of that very gig. [00:14:00] Have you listened back at all?

[00:14:00] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's pretty awful.

[00:14:05] **Jarek Zaba:** As in the quality of the recording?

[00:14:07] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah.

[00:14:10] **Jarek Zaba:** Am I right in thinking that's a German bootleg?

[00:14:13] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, well done. Yes, it is. It's interesting, isn't it?

[00:14:15] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:14:16] **Pat Pritchard:** How they, um, yeah, the interest.

[00:14:18] **Jarek Zaba:** And you acquired that through a friend, is that right?

[00:14:21] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, yeah. I mean, you asked me if I got any memorabilia or any photographs, because of course we didn't take cameras to gigs, and we certainly was no merch desk or anything like that for any of those things.

[00:14:32] **Pat Pritchard:** I mean, that's a relatively new thing, merch desks, I think. I mean, you know, in that 50 year period I'm talking about.

[00:14:41] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, apparently at the Toby Jug gig, they did have a desk selling copies of Hunky Dory, which is his first album. Um, I think that was mainly because the album wasn't selling well. Uh, and, and, um, as much as that tour ended up being the Ziggy Stardust tour, it was originally...

[00:14:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Programmed in order to promote [00:15:00] Hunky Dory, which which wasn't doing well enough for EMI, I think. Yeah, um, so yeah, that's - that's that's interesting. Um, but yeah, and then other memorable gigs that you were called from the Poly I think you mentioned Velvet Underground. Is that right?

[00:15:15] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. But Lou Reed was not in the Velvet Underground at that time.

[00:15:19] **Pat Pritchard:** But yeah, that was amazing. Velvet Underground. I mean, yeah. Just think, you know, in your hometown, just, this is what we're doing on Saturday, it really was fabulous, and it has instilled, you know, a lifelong interest in music, which is, you know, still opening up new possibilities of things, and I'm not stuck in the past, you know, I'm going forward, .

[00:15:45] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Yeah. Um, yeah. Makes, makes absolute sense. And, uh, you, and you were around 17 at the time of that Bowie g- 17, 18, is that right?

[00:15:53] **Pat Pritchard:** Uh, 1972.

[00:15:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah,

[00:15:55] **Pat Pritchard:** yeah, yeah. Yeah. 18, uh, 17.

[00:15:58] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:15:58] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah.

[00:15:59] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. [00:16:00] Um, yeah, what an exciting time. Um, and then, and then did you, did you say you moved away from Kingston yourself, or not long after that?

[00:16:06] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, I went to teacher training college, um, in Aldenham in Hertfordshire. But again, it was on the circuit for, um, Mott the Hoople and, um, you know, sort of the bands that were just doing the, um, circuit. Who's the guy that wore the striped T shirts? Oh God, I can't think, anyway.

[00:16:22] **Jarek Zaba:** I'm not sure, yeah, um. So when did you come back to Kingston?

[00:16:27] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, well it was all over by then. I mean, I was, you know, far too busy with jobs and whatnot. But it must have been 1977.

[00:16:38] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, right. Yeah, yeah. I mean, I wonder if you've got, do you have any thoughts on, you know, back then that... That was a circuit, the university circuit. So Bowie would have played multiple different unis.

[00:16:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Student unions used to put on these, these gigs. Do you get any sense of why that was the case then? And what, you know, what's different now? Why universities aren't able to sort of... [00:17:00]

[00:17:00] **Pat Pritchard:** Money, I guess. I mean, just cause they could. They absolutely could. And it was a showcase for the up and coming bands. And now I wonder whether there's even more people playing music now.

[00:17:10] **Pat Pritchard:** I mean, there's music everywhere, isn't it? And good music as well. And, um... You can go and see four bands in Hackney and not pay a penny this day and age. Um, I think that's because of the amount of creativity and the... It's, you know, the computerisation of stuff and what not. Um, but yeah, I mean, I presume it's money.

[00:17:34] **Pat Pritchard:** I mean, the amount it costs to put stuff on. Everyone wants to make money, don't they? The union certainly wouldn't do something that wasn't going to be profitable.

[00:17:45] **Jarek Zaba:** And, um, yeah, so we've spoken a bit about the Poly, we've mentioned Surbiton Assembly Rooms, but are there any other venues for live music that you recall being, you know, places you might visit or were aware of. [00:18:00]

[00:18:00] **Pat Pritchard:** Well, the Fishes. Um, but actually did they have live music? I'm not sure that they did.

