

6th Form Tea Dance Circa 1950



?? Valerie Orme Shirley Robinson Doug Morris
(where are they now?)

Skiffle 1955



A BAND formed by Mitcham Youth Club members will provide "music while you work" for members of the club. The band is a "skiffle group" and will play music on Tuesday evenings, which are being set aside for recreational work.

The idea was suggested by 16 year old Alan Brock, a member of the club, and Mr. Dennis Hilliard, assistant club leader. After months of planning, the band gave its first performance to club members last week.

The group play and sing Negro spirituals and old American prison songs. They have a motley collection of instruments. One is a washboard. Another is a double-bass, which they have made themselves out of an old tea-chest and a broom handle. The other instruments are a guitar, ukulele and a harmonica. The group is led by 16 year old Michael Swaine, the guitarist.

The group are eight strong. Three of the members are singers only. Alan Brock, one of the singers who also arranges the music, explained that "skiffle" playing originated in the Southern States of America. "When the musicians found they could not afford to pay their rent, they used to ask the neighbours in for a musical evening. They would

then hold a collection to raise the rent. That is how skiffle groups were formed." Skiffle? "It is just a name," he said.

He added: "There is a certain vogue in skiffle groups at present, but musically they are not of much value. I think they are a passing phase."

Their opening performance was tape-recorded. The players listened, as their efforts were played back—then they tried again. Later members of Mitcham Youth Executive came to hear them.

The general opinion was that the performance was particularly good—in view of the short time they had been playing together.

Ramble 1957



Little Hampton 1957

