

Myke's Book of Remembrance.

Anna Shannon and her Partner Roy

I cannot express the sorrow and also the shock of your terrible news which I have who got on with everyone. We are so, very sorry. He will be missed by a lot of people and will leave a huge hole in the music scene. Much love, Anna XXX and Roy just received after coming home from away. Roy and I are in total disbelief at such a thing. Myke was such a happy, smiling, lovely man and such a wonderful person,

Angela O'Neil

"His foot will continue to tap il neva4 get him"

David Paskell Singer Song Writer (Sheffield)

"I am so sorry to hear this news, I am in tears as I write this he was a fantastic bloke!"

Charlie Barker - Last Friday Folk

"We raised a glass to our friend & supporter Myke 'Masher' Barritt tonight @lastfridayfolk. We missed you & you will not be forgotten."

Martin Hickman Get The BNP Out of Rotherham

"Dear All

I was informed this week of the very sad and premature loss of Myke Masher (Barritt) of the Rawmarsh mashers. Myke along with the rest of the Masher's many will recall the magnificent stand against the hate of the BNP at the Monkwood pub. On behalf of all Anti Fascists and my union PCS we would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolence to Myke's Family, Friends, and fellow Masher's

In the short time I knew Myke I was very impressed with his view on the world a real nice man and a sad loss for all.

Deepest Sympathy and Respect"

Judy Dalton - South Anston Folk Club

I have just read of Myke's passing, I am very sorry to hear and send my condolences, on behalf of myself and Anston Folk club.

Claymore

Very sorry to hear about your loss. Even though I have never met any of you, your words paint a marvelous picture of Myke, and of the friendship that the two of you shared.

Chris www.claymoreband.com

Glynis Llewelyn

"I sang with Myke (under his alias of Myke Barritt) for over 8 years. He was a lovely, lovely man and a dream to sing with - no matter how many errors I made, in terms of wrong notes, wrong keys, wrong tempos etc, Myke was never phased and was able to just go with it - he was such a brilliant musician."

James Blatchley Chorley FM

"I'm really sorry to hear that. I hadn't seen the message. All at the Chorley FM Folk Show send you and his family are warmest regards."

Bill Beer

"My sincere condolences to Myke's family and friends."

Alan Moorhouse Band

"Hi Richard,

This must be a very sad time indeed. Joining you and Myke for a pint and possibly a song was on my list of things to do next time I am on the island. I am sure I would have liked the guy and everything folks have written about him bears out that he was that sort of man. "

Gary Lynam : VIEW FROM S62

"just wanted to say how sorry we were to hear the news on MYKE MASHER, weve seen you couple of times and really enjoyed your music. As i can see you are continuing the legacy.

all the best

VIEW FROM S62"

Pete Shaw South Yorkshire Folk

"I'm so sorry to hear of your sad loss.

I wish I could be there but I'm currently in the USA and won't be back for several weeks. Please pass on my condolences. "

Tracy Jayne Dyson Donnelly

"aw sorry to hear about Myke it was a very talented guy"

Jayne Fitzgerald

"Richard, so very, very sad, can't believe our lovely Myke has gone from us. In the 8 years we've known him, I've never once heard an unkind word from him. He encouraged us and ours, made you feel like you were really good at singing and playing, was interested in all the different styles of music our family attempt. We are deeply saddened. He brought so much to Rotherham music, his legacy is that it will never be the same because of him. Sorely missed! RIP Myke x x x x

Phil Graham

"I'll be thinking of Myke from up here, Richard."

Kurt Sawalies - Germany

"though I didn't know him very well, we had great fun open stage on that evening at the Yellow Lion last year in July.

I'm very sad to hear that, although I believe he will be with us all the time!"

Jude Cowan

"condolences xxx"

Tracy and Martin – formerly The Monkwood

*"So sorry to hear about Myke.... To take such a wonderful man... such a waste to all those who didnt meet him. Hope he's having a few Guinness up there for us all and showing them how to make music. Our thoughts are with Myke's family n friends
Love Tracy & Martin xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx"*

The Backyard Buskers

"We read your message about Myke with great shock, and with great sympathy. We only met him a few times but he was evidently a man with a great heart and soul. Our thoughts are with Phoebe and also you."