[00:18:05] **Jarek Zaba:** They certainly come up a lot when I've spoken to people about music. So I think they must have done occasionally.

[00:18:09] **Pat Pritchard:** Occasionally.

[00:18:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Is that the Three Fishes?

[00:18:11] **Pat Pritchard:** The Three Fishes. Yeah, it was a den of iniquity. It was apparently.

[00:18:14] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, to be honest, I only went in it a couple of times. Because I think my mother and father were so, The Three Fishes. And I, it was too close to home to sort of be caught coming out of.

[00:18:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, right, got ya, yeah. I mean, were your parents sort of, you know, we,

[00:18:33] **Pat Pritchard:** Straight.

[00:18:34] **Jarek Zaba:** We- well, yeah. And, and, you know, a lot of people who in their formative years in the, in the sixties, the first teenagers as it were, and all that.

[00:18:42] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, a lot of them speak about, you know, parents disapproving of, of, of, of the, of the cultures that they were involved in. Did, did your parents sort of. Uh, keep an eye on what you were doing, and were they unhappy about clothes you were wearing, or music you were listening to, or any of that?

[00:18:54] **Pat Pritchard:** Actually, no, they weren't too bad.

[00:18:56] **Pat Pritchard:** I mean, we used to walk around with no shoes on and a caftan, and [00:19:00] um, you know. My mother was born in India, so she rather liked the idea of what we called josticks being burnt.

[00:19:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, yeah.

[00:19:07] **Pat Pritchard:** So we were, yeah, we'd walk around with bells on, you know. I mean, Woodstock, come on. Oh, well, that's the thing. So, um. The Who played at, um, the Granada Cinema, which was another venue for music.

[00:19:23] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, and then literally, the next thing I saw in that cinema was Woodstock. I was like, Oh my God, it's The Who, and I've seen them on this stage where this screen is. And because they played there, what, like, just before the pandemic.

[00:19:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Was the Granada Cinema the one that is...

[00:19:42] **Pat Pritchard:** It's PRYZYM, opposite

[00:19:43] **Jarek Zaba:** ah, yes.

[00:19:44] **Pat Pritchard:** It's opposite the, um, Wetherspoons.

[00:19:46] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. No, I've seen the old photos with the, the Granada Cinema, uh, writing on the side.

[00:19:52] **Pat Pritchard:** Oh, yeah, yeah. The art deco sort of,

[00:19:55] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah,

[00:19:56] **Pat Pritchard:** yeah, yeah,

[00:19:57] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah. Yeah. That's, that's interesting. Yeah. So the cinema, [00:20:00] so that, that, that seems to be a thing in the sixties.

[00:20:03] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah.

[00:20:03] **Jarek Zaba:** And maybe the fifties as well, the cinema gigs.

[00:20:05] **Jarek Zaba:** ABC was another one. Yeah, so did you see any others that you recall from that?

[00:20:10] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, no, no, that was The Herd, Peter Frampton. Um, the, um, one of the 60s bands, um, sorry, mine's just gone blank.

[00:20:21] **Jarek Zaba:** That's alright.

[00:20:22] **Pat Pritchard:** But the top of the bill was The Who.

[00:20:24] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:20:25] **Pat Pritchard:** Local lad, of course, Pete Townsend.

[00:20:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Ah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, of course, yeah, yeah.

[00:20:33] **Jarek Zaba:** And were you, were there any local bands that you were into? Or were you just sort of more into the national-

[00:20:39] **Pat Pritchard:** the national, yeah, I didn't know any local bands at all. So it was all national, well known outfits.

[00:20:47] **Jarek Zaba:** And when you, when you came back in the sort of late 70s, had your tastes changed by this point, or?

[00:20:54] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, I had a bit of a drop off music, actually, um, just purely and simply because, um, of the people that [00:21:00] I was working with, and, uh, it was all a different, a different thing, was it really? Um, until I got, I got with my husband, who's a big music fan as well, and then we kind of rekindled the, uh... The keenness, if you like.

[00:21:17] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah. Um, I mean, had, had Kingston changed much when you came back, or did you notice it? You know,

[00:21:23] **Pat Pritchard:** no, no, no.

