

'A warm, kaleidoscopic romp of a reminiscence' – **Stuart Maconie**

# Small Town England

## And How I Survived It

### Tim Bradford

Published by Ebury Press, 1 April 2010, £11.99 paperback original

#### Girls, guitars and motorcycles - growing up in the sticks in the 1970s

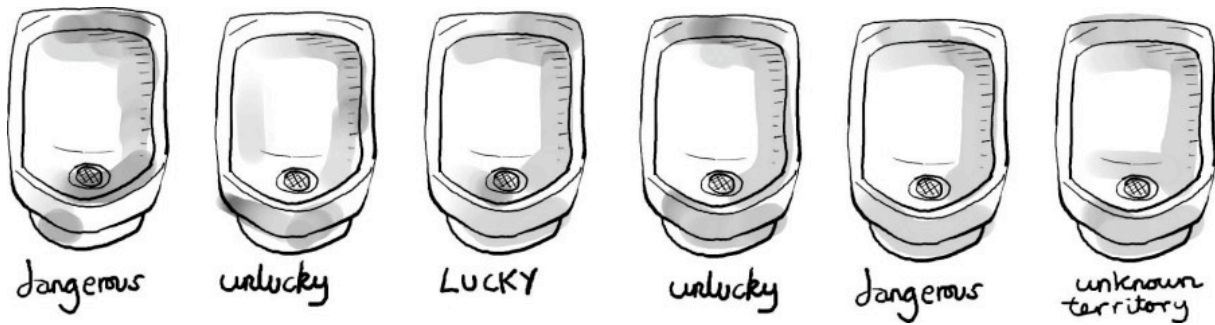
Do you remember your first crush, or falling in love with the local beauty queen? Your first illicit Strongbow down the park? The names of the rubbish songs you churned out with your band? That confusing period between childhood and adolescence, where you are trying to be grown up and pursue hopeless crushes on girls whilst at the same time still playing with Airfix models and making dens.



**Small Town England** is a tale about suffocating British small town life at a particular time in the late to mid- 20th Century. For Tim Bradford, that particular time and place was Market Rasen in Lincolnshire in the 1970s. Market Rasen was not the most exciting place, but to his teenage mind it was the centre of the universe – a universe that revolved around snogging in Top Field, Panini football stickers, avoiding the French exchange, and debating the merits of vinyl over cassettes.

**Small Town England** paints a portrait of the energy and melancholy at the heart of our generation, the inability to live for now and the feeling that something better is just around the corner. Too young (just) to be baby boomers and too English and uncool to call itself Generation X. It's a universal tale about dreams, ambitions, brass bands, cubs, rugby songs, football stickers, tractors, young love and valve amplifiers connected up to cheap distortion pedals, set at a time of political change and pudding basin hair. And it's all true. Apart from the stuff about girls fancying him.





### **About the author**

Tim Bradford is an author, cartoonist and artist who lives in north London. Tim has written two other non-fiction books, *The Groundwater Diaries* and *Is Shane MacGowan Still Alive?* He also wrote and illustrated *Learn to Speak Capello*. He has also been a cartoonist for the football magazine *When Saturday Comes* since 1990 and is a regular illustrator for *The Guardian*. *Small Town England* is also illustrated with Tim's drawings and cartoons.

### **Praise for The Groundwater Diaries:**

"In essence, it's crackers. But brilliantly crackers."  
- Word

"Bizarre but quite brilliant...Complete with cartoons, maps and other weird gems."  
- The Bookseller

"Very funny...written with wit, energy and attitude."  
- The Independent

"The diaries of a funny and extremely likeable man."  
- Independent on Sunday

### **Praise for Is Shane MacGowan Still Alive?**

"With Spike Milligan-ish humour, Bradford investigates the Irish psyche: at times he comes close to adding a new mythology of his own. "  
- Time Out

'This is an absolute must for anyone who's ever indulged even a moment of romantic yearning for all things Hibernian. Like some latter day Kerouac, Tim Bradford drives around the Emerald Isle in search of captivating wild women, poetry, folk songs and of course, the odd pint or two. Hilarious.'  
- The Scotsman

**Tim Bradford is available for interview and to write features**

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