



The original Tractor Boy
Adam Sutch delves into the farming archives



Tales of a Heroine
Part Two of Frontline Flora's amazing story



Now he's 64
Clive Mann celebrates his birthday in style at the pub

inside eyke

ISSUE 18 - SPRING 2015

What Katie Did Next

Life on Low Road has been full of highs for Katie Lucas



IN THIS EDITION: NEWS & EVENTS

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Jackie Pooley reports on the Parish Council's AGM **MRS SCURRELL REPORTS FROM THE SCHOOL** Maria Bakes Banana and Apple Cake **PLUS NEWS OF THE FETE'S NEW STARTING TIME**



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From the Editor's shed



Hello everyone, and welcome to the Spring edition of Inside Eyke. As you might have noticed, there hasn't been an issue out for a while, as once again I have been on an extended work trip to South America. If you missed us, I'm very sorry!

Let me first of all say a huge thank you to David Kindred, who kindly allowed us to use the very evocative image on page 6 without charge. David's library of photographs can be found at www.flickr.com/photos/kindredspirituk/

And if you are wondering who this 1930s Tractor Boy from Eyke was, you will find out in due course, as we've got something of a local history theme going on: we have the results of a delve into the National Archives at Kew by Adam Sutch, giving us some insights into what the farmers of Eyke produced during wartime.

There are also some reminiscences of Eyke in the 1960s from Katie Marsh, amongst other things, and the second part of Isabelle Abu-Hejleh's story of her great, great aunt Flora, who fought in the Serbian army in World War One.

At this time of year we always like to flag up a few things about the Fete. This year's will be held on Sunday July 19th. It will take place as usual at the The Old Rectory, by kind permission of the Brigginshaws, but this year it has been decided to start earlier than normal, in fact, at 1pm.

It is hoped that with this new start time, people might forgo Sunday lunch and decide instead to come and partake of the legendary Fete BBQ, the cake stall and other

epicurean delights, thus raising more money for village funds.

Help is always welcomed in putting up the marquees and setting everything up: this will take place, weather permitting, on Thursday 16th. Volunteers please assemble in the Old Rectory garden at 6pm.

Entrance to the fete will cost a pound for adults (children go free) and will include entry into a prize draw to be drawn at 3 o'clock, with a £25 cash prize. Our popular saxophonist will be back, we have a new Bouncy Castle, and also new this year is Face Painting, courtesy of Ellie and Millie Brigginshaw. It's aimed at children really, but who's to say an adult or two, having spent an agreeably refreshing hour with Ian at the Pimm's stall, won't decide to have a St George's flag done?

Donations of books, White Elephant bric-a-brac, cakes and so on are always gratefully received. Karen and Sandy would particularly like donations of plants, plant pots (terracotta or decorative ones, that is – not your bog-standard plastic!) and other garden-related items for the plant stall. Please do come along to the Fete, and please do spread the word to friends and family.

That's all for now. Best wishes to all, and I hope you enjoy browsing through the Spring issue of Inside Eyke. *Tim

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Next edition August
Final date for submissions
1 August 2015
Design Aardvark Multimedia
www.virtualaardvark.com
Printing Gipping Press
Images Simon Sutch



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Eyke School - We're good!

We are 'Good'! That was the outcome of our recent SIAMS or Church Schools' inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools). The inspector spent the day with us talking to pupils, staff, parents and governors; observing learning; looking at the children's work, and monitoring that what we say we do, and do well, was evident. We celebrated by getting our picture in the local press!

Now, if you have occasion to walk through Eyke Recreation Ground, you will have seen that the saplings pupils and parents planted back in late Autumn are beginning to show signs of having taken root. The daffodils,

which pupils also planted, are now in bloom and adding a touch of colour to the area. We are pleased to have been part of something that will provide a lasting legacy for both the village and the school.

Other 'new' news is the installation of replacement windows and doors. These have already made a huge impact not only on the look of the school but also on the regulation of heat and light in the classrooms – no longer are there draughty classrooms!

