

Review of Steve King's 'The Music of the Sixties 1960 - 1964' 27th May 2021

Steve's love of popular music shone through in his presentation. It was clear that during his work as a radio presenter and Event Director that he had got to know the ins and outs of the music industry really well. This came through as he took us from the 1960s to the end of 1964, giving us the background to the era with everything happening for young people with new technology, affordability of records and chances to see and hear the artists of the day.

Steve introduced each artist or group with interesting facts and anecdotes, showing us the posters and record sleeves of the time, photos of the artists and a sample of their music for us to listen to. We heard Cliff Richard our own home grown artist born as Harry Webb. Then the amazing Shadows with 20 hits during the 60s and their legendary use of the electric guitar and a final tour in 2004.



From time to time we were taken across the pond. Elvis Presley of course 'It's now or never'; the best-selling single by Presley, and one of the best-selling singles of all time. The Everly Brothers with 'Cathy's Clown' and their close harmony singing. Roy Orbison with his impassioned singing style and dark sunglasses. Apparently at one performance he had forgotten his glasses so donned a pair of prescription sunglasses and so established his distinctive look with dark clothes and dark dominant sunglasses thereafter.

During the session we heard the music of the greats of the day, Carole King, Helen Shapiro, Mick Jagger, Acker Bilk, the Tornados, the Ronettes, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Cilla Black, The Supremes and of course the Beatles. For our members we were definitely taken down memory lane by Steve, evoking so many happy memories. "These Beatles songs take me back to my student days – dancing all night in a freezing squash court to the Beatles songs. Thanks so much for the trip down memory lane."

A great session, so entertaining, informative and enjoyable. Thank you Steve.

Review by Christine Chittock, Chair and Speakers' Coordinator, Exmouth and District u3a

Photo – courtesy of Steve King