

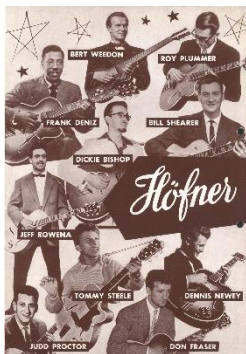


Bubenreuth, 24 March 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

We have heard about your "Adopt a Kiosk" programme - and we find it really fantastic. We are a registered charity running a museum and have been looking for one of the famous K6 phone boxes for our museum for ages. However, we aren't situated in the UK but in the town of Bubenreuth (pop. 4000), in Bavaria, Germany.

Britain and Bubenreuth



The history of our little town of Bubenreuth is inseparably connected with British music history. The British Isles provided the main customers for guitars made in Bubenreuth in the 1950s and 1960s. This is the most important chapter in the history of Bubenreuth guitar-making. In the early 1960s, young people's hearts were conquered by groups from the British Isles: the Shadows, the Kinks, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. And what is striking is that they all made their first steps and achieved success in the music world with instruments from Bubenreuth.



The Guitar Boom in England

The British market had before the war traditionally played a leading part in the sale of musical instruments from Central Europe. But now, thanks to the beat craze, everything that had gone before was put in the shade. The peak was reached in 1957. "The guitar craze hits fortissimo" was the headline in the English press. One large British wholesaler estimated that more than 250,000 instruments had been imported.

Rock Music Pioneers: The Shadows, The ^{SEP} Pirates & The Tornados

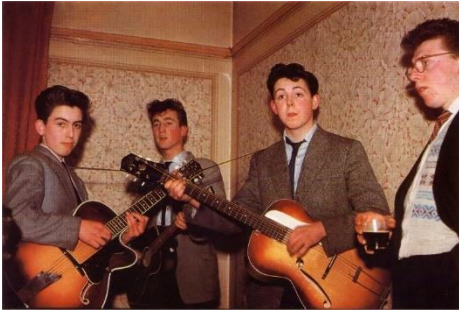


JOHNNY KIDD

"SHAKIN' ALL OVER"
Hit recorder of "PLEASE DON'T TOUCH" & "YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES".
Accompanied by BRIAN GREGG

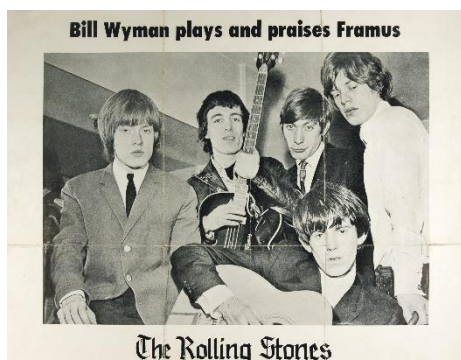
Tommy Steele was Great Britain's answer to Elvis Presley. After their hit *Apache* (1960), the Shadows dominated the British music scene for the next three years. And Johnny Kidd (the Pirates) – not only with *Shakin' All Over* – shaped the sound of British rock music. The third leading group at the outset of the 1960s was The Tornados, fronted by Joe Meek. The musicians used guitars and basses from Bubenreuth which, in their turn, helped define the sound of early rock music.

The Beatles



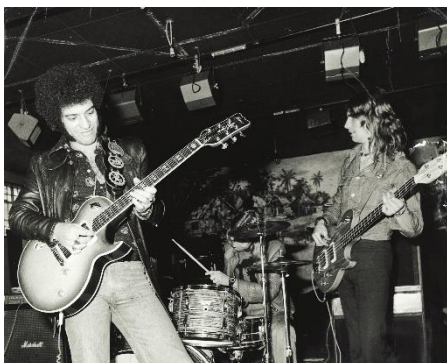
It was primarily the Beatles, the best known pop group of all time, that helped Bubenreuth to fame. John Lennon played a Hofner Club 40 and also a Framus Hootenanny and Paul McCartney also played his first notes on a guitar of the same make, which still hangs in his studio today. Yet the onstage legend was Sir Paul's 'Beatles Bass', the violin-shaped bass guitar by Hofner from Bubenreuth.

The Rolling Stones



Besides the Beatles another English pop group was very successful worldwide: the Stones. It was mainly bass guitar player Bill Wyman who swore by his Bubenreuth instrument. He still has his three Bubenreuth Framus bass guitars today.

British List of Fame



There is no doubt that the 'British invasion', the music scene in the 1960s and the beat craze can hardly be imagined without guitars made in Bubenreuth. The list of legendary British guitarists whose first guitar came from Bubenreuth or who later played on one is long: Paul McCartney (Beatles), Ritchie Blackmore (Deep Purple), Gary Moore, Herb Flowers, Hilton Valentine (The Animals), Andy Summers (Police), Licorice Locking (The Wildcats), John Gustafson, Rick Parfitt (Status Quo), Phil Manzanera (Roxy Music), Jack Bruce, Stan Haldane (The John Barry Seven), Tab Martin (Song Pedlars), Heinz Burt (Tornados), Ray Randall (Tornados), Dave Hill (Slade), Mungo Jerry, Peter Green (Fleetwood Mac), Colin Hicks (Cabin Boys), Ray Davies (The Kinks), Peter Thorpe and Russ Ballard (The Roulettes), and many more.

Bubenreuth Museum

Our new exhibition is due to be opened in 2024. There will be a big section in the new museum dedicated to *Britain and Bubenreuth*. The idea is to have a scene in the new museum showing Abbey Road. Of course there will be the famous Beatles instruments on display. The presentation of Abbey Road will be complemented by a zebra crossing and hopefully by a K6 phone box. Visitors will be able to enter the box and virtually ring one of the British musicians that used to play a Bubenreuth instrument. We are sure that a phone box would fit perfectly into our new exhibition.

We are really looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Susanne Lang, Fritz Gembala, Christian Hoyer

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