

Diamond Dayz – Colin Floyd

Monday March 10th 2025

Reviewer: Janette Sykes

Anyone who could hum the opening bars to 'Bonanza', croon along to 'Crossroads' or belt out 'Hi Ho Silver Lining' by Jeff Beck had a head start at the latest General Meeting. And 'Walking Back to Happiness' by Helen Shapiro neatly summed up the enthusiastic reaction of those of us who revelled in their mis-spent youth in this unashamedly nostalgic reprise of post-war popular culture.

Compere Colin Floyd's catchy brain teasers - from Roy Orbison's Pretty Woman to Baby Love by Diana Ross and The Supremes – really struck a chord as we wended our way through the 1950s, '60s and '70s during this highly enjoyable retro quiz. Teams of six tested their knowledge in three rounds of questions – focusing on Spot the Intro, a '50s and '60s photo quiz and a more general round spanning the decades and taking in classic TV.

Fuelled by lots of tea, coffee and cake, we sang, puzzled and laughed our way through classics such as All Shook Up (Elvis Presley), The Young Ones (Cliff Richard and The Shadows), Doo Wah Diddy (Manfred Mann) and Let's Twist Again (Chubby Checker). There was even time between rounds to bop along to Rock Around the Clock by Bill Haley and the Comets and dance around the room in conga-style to The Locomotion by Little Eva.

Answers ranged from The Andrews Sisters and Acker Bilk to Ted Heath and Tommy Steele. Arguably the toughest test popped up in the photo quiz, which I incorrectly guessed as being an image of Joe Brown and The Bruvvers. It was, in fact, Joe Brown with fellow stars Marty Wilde, Billy Fury and John Leyton (Johnny Remember Me, 1961). Hats off to anyone who got that one right! Brown, Fury and Wilde were managed by Larry Parnes, while Leyton's manager was Joe Meek, who also steered the career of Heinz and The Tornados (Telstar, 1962). By the way, Leyton is still alive at the grand old age of 89.

Sought-after prizes of jam (though nary a mention of Bob Marley) went to the two teams with the highest overall points – one at the back of the room, whose beleaguered members, despite protesting they couldn't hear the questions, mysteriously worked out most of the correct answers! By the time we had finished, conversations were springing up about famous TV ads (Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom – Esso Blue!), novelty hits (You're a Pink Toothbrush, I'm a Blue Toothbrush) and even fashion icons (Mary Quant and her famous mini dresses, with zip up fronts, A-line bias and chiffon sleeves). Aaah, they just don't make them like that any more....!