

The History of the Kinks Singalongs and The Kinksfan Kollektiv

by Geoff Lewis

Photos courtesy of WhyKinks, Retroman Blog, Brigitte Jeffs, Ben Elsendoorn, Ruud Kerstiens, Alison Neale, Olga Ruocco, Dave Quayle, Simon van den Bergh, Jeanine Hoedemakers, Jurrien Schadron, Rob Williams, Steph Williams, Julia Reinhart, Rebecca G Wilson

There is a tradition of fans getting together for a few drinks before Kinks-related events, Ray Davies gigs, Dave Davies gigs etc., and in 1998, a few Dutch fans suggested meeting up the evening before the annual Official Kinks Fan Club Meeting (known colloquially to the fans as “The Konvention” and held on a Sunday afternoon late in November).



The Clissold Arms has always been well known to the fans as the home of the Kinks, as it was the site of the first ever live performance by Ray and Dave Davies, so that was the obvious place to meet up. About a dozen of us had a very pleasant evening in the saloon (now the main restaurant - the layout of the pub in those days was somewhat different) discussing all matters Kinks and examining the small area of wall that contained a few pieces of Kinks memorabilia and photos, and it became a regular feature of the Konvention weekend for those who had travelled to London on the Saturday to gather at the Clissold.



The Clissold Arms Kinks wall 1998

The numbers meeting gradually increased over the years and in 2002, Henny Stahl and the late Herman Gombert (“The Kinky Two”) were among our number. Herman got his guitar out and started strumming and the rest of us happily sang along to a few Kinks classics. We all had great fun and the locals didn’t seem to mind, so we thought that this should become a new tradition. However, in 2003, although the Kinky Two were there again, Herman said he was too tired and refused to get out his guitar, so there was no singing – what a disappointment!



Henny & Herman, "The Kinky 2"

By this time, Geoff Murrell, Olga Ruocco and I had formed The Spivs, a recording band specialising in unusual covers of Kinks songs. (<https://spivs.kastoffkinks.co.uk>) so we decided that we had better provide the music in 2004. Olga visited the Clissold a few weeks before the event and the landlord agreed that we could play in a section of the public bar (now part of the Kinks Room) after the football on TV had finished.



The Spivs

I brought a keyboard, Stef Cole brought a guitar and Geoff Murrell (and occasionally Frank Brown) led the singing, with Olga at the heart of the crowd, in what was essentially an unplanned jam of any Kinks songs we could think of. The Kinky Two also turned up and played a couple of songs.



The Clissold Arms Kinks jam 2004 – L to R : Geoff L, Geoff M, Frank, Stef

A fun time was had by all and it was agreed that we would do the same in 2005. Then disaster struck – the Clissold Arms closed down! Olga got on the case and went to see the manager of the Boston Arms in Tufnell Park, which had by this time replaced the Archway Tavern as the regular venue for the Official Kinks Fan Club Meeting. The manager agreed to us having a singalong there, so again I played keyboard and Geoff M led the singing. Keld Nilsson from Denmark (of whom more later) also sang a guest vocal with his friend Birger Villadsen on guitar.



The Boston Kinks jam 2006 – Left : Geoff M, Geoff L; Right : Keld, Geoff L, Birger

We weren't quite convinced of the suitability of the Boston, so (as the Clissold Arms had reopened under new management who had turned it into a bland gastropub, with all the Kinks memorabilia removed) the following year Olga and Jayne Morgan went searching for another pub. The Bald Faced Stag in East Finchley was chosen as the venue for the 2006 Kinks Singalong.



The Bald Faced Stag Kinks jam 2007

It was fine, with the music provided by the two Geoffs and Stef, but the numbers attending had grown so much that it turned out to be a little too small for comfort, so in 2007, we returned to The Boston. Again I played and Geoff M sang, and there was a guest vocal performance from Bjørn Eilert Mork from Norway. My enjoyment of this weekend was spoiled however, when, the following night, a keyboard and guitar were stolen from the boot of my car, outside a hotel in Tufnell Park.

In 2008 I had a gig in Worcester with my band, The Fingers, on the Saturday night, so there was no Singalong and the fans gathered in the Alexandra, Fortis Green, (the Clissold still being unsuitable) and played Kinks music on the jukebox and this was repeated in 2009, as my availability was uncertain until too late to organise anything.



