

THE OFFICIAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
QUEEN FAN CLUB  
Spring/Summer  
2014



# QUEEN

THE OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL  
QUEEN FAN CLUB  
40 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



# Queen



## Hi Everyone!

I hope you are all well and happy wherever you are? Apologies for the delay in this issue - it has been manic in the fan club since the start of the year! When the North American/Canadian tour was announced, I had about a thousands new members within the space of a week, and I am STILL trying to get them all entered into the database and sent out... then they announced Korea and Japan, then Australia! More new members! But I am not complaining, it will ensure the fan club stays alive for a bit longer yet!

Big thanks to Jim Jenkins for the fabulous article in this issue about the fan club and our 40 year reign! I am amazed at what we have managed to achieve in those 40 years (I have 'only' done it for 32 of them...!).

What a Queen year so far! I have seen footage of the shows - just AWESOME! The iHeart Radio show in Los Angeles on June 16th was quite brilliant - hopefully you have caught that on YouTube by now! Fingers crossed for dates THIS side of the pond in Europe and the UK! Obviously should I hear anything I will make sure you all know about it! Just make sure you are registered on our members website - [www.queenmembers.com](http://www.queenmembers.com). Very important if you want to make sure you get all the latest information fast!

Finally we are getting a great 70's show release - Live At The Rainbow! There is a great article in here from Greg Brooks about that, and it sounds like it will be pretty amazing, can't wait!

Then end of September is convention time... it has been a long wait! But it will be worth it! There are still a few places left if you want to join us for the best Queen weekend of the year! Details in this magazine.

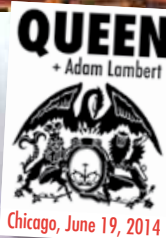
That's it from me this time, enjoy this packed out bumper issue! The rest of this year is shaping up to be rather spectacular in Queen terms... bring it on!!

Love and Hugs



„Queen and Adam Lambert have managed to ace the nerve-wracking first night of their tour in North America, rocking Chicago's United Center to its foundations with a bombastic rock show to surpass all others.“ - Contactmusic.com

All Pictures: Neal Preston



„The show epitomized Queen, in all its flamboyant glory“ - Chicago Tribune.



“This tour serves Queen and their legacy with purpose and pride... Queen and its heart is still beating loud and proud.” - Anti-music.com



„The tour's opening show was a spectacle of the grandest order.“ - Rolling Stone



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# Queen + Adam Lambert

The North American tour was announced live on Good Morning America... and tickets sold out very very fast as soon as the box offices opened! Then they added Japan, Korea... and Australia! Fan Club members were, as usual, given codes for a pre-sale period, ensuring they got the best tickets! The dates are as follows:

## NORTH AMERICA

- 6/19 Chicago United Center
- 6/21 Winnipeg MTS Centre
- 6/23 Saskatoon Credit Union Centre
- 6/24 Edmonton Rexall Place
- 6/26 Calgary Scotiabank Saddledome
- 6/28 Vancouver Pepsi Live at Rogers Arena
- 7/1 San Jose SAP Center
- 7/3 Los Angeles The Forum
- 7/5 Las Vegas The Joint
- 7/6 Las Vegas The Joint
- 7/9 Houston Toyota Center
- 7/10 Dallas American Airlines Center
- 7/12 Detroit The Palace of Auburn Hills

- 7/13 Toronto Air Canada Centre
- 7/14 Montreal Bell Centre
- 7/16 Philadelphia Wells Fargo Center
- 7/17 New York Madison Square Garden
- 7/19 Uncasville, CT Mohegan Sun Arena
- 7/20 Washington, DC Merriweather Post Pavilion
- 7/22 – Boston, MA TD Garden
- 7/23 – E. Rutherford, NJ Izod Center
- 7/25 – Uncasville, CT Mohegan Sun Arena
- 7/26 – Atlantic City, NJ Boardwalk Hall
- 7/28 – Toronto, ON Air Canada Centre

## ASIA

- 8/14/15 - Seoul, Olympic Park, Super Sonic 2014 Festival
- 8/16/17 - Tokyo, Summer Sonic Festival

## AUSTRALIA

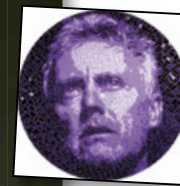
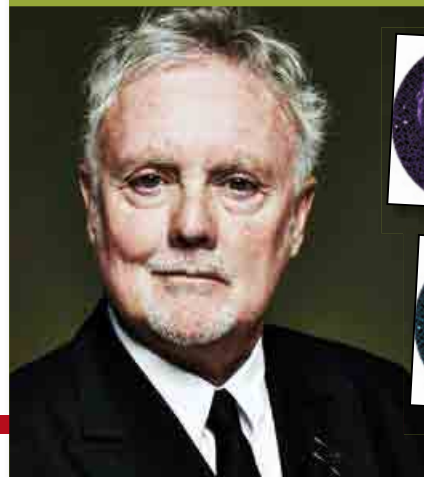
- 8/22 - Perth, Perth Arena
- 8/26 & 27 - Sydney, Allphones Arena
- 8/29 & 30 - Melbourne, Rod Laver Arena
- 9/1 - Brisbane, Brisbane Entertainment Centre



## Taylor Made

On 4th January, Roger took over Radio Two here in the UK, and delved into his record collection! He played some of his favourite rock tracks, and told the stories behind them. Below is the playlist – what excellent taste this man has!

- Thin Lizzy – The Rocker
- Little Richard – Rip It Up
- Elvis – Let's Have A Party
- Muse – Knights Of Cydonia
- Blondie – Denis
- Aerosmith – Walk This Way
- Led Zeppelin – When The Levee Breaks
- Foo Fighters – All My Life
- The Who – I'm A Boy
- Rage Against The Machine – Killing In The Name Of
- Pretenders – Brass In Pocket
- Queen – Under Pressure
- David Bowie – Cat People
- Joe Walsh – Rocky Mountain Way
- Sex Pistols – Anarchy In The UK
- Mott The Hoople – All The Young Dudes
- Jimi Hendrix Experience – Fire!
- Jeff Beck – Big Block
- Janice Joplin – Me & Bobby McGee
- The Kinks – All Day And All Of The Night
- Faces – Stay With Me
- Cream – Sunshine Of Your Love
- Bonnie Raitt – Love Letter
- AC/DC – Back In Black
- Fleetwood Back – Man Of The World
- Deep Purple – Speed King
- Queen – One Vision
- The Rolling Stones – Get Off My Cloud



## News Roundup



## R.I.P. Wally!

The irrepressible and very lovely Wally Gore – long serving members of Queen personal security, lost his battle against cancer in February. Wally was with the band for many years, and after that for years with Show Sec, he was a regular feature at many rock shows over the years. He will be much missed.

## Greatest Hits is THE GREATEST



Queen's Greatest Hits album achieved sales figures of over 6 MILLION this year... which makes it the ONLY UK album to have sold that many, making it the highest selling album EVER. Greatest Hits 2 was at number 10 – with sales of just under 4 million!

## Emmy Award!

On May 6th Brian was presented with an unusual prize... a "Sports Emmy" – at the 35th New York Sports Emmy awards ceremony. It was for a "We Will Rock You" remix, as used at the Super Bowl!

## Fun On Earth

World Record Store Day takes place on 19th April – it is a day to encourage people to go to their local record shop and buy records – not just get them through one click on Amazon!! Roger released a double vinyl version of his fabulous "Fun On Earth" album especially for the day. A certain collectors item in a few years!!



THE OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL  
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40 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

# QUEEN FAN CLUB CONVENTION 2014!

The UK convention is taking place September 26 to 29th, in Presthaven Sands, North Wales. This year our Friday night party will be specially geared up to celebrate the fan clubs 40th anniversary!! We have three live bands lined up this year – Friday will be friends and fellow fans The Deputies from Newcastle! Then Saturday we have the quite amazing Robby Valenti-

ne Band joining us from Holland, and Sunday we finally managed to book the excellent Gary Mullen and The Works! Been trying to book this Stars In Their Eyes champion for years!

We also have sports, games, special guests, charity auction, quizzes, merchandise, beer, more beer, convention water (don't ask...) cocktails and GREAT company on offer! If you would like to join us, and there are only a few places left, then go to [www.arenatravel.com](http://www.arenatravel.com) to book, or call their team on 01473 660800. It's THE weekend of the year for all Queen fans!

## The Perfect Road Trip?!



The perfect road trip would involve driving down America's Route 66 and listening to Queen's Don't Stop Me Now, with Holly Willoughby and David Beckham as driving companions. But our driving nightmare would be to

have former star of The Apprentice Katie Hopkins in the front seat with us.

In fact, when asked to name their best driving songs, nine out of 10 of the top 10 were from the 1970s and 1980s, with Queen taking both first and second place, with Don't Stop Me Now and Bohemian Rhapsody. Meatloaf, Journey, The Eagles and Abba also made it on to the list, with the only recent song being Kings of Leon's Sex On Fire, which took seventh place.

