

The "Kid" Shillito Ragtime Band pictured at the Studio 51, Leicester Square in 1959. 65 YEARS AGO!!!. Left to right: Dave Cutting trombone, Johnny Mason bass, Pete Ridge drums, Roy Loscombe banjo, Graham Paterson piano, John "Kid" Shillito trumpet, Sammy Rimington clarinet.

Back in 1959, the "Kid" Shillito Ragtime Band was a regular and popular featured band at the Studio 51, Ken Colyer Club, in London's West end, and busy seven nights a week filling jazz clubs from Brighton in the South to New Brighton in the North; including the Liverpool Cavern Club, before it became home to the Beatles.

Sammy, still in his 'teens, was already known as a prodigy clarinet virtuoso, and the Shillito Band was inspired by the exciting, free flowing, music of the famous George Lewis Band of New Orleans.

Sammy went on to become a featured member of Ken Colyer's Jazzmen, and, later, the Chris Barber Band, before leading his own exciting bands internationally, and establishing himself as one of the world's foremost musicians in the New Orleans idiom. For over 50 years, Sammy's been a regular performer at jazz festivals in New Orleans, and most of the rest of the world. He now lives in Sweden, but he's in the UK for a short while, and, just before Christmas, phoned John Shillito to suggest that it would be nice if they could find opportunities to make music together again Feeling that it wouldn't be easy to organise a jazz club or arts centre tour, at such short notice, John phoned his good friend Antony Brunt at the Yarn Market Hotel in Dunster, Somerset.....

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