



Mackey cokes and barley wine

Transcription of excerpts from interviews with

David Roberts, Alison Gunson, Ralph Tittley, Cath Shinton, Liz Burton and Pat Grizell
about what they used to drink at Malvern Winter Gardens gigs

David: You weren't allowed to take drinks into the main hall, the bouncers wouldn't let you take drinks in the main hall, so you had to do all your drinking around--, and everybody, you would stand around the fountain talking and drinking, and waiting for the band to come on. This was our opportunity to do an awful lot of underage drinking, I'm sad to say. And it was all part of that social scene, you know, you would meet up with people, you'd inexpertly try and chat up women, mostly with 99 percent failure rate in my case. The queue at the bar was always a nightmare, but you could always get served even when you were 14, you know you could always get served, they never looked at you.

Alison: Oh God, in those days it was awful stuff, barley wine. Everyone used to drink barley wine, well it was student days wasn't it, barley wine was always the, ooh. Yeah, I haven't touched any of that for a long time [laughs].

Ralph: I always drank lager or cider, snakebites [laughs]. Rum and black.

Cath: I can remember a group coming one night I was backstage, and one of them had gone to get drinks to bring backstage, and I would have

been 15. And he came back and he said, "I didn't know what to get you Cath, so I got you a brandy and Babycham, I hope that's all right." Oh, goodness, the best thing I've ever had. And I have, since that day, drunk brandy. But they changed the Babycham for some reason, and it became dry. Yeah, Martini and lemonade, gin and orange, or gin and lime. But I suppose Babychams were what we were drinking. Yeah.

Liz: One of the girls said that they used to take a bottle of wine with them and sneakily go and drink it in the toilets because they didn't have to fight their way to the bar.

Pat: Mackey cokes. Mackeson and coke. I can't believe I drank that. It tended to be cider or Mackey cokes. Although if you were feeling a bit, erm, posh, you might have a Dubonnet and lemonade, but invariably it was cider. What on earth possessed us to drink Mackey cokes I do not know.

*Transcripts of the full interviews are available from Rock Around the Hills
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