

Pensioner plans to invite Sir Paul McCartney to open revamped Sub Rooms

PLAY IT AGAIN IN STROUD!

by Donna Findlay

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FORMER Beatle Sir Paul McCartney will help re-open Stroud's revamped Subscription Rooms if a local pensioner has a little luck.

Joe Salt, 84, plans to ask the pop legend to open the prominent town centre building after discovering it was one of the first places where The Beatles performed a properly-promoted concert outside of Liverpool.

Mr Salt, of Weyhouse Close, said he discovered the original Fab Four played a concert in the Subscription Rooms on March 31, 1962, to an audience of more than 400, just before they became huge international stars.

The Subscription Rooms building is undergoing a £600,000 revamp, which includes restoring the original double staircase, installing a lift to give disabled people access, upgrading the toilets and cafe and improving the acoustics.

Ceremony

Mr Salt said he thought it would be fitting for Sir Paul to cut the ribbon at the re-opening ceremony.

"They did a programme on The Beatles and mentioned Stroud was one of the first places they had played in outside Liverpool so I thought it would be nice if Sir Paul McCartney could come to open it," said Mr Salt.

"I rather like him and their music, although I must say I am 84 so I do not dance around to the music, but I think The Beatles were great.

"They charged £30 when they came the first time - I would think it would be a lot more this time."

The Tim Sysum Gentleman's Hairdressers' shop in Stroud has an original copy of the Subscription Rooms concert poster.

And Bob Lusty, of Stonehouse, said he remembered the gig and even chatted to the band afterwards.

"It would be great if Paul McCartney came back to Stroud and I could meet him again," he added.

Dave Marshall, spokesman for Stroud District Council which owns the listed building, said it was considering asking Sir Paul to open the building.

"We think it is a good idea," he said. "The opening is likely to coincide with the Stroud Festival in September, so we will have to talk to the festival organisers and our own councillors, but it would be great."



It would be fab to have you here: Joe Salt, above, recalls The Beatles' concert at the Sub Rooms and hopes Sir Paul McCartney, top right, will pay a return visit.

Main photo: Richard Besant