Ray Hearne

"awful news about Myke - condolences to all who loved him - sing him a song next time you tune up"

Ray Padgett

"Last time I saw Myke and the Mashers was at an open Folk against Fascism in Barnsley town centre

The first time I recollect seeing him was many years ago in Sheffield as part of the group Rhiannon

The guy was a folkie through and through and loved to entertain with his music and enthusiasm

God bless"

Nigel Lavender

"Richard....i can't believe what I'm reading. Thoughts are with you & Myke's family my friend"

Nigel and Karen First Fall / Swansong

"I am so sorry to hear the news, it was a real shock to me about Myke and took me by complete surprise, as news of this nature does."

Rich Unc Eagle Web

"In fond Memory, Myke, what a shock. Sending hugs to all close to him.

Ronnie James Dio (Rainbow, Sabbath) has passed away this weekend too, I like to think of them jamming, as we speak, at the great party at the end of time and space..xx"

Gerry McNeice

"Sad sad news.

Our thoughts are with you"

Jim McDermott

"I'd just like to pass my condolences on to you regarding Myke, really sorry pal!!!!!!

We take so much for granted, never truly know what we've had until we lose it.

I've lost people very dear to me and I know what a roller-coaster ride of emotions comes with it.

I hope this message can give you even the tiniest little bit of strength in a difficult time, I really do.

Stay strong, for your pal."

Olivia The Bridge Inn

"Myke was a legend and will be sorely missed, our thoughts are with everyone who knew him and especially Phoebe - anything we can do please let us know xxx"

Annie McNeice

"We only did the sound for you in Barnsley a few weeks ago!

I loved his Ibanez guitar!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Phoebe.

Too many musician deaths over the last 2 yrs.

A sad loss!

xx"

Gazza – Marzipan Moon – Stomping On Spiders – Abbot of Unreason fame

"- oh dear God... that is such awful news!

Richard and all in "Masher" land, I am so sorry to hear of Myke's death... please accept my deepest sympathies. Myke was one in a million..... Please let me know more about the Memorial concert please?

Pheobe, we only met very briefly at the recent Acoustic Rotherham, but please accept my condolences on hearing this very sad news. I first met Myke at Acoustic Rotherham 5 (which was the day before Mykes birthday) and we had a great chat and a giggle. That's how I will remember Myke..... a very special man indeed!

God bless all.....

Keep the faith....."

Angela O'Neil

The gods must need a very special man to have taken ynu mikey i will miss you

Thabo Pepponi

"Such a shock to hear about Myke. Gil sends his deepest condolences."

Rachael Barley

"Love your way. Sad news"

Carol Roberts

"What awful news! How very sad. i didn't know Myke but his reputation goes before him. Sounds like a lovely man. Sincere condolences to Myke`s family and friends."

Heather Sutherland

"Such terrible news. Myself, the boys and my parents send our love to everyone affected. Myke is most definitely a legend in our household that will never be forgotten. God bless."

Kirsty Watkinson

"the warmest guy i think i've ever met. Such sad news. sincere condolences, he's going to be missed beyond belief."

Ian Tompkins

"Although I've only contacted you once with regard to the Bridge Inn gig, I am truly sorry to hear this news. I was very much looking forward to meeting with you both. Sending you and Myke's family my deepest sympathies at this sad time."

Heather Woodhead

I am REALLY sorry to hear about Myke.

Thinking and praying for you all

Kim Blake

"So very sorry to hear of Myke's death. I knew him way back and always enjoyed his music. A real loss."

Louise Muirhead

This is a horrible shock. We are all devastated at the loss of a truly special bloke. I have no means of contacting Phoebe. Please let her know we are thinking of her.

Paul A May

"heard the bad news this morning and was a bit too stunned to write then, very sad news, Myke was a great guy!"

Marj Palmer

So sorry to hear the sad news. You are in our thoughts.

Anthony Toner

Hi Richard – just made your acquaintance on ReverbNation and have never had the pleasure of meeting you guys, but this is very sad news, and my thoughts go out to you all. The loss of a musician always seems to leave a bigger silence than usual – and I've lost a few close mates over the years, so my heart is with you.