FOES continue to be busy fundraising for the benefit of the pupils and plans are already underway for the school Summer Fair – Saturday 11th July 2 to 4pm. Do put the date in your diary and come along for some fun! ❁ **Debbie Scurrell, Headteacher**

Banana and Apple Cake Maria Hassan

Today brought a lunch with grandparents at the School. They had gammon and pineapple with boulangere potatoes, peas or grilled tomatoes and Banana and Apple Cake for pudding. I'm sure you'll be pleased to know the majority of them were well behaved – but you always get one naughty granddad who has to be cheeky! Of course I can't reveal any names... They know who they are :-)

Wet ingredients

4 cups of peeled cored and grated apples (generous)
2 mashed bananas
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 eggs
1/2 cup chopped walnuts or 1/2 cup pecans (optional)

Dry ingredients

2 cups self-raising flour
2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 level teaspoons cinnamon

Method

Preheat oven to 170°C
Combine all the wet ingredients in large bowl and mix well.
Combine dry ingredients in a separate bowl and mix well.
Add dry to wet ingredients and mix thoroughly.
Pour into a lined greased pan.
Bake for 1 hour or until firm.



THE 'SECOND DOOMSDAY BOOK'

Eyke and its farms during wartime by Adam Sutch

It's June 1941, and a Man From The Ministry, no doubt wearing a bowler hat and carrying a clipboard, arrives in Eyke. He asks farmers questions, counts their animals, calculates acreages and tots up quantities of crops.

While official 'snoopers' are rarely altogether welcome visitors to small rural communities, this one, from the County War Agricultural Executive Committee (or CWAEC) would probably have been greeted with real trepidation.

The men from the CWAECs, despite the unassuming and uninspiring name of their organisation, were no ordinary bureaucrats. The CWAECs had the power to dispossess any farmer whom they considered to be 'inefficient', without appeal, and hand his land over to someone else. And this was no idle threat: everyone in Eyke, then still a village dominated by farming, would have been well aware that this fate had already befallen more than two hundred Suffolk farmers since the beginning of the war two years previously.

As far as we know, fortunately no-one in Eyke lost their land; but the story does not end there. The inquisitive CWAECs, thanks to their ceaseless burrowing for information on all things related to agriculture, did a great favour to future archive historians. Most of their records have survived, including the hugely detailed records from the 'second Domesday Book' that dealt with Eyke.

I have been digging into what the second Domesday Book was, how it came about, and

what it tells us about Eyke in the turbulent years of the 1940s.

Between the Wars

The years between the two World Wars had not been kind to British farmers and rural East Anglia perhaps had it harder than most. By 1938, farming was suffering from cheap imports, a collapse in farm prices and a general inability to invest in improvements such as mechanisation and even the installation of electricity.

Then came the Second World War. Paradoxically, while the war wrought terrible destruction and loss across large areas of the planet, it brought rewards for those engaged in British agriculture, in the form of better prices and profits for the farmers and increased wages for farmworkers.

Farming also became much more productive. Over two million extra acres across Britain came under the plough in the 1939/40 season, spurred on perhaps by the £2 per acre 'ploughing up' grant, and a similar increase occurred in 1940/41.

These and other increases could not happen without significant government intervention – or interference, depending on your standpoint. To do this, in 1939 two pieces of legislation, the Defence (General) Regulations Act and the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act were enacted, and then supplemented by other legislation as the need arose. One of the first manifestations of this new control was the setting up of the CWAECs on the outbreak of war in 1939.

These CWAEs had significant powers delegated to them from the Minister of Agriculture. Committee members were mostly prominent farmers who volunteered to help to obtain full production from the land.

There were two CWAEs, also known as 'War Ags', for Suffolk, East and West, with local District Committees, whose members were in direct touch with their local farmers. Part of their job was to advise and assist – but they also had the power to tell farmers what quantities had to be grown to meet Ministry plans for priority crops such as wheat and potatoes. The Committees also administered the rationing of animal feed and fertiliser, plus the distribution and coordination of machinery, such as tractors and the new combine harvesters. The Deben District Committee covered Eyke.

To best manage the land and bring more of it under the plough, the government initiated a National Farm Survey of all farmers with over five acres of land. This was so exhaustively detailed that it was thought of almost as a 'second Domesday Book'.

