



Peace through Folk Spring Newsletter 2020

Dear Folkie Friends

I thought that it was about time to send out a **Peace through Folk** catch up newsletter, especially with all the dystopian challenges that the world is now facing.

Pat and I are 'locked down' as required and are avoiding any unnecessary contact, probably the same as you.

We are very lucky as we are well equipped with Pat's incredible home baked bread and oatcakes.

We are also brewing for our own consumption (thanks Rod Stacey for advice and The Jolly Brewer home brew shop for supplies). We can also buy direct from Titanic Brewery.

Our wonderful son-in-law Chris and friends Kath and Jake have done shop runs for us and we share Sainsbury's and Morrisons drops with Chris, Jess and Roger and Ann once a week.

We have meat and veg. orders organised with wonderful local Leek shops who will accept payment by Bacs and will pack our orders ready for 'ghostly' pickups or delivery.

So, thankfully there is not much that we need to make many visits to the shops for.

There is also a wonderful array of community volunteers in Leek and the Moorlands doing amazing support work.

If you need help in any way in our area give us a call and we will do our best to point you in the right direction.

We are also here just for a natter on the phone or to swap emails, so don't be a covid stranger!

It is a scary time for us all. Indeed, it's a time when too much imagination doesn't really help.

Pat and I try to keep busy which seems to be the best therapy for coping.

After 7+ years of Peace through Folk activity I've accumulated a massive collection of 'Roundtoits' so I am catching up on many of those neglected jobs.

Each day begins with a walk with the dogs over the hills at the end of our street. We are lucky to live here and so glad that we took the decision to move back into Leek 10 years ago and don't have to use a vehicle for any of our normal needs.

Pete Morton's new album 'A Golden Thread' was recorded and mastered by Paul Yarrow at Field Street Studios, Leek. It's now on general release and can be ordered from Pete Morton's new website

www.petemorton.com

It is truly a truly excellent piece of work. Here is a message from the man himself -

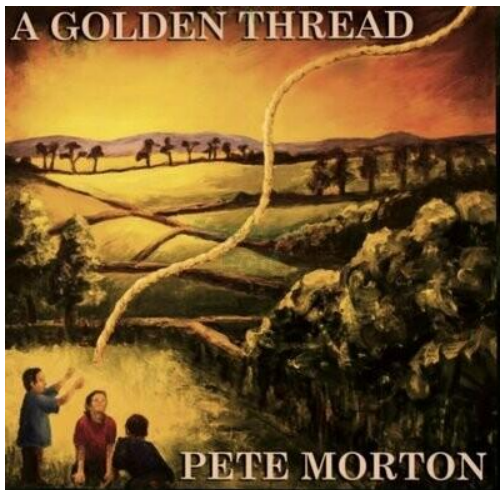
"Sadly the launch concert planned By Peace through Folk for 22nd April has been postponed.

We thought about doing a trendy live stream concert but after much thought, I have decided to wait until everything is back to normal and do a big gig in Leek.

It can be a free gig, involving the choir, and the musicians and singers, and indeed Paul Yarrow of Field Street Studios in Leek where it was all created.

I know this may be a few months down the line - but gigging 'live' is my thing and I'm thinking of the restoration of the music scene once we've defeated this rotten virus.

Thank you for all your support. Pete"



Other information -

The choir has completed its move to independence, has a new name 'The Leek Peace Choir', a Facebook page and will shortly be launching its own website. Thanks, George for all that you are doing to make this happen. Some of us are now meeting via Zoom on Friday evenings for a sing and a natter at Lester's virtual pub the 'Byte and Pixel'.

So, we are now focussing on a review of the **Peace through Folk Trust** and what it might do hereon in.

The core reasons for its existence will be much the same as it has been all along -

*-folk from all walks of life acting together in all genre and creative forms to celebrate and promote
Peace, Friendship, Reconciliation, Social Justice
and the preservation of a sustainable Planet Earth for future generations.*

- holding true to the principles enshrined in Woody Guthrie's words -

"It's a folk singer's job to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable"

The detailed objectives list will be revised, updated and focussed forwards and to a wide audience. Ideas please.

New avenues are opening and to help with all that a new **Peace through Folk** website is under construction with the help of Andy Critchlow. Thank you Pete Hopkins for looking after our web and I.T. stuff so well since 2012.

In moving forward we are not throwing the baby out with the bath water, indeed we are also reflecting on our earliest days - inspired by a blog that I wrote recently about an event we organised in 1981- see <http://www.peacethroughfolk.org/grappelli.html>. Our original brand 'Folk Fiasco' will be dusted off and brought back into action.

In Staffordshire Moorlands weekly informal Sunday 'Fiasco' acoustic evening were about to be launched at the end of March. When Covid19 allows we will press on with those events which will take place in various venues, with a pre-planned concert style format, without PA and delivering an eclectic range of musical types - not just folk. We envisage 4 or 5 hosts will each take it in turns to organise, programme and run their evenings.

We also see the need to promote bigger concerts (maybe at least four times a year) featuring significant 'names' who have a common focus in terms of our core objectives, starting of course with The Pete Morton 'Golden Thread' Concert.

We hope that (subject to Covid19) our calendar for what's left of 2020 and onward into 2021 will include artists such as 'Merry Hell', Reg Meuross, Chris Wood, Sound Tradition, Tom Reid, Robb Johnson, The Wilsons, Beans on Toast and the many names that we know and love so well and have worked with over the years, and of course continued collaboration on events with the Leek Peace Choir when possible.

We are also working with others from a wider musical spectrum to make full use of the larger live venues in Leek and Staffordshire Moorlands and our various assets.

The Peace through Folk event kit, (PA, lights etc) is available to support affiliated events, artists and organisations. Our acoustic PA and lights will be in action at the Folk Club Tent at this year's Moira Furnace Folk Festival (Covid19 willing!).

We were to have provided the same kit for one of the stages at the 'Lost in the Moss' Festival which was to have taken place at the end of May and for a concert for Extinction Rebellion in Buxton in April. I am sure they will be re-scheduled, and they can count on our support.

So, all in all we are quite busy - but in a steady way and with a wider profile.

Thank you for all your support over the years! And do come back to us with any suggestions that you might have, especially if you want to get involved and help to make things happen.

Important Foot note

In April 2015, 2 weeks before Peace through Folk staged the live show 'Out of Darkness into Light', Bill Gates gave this foreboding TED presentation - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Af6b_wyiwl

It has been five years since Bill Gates gave that talk and our political 'leaders' ignored him. Instead of preparing for the predicted pandemic, they were obsessed with appeasing populist rabble rousing from the likes of Farage, Johnson, Cummings and Trump.

Covid19 does not care about Brexit, nor does it respect the borders of Mexico, Syria and the coast lines of the Mediterranean. Nor does it heed the 'Get it done' rants and chants; however, it does see right through politicians lies, false claims and promises and it kills innocent front line staff who have been left without protection.

It looks as if we may be stuck with Covid19 and will have to change and adapt in order to live with it. It certainly has got the attention of the entire human race and we are learning how to work together.

The Climate Emergency however is a much bigger monster that really will not tolerate politicians lies, ignorance, and delayed action. There is just about time to turn things around if we start working together in a Progressive Alliance. It's a big ask but we can make a start by each doing our bit.

Look after yourselves and
keep safe and well.
Love and best wishes

Malc and Pat Hawksworth

0749 473 8939 (personal)