

‘Within the past few years, he has been responsible for bringing to North Derry the cream of the Irish bands – not to mention a fair sprinkling of cross-Channel talent too.’

Northern Constitution, 29 September 1962.

DERRICK & THE SOUNDS

As well as managing ballrooms Bobby also managed a local band, Sounds Anonymous from Omagh. In August 1965 Bobby took over their management, and made Derrick Mehaffy the frontman, as he was the most popular with teenage girls.

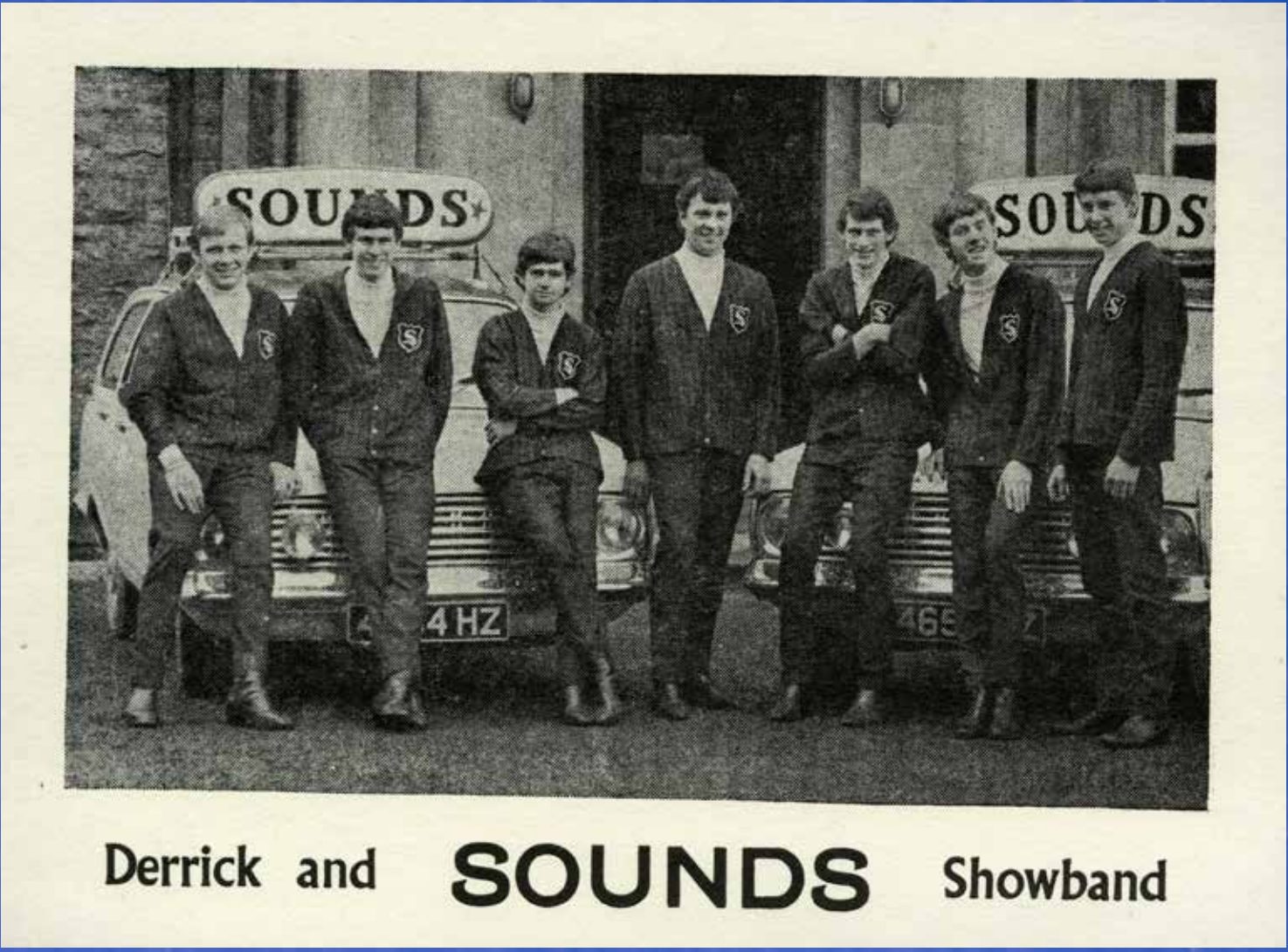
The band name was changed to Derrick & The Sounds, and they started touring more widely, with Jimmy O’Neill as musical director. As the band were still at school, they performed further afield in Ireland during school holidays, travelling to Cork and Killarney. Derrick & The Sounds were the ‘*youngest successful showband in Ireland*’, and their success was due to ‘*widespread popularity among all age groups in city and country.*’ (Northern Constitution, 24 September 1966).

‘On a Saturday night after a dance the stewards at the Strand have a proper headache trying to clear the fans away from the bandstand to let the “Sounds” get home.’ (Northern Constitution, 16 October 1965).

When Derrick & The Sounds supported The Everly Brothers at Limavady on 9 April 1966, Phil Everly said, ‘*Those boys are terrific. These people who knock and harshly criticise Irish groups are stupid. These groups are all very talented and skilful musicians.*’ (Coleraine Chronicle, 7 May 1966).

After leaving school they became a professional band in September 1966, and played over 30 times at Bobby’s venues. In 1967 Jim Doherty, former manager of the Capitol Showband, took over their management.

