

MMTour REPORT 2022 by JACQUELINE CAMPOLI

Happiness is.....

Going on the Magical History Tour with Liverpool Productions, hosted by Charles Rosenay!!!, this indeed was the trip of a lifetime! If you love the Beatles, this is a must, so Step Right Up to hear all about what a Fab time was had by all.

We began our journey by meeting most of our fab fans who gathered at JFK to travel to London. Our overnight flight brought us to Heathrow Airport where we were greeted and picked up by a lovely and relaxing coach, and we rode through the outskirts of London. Our incredibly knowledgeable tour guide, Rene van Haarlem, who published an international magazine, Beatles Unlimited, and hosted Beatles Conventions in the Netherlands, guided us through our London treasure troves of Beatles History!



Our first stop was in Osterley Park and House where we posed and reenacted the cover of Paul McCartney's "Band on the Run" album! Next, we visited Chiswick House and Gardens where The Beatles made the promotional films for "Paperback Writer" and "Rain." Photos by Michele Longenbach.



Michele Longenbach

We took endless photos and our fearless leader, Charles, even mounted a lion (something he hasn't attempted in years!).

We traveled on the Long and Winding Road to Twickenham Film Studios where "A Hard Day's Night" and "Help!" scenes were filmed, and where the Beatles rehearsed music for the "Let It Be" album, as seen in the "Get Back" footage. We ventured to many outdoor sights from the "Help!" movie, including

the four front doors of the John, Paul, George, and Ringo residence(s) in the movie. We even stood atop the manhole cover in the film, and we spied the pub The Beatles visited (The Winchester Room) while filming the movie.

We continued our panoramic bus tour through London and the City of Westminster and Mayfair. We were able to view the major sight-seeing attractions such as Marble Arch Square, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Parliament Square Garden and Buckingham Palace! The Queen was still alive when we were there. What a delight!

With no Golden Slumbers in our eyes, the next morning was filled with anticipation as we finished breakfast and prepared ourselves for the thrill of a lifetime: walking across the infamous Abbey Road!



We stopped traffic and loved every minute of the experience. We continued to walk to Abbey Road Studio, where we took group shots and pinched ourselves to make sure this was reality.

We couldn't resist the gift shop where treasures from our visit were purchased and kept as part of our memorabilia to take home. Pictured is Terry and Linda Crain inside the shop. We even signed the walls of the Studio to leave our indelible mark at Abbey Road!



We then walked along the streets of St. John's Wood and passed Billy Fury's London house, before we touched and stood in front of the wooden gates of 7 Cavendish Ave... the residence of Sir Paul McCartney! By the way, he still owns and resides there while he is in London.

We hopped a bus to Marylebone and ran down the street - just like our guys did in the movie "A Hard Day's Night." Fortunately, no one took a tumble like George did in the movie!



We saw where John lived in 1968, the home of the Apple Boutique, and the Asher family residence where Peter and Jane Asher lived. We stopped at EMI studio where the famous covers of The Beatles' Red and Blue album were photographed in the building's stairwell.

We saw the BBC and continued our journey to SOHO. We visited the regal London Palladium and passed the London residence of Brian Epstein. Carnaby Street was such a treat, and you can still feel the streets beating with excitement of the fab fashions of the '60s! Nestled in Soho is the original location of the Bag O'Nails venue, where Jimi Hendrix played in 1966 and Paul met Linda Eastman on May 15, 1967.



As if our journey couldn't get any more exciting, we traveled on to Mayfair to the posh street of Saville Row, to see The Beatles' former office building and the famed location where The Beatles played their last performance on the rooftop. Most recently a retail location of Abercrombie & Fitch, now it is closed. But if only the walls could talk!



We ventured through Piccadilly Circus and found some more souvenirs and a nice refreshing ice cream treat. Imagine, our last stop was to 1 Soho Square, MPL Communications, Paul McCartney's music publishing company since 1970. We ended our last night in London in Mayfair, at the very first Hard Rock Café, owned by Isaac Tigrett (who married Maureen Starkey after she and Ringo split). We celebrated our tour-member MaryEllen's birthday and were treated to a special viewing in the coveted vault of the Hard Rock Café. We had the added treat of the knowledgeable ASH filling us with information and photos about his interactions with all the famous musicians who regularly perform and hang out at the Hard Rock Café. The vault contained treats to see beyond our wildest imaginations.

The next morning, we had an early breakfast and boarded our luxury coach. As we said goodbye to London, we picked up our Mexican friends, another group of fab fans, who were also on their own Beatles tour. We headed to Henley-on-Thames, George's beloved town and home of "Crackerbox Palace" - Friar Park, where Olivia and Dhani reside to this day. The town is quaint and boasts The Angel, a pub where George often had a drink, and the church across the way which is the resting place of the lovely Dusty Springfield.