The agricultural census conducted in Eyke in June 1941 reports 18 farms or holdings over five acres. These are all consecutively numbered, except for number 11, which I have been unable to find. Whether the record ever existed, was misfiled or lost, I do not yet know. The other ten returns, taken together,



Eyke 1941 Land Survey Summary Map Extract

paint a picture of the parish landscape in mid-1941.

Of a total farmed area of 1,345 acres in Eyke at that moment, there were just over 103 acres of oats, half of them at Sink Farm, which also had 83 acres of sugar beet and 31 acres of carrots (for human consumption). The acreage of cereals for the parish was almost 439, approaching one-third of the parish total. Elsewhere, Church Farm was the potato king, with 72 of the 110 acres of that crop in the parish. There were no orchards or soft-fruit crops, save for quarter of an acre at Claypond Bungalows, Spratt Street.

Almost 65 acres were devoted to beans and peas for stock feeding, and in fact just over half of all the farmed land was devoted to animal feedstuffs of one sort or another, whether it was vetches, mangolds or pasture for grazing or silage. Perhaps the parish exported some of this, as the livestock numbers do not seem to warrant such a large amount. There were a total of 216 cattle and calves, including 3 bulls, whilst 48 steers and heifers were being reared for slaughter before 31st November 1941. Of the total of 115 pigs recorded, 97 were under five months old and while there were no sheep recorded, there were four goats at Spratt Street and three at Friday Street.

Horses continued to play a significant part in farm life with 18 mares and nine geldings being used for agricultural purposes from a total of 37 horses recorded. Almost 800 poultry were accounted for, including 490

fowls less than six months old and five ducks! Surprisingly there were no turkeys or geese listed. The full-time agricultural workforce recorded (excluding the farmer, his wife and domestic servants, according to the instructions) consisted of 28 males over the age of 21 and five below 21. Seasonal employment was also being given to 12 males and 12 women and girls.

I could go on... Indeed, the above is just a small abstract of the details recorded. Subject to the approval of Ian and Sandra, I will place a copy of the actual survey forms and the summary sheet I have prepared at the Elephant & Castle, for anyone interested in the detailed picture for individual farms and holdings.

There is also another set of less complete data and a series of maps of the properties, prepared at the time, which I will analyse for a further article.

If you are burning to know which farms had electricity in 1941, what the rents were and who had a tractor or two, plus the views of the Ministry men on the condition and management of the farms, much will be revealed after the presses churn for the next edition of Inside Eyke. Adam Sutch

And who is the man on the tractor?

This evocative photograph above shows what is probably the first mechanised ploughing at Eyke in approximately 1930. This early 'tractor boy' is Ernest Stannard, an electrical and motor engineer and cycle agent.

Jackie Pooley has been finding out about Ernest from census records, and from that ever-reliable source of village information, Frank Pooley – she thinks a few other people in the village might know something about him, too:

"Ernest was born in 1876 in Bow, east London, and married an Ipswich girl, Emma



Shrubb, in 1901. By 1911 they were living in Eyke with two sons, Cecil, born 1902, and Leonard, born 1905. Also with them were Emma's mother and Bessie Markham, a 19 year-old 'general servant' from Chillesford. Ernest's occupation is described as "motor engineer".

Although the exact address is not given, we believe they lived at what is now Corbie Steps, next to Oak Tree Drive. There was a garage business here until about 30 years ago (I'm happy to be corrected on this, but it certainly existed when we moved here in 1977, and for a time after that).

According to Robin's Dad, they also ran a post office. He remembers Mrs Stannard clearly, but not Ernest (who died in 1941). Mrs Stannard was known to encourage young people to save, by matching their payments into PO savings accounts. Frank remembers taking accumulators for the wireless set to them to be charged (by Cecil).

