

# MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC  
ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD

## MERTHYR VENUES

### Kirkhouse

The Kirkhouse, named after the vicars of Cyfarthfa, was originally the parish rooms for Cyfarthfa church. It has opened and closed as a dance hall several times and changed from a venue with its own dance bands to a builder's merchants and then back again in the 1980s.

"I played there so many times in the early 60s in The Crescendos, with the likes of The Brook Brothers, The Viscounts, Johnny Burnette & many more."

"He [my father] met my mother at that venue in 64. Married in 66."

"I remember it very well in the late 50s, no alcohol just soft drinks. You had to get there by 7.00pm to make sure to get in. [The] sign on wall said no jitter bugging."

### The Theatre Royal

The Theatre Royal Opened in 1891 as a theatre, the building eventually was used as a cinema before, like so many similar buildings, being used as a bingo hall from 1982. It closed in 2006 and is now derelict.

"Saw Kenny Ball and his Jazz band there."

"Gracie Fields played there and she lodged in Coffins Court."

"Saw Old Mother Riley there in early 50s."

### New Drill Hall

The New Drill Hall was founded in 1939 for the specific purpose of training territorials and cadets during WWII but it gradually also developed as a social venue for entertainment. The building has reverted to its original use and is now used to train both air and army cadets.

"I remember playing there one night when we'd just taken possession of our Marshall 200w stacks. The police arrived looking for Ronnie Muscles, he asked me if he could pretend to be our roadie. Well how could you say no to Ronnie! He was picking up the 4x12 cabs as if they were Corn Flake boxes!"

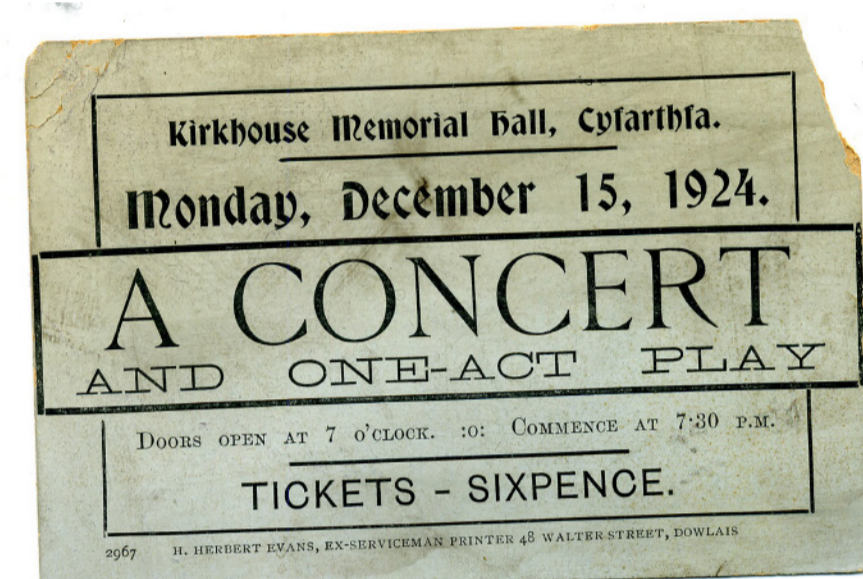
"It's the last place I saw The Bystanders with Vic Oakley on vocals."



The Kirkhouse. (Photo courtesy Old Merthyr Tydfil)



Discotheque Advert from the 1960s. (Photo courtesy of The Merthyr Express)



Advert From the 1920s. (Photo courtesy of Old Merthyr Tydfil)



Two photos of the Theatre Royal. (Courtesy Old Merthyr Tydfil)



Advert from The Merthyr Express in 1966.



The New Drill Hall. (Photo courtesy Old Merthyr Tydfil)

VISIT OUR NEW ...  
**THEATRE KIOSK**  
for  
CHOCOLATES and CIGARETTES.

WATCH for Opening of Our NEW ...  
**"TIP-TOPPER"**  
Soft Drinks too Bar.

Make the  
**THEATRE ROYAL**  
your rendezvous.

Merthyr, Brycheiniog, Merthyr

PRICE CINEMA CIRCUIT

The  
**Theatre Royal**  
Merthyr Tydfil  
(Manager J. A. Campbell.)  
presents  
For your Entertainment

**"Stars Of Tomorrow"**  
and the  
**"Miss Merthyr Tydfil"**  
of 1960 Contest

Week commencing JULY 4th, 1960,  
once nightly at 7.30 p.m.

