

# MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC  
ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD

## THE DANCE BANDS OF MERTHYR TYDFIL



The Graham Barnes Band, with Graham Barnes on Trumpet and Ron Evans on Saxophone  
(Courtesy Gaynor Rothery)



Graham Barnes  
(Courtesy Gaynor Rothery)



The Jack Pritchard Band (Courtesy Janet Thomas)



The St Louis Band at the Kirkhouse (Courtesy Old Merthyr Tydfil)



Ron Griffiths' Dance Band 1950s (Courtesy Old Merthyr Tydfil)



Unnamed band from early 50s feat Bernard Thomas on Drums.  
Taken by by Sonny Jaffa and Trevor Jenkins of Bowens Court Merthyr Tydfil  
(Courtesy Old Janet Thomas).



To listen to the Jack Pritchard Band, scan the QR code.



The Graham Barnes Band:  
66 My Dad was the Sax player on the end. I can remember the rehearsals they used to have on a Saturday morning ready for the night, at one time they had a female singer. I also remember helping him with my brother making the music stands.💡

66 I remember seeing all the big bands in the Castle Cinema during the 1950s, these were some of the biggest and best bands in Britain and the world at that time. Bands like Eric Delaney, Ken Mackintosh, Johnny Dankworth, to name but a few. Some of these bands had as many 20 or more musicians and the sounds they made were incredible. Sadly today's youngsters will never hear the like. For instance, the drummer in Eric Delaney's Band had the biggest drum kit for any band in the world, to hear him play the drum solo " Skin Deep" was something to be believed. I also remember helping Cleo Laine, the singer who just started out on a long career with Johnny Dankworth unload her gear out of the bus into the back entrance of the Castle Cinema. Ahh, those were the days.💡