Kinks fans gathering at the Alexandra, 2008

In early November 2010, my good friend from Hawaii, Jim Smart, co-author of the Kinks' London website, The Big Black Smoke (<https://london.kastoffkinks.co.uk/>) was visiting England and he had an ambition to play Kinks songs in the Clissold Arms. The Clissold had by this time been taken over by George Karageorgis, who had a much more enlightened attitude towards the Kinks connection with the pub and had started to create the Kinks Room. Jayne Morgan, who had had become friendly with George, was with us and she asked him if it was ok for us to go in there and play a bit. George agreed and Jim got out his guitar and I got out a keyboard and we started to play. To our delight, the Crouch End Festival Chorus, who had recently been working with Ray Davies, were having an after-practice meal in the Kinks Room, with their musical director David Temple, and they started singing along.



Jim Smart

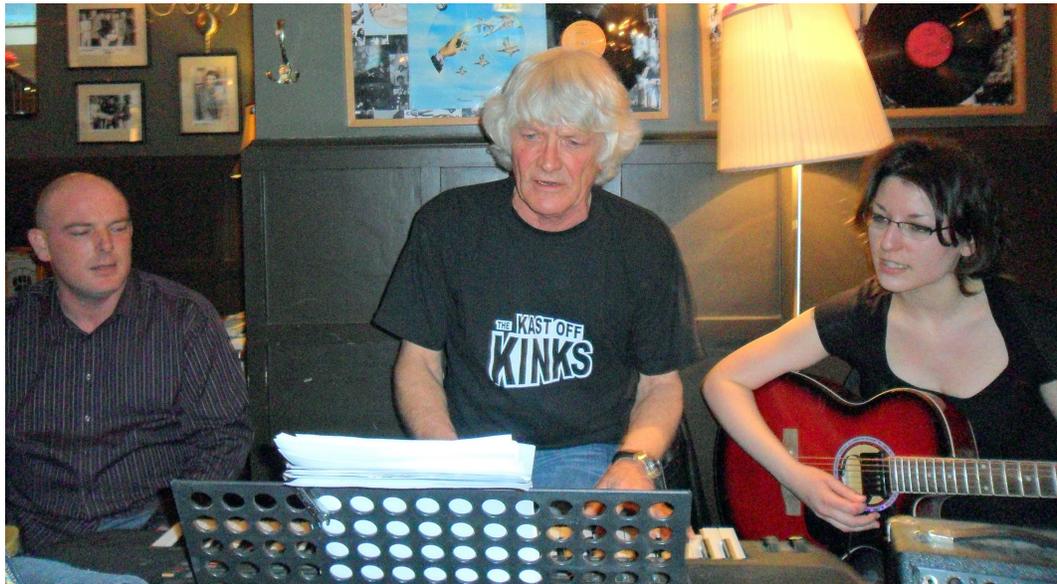
George clearly enjoyed this, so I asked him if we could bring our Singalong back to the Clissold. Olga and Jayne had visited George earlier in the year and had organised a petition to keep the Clissold open to Kinks fans (which had gathered quite a momentum and got local and national press coverage.) Olga had explained our Singalong heritage to George, who at that time had no idea who anyone was, but possibly a seed was planted in his head, nurtured by my appearance with Jim.

Anyway, George said it would be ok, if we came in after the diners had finished eating, so a few weeks later I brought my keyboard and the ever-growing crowd sang along with gusto. Geoff M, who now lived in Spain, was held up in traffic so missed most of it, but I had brought an acoustic guitar with me and I coerced Dutch fan Dick van Veelen into playing as well. The singalong had definitely come home.



The first George-era Clissold Arms Kinks singalong 2010
Geoff L and Dick van Veelen

Early in 2011, a book launch for Pete Quaife's Veritas was organised in the Kinks Room (which by now looked very impressive and had been officially opened by Ray Davies and Mick Avory) and Olga arranged that I should again bring my keyboard for a mini-Singalong. Anne-France Legris played guitar and Olga led the singing. I had also brought a small electronic drum machine with me and I discovered that another friend, Chris Griffiths, a Kinks fan from Essex, had been a drummer in his younger days, so I got him to play along as well.



The book launch at The Clissold Arms 2011 – Chris, Geoff L, Anne-France

I had for some time been trying to persuade my very good friend in New York City, lead guitarist and singer Patrick Costello, to come over for the Konvention weekend. To my surprise this year he said he was coming. It seemed to me that Patrick's attendance deserved more than just the two of us playing, so I set out to put together a complete band. I already had the other Spivs, Geoff M and Olga, for lead and backing vocal duties, and now I had Chris to play drums and Dick to play rhythm guitar. I put out an appeal for a bass player and found Lynn Zecca, who plays in a Kinks tribute band in Minnesota.

