Council are also interested in promoting something in Joe's memory. Peter will continue to pursue these possibilities."

The AGM and social were held at the George Tavern, Newent

"Two radio broadcasts come to mind which featured Joe. On the 29th May, BBC Radio 4 Extra did a program about the development of the "Electronic Sound" in music and Joe was featured as being a pioneer. Also, on the 28th June this year, Mike Guy of Radio North Sea, an internet radio station, is featuring an interview he did with Lissa Gray of "Johnny Remember Me" fame amongst others. It is the intention of The Society to put on some events during the coming year to further promote Joe and his music. Look out on our website for news. "

"Peter again thanked Sandra [Meek-Williams], in advance, for giving up her time to conduct members around Newent on a walk to point out some of the history of the family's association with the town and the stories associated with buildings you would otherwise just walk by. "

Sandra Meek-Williams leading a tour of Newent pointing out buildings and sites associated with Joe Meek

On the future of The Joe Meek Society publications. (David Nevols): *"The Newsletter which was started way back in the early 1990's was the method we used to communicate imminent events and news without having to wait for the four monthly Thunderbolt. The internet was in it's infancy in those days and we certainly had no website, which is now the main medium though which we communicate urgent news. [...] That said, should anybody else wish to take on the production of a bi-monthly newsletter, the Society would be willing and able to fund it. Opinions were sought from the floor and there were no dissenting voices and the motion was carried unanimously."*

The tour included a visit to Joe's grave

On the election of members of the Management Committee: *"One change is necessary due to the retirement of Mark Newson from the position of Thunderbolt editor. He will be replaced by Rob Bradford and the position of Newsletter editor will be retired. "*

On the Date and venue for next year's AGM: *"There was general agreement that Newent, having suited us so well over the years, was again the best choice and after further discussion it was agreed that we would return to The George Hotel next year, but at a different time of year so as to be as close as possible to Joe's 90th birthday, 5th April 2019. It was agreed unanimously that it would be held on* ***Saturday 6th April 2019*** *at The George Hotel Newent with the probable start time of 12:00 noon."*

The JOE MEEK Society Newsletter

No. 209 Summer 2018

© 2018 The Joe Meek Society Editor Rob Bradford rob.di.brad@talk21.com

PATRICK PINK (ROBBIE DUKE) 1947 – 2018

I was saddened to hear from Alan Blackburn that Robbie Duke had passed away on May 15th, aged 70. Although known as Robbie Duke for the past 35 years, he was formerly known to us all as Patrick Pink. What a vital and pivotal figure he was in the whole Joe Meek saga. I only ever met Robbie / Patrick three times (& what a privilege it was to speak to him) and so I cannot claim to know details of much of his life in any meaningful depth. I know that John Repsch has written a brief obituary in the current "Thunderbolt". However, Mark Newson has paid fitting tribute in "Thunderbolt" #83 (latest issue) and so that is the definitive account to read.

Robbie (known as Patrick Pink until 1973*) began visiting 304 Holloway Road in 1963* as a pop – crazed youngster. Like so many of Joe's young assistants, he started off by stacking tape reels / spools / boxes, running errands and making endless cups of tea and coffee. Of course, it must have been thrilling for him, sometimes mingling with big pop stars of the era. (*Some sources state that Patrick/Robbie first visited 304 in 1962, and that he changed his name by deed poll in 1966 and not 1973).

Of course….Patrick / Robbie was present during the tragic and appalling events at 304, Holloway Road on February 3rd, 1967. What a shocking and devastating effect it must have had on the young man, who was only aged 19 at the time. Not long after the shocking deaths of both Violet Shenton and Joe Meek he suffered a total nervous breakdown as a result of what we now know as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. There can be no doubt that Patrick / Robbie was devoted to Joe Meek and supported him through incredibly difficult and depressing times, particularly during 1966/67. Mark does mentioned that Robbie was appalled by the way he was portrayed in Nick Moran's "Telstar" film. I know that he felt betrayed by this.

continued on page 2…

…continued from page 1

Robbie was most definitely heterosexual and he was always adamant that nothing of a sexual nature ever took place between him and Joe. Never. The problem was that Moran 'conflated' several of Joe's studio assistants into one single character – in much the same way that he sort of 'blended' the Outlaws / the Tornados into one single entity. Very confusing.

Here is an account from an interview he gave a few years ago: "Robbie Duke, the last person to see Meek alive, doesn't understand why Mr Moran needed to take such artistic licence though. Now 60, living in Ilford, Essex, and a retired Tube driver, he says that after seeing the film with his wife he was physically sick and felt so badly represented on screen that he considered legal action.

