

Beats News'

April 2013

Issue 20

SOLID SILVER 60S TOUR
Southport Theatre, Southport.
(photograph courtesy of Frank Neil)



Below; How about this for a fantastic double family photograph
We have father and son - Tony & Adrian Crane with
The Kinsley family Billy Kinsley, with his son Jon and his very pretty
daughter (Billy's granddaughter) Llenya.

Taken at Southport Saturday 16th

Photo courtesy of Emma



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Southport Theatre, Southport
photographs courtesy of
Frank Neil



Dear

A sincere apology for my error in not adding who you should make cheques payable to for copies of 2013/14 BEATS NEWS. The Merseybeats Administration Account

Thank you for those renewing for another year.

The April news' features photographs from the Solid Silver 60s Tour, reviews and items from The Merseybeats website and the groups diary dates.

Tony Crane conveys his personal appreciation to fans who he has seen so far at shows during this tour. He is always pleased to see familiar faces.

***" A round of applause "
for Tony
who celebrates his
Birthday
on April 17th***



Solid Silver 60s Tour 2013

Salisbury City Hall 9th March

For fear of spoiling your enjoyment and entertainment, I won't, at this early stage of the tour divulge songs that are sung by the acts, but there are a few goodies ! However, I will tell you that each of three solo legendary artists, Wayne Fontana, Dave Berry and Mike Pender gave their own unique and very professional performances, all three smartly turned out, and were magnificently backed by

The New Amen Corner, their stage artistry, professional attitude and dress attire throughout the entire evening was outstanding,
" you took me back to 1964 with those suits guys "

We also had the delight of hearing musician, Brian Wood, accompanying Dave Berry in his performance.

And last but not least, our very own The Merseybeats, without doubt another fabulous and faultless performance from Tony, Billy, Bob, Lou and our brilliant guest keyboard player Toni Baker.

Their short set filled to capacity, a good mix of their hits and some all time favourites.

It never fails.....The Merseybeats legacy of getting everyone to join them in their anthem, had the whole auditorium erupting in song, clapping, waving, dancing,
"Brilliant"

The SS 60s Show was class from start to end
Including a professionally slick operation by all the road crew, including The Merseybeats road manager, John Foster.

NOTE: The Merseybeats close the first half, if you require your merchandise autographed, make your way to the foyer during the interval, The Merseybeats do not come out at the end of the evening, as some fans discovered to their bitter disappointment!



Photo gallery from
Salisbury City Hall
Jenny Mussell

Lou - great to see looking
so well after all he has been
through !

All on stage
for
the finale



**Photo gallery from
Salisbury City Hall
Jenny Mussell**

Wayne Fontana wanted to
get in on the photo shoot !



Photo taken by fan club member Trish)
I believe the photo taken of Tony is with Andy
Howells (tbc) reporter for the South Wales Argus

Solid Silver 60s Show, St David's Hall

Monday 1st April 2013 in Reviews
By Andy Howells

Lined up like a play-stack turntable no less than four legendary acts took the St David's Hall audience back to the swinging sixties on Thursday evening.

Wayne Fontana, Dave Berry, The Merseybeats and former Searcher Mike Pender may all be celebrating a half-century performing popular music but all are undoubtedly still at the top of their game when playing to a large audience.

60s revivalists New Amen Corner got the show off the ground recreating the brassy sounds of the original Amen Corner's Bend Me, Shape Me and The Equals Baby Come Back. They also provided backing to Wayne Fontana who performed an entertaining and humorous set which included his signature classics The Game of Love and Um Um Um Um.

Then it was the turn of The Merseybeats fronted by formative members Tony Crane and Billy Kinsey moving the audience out of their chairs with powerhouse performances of Wishin' and Hopin' and Sorrow. Ending the first set with Jeff Beck's Hi Ho Silver Lining, one wondered how this show could get any better. But it did. While the legendary Dave Berry unleashed his own unique "strange effect" on the audience with classics such as The Crying Game and Little Things, Mike Pender similarly brought back fabulous memories of classic Searchers hits including Sweets for My Sweet and Needles and Pins.

With over three hours worth of classic hits performed its clear good music can last forever, lets hope its not too long before we see these guys back in Wales again!

