

THE RAM CLUB



THE VERY BEST IN ACOUSTIC MUSIC

At the Old Cranleighan Club,
Portsmouth Road,
Thames Ditton, KT7 0HB

Fridays at 8.15pm
(bar opens at 7.30).
Non-members welcome.

Former winner of the BBC
Folk Club of the Year Award

APRIL 21 – THE TEACUPS ■ **“A cappella vocals as exciting as any complex instrumental fusion”**

An exhilarating evening of high-energy harmonies is guaranteed as this unaccompanied foursome blast their way through a set made up of traditional and contemporary songs. The Guardian says they are “a reminder that a cappella vocals can be as exciting as any complex instrumental fusion” and they have been wowing festival audiences. Alex Cumming, Kate Locksley, Rosie Calvert and Will Finn will be bringing with them their fun approach to singing, as well as their acclaimed debut album “One For The Pot”. £10 members/£11 non-members www.theteacups.co.uk

APRIL 28 – OCOTILLO ■ **Delightful fusion of Kirsty McGee and Robert Garson's special talents**

Ocotillo is the perfect transatlantic fusion of Kirsty McGee's dusty, soulful vocals and Robert Garson's bluesy, gravelly tones performing songs they describe as “from the city and the desert”. Leaning towards an American “smoke-filled room” atmosphere, their voices evoke the textures of 1930s jazz, treading a line between Americana and jazz swing balladry with a nod to Cole Porter and Tom Waits. £10 members/£11 non-members www.kirstymcgee.com

MAY 5 – DAN WALSH

■ **“The real deal”, “an inspiration”, “consistently brilliant”, “breathtaking”**

Virtuoso playing, a lovely singing voice and inspired songwriting make Dan one of the hottest acts around. He was nominated for the Best Musician prize at last year's BBC folk awards and is acknowledged as one of the country's – perhaps the world's – finest exponents of the banjo. He has been called “the real deal”, “an inspiration”, “consistently brilliant” and “breathtaking”. Dan's shows are an eclectic mix of styles, all rooted in British, Irish and American folk. He is also a superb guitarist, with a lively wit and humour.

£9 members/£10 non-members www.danwalshbanjo.co.uk



MAY 12 – NINEBARROW ■ **Traditional sound with voices harmonised to perfection**

Their sound is totally traditional folk music – yet much of their repertoire is new and original, inspired by the landscape, folklore and history of the British Isles. Jon Whitley and Jay LaBouchardiere harmonise their voices to perfection and play a range of instruments, including keyboard, mandola, harmonium and ukulele. The duo, from Dorset, have been friends since the age of 12. Having raised their profile during 2016, they were rewarded with a Horizon Award nomination at this year's BBC Folk Awards. £10 members/£11 non-members www.ninebarrow.co.uk

MAY 19 – JOHN DOYLE ■ **The finest player of Irish traditional music**

Hailed by many as the finest player of Irish traditional music, guitarist, singer and songwriter John Doyle makes a welcome return to the Ram Club. His virtuoso fingerstyle and percussive strumming techniques create a broad range of moods and atmospheres, from toe-tapping jigs to sumptuous, melodic airs. Born into a musical family in Dublin, John formed Celtic supergroup, Solas, and has gone on to work with many top names in the folk world – Joan Baez and Mary Chapin Carpenter among them. £10 members/£11 non-members www.johndoylemusic.com

MAY 26 – SUNTRAP ■ **Exquisite harmonies and a joyful approach to playing their music**

The exquisite vocal harmonies of Sara Byers, Mary Wilson and Ram Club regular Sue Graves give this local four-piece the power to entrance and enchant any audience. Along with John Sandall on violin and viola, Suntrap boast a wide array of instrumental sounds: Sara plays guitar, accordion, banjo and whistle; Mary plays violin and Sue guitar and ukelele. Their repertoire extends from traditional folk, via self-penned works to their own take on modern classics and they have an endearing stage presence and a joyful approach. £10 members/£11 non-members www.suntrap.org

JUNE 2 – CHRIS SHERBURN & DENNY BARTLEY, WITH EMILY SANDERS ■ Surprises and laughter

Denny's evocative singing does not simply call up images of Ireland, it transports you there. Add in Chris's witty banter and concertina and Emily's vocals and fiddle and the package is complete. This trio is steeped in traditional folk music: Chris grew up in a Yorkshire home visited often by passing musicians, while Denny, born in County Limerick, was exposed to the region's music from an early age, and Emily has been part of the folk scene for 20 years or more. Expect jigs, reels, airs and songs with a hypnotic vocal quality. **£10 members/£11 non-members** www.chrisanddenny.co.uk

