



Talking Tees Valley Activity Pack

Music and Dancing

**Tees Valley
Museums**



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**





Welcome to another edition of the Talking Tees Valley Activity Pack.

Each month we will use objects from one of our museums in the Tees Valley to take a closer look at the lives and stories from people in our area.

Dancing was considered an important social skill. From the Spa in Saltburn to the Queens Rink Ballroom in Hartlepool, the Tees Valley had many music and dancing halls that were popular with young and old alike.

These venues saw the most famous bands of the time perform and the newest dancing crazes filled the dance floors. Many people met and fell in love during evenings at the local dance halls.





The QUEENS RINK BALLROOM

The Queens Rink Ballroom was on Clarence Road, West Hartlepool and started life as a roller-skating venue in 1910.

It became a live music and dancing venue in the 1930s when interest in roller-skating dwindled in the winter months.

It attracted many famous singers such as Lulu, The Hollies and local band Johnny and the Pirates.

The picture above shows the front of the Queens Rink Ballroom, in West Hartlepool.

Pictured opposite is Johnny Kidd and the Pirates who were a local band who played the Rink Ballroom in the 1960s. Did you ever see them perform there?



In the local dancing venues in the Tees Valley the bands were made up of local working-class lads from the shipyards, mines, iron works and factories.

Some went on to become famous, like Chick Henderson from Hartlepool who scored a number 1 hit in 1939, with the song 'Begin the Beguine'.



This Chick Henderson record is now kept in the collection of Hartlepool Museum Service.

Music and dance has always influenced fashion. Clothes had to be comfortable and make you look good when dancing the latest moves. In the dance halls of the 1920's people chose clothes they could freely move in to perform the fancy footwork needed in dances like the Charleston and Lindy Hop. Below are some of the 1950s dancing dresses kept at Preston Park Museum and Grounds.



From the Charleston in the 1920's to the Cha Cha Slide in 2000, there have been many new dance crazes.

Do you have a favourite dance?

During the 1970s Northern Soul developed into its own dance style. Could you do those fancy moves, or do you have two left feet?

Did you know...

The Polka dot started out as a dance craze in the 1840s. Now it's a popular fabric pattern!



The Globe Theatre in Stockton is one of the best know music venues in the Tees Valley. Built in 1913, it was the area's first cinema and played silent films. Later the venue was rebuilt several times with its current building opening in 1935. The Globe has undergone a recent restoration and is now open to host shows once again!

In the 1950s and 60s the venue played host to some of the biggest names of the time with acts including The Kinks, The Supremes, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Chuck Berry, and The Beatles to name a few.



The Animals played the Globe on 14th May 1964. The band was made up of Alen Price on keyboard, Chas Chandler on bass, John Steel on drums, Eric Burdon signing lead vocals and Hilton Valentine on rhythmic guitar. They were one of several bands playing in support of Chuck Berry that night.

The dance halls were an important part of many lives. They would teach dance classes at the halls and run small dances during the day so people could go and relax there on their lunch breaks. In 2013 the Teesside Gazette ran an article on the Spa in Saltburn, a popular dance hall in the Tees Valley. In the article Shelia Jenkins talked about her time at the Spa.

“The dance hall offered a great night out, it was a place to go with friends and to meet people. Oh, it was glorious - how we looked forward to our Saturday nights there. The night just flew past, and you never refused a dance, that would have been quite rude.”

Today's generation don't know this tradition of going out dancing to your local dancing hall after a hard day's work. It has since been replaced by the clubbing scene which emerged during the late 1970s and 80s.

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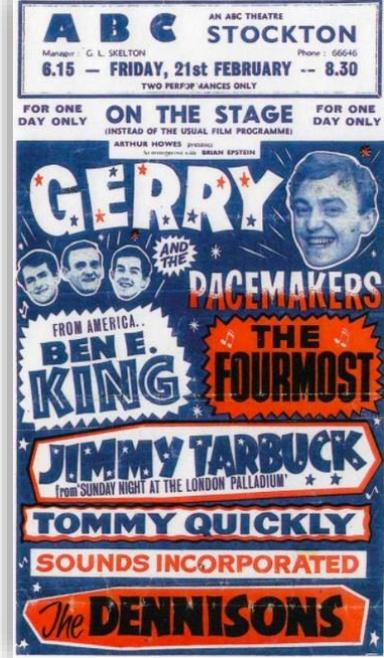
BALLROOM
 CHA CHA SLIDE
 CHARLESTON
 CHICK HENDERSON
 CHUCK BERRY

DANCING
 MUSIC
 NORTHERN SOUL
 POLKA DOT
 RINK

THE GLOBE
 THE SPA
 THE SUPREMES

Music and Dancing Quiz

1. Which Hartlepool singer had a number 1 hit in 1939?
 - a. Chick Henderson
 - b. Madonna
 - c. Doris Day
2. Which Victorian dance is now best known as a fabric pattern?
 - a. Polka Dot
 - b. The Waltz
 - c. Flamenco
3. The Animals, The Supremes and Gerry and the Pacemakers all played which Stockton Venue?
 - a. The ARC
 - b. The Globe
 - c. The Georgian Theatre
4. The Charleston was a popular dance in which decade?
 - a. 1910s
 - b. 1970s
 - c. 1920s
7. Many of the bands who played in the Tees Valley where mainly made up of who?
 - a. Aristocrats
 - b. Military Men
 - c. Local working-class lads
8. Johnny Kidd and the Pirates where a popular local band in the 1960s. Where did they play?
 - a. The London palladium
 - b. The Rink Ballroom in Hartlepool
 - c. A field in Stockton-on-Tees



If you enjoyed this newsletter please let us know at – Teesvalleymuseum@Stockton.gov.uk

Tees Valley Museums would like to thank Stan Laundon for the use of some images in this newsletter and the amazing resource of information on both the Rink Ballroom in Hartlepool and The Globe in Stockton. Visit his site here - <http://www.stanlaundon.com/rink.html>. Thanks also goes to Barry Jones for use of his advertising images of the Globe in Stockton. All images belong to their respective owners. Images courtesy of Preston Park Museum and Grounds, and Hartlepool Museum Services.