



## THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR: UPDATE 29/3/20

*This newsletter is an attempt to keep you abreast of the latest developments in the acoustic DIY scene in the west of England (singarounds, sessions, open mic, etc.)*

Hello People,

Needless to say, the drawbridge here at Acoustic Towers is permanently raised and the water in the moat has been replaced with ethanol. Sue has been busy cutting up handkerchiefs to make masks for the elves, who, I must admit, have adapted very well to the circumstances, maintaining a 6-inch distance between them (that's the elvish equivalent of 2 metres) and regularly washing their hands in the cowslip bells.

There's been some talk of 'virtual sessions' on Skype or Zoom or WhatsApp. If such there are, good luck to all concerned. I can't say they appeal to me much. Well, would you go to a folk club where there's no bar, terrible acoustics and you have to peer at each other through a small rectangular hole? Well, maybe when there's no alternative, I suppose. So if anyone is organising one of these and would like it known, please let me know. On the other hand, I imagine a virtual session would only work for a small number of people, so you may not want it publicised.

It's interesting the way the current crisis can cause us to see each other in a different light. For example, I have a family member who has OCD, which takes the form of compulsive hand-washing. Yesterday she had an anxiety disorder. Today she's a role model.

Phil Thomas (vocal & guitar) has put his version of my *Talking Coronavirus Blues* (retitled *Talking Covid 19 Blues*) on YouTube with some amusing visuals:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ8O0fheA4E>

Apparently I'm not the only one to see the blues potential in the Invisible Enemy. I've found these online:

'Talkin' Covid19 Blues': Gary Copeland: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpt4DtI-1Zw>

'Talking Covid-19 Blues': J.T. Kerry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hb8-gXHwJjM>

'The Coronavirus Blues' The Chillbillie Twins:

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/6144893224001#sp=show-clips>

The other day I went for a walk in the sunshine. I saw one other person – a woman with a dog coming towards me down the lane. I hugged my side of the road, like a responsible citizen, expecting her to stick to her side, instead of which, she turned round and walked smartly off the

way she had come. Maybe she thought I was some kind of viral terrorist who goes round deliberately sneezing on people. Or perhaps the dog had done his business and, after a brief discussion, they had both decided they'd walked far enough. I shall never know.

It's good to see that spring is as irresponsible as ever, the daffodils chattering away to each other, brushing petals and totally ignoring government directives.

You will have no doubt noticed that I've been rabbiting on for far longer than usual. Well, with the live music world, like everything else, in lockdown, I've got absolutely no real news for you. You'll find the 'FROM MY INBOX' section (below) similarly inflated.

Keep safe,

Tony

### FROM MY INBOX

*"Coronavirus? Are you with DT in calling this the "China virus"? <Racist pun, there, tut, tut!> Anyway, no wonder you win poetry prizes... Perhaps your greatest legacy will not be a south-west based musical activity diary after all. Keep well."* Paul

I once had to endure a coronoscopy and it permanently affected my ability to spell.

*"Coronoscopy is probably what Her Maj. has [not on a daily basis, you understand, just as needed... ] Factoid of the Week: the reason Orientals stereotypically substitute 'l' for 'r' is not because they can't pronounce 'r'. In Chinese, Japanese, etc. words with either sound at a particular position within a word mean the same thing, as if, in English, 'lake' and 'rake' meant the same. Not many people know that, and now YOU do, if you didn't already."* Paul

Oh, come on, I'm sure Her Maj doesn't keep losing her crown up her bum, despite being advised to by those of the republican persuasion!

*"As someone NOT affected by spelling issues (for whatever reason), I understood a coronoscopy was an internal inspection of one's crown. Those who fantasize about H M.'s rear should, perhaps, not be left in charge of the nation's premier information resource about DIY music, JUST in case the two inadvertently get confused [you might have a greater take-up for DIY events involving stuffing imperial regalia up the monarch's fundament\*, than you do for mere music: I imagine SOME sounds would result, though whether musical ones is anyone's guess].*

*\* this IS a spellchecker of delicate sensibilities: it didn't recognize THIS, either, though it did suggest "fundamentalist". I'd not thought of the connection before... ...though, as they're not renowned for their sense of humour, I don't think I'll raise the point to the next one I meet."* Paul

'Fundamentalist' could equally well mean a medic who specialises in colonoscopies. Anyway, that's quite enough about Her Majesty's bottom. She's already unfriended me on Facebook. This thread is closed (as they say).

