

MUSICAL MEMORIES

Book takes a nostalgic look at music festival

■ Compiling box set has been a labour of love for organiser Chris

By Andrew Bardsley
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MUSIC fans can relive Bury's Deeply Vale music festival – after one of its organisers released a retrospective box set.

Chris Hewitt revealed he worked on his *Tales of Deeply Vale Festival* book – which comes with six CDs and a pack of incense – for 18 years.

The festivals, which were held from 1976 to 1979, saw thousands of fans descend to the east of Bury to catch performances by a wide variety of rock bands.

The 272-page A4 book features contributions from a number of well-known names in music, who played or attended.

Prestwich band The Fall played the festival in 1978, and singer Mark E Smith says although he usually does not like playing at festivals, Deeply Vale was a special case.

The book also features contributions from DJ Andy Kershaw, Ian Brown, Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark singer Andy McCluskey, and Doves frontman Jimi Goodwin.

The six-CD set features live tracks recorded at the festival, and studio tracks from bands who appeared, including previously unreleased tracks by The Fall.

Chris, from Northwich, said the project has been a labour of love and slowly developed into the collection, which is now available for £73.

He said: "There is so many people who have got little bits and pieces of stuff about the festival, and over the years it developed into the book."

The festival started in 1976 with about 300 people congregating in the fields, but by 1979 the festival was attracting 20,000 fans, and was seen as the North West's answer to Glastonbury.

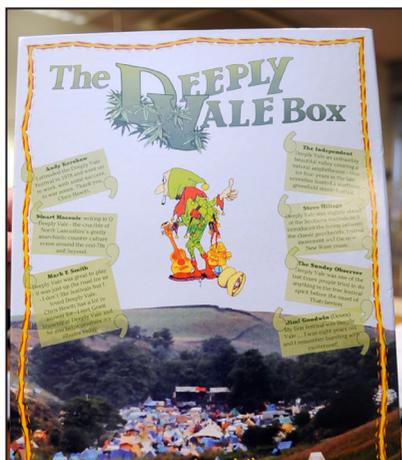
It was influenced by fellow music fans who helped set up the Rivington Pike Festival in 1976, with organisers becoming friends through the local hippy collective.

Chris and a group of his friends managed to cobble together the equipment needed, and negotiated with the farmer who owned the land at Deeply Vale.

However, Chris said the festi-



Chris Hewitt with the box set that commemorates the festival.



The book offers readers "a ride through the North West's festival" Deeply Vale



Chris Hewitt's box set in all its glory with the book and CDs that document what was dubbed the North West's Glastonbury, which attracted bands such as The Fall.

val started to attract problems, with heroin making its way onto the site.

As preparations for the festival in 1980 were being made, the site became unavailable as councils and nearby landowners objected to the site being used.

A new location for the festival in Darwen was announced, but it did not recapture the spirit around Deeply Vale.

Chris said the festival was a

landmark in the counter-culture in the North West.

He said: "It was the first of the free festivals to open its stage to punk."

"It was also intertwined with the Manchester Rock against Racism movement.

"Long before any other festival, it crossed the hippy/punk divide."

The box set is available to buy by calling 01565 734 577 or emailing ozitrecords@which.net

Great tribute

THE First World War will be commemorated at a concert by Bury Choral Society.

Entitled *It begins: the Great War on Remembrance Day*, the event will be held at Bury Parish Church on November 11, 100 years after the start of the conflict.

The programme will comprise narrative, poetry prose and music. Children from Bury's St Joseph and St Bede RC Primary School will give readings. The choir will be singing items by Butterworth, Holst, Mendelssohn and John Ireland, ending with *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Vaughan Williams.

Bury Camerata will accompany the choir under their new musical director Juan Ortuno

The concert starts at 7.30pm, tickets are £12 (£6 students) available at burychoral.org and on the door.

Organ show

DAVID Newsholme makes a welcome return to Bury Parish Church to perform at its latest Friday lunchtime concert tomorrow.

The former assistant organist at the church between 2007 and 2009 is currently director of the girls' choir and assistant organist at Canterbury Cathedral, organist of the King's School, Canterbury, and musical director of the Canterbury Singers. David is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and holds a doctorate in music.

He has recently recorded JS Bach's six *Trio Sonatas* at the Metzler organ of Trinity College, Cambridge, which will be available in 2015 on Opus Arte.

Tomorrow's recital will include works by JS Bach, Elgar, Bridge, Howells, Mayerl and Widor.

Start is 12.30pm. Tickets are £5 and available on the door.

Man guilty of offensive telephone call

A MAN has been ordered to carry out 40 hours of community service after making an offensive telephone call to a woman.

Waqar Chowdry, aged

20, of Louis Avenue, Limefield, made numerous calls to Lauren Szyrak between May 16 and June 1.

A call made on May 31 was indecent, ob-

scene or menacing in character.

Chowdry denied an harassment charge and a communications charge at Bury Magistrates Court on June

3 but was found guilty on September 5.

At a hearing on October 20, Chowdry was also ordered to take part in an improving relationships course.



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