

## The Beat Goes On - A Tale of 2 Drummers

Peter Werth



I am not particularly accurate with my recollections of precisely when and where past events of my life actually took place. It must have been very early 1960's when a close friend asked me if I had heard of a new band called The Shadows. We were talking in hushed tones out of the side of our mouths hoping not to be spotted and subsequently admonished by senior members of Ilford Synagogue, where we were regular worshippers.

My friend Desmond and I were in the early stages of plotting the formation of our pop band which we intended to be the phenomenon of the decade. We met regularly in an attempt to make music with two other misguided hopefuls; the fact that none of us could actually play an instrument properly did not deter us. Now that we had been introduced to the Shadows the most important thing for us was to copy their footwork if not their music. As I was to provide the so-called beat for the outfit I acquired a photo of the Shadows drummer, Brian Bennett, preceded to copy his hairstyle, how he dressed and how he held his sticks.

The Shadows had a hit with a tune called "Apache". It took me a few hours to get a sound from my tom toms that would pass for an ethnic groove which was the backbone of this particular piece of music.

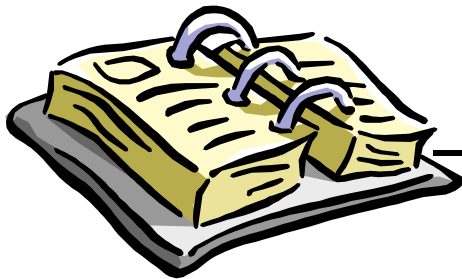
We were now ready to perform and were invited to play at the Ivri Youth Club in Forest Gate where we were a great hit, managing to stretch our repertoire of only four tunes to thirty minute duration.

After this Brian Bennett became my hero. I watched him play wherever possible, he was my inspiration prior to seriously taking up drumming, spending years having lessons and finally becoming a professional musician at the age of 23.

It took me only 12 months to realise the tough music business was not for me and I sidestepped from music to fashion but remained (to this day) a semi-professional drummer.

Now fast-forward to 2 weeks ago when my company was sponsoring an event called "Young Drummer of the Year" taking place in Leamington Spa. The event organisers phoned to ask me if I minded giving one of the judges a lift to the venue from his house in Radlett, as he didn't drive. I agreed, got the pick-up address and before the phone call ended, asked what the guys name was. "Oh", he said, "you might remember him, he used to play for The Shadows, his name is Brian Bennett".

Joy of Joys!



## Dates For Your Diary

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Gui Id trip to see GiGi at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre at a discount price of £30. Final booking date 29<sup>th</sup> April. **VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE**

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Israel trip.

### Shabbat 5<sup>th</sup> July

Shabbat Lunch with the Israeli Ambassador. Details to follow.