Chance to relive memories from former West Runton Pavilion nightspot

By Sophie Wyllie Sophie.Wyllie@Archant.Co.Uk 14th June 2014

The Jam photographed by music fan and photographer Richard Brooks at the West Runton Pavilion

The West Runton Pavilion near Cromer, demolished in 1987, was the place to go for music lovers in the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

And people will be able to relive the memories and look at photos and other memorabilia of the popular nightspot on October 4 at the West Runton Social Club during a music night.

Organisers are encouraging people to share their memories of the venue beforehand.

Future Radio DJ Nigel Pearce, from Roughton Road, Cromer, said: 'It was an iconic venue and place to show anybody of note from when it opened to when it closed. It was a very innovative and groundbreaking venue. It was a place for all tastes of music. It catered for the local people, which was important.'

He added the pavilion brought colour and vibrancy to the north Norfolk coast and allowed people, especially the younger generation, to find out what was current and big in the music industry.

Mr Pearce, who is on the organising committee, said: 'We see this as an event for the community. We hope to get some photographs. This could be a one-off event.'

Having moved to Fakenham from London in 1990, he felt he missed out by not going to a pavilion gig.

The venue was originally a dance hall and was built on the side of the Village Inn.

Originally called the North Norfolk Pavilion, it was the first dance hall in the country to run a free coach service to and from dances, starting in 1947 with a single coach from Wells.

The service was extended to villages and towns including Holt, North Walsham and Fakenham.

By March 1954 the venue was known as the West Runton Pavilion and over the years traditional entertainment gave way to rock and roll.

On August 19 1976 the Sex Pistols allegedly performed in front of about 30 people.

Other bands at the pavilion included the Stranglers, the Jam, the Clash and the Four Tops.

The celebration night, supported by Future Radio, will start at 7.30pm and anyone can attend.

There are 250 tickets, each costing £2.50 each, if collected, £3.25 if posted, and £4.50 on the night. Call Malcolm Birtwell on 01263 821838.

Do you have a musical history story? Email sophie.wyllie@archant.co.uk