[00:21:25] **Jarek Zaba:** Well, how about now, or how, how the, the Kingston now compared to, you know, your, your upbringing, how would you say it's changed over the years? Is it for the better?

[00:21:35] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, I know it sounds like a real old foggy thing, but yeah, I don't think it's changed for the good.

[00:21:40] **Pat Pritchard:** I think it's become more like Croydon with that kind of, um, lack of delineation between the commercial part and the, and the built, the homes. Um, that underpass was really the kind of, for me, that was what did it, um, you know. When you come round [00:22:00] from the bridge and go under, um, the railway line. Uh, and also all the heritage, you know, the wonderful, wonderful, wonderful Victorian Dickensian part of Kingston that was right where Sainsbury's and...

[00:22:16] **Pat Pritchard:** That kind of, you know, that horrible shopping

[00:22:19] **Jarek Zaba:** in the town centre, Eden, Eden Walk, yeah.

[00:22:22] **Pat Pritchard:** I mean, you've probably seen photographs. It was utterly, utterly wonderful and had such character. Brady's Arcade and the vintage clothing shops and antique shops and just Victoriana in, in slight decrepit sort of states.

[00:22:36] **Pat Pritchard:** But, you know, it would have been, um, Well, it's madness. And then places like Acre Road, which is in North Kingston, where there are two up, two down, like back to back houses, rather like there are in Richmond, um, behind the Red Cow in Richmond, there's a wonderful enclave of Victoriana housing, um, which, you know, go for a million for a, you know, [00:23:00] what would have been a workman's cottage with a whole family of about ten kids sleeping in there.

[00:23:05] **Pat Pritchard:** And of course, what did Kingston do? Got rid of it and built horrid flats, which then they had to knock down and then try and build faux. So yeah, I think, I think, I don't, I personally don't think it's, you know, it's helpful.

[00:23:19] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, and I think most people I speak to who were around 34 years ago will say it's much busier than it ever used to be.

[00:23:28] **Jarek Zaba:** You know, um, obviously as London sprawls out, um, Kingston sort of absorbed a lot of people, I guess.

[00:23:34] **Pat Pritchard:** Well, if you keep building flats.

[00:23:36] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes.

[00:23:36] **Pat Pritchard:** That's what you're gonna get.

[00:23:38] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes. Uh, which they do keep doing . It's, it's huge. Uh, they're continuing to do, and actually one of those, one of the consequences of that, or certainly a byproduct, um, is, is, is a loss of, of, of, of a lot of these venues that, that we, that, that we talk about, you know, we've just lost the Hippodrome and the town center.

[00:23:56] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, certainly have, and, and, and the flats are, are going up there.

[00:23:59] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah.

[00:23:59] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, [00:24:00] I mean, do you think. Um, you, you, you said earlier about, uh, perhaps a lot more people are being creative now, but do you think we are suffering for there being fewer spaces to experiment creatively, you know, uh, fewer venues, fewer...

[00:24:13] **Pat Pritchard:** I would say so, yeah, for sure, absolutely.

[00:24:16] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah. And thank God for Tolly, you know, that he's actually picking things up and, and, um, I mean the days of the, the disgusting carpet in the Hippodrome. Okay, but you know, it was, it was a good size venue as well. You could see the people and that's what we love.

[00:24:33] **Jarek Zaba:** I think, yeah, I think that's one of the biggest tragedies of losing it was that was, I think it was, I think it was Kingston's only venue that was a thousand plus capacity.

[00:24:42] **Jarek Zaba:** So yeah, to, to lose it is, is, yeah, it was

[00:24:46] **Pat Pritchard:** tragic.

[00:24:47] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, absolutely. Um, but yeah, I mean, I guess, yeah, we've been talking about Kingston changing over the years. Do you think it's changed culturally? You know, um...

[00:24:56] **Pat Pritchard:** Well, it's more multicultural, for sure, which is a good thing, [00:25:00] which is great. Um, so, you've got the, um, Afro Caribbean thing on the Fairfields.

[00:25:08] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, I, you know, you see a lot more... Faces of different ethnicities, um, and there's Korean festivals, you know, I think it's, yeah, it's great. You shouldn't be a monoculture. I think that's a real positive.

