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Press Release

Ex- Kinks members return to King's Heath for Unique Anniversary Concert on Sunday 8 June at Hare & Hounds

King's Heath will be getting really kinky on Sunday 8 June as ex-members of the legendary pop group The Kinks return to the suburb for a unique anniversary concert in the intimate atmosphere of the Hare & Hounds pub.

The specially arranged concert will celebrate 3 anniversaries: the 50th Anniversary of The Kinks being formed in Muswell Hill in London, the 48th Anniversary of the group appearing at the former Ritz Ballroom in King's Heath and the 20th Anniversary of the original drummer Mick Avory forming The Kast Off Kinks to keep the music of the group alive.

When The Kinks appeared at the Ritz Ballroom in June 1966 their line-up included for the first time John Dalton after regular bass guitarist Pete Quaife broke his leg in a car accident. Appearing only two days after being recruited, John had virtually no time to practice. Three years later he would re-join as a permanent member.

Now he will be returning to King's Heath for the first time as part of The Kast Off Kinks along with fellow ex-Kinks members drummer Mick Avory, keyboard player Ian Gibbons and lead guitarist and vocalist Dave Clarke who previously worked with The Beach Boys.

John Dalton says " It is great to be going back to King's Heath 48 years after doing my first gig with The Kinks there. We played at the Ritz on 11 June 1966. I can remember being very nervous because I had only known The Kinks for two days and in those two days I had done Top Of The Pops, two recording sessions and had to learn all the songs for the show. It was very hectic. It will also bring back very fond memories to me because all my relations come from just up the road in Balsall Heath and I used to spend all my childhood holidays there"

The Kinks' appearance at The Ritz came just after they released "Sunny Afternoon" which became their third No. 1 hit in the UK singles charts. The group went on to have a total of seventeen Top Twenty singles including "Dedicated Follower of Fashion", "Waterloo Sunset" and "Lola" and five Top Ten albums starting with "Kinda Kinks".

All their greatest hits will be included in the 3 hour set that The Kast Off Kinks will perform at the Hare & Hounds on Sunday 8 June at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the concert cost £12.50 plus a booking fee from www.hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk or £12.50 cash from the Kitchen Garden Cafe in King's Heath's York Road

Local residents Bob Prew and Ken Whittaker who have organised the concert said, "We believe that being able to watch and listen to ex- Kinks members perform in the intimate atmosphere of the Hare & Hounds is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The Kinks are one of the most important British groups of all time and they continue to have a major influence on today's music scene. We are expecting a capacity audience as we continue to celebrate the rich musical legacy of the Ritz Ballroom".

Notes to Editors

Ritz Ballroom

The first Birmingham Civic Society Musical Heritage plate was unveiled by the Lord Mayor on 27 June 2012 to commemorate the really significant part played by the Ritz Ballroom in Birmingham's Musical Heritage. The Ritz Ballroom was one of four music venues run in the West Midlands by legendary Irish couple Ma and Pa Regan. Most of the major artists of the 1960's played there at the start of their careers including The Beatles on 15 February 1963, The Rolling Stones on 14 September 1963, Robert Plant on 24 April 1966, The Kinks on 11 June 1966 and Pink Floyd on 16 December 1967

The Ballroom closed at the beginning of the 1970's when the Regans converted it into a Bingo Hall. After Pa Regan died in 2004 and Ma Regan died in 2008, the building was vacant until it became a Cash Converters shop.

The Building was gutted by fire on 27 March 2013 and it's future is uncertain.

King's Heath Walk of Fame

King's Heath's Walk of Fame is the brainchild of local residents Bob Prew and Ken Whittaker. It has been set up as an independent not for profit company that will eventually seek to become a registered charity.

It is intended that the Walk of Fame on York Road will eventually consist of:-

- the Birmingham Civic Society Musical Heritage Plate commemorating the Ritz Ballroom.
- the Performance Rights Society plate commemorating the first ever gig by UB40 at the Hare & Hounds
- a series of pavement stars celebrating the many famous people who have either been born, lived or performed in King's Heath including rock stars Toyah Willcox and Trevor Burton and Olympic cycling medallist Tommy Godwin

Both the Musical Heritage Plate and the pavement stars have had to be temporarily removed for safekeeping while the future of what remains of The Ritz Ballroom is decided. Longer term plans include a museum celebrating King's Heath's amazing musical, artistic and sporting heritage.

Further information contact

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