

**NEWS RELEASE****6 January 2014****Original Beatles Poster Found at Bidston Station  
Now on Display at Local Museums**

The fifty year old poster, promoting a Little Richard concert, supported by The Beatles is now displayed at the Beatles Story exhibition, in Liverpool. It will go up at the Merseybeat Story Museum at Fort Perch Rock in New Brighton, Wirral in the spring.

Building contractors found the poster at Bidston station in August while refurbishment work was taking place. Well preserved, it was discovered underneath wooden cladding on an outside wall on the platform.

The poster publicises the gig given by the American rock and roll star, which The Beatles and several other bands supported at the Tower Ballroom in New Brighton on 12 April 1962. Tickets cost ten shillings and sixpence.

It was only thanks to the care and attention of the contractors as well as the integrity they showed in handing it in to Merseyrail that it was saved.

Merseyrail is lending the poster to the two local museums for limited periods and plans to put it on permanent display at some point this year at a station on the network for the general public to enjoy. The rail operator has not yet decided which station that will be.

Maarten Spaargaren, managing director of Merseyrail, commented: 'We are really keen to ensure that our customers and the people of the city region generally, benefit from this fascinating piece of local history. It is a great insight into where The Beatles were in their career at that point and what life was like in the Sixties.'

Martin King of the Beatles Story, said: 'We love it when new Beatles artefacts are uncovered in and around the city. This one is particularly interesting for the keen fan, because it represents the tour that The Beatles would have met Billy Preston

**Notes to Editors:**

- *Merseyrail carries ca 110,000 passengers per weekday*
- *Merseyrail scores for reliability and punctuality averaged over 95 per cent during the last 12 months*
- *We operate one of the most intensively used networks in the UK with more than 800 trains per weekday*
- *Merseyrail is a 50-50 joint venture between Serco and Abellio*
- *Merseytravel is the combined Passenger Transport Authority and Executive for Merseyside*
- *Network Rail is the owner and operator of most of the rail infrastructure in the UK*
- *For further information, contact Alice Owen on tel 0151 955 2131.*

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for the first time, while he was in Little Richard's touring band. We're very happy to have this on display for a limited run and hope our customers enjoy a genuine bit of Merseyside social history.'

The poster was painted by local artist Tony Booth, who still produces portraits of pop stars, movie greats and sporting personalities.

**ends**

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