Yours sincerely
Bobby Platt



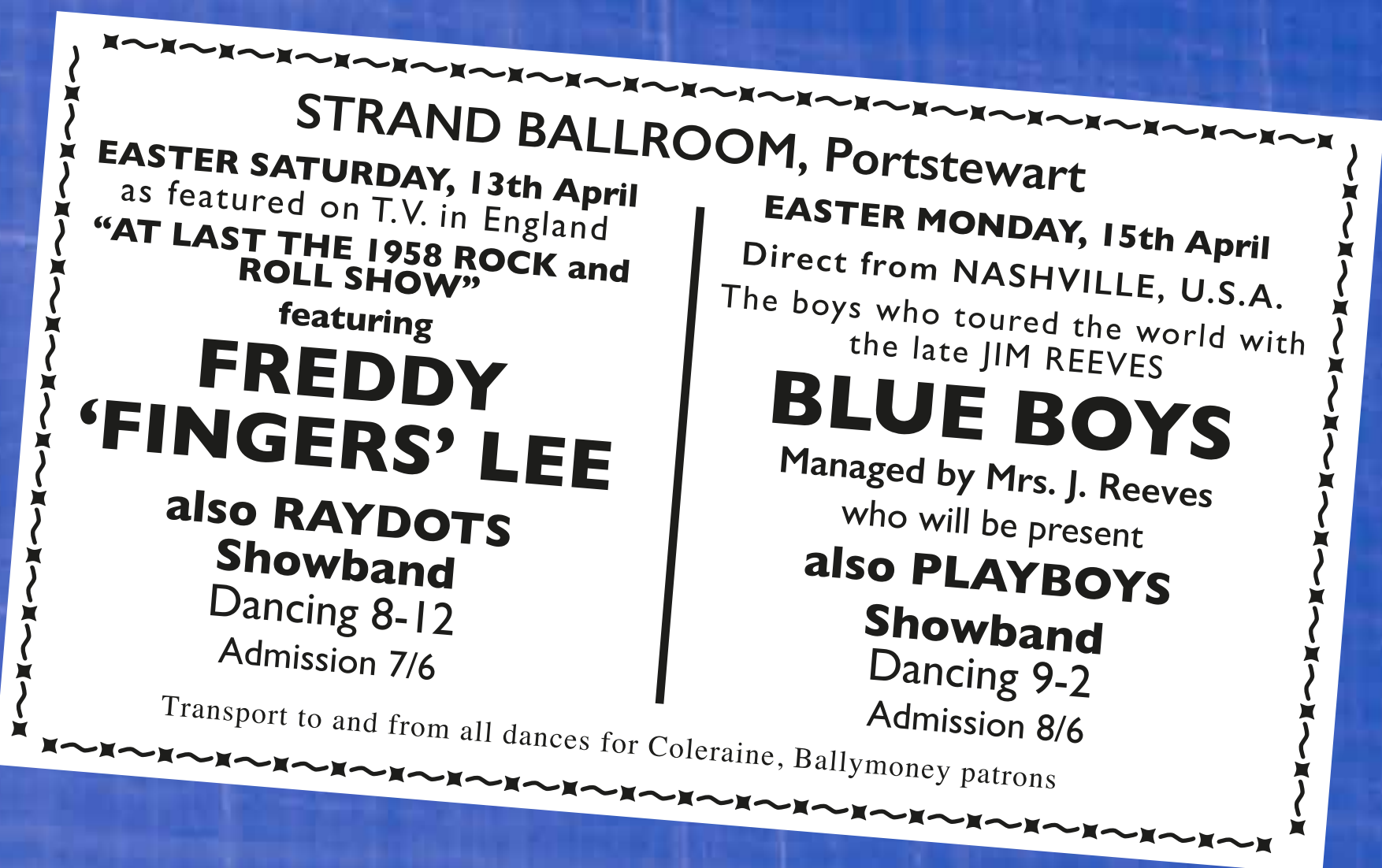
Promotional postcard for Derrick & The Sounds. Bobby bought the two cars that can be seen in the background, with distinctive signage for the band to travel to performances. Courtesy Bobby Platt collection.



Bobby photographed with Derrick & The Sounds, when they supported English beat group Sounds Incorporated at the Strand in March 1967. Courtesy Bobby Platt collection.



Promotional photo of the Blue Boys. Courtesy Bobby Platt collection.



Advertisement for Blue Boys performance. Courtesy Coleraine Chronicle, 13 April 1968.

‘It has become a mixed bag. Besides having the local people we get the R.A.F. men from nearby Ballykelly, and others from the Derry area.’ (Bobby Platt commenting on his success in attracting a wide audience, Northern Constitution, 10 April 1965).

Dances at Limavady Agricultural Hall finished in June 1967. It was rumoured Robert Noble of the Golden Slipper in Magilligan had taken over the lease in November 1967, but dances did not restart.

The final show at the Strand was The Blue Boys, managed by the wife of the late Jim Reeves. The Strand Ballroom was sold to the neighbouring Dominican College in April 1968, and became part of the school grounds. ‘The ballroom, originally called the Palais de Dance and later the Top Hat, has for years been one of the leading halls in County Derry.’ (Coleraine Chronicle, 6 April 1968).

Promotional postcard of Derrick & The Sounds. Courtesy Bobby Platt collection.