[00:25:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, absolutely. Um, and... I had something there, I've forgotten it, never mind. And is there any other sort of, you know, other than the Bowie bootleg, is there any other sort of memorabilia or things, physical items that you've held on to over the years?

[00:25:46] **Pat Pritchard:** No, there just wasn't anything. You know, I just couldn't, I think I probably had funny little tickets for a while, but you know, they've all disappeared now.

[00:25:54] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Actually I've just thought of what I was going to say.

[00:25:56] **Pat Pritchard:** Oh, talking of tickets, you probably know this anyway, but the Bowie [00:26:00] gig was 50p.

[00:26:01] **Jarek Zaba:** Right. Ha.

[00:26:03] **Pat Pritchard:** And actually we hadn't long been out of decimalisation, decimalisation was relatively new. So I think on the ticket it said 50p slash 10 shillings.

[00:26:12] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, yes, yes of course, yeah. Huh. And um, yes and just going back to the Poly, um, do you, I mean I know you didn't attend it, uh, so I'm not, you may not be in a position to answer this, but I'm just curious whether you think it changing to university status changed it at all or whether that has.

[00:26:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Any impact on, on the institution or the town itself.

[00:26:37] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, well, for me, it can never be a university. It's always got to be the Poly, you know, it's, it's just a name, isn't it?

[00:26:45] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:26:46] **Pat Pritchard:** And also, it's not London, and that pisses me off.

[00:26:49] **Jarek Zaba:** Mm hmm.

[00:26:49] **Pat Pritchard:** Kingston University, London. We've also hosted a lot of students here.

[00:26:53] **Pat Pritchard:** We've got a bedroom set up downstairs from various, uh, um,[00:27:00]

[00:27:01] **Pat Pritchard:** And, uh, you know, I felt, it used to feel slightly awkward when they would get a plane to Stansted or somewhere and then have to trek all the way over here.

[00:27:09] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes.

[00:27:10] **Pat Pritchard:** Because it's not exactly London.

[00:27:12] **Jarek Zaba:** No, no, like, yes, if you're, if you're expecting both Stansted Airport and Kingston to be in the same place, then yes, I guess you're in for a

[00:27:18] **Pat Pritchard:** Both as old as London, aren't they?

[00:27:20] **Pat Pritchard:** That's the thing.

[00:27:20] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, yes, that's it. They're both billed as London.

[00:27:23] **Pat Pritchard:** Yep.

[00:27:24] **Jarek Zaba:** What's the, uh, what's the other one that, right, oh, Luton, Luton, London.

[00:27:29] **Pat Pritchard:** I've been to look at the Town House and, uh, seen, seen the, uh, the RIBA award winning building. Um, I had a tour of the - sustainability tour.

[00:27:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, I attended Kingston back when Town House was a Portakabin, but it was the longest standing temporary structure in Britain or some some some bizarre record It wasn't a particularly wanted record.

[00:27:52] **Jarek Zaba:** They had it because they never got around to sorting out thTown Houseown until until recent years, of course, but I guess you know if you've had students in [00:28:00] here that's speaking about the town culturally. That's another big Contributing factor is the University and the fact that you have all these students around.

[00:28:06] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, and I happened to be walking past the Rose Theatre one day last week and there'd been a graduation and it was multicultural beyond.

[00:28:17] **Pat Pritchard:** Which is great, so you're bringing people in from all walks of life.

[00:28:23] **Jarek Zaba:** And, um, and yeah, yeah, we've mentioned the fact that venues have closed, but, you know, as part of this project, we're keen not to be, you know, entirely negative and go, look at all these things we've lost. Very keen to champion what's still going on today.

[00:28:37] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, and I think just before we started the interview, uh, we were speaking about the Lamb in Surbiton. I mean, there are, there are still places flying the flag for live music. Um, yeah. Um, so yeah, have you, have you, is there, are there any others you sort of frequent?

[00:28:51] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, well, I don't actually, I have to say this, no, I better not say this.

[00:28:56] **Pat Pritchard:** There are, there are other places, but I, the only place I really like is [00:29:00] The Lamb.

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

[00:29:01] **Pat Pritchard:** There are other, other venues.

[00:29:02] **Jarek Zaba:** Um, what do you, I mean, what do you like about The Lamb?

