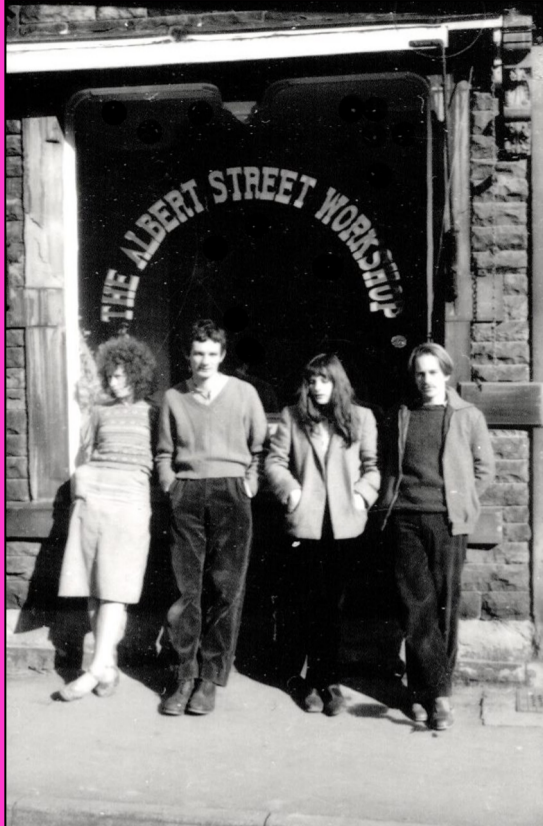


# CREATIVE VITALITY



**Albert St. Workshop: a place of energy and creativity**  
Jenny Beavan (potter), Martin Parr, Kate Mellor (potter), and Trevor Cowland (jeweller and musician).

As the sixties came to a psychedelic close in a blaze of love, drugs and rebellion, heralding the dawn of a new age, pioneers seeking an alternative way of life followed their hopes and dreams and moved to Hebden Bridge.

Creative talents fused with the atmosphere of the town. Although Hebden Bridge had performing groups, brass bands, Light Opera Society and The Little Theatre, the hippies brought a new vitality and energy - in arts, crafts and music. It was a different creativity for the town and is reflected in many of the small, independent and creative businesses of today - from poetry, crafts and pottery to music and yoga - they were a mix of valley independence and the new creative energy.

It was the style of the times, and the newcomers established it with an energy and newness which imprinted itself on the town. For many of the incomers the rejection of large scale capitalism was intertwined with a creative impulse - making and selling on a small scale.



Sally Medlyn, part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Day, connection, moved to Chiserley Fieldside with partner and friends who developed the whole food side at 8<sup>th</sup> Day, and commuted each day to Manchester in a works van.  
*A photograph by Martin Parr*

**Martin Parr, internationally renowned photographer,** was part of a group of ex-Manchester Polytechnic students who formed a creative partnership of artists in the hills and moorlands of the Industrial Pennines. It was a gamble in that he was isolating himself from his contemporaries and the centre of photographic activity in London. The Albert Street Workshop provided companionship and community which he had lost when leaving Manchester. In 'THE NON-CONFORMISTS', he captured what was being lost from the valley - chapel goers, Sunday best and The Ancient Order of Hen-Pecked Husbands, but sadly did not capture the movement to which he contributed so much.



1977: Havana Lake on release of their Album 'Concrete Valley'.  
Richard 'Wally' Woodcock, still playing with the legendary Owter Zeds, played music with The Corduroy Hot Rhythm Boys and later with Havana Lake. He played with local musicians who had previously been a backing group at Workingmen's clubs.



JA. There was an influx of people with guitars and flutes.

Extracts from Recycle Radio broadcast with John Armstrong and Andy Kershaw.

**A BENEFIT CONCERT**  
FOR THE **WINDSCALE FIGHTING FUND**  
WINDSCALE  
It'll cost the earth  
AT THE **CARLTON · Hebden Bridge**  
Featuring Rock Music by **SHY TALK & SMIRK**  
PLUS DISCO · LATE BAR · FOOD  
**FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
9:00~1:30 Admission 60p

JA. The co-op ball-room (The Carlton) was the place your mum and dad would meet, but later all the hippy bands played there.

AK. And how were these people received?  
JA. I think the worst that was said was 'are you a boy or a girl?'

JA. It wasn't uncommon to walk up the valley and hear strains of Jimmy Hendrix coming out of a remote cottage on the hills

**Music** was an important part of the alternative culture; it was everywhere people played in the street, in the park, on the hillsides, in each others' houses. A plethora of bands with interchangeable personnel played folk gigs at the 'Bottom' Shoulder and rock gigs at the 'Top' Shoulder - all these venues pre-dated the Trades Club.

**The barn at Latham farm** became a workshop for hippie designed dresses, capes and kaftans. Influences from the Hippie Trail - India, Afghanistan became part of the mix. Cutting machines were purchased and a cutting table erected and after an ad in the HBT a little army of local homeworkers were recruited for sewing and the clothes were sold at 8<sup>th</sup> day. As production increased it moved to Bridge Mill.



8th Day shop front, Manchester



Get in on the ground floor in a voile maxi dress. £5 - On the Eighth Day.  
*Manchester Evening News*



Chris Ratcliffe weaving bags and belts on self-made inkle-loom.



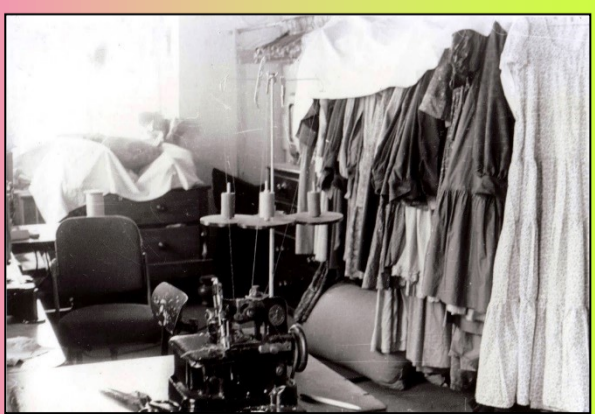
Pottery by Anne Faet made in her workshop at the Bull 1976



Mike and Paul with guitar cases leaving Latham for a gig 1972



Madeleine at Bridge Mill



Overlocker and new stock at Bridge Mill