

I have come across an ad in the 'Coming Events' column in the Acton Gazette & Post issue of Thursday, March 1st 1962 announcing a Council Dance at Acton Town Hall to be held on Saturday, March 10th 1962. The ad says Ray Norman & His Orchestra and supported by a 'Jazz Group'.

Considering that when the Detours supported the Ray Cavendish Orchestra on September 1st 1962 for the grand re-opening of the newly renovated Acton Town Hall and that when their photograph appeared in the Acton Gazette & Post the Detours were described as the 'Detours Jazz Group' - I am wondering if this particular "Jazz Group" on the Ray Norman & His Orchestra date at Acton Town Hall mentioned-above (Sat, March 10th 1962) could be the Detours possibly mis-named by the dance organisers who would have inserted the ad?

Yes I think it was us. The organisers didn't want Rock n' Roll mentioned as it attracted "THUGS"

According to Pete the Detours played several gigs at Douglas House. Douglas House as you recall was off the Bayswater Road near Marble Arch and was an American servicemen's club. Doug said that the Detours played there on ten occasions and in another response to my questionnaire Colin Dawson said that the Detours certainly played there more than once. But when Doug replied he intimated that it was Gabby Connolly who shared the singing duties with Roger and Doug didn't mention Colin Dawson at all. But in Dawson's reply he give the impression that it was he who either had all of the gigs at Douglas House or else he shared some of the gigs which means that at some stage while the band were still playing Douglas House over a period Colin Dawson left the band and Gabby took over. In Barney's book Max R&B he makes the point that Gabby's country & western songs were a big hit with the American servicemen. This would appear to make more sense.

Can you recall the period of the Douglas House gigs? Pete said you played from 1pm to 3pm on a Sunday afternoon. Was there any particular pattern for those Sundays, like playing Sunday night at the White Hart in Acton?

I'm trying to narrow the time period down for Douglas House, so if there was, say, ten gigs there over how long a period do you think they might have been? Did Douglas House end before Gabby left and you became a four-man unit? - we stopped Douglas House after Gabby left it

was no longer an kind of gig. I think Colin Dawson played the first couple. It was over the space of about 2 months. so that would make Gabby's time with the band about the same. As I said before this was the same time as the Broadstairs Gig. A clue I've used is that we were playing the top 10 and Gerry & the Pacemakers had released. "I like it" "Why do you do it" (not necessarily in that order. I remember playing both of them at Broadstairs.

How Do You do It entered chart 16 Mar 63

I Like It entered chart 1 June 63