### TOP ROAD TRIP COMPANIONS

1. Holly Willoughby
2. David Beckham
3. Daniel Craig
4. Kate Middleton.
5. Boris Johnson

### WORST ROAD TRIP COMPANIONS

1. Katie Hopkins
2. Bruce Forsyth
3. Boris Johnson
4. Nigel Farage
5. Harry Styles

The survey, conducted by Mini to celebrate its new car, also found that America's historic Route 66, which crosses the country from Chicago to Santa Monica, in California, was the road trip Britons most wanted to take, followed by the winding roads of Italy's Amalfi Coast.



## Brian & Kerry Ellis

Brian and Kerry went back on the road with their highly "Acoustic By Candlelight" tour. As well as UK gigs they ventured to Russia, with concerts in Moscow, Riga and Minsk, then across to Malta.

They released a DVD of their concert "The Candlelight Concerts Live In Montreux" on 31st March, which included a bonus CD.

On June 1st they performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London for the "City Rocks" event, Brian also did a song with Dan Gillespie, of The Feeling.

On 5th May, Brian and Kerry played at the second "Wild-life Rocks" concert at Guildford Cathedral – the line up of people donating their time for the cause included The Troggs, Hawkwind, Katrina & The Waves and many more artistes and guest speakers.



## Queen Extravaganza

The excellent official tribute band is still out there playing to sold out audiences! They have been across Europe, and are heading back to the UK soon – dates below.

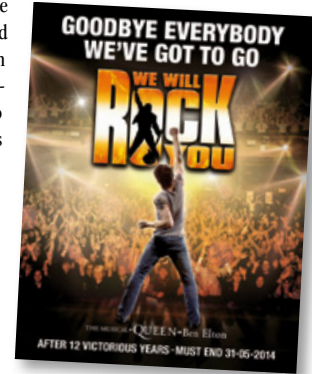
- Sep 5 – Reading – The Hexagon
- Sep 6 – Leamington Spa – The Assembly
- Sep 8 – Cardiff – St Davids Hall
- Sep 9 – Tunbridge Wells – Assembly Hall Theatre
- Sep 11 – Bristol – O2 Academy
- Sep 12 – Nottingham – Rock City
- Sep 13 – London – O2 Shepherds Bush Empire
- Sep 15 – Cambridge – Corn Exchange
- Sep 16 – Leeds – O2 Academy
- Sep 18 – Glasgow – O2 ABC
- Sep 19 – Newcastle – City Hall
- Sep 20 – Salisbury – City Hall
- Sep 22 – Cheltenham – Town Hall
- Sep 23 – Worthing – Pavilion Theatre

For more information and ticket sales go to <http://www.queenextravaganza.com>.



## We Will Rock You

Earlier in the year the sad news was announced that We Will Rock You in London (the "Mother-ship" as Brian liked to call it!) was to close its doors for the final time on May 31st... after 12 great years! I started a list of fan club members who wanted to attend the show – and there were 450 of us there on the night to sing, laugh, cry and



make LOTS of noise, along with celebrity guests and lots of the original and past cast members!! The cast were struggling with emotions too it could be clearly seen in some parts of the script – and the audience cheered virtually every appearance, every song... And Brian and Roger come on at the end for Bo Rhaps and The Show Must Go On! An emotional night that finished with a brilliant aftershow party!

But all is not really over just yet... Brian tweeted and mentioned on his website that they had "secretly" workshopped (meaning they had people reading the script and going through the songs) Ben Elton's new work... "We Will Rock You 2 – The Show Must Go On"! So we let's hope it won't be long before the West End is graced with yet another smash hit Queen musical!

## The Top Ten Driving Songs

1. Don't stop me now - Queen
  2. Bohemian Rhapsody – Queen
  3. Bat out of hell - Meatloaf
  4. Don't stop Believin' – Journey
  5. Dancing Queen – Abba
  6. Hotel California – The Eagles
  7. Sex on Fire – Kings of Leon
  8. Walking on Sunshine – Katrina and the Waves
  9. Driving Home for Christmas – Chris Rea
  10. I'm Gonna Be (500 miles) – The Proclaimers
- Queen was named the nation's favourite artist overall to play in the car (with 16 per cent of votes), having beaten the likes of Michael Jackson (9 per cent), Fleetwood Mac (8 per cent) and Meatloaf (6 per cent) in the national poll.
- Their 1978 hit 'Don't Stop Me Now' was voted best driving song with a quarter of the votes, and 'Bohemian Rhapsody' claimed number two with 21 per cent of the

votes. Londoners favoured Michael Jackson while Scottish respondents voted for Fleetwood Mac and Geordies preferred to play Meatloaf.

ITV's Holly Willoughby topped the poll as the person we would most like to invite on our fantasy road trip, beating off competition from Kate Middleton, David Beckham and Daniel Craig. David Beckham did however top the poll for women.

Holly's TV nemesis, Katie Hopkins, claimed top of the list for the ultimate nightmare car companion. Others on the nightmare list included Bruce Forsyth, UKIP party leader Nigel Farage and even One Direction's Harry Styles.

London Mayor Boris Johnson was listed as a nightmare driving companion overall, although Londoners voted him among their dream driving buddies.



# THE OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL QUEEN FAN CLUB

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY

### A Retrospective Review Of The Club

By Jim Jenkins

Soon after the release of Queen's debut album, letters started pouring into EMI Record Company for information on the band. The company had to designate staff to reply, but due to the huge demand, this became a problem. In late 1973, Queen toured the UK with Mott The Hoople, and the audiences at the concerts proved Queen to be "more than just a support band". It meant the record company were flooded with yet more requests for information. They had never witnessed such an amount of correspondence for any of their other artistes, ever! EMI Records began forwarding the mail to Trident, the bands management company, because, due to the ever increasing volume of mail EMI had run out of printed posters of a Doug Puddifoot photo and 10"x 8" promo photos! Fans found out who the bands publicist was and bombarded his office with



The very first Fan Club membership card

Trident asked the band could they find someone who could reply to all the mail. Pat and Sue Johnstone, two friends of Rogers from Cornwall were running an information service, and were suggested for the job. Trident began sending all the mail to the ladies at Kensington Market, where they worked. Pat & Sue couldn't believe the amount of sacks of mail that were being sent over! They started replying.

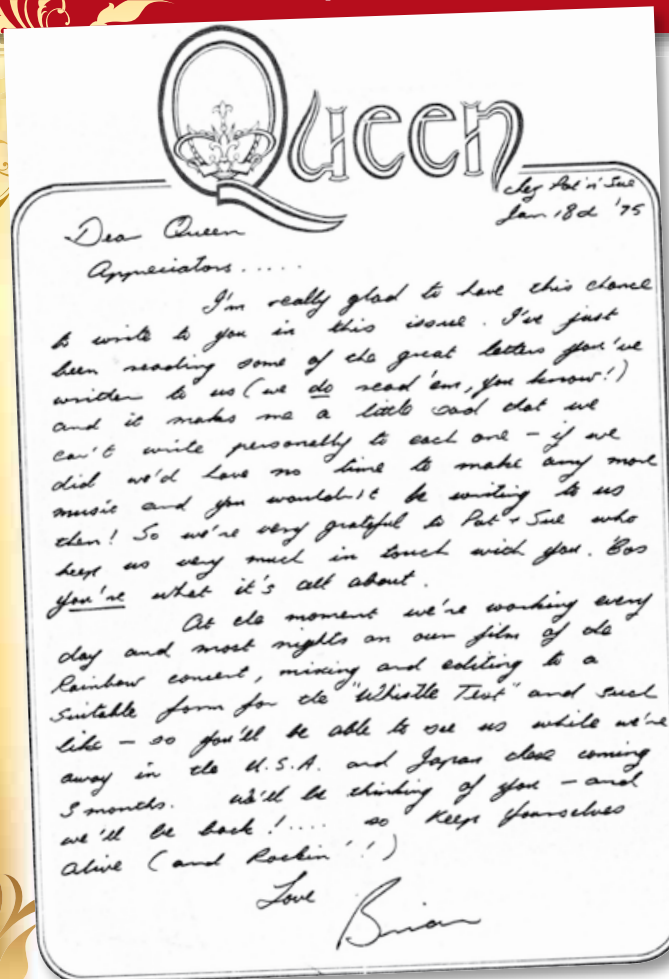
Forty years ago, the Trident organisation set up offices in their building at St Anne's Court to house the information service the band so badly needed, and asked Pat and Sue Johnstone to run it. They agreed to take on the job. 'The International Queen Fan Club' was born on 1 February 1974. Queen returned from Australia and Brian in particular helped Pat & Sue. Many of the letters were asking how Brian achieved the sounds from his guitar. The first main job was to send out information about the new single (Seven Seas Of Rhye), new album release (Queen II) and the bands first headlining UK tour. The tour brought more members into the Fan Club. Exclusive merchandise was on offer such as transfers, stickers and posters to help fund the club and everything sold incredibly well. These goodies have become collector's items today.