Olga went to see George to clear the new plan with him, I sorted out a set list (which grew and grew with suggestions from the band), found the lyrics, worked out the chords and song structures and emailed them to the band members – we were never going to have a chance to play together, so everyone was going to have to practise alone, playing along to the Kinks' original recordings. I bought, begged and borrowed all the necessary equipment, which I somehow managed to fit in the car, and the first full band Kinks Singalong with "Geoff Lewis & The Kinksfan Kollektiv" took place in the Kinks Room of the Clissold Arms in November 2011.



The first full-band Clissold Arms Kinks singalong 2011

We played 60 Kinks songs (+ encores) starting at 6:30 pm and finishing about midnight. Of course, there were occasions when songs didn't go exactly to plan, but the reception from the fans was tremendous and George danced on the tables.

I had assumed that this would be a one-off, but Patrick enjoyed it so much that he said he would come again in 2012, so the band was to be re-assembled. Lynn couldn't make it so I put out a call for another bass player. This time I got two – the previously-mentioned Keld Nilsson and another Dutch fan, Ben Elsendoorn, to share bass duties. We made a few amendments to the set list and the band was ready to go again.

The day before the Singalong was due to take place, we got a message from Geoff Murrell to say that there had been a bereavement in the family and he couldn't make it. I hurriedly shared out the lead vocals between Patrick, Olga and Keld and Chris and I took one song each. Christian Davies, son of Dave, whom we happened to meet in the Clissold while we were discussing the song share-out, also sang a few of his father's songs. Considering how little advance warning any of the singers had, it all worked very well. To our delight, John Dalton came along too! Another 60 songs (+ encores) were played and George danced on the tables.



The Kinksfan Kollektiv 2012 (minus Keld but with Christian Davies)

And surprise, surprise, Patrick came again in 2013, when Geoff Murrell was back with us and Frank Brown sang a couple of songs. As usual we played 60 songs (+ encores) and George danced on the tables.



Clissold Arms Kinks singalong 2013

I decided that I would do it one more time in 2014, as Patrick was coming again, but that would be the last one, as I was finding the organisation somewhat stressful and loading and unloading the equipment was taking its toll on my back.

What a night to go out on! Again Geoff M couldn't be with us, but everybody in the band took a turn at lead vocals, including the rather reluctant Ben and Dick. Jørn Back of Norwegian tribute band Kinky Way also guested on a couple of songs. It went better than ever - the audience singing was even more enthusiastic than previously and the applause was tumultuous. 60 songs again. And of course, George danced on the tables!



Clissold Arms Kinks singalong 2014



Geoff Lewis and The Kinksfan Kollektiv 2014

L to R, Rear: Ben Elsendoorn, Olga Ruocco, Geoff Lewis, Dick van Veelen, Keld Nilsson, Patrick Costello
 Front : Chris Griffiths, Xander van Veelen

Ah, did I say I was retiring in 2014? I spoke too soon! In August 2015, Jim Smart was back in the UK – how could we not do something special? I got onto George and he agreed that we could do an unplugged Kinks Night at The Clissold Arms. Olga, Ben and Chris were all available and we added the excellent Alan McClure, a Scottish Kinks fan and long-time friend of Jim's, on guitar.



Another great night - a 40-song set, starting with Jim playing a solo version of Life On The Road, was very well received by the audience and concluded with George making a speech about how that first visit when Jim and I jammed a few Kinks songs with the Crouch End Festival Chorus had led to his conversion to Kinks fandom. Obviously he also danced on the tables. Dave Quayle wrote a nice piece about the evening on his blog (<https://quavid.wordpress.com/2015/09/02/odds-and-sods-you-choose/>). It was also a great pleasure to have Bob Henrit in the audience.



[Jim Smart with The Kinksfan Kollektiv Unplugged 2015](#)

[L to R: Ben Elsendoorn, Chris Griffiths, Alan McClure, Jim Smart, Olga Ruocco, Geoff Lewis](#)

Retirement? Ha! It had been intended that Patrick would organise the November 2015 singalong, but at a fairly late stage he found he could not come, so it fell back on muggins. As Geoff M and Dick were also unavailable, we were extremely short of players, so Christian Davies, Chris's sister Isa Arnold and the aforementioned Jørn Back were recruited on vocals, along with Jørn's Kinky Way band-mate, Christian Ebeltoft on lead guitar and Keld's colleague, Birger Villadsen on rhythm guitar.

Another problem arose when it was discovered that George had reserved the wrong Saturday and had booked a private function on the Saturday of the Konvention weekend. This meant that Kinks Night At The Clissold had to be moved to the Friday evening. As the majority of the Kinks fans would not be arriving in London until the Saturday, we felt we needed to find a venue for another Kinks singalong on that evening. Ben did some digging and got us a booking at Ray Davies' local, the excellent Victoria pub in Highgate. So that made 3 KFK gigs in the year instead of the usual 1 - clearly my retirement was about as effective as John Dalton's from the Kast Off Kinks!