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ANDY HOWELLS chats to lead singer of The Merseybeats TONY CRANE on the 50th anniversary of their debut hit

'Sixties go on for ever'



NO SORROW: 1960s chart act The Merseybeats, featuring Tony Crane (second from left), will play St David's Hall later this month

RECENTLY, the 50th anniversary of the recording of The Beatles' debut album *Please Please Me* was celebrated with several notable acts recreating the legendary release in under a day.

One participating act was fellow Mersey sound group The Merseybeats, currently celebrating 50 years since entering the charts with their debut single.

However, The Merseybeats' story began much earlier than 1963, as front man Tony Crane told me.

"I saw Eddie Calvert on television, the man with golden trumpet," says Tony, who grew up in Anfield during the 1950s. "I thought, 'God that looks good, I bet he's got all the girls after him!'"

Tony pleaded with his parents to buy him a trumpet, but instead they suggested he join the church band as they couldn't afford one.

"When it came to rock 'n' roll starting, I remember going to the cinema to see Elvis in *Love Me Tender* and the trumpet got thrown

Interview

away," Tony continues. "I pleaded with my parents to buy me a guitar. They bought it at 2/6 week from the back of *The Reveille*. I just wanted to be like Elvis, but I was still too young to do anything about it."

On leaving school, Tony joined Liverpool's Royal Liver Building as an insurance clerk, but despite his good job, he still yearned to be a musician. A colleague introduced Tony to school-boy Billy Kinsley. Then things really got started.

"I met Billy and we realised we could sound just like The Everly Brothers - and that was the beginning of the band. We got two friends in and called ourselves The Mavericks."

A meeting with Cavern Club DJ Bob Wooler got the band their first professional booking at the Aintree Institute, but not before a name change: "The local paper came out. We ran down to The Cavern -

because we lived within running distance. I said: 'You said you were booking us on this, there's some other band on called the Merseybeats. Who are they?'"

"Bob said: 'No, that's, yourselves', and we went: 'Oh no, you might as well have called us *The Liverpool Echo!*'"

"*Mersey beat* was only the name of the paper, the music was never called Mersey beat: we thought music was the Mersey sound, the 'beat' came in much later on."

The newly named Merseybeats, along with another band called The Beatles, became resident at The Cavern Club. "We hold the record for playing on the

same bill with the Beatles," says Tony, "We became very close and when they went outside Liverpool, they always wanted us on their show with them."



SIXTIES STARS: The Merseybeats

The Merseybeats signed to Fontana records in 1963 and as the Mersey Sound took over the British charts, they began a succession of hits across the world including *I Think of You*, *Wishin'*

and *Hopin' and Sorrow*. The band's success even landed them a TV series in Italy.

This year sees the 50th anniversary of The Merseybeats' first chart hit, *It's Love That Really Counts*.

The anniversary coincides with the band appearing at

St David's Hall alongside Mike Pender's Searchers, Wayne Fontana and Dave Berry later this month. The Merseybeats will be performing all the hits along with some fan favourites.

I ask Tony if it seems 50 years: "Not at all, it seems like five years," he replies. "The trouble is, I can't tell people I'm 37 any more, I think they all know now."

"Inside your head, you still feel about 18 when you made your first record. It was such an amazing time, the Sixties go on for ever. What's the secret in that? I say it's the songs. Memorable, easy to remember and they're good tunes above all else!"

● Catch The Merseybeats in *The Solid Silver 60s Show 2013* on March 28 at St David's Hall, Cardiff. Call box office on 029 20878444 for further information.



10th March 2013
 Olivia Newton-John
 From 38.50 Seated

4th March 2013
 Cops War
 Chen
 John Phillip
 From 25

29th March 2013

Posted March 26th

Tony's weekly tour update came on the road to Swansea...

The guys are still rockin' on tour

(by the laughter and camaraderie, it sounded like they were already partying in the car)

Tony reports - he is pleased at the reception and comments The Merseybeats

are receiving,

he said the tour is really going well, he and the band are enjoying their performances and everything is going great.

They had a couple of hiccups with transport last week when Tony's vehicle decided to call it a day and stopped on the way home!

AA recovery rescued the Beats and transported them and the vehicle home, a replacement vehicle used for the other shows.

... It's all go being pop legends on tour ...

We discussed the busy Easter weekend of shows coming up and also spoke of last weekend when they appeared at Butlins for two performances and were advertised as

The Merseybeat Legends ! AGAIN !

