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Autumn 2025 NEWSLETTER

As we turn the Autumn equinox it is a time for reflection - gratitude for harvests safely gathered in, participate in celebratory activities, reflect on achievements and events, both joyful and sad, & make offering acts of charity to the less fortunate.

Ipstones Folk Club –

- has become a popular monthly folk event which gets together for a sing-around in the wonderful acoustics of the Methodist Church.

This will be boosted 3 or 4 times a year to a full concert session with invited guests.

In April we were delighted to be 'haunted' by 'A Ghost of a Sailor' courtesy of the indefatigable Pete Morton. See Pete's website <https://www.petemorton.com/talking-blues> which includes pictures and a short video of the event at our venue. That event generated £500 to our chosen charities boosted with a generous donation from an 'anonymous benefactor'.

Kath Ord will be our guest in November supported by The Unhappy Mundys

Kath is a Cumbrian-born multi-instrumentalist (now based in Leek, Staffordshire).

She has a firmly established reputation as one of this country's most versatile session musicians, having toured and recorded extensively throughout the UK and beyond. As violinist and vocalist, she is known for her work with The Unthanks, Simply Dylan, The Horse Puppets, Skutch Manos and local band Vox Americana.

Notable performances include Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage and the BBC Folk Awards at the Royal Albert Hall. Now she puts herself centre stage to express her passion for the music of Joni Mitchell.

Ann and Tim Mundy - For many years Tim played mandolin and guitar for his band the Slippery Hill Boys. He is a great help with our acoustic sound PA. Ann is an excellent musician, organiser and retired brewer!.



Doors 7.00 for 7.30pm £10 per head
Book Tickets by text or phone 07494 738 939 or
by Email to peacethroughfolk@gmail.com
Or via <https://wegottickets.com/event/677180>
(+ £1 if booked online)

Peace through Folk Donations

We have always planned events to be self-sufficient, to do that we always budgeted for costs that are realistic, planned and marketed with sufficient lead time to ensure that wherever possible we would return a surplus. That has enabled us to hold sufficient funds in hand and give away surplus from time to time.

From 2014 to 2019 we were able to make donations totalling £42,000 to our chosen good causes which has included organisations who provide aid to child victims of war, namely - **UNHCR, Save The Children, War Child, and Médecins Sans Frontières.**

At a recent meeting of our directors, we decided that we will announce significant donations to those charities at this year at the guest night of Wednesday 19th November.

Rick Ford

29th February 1948 – 13th July 2025



Rick was a founding director of Peace Through Folk

He lost his enduring struggle with a very nasty and unconquerable form of Leukaemia with grace. He left us all devastated and heartbroken.

His strength, courage, gentleness and his calm and peaceful acceptance of what was happening was true to character.

Rick was a gentleman to the end, praising the wonderful nurses, carers, doctors, and consultants of Ward 201, and the Douglas MacMillan Hospice in Blurton, all of whom became incredibly fond of him, and he of them, as they made him comfortable and at ease, Rick was one of a kind in so many ways and will never be forgotten, he was known in recent years as a 'would-be' Bruce Springsteen, an imaginative, creative singer songwriter, and before that as an award-winning author, lawyer, and lecturer.

A Memorial Service and Celebration Festival of his life and works took place on 5th September at St Lukes and the Village Hall in Onecote, his home village. True to his style of working he wrote his own Obituary which was delivered by our great friend Rev Jane Held. The programme included seven of his own songs recorded live, mainly in the land he loved high on the Staffordshire Moorlands.

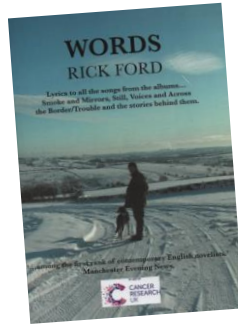
Rick asked that anybody wishing to make a donation please do so to the 'DougMac' Hospice. Either ring their fundraising line Monday to Friday on 01782 344304 or go on to their website dougimac.org.uk "

Our thoughts at this time are with Claire, Daniel, Lucy with their families and the many friends of Rick who are grieving for the loss of such a special person.

Rick Ford Lives On.

Thankfully Rick left us with a legacy of songs and writings that can be found on his albums and featured on Spotify and You Tube. All of which deserve to be sung out. He was always delighted to know that his songs are being sung throughout the world.

His Song Book is available at Ipstones Folk Club sessions £3.50 – all go proceeds to Cancer Research and The DougieMac Hospice.



During the Covid years Rick and Malc got together to record live and raw some of his songs amongst the hills and valley of his home (*).

Rick was also recorded live at the Peace through Folk events from 2010 to 2025 (**)

Many are available on YouTube now. Here are links to those recordings-

- Across the border *
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0jDFuzjagM>
- Failed experiment *
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKC1IbZgyMU>
- Chainsaw Man *
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PIIXEwHsI4&list=RD7PIIXEwHsI4&start_radio=1
- A Curse on you Putin*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKbQr6loqTM&list=RDDKbQr6loqTM&start_radio=1
- Covid 19 blues *
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90QzeBQ3g40&list=RD90QzeBQ3g40&start_radio=1
- Mystical Dream *
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN8JsepM6HQ&list=RDGN8JsepM6HQ&start_radio=1
- Tree song *
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDi9RvVmSD4&list=RDpDi9RvVmSD4&start_radio=1
- Log Pile Blues *
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noyaX9p06ms&list=RDnoyaX9p06ms&start_radio=1
- Jo Cox *
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7FsFbNBX6A&list=RDF7FsFbNBX6A&start_radio=1
- Shasine (with Duduk player) **
<https://youtu.be/xhkzhjKjqMQ>
and
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK74w6neIWw&list=RDik74w6neIWw&start_radio=1
- Muhktar **
<https://youtu.be/D6T4Z0Nt2go>
and
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8_-vT1aSwg&list=RDM8_-vT1aSwg&start_radio=1
- Colin's song *
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otU_USwp4zQ&list=RDotU_USwp4zQ&start_radio=1
- Highways of the Sun (the raw version) *
<https://youtu.be/KZXtgCfDoh8>

Folk Music in General

The best source for all that is happening in our area is the North Staffs Folk Diary, curated and maintained on a weekly basis by the super-efficient Peter Hopkins.

See <http://www.thefolkdiary.co.uk>

or, if you are using a phone to access the diary and experiencing problems, use

<https://bit.ly/4gSIZ7M>

If you want to be included in the weekly updates do let Pete know on northstaffsfolkdiary@gmail.com

Keep safe and happy



Malc Hawksworth

Peace through Folk is a not-for-profit trust which has been active since 1994, organising events and opportunities to bring people together to celebrate peace, friendship reconciliation and a better, kinder world through folk music and the performing arts. More about the history of Peace Through Folk and the Peace Choir Choir can be found at [Peace through Folk Archive](#)

If you don't want to receive any more of these emails, simply reply 'No' to this email