John Leary

Commiseration on your sad loss from myself and the rest of The Bruegrass Buddies.

I don't really know you or knew Myke very, but I've seen you both at the Venue and Black Bull, and you always looked to be enjoying your performances, as well as the audience did. I know you'll miss him greatly.

Yours Sincerely

John.

Jools Thompson

"So very, very sorry to hear that - what a lovely man he was."

Pete Thompson

"Oh my giod - I've just read this. That's terrible news. We only met him once but he was a lovely guy. Please pass on our deepest condolences."

Phillip Hartley

"He was a star in every way."

Eileen Myles

"Deepest condolences"

Jon Isherwood

"I am so sorry to hear this Richard. My thoughts are with you and Phoebe and the rest of Myke's family and friends. I am playing "A Deliberate Mistake" as I write this...."

Andy Senior

*A great loss, my heart goes out to Phoebe, to his family and his best mate Richard.
Andy*

Headley Jones

"Deepest respect and condolences. Where words fail music speaks. Thanks for the memories. "

Paul Holden

"such sad news, if there anything me or the rest of These black & white flames can do, you know where to find us"

Patricia Rogers

" That's very sad - my condolences to you & his family xxx"

Raymond Greenoaken

"deep condolences all round. I can barely express how choked I was to read the news. Myke was the first person on the Sheffield folk scene I made contact with when I arrived here in 1985. It's a long time ago, and no time at all."

Jack Millard

"Very upset about his passing Dad, if you need anything give us a call. he was a top bloke, a good laugh, and a fantastic musician who we shall all miss greatly. "

David Sewell

"Richard we are so sorry to hear the sad news."

Chris Baum

Very very sad to hear that Richard. Had some good times with Myke. Bless him.

David Botttomley

"Oh Richard that is so awful. I thought Mike was such a great guy. "

Stephen Howlett

"So sorry to hear about Myke. He was one of the good guys. RIP"

Mort Reading

"Oh no, what a terrible shame. RIP Myke. "

Maggi Vesey

"Please pass on love and condolences to Phoebe from Maggi & Peter."

Jenny Fox

"All the band are stunned. Myke was such an enthusiastic champion of live music, a real character and a man with a generous nature, always smiling and cheerful, encouraging other musicians. Rotherham's music scene will not be the same without him. We will miss him so much. Our love, thoughts and sympathy to Phoebe and to all of you. Andrew, Bob, Carmel & Jenny. xxx"

John Goss

"Sad news. You guys are great>"

J.B. Butterfield

"i'm sad too even though i never knew him,the point is he was is one person i won't get to meet when i finally get a cance to play @ the mashers

Philip Cockerham

"I'm so sorry. Shocked and upset to hear this sudden news.

My thoughts and sympathies go out to you and to Phoebe."

Steve Robson Fools Gold

how sorry we were to hear of the sad passing of Myke.

We only met him once when we came to Acoustic Rotherham 6, but have followed your joint exploits via the net since.

Please accept our condolences and very best thoughts,

Regards

Stev & Carol Robson

Fool's Gold

Brother Crow

"So sorry to hear that, Myke was a great bloke. Best wishes from all at Brother Crow."

Dave Eyre Sheffield Radio

"Richard - so sorry to hear that. "

Lewis Robinson – Lew Bear

"I'm so sorry to hear that Richard, only met the both of you once, but your chemistry on stage is something that only comes with the deepest friendship, so I know how much he'll be missed, but also, because of all you did, how much he'll be remembered"

Paul Arrowsmith

"Really sorry to hear this Richard. Deepest sympathy to you all from all here."

Pete Thornton-Smith

"Sorry to hear your news. Knew Myke from way back from when we both started to get involved with the music scene in Sheffield. He will be missed."

The Troubadors

"So sorry to hear this Dickie. All our love from the Troubadors at this awful time! thinking of you all. xx"

Alan Wilkinson

"Deepest sympathies. Although I didn't know Myke all that well this news has stunned me. Tribute to the character he was. Like Charlie, I'm thinking of you all."

