



Flat tyres and broken boots

Transcription of excerpts from interviews with

Ian Harding, John Sanders, Liz Burton, Phil Williams and Sean Taylor,
talking about how they got to Malvern Winter Gardens and how they got home

Ian: So one gig in particular I remember me and my mate we hitched from Hereford, and we got a lift to Malvern very easily, to see AC/DC. Hitched back, and we were lucky enough to get a lift to Chances Pitch, just before Ledbury, but that was it, and we ended up then walking all the way back to Hereford. It took us all night. And, I think we got into my house, which was the Ledbury side of Hereford, at about six in the morning, and we had to leave for sixth form college in Leominster at seven. And my mother didn't know anything about it. Crept in, got into bed, had half an hour of sleep, and [laughs], and she woke us up to go to college. And that was horrendous, I don't know, well walking home between Ledbury and Hereford the only traffic was Bulmer's Cider lorries, which because they didn't expect to see anyone, were just driving really fast and didn't really care which side of the road they were either, so we were frequently having to leap out of the way. We contemplated sleeping in a phone box at The Trumpet cross roads, but the smell of urine put us off [laughs].

John: When it was just me and me mates used to come up here, we used to have enough money to get up here, but never enough money to get back. So we used to just, we used to go round and ask random strangers if they were going back to Worcester. We only ever had maybe one lot of bother over it, you know. And even then we got, you know, it wasn't that much of a bother 'cause we got out of it. But at the time it was just a natural thing. Get up

there, 'cause once you're up there it doesn't matter. Worry about getting back, you know, when it's finished.

Liz: Status Quo in 1972, the platform fell off my platform boot. And we're talking that high. It was half way up Graham Road, part the way up Graham Road, and I had to walk to the end of the Link, luckily it was my right foot where the platform had fallen off, so I spent the whole, walked all the way to the Link, one foot on the pavement and the other foot in the gutter.

Phil: The journey home, somewhere between Worcester and Inkberrow, on the A422 back to Stratford, there was a bad bend, and I still see it now, even though it was dark at the time. I'm pretty certain that's the bend, which sadly, Charlie failed to take. We hit the kerb hard, and became aware that the passenger tyre was deflating and we had to pull over and work out between ourselves how to change a tyre [laughs], how to change a wheel because we'd never done it before, because we weren't drivers. You know, Charlie had just passed his test and borrowed his parents' car, and he was horrified, and really not looking forward to going home and explaining what had happened. But anyway, we worked out how to get the wheel off and get the spare wheel on, and it seemed like an eternity getting home.

I remember travelling to and from the Joy Division gig in April '80, only because it was a beautifully sunny spring afternoon. We set off early 'cause we hadn't got tickets, we set off early, and the journey to the Joy Division gig was beautiful 'cause I remember sort of seeing the sun over the Malverns, and it wasn't warm, but it was a, you know, a crystal blue, clear blue sky. And when we came back that night it was a star filled, a star filled sky, and that sticks in my mind.

Sean: We then used to have to get the bus back to Worcester, the 144 that used to pick up by the Mount Pleasant, at the top of the hill. And it was about twenty past ten, so you had to be pretty quick if they did an encore. I think they were told, "For God's sake finish at ten or they'll all bugger off back to Worcester".

And we used to fill up the entire bus on the way back. And then there was one a bit earlier. So if you didn't want to stand up you went on like the ten to ten one, and we always used to stay to the end. And I always used to--, one of my memories of this, you'd get on, the bus driver would drive up to the stop, look at the people getting on the bus and thought, "Jesus, have a look at this lot."

*Transcripts of the full interviews are available from Rock Around the Hills
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