

Dear Peace through Folk Family and Friends

Here is our first newsletter for 2022.

Our plans over the last two years, like everyone's, have been haphazard to say the least, but we did manage a few things during 2021 including –

- Hosting the online launch of Pete Morton's album 'A Golden Thread'. (Recorded at the Maude in Leek).
To hear Yemini Moon which featured the Leek Peace Choir, follow this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=retoWIYTIU>
- Produced the 'Jo Cox- More in Common' video set of three songs. Here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Cqa-HT2i6o>
- Produced Tom Reid's 'Prizefighter' Album Launch concert 22nd May 2021 the first event to take place in Leek's newest venue – The Maude' see the whole concert https://youtu.be/o_g5h0SmTcs
- Produced and recorded Rick Ford's new song 'Tree' 20th March 2021 see - <https://youtu.be/pDi9RvVmSD4>
- We captured on video the historic moment of the Wilsons club reopening on 12th August 2021 see the video <https://youtu.be/g00sVtKSvPc>

On personal notes - at the start of August, Pat and I enjoyed catching up on many long-neglected friends during a 1000-mile tour that included Cumbria, Perthshire, Aberdeenshire, Northumbria, Teesside, and Yorkshire.

The second part of that month we tested positive and had a covid enforced 'staycation' for which both Pat and I eventually tested negative after 12 days in isolation. So, we celebrated with what we thought was our escape from the 'horned beast from the east' with a tour of Anglesey. In fact, we had a protracted period of post covid ailments which followed us throughout the next four months.

And as a final farewell to 2021 Pat sustained a broken arm from a fall on black ice courtesy of Storm Arwen four weeks before Christmas. However, that did not thwart our plans for a family Christmas and New Year at our place which went well.

Two years ago we naively announced Peace through Folk plans to encourage more informal music sessions and larger concerts in collaboration with others. Covid pressed the pause button on that BUT -

Now at last it seems we will be able to join with others in the roll out of live music weekly sessions.

First Tuesday each month - 8.00pm starting 1st March at the Roebuck Inn Leek 'Roots music' sing around hosted by Rick Ford assisted by Malc.

Second Tuesday each month - 8.00pm starting 8th March – at The Roebuck – "Mike's Acoustic Songbook" - hits from the last 100 years of popular music hosted and played (mostly) acoustic by Mike Gledhill, friends and guests.

Third Tuesday each Month - 8.00pm at the Roebuck, Americana Music programmed and curated by Helen Walford.

- also on 3rd Tuesdays, at the Sportsman Pub , Stockton Brook, Frances Naggs hosts her Folk music singaround – all welcome.

Tuesday March 22nd. - **More in Common Music Night** - curated by Peace through Folk, in association with people from all genres of performing arts.

There are five months of 2022 when there will be an extra Tuesday. On those occasions we plan to organise these special nights, usually at the Roebuck when almost anything musical might happen!

The programme will be pre-planned and feature all sorts of performers and genre of music. The aim is to celebrate the rich diversity in communities, their cultures, and their music, showing that there is 'More in Common than that which divides'.

Last Tuesday in each month Folk Singarounds at the Roebuck – we understand these sessions will be restarting on March 29th – hosted by Jane Rushton. Watch www.facebook.com/Tuesday-Nights-Live-at-The-Roebuck-Leek-109833938282446/ and Lorna's North Staffs Folk Diary for details.

We also have exciting plans for '**More in Common Music Live' concerts** which will require longer lead-in periods. More news will follow as we all crawl out from our pandemic chrysalises. If you have any ideas and if you want to help, do let us know.

Let's all now take a moment to cherish fond memories of all those that we have lost over the last two years.

Most especially they would want us to carry on as best we can and, through our music and performing arts, to celebrate and promote Peace, Friendship, Reconciliation, and the preservation of a sustainable Planet Earth for all creatures by working together and recognising that in the words of the late Jo Cox, we have '**More in Common than that which divides us**'. Music is the only truly international language so sing out loud for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

Watch this space!

Cheers

Malc