With so many new band members, the Clissold gig was somewhat more chaotic than usual, but the crowd seemed to enjoy it. We also had support from a young duo, Ben and Toby Jordan, doing some unplugged Kinks covers.

The Victoria gig was tighter, helped by Welsh Kinks fan Ian Rhydderch volunteering to be on the mixing desk which gave us a much better sound and the pub proved to be a great place to play.



The Kinksfan Kollektiv at The Victoria 2015

Rear L to R: Keld Nilsson, Geoff Lewis, Ben Elsendoorn, Jørn Back, Birger Villadsen, Christian Ebeltoft, Chris Griffiths
Front : Olga Ruocco

2016 turned out to be even busier than 2015, but I did manage to stop being the organiser. In July, Patrick set up a gig at the Clissold Arms, called Five For The Road, in which he, Ben, Chris, Olga and I performed some later and heavier Kinks songs, as well as the hits. It was loud! Guest vocalists were Christian Davies and Patrick's son Warren. An additional feature was Gerard van Calcar playing air guitar. We learned later that Ray Davies had come along and stood outside the pub listening to us for a while!



Then, in early November 2016, for the first time the Kinksfan Kollektiv performed outside the UK – Ben organised two charity gigs at Podium Aziijnfabriek, s’Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands. Chris, Olga and I travelled there to join Ben, Dick, Xander and some of Ben’s local band-mates to form the Kinksfan Kollektiv XL. (It was also the first time we had ever had the pleasure of a brass section - fantastic!) Ben even took some lead vocals! Two sold-out gigs, very enthusiastic and appreciative audiences - what more could we ask?

Where have all the good times gone?

The KINKS

The KinKs Fan Kollektiv XL

KinKs Tribute Night and Sing-along
Zaterdag 5 november 2016, 20:30 uur
in Podium Aziijnfabriek te 's-Hertogenbosch

Wat eens is begonnen als een opwarmer voor de fans, aan de vooravond van de jaarlijkse KinKs Konvention in Londen, is langzamerhand uitgegroeid tot een vaste groep: The KinKs Fan Kollektiv, met muzikanten uit onder meer Engeland, de VS, Denemarken, Spanje en Nederland. Een paar keer per jaar komen zij bij elkaar en treedt de band op op locaties met een onmiskenbare Kinks-relatie, zoals de befaamde pub 'The Clissold Arms' in de Noord-Londense wijk Muswell Hill. Daar was het waar de broers Ray en Dave Davies - de drijvende krachten van The Kinks - ooit hun eerste optredens gaven.

De 'harde kern' van The KinKs Fan Kollektiv komt begin november 2016 over uit Engeland voor een eenmalig optreden in Podium Aziijnfabriek (Belhamiestraat 4) 's-Hertogenbosch. Aangevuld met bewiende muzikanten, zangers en zangeressen van 'Den Bosch zingt...', belooft het optreden van The KinKs Fan Kollektiv XL een feest van muziek-herkenning te worden. Een mooie avond, die je absoluut moet mee-belevén en waarbij natuurlijk alle grote successen van deze legendarische Britse band gespeeld zullen worden: van You Really Got Me, All Day And All Of The Night, Till The End Of The Day, Sunny Afternoon en Dedicated Follower Of Fashion, tot Waterloo Sunset en het onvermijdelijke Lola.

Zet deze avond ook de stembanden eens even flink aan het werk bij het met meezingen uitnodigende Kinks-repertoire. Stilstaan is er niet bij op 5 november!

Toegangskarten aan de zaal en in voorverkoop à € 7,50
Te bestellen via: kinkstributenight@gmail.com



The full line-up was :

- Inge Donkervoort (trumpet)
- Jolande van Erp (saxophones)
- Ton van Erp (trombone)
- Marlieke Elsendoorn (flute)
- Sjef van Rooij (keyboard)
- Geoff Lewis (keyboard)
- Roel Essing (lead guitar)
- Vincent Schrover (lead guitar)
- Dick van Veelen (acoustic guitar)
- Ben Elsendoorn (bass and lead vocals)
- Carli Bongers (lead vocals and bass)
- Chris Griffiths (drums and lead vocals)
- Xander van Veelen (drums)
- Janet Wolters (lead and backing vocals)
- Olga Ruocco (lead and backing vocals)
- George Blanken (lead vocals)
- Hans Rovers (lead vocals)
- André Wagener (lead vocals)
- Sound engineer : Bjorn Kastelijjn



The Kinksfan Kollektiv XL at Podium Azijnfabriek, s’Hertogenbosch 2016

It had been agreed that, after the precedent had been set in 2015, we would do two singalongs, this time organised by Patrick, on the Konvention weekend at the end of November 2016 – at the Victoria on the Friday and the Clissold Arms on the Saturday. Unfortunately, some lines got crossed again and George booked the Clissold for private functions on both days. Ben spoke to Barry at the Victoria and he agreed to let us do both gigs there. They were probably the most successful yet.

