

## Happy 20th Bishopdale

Congratulations should be flowing  
We're 20 years old and still changing and growing  
Yes, in April '92 Bishopdale Club was chartered  
But November '91 was when the club started.

Back then the Christchurch Club thought (as you do)  
"Let's start a brand new club or two!"  
They thought "maybe somewhere out West"  
And decided Bishopdale would be best.

They posted fliers – sent people out  
To tell Bishopdale what it was about  
And in November 1991  
The very first "unofficial" meet was run.

Bruce Boock was our first President  
He set a very high precedent  
Members were well dressed, keen and polite  
And would die rather than miss a single night.

The meetings were held in St Margaret's Church hall  
But soon that venue was a little too small  
So we moved to the staffroom of Isleworth School  
All the facilities – a good venue – nice room – really cool.

The Scottish Country dancers met the same night  
Parking as allocated – them on the left – us on the right  
On occasions a guest would visit, and guess what?  
They'd park in the Scottish Country dancers' spot.

Soon we would get a loud knock on the door  
An irate kilted Scot would give us "what for".  
We of course were polite and well spoken  
So no blood was shed – no bones were broken.

Bishopdale Club became really strong  
Sometimes we'd have forty people along  
Contest judges knew their visits wouldn't be fleeting  
Sometimes we'd have 18 members competing!

We sponsored Westside Club in '94  
And later sponsored Kaiapoi (when I'm not sure)  
We've had many changes as one would expect  
But we've always garnered much respect.

Over the years of course the club culture has altered  
But its core strength and values have never faltered  
Scores of people have come through our door  
And changed in ways they wouldn't have believed before.

So Happy Birthday Bishopdale, and many more  
You are changing lives – that's for sure  
Giving people belief and self confidence  
May you continue for many years hence.