JUNE 9 – ZAK HOBBS ■ Young and emerging talent with a top musical pedigree

Zak picked up the guitar aged 11 and by 14 had played at the Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall, thanks to his musical pedigree. Still an emerging talent, he is the grandson of Richard and Linda Thompson. He writes, sings and plays a mean guitar and banjo and is inspired by English folk from the 60s and 70s, along with American roots and country music of the 50s, giving his sound a vibrant transatlantic feel. **£9 members/£10 non-members** zakhobbs.com

JUNE 16 – GEORGIA SHACKLETON TRIO ■ Lively trio with a bright, sweet and toe-tapping sound

This lively young trio combine vocals, fiddle, guitar and mandolin to play a blend of old time, bluegrass and self-penned material. Georgia, a graduate of the renowned Newcastle folk degree course, accompanies herself on fiddle, and writes “wordy songs about other people”, taking inspiration from places and faces. With her are Aaren Bennett on guitar and Nic Zuppari, another Newcastle graduate, on mandolin. It's a bright and interesting sound, topped off with Georgia's sweet lead vocals and tight harmonies. **£10 members/£11 non-members** www.georgiashackletontrio.co.uk

JUNE 23 – JAMES FINDLAY TRIO ■ An incredibly mature voice in harmony with his timeless music

James's vocals are incredibly mature and expressive for a man of his slender years – and a very fine fiddle player he is, too. Jon Dyer on double bass and flute and Alfie Gidley on guitar and mandolin make up the trio and their material is focused on English folk, ideally from the west country, where James grew up. They have a youthful energy, balanced by the peaceful timelessness of lovely old English ballads. **£10 members/£11 non-members** www.jamesfindlay.co.uk

JUNE 30 – PETE MORTON ■ A modern day troubadour; a chronicler of our times

Pete is a chronicler of our times with an eye and an insight for what really matters and an ear for a catchy tune. Most famous for writing “Another Train”, and “Shepherds Song”, Pete has a vast catalogue of funny, astute, moving and meaningful songs. Switching from playing punk rock to folk music at the age of 16 gave him a rare perspective and he has since turned himself into a modern day troubadour. **£9 members/£10 non-members** www.petemorton.com

JULY 7 – THE BLACK FEATHERS ■ Stunning duo; blissfully simple and beautiful singing and playing

Relish an unmissable evening of blissfully simple and beautiful singing and playing from this stunning Gloucester-based duo – Ray Hughes, originally from Dublin, on guitar and vocals, and singer Sian Chandler. They have the most gorgeously well-matched voices and prove that Americana roots music is not necessarily best played by Americans: they are like a two-person Union Station. Their debut EP, “Strangers We Meet”, was listed in The Telegraph as one of 2014's best folk albums.

£10 members/£11 non-members theblackfeathers.com



JULY 14 – JACK BLACKMAN ■ This young singer-songwriter is surely going places

Catch Jack while you can. This young singer-songwriter is going places with his deliciously fluid and natural guitar playing and accomplished vocals. His original songs have been described as a “full length masterpiece” and, with a varied repertoire, he can tackle a smooth ballad with grace and follow it by mastering an up-tempo blues number with swirling slide guitar. Only 23 and already working on his third album, Jack's blues-infused acoustic roots music will be the perfect accompaniment to a warm July evening. **£9 members/£10 non-members** www.jackblackman.com

JULY 21 – ROBIN LAING ■ Superb interpreter of traditional Scottish songs and writer of many new ones

Our summer season draws to a splendid conclusion with an evening of fun and laughter from Robin, a superb interpreter of traditional Scottish songs and writer of many new ones. He is a renowned Scotch whisky expert and has dedicated many of his musical works to the wee dram. Engaging, articulate, and armed with a terrific repertoire, ranging from atmospheric and passionate ballads to carefree compositions with plenty of scope for audience participation, Robin will have us raising a glass to holiday time. **£9 members/£10 non-members** www.robinlaing.com

THEN CLOSED FOR SUMMER – BACK AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 1

And coming up this autumn: John Tams & Barry Coope, Steve Tilston & Jez Lowe, Reg Meuross, Gigspanner, Archie Fisher – plus many more unmissable stars....

■ More details from www.theramclub.co.uk or Bob and Maggie Wood on 020-8686 9421

■ Find us on Facebook & Twitter, and see performances of artists past and future on our YouTube channel – search for TheRamClub

■ To receive e-mail updates or tell us of address changes, e-mail ramfolkclub@gmail.com

■ Nearest stations: Hinchley Wood, Thames Ditton or Esher, via South West Trains