

MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC
ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD

THE BYSTANDERS



Jerry Braden and The Bystanders outside of George Sharland's studio in Cardiff
(Photo courtesy of Old Merthyr Tydfil)

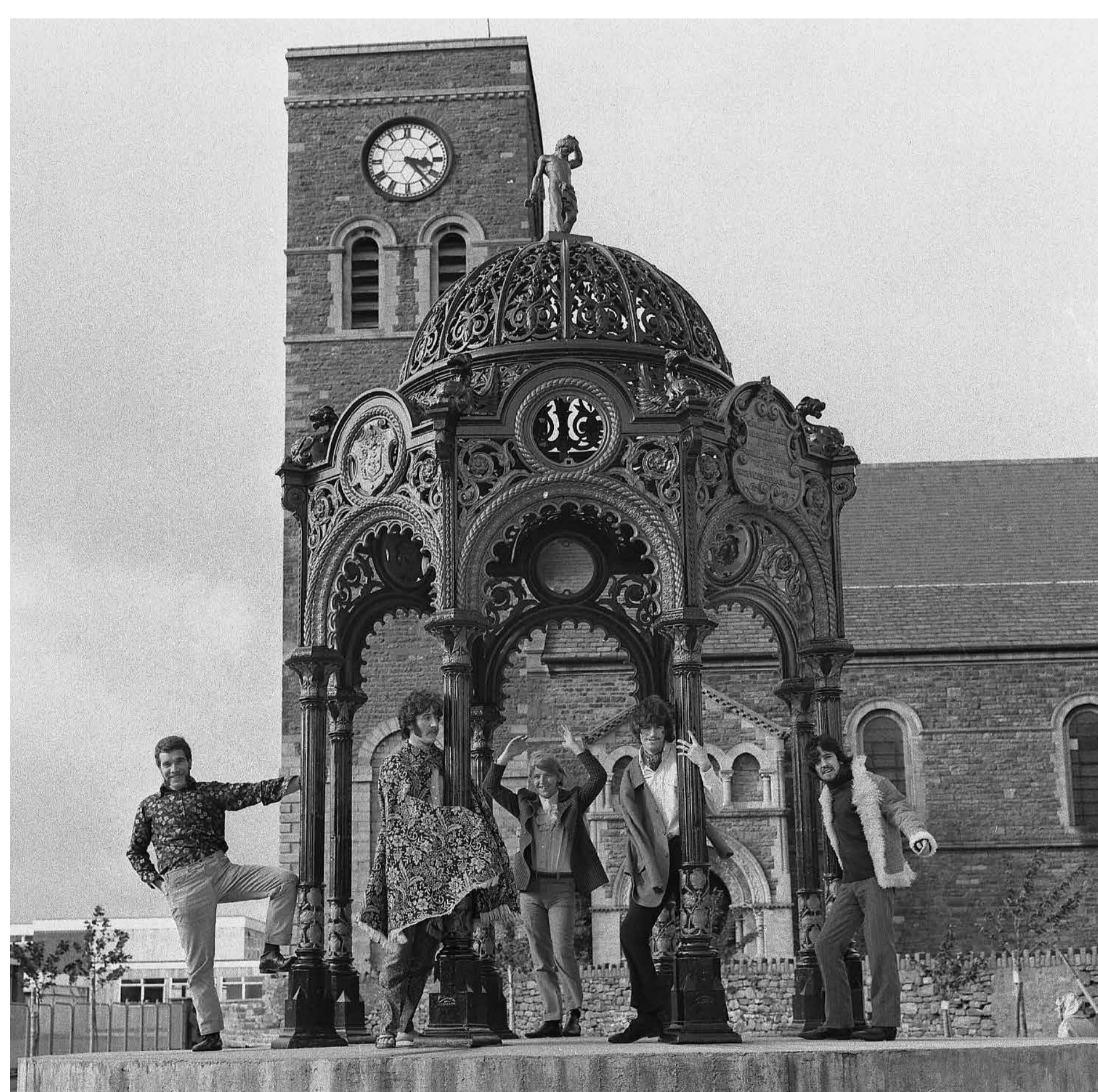


The Bystanders in Gamlins Music Shop Cardiff in 1962
(Photo courtesy Alan Crompton)



The By-Standers, the local group which is to appear on television in the autumn. Left to right: Clive John, Raymond Williams, Jeffrey Jones, Michael Jones and Lyn Mittell.

The Bystanders on July 20th 1963
(Photo courtesy The Merthyr Express)



The Bystanders at The Fountain in Merthyr Tydfil in 1967
(Photo courtesy of Old Merthyr Tydfil)



The Bystanders walking past The Town Hall (The Red House) in Merthyr Tydfil in 1967
(Photo courtesy of Old Merthyr Tydfil)

The Bystanders were formed in 1962, featuring Jerry Braden (Owen Money) on vocals, Micky Jones on Guitar, Clive John on Keyboards, Ray Williams on bass and Jeff Jones on drums. After they released their first single, Jerry Braden was replaced by Vic Oakley on vocals. As seen earlier in the exhibition, all of these musicians had played in other Merthyr based bands such as Walter Williams and the Four Squares, The Dynatones, The Rebels and The Crescendos. The Bystanders released seven singles, including 'That's The End' (1965), '(You're Gonna) Hurt Yourself' (1966), 'My Love Come Home' (1966), 'Royal Blue Sunshine Day' (1967), 'Pattern People' (1967), '98.6' (1967), 'When Jazamine Goes' (1968). Listening to many of the singles the band released, it is interesting to hear a clear influence of Californian close harmony band The Beach Boys. The band split up in 1968, merging into Man, who released their first album in January 1969.

"I remember when Jeff Jones first had his set of drums. We both lived in Wellington Street and were good friends. The drums practically filled the front room. I remember Lyn, Mick, and Jeff practicing in the room until the noise made them move and have other accommodation."

"My mother and stepfather went around a couple of times with the band."

"The Bystanders were mates with my friends. We followed them to their gigs, hitched if we could not get lifts [as] girls were not allowed in the van. Sunday nights were concert party nights: The Bystanders, a female singer/comedian and a male pianist. They were Jeff Jones, Lyn Mittell, Ray Williams, Clive John and the brilliant Mickey. Sadly only Jeff and Lyn are still with us."

"I played on the same bill as them in the Beaufort Ballroom, I also saw them in the Labour club."

"The Castle Cinema roof. We used to pinch lead off there lol."

"I remember the Bystanders rehearsing in (I think) Mrs Jones house in Wellington St."

To watch a video of The Bystanders' transition into Man, scan the QR Code



To listen to excerpts of The Bystanders roadie Roger Bell talking to Welsh Connections, scan the QR Code



To see The Bystanders' 1998 Reunion at Maesteg Town Hall, scan the QR Code



To listen to a selection of The Bystanders' singles, scan the QR Code



MID TO LATE

