

News



From left to right: Terry Hall performs at the BT Center Live - Closing Coventry exhibition concert at Highgate, London, on the last day of the London 2012 Olympic Games on August 12

Incredible photos of Terry Hall at one of The Specials' early gigs in Birmingham – supporting The Clash

Birmingham Music Archive has documented one of The Special's first ever gigs in the city's Top Rank venue supporting The Clash in 1978

By **Fernanda Bourke**
 Published 20th Dec 2023, 12:03 GMT
 Updated 20th Dec 2023, 12:11 GMT

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Email](#)
[Comments](#)

IBMA is among the many leading tributes to Terry Hall the Midlands music hero and frontman for The Specials.

Members of the band, formed in Coventry in 1977, announced via social media on Monday night that the singer had passed away after a "brief illness". He was 65.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing, following a brief illness, of Terry, our beautiful friend, brother and one of the most brilliant singers, songwriters, and lyricists this country has ever produced," they wrote in a statement.

The Specials created some of the most iconic songs of the 1980s, including Ghost Town, Gangsters and Too Much Too Young.

U2 were among the first to release a tribute in response. The band said: "We are very sad to hear of the passing of Terry Hall the lead singer of @thespecials," they posted. "Another one gone too soon! RIP Terry Strevyhall trip."

His new wave contemporary **Elvis Costello** also paid his respects, saying: "Sad to receive the news of Terry Hall's passing last night from Lyndal Golding. Terry's voice was the perfect instrument for the true and necessary songs on The Specials," he tweeted.

"That honesty is heard in so many of his songs in joy and sorrow. My condolences to his family and friends."

The Specials were originally known as the Coventry Automatics, but changed their name in 1977. One of their first gigs was to support The Clash at Birmingham's Top Rank, in Dale End in the city centre, in July 1978.

Birmingham photographer Mick Googhagen captured the action, which has been documented by [Birmingham Music Archive](#).

Here are four pictures of The Specials in one of their early gigs in Birmingham:



1. The Specials support The Clash at Top Rank in Birmingham in 1978

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Email](#)



2. The Specials support The Clash at Top Rank in Birmingham 1978

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Email](#)



3. The Specials support The Clash at Top Rank in Birmingham in 1978

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Email](#)



4. The Specials support The Clash at Top Rank in Birmingham in 1978

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Email](#)

Related topics:
[Birmingham](#)
[UK](#)
[Social Media](#)
[England](#)
[Coventry](#)

[Comments Guidelines](#)
 This website and its associated newspaper are members of Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)