

# CHARLIE GRACIE

By Dave Bambrough. 2009.


*Charlie Gracie*

Sandown Chronicle Page 8

**DECEMBER 1958**  
By Dave Bambrough. December 2008

As a comparison to the present day I thought it would be interesting to have a look at what was happening locally during the month of December 1958 with regard to Christmas and normal daily events.

Teenagers at the time were not exactly overwhelmed with a choice of entertainment outside of the home. Sandown Youth Club was open at the Fairway School, but number one on their list was probably the town Cinemas. Showing at the Rivoli Cinema (Station Avenue) on December 4<sup>th</sup>, was a rock n' roll film entitled "Disc Jockey Jamboree". The two-featured artists were American singers, Jerry Lee Lewis and Charlie Gracie. Jerry Lee is still going strong today at 73, whilst Charlie Gracie a mere stripling at 72 is also still on the circuit. Amazingly, Charlie is performing in Shanklin during December of this year and still plays a mean guitar. Although many people claim never to have heard of him, Charlie had four top 20 hits in 1957. For those that do, they were; Butterfly, Fabulous, Wanderin' Eyes and I Love you so much it hurts. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> the Queens were showing "The Lone Ranger and



**RIVOLI** STATION AVENUE,  
SANDOWN. Phone 361.  
Continuous 5.30 p.m. Saturday at 2.15.  
Thursday, December 4th for 3 days. Last Prog. 7.15.  
JERRY LEE LEWIS CHARLIE GRACIE  
and 17 Great Recording Stars in  
**DISC JOCKEY JAMBOREE**  
Jimmy Durante Jane Wynn  
YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW

As reported in the last Chronicle, Charlie Gracie the American Rock & Roll singer was due to appear live in Shanklin during December. This he duly did at Shanklin Conservative Club on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Singing all of his hits amongst many other rock and roll classics of the time, he also demonstrated what a great virtuoso guitarist he is by delivering a non-vocal performance, which held the audience spellbound. Charlie received a standing ovation at the end of his performance, which he had more than earned.

He was more than delighted on seeing that he was featured in the local paper and gratefully accepted a copy to take back to the States. He then signed my copy, perhaps making it a collector's item for the future!!

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