

SMITH, Hannah (C8653)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2020 23:26
To: [REDACTED] LEWIS, Richard (p2688); COPPINGER, Barry (C8513)
Subject: FW: One More Light - a True North tale

Dear all.

Just sharing this note below, in case I didn't mention previously.....it's a Christmas tale that's worth re-telling.....and it's a pleasure to work with [REDACTED].....see more of his work below with the Stockton community choir 'Infant Hercules'..... including an emotional performance in the early hours outside the last day of Steel making on Teesside...

Hope you're keeping safe .

Regards
Barry

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=\[REDACTED\]&&view=detail&mid=C9C0CA73830DA0DBB116C9C0CA73830DA0DBB116&&FORM=VDRVRV](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=[REDACTED]&&view=detail&mid=C9C0CA73830DA0DBB116C9C0CA73830DA0DBB116&&FORM=VDRVRV)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2020 22:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: One More Light - a True North tale

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your note below..... and good luck to all our friends in Stockport, Manchester and Liverpool.....however.....can I flag up something from the even Truer North ? !

Towards the end of last year, I did some work with [REDACTED] who is a good Tees-sider, leader of the local band Wildcats of Kilkenny, and all round campaigner for mental health issues. [REDACTED] is someone who I have the highest regard for, and he has done a lot of great community projects on Teesside. He has had mental health issues of his own, he will freely admit to suicidal moments in past, but is also a very talented musician, done a lot of local social work, and adult and youth education work, including he has done a lot of work helping men with mental health issues - as you know a difficult issue to confront in our part of the world on Teesside.

Anyway, having supported [REDACTED] in some previous projects - I've helped fund community projects for ex-offenders; a gig he did in Holme House prison in Stockton on 50th anniversary of Johnny Cash in San Quentin gig; and another initiative I also helped fund on centenary in 2018 recognising Stockton's un-commemorated casualties in first World War; (yes he's pretty eclectic!) we met up again in the autumn of last year – I had coincidentally been taking an increasing interest in mental health issues in context of serious mental health impacts on police officers of the challenges they face in communities after consequences of 10 years of austerity, and I have become a 'blue light' mental health champion internally, as part of a police mental health initiative and the welfare issues associated.

Anyway [REDACTED] had this fledgling idea, which we discussed, around a song by US band Linkin Park called 'One More Light'. I was on board instantly, and we agreed we'd encourage local choirs to perform it, I'd fund the recording of it, and we'd release it as an on-line single (a Christmas number 1!) and channel proceeds into mental health charity

work. The song became even more poignant when it became known the lead singer of Linkin Park, Chester Bennington, committed suicide through his own mental health issues.

Anyway, we organised, and [REDACTED] reached out into various community choirs on Teesside and we rehearsed the song. It's a great moving anthem and [REDACTED] arranged it so well. In the run up to Christmas, [REDACTED] secured support from a mate of his from Stockton in music biz, a recording engineer who'd worked with music professionals, including Van Morrison and Robbie Williams (!!). We got them and the choirs together and filled Stockton Parish Church one Saturday afternoon, and recorded the song. The choirs then performed the song in each of the boroughs, culminating in a performance in a full Centre Square in Middlesbrough, the week or two before Christmas, when the lights went on – a fantastic gig and night.

The two links below are the first, setting the scene based around the suicide of a young lad in Stockton, which first set [REDACTED] off, and the second is drawn from the Centre Square gig. [REDACTED] is front centre stage with the Infant Hercules choir, I'm somewhere at front down from stage with people from various choirs.

Play it loud, and be proud of Teesside – I certainly was, and of all the people involved – not sure if we got to number one, but I'm sure a lot of people benefitted from us doing it.

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=\[REDACTED\]&docid=608041655243899903&mid=3B797F6AFC4993256B833B797F6AFC4993256B83&view=detail&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=[REDACTED]&docid=608041655243899903&mid=3B797F6AFC4993256B833B797F6AFC4993256B83&view=detail&FORM=VIRE)

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=\[REDACTED\]&docid=607995746279754909&mid=E9584E30E378E569BB68E9584E30E378E569BB68&view=detail&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=[REDACTED]&docid=607995746279754909&mid=E9584E30E378E569BB68E9584E30E378E569BB68&view=detail&FORM=VIRE)

Stay safe – keep well – and please feel free to share this with all our friends – in the north, and elsewhere.

Regards
Barry

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 May 2020 20:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: These are the hands

True North – The Story of a Song

To Northern Friends (and a couple of hangers on - but sound people)

This film followed another video sent to me today, which was also good.

But this is amazing.

Perhaps you already know it.

It builds up as a story and as a performance and a cultural and political event. It left me in tears as I remembered the third of my life I spent in the North. The joys of Stockport, Manchester, Liverpool and Teesside. The struggles and the 'gritty folk'. Settle down for a wonderful event.... then please share it.

I shall send it further south once I know you all have it.

Play it from the start.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NW9rDjd5pyl&feature=emb_rel_end



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