Back then he was 19-year-old Patrick Pink (he changed his name by deed poll in 1973 to the one Meek had occasionally used as an alias) and says categorically: "I certainly didn't know there was a gun on the premises and there I am in the film, holding one to Heinz's head. I was Joe's studio assistant; it was a working relationship, nothing more, and they've portrayed me as his lover at the end. I was livid."

On the morning of the tragedy, he says Meek had been behaving very strangely. He says he was manic, paranoid, convinced he was being watched by the police, burning paperwork in a waste bin and communicating with Patrick via scribbled notes. Mrs Shenton, "a wonderful woman", had popped upstairs to ask yet again for long overdue rent. "I was standing between the staircase and the office and heard some shouting and a bang. He had shot her and she tumbled down the stairs and I caught her in my arms. There was a big hole in her back and it was smoking. She laid across my lap for a minute or two, I went into panic mode, started screaming and with that rolled her off me and ran up the stairs towards him. By the time I got up to the middle flight he had reloaded and blew off his head."

Covered in blood and the only person alive in the building, the teenager was arrested and taken to Holloway Road police station, questioned for six hours and released without charge. "I have never really come to terms with it. Because of my mum and dad, I got through it but it will always be there. With someone like Joe, who was famous, it will never be put to bed and I've learned to live with that."

In many ways, Robbie was a truly remarkable man. Despite horrendous tragedy, he managed to achieve an enormous amount in his life. I do know that he found true happiness and contentment with Elaina and his young family in his latter years. Sincere condolences from everyone at JMS. Read Mark Newsome's moving and fitting tribute and account of Robbie's life in the "Thunderbolt".

RIP Robbie.

JMS NL – THE END IS NIGH

Well…as expected, it was decided at the JMS AGM that publication of the JMS Newsletter should cease (for reasons outlined in the AGM minutes). So…..this issue (#209) will be the penultimate one.

It somehow feels wrong to finish on an odd number. So….the NL will end with the next issue #210, to coincide with the end of 2018.

MARK NEWSON'S AWARD

Award to be presented to Mark Newson for 20 years' outstandng service to JMS and the memory of Joe Meek

My esteemed JMS colleague Mark was due to retire as "Thunderbolt" editor over 12 months ago. However, he had so much RGM / Joe Meek material stockpiled that he decided to carry on for a further 15 months or so. As I have said previously….what a magnificent job Mark has done down the years. To that end, we commissioned a special award for Mark. It was due to be presented to him in London last year.

Unfortunately, because of terrorist outrages, knife attacks and bomb threats in London last summer, Mark decided not to attend last year's AGM (& he was not alone in having worries / fears on the day). So, we held on to the award, in case Mark decided to travel to Newent this year. As he did not…..our superb Secretary David Nevols will travel down to Kent to present the award to Mark in person. The wording is as follows: "Awarded to Mark Newson from the Joe Meek Society, in recognition of great service to both the JMS and in honouring Joe Meek's memory. Also for 20 years' outstanding work as the JMS Thunderbolt editor. In gratitude, June 2017." Fittingly, we arranged for the Thunderbolt logo to be etched onto the star shaped top.

MALCOLM LENNY – UPDATE

You may recall that the Triumphs had to regrettably withdraw from their Scheduled appearance at Newent in June. The reason was the disturbing news that lead guitarist Malcolm Lenny (The Packabeats' lead player during their RGM years) had been rushed into hospital (just two days before the gig) as a result of a potentially life – threatening heart condition. The problem was caused by serious arterial blockages.

I am very happy, and relieved, to report that – following emergency surgery to fit arterial stents – Malcolm has made a remarkable recovery. He is attending regular specialist cardiac exercise classes (especially designed for post – op 'Stenters')….but…he is also already back to taking his dogs for regular 2 - 3 mile walks and, apparently, recently 'bounded' up the steps at Waterloo East railway station. He will be resuming his Triumphs activities very soon, as he is raring to go!!

JMS AGM 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the JMS was held at The George Hotel, Newent, on Saturday 9th June. Below are some extracts from the minutes of the meeting, along with photographs from the day. For the full minutes of the meeting, including Treasurers report and reports from other committee members, go to the JMS website www.joemeeksociety.org and select AGM minutes.

From the Chairman's Report: *"Peter [Rochford – JMS chairman] expressed his wish to concentrate on the positive aspects of Joe's life both in his early life in Newent where the Meek family was well known and respected and later in London with his contribution to the music industry. Over the past year we have re-introduced car window stickers to advertise the society, a supply of which was available at the meeting. Bobby Rio held a very successful river cruise on The Thames last August which he and Shy attended. Bobby still has a great singing voice and it was a shame he could not be with us today."*

"During August 2017, Peter approached Gloucester City Council to discuss the possibility of erecting a statue to Joe outside No.1 Market Square. There has been a positive response as they were also considering something to replace the tree that was in the middle of Market Square but which has now died. Apparently, the Forest of Dean

…continued on page 4