Charlie Barker

"I'm so sorry to hear that. Very sad news. Thinking of you all x"

Tom Hannon

"Deepest sympathy goes out to his friends n family..really sorry to hear this"

David Paskall

"I am so sorry to hear this news, I am in tears as I write this.

he was a fantastic bloke!"

Sylvia May

"Yes Richard - I hardly have words. He was such a great bloke, and he and Phoebe were the best thing that could have happened to each other. We must all be there for Phoebe now. "

Glenn Coggin

Sorry to hear your sad news. My thoughts are with you all. Glenn

Velvet Pause

So sorry... Paul & Liz, (The Bull)

Cracktown

So sorry to hear the news; a true gentleman.

jiva

Sorry to hear the news... our condolences to everyone.

Julian The Viking

I have only met you all just the once at KFFC but the loss is within me. Good people are hard to come by. Myke was one of them. The Angels will be jiggling along with him now.

Song Writer Hugh

So very sorry Richard. What a pleasure to have known such a fine man. My heartfelt sympathies to Phoebe and you.

Acoustica

Sorry to hear this sad news Richard. Our best wishes go out to you and to his family.

Browth

So sorry to hear that. Heartfelt sympathies.

Karl Ampofo

Richard, I've just heard, just spoken to Phoebe. Still haven't taken it in. Myke was one of my oldest friends. I can't type anymore at the mo. I'll speak soon. Take care

Flash it Up Harry

Thoughts are with you all on this very sad day ...I know i can speak for everyone here on Myspace

Terry Ferdinand Bishop FM

add my condolences to the family please richard, playing a song for mykie on the folk show on monday night and will re run you folk up front to.

Julian Wilson

Oh mate - I am so sorry that I can't say. My sympathies are with you all. Jules

Barbara Helen

Oh Richard..so very very sorry, that is shocking news.

Cracktown

I remember Myke trying to convince me of the existence of "good" prog-rock during an Acoustic Rotherham afternoon; he didn't succeed, obviously, but it didn't matter. On the (sadly far too few) occasions I met him, he was a bloke who could bend his elbow or bend your ear with a genuine, good-humoured charm. As I've said, we only met him a few times, so it may seem a bit presumptuous to offer our thoughts, but to

hell with that: one meets too few honest-to-God gentlemen in music, and I was genuinely saddened when I read the news last night. Talented as he was charming, his enthusiasm helped make The Mashers - and Acoustic Rotherham - what they are. On behalf of CrackTown: cheerio, Myke - you'll be missed.

AI – Misk Hills Mountain Rambler

"When the time comes for me to pass

Don't have a wake, have a damn good dance

Scatter my ashes on the soft green grass

Then I wont die at all, then I wont die at all"

'Don't Let Me Die' . . .

RIP Myke Masher . . . thanks so much for y' good humoured encouragement!

Gazza – Abbot of Unreason

26th July, I crash unceremoniously through the doors of The Monkwood, with a guitar case in each hand and a bag of stuff swung across my back. A hand reaches over and the Walden's case is lifted from my hand by this geezer with long hair and Harry Potter style specs. "Let me lighten your load?" says he, "Thank you" says I and then "Hello Myke, good to meet you at last". Myke's face lights up with a grin, "And I know who you are too. Welcome to Acoustic Rotherham Mr Abbot!"

Later, after Dickie has briefed me of the running order at Acoustic Rotherham and I reacquaint myself with Jack, Dickie's eldest (who I used to coach in the art of rugby), I sit myself down next to Myke and we chat and laugh and generally prattle on about folk clubs, the Mashers, guitars and joys of the M1 from Nottingham to Sheffield (?????). I warmed to Myke straight away and his gentle voice and kindly smile settled any worries I had for that day - my most travelled gig ever (at that point in time). I think I did okay (everyone is so very polite at Acoustic Rotherham - except the odd blues band in recent times may be) and when I finished I presented Dickie and Myke with a bottle of Malvern cider. Dickie was pleased to have a bottle of apple juice from the old stompin ground whereas Myke's eyes were wide as saucers as if he'd just won the a tenner on the Premium Bonds - he was like a kid with a stolen toffee apple..and that really made me chuckle! "Well done" he said, " I loved the songs. I'll drink this tomorrow at my birthday bash" - But I heard that the cider nearly made it back to Myke's place unopened.. :D