(The Merseybeats were fantastic I am reliably informed by a friend who was there)

Solid Silver '60s tour sees the boys keep swinging

Much like the Royal Family and Bruce Forsyth, the Solid Silver '60s tour has become something of a British institution. Martin Hutchinson meets Tony Crane of '60s pop merchants The Merseybeats who tells him why he's happy to revive the hits of yesteryear THE rocking institution that is the Solid Silver '60s Tour has cause for celebration. It marks the 50th anniversary of the very first records released by The Merseybeats, Dave Berry, The Searchers and Wayne Fontana – all bands that will be revisiting the hits of yesteryear on the tour, which is now into its 28th year. This year's headliners are The Merseybeats who started out as The Mavericks in Liverpool, and who boast two founder members in Tony Crane and Billy Kinsley. "Yes, that's right," Tony, lead vocalist and guitarist, tells me from his Liverpool home. "Then we got a residency at The Cavern Club alongside The Beatles, then management at the Aintree Institute where we were playing didn't like the name and called us The Merseybeats. Back then, there was a local paper called The Mersey Beat. We argued about the name at first, but to no avail." Hits like Wishin' and Hopin', Don't Turn Around and I Think Of You kept the band in the charts from 1963 to 1966, then they went on to play the cabaret circuit. "After a while, Billy formed Liverpool Express who had some success in the '70s, but he came back in 1992," says Tony. Each year the Solid Silver '60s Tour seems to get bigger and this year is no exception. At 42 dates it's quite a trek "That's right, but they usually do about this number – however, this year they've crammed it into two months rather than three," says Tony. "It'll be hard work, but we can't wait to start." He adds with a laugh that promoters, Flying Music, take care of the acts, taking their age into consideration! "Oh, they're very good," he says. "They always organise the tours well and they think to arrange the dates so we don't have to travel very far between gigs." The Merseybeats have been a staple of these tribute tours, and for Tony it's a way of life. "Well we're always happy to do them, usually every other year. We're always touring, in fact we have a couple of gigs on our days off on the Solid Silver tour!" And there are certain types of venue that Tony likes to play. "I love playing the royal concert halls in places like Notting-ham, and the old opera houses like Buxton. They're lovely places." Despite the years, the artists in question have no plans to stop playing (in fact of the original artists here, Wayne Fontana – at 67, is the youngest). "I intend to carry on 'til I drop!" says Tony.

Nottingham Post

Review: Solid Silver 60s, Royal Concert Hall

Four great musicians took to the stage thrilling the crowd with classics from the period, with The New Amen Corner accompanying them. The audience were in for a treat as Mike Pender (the original voice of The Searchers), Dave Berry, Wayne Fontana and The Merseybeats relived their glory days.

The New Amen Corner kicked off the show with Bend Me, Shape Me, High in The Sky and a rousing cover of the Equals' Baby Come Back, setting a light-hearted and cheerful mood for the evening. They then introduced Wayne Fontana, who immediately burst into the popular Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow, quickly followed by Um Um Um Um Um and The Game Of Love. Fontana oozed enthusiasm and charisma and was a complete joy to watch as he bantered with the audience, getting them up on their feet for the party hits with Pamela Pamela and a tremendous version of Labi Sifri's Something Inside So Strong.

The Merseybeats took the audience back to Liverpool during the swinging 60s, belting out hit after hit; Poor Boy From Liverpool, Wishin' And Hopin', Let It Be Me and closer Out Of Time.

New Amen Corner got the crowd singing along after the interval with If Paradise Is Half As Nice before introducing Dave Berry to the stage, who treated the audience to Memphis Tennessee, Route 66, and a great cover of ZZ Top's Gimme All Your Loving, but it was The Crying Game that brought the house down. Bubblegum pop was back centre stage as Mike Pender whipped up the crowd with Sweets For My Sweet, Sugar And Spice, Don't Throw Your Love Away, Needles And Pins and a fantastic cover of ELO's Don't Bring Me Down. He certainly knew how to work the audience.

As the finale drew closer, all of the artists came together to join in on a cover of The Dave Clark Five's Glad All Over with the entire audience on their feet.

This was the perfect song to end the night, leaving everyone buzzing

The Merseybeats go on...
50 years after first single



THEY started life in Liverpool as The Mavericks but found fame during the sixties as The Merseybeats, notching up a string of hits such as Wishin' and Hopin', Don't Turn Around and I Think of You. And 50 years on since their first single was released the band are still on the road, dropping in to the Royal Concert Hall tonight on the Solid Silver 60s Tour.

