

Hebden Bridge Times letter summer 1983



Do not go softly into that goodnight

STOP for a moment. Forget your squabbles about the plight of local geese, whether or not to build a pelican crossing and some old dear's talk on beehives in some church.

These are not the REAL issues affecting the people of Hebden Bridge, or Calderdale, or all of Britain.

The real issues are evaded because many people are frightened of what is really going on around them.

There are many problems facing people today just as there have always been problems. The point is that few people make the effort to try and solve these problems and until we face up to them our lives will not get any better.

Nor will the lives of our children.

You may point to your hi-fi, your colour television, your new car. But do you really believe that striving to gain as many material goods as possible makes your life happier?

If so you are fooled.

There are more important things in life. Food is important. We take necessities like this for granted, but how many people will die today for lack of it?

You have all seen the pictures on television, but do you act on them?

Of course it is very difficult. You may not send money because you don't know who will get it.

This is very true but if you keep it all to yourself and spend it on your own comfort it will never be any use except to yourself and some fat old company president.

I am not speaking here to the unemployed, the young and old who are poor, but to the many people in Hebden Bridge alone who could put just a few pence aside every week without being affected at all.

Then we come to the Bomb.

We all know what it can do. Hebden Bridge has become a centre for CND and END and Walks for Life. What good do they do?

The people in authority will never listen. They laugh as we wave our pointless banners of protest. I know, I've been to some really big marches myself. I left Hebden Bridge Youth END in disgust.

The point is the top brass cronies of all countries do not care for the masses. As long as they are in comfort who cares how many die in all those nasty, messy ways?

Unless of course it means they will lose out in the Opinion Polls.

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END wants all the missiles out of Britain and all the missiles out of Europe. This is better than the old CND which only wanted Britain to disarm. But even so the thought of all that death on either side of us frightens me. Does it not frighten you? This brings us to nuclear power. It is cheap, efficient, endless, but deadly. One leak and we could all die. All that dumping in the sea and the fish die, or they poison us. The nuclear cores must be treated until the end of time or our children will die. Do you really want this curse on all the human race? What are the alternatives? Oil will run out, probably within 30 years. Coal if we are lucky may last 300 years. You may say we will all be dead by then so it isn't our problem. How selfish can you get? If there is a meaning to our lives it is to make things better for those to come. Anything else is just meaningless. Now consider the youth of Hebden Bridge, your children. What's there for them? 'More than for us,' you may say, but is that true? They have their material goods but where is their future? All they can see is unemployment, the bomb, their freedom to do as they will is denied to them. Life is bleak, hard, cruel. They know that they may die in some horrible way and soon. There are so many kinds of suffering. Life is hopeless. Why are people unhappy so much? Why, if they do enjoy themselves, are they made to feel guilty? Search within yourselves for the answers. The world cannot continue like this. The world must be made a better place before it is too late, before the entire race plunges into the abyss. Think.

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Just left school- to what?
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