Ian Rhydderch was officially enlisted as sound engineer and additional vocalist. The rest of the line up on the Friday was : Ben, Birger, Chris, Keld, Olga, Patrick and me, with guest vocalist Christian Davies. On the Saturday, Dick replaced Birger. The Friday set was mostly based on the hits in their original versions and some of the better known and earlier album tracks. As there were more fans there on the Saturday, the set included some different versions of the hits and some later album tracks.



The Kinksfan Kollektiv at The Victoria 2016

L to R: Christian Davies, Chris Griffiths, Patrick Costello, Dick van Veelen, Birger Villadsen, Olga Ruocco, Ian Rhydderch, Ben Elsendoorn, Geoff Lewis, Keld Nilsson

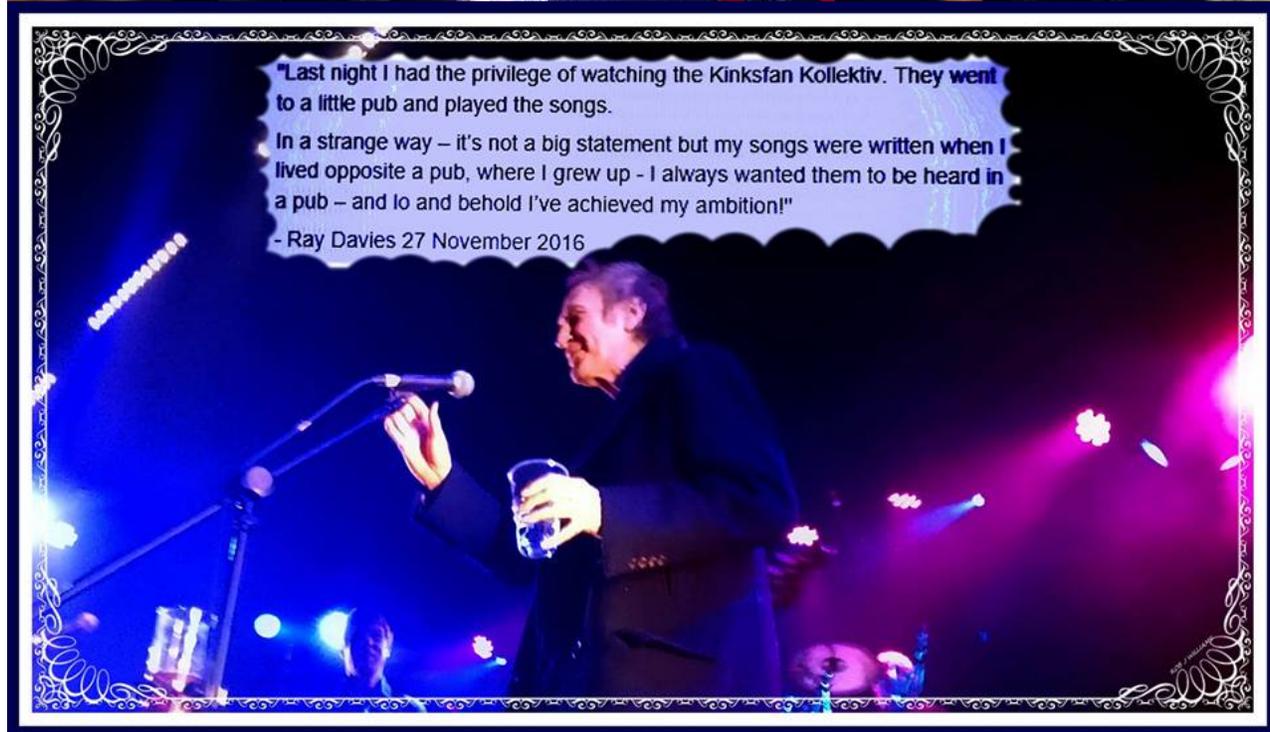
A highlight of the Saturday evening was when our hero Ray Davies arrived at the pub. He had suggested that we should play *All Of My Friends Were There*, with Olga on lead vocals. We said we would only do it if he came along. We weren't at all sure he would turn up, so were delighted when he did arrive and we duly played the song, which he seemed to appreciate, although he was, of course, being mobbed by fans.

