MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD
MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC

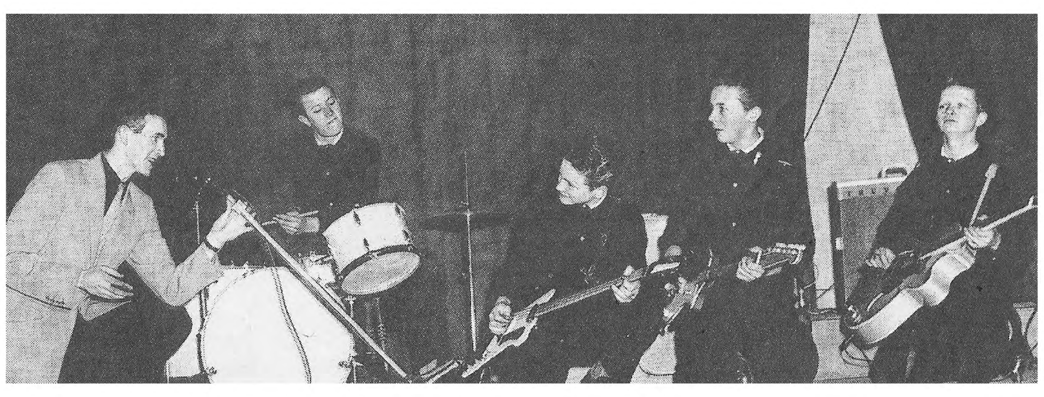
Y 60AU CYNNAR
THE EARLY 60s

Yn dilyn cyfnod y bandiau dawns a sgiffl, daeth cerddoriaeth roc yn ddylanwad cryf ar nifer o fandiau lleol ym Merthyr. Yn eu tro, aeth bandiau fel The Bystandards yn broffesiynol gan adael yr ardal ar drywydd cyfoeth ac enwogrwydd. Ond gwelwyd nifer hefyd yn parhau i berfformio cerddoriaeth a gweithio yn ystod y dydd. Darparodd lleoliadau fel The Kirkhouse, Sinema'r Palace a Sinema'r ABC ofod perfformio i gerddorion lleol a hefyd i nifer o fandiau enwog fel Screamin Lord Sutch and the Savages, Pink Floyd, The Small Faces a Hermins Hermits. Dyma ddetholiad o rai o'r bandiau lleol a fu'n perfformio ym Merthyr a'r ardal rhwng dechrau a chanol y 1960au.

After the time of the dance bands and skiffle, the 1960s witnessed a time when many local bands were performing rock influenced music in Merthyr. Bands like The Bystanders eventually turned professional, leaving the area to seek fame and fortune, whilst others continued to perform music while continuing their 'day job'. Venues such as The Kirkhouse, The Palace Cinema and the ABC Cinema not only provided spaces to play for local musicians, but also many famous bands, such as Screamin Lord Sutch and the Savages, Pink Floyd, The Small Faces and Hermins Hermits. Here is a selection of some of the local bands that performed during the early to mid 1960s in and around Merthyr.

Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes yn Sinema'r Castell yn 1960, gyda Jeff Evans (Gitâr Rhythm), Mervyn James (Rheolwr Cynorthwyol), Gwynne Lewis, Ray Sullivan, Cyril Smith (Rheolwr), Pete Lovis (Drymiau), Paul Owen (Bas).

Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes at the Castle Cinema in 1960, featuring Jeff Evans (Rhythm Guitar), Mervyn James (Assistant Manager), Gwynne lewis, Ray Sullivan, Cyril Smith (Manager), pete Lovis (Drums) and Paul Owen (Bass).



Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes ar lwyfan Neuadd y Glowyr yn 1960 (Trwy ganiatâd Merthyr Express).

Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes on stage at the Miners Hall in 1960 (Courtesy of Merthry Express).

Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes

Ymddangosodd 'Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes' o weddillion y 'Dewi Peter's Skiffle Band' yn y 1950au hwyr. Yn dilyn llwyddiant 'Brian Poole and the Tremeloes' yn y siartiau, newidiodd y band eu henw i 'The Spirals'.

"Roedd fy wncwl Cyril yn rheolwr yn y Castle Cinema . . .**"**

"Teithiodd Peter Lovis a finne adre gyda'n gilydd ar fws yr ysgol pan o'n ni yn ysgol ramadeg y sir.**"**

"O'n i a'n ffrind yn arfer cuddio o dan ffenest Gwynne yn gwrando arnyn nhw'n ymarfer . . . wna'th e argraff fawr arnon ni.**"**

Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes

Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes emerged from the remnants of the Dewi Peters Skiffle Group in the late 1950s. After the chart success of Brian Poole and the Tremeloes, the band changed their name to The Spirals.