For the first anniversary of the club, which now had over 1,000 members, Brian decided to write a letter to be included in the February/March 1975 newsletter. A trademark which has continued to this very day. A membership card was issued with the June/July Newsletter housed in a thick paper card pictured-folder. The Fan Club informed members of the flight details the band were arriving on returning from Japan, some fans were there to greet the band, who were surprised to see them!



EMI's first promotional poster which they sent out when people wrote enquiring about the band. Below: Pat & Sue

phone calls and letters too. Tony Brainsby said "he had never witnessed anything like this before"!



Queen moved offices to John Reid Enterprises in the autumn of 1975 along with the club as they had a new management company. Pat & Sue started meeting members of the club as they travelled to see the band on tour and after that they started work on an official biography to help Fan Club funds, which was to be published in 1976. It never materialised as the band re-

jected the contents! Due to differences with the band Pat & Sue Johnstone left working for Queen, and in May 1976 the club found a new secretary in Therese Pickard.

Therese changed the Fan Club immensely and started using a computer company to register the names and addresses of its members, new computerised membership numbers were issued. The quarterly newsletters became magazines, A4 size but they looked more attractive than the early editions of stapled sheets of paper! The first was Summer 1976 issue. A new idea was implemented, to offer renewal gifts to make fans want to continue being a member. The first gift was a picture of the band performing '39, crest stickers and a wonderful button badge of the crest!



Therese

On the 1st September the name of the club changed to 'The Official International Queen Fan Club' and the Autumn 1976 Magazine included a new temporary membership card. As the band continued to tour and make new music, more and more people wanted to join the Fan Club. The office was inundated with new membership requests and many fans sent gifts to the band for their birthdays and Christmas via the club. During that year new clubs were set up affiliated to the main UK branch. Debbie Barker ran the Australian club and Kazuo Seo the Japanese club. The Fan Club



opened their doors and allowed members to visit the offices, which was a treat as it was possible to meet members of the group whilst there if they were in the building! The winter issue of the magazine included the new credit card type membership card, the first of its kind! A signed poster of the band was included as a Christmas gift. New merchandise offered tote bags, kites, belts and a jacket.

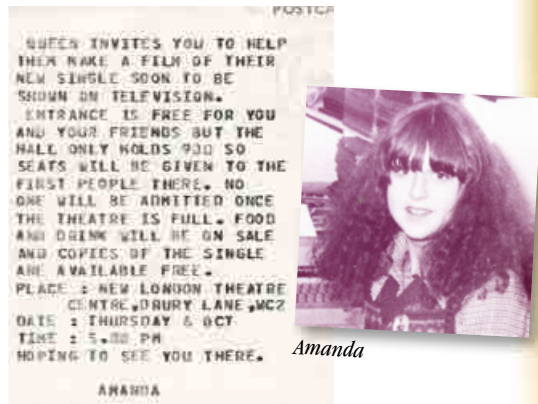
In March 1977 Amanda Bloom joined the Fan Club as assistant secretary. At this time new offshoot clubs were formed in Holland with Anja, Rosy and Hennie and also one in Sweden with Ralph, Ola and Siv. These extra clubs held meetings with their members, which proved extremely popular, the Dutch club held monthly meetings and thrived. The Fan Club continued to grow in membership and staff! Tommy, Kipps, Philip, Darrell and Geoff joined the happy throng! The magazine changed style with the Autumn 1977 issue (this format remained until the Summer '82 issue). A Fan Club biography booklet was published. Originally an A4



*The Official International Queen Fan Club Biography*

*The first fan club biography. The new credit card type membership card - first of its kind ever and the rejected fan club biography*

size but the idea was rejected as the band didn't like the format, so it was produced as an A5 booklet. (This size has continued to the present day).



*Amanda*

*The invite for the We Are The Champions video shoot*

The summer of '77 saw Therese's departure onto pastures new in South America but the club was put into the capable hands of Amanda. Later in the year she had 3 days to send out invites to ask members to attend the filming of We Are The Champions. Over 900 people turned up. As a thank you for being there, Queen performed an impromptu gig! Fans were also given a copy of the single. A free single and a free gig, one of the most exciting events the Fan Club has ever organised!

The Spring '78 issue brought a new membership card and then the Fan Club offices were on the move to temporary offices in Campden Street. For the first time the Fan Club reserved tickets for the UK spring tour. This is something the club has successfully achieved for every UK tour since. Summertime saw a new biography updated and published. A pen-pal service proved so popular and friends made in those days in the 70's still remain through to today which



is incredible. A new mug was made available, the first of many! Fans turned up at the office and always helped out, especially during the stuffing of envelopes



*A picture from the We Are The Champions video shoot. Below on the left: Vicky. On the right: Geoff and Tommy*



of the magazines to mail out! One of those who used to go and help was Vicky Everitt. Vicky was offered a full time job to help Amanda as membership increased continuously and they organised a very special one day event. The very first Fan Club Convention was held at the Empire Ballroom, in Leicester Square in London on 11 November 1978. The event was compared by Alan "Fluff" Freeman and there was such a roar when he read a telegram Queen had sent over from America, where they were on tour! Promo films were shown and many fans raced to the front of the stage waving scarves as if the band were on stage! The then new album Jazz was played in its entirety and two new



promo films were premiered! Some records shops around the area of the venue sold out of the new album! The raffle prize was one of the News Of The World robots EMI used for the album promotion. How on earth did the winner get it home on the train?! Special t shirts were made for the event too and sold out! Sadly there were no more day events like this and we had to wait 8 years before anything remotely similar in the UK!

The band were on the move yet again to new offices secured at Cornwall Terrace Mews and the Fan Club went with them! Another biography was produced. Membership had now increased to over 5,000. A special competition was held to win one of the exclusive blue vinyl! Bo Rhap singles, Roger gave away drumsticks as consolation prizes. Another competition was to design a new t shirt! Miki Hohjo from Japan was the chosen winner. There were no printed



*The first convention invite, above and the News Of The World robot - raffle win*



lyrics with the Jazz album so the Fan Club provided a mini poster with the lyrics to the songs on the back. The club arranged for concert tickets to be collected from the theatre box offices for the bands 'Crazy Tour' as they had held an allocation of front seats at each of the venues.

Vicky took over the running of the club when Amanda left at Christmas, Tommy and Geoff left in the spring. Angela joined the club in the summer of 1980 to assist Vicky. Membership continued to grow on a daily basis. A new series in the magazine featured articles on the roadies such as Crystal and Ratty etc. The Christmas 1980 issue was the first full colour magazine.

Also a new biography was printed. Towards the end of the following year Hannie Rogeven took over the running of the Dutch Fan Club. Hannie has continued with this job to the present day and has achieved much over more than 30 years and has held many meetings and organised many events. During summer of 1982 the club, with approximately 20,000 members, was taken over by two new ladies, Fiona Kennedy and someone who has been at the helm ever since, Jacky Gunn (as she was known in those days). New ideas were brought in and the club escalated to new heights!

The first competition they ran had a prize of meeting Brian for lunch. Janet Freak was the lucky Killer Competition winner. From the Summer '83



From above: Angela, Fiona, Jacky and Andy

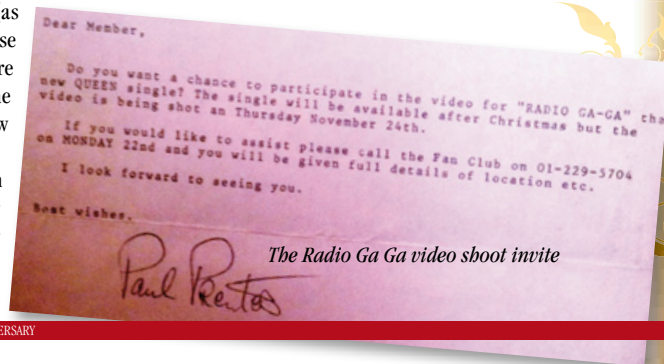


Jacky at Hampstead Heath and Val

magazine, the ladies decided to redesign the magazines and announced a special event for members. Fiona left the club and was replaced by Andy Evans. A picnic was planned on Hampstead Heath on 7 August 1983 and many fans travelled from all around the UK and

Europe to attend the 'Garden Party'. A special t shirt was made for the event.