The following day, when Ray came on stage at the Konvention, he announced :

"Last night I had the privilege of watching the Kinksfan Kollektiv. They went to a little pub and played the songs.

In a strange way – it's not a big statement but my songs were written when I lived opposite a pub, where I grew up - I always wanted them to be heard in a pub – and lo and behold I've achieved my ambition!"

Wow! Not to be taken too literally, of course, but it was great that he should talk about us..



Sadly, the Victoria closed down at the end of 2016, but George promised to make a special effort to ensure the Clissold Arms would be available in 2017.

In January 2017 , we received the tragic news that George had passed away. All the Kinksfan Kollektiv were deeply shocked and saddened at the loss of our great friend and supporter.

George's daughter, Victoria, ensured the continuation of the tradition by agreeing to a Kinks night on the Friday before the 2017 Konvention. In addition, a Kinks night was arranged for the Saturday night at the Edward Lear in Holloway Road, Islington.

Ben was in charge of organisation and we had an even larger brass section as well as other new and returning performers, making the Kinkfan Kollektiv XXL! : Inge Donkervoort (trumpet), Jolande van Erp (saxophones and flute), Nel van Driel (saxophone), Ton van Erp (trombone), Sjef van Rooij (keyboard), Geoff Lewis (keyboards, lead and backing vocals), Roel Essing (lead guitar), Dick van Veelen (acoustic guitar), Birger Villadsen (acoustic guitar), Ben Elsendoorn (bass), Keld Nilsson (bass and lead vocals), Chris Griffiths (drums and lead vocals), Laura Mapes (drums), Janet Wolters (lead and backing vocals), Olga Ruocco (lead and backing vocals), Geoff Murrell (lead vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, lead and backing vocals), Christian Davies (lead vocals), Jos van Erp (sound engineer).

At the Clissold Arms, Sir Ray Davies came along again and he said a few kind words about the band :
"This incredible band, the Kinks(fan) Kollektiv - come on, let's hear it for the Kinks Kollektiv. You know, when the Kast Off Kinks hear about this..... And let's make sure they do! This is a great band I really appreciate what you're doing - you're playing it great. And if you're not doing anything next week.... Well done, welcome to the night - enjoy the music. Thank you"
- Sir Ray Davies 24 November 2017

That evening was also enhanced by the presence of Francine Brody, the actress who played the lead opposite Ray in the promo video for "Lost And Found", a song included in the set. Francine actually wore the dress that she wore in the video and brought with her the book used in it, which she had been allowed to keep after the shooting. Ray had signed it at the time and he signed it again this evening.



Sir Ray Davies

Francine Brody

Sir Ray also mentioned us at the Konvention : *"I want to say a big round of applause for the Kinks(fan) Kollektiv the other night – they were great!"*
Then, to the Kast Off Kinks : *"They're fast on your heels, guys!"*



On Friday 02 February 2018 and Saturday 03 February 2018, The Kinksfan Kollektiv put on a double-header at the Clissold Arms as a memorial for George. The line-up was Patrick Costello (lead guitar and lead vocals), Ben Elsendoorn (bass), Chris Griffiths (drums and lead vocals), Geoff Lewis (keyboards, lead and backing vocals), Keld Nilsson (bass and lead vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, lead and backing vocals), Olga Ruocco (lead and backing vocals), Birger Villadsen (acoustic guitar and vocals) with Christian Davies as guest vocalist on the Saturday. The event was particularly poignant as we had just learned of the sudden death of Kinks bassist Jim Rodford.

The set comprised the hits and other regular favourites and also some songs new to the set, such as A Gallon Of Gas (dedicated to Jim) and The Contenders.

On the Saturday evening not only were we graced with the presence of Sir Ray Davies, we also had Dave Davies join us via video link.



Sir Ray Davies' "thumbs-up" to the band

Dave Davies watching on video link



In November 2018, Ben found another new venue for the Friday night gig – The Springfield in Bounds Green. It turned out to be an excellent venue and among the staff was Barry Gill, who was running the Victoria in Highgate when we played there. The Saturday night gig was at the traditional venue, the Clissold Arms. Again the brass section from Holland was present, augmented by trumpeter Joe Sheldon from Bounds Green.

