

**After a successful and sell out Gathering in 2024,
it is now time to bid a fond farewell to The Peace Through Folk
Gatherings.**



It all began in 1997 with informal weekends of folkie friends getting together to make music. This crystallised into a series of Gatherings, which would mark the five years of the centenary of the great war.

It also brought about the development of Peace through Folk, a Not-for-Profit Trust the aims of which are to celebrate and promote, through all forms of music and performing arts, Peace, Friendship, Reconciliation, Social Justice, and a better, kinder, sustainable Planet Earth for all, working together, recognising that we have more in common than that which divides us.

See our website for the full Peace through Folk Aims and Objectives.

We drew a clear line under 2018 with a rousing 'Final' Concert.

Click to view [Peace Concert 2018](#)

After that Peace through Folk continued to organise concerts and one day events until the Covid pandemic brought lockdowns and a cessation to all events.

However, as we all crept out from our Covid bunkers, people expressed a need for a return of 'The Gatherings'. It seems that we have supporters as far flung as the Shetlands and Channel Islands and all parts in between!

Cheri & Richard Crosley brought their operational and financial skills, together with their team of event managers and skilled stewards to join with the creative team of Malc & Pat Hawksworth and Rick Ford. All of whom are volunteers and receive no payment. They are supported by a 'family' of resident artists and musician friends. Together we relaunched Peace through Folk with a Merry Hell Concert in the autumn of 2022 and a Gathering at Hulme End in 2023. This was followed by a bigger and more weather resilient Gathering in the village of Ipstones in 2024. All events were sell-outs (as usual).

This year we managed to deliver a huge programme, spread over three venues (all with fantastic acoustics). This comprised two concerts each day in the Church, workshops, Meet the Artists and Wall of Sounds, etc. in the Memorial Hall and Folk Clubs and workshops in the Methodist Church. Particular highlights included the 'Raise Your Voice' workshops delivered by Melrose Quartet, The Wilson Family and Sound Tradition which ran exactly as planned. Everyone was delighted to hear the fruits of their labours in the Peace Concert.

We sent the Gatherers and artists away happy, whilst leaving the villagers of Ipstones craving for more with their hearts full and their cellars dry!

A raw audio recording of the 2024 Peace Concert was taken from the desk to be edited and made available to all in due course (there are technical glitches that may mean we will lose about 15 minutes of the whole two-hour Concert).

The time has now come to pack everything away and review what we do next, and with whom, when, and where.

- **That was the last Peace through Folk Gathering that we feel able to do.**

To quote from Pete Seeger's *Quite Early Morning* – '*keep on while we live, until we have no more to give, and when these fingers can strum no longer, hand the old banjo to young ones stronger*'.

- If anyone younger and stronger is interested in running Gatherings do contact us for advice and support.
- The Peace through Folk team are planning to organise a few one-day events, with concerts starting in 2025, mainly in the wonderful acoustics of St Leonards Church, Ipstones, and sometimes in Leek. These events will feature main acts supported by our 'family' of resident artists and musician friends.

Thank you for all your support over the years and do let us know if you would like to help us deliver the events in 2025 and beyond.

PS

'Out of Darkness into Light' was a concert produced by Peace through Folk in 2015 to mark not only the centenary of the Armenian Genocide and the darkness of the many genocides that followed (and continue to happen), but at the same time to celebrate the light of kindness that also shines in this troubled planet we call home.

The YouTube video of that concert has been shared with many from all parts of the world.

It is as relevant now in October 2024 as it was in 2015!

If you haven't watched it yet, please do.

If you have thank you - please share it with others.

Click to see and hear [Out of Darkness into Light 2015](#)

Listen to Kate Ridley singing 'Inexcusable' by Robb Johnson (38 minutes into the video).

It's so relevant now!