

The best little Rock n' Roll band in Glasgow

Gillie and The Sonnets.

1962-1964.

Gillie and the Sonnets was born in Miss L.Begg's geography class in September 1962 when she accidentally sat Derek Burns and Iain Callander together, and they found a common interest in all things "Shadows" and guitars in general. The timing was perfect, just pre Beatles, and youth clubs were crying out for bands to play Saturday night dances. Within months, Sandy Buchanan and Ronnie Fernand had joined playing drums and bass guitar respectively, with Robert Gilmour (Gillie) as lead vocalist. All Whitehill boys, although Gillie was well into his working life at 20 and Sandy left school shortly thereafter to join Albion Motors in Scotstoun in their drawing office. The band played at The Crypt Club, opposite the Albert Ballroom on Bath St., on Friday nights and at the Elite Cafe Club, Riddrie every Sunday and at Youth Club dances at St Andrews Church on Alexandra Parade and other Dennistoun hotspots. A highlight and the only occasion when Headmaster Walker mentioned the band at the weekly assembly, resulted from their fund raising activities at the 1964 School Fete to raise money for Craighend. We didn't quite bring "Honour and Distinction" on the school, but we raised a small fortune for its coffers! By 1965 the band had split up, all going our separate ways. Gillie went off to Jersey, Madeira and other exotic locations still playing and singing, Ron went on to Strathclyde to do an engineering degree, Sandy worked for Shell and is now an oil drilling consultant traveling the world, Derek worked at Bank of Scotland and Iain had a career in concrete and building materials in UK and the Far East.

The music goes on.....50 years later, Iain and Ron still play regularly at a rock & roll session



and an acoustic evening, together with another ex Whitehill senior, John Minelly.

October 1963 at Sloans Resturant, Argyle Arcade, Glasgow

From Left: Sandy Buchanan, Iain Callander, Robert Gilmour, Ron Fernand, Derek Burns.