

Ten Years After came together about six months ago.

Alvin Lee, Leo Lyons, Ric Lee and Chick (he has no other name!), came together to make music. To make music by themselves . . . of themselves.

After a "getting together" period of about a month and a half the group made their debut appearance at London's famous Marquee Club.

To quote John C. Gee, manager of the Club, "I first met them one afternoon in the late spring of this year. I was working away in my office when suddenly I heard the strains of Woody Herman's "Woodchoppers Ball". Seized with curiosity, I entered the Club and there on stage were these four guys obviously having a wild (Woodchoppers?) ball. To this day I've never discovered how they came to be there and I've never really bothered to ask. I was wildly excited with their playing and gave them a date at the Marquee."

Since that very first Marquee booking Ten Years After have become a regular feature at the club and each successive appearance outstrips the one before in terms of audience reaction. They are the only group ever to play at the Marquee and get ecstatic applause after solos.

The group's talents received much wider recognition in August when they appeared at the 7th National Jazz and Blues Festival at Windsor and received a standing ovation from a 20,000-strong crowd.

To have their music widely appreciated is the aim of Ten Years After. They call what they play "progressive blues" and their individual talents are quite startling, with guitarist Alvin, in particular, being lauded to the skies by fellow musicians and fans alike.

The phenomenal success which they have met with in a few short months is an indication to those who have

not heard them that perhaps there is "something there" . . .

. . . to hear their Deram records is to realize just how much.

To follow up a hit single with an LP is usual, but when the reverse happens, then clearly something of a revolution has occurred.

Such has happened in the case of Ten Years After, a group who has so much to say, that an album was the only means of expression.

But let us consider the facts — and if the fact that these four diverse personalities got together in the first place is remarkable — the manner in which this happened is nothing short of incredible.

They actually met in a North Wales bus shelter, and this was the 'cue' they had all been waiting for! There was Alvin, tall, moody and intense, brilliant guitarist, and now the main musical 'thinker' of the group. Ex-pilot Leo, probably the most highly-rated bass player in England, to whom the old American West is secondary only to music. And the terrible twins Ric and Chick, one well-loved and quiet, and the other irrepressible and an incorrigible looner. Together their personalities fit as intricately and effectively as the firing mechanism of an H-Bomb — and potentially more powerful.

From the early days at the Marquee, the standing ovation at the 7th Windsor Jazz and Blues Festival by a rapturous crowd of 20,000 and indescribable scenes of adulation on the Continent, has come a very individual, very personal brand of music which cannot be categorized.

Now the time is ripe for the world to share in their music, the revolution is won, to be climaxed by a tumultuous uprising — in the charts.