Full line-up : Marlieke Elsendoorn (flute), Inge Donkervoort (trumpet), Joe Sheldon (trumpet), Jolande van Erp (saxophone), Nel van Driel (saxophone), Ton van Erp (trombone), Sjef van Rooij (keyboard), Geoff Lewis (keyboards, lead and backing vocals), Patrick Costello (lead guitar, lead vocals), Dick van Veelen (acoustic guitar), Birger Villadsen (acoustic guitar), Ben Elsendoorn (bass), Keld Nilsson (bass), Chris Griffiths (drums and lead vocals), Janet Wolters (lead and backing vocals), Olga Ruocco (lead and backing vocals), Geoff Murrell (lead vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, lead and backing vocals), Christian Davies (lead vocals) and guest vocalist Alain Noslier.

We were again graced with the presence of Sir Ray Davies at the Clissold Arms – he brought with him the recently-received gold disk for the Village Green Preservation Society album.



The Kinksfan Kollektiv returned to London in November 2019, again playing at The Springfield, Bounds Green and The Clissold Arms, Muswell Hill.

It was decided that, because of the space problems the previous year, the band should not include the brass section. The line-up was Geoff Lewis (keyboards, vocals), Patrick Costello (lead guitar, vocals), Dick van Veelen (acoustic guitar), Birger Villadsen (vocals), Ben Elsendoorn (bass), Keld Nilsson (bass and vocals), Chris Griffiths (drums and vocals), Olga Ruocco (vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, vocals), Christian Davies (vocals).

Ray Davies was unfortunately unwell this time, so did not attend, but we were delighted that Dave Davies attended in person, for the first time, along with his girlfriend, Rebecca G Wilson.



Dave Davies with Olga and Christian



Dave Davies greets the KFK crowd



Photo: Julia Reinhardt

In 2020, the COVID pandemic meant that the Singalongs had to be cancelled, as was the Official Kinks Fan Club bash!

To pass the time during the extended period of inactivity, the Kinksfan Kollektiv worked on on-line collaborations to create audio/video versions of a selection of Kinks songs. Sir Ray Davies has seen and approved these videos and former Kink Mark Haley helped out by singing "Strangers" with us! A YouTube playlist is available here :

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO26M8LEINPGpwonnomMwFHA6AvwR5COY>

In November 2021, pandemic restrictions were eased enough to allow the singalongs and Fan Club gathering to happen. International travel problems meant that several members could not make it, but we were joined by Dutch Kinks fan brothers Peter and Wiebe de Haan, whose double act in the North Netherlands includes several Kinks songs, some translated into the local dialect!

Again the venues were The Springfield, Bounds Green and The Clissold Arms, Muswell Hill. The full line-up was : Geoff Lewis (keyboards, vocals), Wiebe de Haan (lead guitar, vocals), Peter de Haan (acoustic guitar, vocals), Birger Villadsen (acoustic guitar, vocals), Ben Elsendoorn (bass), Keld Nilsson (bass, vocals), Chris Griffiths (drums, vocals), Olga Ruocco (vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, vocals).
Guests : Christian Davies (vocals), Stef Cole (drums), Scott Schenkel (drums), Luna Collins (piano)

To the delight of everybody, Sir Ray popped in again!



In June and July 2022, an extended tour was planned, with gigs in London, then in 's-Hertogenbosch and Groningen in the Netherlands, the latter two being joint gigs with Peter and Wiebe's band Kinda Kinks. Jim Smart was with us for the first time since 2015. The London gigs, at the Springfield and the Clissold Arms, went fine, (although audiences were reduced because of a rail strike) but sadly the Dutch gigs had to be cancelled at the last moment, because of Covid.

Audio recordings of the Clissold Arms gig are available here : <https://soundcloud.com/geoff-lewis-2/sets/kfk-clissold-2022-06-25>. The London line-up was Geoff Lewis (keyboards, vocals), Wiebe de Haan (lead guitar, vocals), Jim Smart (acoustic guitar, vocals), Birger Villadsen (acoustic guitar, vocals), Ben Elsendoorn (bass), Keld Nilsson (bass, vocals), Chris Griffiths (drums, vocals), Olga Ruocco (vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, vocals). Guests : Christian Davies (vocals).



The KFK July 2022 : (L to R) Ben Elsendoorn, Keld Nilsson, Geoff Lewis, Wiebe de Haan, Olga Ruocco, Chris Griffiths, Ian Rhydderch, Birger Villadsen, Jim Smart, Christian Davies,

The Kinksfan Kollektiv were scheduled to perform at the Muswell Hillbillies Festival in Muswell Hill on 10 September 2022, but sadly, owing to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II a couple of days earlier, the event was cancelled.