A much bigger occasion was later in the year, when on 24 November, Fan Club members were invited to Shepperton Studios to help the band film their video for Radio Ga Ga. This really was an exciting day and a great opportunity for autographs and photos and fans took advantage! Roger thanked everybody for attending in his letter in the magazine which followed the shoot. We were asked to help out again for the next single I Want To Break Free on 22 March 1984 at Limehouse Studios and again on 5 April. Some members attended the Hammer To Fall video shoot in Brussels. Andy Evans left February 1985 and Jacky ran the club



The Radio Ga Ga video shoot invite



Freddie at the Friends video shoot and Freddie rehearsing at I Want To Break Free video shoot



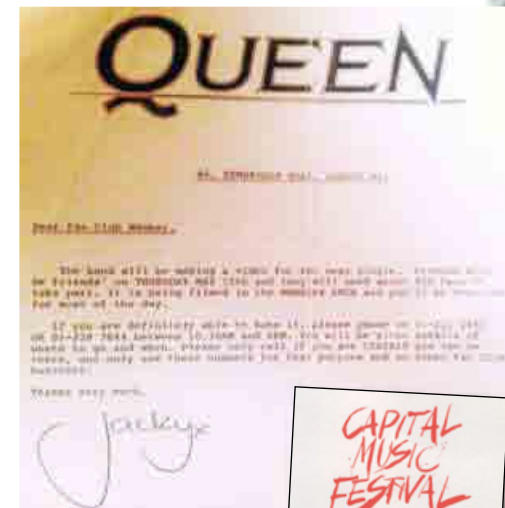
by herself. As she required help she brought in her sister Val to help when needed as the club was continuously busy! Val spent longer at the club than she thought she would! Tickets for the 'Live Aid' concert were secured which

was an achievement in itself as tickets sold out extremely fast. Christmas cards from all the band were included with the winter magazine that year.

1986 was a busy year with the 'Magic Tour' but for the Fan Club the big event of the year was the first weekend convention, for which the band recorded special messages. (This is something that also continues to the present day). The seaside rendezvous took place in April at Ladbroke's Seashore holiday camp, in Great Yarmouth. It was a huge success. Snippets of new songs from their forthcoming album were given to the fans on a cassette tape. Freddie even offered his Hyde Park diamond studded leotard for an auction item! Everyone who attended went to the cinema in town to see the UK premiere of the Highlander movie. Outside the cinema the crowd sang We Will Rock You waving their 'Friends Will Be Friends' scarves which was a gift to the attendees. Parts of the convention were filmed for inclusion on the Magic Years video set. The annual

t shirt for each of these events have now become collectables! The conventions have evolved and a weekend convention has taken place every year since and successfully organised by Jacky and Arena Travel. The latest is in the planning stages.

On 15 May 1986 members were invited to take part in yet another video shoot, this time at Wembley JVC Studios to film Friends Will Be Friends. Everyone was giv-



The Friends Will Be Friends video shoot invite and ticket

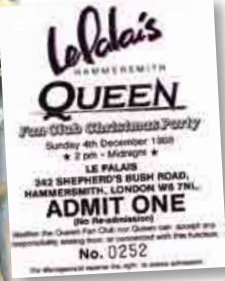
en a free T shirt to remember the event! The band were always so friendly at the filmings and they genuinely appreciated our involvement.

Queen Bee Friends, a penpal organisation formed in spring 1987. It had been 6 years since a new biography had been produced, the most lavish yet was published full of recording history and live gig dates. The



Convention crowd in Gt Yarmouth outside cinema

2nd convention, at Pontins in Southport, Merseyside, premiered Live In Budapest. The support film was Queen At The Rainbow which Jacky had persuaded the band to bring out of storage! In July, The Royal Vision club (which had been formed about 18 months previously by Theresa Meyers) in the United States held their first weekend 'Queenvention' in Virginia. They organised many more conventions in the USA including 6 Christmas parties! Also that year on 8 October members were invited to Pinewood Studios to help Freddie film his Barcelona video. The fans had to hold lighters up in the air which resulted in quite a few burnt fingers! The following month members were invited to the inaugural performance by Rogers new band, The Cross, for the recording of a TV show called Meltdown. The Christmas '87 issue of the magazine gave away a free poster.



The Christmas Party ticket above and Hannie

The Cross toured at the beginning of 1988 with tickets reserved at the venues to ensure members could get them easily. There was another killer competition with the prize of going along to the studio to meet Queen! What a prize! During the year a group of fans worked together to form the 'The International Queen Swap Office' to help collectors all over the world.

Trips over to Holland to attend the excellent Dutch Meeting run by Hannie and Anja were so popular they ran for a number of years! There was no trip quite



Backstage: The Cross and Roger backstage at Meltdown

like it! Strong friendships were also made from these superb trips! Always at these fan events monies was raised for charities. There was a protest at the Royal Albert Hall 'Smash Hits' pop winners show due to the band not being nominated for any awards! This was on live TV! Fans were told to take down their banner due to a fire risk! The first Christmas Party was held at London Hammersmith Palais, we had party games, a quiz, silly hat contest and live music from The Cross with guest appearances from Brian May and John Deacon! What a party! During 1989 the German Fan Club was formed by Andreas Voigts, Frank Steinmann and Ernst Paul. Fans generosity to charities has been outstanding over the years and money was raised for many many causes. The Hillsborough Disaster Appeal was one of them. Fans presented a cheque to Liverpool Football Club, who were thankful for our efforts. At that years convention, the 4th, this time in Camber Sands, Rye, The Miracle album was premiered. The applause for the I Want It All video could be heard all over Camber Sands! A free flexi disc with messages from the band were given to all attendees that year. Another biography was issued in the summer of '89. During Decem-

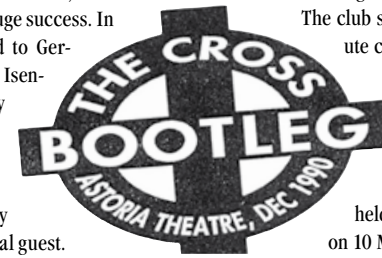


ber Italian fans formed their own official club and they called themselves the 'We Will Rock You Fan Club'. The Christmas magazine of the UK club included a free calendar poster.



Brian on stage with Jim at the London Astoria at the Christmas party auction

A new decade and plenty happening all over the world for fans to attend! The 5th Convention, back in Southport, was once again a huge success. In May '90 a trip was organised to Germany to see The Cross in New Isenberg. Another Christmas party was held at the London Astoria Theatre, and once again The Cross played (which was recorded for a Fan Club only release) and Brian was a special guest. Brian came on stage during the charity auction to help sell one of his shirts! The Fan Club exclusively released a live Cross concert on tape on 26 April 1991 from the show titled Bootleg, which is quite a collectors piece now! The Christmas magazine for that year included the last letter Freddie ever wrote and a huge collage poster. At the 1991 convention in Southport, we celebrated Queens 20 years with John Deacon as a member of the band. Many fans started their own fanzines, such as 'Princes Of The Universe', 'The Queen Chronicle' and 'The Heaven Fanzine' thanks to Neil French, Adam Tidd and Gary Taylor. Foreign fanzines also were produced, such as 'Noblesse Oblige' by French fan Yves Lafontaine. Some Queen fans even formed their own cover band, one of the first was Command Performance. Parties were organised by UK fans in such places as Whitehaven, Plymouth, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Liverpool and other towns and cities, not just in the UK but around the globe!



We took a trip Düsseldorf in Germany, in October 1991 for a Cross concert, which was followed by a meet and greet for the fan club members. The concert was recorded and eventually Live In Germany was released on cassette tape on 26 May 1992 exclusively to the Fan Club. Another collectors item! An updated biography was made available during late autumn 1991, this was the most informative to date. Nothing could have prepared us for the events of 1991 but the Fan Club became a stronger part of peoples lives due to Freddie's tragic passing. The winter issue of the magazine was a special one devoted entirely to Freddie with a poignant letter from Brian, written late on the evening of Freddie's funeral.

The club secured many tickets for the tribute concert and we had our own tribute at the 1992 convention, again in Southport. We raised over £20,000 for charity that year. Freddie would have been proud! The German Fan Club held their first convention meeting on 10 May 1992 and has organised many events since and planned many trips to UK conventions with thanks to Helmut Priebe and all who help. For Freddie's birthday in '92 the Fan Club held an out-



Backstage at Hammersmith Palais

door garden party in Oxfordshire, with cakes and silly games. A couple more Garden Parties were held over coming years. Brians Back To The Light album was premiered at that first garden party! The Italian

Fan Club organised an event in Milan called The Show Must Go On to raise AIDS Awareness. The Dutch Fan Club worked closely with the Dutch AIDS convention and raised lots of money for them. At the annual Dutch Meetings recording artist Robby Valentine performed and he did his own unique tribute to Freddie at the '92 meeting. This was special and appreciated by those present. The Fan Club organised charity events for a 'Freddie Mercury Day' to raise funds for MPT. This has been done every year since. Many members helped the MPT by organising events up and down the country, organising shows at schools and village halls. Many individual members undertook various activities to raise money. Special mention to Rachel Brown who as a youngster raised tens of thousands of pounds! Com-