At the last Acoustic Rotherham at The Queen's, when I rolled in with Tracy Rock from Marzipan Moon and Mrs T (the wife), I looked around the room for Myke and spied him in the corner with Pheobe - dangerously close and wrapped up in the music and in each other. I waved across the room and Myke waved back with that warm smile that greeted me on 26th July 2009. Before I left, I made a point of saying goodbye to Myke and Pheobe and shaking Myke's hand and then I gave him a copy of Marzipan Moon's demo CD. As with the bottle of cider his eyes lit up and he promised to give CD a listen and I am quite sure he did..... "Through the eyes of a child" may be? Who knows.....

Richard and Pheobe and all in Masher land, Myke was a legend and I am very proud to have met him.....

Keep the faith,

Tina McKevitt

I last saw Myke on May 1st when the Mashers played a storming set on the Barnsley Folk against Fascism stage, cheering the crowd with their political songs as we stood in the sunshine. The mood was very hopeful.

Myke's individuality, his genuine enthusiasm, his quirkiness, the way he was just himself, with no pretensions, touched my life. Thanks Myke.

I agree with Richard - a great gig - but it ended far too soon.

But since it falls unto my lot that I should rise while you should not

I'll gently rise and softly call "Goodnight and joy be with you all"

(The Parting Glass)

Pete – Once of the 2Cs

Sad news for everyone a true gent and an unassuming master of the axe he wielded. No doubt he is performing to a new audience who will be enjoying every minute as we all did. As my favourite song says " WISH YOU WERE HERE "

Winter Berries

I was deeply saddened to hear this news. Whilst I only met Myke that one time in Manchester, his infectious energy stayed with me. Be well, Myke... and much love to all those close to him. Kyle x

Vicky Cottam

I saw Myke for the first time in years at the Acoustic Rotherham event last month. He immediately came up to me and reminded me of a couple of my own songs I haven't sung for ages. I was bowled over by his enthusiasm, energy and amazing memory! Such a shock to hear this sad news. RIP Myke.

Wendy

I knew Mike when I went to the Harlequin Folk Club in Sheffield and his energy was envied by many, he seemed to thrive on it! He was a sweet, kind and very caring man who was there for me during a difficult time with an ex-boyfriend. He also encouraged myself and Anne N. to get up and sing at the Folk Club, which we did, and his mastership of the bass guitar was just fabulous to watch. I left Sheffield in 1996 but, just before I went, he had met a woman who he then moved in with (I presume this is Phoebe). He was very excited about this lady, a very beautiful spirit I remember him saying, but who was a carnivore and, being a strict vegetarian, he said he had already had some interesting debates! He is, I am sure, missed by all who knew him, and the music world, indeed humankind, is worse off for him not being here. I wish all those who were close to him at the time of his death a peace in their hearts and wish to say that we were all better for knowing him.

Take care,

Wendy B.

Rob Green

I'm trawling through the web looking for interests in [What Happened to MY Folk World <c> Douglas Publications]... For some reason I ended up at the The Rawmarsh Mashers' Site??????????

Can I introduce you to my unforgettable career with Myke

I left the armed services in 86' that's 1986 after two stints of 3 & 5yrs, dumped on the street, no job, no money, wife and four children and most of all no FUTURE. He used to look down into his pint at lip level and say, in a timid whisper. "Ohh Bob, you dint do that did you"? He was very anti HMF at the time...

I was brought up on the Manor Sheffield 1952-1970 as a family Brass Band Musician set firmly in the roots of our tradition of Brass Folk Music as it was through those years after the war. Competing with the early rock era and so-on. Ridiculed by my peers at both school and work for being a Brass Bander. A hard or infact a very hard time it was for people to go out and enjoy themselves with what precious

monies they'd scrimped and saved from what little they had in the first place, existing in the shadow of the closed Nunnery Pit.