Linky Price: **75** Piles: **34** Each

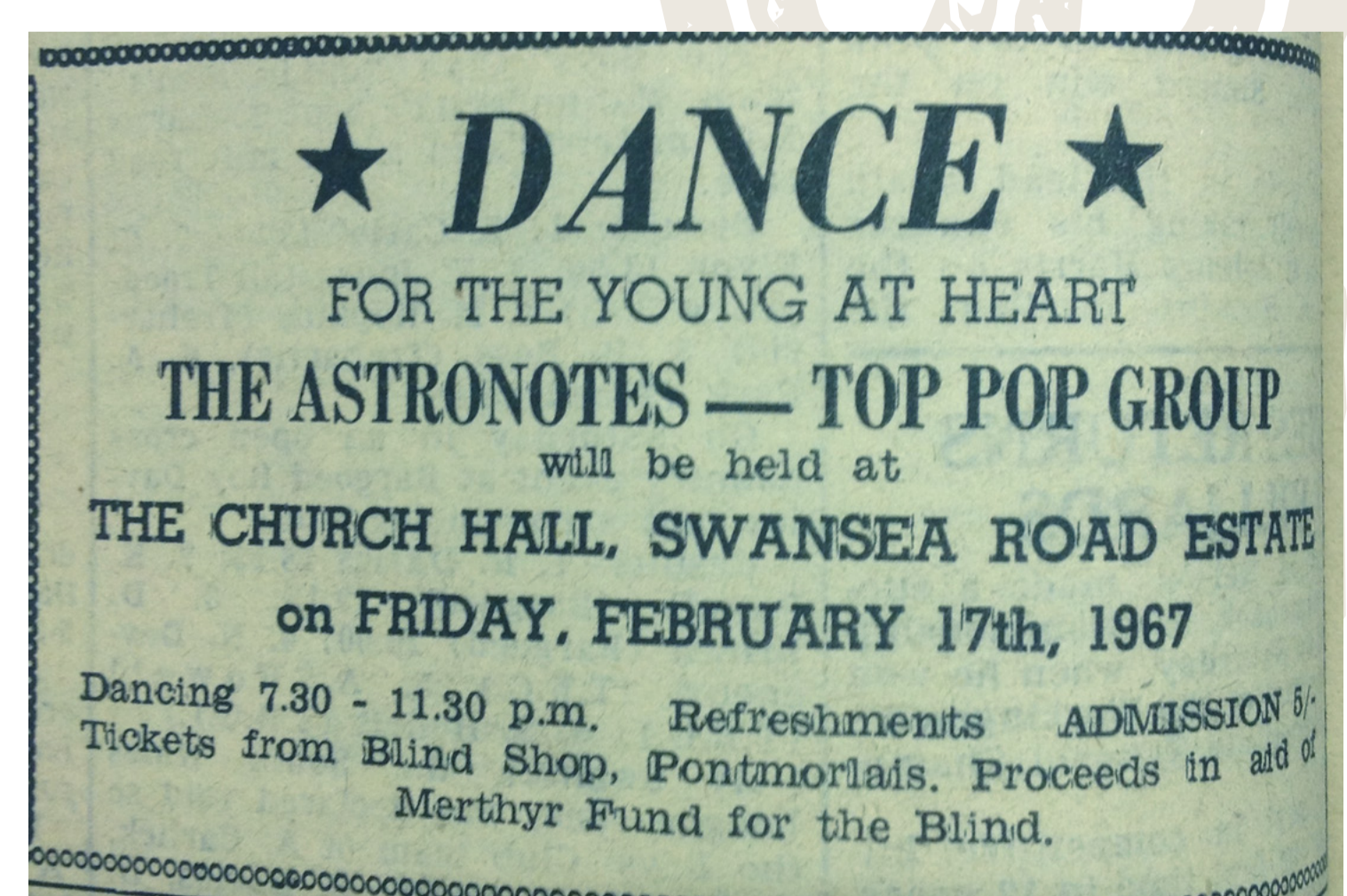
**Talent Contest and Miss Merthyr Tydfil Programme from 1960.**  
(Courtesy of Brian Byfield)

**PROGRAMME**

SHOW, Produced/Edited by J. A. CAMPBELL  
Stage Lights HAROLD EVANS and RONNIE SHEARS

<p>Mon. Tues. Wed.</p> <p>(1) GEORGE BAXETT <i>Sings at the Piano.</i></p> <p>(2) The "Pete Love" Trio <i>(Wed. only)</i></p> <p>(3) BRIAN BYFIELD <i>A Song - A Guitar.</i></p> <p>(4) "THE MIMICSTERS"</p> <p>(5) J. CONNOR <i>Piano.</i></p> <p>(6) The Kaye Sisters <i>Ballad.</i></p> <p>(7) JACK HARRISON <i>Amateur.</i></p> <p>(8) The Nodders <i>(Mon., Tues.)</i></p> <p>(9) GEORGE DAVIS <i>Entertains with a Song.</i></p> <p><i>Bring out Show to a Close</i></p> <p><b>MISS MERTHYR TYDFIL of 1960 CONTEST</b> Semi-Final FRIDAY Personal Appearance "Miss Velvet Lady" West Wales.</p> <p>WATCH for Announcements</p>	<p>Thurs. Fri. Sat.</p> <p>(1) GEORGE HAYES <i>A Song to Tell You.</i></p> <p>(2) "The Nodders"</p> <p>(3) DEWY HUGHES <i>Entertains You.</i></p> <p>(4) The "Pete Love" Trio <i>(Thurs. Fri. only)</i></p> <p>(5) The Nodders <i>(Sat. only)</i></p> <p>(6) V. WILLIAMS <i>A Changing Note.</i></p> <p>(7) The Mayday Wella <i>Ballad Opera.</i></p> <p>(8) JANE HARRISON <i>A Changing Note.</i></p> <p>(9) DAVE HARRISON <i>75 Answer You.</i></p> <p>(10) GEORGE BAXETT <i>Light.</i></p> <p>(11) GEORGE HAYES <i>Merthyr's Single Ticket.</i></p> <p>(12) See only The Kaye Sisters <i>In a Changing Mood.</i></p> <p><b>GRAND FINALE</b></p> <p>Heads each Evening. FINAL Sat. July 9th.</p> <p>Be further Stage Shows.</p>
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### The Church Hall



Advert from The Merthyr Express, 1967