Tony Crane from the Merseybeats, who are playing as part of the Solid Silver 60s tour. "I intend to carry on until I drop," says vocalist Tony Crane, a founder member of The Merseybeats alongside Billy Kinsley. "We're constantly touring. In fact, we even have a couple of gigs scheduled on our days off."

It's a two-month tour that also features Mike Pender (who was the original voice of The Searchers), Dave Berry and Wayne Fontana.

"It's 42 dates and that is a big tour, but it's usually about this number," says Crane, 67. "It'll be hard work but we're always happy to do them and we usually do them every other year." It was as The Mavericks that the band played alongside The Beatles at The Cavern in their home city. "Back then, there was a local newspaper called The Mersey Beat," he says of the inspiration for the name change, which was forced upon them by management. "At first we argued about it but to no avail." After three years of hits from 1966, The Merseybeats joined the cabaret circuit. "Billy got tired of it and formed Liverpool Express who had some success in the seventies but he came back to us in 1992," says Crane. He adds: "I love playing the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham and the old opera houses like Buxton. They're really lovely places to play in."

As well as the 50th anniversary of The Merseybeats' first single, it's the same for the debut singles by Dave Berry, The Searchers and Wayne Fontana. Between them they've had 16 top ten hits, including four No. 1s. There's a definite Northern feel to the tour, now in its 28th year. Dave Berry is from Yorkshire, Mike Pender and The Merseybeats are from Liverpool and Wayne Fontana is from Manchester. Berry, who has been a part of the Solid Silver 60s tour in three of the last four tours, had big hits with Mama, Little Things and The Crying Game, which coincidentally all peaked at number five. He also had a hit with This Strange Effect, a song written for him by Ray Davies of The Kinks, although it only made it to No. 37 in the UK and yet became the year's biggest selling single in Belgium and Holland. Pender was the original vocalist with The Searchers, leaving to play with his own band in 1985. He was the voice on all their major hits, including Sugar and Spice, Needles and Pins, Don't Throw Your Love Away and Sweets For My Sweet, all of which made the top two in the charts, three of them going all the way to the top. Fontana's hits, both with and without The Mindbenders, included the likes of Um Um Um Um Um Um, Pamela and The Game of Love.

While The Merseybeats will play as a self-contained band, the others will be backed by The New Amen Corner, who have no original members in their line-up but will deliver a few of the original Welsh band's hits including (If Paradise Is) Half as Nice, Bend Me Shape Me and Hello Suzie.

Solid Silver 60s Tour

Tony's weekly update came on the road to Truro.....
He recalls the last 10 days have flown by, all the band are really into the tour, and enjoying it. All the venues so far, have been brilliant, with enthusiastic hyped crowds especially when we sing Sorrow. Nice seeing familiar faces in the audience, and chatting when we come out to sign autographs. We have a long drive West today, but so far it has been great

Adrian Crane will guest on keyboards in Truro tonight,
and
Toni Baker & Chris Finley will both guest during this coming week.

So all is going well on tour for The Merseybeats

' I Had A Ball Last Night '

courtesy fan club member David

Hi Jenny, Well I had a ball last night it was brill to be surrounded with all the 60s icons

I met Billy and Tony as they arrived , they signed my sheet music.

(more memories from David on the fan club page)

Photo — David with Tony & Billy

Southport Theatre - Southport



Posted March 14th

... Solid Silver 60s memories from the fans ...

Just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the Merseybeats' performance in Weston over last weekend. I grew up on Merseyside in the 60's and love everything to do with that era. Their songs, (and those of the other

artistes on the show) were very nostalgic

Christine

TOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



Father and son (Tony & Adrian)
Manchester Opera House
courtesy of fan club member Sue



Three musketeers - Tony, Adrian, Bob
Manchester Opera House
courtesy of fan club member Sue



Nice in the white shirts - Finale Sheffield City Hall
courtesy of fan club member Sue

SOLO Diary Dates for Tony Crane

2013

July

Sat 13th Finland - PARIKKALA 60s Festival - Tony Crane, Alan Lovell,
Mick Avery, Eric Haydock and others

Sat 20th Norwich ' Black Tie ' Dinner and Dance .
Sprowston Manor Hotel TOGETHER - The 60s Dream
Attraction The new ultimate 60s Songs & Stories show -
with Tony Crane/Chip Hawkes/Geoff Turton/ Toni Baker/ Pete Hilton

