

Guests are invited to dress up: *what will you be?*

1940's

Men

Men were pretty dressed up. Suits, ties and hats were commonplace in public. Most men were serving in the forces and were often in uniform. When Make do and Mend took off men wore knitted garments, usually with smart trousers, a tie and a shirt.

Women

The fashion during war time was skirts, sensible 'flat heeled' shoes and square shouldered jackets that recalled the cut of uniforms. In March 1941 the Minister for Labour called on the women of Britain to help the war effort. Many women of all ages found themselves working in the factories. Fancy clothing was out – trousers or dungarees were worn instead of skirts and a scarf was tied around the head instead of wearing a hat.

1950's

Men

Classic mens 1950's fashion was mostly a very simple look, grey, charcoal or dark blue single breasted suits and plain coloured tie. Men nearly always wore a hat and most gentleman wore an overcoat. Tweed or check jackets and blazers worn with non-matching trousers were also very popular. Mens 1950's fashions for the younger generation were influenced by American icons, such as Elvis and Marlon Brando who wore leather jackets and jeans.

Women

Wide circular or pleated skirts were worn with layers of petticoats to give lift and were prominent in both day and eveningwear. The pencil skirt was also popular - skirts were mostly worn with a shirt and silk scarf tied around the neck. Capris were worn with a shirt or plain top with a wide belt with flat shoes.

1960's

Men

The pea coat was quite popular for men in the mid-60s. The Beatles were leading the way, as hair started to grow longer and pants fit tighter. Men still wore boots and hats. The late 60s brought a whole new range of styles for men. In 1969 seeing a man wear a silk scarf was common. Men's trousers became flared at the bottom almost like women's trousers.

Women

One of the biggest impacts on modern fashion that started in the 1960s is the introduction of the mini skirt. Often paired with tights and go-go boots, the mini skirt started a phenomenon. Other popular 60s fashions included; Baby-doll dresses with round necks and fitted waists. These cute dresses were found in prints and solids and in both pastel and vibrant colors, Culottes had the look of a full skirt but were more versatile, like a trouser and tie-dyed shirts allowed for personal expression and individuality in the wardrobe.