

MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC
ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD

MID TO LATE 60s

CHAPTER FIVE



Chapter 5 in Cynrthfa Castle Merthyr Tydfil Circa 1966. (Photo Courtesy of Geoff Vaughn)

Chapter Five

Chapter 5 formed in 1966. After changing their name to Colour Supplement and going through a number of line up changes, they eventually travelled throughout Wales and England, playing the Cavern in Liverpool and The Star Club in Hamburg, supporting Pure Earth, who would go on to be called Black Sabbath. The photo left features Bob Watkins (Vocals), Dai Shell (Guitar), Irene Jones (Vocals), Graham O'Neil (Drums), Geoff Vaughn (Bass Guitar), Terry Cronin (Rhythm Guitar). Dai Shell, who would later progress to form Sassafra, replaced Frank Janes, who had previously played with The Saints.

“Brilliant! My mum is the lead singer, Irene Homolka! I can't wait to show her this xxx.”

“My auntie Irene is in the band.”

“That's my Dad, bottom right, Terry Cronin.”

“My late husband was in the group.”

“It all started in the Treharris cinema many moons ago when I was playing with the Saints, that night I linked up with Bobby Watkins and Gary Davies who had come to watch us play.”

Bass player brings Chapter Five alive with memories from 1960s

A BASSIST from Pembrokeshire who played on the same stage as The Beatles and Ozzy Osbourne got in touch after spotting himself in a photograph from the 1960s.

Geoff Vaughn spotted the old line-up of pop group Chapter Five and said he played bass guitar with them the year this was taken – he's pictured in the front row on the right (with the bass guitar).

Mr Vaughn said his fellow band members were drummer Graham O'Neil, of Downla, Bob Watkins, of Treharris, on vocals, singer Irene Jones, of the Glynos, keyboard player David King, of Tredegar, and lead guitarist Dai Shell, of Tynyndyn.

He said: "We later changed the name to Colour Supplement. We played mainly in South Wales clubs and university dances, but did a number of gigs in England as

well, most memorably the Cavern in Liverpool, twice. We also played in Germany in the famous Star Club in Hamburg for a week supporting an act called Pure Earth who had a young singer called Ozzy Osbourne. This band went on to become Black Sabbath."

Irene James, of Bonyngton, got in touch after recognising the band name as her husband Frank was in the original line-up.

She said: "The only person Frank recognises is the female singer, her name was Irene. It seems the name was rebranded with new members. Some of the members in the previous group, (not the one in your photo) were Irene, Gary Davies, Bobby Watkins and my husband, Frank James. Before Irene joined the band they were five boys, hence Chapter Five."



Chapter Five were a hit in England and Wales



(Courtesy Emma Foley)

The Spirals

Forming after the disbandment of Pete Lovis and the Tremelos, The Spirals played every Saturday night in the Palace Cinema, every Monday night at the Heolgerig Club and every Tuesday night at the Marts club, with the gigs always packed. The band also played in other parts of Wales, supporting the likes of Eric Burdon and The Animals in North Wales. In the photo below, we see Pete Lovis on drums, Gwynne Lewis on Lead guitar, Jeff Evans on Rhythm guitar and Gareth Howel-Morgan (Coggie) on Bass Guitar.

Other well known acts they supported included The Swinging Blue Jeans, Gene Vincent, Johnny Kid and the Pirates and Them.

“I recognise Peter Lovis on the far right. He's from Galon Uchaf and worked for Merthyr Council in the Registrar's. He was also the Entertainment Secretary for the council, arranging events in the town. His mother was well known as 'Nurse Lovis' in the area.”

“They had to change name from The Tremeloes to The Spirals when Brian Poole and the Tremeloes hit the scene.”

“They had a residency at the Miners Hall. They were he top band in valleys at time.”

“Memories? I was born in the same house as Peter, delivered by his mother who was my Aunt. I not only saw them live, I watched them practice in the living room.”



The Spirals as Featured in The Express on February 4th 1966. Featuring Pete Lovis (drums), Gwynne Lewis (lead guitar), Graham Morgan (bass) Jeff Evans (rhythm guitar). (Photo Courtesy The Express)

