

Hello People,

It seems like over a year ago that I last wrote 'Hello People'. And it is. Some of you may have hoped that I would soldier on through the pandemic as an ambassador for Zoom, keeping you in touch with any little pockets of virtual song that may have appeared over the past months. Also the live sessions that are now cautiously easing themselves back to normality. Alas, I did not, and here's the reason.

Even before the pandemic I was thinking of retiring, and wondering how I could wind up the *Acoustic Calendar* without causing too much human misery. When Lockdown was imposed, I thought it was the perfect opportunity (or, if you like, excuse) to grasp the nettle by the horns and go for it. I'm sorry it's taken me so long to come clean, but this is how it is. I was 80 last birthday and there are other things I want to do before I join the great music session in the sky.

Reviving the *Acoustic Calendar* would effectively mean building it up again from scratch. Nothing can be guaranteed to be still happening. Many pubs have closed for good and those that are open will not necessarily continue to host music or to operate according to their pre-covid schedules. If anyone is mad enough to want to take it on, I would work with them initially, but a more realistic scenario might be for the AC to split into areas with different people responsible for each, rather than one person doing the whole thing. The Venues List will remain on my website. Although it's now more of an historical document than a guide to what's currently happening, it should still be useful to anyone who wants to do their own research into what may or may not still be going on. I intend to make my calendar templates, etc. available to anyone who wants to have a go at maintaining an acoustic calendar of their own.

The *Acoustic Calendar*, under its original title *Tony & Peter's Folk Diary*, first saw the light of day in 2006. It began as a short private list of relatively local venues for my brother Peter and I to use in our exploration of the folk world (we did a lot of folking in those days). Since then, it has grown to embrace the whole west country peninsula and beyond. I soon realised that its potential was too great for merely private use and decided to give it to the world through the medium of a website and monthly newsletters. The rest, as they say, is history. Or is it? Ah, well, that depends on you. Any possible future the *Acoustic Calendar* may have now rests in the hands of anyone who cares to take it on, in whole or in part.

I realise this news is not what any of you want to hear. I know from a wealth of positive feedback that many of you found the *Acoustic Calendar* an invaluable guide to all the places you could go with your voices and instruments to have a good time making music. Some of you even claim to have enjoyed my attempts at humour!

I'd like to end with a big thankyou to those special few (you know who you are) who made a point of keeping me informed about new venues, changes of schedule and other information vital in keeping the *Calendar* reliable and up-to-date.

I enjoyed the trip while it lasted.

I love you all,

Tony