*The Suffolk Gang dinner with the Lord Mayor*

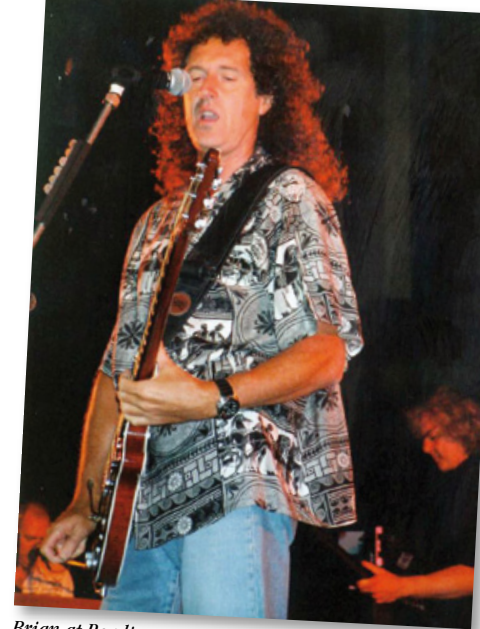


*T. E. Conway at the Christmas party. The purple Bohemian Rhapsody, Italys red Show Must Go On single and the convention video*

## On the Dutch Trip

mendable! Areas of the country formed their own groups such as The Suffolk Crazy Gang. Another poster was given away with the Christmas 1992 issue of the magazine. The fan club organised 2 "Cross Christmas Cracker" gigs at the London Marquee, and at the 2nd show SMILE reformed as Brian May and Tim Staffell joined Roger on stage. The first time the three had performed together since 1970. The Royal Vision American club arranged for fans to attend The Tonight Show in April '93 to see Brian perform. The 1993 convention, still at Southport, was the highest attended. 1 July 1993 is a significant date as that's when Jacky Smith took over the running of the 'Queen Fan Club' as a business. The band continues to fully support this venture. A new biography was compiled that year. At the first Australian Fan Club Convention held during March 1994 fans were glued to the screen watching the early footage concerts such as Hyde Park and

Earls Court! The Fan Club organised bus tours of London, which started on 15 April 1994. Quite a number of 'Queen Tours Of London' took place. Jacky was the tour guide! The UK convention that year was filmed and 'Rockin At Southport '94' was released on video! In Milan fans persuaded EMI Italy to press a red vinyl



*Brian at Reading party*

7" single of The Show Must Go On to raise funds for AIDS charities. At the end of the year a 'Christmas Extravaganza' was held at Londons Shepherds Bush Empire and Mr T E Conway turned up to play.. Also known as Brian May! There was also an exclusive Cruise to Amsterdam which saw fans party with the 'Breakthru' conga on the decks of the ship!

To celebrate the 10th annual convention in 1995, which was still in Southport, there was an exclusive pressing of the Bohemian Rhapsody single, commissioned by the fan club, and made by EMI. Now very collectible! Freddie's 'Stamp Collection' was also on display. A new Playstation game, 'Rockstar', was premiered at the convention that year. The Suffolk Crazy Gang held a Queen dinner with their local Lord Mayor! The Fan Club organised a special launch

event at the Hammersmith Apollo during October '95, and Roger presented the premiere of the new Made In Heaven album and Champions Of The World video. Attendees received a goody bag of posters and a t shirt. There were 2 launch parties for the album in the USA, one in Royal Oak, Michigan and one in Los Angeles.

The Made In Heaven BPI films were premiered at the convention in '96, which was the last convention to be held in Southport. In Detroit the USA fans were treated to meet and greet with Brian May before his show at the Royal Oak Theater. During December the UK club took their first trip over to Montreux to see the Freddie Mercury Statue. There have been a number of these trips since during summer and winter when you literally walk into the lyrics of A Winters Tale. A visit should be on everyone's bucket list!

Brian's Red Special guitar made an appearance at the '97 convention, which was the first in Pontins, in Prestatyn. Fans had the opportunity to have their photo taken with the hallowed instrument, in return for a donation to charity! Brian then autographed every single photo that was taken! Summer '97 saw the Fan Club open a new page on the world wide web, and made a promising start on the internet! Chris 'Crystal' Taylor, Rogers P.A. wrote some funny stories of life with Queen! There was another Christmas party held in the UK at the London Cine-Bar. The 'sort of Cross' played, which was The Cross... without Roger! A new biography was printed in 1997 and a competition was run to design a t shirt. The UK convention was extended to FOUR nights for both 1998 and 1999, both in Prestatyn. Summer of 1999 saw the Freddie Garden Party in Reading, where Brian came along as a guest. It was also the first time any fans had seen or heard Jeff Scott Soto from the USA, who flew over JUST to perform one song with Brian... turned out to be the first of many occasions!



*The Guinness Book Of Records certificate*

August '99 saw the first American 'Breakthru' event which was held in Cleveland and has now become a popular annual event, which has also been held in Canada. They are planning another event this summer.

There was time for big celebrations in the summer of 2000, when the fan club made it into the Guinness Book Of Records for the longest running Fan Club in existence in the world – EVER! The statistic was first included in the 2001 edition. The 2000 convention, still in Prestatyn, saw 'The Freddie Mercury Photographic Exhibition' on display. At the convention in 2001, Jim Hutton brought along Freddie's 'Live Aid' studded belt, which became the



most photographed item we have ever displayed!! We sold it at the auction! We have sold some wonderful personal items at auctions. The movie Furia received its UK premier at that years convention too. In Holland Peter Freestone assisted fan Martin Huizinga to arrange 'Freddie's Dinner' parties. These were repeated a couple of times in following years. Brian and Roger joined the SAS band at the Queen Fan Club Tribute to Freddie concert held on the 10th anniversary of his death, at the Ocean in Hackney.

The Fan Club have secured front row seats for We Will Rock You-The Musical shows, from the premier to annual anniversaries. As the show draws to a close late spring 2014, once again the Fan Club negotiated tick-



to celebrate the high accolade of being presented with a 'star' on 'Hollywood Walk Of Fame'.

Queen fans are always generous with their time and some members have helped Winged Fellowship (now Vitalise) in Southport during their 'Queen Weeks'. There was a convention in Japan in November 2002 and they have held 4 more since.

The Australian fans held a convention in Melbourne in August 2003 to celebrate the opening of We Will Rock You. A Freddie birth-

day party was held in the prestigious Imperial College on 13 September. Jeff Scott Soto once again showed his support by playing at this event. The German Fan Club continue to hold events with a convention in Essen. The Polish Fan Club was formed on Freddie's birthday in September 2004 and they continue to hold annual conventions and their 13th is in the planning stages to be held in summer this year. Italian fans formed 'Queenitalia' and have organised many events.

The annual convention in 2005 was held in September, still in Prestatyn. It had to be moved because of the Queen+Paul Rodgers tour. We had Christmas early that year at the convention, as fans dressed in their Christmas outfits, and brought along presents for disadvantaged children in North Wales. There were hundreds of presents and the 'Rotary Club Of Prestatyn' charity were overwhelmed with the generosity of the fans. The attendees

received a gift of their own - 'The Platinum Collection' box set of CDs and a VHS video. There was a special raffle at the convention to win a trip to New York to see Queen+Paul Rodgers play a concert. Rachel Pendlebury was the lucky winner. She joined an organised Fan Club trip to the show. A good time was had by all in the big apple!

At the 21st convention, in 2006, fans who had attended all 21 conventions were awarded a framed certificate. A free limited edition DVD was given to attendees too, of Flix I and II. DoRo did some filming of the



On the New York trip

fans as well! A workshop consisting of fans met up to discuss the workings of the Fan Club. Jacky chaired a couple of successful meetings. A compilation CD "An Unconventional Tribute To Queen" was compiled and produced featuring cover bands who had played at events. Monies raised went to help club funds. Special thanks to Richard Mace for all his work.

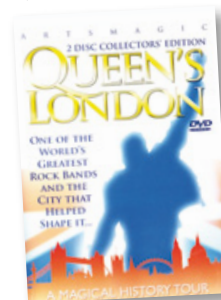
Also in 2006, The Fan Club held a 60th birthday party for Freddie in Brierly Hill and over in Portugal the Portuguese Fan Club celebrated at the Lisbon Hard Rock Café. During October there was an exhibition of Queen record sleeves organised by the Mexican Queen Fan Club. A 'Queen Memorial Day' was held in Moscow and the UK Fan Club held a 'Tribute To Freddie' event on 25 November 2006 in Tarporley and on the same day fans gathered in Sao Paulo in Brazil for their own tribute. The Italian Fan Club held 2 evenings to celebrate Freddie's life in Milan.

At the 2007 convention, which had moved to Brean Sands in Somerset, Jacky was presented with a pewter Freddie statue, sent by Brian, with a message thanking her for the 25 years running the Fan Club. We were also given free Bohemian Raspberry ice cream by Ben & Jerry's! May 2007 saw the release of a DVD Queens London taking you on a tour of the capital with Queen connections. Jacky & Paul Bird, lifelong fan are the tour guides. On 30 June 2007 Jacky celebrated her 25th anniversary with a Silver Jubilee party in Woking and received a specially made commemorative disc award from the band. Two gatherings were organised in Chester at Ye



The Fan Club cover band CD

The London tour DVD



Ken Testi

Olde Kings Head Pub, the manager of this haunted establishment was non other than Queens first manager Ken Testi. A fan from Japan attended the 2nd event there! One of the most popular events has now become the annual Newcastle Queen Day run by two fans Jim and Dave Stephenson. The Centre For Life becomes the centre for Queen fans each year. The first was held in May 2008 and has continued every year since and another celebration will take place in June this year.

