

Phil Shepherd was born in Sidcup Kent in 1933. His father was bombed on a ship during the war and his mother died when he was in his early teens. He had a rough start living with various relatives that didn't really want the responsibility and eventually spending a few years homeless in London. He eventually picked himself up doing various jobs but was always into Painting. He lived in Soho and got to know various people in the music and art scene at the time.

One person he met was Gilli Smyth from Gong. They both travelled to Deia together, he had five pesetas in his pocket and a small quantity of cannabis in the other. Somehow again things worked out, probably due to all his friends there and the generally hippy vibe of sharing and little concern for money. He ended up living there on and off for 30 years, painting, playing his conga's in the local bars and doing the odd bit of labour for people to survive.

I remember he owed 8 months rent one time and paid the landlord in paintings. Apart from the poverty, he had an amazing time and all his friends loved and looked after him despite his rather extreme temper tantrums that would on occasion show themselves after too much to drink. However, because of his good heart and his sense of humour - everyone put up with his outbursts. He told me when he had to join national service and the officer shouted at him he would shout back twice as loud.

But during this time he produced lots of paintings and also this music and he had lots of fun. Later he moved back to England so he could get his state pension as he could no longer afford to stay in Deya - he was thin when he came back - I mean when I saw him my face dropped thin. Anyway, he lived relatively comfortably on his state pension and continued to paint until his death in 2015.

He had started to write a book about his life as a promise to one of the mothers of his children but never completed it. He had 7 children from 4 different women and some he didn't get to see much of as they lived in far away countries and he couldn't afford to travel very often.

How he met Ollie I don't know, but Kevin Ayers and Ollie and the Gong crowd were all living there at the time - he was great friends with them
Jerry Hart also played music with him and was out there around that time
My mother Lali is also singing on the Make it Make it I integrate it song

The funny thing is, at the time I was about 7, and I had no idea any of these people were famous musicians or anything like that, they were just friends - I do remember lots of parties and music though

Anyway, I hope you like his tunes - they say a lot about him - his humour - his depth - his dark side and his creative mind.
Dan Shepherd 2017