"My uncle Cyril he was the manager of the Castle Cinema...**"**

"Peter Lovis and I travelled home together on the school bus when we were in the County Grammar School.**"**

"Me and my friend used to hide under Gwynne's window listening to them practising... we were quite smitten.**"**

Dau lun o Little Walter and the Four Squares yn stafell fyw Little Walter.
Walter Williams, Cliff Cross, Jeff Jones, Clive Carter a Micky Jones (Trwy ganiatâd Walter Williams).

Two photographs of Little Walter and the Four Squares pictured in Little Walters living room,
Walter Williams, Cliff Cross, Jeff Jones, Clive Carter and Micky Jones (Courtesy of Walter Williams).

Little Walter and the Four Squares

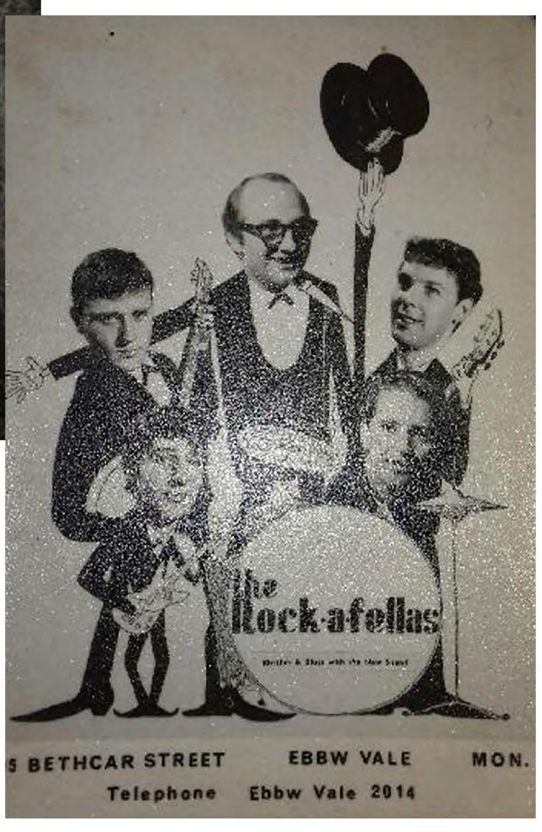
Chwaraeodd Little Walter and the Four Squares yn rheolaidd o gwmpas Cymoedd y De, cyn i Micky Jones a Jeff Jones fynd ymlaen i ymuno â'r band enwog o Ferthyr, The Bystanders. Arweiniwyd y band gan y prif ganwr a phencampwr y Twist o Ferthyr, Walter Williams. Sylwer ar y gitarau prin bellach yn y ffoto ar y chwith, gyda Clive Carter yn chwarae Hagstrom De Lux Bass a Micky Jones yn chwarae Hagstrom Futurama II.

Little Walter and the Four Squares

Little Walter and the Four Squares played extensively in and around the South Wales valleys, prior to Micky Jones and Jeff Jones progressing to join legendary Merthyr band, The Bystanders. The band was led by lead singer and Merthyr Twist champion Walter Williams. Note the now rare guitars in the photo left, with Clive Carter playing a Hagstrom De Lux Bass and Micky Jones a Hagstrom Futurama III.

Walter Williams, Micky Jones, Carol cariad Micky Jones a Cliff Cross. Yn Abercynon 1962 (Trwy ganiatâd Walter Williams).

Walter Williams, Micky Jones, Micky Jones's girlfriend Carol and Cliff Cross. Taken in Abercynon 1962 (Courtesy Walter Williams).



Ffoto cyhoeddusrwydd o Walter Williams yn chwarae yn y grŵp o Lyn Ebwy, The Rock-a-fellas (Trwy ganiatâd Walter Williams).

Publicity photo of Walter Williams playing in Ebbw Vale group, The Rock-a-fellas (Courtesy Walter Williams).

I glywed Walter Williams yn trafod ei atgofion o'r sîn gerddoriaeth ym Merthyr, sganiwch y cod Ymateb Cyflym uchod.

To listen to Walter Williams talking about his memories of the music scene in Merthyr, scan the QR Code above.

60s

University of South Wales
Prifysgol De Cymru