

Flog It star Paul heading our way

He was once a drummer but now is a popular face on the TV as a celebrity antiques expert

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Heritage, TV, supporting my young family and wife are the passions of my life, says popular celebrity antiques expert Paul Martin.

The 62-year-old is heading to Lynn to give a talk in March and we talked to him to see what else he has been up to.

Best known for his days on Flog It, perhaps it is less well known that as a professional session drummer he played with the likes of the Average White Band.

Getting a stall of London's Portobello Road led him to a twin career which finally led to TV. He said: "I filmed Flog It for 20 years making over 1,000 episodes, filming on average 200 days in the year.

"With Flog It being axed (2019), I now film about 100 days a year, but it's still being shown on BBC2 TV, so I am fortunate to have had the series and travelled the breadth of the country and behind the scenes in every stately home in the country ex-

periencing every mode of transport possible.

"The last piece of filming I did was with Susan Calman (and antiques experts, Natasha Raskin Sharp and Danny Sebastian) at Hemswell Antiques (Lincolnshire) for the new Channel 5 series, Susan Calman's Antiques Adventure, for which there will be a follow-up series along with a new series of Antiques Road Trips.

"Earlier this summer I filmed for BBC1 Antiques Celebrity Road Tri, with four series last year. The first series I did was with Rachel Riley, (co-presenter of Countdown), and Pasha Kovalev, from Strictly Come Dancing. It was done during the heatwave so exhausting!

"We used a 1962 Austin Healey 3000 a British sports car built from 1959 to 1967 by the British Motor Corporation (BMC) in England. There were only around 3,000 of the cars made, so a rare adventure that took me to some marvellous places in the UK.

"One of the most memorable programmes that I made was with Penelope Keith for BBC 2 Primetime Arts, The Manor Re-

born, a four-part series on the 500-year-old Avebury Manor that explored the process involved in bringing a historic property back to life.

"It was a series where we made it a hands-on experience for the National Trust visitors, which took me to Jamaica, China and I went to the 15th-century imperial kilns of Jingdezhen porcelain and to see the royal kilns to see how the East India Company would have worked in the late 1700's and explore the international trade routes.

"As a former patron of the Heritage Crafts Association I am concerned with at promoting crafts and heritage and support traditional crafts.

"I apply standards of craftsmanship, connection with history, provenance and curatorship, to the curated objects that I present at The Table Gallery that specialises in country furniture that I co-own with my wife Charlotte, who worked as a production co-ordinator on Flog It!

"Next year I am fortunate to have the privilege to host two talks in Norfolk at the medieval Lynn Guildhall Shakespeare



Paul Martin is often to be seen on our tellys.

Barn on March 17, 7.30pm, and at the Holt Festival in July.

"Thank you to Norfolk for having me, I look forward to seeing you at one of my talks!"

He added: "I love the connection with history and I

love touching something that is beautifully made, tone, the craftsmanship and the fact that it's a gamble for looking for something rare and buying something knowing that you have to sell it to live to make a

profit to buy something else - that's quite addictive.

"Your eye gets trained over the years, you only learn by your mistakes - but it's about understanding quality, and craftsmanship."



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