



## Our Fabulous Music Scene

Reflection is a great thing as it brings to life all those great memories, especially for Havering Museum, who are putting on an inspiring exhibition of the Local Music Scene spanning the 1950s - 1980s. There were so many wonderful artists who performed in the surrounding boroughs, Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge.

Romford and many other places were great music venues for aspiring artists like The Beatles, The Who, The Rolling Stones and yes even latterly David Bowie who appeared at the Odeon, Romford in 1973. We have lost a lot of our music venues but their legacies live on through the memories of the teenagers, who bunked off school to go and buy tickets for the different shows and had exhilarating experiences. This was when the artists were on the cusp of stardom, thousands of young people queuing outside the Odeon for tickets and the exhilaration of screaming teenagers and girls fainting with the excitement.

The ABC cinema was no different, it saw artists like The Batchelors, Roy Orbison, Small Faces, The Rolling Stones and Goldie And The Gingerbreads and lets not forget Cliff Richard And The Drifters, who played there in 1964 and The Beatles in March 1963.

The Odeon also welcomed great artists of the day, like Gerry and The Pacemakers, Paul Anka, Billy Fury (1961), The Rolling Stones and Cliff Richard And The Drifters as early as 1959 to mention just a few.

The Candles, Stealers Wheel and Johnny Lonesome And The Travellers played at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster in 1963. If we go further afield to the Ilford Palais we find The Who, Desmond Kekker and The Purple Hearts all played there.

The museum would like to hear from anyone who attended these and other venues not mentioned, like Wykeham Hall in Romford Market; Johnny Kid and the Pirates and the Small Faces performed there. If you or anyone you know has any memories associated with these and other artists and jazz and folk venues please get in touch. Similarly if you have pictures, stories or items of fashion from this period which you would like included in the exhibition let the museum know. Contact Ellen Owen at Havering Museum, email: [projects@haveringmuseum.org.uk](mailto:projects@haveringmuseum.org.uk)

The exhibition opens on Saturday, 3 May until 17 June. The exhibition will feature the music, fashion of the eras and stories. There will be a series of talks which support the exhibition during that period.

