

## Notes for Podcast 8

### Holyground revived and the re-releases, 1988 onward

Following the failed project at AIM, Mike's passion for recording continued as he was seconded from teaching to make educational programmes for Radio Leeds. These were about the history of the Leeds district with interviews and booklets to accompany them. He also worked directly for Radio Leeds on Saturday morning programmes using their radio car for live broadcasts. After a short period he was back in teaching, but was then seconded to Leeds Community Centres where he spent the remainder of his career.

In the late 1980s the discovery that the vinyl records were now highly collectible led to an agreement with Hugo Chavez of Magic Mixture to re-release them. The re-release was intended to be as much like the original as possible, so Dave Wood, Sylvia Wood, Mike and Shirley spent a considerable time carefully wrapping the paper wrapper for Astral Navigations round the outside of all 425 copies and gluing it.



*Chris Coombs and Hugo Chavez  
3rd February 1990*

On the 3rd February 1990 there was a party to relaunch Holyground when the first two albums were released. Hugo and his wife attended with members of Gygafo, Skybird, Lazy Days and other Holyground friends.

The friendship with Chris Coombs had continued, and it was decided to release the unfinished album '**Gagalactyca**' which was intended to be a 'sister' album to Astral Navigations. Pete Taylor became involved, and this collaboration with Mike, Chris and Pete continued until Mike's death in 2011. Mike and Shirley moved house in 1988 so some of the recording was done at Chris's.

**More information:** <https://holyground.co.uk/gaga/>

Hugo Chavez returned to his home country of Chile, and Mike licensed Background, then Kissing Spell to re-release the albums, although he kept control of the artwork and final cuts.

'**Loose Routes**', a double album of 1970s tracks was released on vinyl. Later it was made into two volumes of CDs which included tracks from various musicians that had never previously been released.

**More Information:** <https://holyground.co.uk/looseroutes.html>

'**Summer of 73**', an album by Skybird who were Gifford Rolfe and Andrew Mullins, was recorded in August 1974. With all the songs written by Gifford, and arrangements by Andrew, it was the first album to be recorded and released in stereo following Mike's purchase of a Tascam 4 track machine and a new mixer. Andrew and Gifford were well known in the area, playing as a duo primarily in folk clubs. They are jointly credited with Mike for production, and were responsible for the artwork. It seems that Mike was not

happy about the original cut for the record, as he notes that it was recut on the 2nd November 'at the Beatles' Apple studio on Savile Row'. This album was re-released as a CD in 1995.

Gifford Rolfe: vocals, guitar, 12 string guitar. Andrew Mullins: guitar, dobro, electric guitar, bass, piano, organ, percussion, vocals, synthesiser.

**More information:** <https://holyground.co.uk/skybird.html>