Frank does not remember Cecil or Leonard being involved with the motor engineering side, and is sure the photo (which he has seen somewhere before) shows Ernest himself." ❄️

Photograph reproduced by kind permission of David Kindred www.flickr.com/photos/kindredspirituk/

A returned form for the 'Second Domesday Book'





Frontline Flora

Isabelle Abu-Hejleh concludes the astonishing story of her great, great aunt Flora, the woman the Serbs called ‘the lovely Sergeant’

Nothing could have prepared Flora and her party for the conditions that awaited them when, at the end of August 1914, their journey ended in a military hospital in Kragujevac, 60 miles south of Belgrade: ‘...the fetid smell that permeated every room, of crowded human bodies, badly infected wounds, antiseptic, tobacco and stale food.’ With no running water or proper equipment, and often no anaesthetic, she and her colleagues nevertheless did everything they could to make their patients comfortable.

There followed a spell in England during which Flora and fellow nurse Emily Simmonds raised £4000 to buy medical supplies, then the pair returned to Valjevo. It was ridden with typhus, a disease carried by

lice and fleas. The need for amputations due to gangrenous wounds was so great that Flora, instructed by her friend ‘Simmo’ soon found herself performing amputations on a regular basis. Eventually the two women both succumbed to typhus themselves. Mercifully they pulled through and were sent back to England to convalesce.

Flora was to return to her beloved Serbia again, this time to join up with a field ambulance unit close to the fighting line. The situation soon became so dangerous that she was advised to go back to England. Flora, however, was absolutely determined to stay attached to the 2nd Regiment. In the end the commanding officer Colonel Miltich suggested that the only way to do that was to enlist as an actual



soldier – something unheard-of for western women. It was one of the most memorable moments of Flora’s life – she was to be a private in the 2nd Regiment of the First Army!

At this point began the gruelling retreat through the mountains, for soldiers and civilians alike. Thousands upon thousands died as they fought heroically against the advancing enemy. Flora was given a grey horse, Diana, and a batman, Dragutin. She was also given a rifle: it was the first time she was to possess a gun solely for the purpose of killing a man. She proved herself an excellent horsewoman and a fine shot. Though at first some of the men had misgivings about this strange English woman joining their ranks, Flora was soon accepted as a morale-boosting asset. She was brave and amusing, if a little eccentric, and they had a tremendous respect for her and were proud to have her amongst them. She was invited to join the 4th Company or vod and the men began to call her ‘Brother’, their usual term of address amongst themselves.

When Flora was badly injured by a grenade on a cold November night in 1916 (see last



issue), she feared she couldn’t possibly survive her injuries. She must have thought wistfully of the blissful peace of the Suffolk countryside and wondered what on earth she was doing – bleeding in the snow on top of a freezing mountain, with her side torn apart by shrapnel from shoulder to knee and her right arm broken and lacerated.

Survive, though, Flora did, and was awarded the highest decoration for bravery under fire, the Kara George Star. She was the first woman and only foreigner ever to be commissioned as an officer in the Serbian army. After the war she was promoted to Second Lieutenant and put in charge of 60 men.

Flora met her future husband, Russian-born Colonel Yurie Yudenitch, whilst still in



uniform and they married in 1927. They spent the last years of their married life living in Belgrade until Yurie, who was 13 years Flora's junior, died in 1941. She was to miss him terribly.

Eventually circumstances forced Flora to



leave Serbia, her home for almost 30 years. She ended her days living in a little cottage in Wickham Market and was a familiar sight riding about the place in a battery-powered electric chair, her white hair streaming out behind her and, no doubt, cigarette in hand!

Flora died in 1956. She had become a household name during WW1 and an inspiration to women, breaking the boundaries of what they were expected to achieve, to do or not do. Not long ago a film was released in Serbia about the Serbian retreat featuring Flora Sandes, and every Serbian child was sent to see it. More recently I believe a street in Belgrade was named after her.

I met Flora when I was two years old, which I can't remember. But as we grew up, if anything difficult or daunting confronted us, my mother would say: 'For God's sake, remember you've got Aunt Flora's blood flowing through your veins!' *

Eyke Parish Council

Despite being a very small parish, with only 276 on the electoral roll, Eyke has much going on, as we heard at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April. We are fortunate to have a thriving primary school, with an active parents' organisation, Friends Of Eyke School, and next door a pre-school with whom the school has close ties.

Eyke Charities, established hundreds of years ago, still benefits villagers: residents over the age of 80, widows and widowers receive a small sum each year, and Eyke school leavers each receive a book.