[00:29:05] **Pat Pritchard:** I like the attitude. I just like it's... It's just got a really nice vibe, it's much, it's more, it's me, and the people who go there want to listen

to music, they want, you know, you go to some places and there's a rowdy lot and you know, but they give it their all, and also the eclectic.

[00:29:24] **Pat Pritchard:** You know, the musicians are really, really eclectic, they're um, what's Lizzie's husband's name?

[00:29:28] **Jarek Zaba:** Uh, Adam.

[00:29:29] **Pat Pritchard:** He knows, he knows his stuff all right, doesn't he?

[00:29:31] **Jarek Zaba:** Yes, yes, he certainly does. Um, yes. And they say, you know, Liz ends up booking a lot of the music.

[00:29:37] **Pat Pritchard:** Ok, well she does as well.

[00:29:38] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, she spends a lot of her time on YouTube watching videos that some band has sent in going, Can we play at your pub?

[00:29:45] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah.

[00:29:46] **Jarek Zaba:** And, uh, yeah, yeah, yeah, you're absolutely right. Very eclectic. Are you, are you familiar with Lambstock, the festival?

[00:29:51] **Pat Pritchard:** Yes, well, but it's all, it's all been quite new to us, the Lamb. Uh, but yes, we went to Lambstock this year.

[00:29:57] **Jarek Zaba:** Right.

[00:29:57] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah,

[00:29:58] **Jarek Zaba:** yeah,

[00:29:58] **Pat Pritchard:** we went on a Sunday [00:30:00] and, uh, yeah, it was great. Loved it.

[00:30:02] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. And if you're putting on a record these days, are you still putting on same sort of stuff?

[00:30:07] **Jarek Zaba:** Are you, uh, have your, have your tastes shifted?

[00:30:09] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, totally. We've got a lot more, um, moving with the times and, um... Yeah, absolutely. Well, I told you we went to see John Bramwell on, um, yesterday at the Half Moon, um, from I Am Kloot days in Manchester. Yeah, and also my girls. I've got two daughters who are really interested in music as well, so, um, you know, we go to gigs together and it's, um, yeah.

[00:30:34] **Jarek Zaba:** How old are your girls?

[00:30:36] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, late thirties. Right, yeah. Probably your age.

[00:30:39] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah. Out of interest, what was it like growing up? Like, do you remember them?

[00:30:43] **Pat Pritchard:** Oh yeah.

[00:30:44] **Jarek Zaba:** First getting into music. What would they have been into?

[00:30:47] **Pat Pritchard:** Well, listening to what we were listening to. You know, cassettes in the car, that sort of thing.

[00:30:50] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:30:51] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah.

[00:30:51] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah.

[00:30:53] **Pat Pritchard:** So, um, well, yeah, we've been to loads of things together. My youngest daughter and I. And [00:31:00] Keith, my husband, at PRYZYM you know.

[00:31:05] **Pat Pritchard:** Yeah, it's great.

[00:31:06] **Jarek Zaba:** Yeah, yeah, good stuff. Um, oh, the only other thing I was going to ask about was within the SU, uh, you mentioned you knew one of the social secretaries?

[00:31:20] **Pat Pritchard:** Um, well, only, only through latter life, through, um, one of their daughters was in school with my...

[00:31:27] **Jarek Zaba:** Right, okay.

[00:31:28] **Pat Pritchard:** One of my daughters.

[00:31:29] **Jarek Zaba:** Okay, so, so,

[00:31:29] **Pat Pritchard:** It was just through hearsay, you know, we're chatting.

[00:31:32] **Jarek Zaba:** Sure. I was just going to see if, yes, if you knew anything about how the gigs were organised through the, through the SU, but that's, that's fine. I mean, I'm, yeah, I'll see if I can get. Um, yeah, see if we can work that lead and see if, um, cause it would be great to speak to those who are involved. Um, but yeah, unless, is there anything else that you think relevant to the topics we've discussed that we haven't covered?

[00:31:55] **Jarek Zaba:** Or any other stories that you think worth mentioning?

[00:31:58] **Pat Pritchard:** No, I don't think so.

[00:31:59] **Jarek Zaba:** No? [00:32:00]

[00:32:00] **Pat Pritchard:** Drained my 50 year memory.

[00:32:03] **Jarek Zaba:** Good stuff. Well in that case, Pat, thank you so much for your time.

[00:32:05] **Pat Pritchard:** Thank you, thanks Jarek.