From an
Probus Talk 27 November 2025

Stages of my Life

Gordon Cree

Gordon Cree gave a fabulous presentation making full use of his skill set developed by being a professional entertainer and musician. These notes can only provide snippets of his presentation that included photos, video and humorous anecdotes.

Gordon was born in Darvel, Ayrshire and from an early age was keen on music and theatre, remembering seeing Margaret Rutherford in a film and playing the piano at home. He went to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) as it then was, and started his professional career with Peggy O'Keefe who had the greatest influence on him. They did two piano tours together. In 1999 he formed the Gordon Cree Trio.

Douglas (Duggie) Chapman, a producer and promoter, gave Gordon work at Blackpool and also introduced him to Evadne Hinge and Hilda Bracket (actually Patrick and George). Gordon got to know them well. He shared his reminiscences about them; they were quite different characters but complemented each other.

Of the many other performers Gordon met were Bernie Clifton (with Ostrich) – a notorious practical joker and Joan Hinde. She was a first-rate trumpeter who entertained the troops and was as good as Eddie Calvert but overshadowed by him.

Though much of his time was in Blackpool Gordon did much touring appearing many places such as the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton. On tour the performers stayed in old theatre digs, some not in the best of condition. In one particularly bad place, kippers were nailed to the back of a wardrobe (and were still there on a later visit?)

A highlight of Gordon's career was he was billed as "Scotland's Musical Virtuoso" in The Night of the Stars organised by the Water Rats and held at Blackpool in 2008.

In 2015 he became Resident Organist at the Blackpool Ball Room, a post previously held by Reginald Dixon. Gordon contrasted the glamorous ambience front of stage with the spartan back stage. There was a hazardous lift for the organ key board console (and organist) to rise from beneath the stage as part of the performance.

Gordon ended his presentation by bursting into song, show-casing his fine voice.