

How Ruth Kelly came to regret taking up the post of Minister for Transport

While taking my regular end-of-the-day, brain-restoring refresher of Pimms and banana cheese cake at the Toppled Bollard last week I was thrilled to cast eyes on my old chum and celebrated revolutionary, William Edgware-Flyover, known generally as “Bollard Bill”.

Bill started out as a Liberal Democrat but later worked for a number of years to restore the Czar of all the Russias to the throne of the Isle of Wight.

When I first met Bill he was cornered at the end of the M25, before being arrested for hi-jacking the Woolwich Free Ferry and demanding that the captain sail to Bolivia, where he had been assured that he had just won \$1 million on the national lottery - which amazingly he had not entered.

Wherever Bill worked was always a hotbed of excitement, and I particularly remember the time when, having moved across to the Interregnum Party (a group of radical sheep-shearers from Clapham), he was subsequently charged with putting all official clocks in the Borough back 12 minutes 32 seconds.

After a period of retraining in Leningrad he moved to Rutland where he worked on the design for a set of clocks that were exactly one hundred years out of date. Sadly, he was subsequently deported from the independent Republic (which one can see through the little window in the outdoor gentleman’s convenience at the Bollard) for “indecent futurism”. He then set up home in Corby.

Rather unexpectedly, he was soon made Chief Constable of Northampton where he thrilled many of us by demanding that we hunt to extinction all ministers of transport, past, present and future. Oh the fun we had in those happy, happy days.

But Bollard Bill is perhaps most famous for developing the national database of 45 rpm records. This he used to show that 87% of all owners of said discs live in Sunderland – a fact that led to the arrest and ultimate demise of Ruth Kelly.

He now lives a quiet life and recently wrote the popular melody, The Duke of Brunwick’s Tricycle, for the Rutland Morris Men. You can read more about life at the Toppled Bollard at www.blog.toppled.info



Tony Attwood

PS: On the other hand, if you would like your company to be mentioned in a positive way on a regular basis in newspapers and the educational magazines, call the Hamilton House PR Agency on 01536 399 000. My colleagues are all very straightforward and never go near the Bollard or (come to that) myself.