

Memorial will help to preserve our heritage

By Mick Lanaghan

AFTER the closure of Hatfield Main, the last working mine in the South Yorkshire and Doncaster coalfield, the five communities of Hatfield Main were successful in applying for protected status from English Heritage.

As a direct response, the Hatfield Main Heritage Association formed a working body, Hatfield Main Heritage Trust, to develop proposals for the retention of both headgears and future use of two winding houses, power house and fan housing.

Ideas include a dedicated

mining art gallery, affordable artisan workshops and studios, community facilities, a wedding venue, a recording studio and a virtual reality underground experience.

Since the strike, Hatfield NUM have retained a close friendship with Paul Heaton, ex-Housemartins and Beautiful South, and latterly with Jacqui Abbott. Paul regularly came over from Hull to stand on Hatfield's picket line and became firm friends – he helped carry the new community banner when it was first unfurled for the marking of the end of the 30th Anniversary – the long march back – and he has been kept up to date with the progress of the Colliery proposals.

Early last year we were contacted by Claire Faragher who was producing a documentary on Paul's life and career.

Paul had told her that he wanted to involve the Hatfield communities in the documentary process as he has always said our community gave him the building blocks to build his career.

From that initial contact, Paul proposed a benefit gig at the Pit Club in Stainforth with himself and Jacqui. The plans came



Left to right: Paul Heaton, John Dunn, Kevin Horne and Mick Lanaghan.

together over a six-month period and the event was held on Thursday 13 September.

Sadly, the memorial dedicated to mark the 30th anniversary of the miners' strike had been damaged. However, the local funeral directors, Carpenters, stepped in and donated a black marble memorial stone inscribed with the original design by Karl Lanaghan.

Paul unveiled the new strike

memorial on the day of the gig and presented a cheque for the income received from the Housemartins' track *Coal Train* to Hatfield Main.

We were joined by John Dunn and Kevin Horne with the Orgreave banner and were very grateful for a bag of goodies sent by the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and presented Jacqui Abbott with them on the night of the gig.

It was a fantastic success, ably opened by the Bard of the Hatfield Brigade, Joe Solo. The Hatfield Brigade wholeheartedly joined in and *From Hull to Heatongrad*, the recently aired documentary on Paul's life shown on Channel 4, was shown.

Our thanks to all at the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign for their support. Never forget, never forgive!



The Hatfield Commemoration unveiled by Paul Heaton.

Joe Solo's new album aids austerity battle

TO commemorate the 35th anniversary of the 1984-85 Strike, singer-songwriter Joe Solo is launching a very special version of his album *Never Be Defeated*. Originally released in 2015, the album tells the story of the men and women of Stainforth and Dunscroft, the community around Hatfield Main.

Every year since, Joe has combined with them to form a ramshackle choir;

and together they have released three singles raising money to help locals struggling under Tory austerity.

The new album is a double-CD package with the *Never Be Defeated* album on one disc, while the second disc contains their work, together with some unreleased extras, and it closes with a very special song written and sung by former miner Mick Lanaghan entitled *Farewell Hatfield Main*.

Joe crowdfunded the CD so that every penny raised could be channelled into two projects in the local community: the DN7 Hardship Fund – used to help those struggling at the sharp end of government cuts – and the campaign to Save The Hatfield Main Headgear and turn it into both a monument to the death of an industry and a vital community resource for the future.



Joe Solo at Durham Miners' Gala

The album is available from March at:

<https://joesolothehatfieldbrigade.bandcamp.com/album/never-be-defeated-special-edition>