There was a 'Queen Walking Tour Of Liverpool' arranged before the Queen+Paul Rodgers gig in Liverpool, headed by myself, culminating at the famous Cavern Club Wall showing the 'brick' de-



icated to Queen! Later an after show party was held at the famous club, members of the band came along, there were fans from Argentina at this event too.

Roger fans were thrilled to see his drum kit at the 2009 convention in Brean Sands. At the 25th convention in 2010, now moved to Vauxhall Holiday Center, in Great Yarmouth, two very special guests attended - Freddie's sister Kashmir

came along and brought with her Freddie's Rolls Royce. Fans formed a queue for literally hours to have their photographs taken with both! You never know what can turn up at these annual bashes! A 25th presentation was made to Jacky, Val and myself to celebrate 25 conventions. What a wonderful surprise. Fans

who had attended all 25 conventions received a framed certificate. Jacky made a presentation to Arena and to Keith Harris to thank them for their organisation. The Austrian Fan Club held a Freddie birthday party in Vienna on 5 September. A special event took place in



The 25th convention certificate

Feltham on Freddie's 18th anniversary, where a 'star' was unveiled for Freddie. The Fan Club organised a gathering of the clan to attend the ceremony, which was also attended by Brian and Freddie's family.



Picnic at Knebworth Jamie Jeff and Spike



Brian and Roger at the SIS exhibition

During 2010 the Fan Club organised a 'Rock Magic Exhibition' at Knebworth House and a special preview event was held on 1 August which included a picnic and an impromptu gig from Spike Edney, Jamie Moses and Jeff Scott Soto. Peter Freestone also came along to join in the celebration. Another exclusive DVD was released, Queen Talks which included all the messages the band had recorded for the conventions throughout the years. Queen@Halloween was a weekend event at Liverpool Cavern which saw live music from fans who had formed their own band Bella-



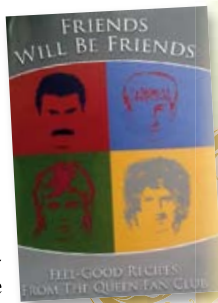
donic Haze and Flash Harry from N. Ireland headlined. A 'Queen Walking Tour Of Liverpool II' was arranged for Sunday morning! "The Sink" club where Ibe played on 24 September 1969 opened its doors so people could see where Freddie, Brian and Roger appeared live on stage together for the very first time! There have also been a couple of 'Twixmas' events held in Coventry during those days in between Christmas and New Year. A relaxing time was had by all who attended, silly games and a quiz were part of the itinerary and there was much laughter for charades!! These were memorable events.

At the 'Stormtroopers In Stiletto's' exhibition in London the Fan Club was represented well with its own stand and showing letters the band had written for the newsletters from the 1970's. Fans flocked to the event from around the globe.

A book was published in time for the 2011 convention, the 'Friends Will Be Friends Cook Book' featured 44 mouth-watering recipes – some of which had been made and were on sale at the event. This was put together by fans to help raise funds for the club with special thanks to Amy Tunney, Frank Tunney and Mick Hoole. Two ex secretaries Therese and Vicky attended the convention as guests, and Kipps was there too! A CD single was also released by Queenies United – Where Else even had its own promo video!! Many fans organised various events to help out the club and there was a button badge exclaiming 'Proud member of the Queen Fan Club'! Thanks to Brett Linforth, Charlie Cook, Emily Westcott and all who helped raised much needed funds to keep the Fan Club afloat! Keep it up!

The Spanish Fan Club held their first convention April 2011 and have recently held their 4th.

A special one day event was held in Cornwall on 9 August 2011, at the Driftwood Spars in St Agnes, the only pub that Queen ever played in their career. A horde of guest appearances by many from Queens history, including Queens first bass player Mike Grose and one of the first Fan Club ladies Sue Johnstone, and Rogers friends who were in Reaction! It was one of the best events we have held. The busy year came



to an end with a 'Tribute Concert for Freddie' at the Clapham Grand. Brian made a surprise appearance at the start of the show on 25 November.

In time for the convention in 2012, the 27th, and still in Great Yarmouth, a new biography was printed. It was the most informative yet, and it has proved a great book to

have for reference source – the record company even asked for copies! Huge thanks to Gary Taylor, who, along with myself, updated the biography.

The year saw a new collaboration of Queen+Adam Lambert and a short tour was lined up. Once again the club provided tickets for the shows and early entry at the London gigs! More fan parties continue to be held, most recently Stoke have held events and they are planning another. Freddie's mum celebrated her 90th birthday and members sent gifts and hundreds of bouquets. She was delighted with them all. The club arranged tickets for the BBC 'The One Show' when Roger Taylor was a guest on the programme.

A trip was organised to Montreux for the opening of 'Queen: The Studio Experience' an exhibition in the old Mountain Studios, within the casino complex. Those who were there were lucky to attend the opening ceremony. The Cross celebrated their anniversary by playing a Christmas gig in Guildford, for which the Fan Club once again ensured members got tickets before general release. An Italian Queen fan opened his own museum for a day in Naples during April 2014. Queen fans are a most dedicated bunch!

At this years convention in September, the 29th weekend celebration of all things Queen, the Fan Club will celebrate its 40th birthday and a big party night is planned as we return to North Wales. The conventions have evolved over the years and we now have live music and guests from Queens past, present and future! They are jam-packed events! One thing that has remained is the friendly atmosphere the event creates. It has a unique feel, there is nothing quite like it. For members it is one of the most important dates of the calendar! It really is something that no Queen fan should miss.

Over the years the Fan Club has been

extremely active. The magazines are now collectable items due to the bands personal letters and exclusive photos! The club has always brought together Queen fans, and assisted in so many things; organising events, concert tickets, trips abroad to concerts and conventions, raffle prizes and auction items, arranging little touches which never go reported or publically recognised. Jacky has done a remarkable job keeping it all together.

Queen are touring the USA, Asia and Australia this year with Adam Lambert once again taking on lead vocals, the club helped with pre-sale tickets for the shows. We have our own members website on the clubs internet page and on Facebook. Many of us use this



Convention fancy dress party

media to keep in touch and air our views on all things Queen! Friendships have grown from being a member. We've had marriages, births, sad deaths, and even divorces! Many of the children who attended those early conventions, are now bringing their OWN children along!

No other Fan Club in the world has been around this long EVER! It really is quite an achievement! Please join me and raise a glass and wish our Fan Club a very Happy 40th birthday and let's not forget absent friends! Cheers! Long may it reign.

Thanks to Adam Tidd, Dave King, Dave Matkin, Paul Bird, Jenny Hodge and Carole Hill.





# QUEEN AT THEIR EXUBERANT BEST, LIVE AT THE RAINBOW '74

By Greg Brooks: May 2014

People seem to imagine that my job as Queen Archivist is sitting in a darkened room all day listening to Queen, watching endless footage and scribbling notes. How difficult is that, they say! Why has it taken him so long? The reality is rather different of course. Most of the time I'm busy looking after and organising a large number of audio, video and film assets; not least so that we know precisely what we have, what condition everything is in, and where it all is, so that when a project like Queen At The Rainbow comes up, we are ready to hit the road running. It is actually quite seldom these days that I get to sit and listen to, or watch, something rare or unseen. Most of the archive has now been transferred and safely copied; we know exactly what we have and where to find it, and that is not insignificant when you're dealing with a giant act like Queen with 40 years of history and a seemingly endless wealth of material

behind them. I've spent close to 18 years playing catch up.

Every so often the Queen team is asked to go back to original source tapes and review every element of a given project in the greatest possible detail to see what can be used, or perhaps in some cases what needs to be found. This happened approximately a year ago with the three concerts Queen performed at the Rainbow in 1974. We scrutinized everything we have, assessed how best to proceed, and then began a painstaking but fascinating process. Very considerable time, effort and care went into this project; the sound and video, naturally, but equally so for with the accompanying elements; the memorabilia, layout, photographs and text. Every detail was thought about so that everything could come together to make a balanced and thorough set that everyone's happy with – especially the fans.

For all of us involved, this was an exciting prospect from the very start. How could it not be!? This represents the earliest concert footage of the band we have in the archive. We have some audio recordings from '72 and '73, but not on multitrack and not of this length or quality. Queen at the Rainbow is the earliest we have, and what amazing footage it is! And, significantly, we have the complete and unedited audio tapes too – so therefore the purest recordings with which to work. One cannot hope to have better than that! There are lots of new Queen fans emerging all the time, so for anyone who's not sure I'll outline exactly what it is I'm talking about here.

