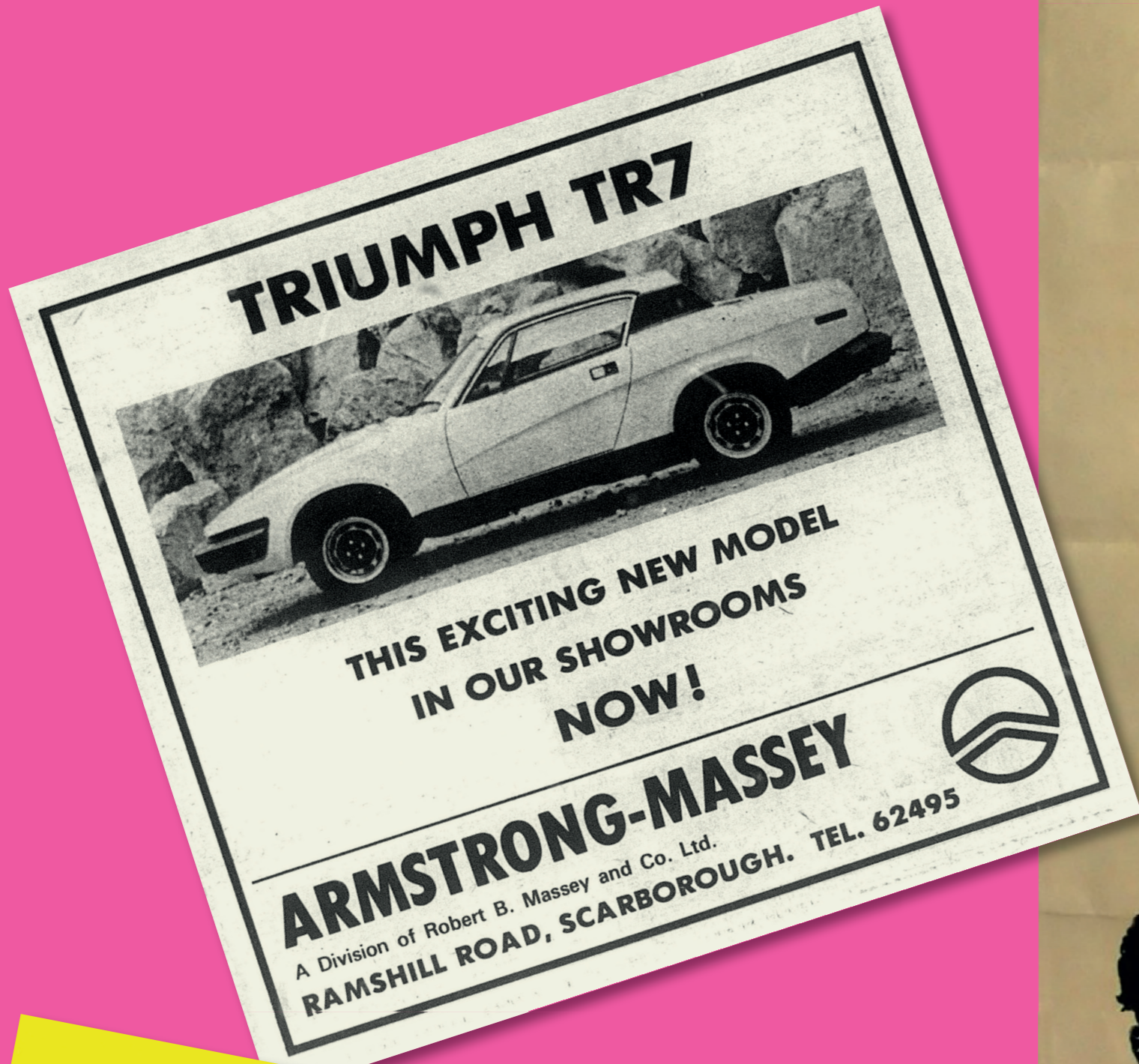


NEVER MIND THE POLLOCKS...



On Thursday 20th May, Scarborough fishermen had one eye on the ensuing Cod War. Others in the town were anticipating a more amicable Euro-battle, the Seadogs later defeating Udinese in the Anglo-Italian Cup with a thumping 4-0 victory. Elsewhere life rumbled on as the NorthEast Co-op offered Silver soft margarine and new Daz washing powder. The Armstrong-Massey showroom on Ramshill Road was excitedly displaying the brand-new Triumph TR7, Seiko digital watches were the latest must-have thing at Sizer Jewellers, Don Robinson had big plans for Marineland and Woodheads Bakery were taking on new staff.

The Capitol cinema offered a choice of sex or suspense, with The Bawdy Adventures of Tom Jones and the Spielberg thriller Duel. Spielberg had rewritten the cinematic rules the previous summer with Jaws, and Duel was an opportunistic re-run of his debut film. Tom Jones was nothing to do with the 'sex bomb' Welsh popstar, but an X-certificate comedy romp featuring the ubiquitous Joan Collins. The cinema poster strangely foreshadowed the 1980 film The Great Rock 'N' Roll Swindle which told a heavily mythologised story of the Sex Pistols through a tableau of licentious period vignettes.

Look closely at page 5 of the Evening News and you would read a small announcement for a little-known band at the Penthouse - The Sex Pistols. It quotes frontman Johnny Rotten letting everyone know how he is going to change the face of music. It comes from a Sounds feature, with the journalist Jonh Ingham noting how Rotten fixed him with a non-stop "sneer and direct-eye blitz". The interview concludes with Rotten declaring: "I'm against people who just complain about Top of the Pops and don't do anything. I want people to go out and start something, to see us and start something".

As the Sex Pistols were preparing for their gig, Top of the Pops was broadcasting its weekly instalment. It concluded with host David Hamilton introducing the number one single, Cliff Richard's 'Devil Woman'. Wearing tight jeans, a tee-shirt announcing his LP I'm Nearly Famous, and sporting oh-so-nice hair he enraptured the studio audience. Other people were thinking of just maybe starting something...

Top: Newspaper extracts from Scarborough Evening News, theatrical poster for The Bawdy Adventures of Tom Jones and agitprop stickers produced by Jamie Reid for Suburban Press, 1972-73 (courtesy of John Marchant Gallery)

Above right: Gig promotional flyer and advertisement in the Scarborough Evening News
Bottom: Cliff Richard performs on Top of the Pops, annotations based on early work by Jamie Reid