Parades from Christmas to the next Christmas. Morris Dancers, early Jugg and Tea Chest Bass Quartets and Skiffel Groups were all part of my life in the 50's on The Manor and my Father's family's roots at Heeley Sheffield.

These latter groups were derived from the Children of the Estates trying to make a statement and a very very hard try to get out of the Pit, Steel and Grinder Working Culture.

Snotty, Sneezing, Coughing and Dieing Folk on The Manor were dead-ended into life before they were even born, probably, just as I was.

The Band [whether brass or not] was the outlet, the day off so as to practise, the fame, the travel to get out of the filth and muck and more-so the poverty of being a nobody behind a cutlers grinding wheel or coliers pick.....

But! With the Band! You were a some-body, not a number, you'd practised and practised till you dropped, you were the best, closed eyed, you could be anywhere in the world or in fact anybody, so-long as you practised and believed in yourself.

We are a dieing type of person us Folk Musicians. In 86' I found myself in a pub [The Brown Cow} at the back of the Wicker Sheffield, Corner of Mowbray St and Corporation St. Stood there at the bar ordering a depth-charger from Garth [Pint of Guinness with a Large Whiskey dropped in]. 6' 4", 15 stone, Chin up, Shoulders back, stomache in.....Close cropped hair, shirt and tie, jacket and trousers and a full length leather coat to match.

In the corner are some lay-about's [that I'd just helped to kick off Greenham Common 'type'] singing and joking and most of all, serious in what they had...

Greenham Common [I don't have to explain at all here. Do I?] A place of hate, death and world wide media coverage of the nuclear arms race against one another. A place of, off the theatre of war organized mayhem and brutality to the human race..

Some uncontrollable urge took my stance from at the bar to a seat quite close to the 'types' in the far end corner....

A very beautiful voice [Linda Hurcombe] was doing a rendition of some song unknown to me.. I sat there mesmerized at the complete silence whilst the entertaining young woman sang. The applaud from around the pub was goose bumpy. I'd not felt that since I was a youth.

I was spied with curious eye's and with quiet whispers and odd pointing gestures and was sheeplessly asked, "Duz' tha' play owt?"

"I ant played owt fuh years!" I said back. Sat there in my up to the nines attire.

"E' torks lak us dunt e'?"

I had to put that in because I was amazed that they'd expect me to be a posh 'H' type.

The madness of it all was, I found myself agreeing to provide my Transit Caravanette to get them and 'their bit of kit' to a gig at the University at Tottely Sheffield. ' Was quite a 'bit', 'Their Kit' But we managed.

This led me into a world of music that I had been isolated from as a child on The Manor. Being a musician in a Family Brass Band [Meersbrooke and Briddons Brass Band]. I missed out on the jugg, jazz skiffel, Elvis, Beatles etc! as a part of my life due to being brought up with a father that believed it segregated brass life and the weak left to follow the more well known rock & roll teddy status attitude of the majority at the time. So! I was imune [if that's the word] to any type of music other than Brass. I was young and brainwashed enough by my father to even hate it myself I suppose.

And finally [thank god I hear you say] I'm at the point to say that if I'd been a traitor to brass and followed my peers to the more lively culture of music, I would not have involved myself with the long haired lay-a-bouts at The Brown Cow that evening. I would have followed the HM Forces attitude and danced away to more modern sounds within that circle.

I feel that the influence of my Brass background brought me forward to the Folk Culture with open arms, just as Myke Barritt did that evening at that pub. Because I know how my more recent peers at the time, ie Squadies, felt about the long haired crusties, the squadies themselves following a more media covered culture of, dare I say it? pop music...

I end with, Myke said to me on frequent occasions, his exact words. "You 'wunt believe that we 'wuh the same age Bob, would 'yuh"?..... "Yeah Myke! 5 Kids 2 Conflicts and a Wife since 1969"! I used to hammer back at him. Obviously joking as we always did...

I did a lot of music with 'Mad Myke' when he was with Rhiannon and Wale Of A Time, The latter I used to tell him 'Waste Of A Time'... They'd not got that feeling...

He did'nt know I was a singer and guitar player either.. I never said..

