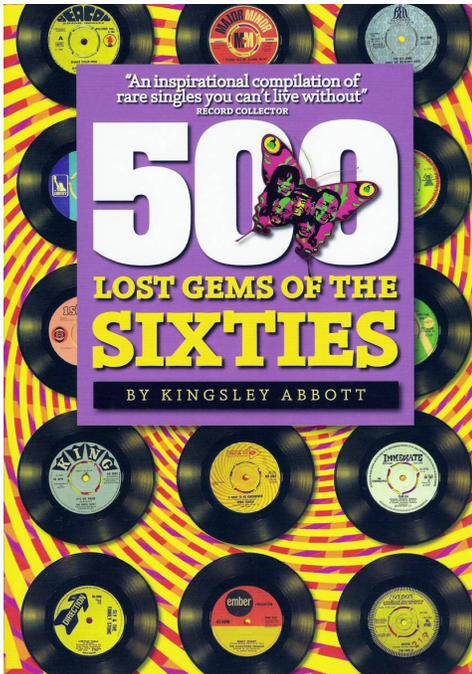


500 Lost Gems Of The Sixties

By Kingsley Abbott



This is a quite superb appreciation of vinyl...in particular the 45. Visually stimulating, it makes you excited about the classic period of the 45 and want to hold and play the 'Lost Gems'. No other book exists that brings the decades music alive so well and tells anyone interested in it's music what many like me found along the way but more importantly what we missed and have discovered since. And there are many in this volume that even the biggest collectors may have missed.

The Four Seasons are featured with tracks like 'Candy Girls' and 'Tell It To The Rain'. Also featured are several tracks on which Jean Thomas performed lead or on background, including two 'Rag Dolls' singles and with the Beach-Nuts, 'Out-In-The-Sun'

But this is a UK orientated tribute to the 45 and lots of the tracks feature UK groups and artists, which give the whole picture a more balanced snapshot of the music scene as it was for those teenagers buying records during the decade in the UK.

The tracks are featured by year with a snapshot review of each year's major music and historical events. You can see how the style of music and sounds changed year by year through the decade because it traces the musical 'timeline'. There are feature articles to spotlight artists and labels that had the biggest impact and the genres are also featured, like the girl sound, the instrumentals and the club scene.

Every page paints a small picture of the music scene and it is reminiscent of the music papers of the day and their reviews and news on the movers and new releases. Pity there isn't a web site so we can log on and listen to all these tracks. An essential book for anyone who loves 60s music. Ken Charmer



The Rag Dolls

Amongst the rarer singles featured are the Rag Dolls 'Society Girl' and 'Dusty' but like John Clemente in his book 'Girl Groups', Kingsley uses the wrong picture of the Rag Dolls which features the group Bob Crewe sent out on the road and doesn't include our good friend and lead singer, Jean Thomas. Jean told us...
"It's a shame everyone got a hold of the wrong Rag Dolls photo, but I guess a lot of that is my fault. I'm the one who kept saying I didn't want to be promoted as a Rag Doll. Being the lead singer in the studio was enough for me. I didn't want to go on the road I just wanted to sing." We'll get the photo changed when the book gets a re-print.

Jean keeps in touch with Mikie Harris who was also in the group and others from the many singers who joined her in groups, back-up and commercials during the 60s. Jean has promised to finish her biography with us covering the times she was a Rag Doll over the next few months.....Ken Charmer