Queen performed at the Rainbow Theatre for the very first time in late March 1974. They then returned for two further shows in November the same year. All three concerts were recorded and the multitrack tapes all survive in fantastic shape to this day. They sound amazing. Some of this material was inevitably bootlegged over the years, but never has it sounded as wonderful as it does now. It looks and sounds the best it ever has and fans familiar with the bootlegs will immediately see a dramatic difference. I think it is nothing short of great, and, in various unexpected ways, rather shocking too – especially some of things that Freddie says!

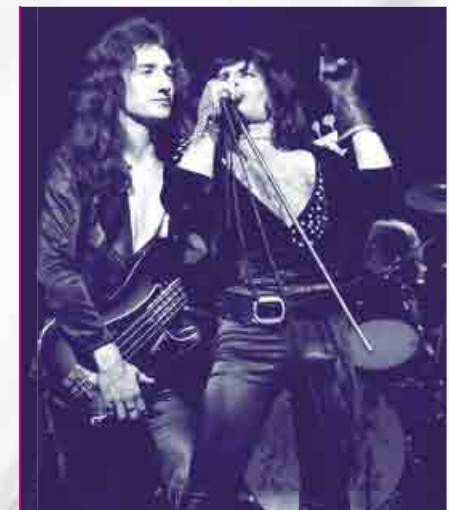
There are songs particularly in the March performance that will surprise you (to say the least). I had no idea that Queen performed certain songs at this concert, until we had the tapes rolling and there they were leaping out of the speakers to be rediscovered, crying out to be heard after a 40 year 'sleep' in the archive (but for a brief edited appearance in 1992 on a hard to find boxed set). You will not have heard some of these live renditions EVER before. Not even on bootleg. So prepare to be shaken and ready yourself for Queen in viciously good form from tours at both ends of 1974.

Though the concerts happened in the same year and only eight months apart, the March show (part of the 'Queen II' tour) is very different to those in November ('Sheer Heart Attack' tour). By late 1974 the live show had been dramatically adapted to work in larger ve-

nues, with a new and much larger lighting rig, and the band were using smoke and flash bomb effects on stage for the first time. Queen were noticeably more assured by the time of the second and third Rainbow gigs. Every element of the show had improved and it's very noticeable that Freddie engaged the audience with renewed poise.

These recordings sound extraordinarily fresh and vibrant and are fascinating for a host of reasons which I think you'll enjoy discovering every time you hear them. Freddie's banter with the audience is amusing, of course, and there is comment from Roger and Brian too. The whole visual aspect of Queen on stage in 1974 still has enormous impact all these years later. Watching these concerts took me vividly back to the time that I first encountered Queen, and when I first saw footage of them in concert. I recalled again how incredulous I was to discover that four people could sound as powerful and 'together' as eight, and create such a brilliant and rounded stage act. ALL of that came flooding back to me with this new project.

A few days ago I was reading a magazine article about a British based company called Bowers & Wilkins, who make the most beautiful and dazzling loudspeakers in the world. I plan to revisit the Queen catalogue with new 'ears' if I can stretch to pair of these things and I would like to begin this process with the





Rainbow shows. The article said that its co-founder, Mr Bowers, originally set out with the goal of creating a speaker that would transport the listener to the very place where the recording was originally made, to offer the listener the experience of being right there in the room with the musicians at the moment of recording. Well, listening to the newly mixed Queen at the Rainbow, 40 years on, with 2014 technology, with the meticulous attention to detail that's gone into the sound aspect (leaving aside the footage for now) is astonishing – and that's just using an old pair of near-death speakers. Imagine how this would sound on fab speakers!!! Genuinely, I was not prepared for what Justin Shirley-Smith played me in the studio. To choose just one word, I would say it sounds spectacular. Certain moments in certain songs, for me anyway, were impressive and rather moving, and that's not really what one expects from a rock and roll band in concert in the mid 1970s. Is it?

I always loved Queen's Rainbow shows; I watched my poor quality bootleg VHS until it would play no more. Likewise, I played my March bootleg cassette back in the day, until it chewed itself up and died inside my old tape machine. I have waited patiently to hear this material PROPERLY ever since. In fact, I have longed to have it. And now, finally, it is here. It looks and sounds every bit as pure and flawless as I hoped it would. Like my chum Jim Jenkins, I thought this project might actually emerge too late for me to witness it in my lifetime. I thought it likely that I might die first! But, like all fans who love early Queen, I waited and it has been well and truly worth the wait, a thousand-fold. Queen were on top of the world in 1974, willing to try anything, take on everything and everyone, to be dan-

gerous, to take risks, experiment, play with their set-list and lighting, try new songs, play with the audience, push things to the max. Like them or loathe them, in 1974 nobody could ignore this band; Queen were emphatically here to stay, intent upon delivering the best possible show at every opportunity and establishing themselves as a major force upon the live

circuit, as well as on record. So... very soon you'll hear it all, in a clarity that will probably shock you, and you'll see and hear a young ambitious Queen being generally more great than any new band had a right to be back in those days, or any days.

To date, all we've had to look at of Queen at the Rainbow, is a 53-minute edited version of the November



shows, as offered on the 1992 'Box Of Tricks' package. What you'll find on the new product is something very different and with unbelievable impact and energy. All that I've said here is merely the tip of this particular Queen iceberg; there is much to discover in the Rainbow box, and it certainly merits multiple listens. But do hear it properly; no concerts deserve it more than these.

I don't want to spoil the surprise, but a lot of research went into this project, and the text Gary Taylor and I put together, with help from the band, throws new light on the entire story. Aside from the impeccable care with the sound and vision, and anecdotes and reviews from those who were there, the packaging is rather lovely too and entails some great little touches of memorabilia and nostalgia to take you right back to the day.

Before you ask, or become irate at Brooks the archivist dodging the obvious points again – which I'm often accused of... no, the long lost footage of the entire March concert never materialised. In fact, it's not at all certain that it ever existed. We know that two songs were filmed, and of course they are featured here, but the rest of the show...??? We searched high and low for it. We looked everywhere, asked everyone we could think of. We made every reasonable effort to find it, and then we tried again. We also asked you the fans, several times on several forums, so there really was nowhere else to look? It looks like that film has gone, IF it ever existed. No matter, this package is still – as Freddie would say – FAB!

Working on this project was a pleasure and privilege. My opinion is that the Queen team did great work here; perhaps one of the best ever Queen products. I hope it's ok to say that. This is the best and most exciting product I could have hoped to be part of. Now, it's over to you. You've waited long enough for the Rainbow shows. Make ready your TV screens. Ensure that your hi-fi system and speakers are 'man enough' to cope. If there's any doubt whatsoever, then go buy the best system you can. Or borrow one. Position your speakers carefully, remove beloved pets from the room, and babies and valued glass ornaments, and when the time comes, when this package arrives, direct the Rainbow audio at your ears with appropriate decibels and take in some of the most extraordinary and powerful Queen performances ever captured on tape. And then listen again, even more carefully.

**H**ow I became a Queen fan... mmm, the first clean memory of Queen that I have is on my 7th birthday (12/08/1989): I clearly remember that the radio was playing a lot a mighty song called „anorinòdòdò, anorinàààà“ (I want it all! ;-). Then I vividly remember the day of Freddie's death and all the bad things that our Italian TV said about him... but the real passion started with that wonderful documentary called „The Queen Phenomenon“ that I

2005 and I managed to attend 5 shows (Rome, Milan, Florence, Pesaro and Cologne) and it was an unforgettable experience. We didn't meet the band this time (too big venues this time) but it was nice anyway, I drove for more than 1.000 km in a week and it was worth every meter!

Then came the album and another concert, this time only one, in Milan in 2008. I even had a backstage pass, but some bad circumstances made this dream fade

2012 was in all a great Queen year for me because I even organized a small Queen exhibition of some of my Queen material in my town that was a success, a lot of people came and they enjoyed seeing the records, the books, the gadgets and stuff (you can see the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZHZfkrKtZI> and the pictures on my Facebook profile: <http://www.facebook.com/leonardo.pelz>)

In November 2012 I attended the Born Free show in High Wycombe and it was one of the “less rockin” moments in my Queen history, but also one of the most intimate ones, it felt like having Brian and Kerry

here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiyTjwD-2Xk>), shared with a lot of friends and with even three meetings with the Doc, one even at the train station... unforgettable, really unforgettable!

## MY COLLECTION

I always loved collecting Queen but I was never really into vinyls (even if I have a hundred or so). I've collected for years live tapes and live videos (and I still do, that's why my “archivist” nickname) but my real love are the Queen books. I have more than 80 from all over the world (including biographies, with of course “As it began”, tour books, special Queen edition of Magazines, like Music Life, etc.) and some of them are really excellent in terms of text and pictures. I also love cuttings. A friend of mine (Marino) was a sort of “local press office” for Queen articles back in the '70 and the '80, he collected almost every article on Italian and Austrian magazines and now he kindly donated them to me. He also recorded that wonderful audience tape of Zurich 1978, you can imagine how much I envy him!