I had a break from folk after 3yrs, a new conflict out east had reared it's ugly head and I was still bound to go...

My mind had changed so much, that I refused to even fill in the papers to re-enlist... Folk Music at The Cow had given me a look at the other side of the fence at Greenham Common, a look I suppose that was always there and even to this day, is

still there....Because of him, I instead, re-enlisted in The Folk Scene at The Harlequin after meeting Myke outside, whilst I was unloading my HGV at the Bankrupt Jeans Company. That lunch was a reminiss of old times and conflicts at bad do's etc! And that evening I was introduced back into the afterbird and company of good people and friends so long missed by myself trying to earn a crust. ... I must admit this to you because he was more than a musician. He could get band members fighting one another with the drop of a chord and be there to referee it out and get them back to agree on something that was completely out of order.. He knew what he was doing...

I'm not a well man now, I was fit once and used it to support the Myke Barritts' of the folk world with my knowledge and skills, to mend their kit and mix their sounds. Later, to ALSO have Myke's eye's like saucers, when I did my own rendition of The January Man some years later at the Ted Earnshaw Institute, 'The Booit Straps'.

After The Harlequin Folk and session nights I lost touch with Myke and the rest, and am now at a loss and a very deep loss to knowing that Myke has gone looking for that lost chord.

Over a pint in The Horns at Dronfield after a few he once said.... "I'll find it one day and know what it means"!

Well I can only say. "I hope he's looking"!

ps.. It's strange that after a 13 yr gap, I find myself on The Rawmarsh Mashers' Site..... Especially the same month he dies... What a loss to the culture of music... I will try and make the venue at the Crem on the 30 June.. 2pm and further on at his birthday do at The Bridge..... I need directions for The Bridge....

My kindest regards to all who loved him... and you are right... he's still here in the ether along with his vegi-burgers.. something else he introduced me into!!!

Bob Green [The January Man] Myke suggested that handle as well!

And once more, I'm contacting the Folk scene because of Myke.....

SCUPPERED

I heard the dreadful news on the Monday from my son Paul who works with Phoebe, it was only a week earlier that Andy and I had been at The Princess Royal when Myke and Phoebe were featured by Pete Shaw. As you know, Scuppered had encountered the Mashers playing a good few times recently and of course we knew of Myke from seeing him at many local events over the years.

None of the Scuppered crew knew Myke very well but what we do know is that he will be missed not only as a friend to you guys but also as a performer and larger than life character by just about everybody in and around the Rotherham/Sheffield

music scene!

Having just got back from holiday I would now like to add our condolences to the huge list on the website.

On behalf of Scuppered - Dave, Andy, John, Pete

SHEEDYFROST

We're really sorry to hear about Myke.....Our best regards to you all....we will be thinking of you.

Peace!

Paul and Vincent!

JOHN BLYTH

You and I don't know each other as far as I know but I knew Myke in the Rhiannon days.

I played in another band, name irrelevant, and we were in amiable rivalry.

One Christmas, myself, Martin Cartwright , Hugh Sanderson and Myke had not got round to arranging any niceties like a Christmas dinner or festivities (Christmas Eve drinks had got in the way.) so after an overnight session in my flat we charged around Sheffield on Christmas morning looking for a bird of some variety to roast.

With difficulty we eventually bought a goose. Myke then gently announced that he was veggie (we drank together but food was not usually on our agenda). Once the horror had faded we then took ourselves off to find things like aubergines etc. This was even more difficult to find than the goose The dinner consisted in the end of good company, good food and a lot of alcohol and music. I can't comment on the edible qualities but the ambience was fine.

Myke was one of the good guys and he will be a great loss to all who knew him. Condolences to Phoebe and yourself.

John Blyth

PHIL AND MIKE – THE BUTCHER’S ARMS, BRAITHWELL, OPEN MIC.

Firstly can I send our condolences after the sudden departure of a very talented musician and masher.

Thank you for visiting our humble buskers night and adding your energetic folk style to the evening.

Our regulars are still talking about you as well as Iris our landlady.

Please feel free to come back any time (except Whitby Folk Week) and you will be made most welcome.

