

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

JANUARY 5 – BOO HEWERDINE ■ A night to savour with a top-class songwriter

An old friend of the club who never fails to wow his audience with the beauty of his songwriting. Boo sees himself primarily as a writer – his recent album, “Swimming in Mercury” is packed with brilliant new songs – but proves with every concert that he is a top-class performer, too, with a host of hilarious tales and a faultless singing and playing style. He works regularly with big names in the acoustic music world (Eddi Reader, Chris Difford, Heidi Talbot and more), but we'll have Boo to ourselves, making it a night to savour. **£11 (£13 non-members)** boohewerdine.net

JANUARY 12 – HARBOTTLE & JONAS

■ Lovely fresh sound, with sweet harmonies and great stories

David Harbottle and Freya Jonas bring a lovely fresh sound, using sweet harmonies and a range of instruments. This young duo, based in Devon, play music accompanied by great stories. They have received plaudits from folk royalty including Seth Lakeman, and have been endorsed by Seasalt Clothing, who called them “Two Amazing Musicians”. They also had a beer named after their debut album; they've appeared on Italian and Irish television; and their music has been streamed more than a million times in 25 countries. **£9 (£10 non-members)** www.harbottleandjonas.com



JANUARY 19 – CASSIE & MAGGIE MacDONALD ■ Sisters with fabulous skill and youthful charm

Hailed as the finest exponents of Celtic music on the western side of the Atlantic, these lively and energetic young sisters from Nova Scotia are making a huge impression with their fabulous technical skill, youthful charm and perfect sibling harmonies. From gorgeous ballads to up-tempo fiddle-based tunes and plenty in between, Cassie and Maggie produce what has been called “an enormous sound” that becomes totally captivating. Their music is simultaneously from the past yet truly modern. Very special. **£10 (£11 non-members)** www.cassieandmaggie.com

JANUARY 26 – BULLY WEE BAND ■ Larger-than-life band members combine to make a big event

It's always a great event when the four larger-than-life members of the Bully Wee Band park themselves on our small stage and deliver their own brand of tuneful folk-rock. Ian Cutler (fiddle and keyboards), Fergus Feely (mandocello), Colin Reece (guitar) and Jim Yardley (mandolin, whistles) are wildly contrasting characters but the resulting blend of instruments, voices and knock-about humour makes for a glorious and varied evening, featuring tunes and songs both traditional and contemporary. **£11 (£13 non-members)** www.bullyweeband.com

FEBRUARY 2 – HARPERS FERRY ■ An engaging and thought-provoking folk-rock/pop band

Expect something excitingly different from this bright and thought-provoking folk-rock/pop band that specialises in meticulously crafted songs and arrangements. Based around the core of its three founding members, this Gloucestershire group is currently a five-piece made up of Ben Harvey, Christopher Rayner, Pia Varma, Simon Frankton and Oliver Court. Their sound is an engaging mix of folk, pop, rock, country, Americana and blues and their lyrics are full of ideas about modern life and how to cope with it. **£9 (£10 non-members)** www.harpersferryshow.com

FEBRUARY 9 – NIGHT FALL ■ A top quality traditional sound

A new and highly accomplished trio of young performers, all graduates of the Newcastle folk music degree but who never met as students. Kate Locksley, who was part of a memorable and storming Ram Club concert by The Teacups, provides vocals; Dave Wood, who has played with Tom McConville and Malinky, plays guitar; and Kevin Lees, who has been guided in his craft by the likes of Kathryn Tickell, is a fine exponent of Scottish and Northumbrian traditions on the fiddle. A top quality traditional sound. **£11 (£12 non-members)** www.night-fall.org.uk

FEBRUARY 16 – TANNAHILL WEAVERS ■ An evening of pure gold in the band's anniversary year

It's a golden year for these globe-trotting masters of traditional Scottish music as the band celebrates its 50th anniversary. And we can expect an evening of pure gold as they call in at Thames Ditton between tours of North America and continental Europe. The band might be 50 years old but its inspiration dates back to social changes wrought by the industrial revolution and Roy Gullane (guitar), Phil Smillie (flute, bodhran and whistles), John Martin (fiddle, cello, viola), and Lorne MacDougall (one of Scotland's leading young pipers) deliver powerful music and rich harmonies that stir, thrill and evoke images of a colourful past. **£11 (£13 non-members)** www.tannahillweavers.com