We have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, a village tree warden, who has actively been involved in planting and looking after trees on the rec, a very highly regarded village magazine, and a Millennium Group which organises social occasions.

Apart from this, there are unsung heroes, who work hard to keep the village engine going – two of them are Mervyn Whitmore, who keeps an eye on the rec, and makes sure the village is litter free, and Mike Fisher, who keeps the village hall running smoothly, and is also a churchwarden.

(I should also mention our wonderful pub, which didn't get a mention at the meeting, but does so much to enhance the village – thank you, Ian and Sandra.)

Apart from the general election this year, this is the end of the four year term for our parish councillors: more unsung heroes! Eyke should have a complement of seven; there were only six nominations, the same councillors who served previously, so they all stand elected, and will take up their posts at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (not to be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting!) on 21st May. The Parish Council will hope to fill the seventh seat by co-option as soon as possible, so if you feel you could contribute, please let any councillor, or the clerk know.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and there is a chance for questions to

be raised during the parish forum. The meetings are usually attended by our County Councillor and District Councillor, and they are happy to deal with questions as well. The councillors for the new four year-term are:

- Mrs Isabelle Abu-Hejleh
- Mr Ron Cushing
- Mr Mike Evans
- Mr John Fleming
- Mrs Jan Stangoe
- Mr Mervyn Whitmore

Further details for them, plus information about meetings, can be found on the Eyke website: www.eyke.onesuffolk.net *

Jackie Pooley, Clerk

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The Eyke Book revisited pt 2

Where are they now? Another in the series where catch up with the people who featured in the Millennium Group's 'Eyke Book', published in 2000

By Janna Mckendree

“ The joys of the lane soon became apparent... I think it is a magic place and I am so lucky to have found it
Katie Lucas, Low Road

FROM THE BOOK Katie Lucas, now living at Marsh Cottage, Low Road, recalls buying the property next door, Stone Cottage, for £1600 in 1965 as a weekend retreat.

“It had no plumbing, that is until we nought an Elsan. Mr Wallace kindly let us use the toilets at the pub, which meant we drank more beer than we have done normally as a ‘thank-you’ to him. We also had to do battle with the hugest, slimiest and definitely the nastiest slugs I have ever seen who lived in what became the bathroom. But after much hard work it became our home - and London was just somewhere we had to live.

The joys of the lane soon became apparent. Not only was it beautiful m and still is, it also had very little traffic, so it was safe for children to play and in those days there were a lot of children. There were my tow, Lucy and Mark, Nicky Croll, who lived at Nether Fen, three Fooks girls (who, although they lived at Reeves Hall, were also part of the gang), and Mandy Last, who, being quite a bit older, was very superior. And, of course, many of the children in the school came down to play.

Walking down the lane was endless fascinating because there were always

things to discover. For example, before English Nature came and grabbed out many of our hedges and replaced them with saplings, the old hedges, which being very ancient were sometimes rather sparse, were aided in their job of stock control by old brass and iron bed ends – some very beautiful – and we always enjoyed finding ones we hadn’t seen before. We were also fascinated by the comings and going of Steve, who lived in a caravan, in a hidden corner and who always grunted rather bad-temperedly when he passed, but who looked wonderful, rather like Moses with white hair and moustache. I was told that his one o’clock walk up the lane was to catch the bus to go to the betting shop – and it probably was. The other biblical looking character, who also lived in a caravan, was Sam Last. He used to walk around the lanes with his coat flowing behind him like a clock and a stick like a staff. But far from being unfriendly, he was very friendly, and once he discover that we lived here, we used to occasionally find one on our doorstep. Now there is an electricity sub-station where his caravan stood. Not nearly so colourful.

Mr and Mrs Churchyard lived next door to us, in Marsh Cottage, and Mr Churchyard’s garden was glorious. He treated it like a job. He went into it every morning at 9am, then in for coffee at 10,30, out again at 10.45, in again at 12.00 and so on. They never had to buy any vegetables or fruit, growing all their own. But as they grew older they found the hill more difficult to climb, so they decided to move up to The Street, and we decided to buy Marsh Cottage, because although we loved Stone Cottage, we needed more room, and the larger garden at Marsh Cottage meant that we could build on (to the cottage) and turn it into a full-time home, and we loved the water meadows and our views, so we didn’t want to move away. Our plans worked: we have loved here ever since. I think it is a magical place and I am so lucky to have found it.