Along with our newly-acquired friends, we left Henley and said Hello and Hola to Liverpool, home of our beloved JohnPaulGeorgeRingo, and a host of famous spots where our fab four lived and moved about.



Upon arrival, we couldn't resist walking the great Mathew Street, home of the Cavern Club. We were all speechless as we gaped at the Cavern Club, The Beatles Museum, and sights upon sights of anything and everything Beatles! There was even a huge Sgt Pepper mural across from the Grapes and we couldn't resist posing for another group shot!

We stopped at the themed Hard Day's Night Restaurant, and sitting there, grabbing a bite to eat, was the talented and lovely Shannon (Beatle artist) MacDonald, Joey Molland of Badfinger, and the illustrious Mark Hudson, amongst other guests. Shannon hugged us and highly recommended the Sticky Toffee Bread pudding, which of course we indulged in!



As if Yesterday couldn't be topped, Friday, we grabbed breakfast and boarded our coach for a lovely tour with renowned author David Bedford of "Liddypool" fame, and many other books. First stop was to the Docks with the stunning bronze Beatles statues. Yes, we took group photos.

Then it was a lovely Ferry across the Mersey, renamed after Gerry Marsden, a Beatles friend and recording artist, who sang the epic song. We feasted our eyes upon Paul's house in Liverpool that he bought for his Dad, and we saw the hospital where Paul McCartney was born, and the venue in the lovely peaceful Merseyside village of Port Sunlight, where Ringo made his official debut with The Beatles.

Below is a photo of four authors (David Bedford, Jan Mitchell, Charles F. Rosenay!!!, Terry Crain) in front of four other famous figures.



We were on our merry way to the Casbah Coffee Club, run by Roag Best, brother of the drummer before Ringo, Pete Best. Let me take you down to the cellar of this truly iconic club which served as a venue for rock and roll music during the 1950s and 1960s. The Casbah was ahead of its time and known for the place to hear the best music! It was wonderful to be here and certainly a thrill to learn how Mona Best, a British music club proprietor, was instrumental in booking and promoting the music we know and still love today. Roag was a phenomenal host, and his hospitality was greatly appreciated.

Next, David ushered us into the locale of the well-known “Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” songs. We wandered through Strawberry Fields, and strolled through Penny Lane, drove through the Roundabout, where the Barber lives, and saw the Banker who never wears a mask. We took in the many sights from The Beatles songs, as we reminisced along with the childhood memories of John and Paul.



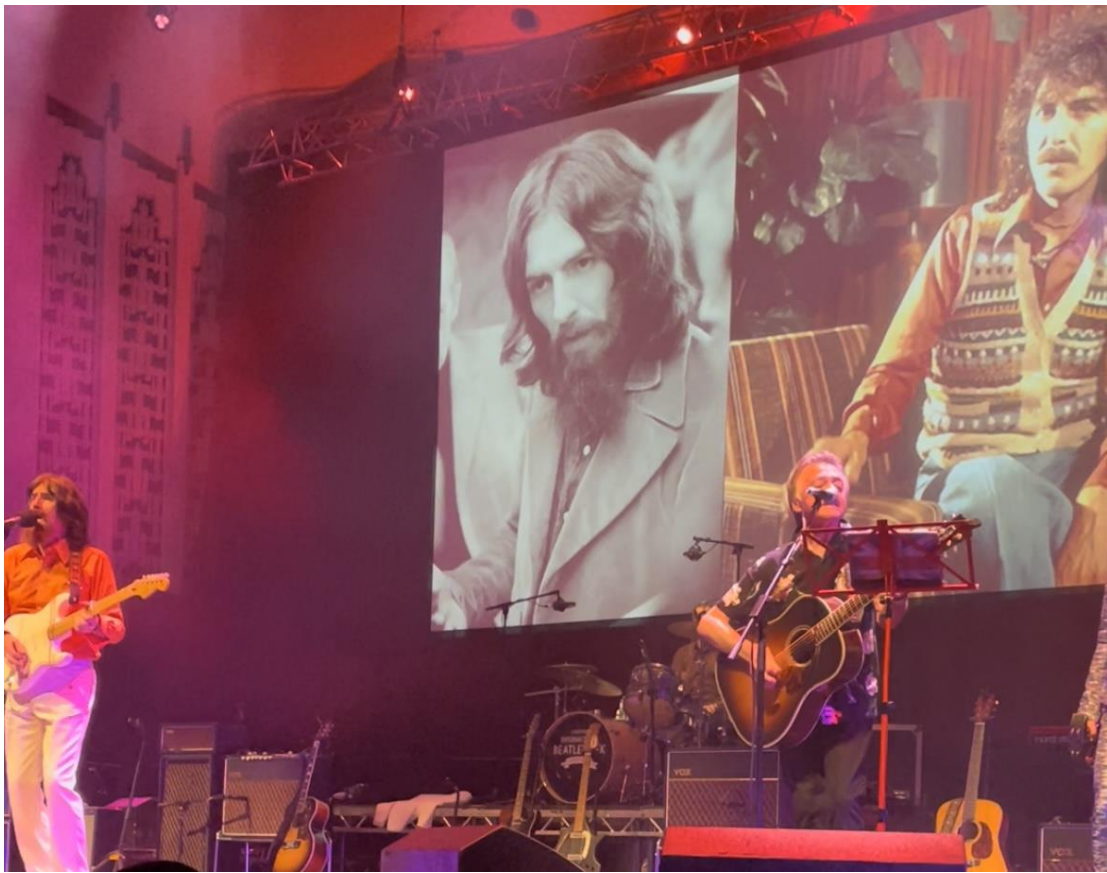
It should be noted that we didn't just take photos by the Strawberry Field gates, we went inside, experienced the new museum exhibition there, and walked the grounds. We pulled up to the bold bright and beautiful Ringo mural painted on the Empress, a local pub near Ringo's childhood home where Ringo's Mother has worked. The pub was used as the cover of Ringo's Sentimental Journey album. Yet another amazing sight to behold!

