

I came into the Dylan collectors world through attending the 1979 and '80 conventions in Manchester, and then I made my first international concert trip in 1981, seeing six shows in Europe. When The Telegraph started, I became a subscriber, of course, and when I sent them a letter about a concert recording, in 1982, Dave wrote a very nice letter back. We started corresponding, and swapping tapes, and in 1983 I first visited his home at 36 Abercarn Close. We got on really well, and more letters, and visits, followed over the years. First in Manchester, then in Carlisle and finally in Lancaster.

Of course he introduced me to lots of fascinating people over the years. John Bauldie, John Lindley, John Baldwin, Clinton Heylin, Ian Woodward, Patrick Webster, Dave Heath of course, and countless others. Also Derek, naturally.

And it must also be mentioned that I got to meet all his non-Dylan friends, because there were many of those as well. Being invited to his private, social life, meant a lot to me.

Something I also very much appreciated, I admit, was being introduced to the wonderful world of pub crawls ...

In 1984 we travelled to Newcastle and Wembley in a rented van with Dave's friend Bob Pook and two Italian fans, Elena and Grazia. Dave managed to sleep through all of Santana's set at Wembley (God knows how) and got more sun than was quite healthy for him, I suppose.

And we went, usually in Dave's car, to many more shows over the years, with the Guildhall shows in Portsmouth, in 2000, and that nice little convention, as the final ones.

And, talking about conventions, the ones at Sacha's were always very special and crazy events, and the highpoint for me must be spending an evening with Dave D and Dave H, two other Scandinavian friends ... and Mickey Jones, in 1998. And that would also never have happened if it hadn't been for Dave Dingle.

After that last concert trip in 2000 there were changes in my life, and maybe just coincidences, which led to us never actually meeting again. But that doesn't really change anything, I will forever consider him a close friend, whose good humour, uncommon generosity and friendliness made him a very special person indeed. There is a handful of people who have meant more than others in my life, who have made my life richer, and Dave Dingle is without doubt one of them, and I could easily reminisce about him for hours and hours. But this will have to do for now.

Thanks Dave.

Jörgen