

MIDLANDS GROUP MEETING

Rushall, 15th July 2018

Marilyn Bennett and Mick Knowles presented **Sounds of the Sixties** to a full-house of Midlands members - a very appropriate title, as the Midlands Group was founded in this decade.

Mick started us off in 1960 with the 'trad' jazz arrangement of *Original Tuxedo Rag* by Monty Sunshine and his band. From the same year was Chubby Checker (Ernest Evans) performing the phenomenally successful *The Twist*. 1961 was represented by *Moon River* by the Henry Mancini orchestra, featured in the film 'Breakfast at Tiffanys'; also *You're Driving Me Crazy* saw the Temperance Seven shooting up to a surprise Number One in the charts with a tune that was thirty-one years old. Moving on to 1962, Perry Como and the Ray Charles Singers gave us *Caterina* and Little Eva (Eva Narcissus Boyd) *The Locomotion*.

Blue Velvet had been a hit for Tony Bennett in 1951, and that success was repeated by the 1963 version by Bobby Vinton. Likewise *Roll Over Beethoven* had been recorded by Chuck Berry in 1956, before the Beatles featured it on their second LP, released in 1963. Staying with the Beatles, we next heard Lennon and McCartney's *All My Loving*, from 1964.

At this point Marilyn took over and led us into 1965 with the Australian folk/pop group, The Seekers performing *I'll Never Find Another You*. From the same year *Get Off My Cloud* by the Rolling Stones quickly reached the top of the charts. 1966, and the American folk/rock band The Lovin' Spoonful performed *Summer In The City*; and The Seekers, *Morning Town Ride*.

Andy Williams recorded *Can't Take My Eyes Off You* in 1967. Marilyn revealed that this was subsequently adopted as the unofficial anthem of Wales' national football team - nobody at the meeting could understand why !

For 1968, *Green Tambourine* by The Lemon Pipers, gave us a taste of psychedelic rock and *Sitting On The Dock Of The Bay* was a posthumous Number One for Otis Redding. Canned Heat were an American rock group, influenced by 1920s blues, they recorded *Let's Work Together* in 1969.

A technical hitch had prevented the playing of Flanders and Swann's 1964 live recording of *The Gas Man Cometh*, from their revue, 'At The Drop Of Another Hat'. Bill Dean-Myatt was able to find this track on the Internet, so we were able to chuckle along to it, albeit out of sequence.

Many thanks to Marilyn and Mick for a very entertaining afternoon of tunes that most of us could remember and all of us enjoyed. Thanks also to Julie Knowles for playing the recordings and to Bill and Anne for tea, coffee and biscuits.