2015 Katie Lucas is an Eyke resident of long standing. She lives in Low Road, and remembers the days when a gaggle of children, including her own, Lucy and Mark, would play throughout the summer in the pretty lane, now officially designated a ‘Quiet Lane’.

She has many stories of her years in Eyke. She tells of a snowy winter and the excitement when an oil van lost control and skidded across the road to land in a ditch. Living down the hill from the Elephant and Castle, she recalls a landlord of yesteryear, Mr Wallace, who was generous in loaning his facilities when the Lucases bought their first Eyke home, Stone Cottage, which was equipped with only an Elsan toilet.

Mr Wallace also taught swimming, both at Eyke School, in the pool built by villagers, and also at the Sheepshanks’ private pool. According to Katie, it was wonderful to see how taking up an interest he enjoyed led to his great personal fulfilment.

Marsh Cottage, where Katie has lived for many years, after moving from Stone Cottage, was extended from a small cottage into the beautiful house it is today.

The builder who carried out the work so well was Bill Jennings. Bill lived in the White House on The Street, and Katie recalls walking past the house, and hearing the sound of Bill playing his Hammond organ. As the current owner of the White House, I

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am intrigued to hear such stories of its former owners and their history.

“Living in Eyke in the 1960s was a fun time,” says Katie. “Patrick Ashton was the rector then, and he organised lots of activities involving the children, such as concerts, plays and suppers.” She recalls one such event when Kevin Magennis dressed up in his sister Diane’s bathing costume and high heels, much to everyone’s delight and amusement.

Before moving full-time to Eyke, Katie lived in London, and followed a successful career as a tourist guide. As well as ‘taking rich Americans around London and other parts of Britain’, she found time to publish several tourist guidebooks, including ‘London Walkabout’, which describes walks around the ‘the top ten tourist attractions’. Her first book was published in 1980 and following that, Katie was constantly commissioned to write more.

Katie has recently resumed driving after a bout of ill health. Driving provides her with the independence she thrives on, and one of her pleasures is to pop down to Five Winds at Melton Station to pick up a few of their delicious provisions. With typical enthusiasm, she is also looking forward to continuing her computer literacy education,

as she is well aware of the opportunities that email and the internet provide, including easy communication with her grandchildren.

Television was something almost unknown to Katie before she was indisposed. Now, however, she has come to appreciate its pleasures, and her evening begins at 6 pm with the news. She particularly enjoys University Challenge, and also watches the occasional murder mystery such as ‘Murder, She Wrote’ or ‘Midsomer Murders’.

Katie used to love gardening, and grew her own asparagus and other vegetables (she is unimpressed by ‘rather tough’ shop-bought asparagus). Although she claims that she can no longer cook, she admitted – after some probing – that she is ‘developing a passion for lamb chops, cooked on top of the Aga’. Having lost her appetite for a while and hence quite a few pounds, she now revels in eating again, and loves putting together salads with a range of tempting ingredients.

Katie has considered moving, maybe into Woodbridge, but understandably she loves Marsh Cottage so much that she has no immediate plans of going anywhere. Eyke will remain her home; and as a true Eyke villager, Katie still visits the Elephant and Castle for the occasional meal. ❄

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It was a Beatles themed 'When I'm 64' party for my family with a 60s meal, Beatles and 60s music. (Even the people in the bar

were singing away to the classic songs). Sandra and Ian, as always, pulled out all the stops and the staff joined in to add to the occasion. A superb meal of Prawn Cocktail, Scampi and Chips in a basket followed by sumptuous Black Forest Gateau brought back memories of good times past. A surprise appearance of a guest with Union Jack shoes doing an astonishing display of card tricks was a revelation. My thanks to all the best wishes from Eyke residents and Elephant and Castle regulars. **Clive Mann**



Clive Mann's Beatles Birthday, Elephant & Castle, 2015