

# The Waterfront - 5th March 2018

## **THE WATERFRONT (Record Store Day) feature by Matt Mead.**

The Waterfront featured some of the music heavyweights that would light up the Manchester music scene in the years to come, and were, at this time, not fully aware what would come to fruition.

Lead singer **Kaiser** takes up the story: "I was brought up in north Manchester (New Moston) going to the local schools (North Manchester High School for Boys) but ended up at South Chadderton. I was never into music as a kid, but one day I got listening to Anarchy In The UK and they blew my world right open."

Rhythm guitarist **Andy Couzens**: "John Squire (lead guitarist) and I had already been in / tried other bands together. The other 3 we had met in town, I think. This is a long time ago."

**Kaiser**: "The rest of the lads had a punk upbringing, with me and Mani regularly going to The Russell Club, and later all of us getting into the scooter scene. This got us going about town, meeting up with lads on the other side of the city and meeting up with other similar-minded people including John Squire. If I remember, me and Mani had the idea of forming a band. By this time, Chris was only living up the road from us. We put the word out and were approached by the fantastically talented John Squire, who bought Andy on board. And that was that, we were all good to go !"

"I wrote the track Normandy after a trip to France with some of the lads. At that time we were basically skint and were sneaking onto the ferries, then sleeping on the beaches. Including the one where the D-Day landing had happened in the war and just thinking that thousands of men got killed, and they would have been tired and wondering if they would make it back home. As for When The Wind Blows, it was about a book John had been looking at, which was about nuclear war, which he came up with at his house. The whistling was hard because we were having such a good time. It was really funny. There were other songs that we wrote at that time but I can't remember much about them. After recording the songs, they were sent out all over the place to different venues, clubs and studios who

could try and get us on, or a foot in the door. But at that time, bands were struggling to play and it was this that started the end of the band.”

See also, the recollections of drummer **Chris Goodwin** here:

<http://www.pdmcauley.co.uk/Interviews/ChrisGoodwin2013.htm>

Fast forward 30 years and Record Store Day have announced the official first release of The Waterfront tracks. I think it was through Andy Couzens sending me the original reel to reel tape of The Waterfront that it was then known the pristine recordings were in existence, of which I wrote about on Louder Than War back in 2016. Since then, the idea to release the tracks was discussed between the band and now it is ready to be released for a very special charity, Christie. The largest cancer centre in Europe.

**Kaiser:** “It was a bit of a shock to be asked if I minded if the songs could get released after all this time. But when I found out the money is going to Christie Cancer Charity, I was over the moon. What a fantastic cause. Having lost both my parents and lots of friends to cancer, it was only right that we said yes.”

You can find out more news on The Waterfront release on the Record Store Day website and on the Vinyl Revival website. The rest of the Record Store Day list will be made available tomorrow.

**All words by Matt Mead.**