

Mal Hawley 1942-2020



A BRIEF TRIBUTE AND CELEBRATION OF MAL'S LIFE

By some of his friends in Tottenham

Mal was born Malcolm Albert Hawley on 4th January 1942, and grew up in Leicester.

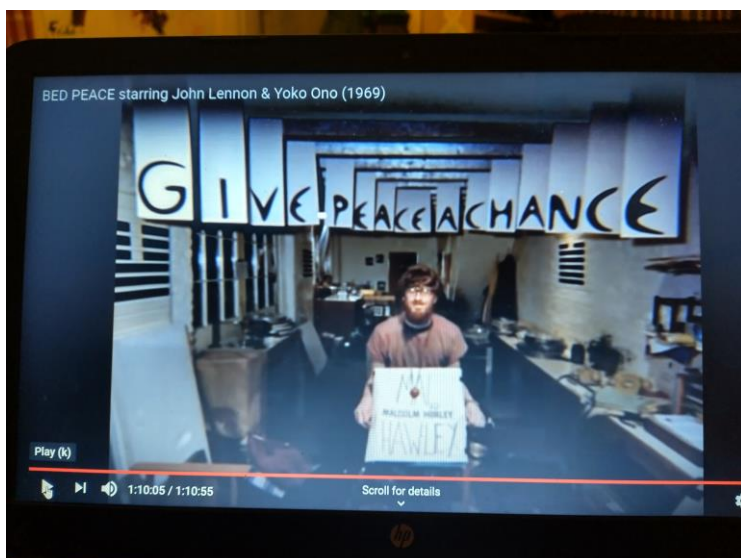
He took up the double bass around 1960, part of a life-long love of music. He started an apprenticeship as a draughtsman with the Evans lift company, similar to his father who was a skilled engineer. However this potential career was seemingly trumped by Mal's commitment to regular late night music practices - including with his oldest friend, the now very distinguished trumpeter Henry Lowther.

Mal had been a pioneer of unorthodox instrument making in the 1960s, making flutes and ocarinas in England and on his travels. He would attend with his instruments at the Arts Lab in Drury Lane in 1968 (a place where David Bowie found inspiration), and made and sold such instruments on market stalls.

As a young man he travelled widely, including driving all the way to India. At one time he lived in Afghanistan, learning the language and choosing a simple life with a little trading in arts and crafts. He also lived in a number of European countries. He also played his double bass in jazz bands (including wearing a tuxedo at some point!), including gigs at US army bases.

He eventually settled in London for most of his life. As well as his love of music, he was a self-employed carpenter by trade – doing stage carpentry and house renovations, including installing specialist and luxury kitchens. At one time he was asked to do some work by John Lennon, and somehow ended up helping make a famous full length John and Yoko documentary, 'Bed Peace'.

Bed Peace documentary by John and Yoko
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRjjiOV003Q>
Here's his credit / photo at the end.



Eventually Mal settled in Tottenham around 25 years ago. He lived in a large house in West Green Road but unfortunately lost it because he couldn't afford to keep it on despite renting out rooms. He then got a small flat in Woodlands Park Road.

He was very keen on wildlife. And also social justice, for example being strongly opposed to poverty in the UK and the world.



Mal was elected Joint Secretary of the Friends of Downhills Park in 2011 and continued until May 2015. He often did the minutes of meetings, and updated the park's notice boards. In 2011 Mal led for a while on the park's community cafe project and was instrumental in keeping the pressure up to get it completed and open. He also organised regular bird and butterfly counts each year in the park and was generally very active (and forthrightly so!) in promoting the interests of the Park. He also joined in Friends of Lordship Rec activities in the neighbouring park.

Mal got involved, with his friends who were members of Haringey MENCAP, in campaigning against hate crime in Haringey, including attending workshops and distributing 'Report Hate crime' boxes in local community venues. He was also an active member of his local Residents Association. This was despite growing mobility and health problems in recent years.

Mal, in his trademark hat, with his friend Gary staffing a stall at the Friends of Downhills annual Art In The Park event in 2013 - handing out newsletters and encouraging people to sign up as new members.

Mal was a very caring person generally and loved to discuss with friends about life and society. He used to go on coach trips with his local Tottenham friends. Although no children of his own, he was very fond of his nieces and nephews. Altogether, a very lovely person.

Mal will be sorely missed by many, but helped to enrich the lives of those he came into contact with.