In November 2022, normal service was resumed, with gigs at The Springfield, Bounds Green and The Clissold Arms, Muswell Hill. The full line-up was : Geoff Lewis (keyboards, vocals), Wiebe de Haan (lead guitar, vocals), Peter de Haan (acoustic guitar, vocals), Ben Elsendoorn (bass, vocals), Keld Nilsson (bass, vocals), Chris Griffiths (drums, vocals), Olga Ruocco (vocals), Frank den Hollander (vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, vocals). Guests : Stef Cole (drums), Scott Schenkel (drums), Laura Mapes (drums), Ep Oosting (vocals).

Attendances were excellent and everyone was delighted to see Kinks bassist John Dalton in the audience at the Springfield. In honour of his presence, we performed "Willesden Green", which he appeared to enjoy greatly.

The Beat Magazine includes an excellent article about the Kinksfan Kollektiv (and the November 2022 Clissold Arms gig in particular) by Ian Woolley : <https://www.beat-magazine.co.uk/2022/where-the-followers-of-fashion-jam-the-kinksfan-kollektiv/> .

Ian had also mentioned us in a previous article in The Beat on The Kinks' North London : <https://www.beat-magazine.co.uk/2022/from-dead-end-street-to-village-green-on-the-kinks-trail/>



The KFK November 2022 : (L to R) Wiebe de Haan, Ian Rhydderch, Laura Mapes , Keld Nilsson, Chris Griffiths, Geoff Lewis, Scott Schenkel, Olga Ruocco, Peter de Haan, Frank den Hollander, Ep Oosting, Ben Elsendoorn

The Kinksfan Kollektiv returned to London in July 2023. This time, as well as playing the Springfield and the Clissold Arms, a very intimate third gig was added, “unplugged” at the Muswell Hillbilly Brewery Tap.

The full line-up was : Geoff Lewis (keyboards, vocals), Wiebe de Haan (lead guitar, vocals), Peter de Haan (acoustic guitar, vocals), Ben Elsendoorn (bass), Keld Nilsson (bass, vocals), Chris Griffiths (drums, vocals), Olga Ruocco (vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, vocals). Guests : Christian Davies (vocals), James Swartz (vocals).

To our delight, Dave Davies came to the Clissold Arms gig, with his girlfriend Rebecca G Wilson, and was very appreciative. A video of our performance of “Living On A Thin Line” for him can be seen here : <https://youtu.be/qgK7rsRffHo>



Dave Davies appreciating
“Living On A Thin Line”



Equipment had to be much reduced at the
Muswell Hillbilly Brewery Tap

The Muswell Hillbilly Brewery Tap gig was a lot of fun, despite the miniscule size of the place. The proprietors asked us to try to fit in a return gig in November 2023, when the Kinksfan Kollektiv would next be back in London.



The KFK July 2023 : (standing L to R) Geoff Lewis, Chris Griffiths, Ben Elsendoorn, Peter de Haan, Wiebe de Haan, Ian Rhydderch, Christian Davies. (sitting) Olga Ruocco, Keld Nilsson.

Sure enough, the Kinksfan Kollektiv were back in London in November 2023, playing gigs at the Muswell Hillbilly Brewery Tap, the Springfield and the Clissold Arms.

No newcomers this time, the full line-up was : Geoff Lewis (keyboards, vocals), Wiebe de Haan (lead guitar, vocals), Peter de Haan (acoustic guitar, vocals), Ben Elsendoorn (bass, vocals), Keld Nilsson (bass, vocals), Chris Griffiths (drums, vocals), Olga Ruocco (vocals), Birger Villadsen (acoustic guitar, vocals), Ian Rhydderch (sound engineer, vocals).

Guests : Christian Davies (vocals), Scott Schenkel (drums).

Sadly, no Kinks were able to attend, But Sir Ray did send a message to everyone, via Olga :

“Glad you could all make it to the Clissold Arms where The Journey Man's journey started years ago, even though it only seems like yesterday.

Have a great evening with Olga and the gang and sing as loud as you can.

Ray”



Some American fans at the Springfield



Soundcheck at the Clissold Arms

Great audiences, the Clissold Arms in particular was rammed. It seems the love and appreciation feeling increases year on year, demonstrated by the distances people travel and the friendships created by collective celebration of the body of work created by the band. We just love playing what we're playing and being with you all while we're playing it! It was particularly good to see so many American fans in the audience, despite the usual clash with Thanksgiving Day!



The KFK November 2023 : (L to R) Wiebe de Haan, Ian Rhydderch, Peter de Haan, Birger Villadsen, Scott Schenkel, Olga Ruocco, Ben Elsendoorn, Geoff Lewis, Keld Nilsson, Christian Davies, Chris Griffiths.

Geoff Lewis, December 2023

<https://kastoffkinks.co.uk/KFK/>

(with thanks to Olga Ruocco for memory assistance)