You may say that I am a dreamer, but I am not the only one on this trip! It was surreal to visit St. Peter's Church Hall in Woolton where the fated meeting of John Lennon and Paul McCartney took place on July 6, 1957. David Bedford related the history of both the historic meeting and the location.



We ended our Friday evening with our first concert of Beatleweek Liverpool 2022 with a George and John star-studded gala concert at the majestic Liverpool Philharmonic. The opening act was a George Harrison lookalike/soundalike, with a special guest appearance by Joey Molland of Badfinger. The tribute show was highlighted by a Lennon extravaganza featuring three members of John Lennon's "Double Fantasy" recording musicians: Earl Slick, Tony Levin and Andy Newmark. Mark McGann was the lead singer, and Mark Hudson was the special guest.





Saturday morning August 27, 2022, we had the privilege of witnessing history as they unveiled the long-deserved statue of Brian Epstein. It was a moving experience and in attendance was a sea of fans singing and honoring the legacy of the Fifth Beatle. We will never forget being a part of this and leaving all of our love near the former site of NEMS record shop in Whitechapel. There were hundreds of fans there for the unveiling, with celebrities in abundance.

We saw members of Brian Epstein's family, three Quarrymen: Rod Davis, Colin Hanton (with one-time Beatles Chas Newby between them) and Len Garry (seated), Behind them is a Brian Epstein look-alike.



Badfinger's Joey Molland paid his respects, and Gerry Marsden's wife Pauline was also there with her daughter. We couldn't get over how much Gerry Marsden's daughter resembled her Dad.



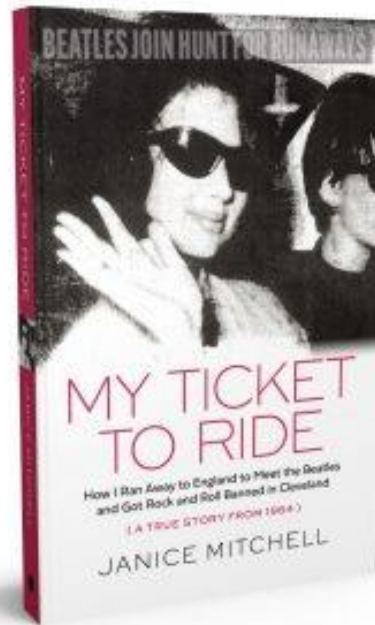
We celebrated the music of Paul and Ringo at a matinee performance at the Liverpool Philharmonic. Mark Hudson was the guest performer, and the concert was spectacular. The series of concerts at the Philharmonic concluded in the evening with a performance by the unbelievable Swedish Band, Pepperland, and the Cavern Club Beatles, with Adam Hastings as John and Tony Coburn as Paul.



