

A MUSIC event that attracted thousands of rock fans to the doorstep of Bury was celebrated in a television documentary on Friday night

Famous faces including guitar hero Steve Hillage, Mick Hucknall and Doves lead singer Jimi Goodwin recalled their memories of the Deeply Vale festival for the Granada show.

The festival took place high in the Ashworth Valley between Rochdale and Bury over four years in the 1970s and became a mini-Glastonbury for music fans across the north west.

The documentary *Truly, Madly, Deeply Vale* looked at the origins of the event and feature anecdotes about some of the fans and bands who attended.

First staged in 1976, the festival was conceived when a collection of music fans, art students and musicians met in a Heywood pub and decided that the area needed an outdoor event.

The remote location, approached by single track farm roads, proved an ideal natural arena for bands to perform, with the useful facility of a nearby stream and reservoir.

There were 300 people at the first festival, growing to 20,000 in the last two years before Rochdale Council called time after the last festival in 1979.

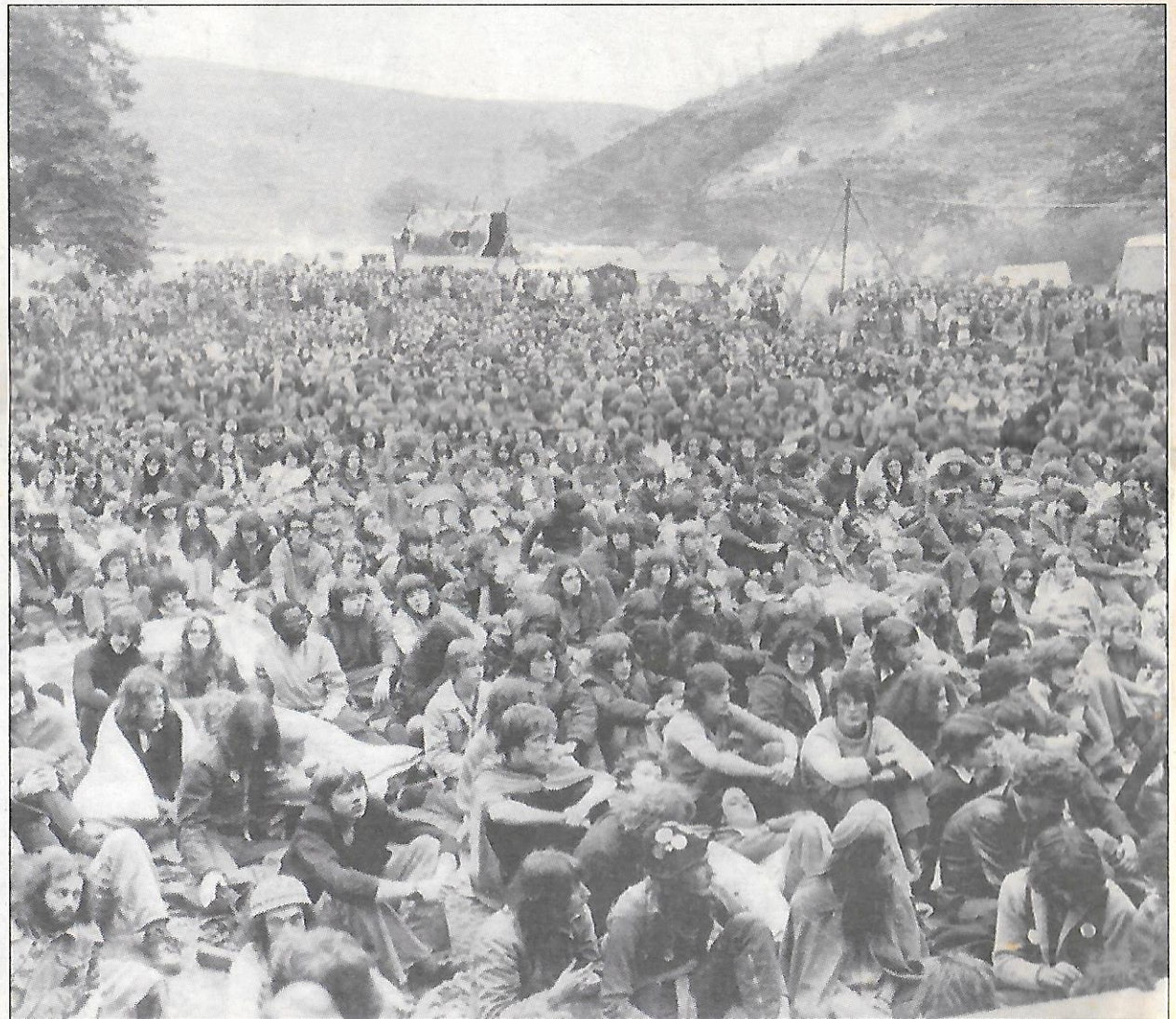
Among the artists who performed there were The Fall, Durutti Column, Nik Turner of Hawkwind, Here and Now, OMD precursors Pegasus and Heywood regulars Tractor.

Bury Times photographer Steve Holt attended as a fan and took pictures at the event.

He said: "You would see lots of people heading up Walmersley Road to get there and, when you reached the area, there were tents and teepees all over the place.

"It was a marvellous atmosphere, like a little village with everyone there just to have fun."

Deeply missed



● The Deeply Vale festival crowd in 1978