

### The Deeply Vale Box Set



Ozit Morpheus, cat no tbc (6CD+Book)

ISBN 9780954750213, 272 pages

**Not so grim up north; nice down south as well**

Where to begin with this massive music archive – coupled with hefty A4 paperback – dedicated to one of the best-loved of the annual free festivals? Deeply Vale ran from 1976 until its demise – by then unrecognisable from its idyllic beginnings in Rochdale's Cheesden Valley – in 1981. This mass of tracks, gathered over six CDs, recognises that the festival's five-year lifespan was crucial for bringing together the unlikely bedfellows of punk and hippie, and started the coalescing of outsider groups which ultimately spawned the "crustie".

At Deeply Vale, The Fall rubbed shoulders with Steve Hillage and Nik Turner; The Ruts and Wilful Damage mixed with Here & Now – arguably setting the scene for a deluge of punks to join forces with Stonehenge hippies in the 80s. Those acts are all represented here; seasoned enthusiasts will already be aware that some of the material is decidedly lo-fi, but it's an evocative collation of the famous and forgotten.

The accompanying book, *Tales Of Deeply Vale Festival*, is an impressively chaotic recounting of those days by those who were there, alongside a mass of images and cuttings. It's not a parochial tome, though – it speaks to anyone interested in 70s counterculture. the extensive multiple viewpoints makes the Deeply Vale volume so engrossing. *Ian Abrahams*