My other big love are Queen posters, I have more than 20 but... not so many walls! :-D Once I got all my office covered with Queen posters but they weren't that happy (I work in a bank). Well, I tried! :-D

Ok, I think that I've written too much, I hope to meet each and everyone of you one day! In the meantime, you can find me here: <http://www.facebook.com/leonardo.pelz>. Drop me a message, it's always nice to talk to Queen fans, aren't we supporting the same team? ;-)

*Leonardo (Archivist) Pelz (Stone Cold Leo'82 B.R.)  
...probably the longest nickname EVER! ;-)*

# MY QUEEN LIFE

saw on Italian TV near the end of 1995. I immediately bought Made in Heaven and that became my first Queen album. I recorded the documentary and I watched it ten thousand times or so (before internet, before YouTube, before „Queen trades“, that tape was almost all I had and I still remember every second of it!). Then came No-one But You, Queen Rocks and I started discovering - one album every 3-4 months or so - everything about Queen (at least I thought so!). At the time I wasn't a member of the fan club because I didn't feel like doing it, how wrong I was!!! So I missed both the solo tours of Brian and Roger but in 2000, my passion reignited when I started surfing on the internet. I found people from all over the world with things that I never heard of before (songs like Hangman, See What A Fool I've Been, A Human Body or videos like Hammersmith Odeon, Hyde Park, etc.) and it was like a dream to me. I started a lot of “Queen trades” of unofficial material with people from all over the world and trade after trade some friendships were born, and some of them still last today after many years. Friendship between Queen fans is one of the best things Queen ever did! We are all supporting the same team and I still think the same about it!

My first „Queen adventure“ on the road (not counting the almost 30 cover-band concerts) was the Pavarotti and Friends in 2003 in Modena. We went there 3 days before the event, we stayed hours at the Hotel and we were lucky to meet Brian and Roger and the day of the show we were at the entrance at 10 am. All the day was amazing, Brian and Roger rocked the Novi Sad Park and it was sooo nice to read that Brian was less afraid to call himself and Roger „Queen“ after this show! Then came the Queen + Paul Rodgers first tour in

away. I was really sad and I was thinking about leaving all about Queen, etc... but that didn't last very long, especially after 4th December 2009! :-D

At the beginning of 2009 the rumours of an Italian version of We Will Rock You started to spread and I managed to buy 2nd row tickets for the première! I even met Roger after the show and it was one of the most adrenalinic moments I ever remembered as a Queen fan, so unexpected, so perfect, so beautiful!

Then, as I was becoming a father during this period, I wasn't able to attend the Anthems Tour in 2011 but I collected every video that I found about the tour and, through a wonderful and incredibly kind person, I was able to send a copy of the collection to the Doc himself, and he was so happy for it! I met him properly the first time in Sanremo in February 2012 and he was one of the kindest people I ever met. I'm sure every fan who met him will tell you the same.



in my room... during a pause between songs my photo camera fell down to the floor and Brian stopped talking asking me „is everything all right?“ and all the audience started to laugh! :D I couldn't imagine that another tour were to follow in 2013, with even 4 dates in Italy!

And this recent experience (the Milan concert) was probably the best one for me (you can see our pics



In the words of Dr May, it is another world, when you touch down in Zanzibar after the long flight. You are met by heat and the reality that you have arrived in the land of spices and the Birthplace of a certain Mr Mercury, of another time and place and future. 1946 seems so long ago and when we arrived in 2013... not much seems to have changed. Well planes, cars etc of course... but everything else, mules on the road, people on carts and the smell of spices, fish, meat and everything that you would expect from Africa is there, as our tour guide points out. Yes you do need a guide, as you are, as tourists a new fad. Only the last 20 years have hotels turned up and slowly money is being made. Our hotel was on the other end of the Island, a good hour away, but when we arrived it was as I have said... Another world. White sand, wonderful food, lovely local people. Jambo, (hello to you and me) was the welcome, have a drink and welcome to Paradise!!!

We spent the next 10 days visiting Stone Town the Birthplace of a certain Farrokh Bulsara... Mr Mercury to us all... and the famous Freddie's bar, a meet and eat by the sea place. You could be anywhere if it were not for the smell of spices and all the Freddie t-shirts and other Queen related things you could buy. Did I mention the T-shirts??! We found all the places to visit thanks to our tour guide, a drink here, a shop there and don't get us started on the fish market... the smell! Still it was an eye opener to visit the slave trade places. And the heat, and street sellers, make sure you take some Money and get ready to haggle... we did a lot of sunbathing and had a trip to see the Dolphins and eat and Drink at our 5 star hotel. A different meal every night and different local artists and far too much pudding!!!!... it was a great, once in a lifetime trip... everyone should put it on their „must visit“ list!

*David and Irene Taylor.*

# A STEREO QUEEN NEST!

Brian has been working alongside his fellow experts on the London Stereoscopic Company's third set of Queen Stereoscopic cards, featuring some stunning new images taken from the Radio Ga Ga video shoot!

A Queen Nest Set will be made available on the forthcoming tour – but Brian and his team have kindly offered to allow fan club members to purchase them for a discounted price directly from the LSC online shop!

Normal price for this set is £115, but fan club members can buy it for just £99. The set comprises the Nest Box, Platinum Owl Viewer, and 3 boxes of 12 Stereo cards. And as an exclusive on the tour and for fan club members, there are a limited number of sets that will come with a fully signed certificate of authenticity from Brian. These are limited and will be sent on a first come first served basis, so order QUICKLY!

To see some of the stunning Queen photos, go to [www.londonstereo.com](http://www.londonstereo.com) and click the modern stereo photos link near the top.

To order your box set go to the same website and go to their shop. Please complete your order based on the full price. By entering your QFC Membership number in the special instructions box, the discount will be applied when your payment is processed.



# Collectors Corner

Many thanks as always to expert Gary Taylor!

This time we are concentrating on special Fan Club releases that have been given away over the years.



1) Probably the most exciting, and now very rare, item made available for fan club members was at the 10th Official International Queen Fan Club UK convention in 1995 when EMI/Parlophone produced a 7" purple vinyl single of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' / 'I'm In Love With My Car' (EMI DJ95). Each record and picture sleeve were hand numbered by Jacky, and was a limited edition of 2,000 copies and available to each person at the convention for £5.00. The specially printed label and cover was based on the original UK sleeve from 1975.



2) The first ever Queen DVD was 'Greatest Flix I & II' and was a promotional only DVD (QDVED001) issued

in Germany to promote a DVD player in 1997. This limited edition 35-track double sided DVD set was presented in an individually numbered maroon tri-fold card picture sleeve with gold titling and Queen crest on the front cover. Because there were so many unused DVD's in storage all these years, the band gave permission for copies to be given away at the 21st UK convention in 2006.

3) In 2005 a box set edition of 'The Platinum Collection' was given away free to attendees of the 20th UK convention, having initially been produced in 2003 to sell on a German TV shopping channel. The product was stopped by the band and the set had spent the last couple of years stored in a warehouse. The set comprises the 3 individual 'Greatest Hits' CD's, a booklet and a VHS video of the first 'Greatest Flix' home video re-titled 'Greatest Video Hits', all presented in a thick card long box.



4) A cassette called 'A Message From Queen' was given away at the first UK convention in 1986, and included spoken messages from Brian, Roger, Freddie and John, as well as teaser versions of 'Who Wants To Live Forever', 'Don't Lose Your Head', 'One Year Of Love', 'Pain Is So Close To Pleasure' and 'Gimme The Prize'.



5) A 7" flexi-disc also called 'A Message From Queen' was given away at the 4th UK convention in 1989 and included spoken messages from the band with 'The Invisible Man' played in the background.



6) A glossy colour copy of the original UK promotional poster for the 'Queen II' album was sold at one of the UK conventions in recent years. A poster from Brian's personal collection was autographed by Roger, John and Brian, and printed off for fans to purchase.

7) Over many years of being a member of the UK fan club you always got a renewal gift and more often

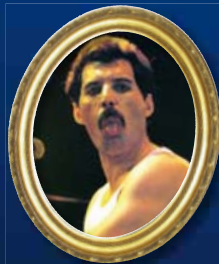
than not in the form of a specially made poster. Here are some examples in black and white, on glossy paper and with printed autographs, but there were also a few printed in colour. These posters were made from 1976 through to the mid '80's. We have also had other posters, a 'Miracle' calendar poster, pens, credit card holder, patches, sticker sheets and badges.



.....this is for all You lovely crazy people out there..“



Brian with original "Troggs" guitarist Chris Britton at Wildlife Rocks.  
Photo Cass Churchill.



Brian planting "Brianswood" in Dorset, with helpers Freddie (7) and Frankie (5) Jenkins.



Mark Hanson's fabulous Freddie tattoo!



Mike Cooke, Roger Taylor and the Very Poor Roger Taylor!



A belated very happy 70th birthday to John "Smudge" Smith, from his wife Pat, his children, and his grandchildren!  
This is a small part of his massive Queen collection!



Anja & Hannie from the Dutch fan club, with Roger, Maaik and Marco.

