

FANZONE

David Cassidy in EK



Performer
David on stage in Tennessee in 2012

Cassidy fan met star at 'The Big O'



Pop idol Fans flocked to see the star at Shawfield Stadium in 1974



Student reporter Linda worked for Hunter High School newspaper in the seventies



Starstruck The late ex-EK Provost Jimmy Smith meeting David Cassidy at The Olympia with wife Frances and sons Colin and Brian

“ At that time he was the hottest man on the planet...”

Linda Thomson

Linda pays tribute to US teen heart-throb

Andrea O'Neill

A David Cassidy fan who rubbed shoulders with the former teen heart-throb at East Kilbride's Olympia Ballroom in the seventies has expressed her sadness at his recent death.

Ex-pat Linda Thomson was just 14 years old when the US superstar made a pit stop in the town ahead of his concert at Rutherglen's Shawfield Stadium in 1974.

The Daydreamer singer and star of hit TV show The Partridge Family - who in his heyday had a bigger fanclub than Elvis Presley and The Beatles - lost his battle with drink and dementia last week, aged 67.

Former Hunter High School pupil Linda told the News how she bagged an interview with the star while editing the school newspaper.

The Village gran, who moved to Cape Town, South Africa, in 1981, said: "David Cassidy came to Glasgow for a concert. At that time he was bigger than Elvis and The Beatles and the hottest man on the planet."

"East Kilbride Town Council was running a spring clean campaign for the town and

they asked if David Cassidy would do the official opening at the Olympia Ballroom and he agreed.

"Every schoolgirl in town wanted to see him and all the schools banned anyone from taking time off - this wasn't successful as everyone dogged school to go and see him!

"At the time my pal Linda Smith and I were the editors of the school newspaper 'HunterNews' so we took a chance and wrote to the fanclub asking if we could interview him for the school magazine.

"Next we knew we were picked up and taken into 'The Albany Hotel in Glasgow for the official press conference along with all the big newspapers.

"We had one of those wet tape recorders with us and when it was finished the publicist got us back into a car so we could follow David's car back to East Kilbride.

"We ended up on the balcony of The Olympia with David Cassidy waving down at all our schoolmates. I touched his left shoulder and managed to

get an autograph. I remember him being really short and wearing an embroidered jacket - very showbiz - and lots of make-up. He was very pleasant to all of us and it was an experience I still remember 43 years later."

When Cassidy came to Scotland in May 1974 there wasn't an indoor venue big enough to hold his thousands of screaming fans so the gig had to be staged outdoors at Shawfield.

He was welcomed to East Kilbride by former provost, the late Jimmy Smith, pictured, with his wife Frances and their children Brian and David.

Speaking years later, David said: "I can remember flying into Glasgow in 1974, I had my own plane back then - and doing an interview with the BBC before going on to do the concert at Shawfield.

"There were thousands of girls at the airport but as we left the BBC to go to the stadium I was amazed to see girls lined up all along the streets, waving at me from both sides of the road."

Well-travelled financial advisor Linda, 57, added: "It was sad to hear that he died. Everyone watched The Partridge Family and knew all the songs and for my age group he was our first real heart-throb.

"Unfortunately, my younger sister swapped his autograph for something else once I left home.

"I still love going to concerts - my next one is Ed Sheeran in Vienna, Austria, where my daughter lives."

Fond memories
Linda took a trip down memory lane



Cookers, Dishwashers, Washing Machines, Fridges, Freezers

ZANUSSI

www.frankbcraig.co.uk

LOOK ONLINE FOR EXCLUSIVE OFFERS



1300 SPIN

7KG

NOW £269.99

CONNECT & COLLECT SERVICE AVAILABLE

FREE DELIVERY

SAME/NEXT DAY DELIVERY ON STOCK ITEMS

www.frankbcraig.co.uk

BUY NOW PAY LATER ON ALL PURCHASES OVER £200 T&Cs apply

Sold as an agent of Euronics Ltd

Frank B. Craig

EURONICS

Union St, Larkhall 01698 882029



HUGE SELECTION OF BUILT IN APPLIANCES

Cookers, Dishwashers, Washing Machines, Fridges, Freezers, Washer, Dryer

Cookers, Dishwashers, Washing Machines, Fridges, Freezers, Washer, Dryer