

MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD
MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC

BANDIAU SGIFFL YM MERTHYR TUDFUL SKIFFLE BANS IN MERTHYR TYDFIL



Dewi Peters' Skiffle Group y tu allan i Kayser Bondor, Pentrebach, tua 1957. Rhes gefn (dde i chwith): Ron Jones, Dave Francis, Dewi Peters. Rhes flaen (dde i chwith): Brian Byfield, Ray Sullivan (Trwy ganiatâd Clive Morgan ac Old Merthyr Tydfil)

Dewi Peters' Skiffle Group outside Kayser Bondor, Pentrebach C.1957. Back row L-R: Ron Jones, Dave Francis, Dewi Peters. Front Row I-R: Brian Byfield, Ray Sullivan (Courtesy of Clive Morgan and Old Merthyr Tydfil).



Dewi Peters' Skiffle Group, Briggs Store ym Brynmawr (Trwy ganiatâd Brian Byfield).



Dewi Peters' Skiffle Group, Briggs Store in Brynmawr (Courtesy of Brian Byfield).



I glywed Brian Byfield yn son am ei broffadau gyda The Dewi Peters Group, sganwch y cod Ymateb Cyflym uchod.

To hear Brian Byfield talking about his experiences with The Dewi Peters Group, scan the QR Code above.

Ymddangosodd bwrlwm cerddoriaeth sgiffil ym Mhrydain yn y 1950au, wedi iddo gael ei boblogeiddio gan artistiaid fel Lonnie Donegan. Mae'r gerddoriaeth yn gymysgedd o'r blues, jas a cherddoriaeth werin Americanaidd. Yn wahanol i'r arbenigedd cerddorol sy'n ofynnol mewn Big Band, roedd sgiffil yn falch o ddathlu ei amaturiaeth, gyda bwrdd golchi a bas cist dde yn offerynau cyffredin. Yn debyg i leoliadau eraill ar draws Prydain, roedd gan Merthyr ei fandiau sgiffil ei hun – bandiau megis Hill Billy Skiffle Group a Dewi Peter's Skiffle Group (a adnabuwyd maes o law fel Peter Lovis and the Tremeloes) i enwi dau yn unig.

👂👂 Ro'n i'n nabod y dyn yn y canol, David Francis o Luther Street, Twyn. O'dd e'n chwarae'r gitâr yn dda hefyd. O'dd gan Dave grŵp o ffrindiau yn cynnwys y gitarydd Len Stubbs a'r drymiwr Roger Walker. Ro'n nhw'n arfer chwarae mewn clybiau a thafarndai yn yr ardal. 🧠🧠

👂👂 Ma' Ron Jones yn wncwl i fi. Ces i fy magu yn gwranddo amyn nhw'n ymarfer yn nhŷ fy mamgu a'm tadcu yn Twynrodyn. 🧠🧠

👂👂 Ces i fy ngwahodd i'w gweld yn Rhydycar, o'n nhw'n wych. Roedd Ron Jones yn iodlwr arbennig ac o'dd ganddo sŵn unigryw. Gyda llaw – nes i ennill y raffl hefyd. 🧠🧠

👂👂 Nôl yn 1957/8 ddim yn hir ar ôl i ni ychwanegu banjo i'r lein-yp, o'dd sioe o'r enw Noson Lawen yn cael ei darlledu ar deledu Cymraeg. Beth bynnag, roedd Merthyr Tudful yn cael ei gynrychioli ar y sioe adloniant yma, a Glynne Jones o'dd yn trefnu, a aeth yn Gyfarwyddwr Cerddoriaeth i BBC Cymru rai blynyddoedd yn ddiweddarach. Gofynon nhw i ni chwarae cerddoriaeth gefndirol i Gloria Dean a fyddai'n canu 'Putting on the Style' yn Gymraeg. Dim ond trio ohonom ni o'dd angen amyn nhw felly optiodd Dewi mas a'r tri a ddewiswyd oedd Dave Francis, Ron Jones a finne. Dwi'n cofio i ni fynd i stiwdio ym Mhontcanna Caerdydd. O'dd e'n brofiad a hanner achos o'n i'n agos at fod yn 17 ar y pryd. Dwi'n cofio i Harri Webb, bardd lleol adnabyddus a chenedlaetholwr Cymraeg, ymddangos hefyd. 🧠🧠

Made popular by artists such as Lonnie Donegan, the skiffle craze hit the UK in the 1950s. The music is a mix of blues, jazz and American Folk music and unlike the musical expertise required by many Big Band musicians, skiffle proudly celebrated its amateurism, with washboards and tea chest basses being common. Like most other parts of the UK, Merthyr also had its own skiffle Bands, with the Dewi Peter's Skiffle Group and the Hill Billy Skiffle Group being two of them. Dewi Peter's Skiffle Group would eventually merge into Pete Lovis and the Tremeloes.

👂👂 I Knew the chap in the middle, David Francis from Luther Street, Twyn. He was a very good guitar player as well. Dave had group of friends including guitarist Len Stubbs and drummer Roger Walker. They used to play the clubs & pubs in the area. 🧠🧠

👂👂 Ron Jones is my uncle. I was brought up listening to them practising in my grandparents house in Twynrodyn. 🧠🧠

👂👂 I was invited to see them in Rhydycar, they were brilliant. Ron Jones was a top yodeller with a unique sound. PS – I also won the raffle. 🧠🧠

👂👂 Back in 1957/8 not long after we added a banjo to the line up, a show called Noson Lawen was airing on Welsh television. Anyway Merthyr Tydfil was being represented on this entertainment show, it was being organised by Glynne Jones, who some years later became Musical Director for BBC Wales. We were asked to play backing music for a local lady called Gloria Dean who would sing 'Putting on the Style' in Welsh. They only wanted three of us so Dewi opted out & the three selected were Dave Francis, Ron Jones & myself. I seem to recall we attended a studio in Pontcanna Cardiff. It was quite an experience as I was approaching 17 at the time. I remember Harri Webb, a well known local poet & Welsh nationalist also appeared. 🧠🧠