October

Wed 9th - Hotel Puento Real, Playamar, Torremolinos, Spain
Yesterday Once More - Booking 01934 733958

THE MERSEYBEATS dairy dates

May

**Frid 17th May LIVE from LIVERPOOL with The Fourmost -
Ford Sports and Social Club, 77 Cronton Lane ,
Widnes, Merseyside**

Frid 24th - Mote Park Festival . Maidstone . Kent

Sat 25th Private Party

June

Sat 8th Whitby - Whitby 60s Festival

**Wed 19th Blackpool - Empress Ballroom -The Winter Gardens ,
Black pool.**

The National Pensioners Parliament Annual Convention

September

**Sun 1st Southport - Pontins -
Southport Holiday Park (New 60s Weekend)**

Fri 6th Brean Sands - Seagull Inn

Fri 20th Liverpool - The Cavern

Sat 28th Shrewsbury - Theatre Severn

October

Fri 11th Bognor - Butlins

November

**Fri 15th Brean Sands - Unity Farm Holiday Centre
(Yesterday Once More Booking 01934 733958)**

Fri 29th Great Yarmouth - Vauxhall Holiday Park

December

Sat 7th Skegness - Butlins Holiday (2 shows)

Solid Silver 60s Tour - starts Thursday March 7th

March

Thurs 7th Sheffield - City Hall - 7.30pm
Fri 8th High Wycombe - Swan Theatre - 7.30pm
Sat 9th Salisbury - City Hall - 7.30pm
Sun 10th Weston-Super-Mare - Playhouse Theatre 3pm & 7.45pm
Tue 12th Manchester - Opera House - 7.30pm
Wed 13th King's Lynn - Corn Exchange - 7.30pm
Thur 14th Northampton - Royal & Derngate 7.30pm
Fri 15th Gateshead - The Sage - 7.30pm
Sat 16th Southport - Southport Theatre - 7.30pm
Sun 17th Milton Keynes - Milton Keynes Theatre - 7.30pm
Mon 18th Cornwall, Truro - Hall for Cornwall - 7.30pm
Wed 20th Nottingham - Royal Concert Hall - 7.30pm
Thur 21st Halifax - Victoria Theatre - 7.30pm
Sun 24th Dartford - The Orchard - 7.30pm
Tue 26th Swansea - Grand Theatre - 7.30pm
Thur 28th Cardiff - St Davids Hall - 7.30pm
Fri 29th Blackpool - The Grand - 7.30pm
Sat 30th Leeds - Grand Theatre - 4pm & 7.30pm
Sun 31st Skegness - Embassy Theatre - 7.30pm

April

Tues 2nd Llandudno - Venue Cymru - 7.30pm
Wed 3rd Darlington - Civic Theatre - 7.30pm
Thur 4th Buxton - Opera House - 7.30pm
Fri 5th Tunbridge Wells - 7.30pm
Sat 6th Woking - New Theatre - 4pm & 7.30pm
Sun 7th Wolverhampton - The Grand - 4pm & 7.30pm
Tue 9th Glasgow - Concert Hall - 7.30pm
Wed 10th Edinburgh - Playhouse Theatre - 7.30pm
Thur 11th Dundee - Caird Hall - 7.30pm
Frid 12th Aberdeen - Music Hall - 7.30pm
Sat 13th Inverness - Eden Court Theatre - 5.15pm & 8.30pm
Tue 16th Southsea - Kings Theatre - 7.30pm
Wed 17th Folkstone - Leas Cliffs Hall - 7.30pm
Thurs 18th St Albans - Alban Arena - 7.30pm
Fri 19th Bournemouth - Pavilion Theatre - 7.30pm
Sat 20th Southend - Cliffs Pavilion - 7.30pm
Sun 21st Birmingham - Alexandra Theatre - 7.30pm
Tues 23rd York - Grand Opera House - 7.30pm
Wed 24th Liverpool - Philharmonic Hall - 7.30pm
Thurs 25th Basingstoke - The Anvil - 7.45pm
Fri 26th Torquay - Princess Theatre - 7.30pm
Sat 27th Eastbourne - Congress Theatre - 7.30pm
Sun 28th Norwich - Theatre Royal - 7.30pm
Tour End

Wayne Fontana



the other artistes on
tour backed by the
New Amen Corner

Southport Theatre, Southport
photographs courtesy of
Frank Neil

Dave Berry



Mike Pender



New Amen Corner

