

MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD



The Bystanders



Cheating Hearts



Little Walter & The Four Squares



St Louis Band - Kirkhouse

Welsh popular music artists have long been internationally prevalent, through the likes of Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey during the 1960s, rock bands such as Budgie, Badfinger and Man during the 1970s, The Alarm and The Manic Street Preachers emerging during the mid to late 1980s, and Super Furry Animals and Catatonia during the Brit Pop influenced Cool Cymru period of the 1990s. Indeed as recent as 2017, Merthyr Tydfil based quartet Pretty Vicious can be seen to be continuing this tradition. This exhibition intends to highlight the rich tradition that bands such as Pretty Vicious are part of.

The exhibition celebrates the history of popular music activity in Merthyr Tydfil, between 1955 to 1975, through the lens of photography and memory. It showcases not only the importance of some of Merthyr's key buildings in the development of popular music, but also the rich variety of artists, famous or not, who have contributed to the history of popular music in the town.

Please take the time to browse through the photos and read and listen to some of the memories. In order to do this interactively, download a free QR Reader on to your smartphone and browse through the exhibition with headphones attached. You will then get the opportunity to not only see, but also listen to some of the amazing hidden popular music histories of the town. Before you do this, it is also suggested that you log on to the wireless network at The Red House.

Although the exhibition is now happening, we are still looking for memories and memorabilia, so if you have anything you would like to contribute to the on going collection, please get in touch by either visiting the project's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/merthymusic/> or contact the project leader, professor Paul Carr at paul.carr@southwales.ac.uk. Also, please feel free to Tweet about the exhibition with the hashtag #merthyrpop. We would very much appreciate it if everyone visiting would write a comment in the book at the entrance of the exhibition.

What did you think of the exhibition? Do you have any memories you could add?

Professor Paul Carr and the University of South Wales, would like to thank the following stakeholders, who have assisted in the development of this Exhibition.

Merthyr Leisure Trust, Merthyr Tydfil Library, Theatre Soar, The Red House, First Campus, Merthyr Tydfil College, the 3Gs Development Trust and last but not least, Old Merthyr Tydfil, through which many of these amazing photos derived.

We would also like to thank the community members who donated their time and expertise to provide invaluable information about popular music in the area.

Thanks also to Gareth Hughes, for designing the exhibition.

It is important to point out that this exhibition does not include all of the bands that featured in the Merthyr music scene between the years 1955 to 1975. However, the exhibition hopefully acts as a starting point for an on going digital archive.



To visit the project's Facebook page, scan the QR Code above.



To watch Professor Paul Carr give a short introduction to the project, scan the QR Code above.



To hear Professor Paul Carr talking to Owen Money on BBC Radio Wales about the project, scan the QR Code above.

