

Iron Maidens unite



Metal giants back charity release

HEAVY metal giants Iron Maiden have thrown their weight behind a tribute to a former Bolton rock guitarist who died 30 years ago.

Ian Boulton-Smith, known as Beak to his friends, was a member of Bolton heavy rock group who formed Bolton-based Iron Maiden before the well known band of the same name. The band disbanded after Beak died from testicular cancer at the age of 25.

Now the band hope to release a CD of their old songs to raise money in memory of their guitarist.

by Gaynor Clarke

And the famous Iron Maiden has promised to help by allowing the CD to be advertised on their website though they have to be known as the Bolton Iron Maiden and proceeds from the CD must go to charity.

The remaining band members Paul O'Neill and Derek Austin — are now hoping to raise money for Christie Hospital, in Manchester, where Ian was treated, to mark the 30th anniversary of his death.

As well as donating money to the hospital, they hope to buy a bench in Ian's memory at the hospital.

Paul, now aged 53, who was the band's singer and drummer, said: "We want to raise money to thank Christie's for treating Beak, but we also want people to remember Beak for his music as well as for being who he was."

If there is enough support, the band will release a CD in 2006 to raise the money.

Bassist Derek, aged 54, of Astley Bridge, Bolton, said: "We don't want to make any money for ourselves from this."

Paul and Derek Austin are also looking for two key people involved in the band. They are searching for Brenda Boulton-Smith, Beak's sister, to accept the charity money on behalf of her brother, and for Noel Pemberton-Billing, who played bass for the band from 1974. Mr O'Neill is currently setting up a website for the band at www.boltonironmaiden.com

TRIBUTE: Above, heavy rock icons Iron Maiden and, right, the Bolton Iron Maiden, from left, Derek Austin, Paul O'Neill and Ian Boulton-Smith



Village post office to close

A VILLAGE post office is to close after the resignation of the postmaster. Summerseat post office, north of Bury, will shut its doors on July 27.

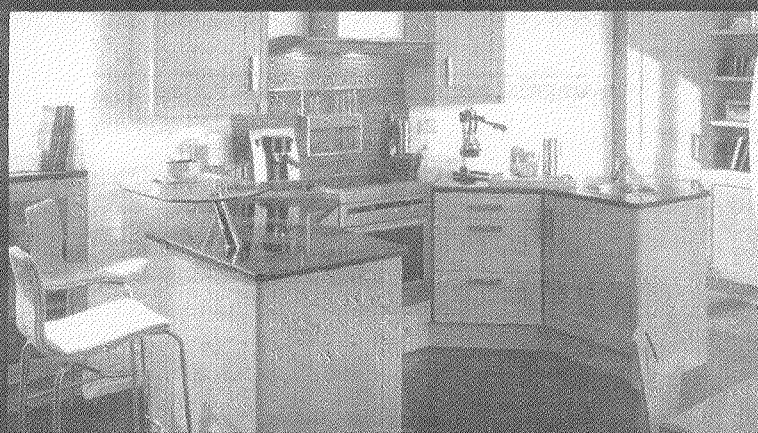
Post Office spokesman Ian Liley said: "I can assure our customers that we will be doing all we can to restore service as soon as possible."

Anyone interested should contact our agency recruitment section on 0845 606260. Once the branch closes, people will be advised to use Holcombe Brook Post Office in Longsight Road, Walmersley Post Office in Walmersley Road or any other post office of their choice.

Plea to find man's relatives

HOSPITAL bosses are asking relatives of a man who died to contact them. James Cannon, of Parkfield Avenue, Bolton, died on June 23 after a month in hospital. He was 84. Anyone with any information on Mr Cannon's son James Stuart Cole, or any other relatives unaware of Mr Cannon's death, are asked to ring Jean Peters, bereavement officer at Bolton Royal Hospital, on 01204 390 807.

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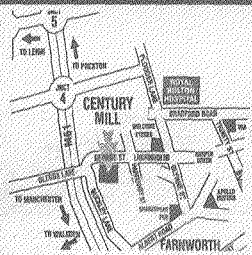
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