

MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

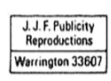
MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC
ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD

1970 - 1975



GOOD NEWS

PHILLIPS ENTERTAINMENTS • Tel Llanelli 59618 or 3376



Good News in Cyfarthfa Park in the mid 1970s, Warren Watkins (vocals), Alan Crompton (Guitar), Robert (Eddie) Edwards (drums), Lynn Mittell (bass). (Photo courtesy Alan Crompton)

During the early 70s, the two main venues in Merthyr were Tiffany's and Sands (ex Palace Cinema). The artists that played at Tiffany's are too numerous to mention, and although many of these concerts were very well attended, a 1975 copy of the Merthyr Express reported less than 100 people turning out to see Shakin' Stephens and the Sunsets perform there. This raises the question, was live music starting to wane in Merthyr at the dawn of the new decade?

One certainty is that The Merthyr Express began to regularly advertise one particular iconic venue outside of the town in the 1970s, the Club Double Diamond in Caerphilly. With its starlit ceiling, the venue featured countless famous artists such as Lulu, Johnny Cash, Tony Bennett, Brotherhood of Man, Paul Melba, The Fortunes, Cliff Richard, The Hollies, The Supremes, The Drifters and many more.

However, despite this perception that there was less musical activity in Merthyr in the early to mid 70s than there was in the 60s, there were still many bands playing in and around the town. You will find below a snapshot of some of them.

Good News

Good news were formed after the Cheatin' Harts disbanded, comprising of three of its ex members, including Lynn Mittell.

Wild Honey

"I was guitarist vocalist with them. Bobby Watkins, in front, guitar and vocals. He had a great voice and sadly passed away about 20 years ago. Behind him was Alun Richards on Bass guitar. Behind Alun was Dougie Neagle [on drums], still going strong. We did the club circuit mostly, [but] also supported some big bands at the time, i.e. Hot Chocolate at the Glen Ballroom, Llanelli."

"Booked them for our engagement in Oct 74 and our wedding Mar 76. Fab times in the Dowlais British legion on Sunday nights."

Skint

"Gary Davies on the right together with Bobby Watkins and myself formed Chapter Five. Gary's Father kept the Plymouth Hotel in Pentrebach."

"Far right is my 1st cousin."

M4/White Powder Toys

"Millions of memories. Went everywhere with them. We all had t-shirts with M4 on."

"When trousers were trousers."

"Look at those flares! Wow."

In Harmony

"Judith Jones and Diane McCarthy. Both went on to become PE teachers, and Judith to become a Senior Advisor for ESIS, among other things. I remember their duets. They harmonised beautifully."



Wild Honey in 1973. (Photo courtesy of Old Merthyr Tydfil)



Skint in 1971. Jeff Lewis (Vocals), Gareth Meek (Guitar), Graham Howell-Morgan (Bass) and Gary Davies (Drums). (Photo courtesy of Graham Howel Morgan)



M4. Ian McCabe (Drums) Steve Jones (Bass), James Llewellyn (Rhythm Guitar and Vocals) and David Stephenson (Lead Guitar). (Photo courtesy of Dean McCabe)



Advert for a single released by M4. (Photo courtesy of Lucy McCabe)



White Powder Toys. (Photos courtesy of Lucy McCabe)



(Photo courtesy of the Merthyr Express)