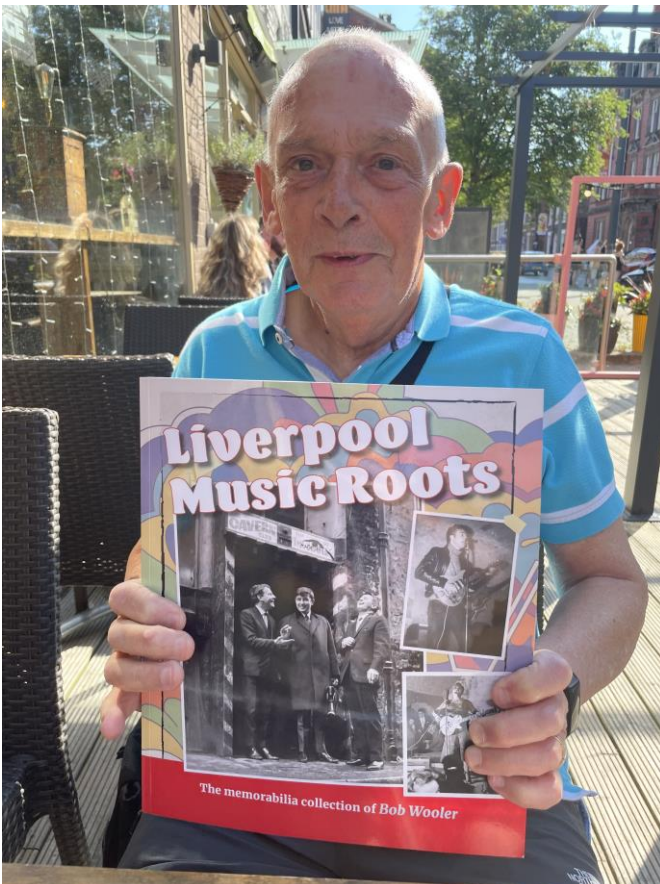
Sunday! The long-awaited Convention Day! It was a multitude of Beatles fans, memorabilia, music, and guest presenters, two of which were our own Charles Rosenay!!! and Janice Mitchell! It was such a treat hearing them speak on stage, interviewed by British author Spencer Leigh. Charles was joined by a local gentleman, Sir Ron Watson CBE, who saw The Beatles live 100 times!



As for Jan Mitchell, if you haven't yet read her great book "My Ticket to Ride," you are missing out on a FAB read! I highly recommend it!



Our senses were on overload as we caught sight of artwork, celebs, scholars, authors and even a Ringo look-alike. Julia Baird, Len Garry, Earl Slick, Tony Levin, Andy Newmark, Joey Molland, Shannon, and Mark Hudson were just a few of the notables who were in attendance. We were all here with one thing in common, a love for the Fab Four and this common love has been bringing people together since The Beatles were first heard all those years ago.



It should be noted that we also had author Terry Crain on our tour. His book, "NEMS and the Business of Selling Beatles Merchandise in the U.S. 1964-1966," covers officially licensed Beatles items in the U.S. between 1964-1966.

Dave Jones, a partner in Cavern City Tours and the Cavern Club, had just released a great new book on Cavern DJ Bob Wooler, "Liverpool Music Roots," but he didn't make it to the convention.

On Monday, we visited the personal childhood homes of John Lennon and Sir Paul McCartney! Half of us had done this already the day before. This was a splendid and heart-throbbing experience. To stand in their homes, to be a part of their intimate lives, was

truly like nothing I have ever felt. There were tears of joy streaming down our faces as we momentarily embraced their lives and witnessed where history was truly made. The other members of the group made their way to Yacht Club Marina for live music.

We all reunited for the “Get Back Rooftop” concert and spent the evening literally twisting and shouting on the roof of the nearby grand Shankly Hotel!

Tuesday, our last day in Liverpool, was a free day, and we were not going to miss a second of more Beatlemania memories-to-be-made! We took every opportunity to visit more Beatles sights. We explored The Beatles Story exhibit at Albert Docks; no words can explain how fabulous this museum was. Next, we visited the Beatles Liverpool Museum in Mathew Street, undisputedly the greatest museum Across The Universe. On our way in, but what to our wondering eyes should appear, but both Pete and Roag Best, creators and curators of the museum! They were warm, hospitable, and took time to take photos with us! Below is a photo of us meeting outside the incredible museum!



We did a bit more shopping and collected more treasures to add to our collections. Our luggage was now stocked to overflowing.

It was our final night (for now, that is), and we had to Shake It Up Baby, as we danced to the many Beatles performing bands at the Cavern. There was once a way to get back

home, but no one wanted to go home! Every moment of our journey was like stepping back in time and reliving a piece of history and we weren't ready to let go.

Rise and shine! We boarded our coach ride from Liverpool to Manchester, where our tour-leader and host, Charles, kept us entertained with stories of past trips. He also announced the awards/honors presented to the tour-members. As we reflect, all these places will be remembered, and in our lives, we will love them all. Our journey has not ended, but truly has begun, as we made lasting friendships and shared memories that will last a lifetime. So, for now, we will Let It Be, but we will look with anticipation for the next time we can board the Magical History Tour! Because in the end the love we take is equal to the love we make!



Jacqueline Campoli, August 2022