*"Thanks for all you do to keep us informed. Just had a bash at the Coronavirus blues, its brilliant, gave me a giggle. You are way too ornery for some invisible bug to bring about your demise, so hope to see you around after it goes away."* Neil

*"That is absolutely brilliant, I love it! If only I were a Blues Singer and could play the guitar .... !"*  
Bryony

*"Stay safe stay well. You are needed."* Lesley

*"Thanks for the email below, and all of the hard work that you put into writing the calendar, it is much appreciated. Keep well, and I look forward to reading the calendar, in a few months."*  
Susannah

*"Thanks for your update Tony and your work to date, enjoy your break. We do feel a little hard done by here in West Somerset, finding ourselves following rules designed for London but I'm sure sooner or later we will catch up so we have no option but to follow the herd in the hope they find immunity before we get there. All the best for your own welfare."* Richard

*"Thanks for doing a great job Tony and enjoy a couple of months off."* Barry

*"Tony dear, I don't believe you're 79. You just say that to get to the front of the Tesco queue. If you really are 79, I must say: whatever tablets you're on, keep taking them. And tell me where I can get some. Warm thanks for the Acoustic Calendar which has transcended its dates and now rivals The Beano for a good read on the loo."* Ann

Hmm. Maybe I should have produced a dual-purpose paper version. I could scan my birth certificate for you, but I think I'll just let you persist in your delusion.

*"Dear Tony, Missing you already... Stay safe and enjoy the leisure."* Jane

*"Thanks for all you do for the folk scene Tony. Have a break and hopefully we'll all emerge on the other side in the not too distant future."* John & Anne

*"Thanks for all your work letting folks know what is going on. Have a rest for a while! Stay safe!"*  
Mike & Janice

*"Ah Tony, it just won't be the same without the Acoustic Calendar and your merry quips! But hey, you deserve a month off!!! Let's hope that it zooms through an empty landscape and we can all come out and play again soon. Stay well!!! Catkins and mistle thrushes."* Marianne

We can still disport ourselves in the wild places. Your lovely online liltng will help to see us through.

*"Best wishes Tony."* Steve

*"Well I would never have guessed you were 11 years older than me - you wear it well! Your song-poem is brilliant and I hope you'll be sharing it on Facebook...? If not, can I copy and paste and share it myself (with a credit of course)? Enjoy the break and I'll see you again on the other side (and that's not a reference to any alleged afterlife). A bit of poetic licence there with Adebaroo? - there's Aldebaran, but that doesn't rhyme with flew and we know of course that aliens can't run)."*   
Kevin

Thanks Kevin - but you should see the condition of the picture in the attic! I've put my blues on Facebook, but by all means share it with whomever you like. It would be good if it went viral (even the bloody viruses are going viral these days!) You will not have heard of Aldebaroo. It's still waiting to be discovered. See you at the Big Survivors' Singaround.

*"You don't know what you've lost til it's gone. Like many others I have come to rely on the Acoustic Calendar, a noble effort from a noble man. Thank you. I shall miss not going out to play music, but the time will end a music venues will reopen. I have a suggestion, can we have you cryogenically frozen until venues reopen? Seems a good idea to me. Like you we are in the vulnerable category and have to be careful."* Laurie

Good idea Laurie. I think we should *all* be cryogenically frozen. That way we'll be immune from infection. The question is – who would bother to thaw us out?

*“Congrats on your twelve bar blues, amazing stuff. When the timing is right that will go on YouTube with guitar and harmonica. We will miss ya.”* Dave

I'll be back, Dave. I look forward to your rendition. Phil Thomas has got there before you, but the more versions the merrier.

*“Tony, I've had a look at your Acoustic Calendar - you're first off the block - brilliant! I said to everyone when I cancelled Eli's (excluding you because we'd already spoken) signing off my email saying "if there's one good thing to come of this it might spawn some wonderful new songs"! Well done and hunker down.”* Rod

Thank you all for your most valued messages.

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