BAR STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONIGAN

Can't believe that Myke is gone lads... Hell, we were only watching you last month at The FAF gig in Barnsley! Our thoughts are with his family and yourselves in the band. We didn't really know him too well, but you could see that his heart and soul belonged to the music he made and for that he will always have our utmost respect.

Say hi to the Big Man for us Myke, I hope they do real ale at the bar and that its one long jam session mate

Much respect, peace love and understanding

from The Bar-Steward Sons

MAJIKEN PRAXIS GLENDER

Gosh, I missed it when you guys couldn't come to Germany, was looking forward to sharing the stage with you- and now this news.... my condolences, I'm saddened I didn't get the chance to meet Myke in person. But I too am sure he'd want the Mashers to go on, I hope you find the right formula soon, and that we can shake hands on 20 July in Rotherham.

Good luck, Kenny from Tillerman's Cat

FYRISH (DAVID AND MAJORIE)

We're just back from holiday- can't believe the sad news of Myke's death-what a gentle, lovely man he was - a 'music-maker and dreamer of dreams'

Please give our love to Phoebe.

Thinking of you both,

Marjorie and David

ALEX J. OLIVER

I just heard about Mick. I never know what to say in these circumstances but I suppose simply speaking there goes another of life's treasures.

DAVID KIDMAN

I really couldn't believe the devastating news that greeted me on my return from a week's holiday. There've been a massive number of folk/music friends among the departed this past year, but Myke's has affected me more than many I thought I knew better. I've no claim to being a close friend of Myke's, having only really known him for three years tops, but he really was one of the most genuine and right-on guys on the scene, with a real and unashamed love of – and enthusiasm and talent for – so many things that counted. Especially the music – and all that goes with it. Welcoming and inclusive almost to a fault, too! But what says it all, most of all, is the way that since his passing Myke's presence comes back into my mindframe at so many times during the ongoing gig that is life: moments when I least expect – something I'm thinking about will trigger a kindof snapshot of part of a conversation I had (or even weirder, imagine I might've had!) with Myke. And I can't have met him much more than a dozen times in all – but such is the mark that he made on me. And as a performer myself, I'm finding lately that I'm kinda gaining much strength from his memory. Cheers Myke, I'm so glad to've known you mate, and I'll be there to help in your send-off. My deepest condolences to Phoebe especially but to all those whom Myke's life touched in any way.

CHRISTOPHER CIUMMEI (USA)

My prayers and affections go with his spirit and with you my friend.

Myke and The Rawmarsh Mashers have been such an influence upon the way my Band has put it's music together.

I cannot under state the influence that they have had on us.

Thanks Myke – Thank you The Mashers.

JOHN “MACA” MCDONALD

I first met Myke when he moved to Sheffield, he was a School friend of Chris Humphries, we all ended up sharing a house together. Chris, Mary Dommett (later Humphrie's) and myself played as a line up of my band "Three Counties" I worked with Myke doing a couple of gig's under the name of "MacMyke" we were joined by an accordion player called Mark Melluish). It was always a roller-coaster with Mykes energy, he went up and down stair cases 3 and 4 steps at a time, he never seemed to sit down to eat, he kind of grazed on the move all day. He always liked a pint. We worked on putting music to the songs in the book "Lord of the Rings" I have a tape in my collection (I think)

He would always be helping anyone, he never needed to be asked, be it music, moving house or just helping bump start one of my old cars, But put him in front of an audience and he really went for it, I, like every one of the musicians that worked with him, found him a delight to work with, a true entertainer with loads of understanding enthusiasm, for the band and the audience. At a time when Myke was a main stay in Rhiannon, I was in the four man line up of "Counties" we ran The Amazing Grapes Vaudeville Folk Club and started Hurlfield Folk Festival where we booked Rhiannon, they were great times/gigs in those days. He will be greatly missed, on behalf of those of us living in different parts of the country , Chris & Mary in Cornwall, Mark Melluish in Rutland, Kevin and Irean in South Wales and myself in Leicestershire We will always remember Myke fondly, and to Phoebe and all of his hundreds of friends we share your sadness at his passing.

Maca.