FEBRUARY 23 – EMILY MAGUIRE & CHRISTIAN DUNHAM

■ An inspirational singer and deeply moving songs

Classically trained Emily has toured with the likes of Eric Bibb and Don McLean and is often heard on radio, either when her deeply moving music is played or when she is talking about combating the stigma of mental illness. Emily makes no secret of being affected by bipolar disorder – negatively and positively, as even the dark times have provided space and inspiration. After two years out of action, Emily is back stronger than ever with a hauntingly beautiful new album and accompanied by Australian bassist Christian Dunham. **£11 (£12 non-members)** emilymaguire.com



MARCH 2 – EWAN McLENNAN ■ Voice full of character and passion – and guitar skills to treasure

Ewan is a beautifully polished and cultured guitarist with a voice full of character. This former BBC folk award winner credits Martin Simpson and Dick Gaughan as influential in guiding him along a musical path that respects traditional songs and their role as social commentary. He is a modern-day troubadour and balladeer with a strong sense of fairness and justice, who fills his stories with a passion that is perfectly balanced by the peaceful serenity of his effortlessly skilful guitar playing. It's a combination to treasure. **£10 (£11 non-members)** www.ewanmclennan.co.uk

MARCH 9 – 4 SQUARE

■ A bright and buoyantly distinctive sound from super-talented four-piece

This super-talented four-piece from Manchester has wowed Ram audiences before and will do again with a bright and buoyantly distinctive sound that is intricate and delicate but also powerful and driving. Nicola Lyons plays fiddle, sings and clog dances; Jim Molyneux plays piano and accordion and sings; Michael Giverin plays mandolin and guitar; and Dan Day plays percussion and sings. This is folk music infused with touches of jazz, Latin and a range of styles – from the seductive and harmonious to the seriously toe-tapping. **£11 (£13 non-members)**

www.4squaremusic.co.uk/home



MARCH 16 – TO BE ANNOUNCED ■ Keep an eye on the website and club emails for updates

MARCH 23 – SARA GREY & KIERON MEANS ■ Original American music as it is meant to be heard

Sara and her son Kieron bring to life the real sound of rural America with the genuinely traditional songs Sara has collected over the decades. Surrounded by music from an early age – her father was a fiddle player – she took up the banjo as a teenager and is now acknowledged to be one of the world's finest exponents of the frailing style. Add in Kieron's bluesy guitar and the intuitive and natural vocal harmonies and timing that come from such a close family tie and these regular visitors to the club deliver a delightfully lively package. **£10 (£11 non-members)** www.saragrey.net

MARCH 30 – CLOSED FOR EASTER

APRIL 6 – THE HUT PEOPLE ■ A unique, highly talented and hilarious duo with a big feel-good factor

An absolutely fascinating spectacle: Gary Hammond's collection of unusual and quirky percussion instruments is extraordinary. And he plays them all with great aplomb. Alongside him is Sam Pirt playing accordion and daring to step dance from his chair. This is a unique, highly talented and hilarious duo who play folk music from around the world, underpinned by global rhythms – and they heighten the feel-good factor by inviting audience participation. They win fans and friends wherever they travel. **£11 (£12 non-members)** www.thehutpeople.com

APRIL 13 – WINTER WILSON ■ “Tight harmonies, killer songs and a lot of fun”

Chosen to be special guests of Fairport Convention on their spring 2018 tour, Kip Winter and Dave Wilson will surely relish the intimacy of a Ram Club concert after playing to large audiences. The melodic duo also have a new album – “Far Off On The Horizon” – to showcase. Their songs tell stories of everyday life and are delivered with power and emotion by Kip and Dave. Kip plays accordion, guitar and flute; Dave plays guitar and banjo and together, as they say themselves, it's all “tight harmonies, killer songs and a lot of fun”. **£10 (£11 non-members)** winterwilson.com

AND COMING UP... Russell & Algar, O'Hooley & Tidow, the Carrivick sisters, Geoff Lakeman, Clive Gregson, Kitty Macfarlane, Tom McConville – and many more top-class guests.

■ 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