

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

SPRING-SUMMER 2018

APRIL 20 – GREG RUSSELL & CIARAN ALGAR ■ A major force on the acoustic music circuit

Ciaran was still at school when this dynamic duo made a first appearance at the Ram Club and he was already staking a claim to being the most thrilling young fiddle player around. In the five years since then, Ciaran and Greg have simply become better and better and have matured and grown to become a major force on the acoustic music circuit. Greg's voice has a wondrous clarity and power and his guitar playing is sharp and precise; Ciaran's fiddle playing – and lightning fast wit – are an absolute joy. Together they are unmissable. **£10 (£12 non-members)** www.russellalgar.co.uk

APRIL 27 – O'HOOLEY & TIDOW

■ One keyboard and two beautiful voices form a very special combination

This simplicity of their set-up – one keyboard, two beautiful voices – lies at the heart of this very special combination. Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tidow are both highly skilled songwriters, crafting lyrics that can make an audience laugh or cry and that make heart-felt comments on the state of the world. They also have a magical fun side to their personalities and their music – as the quirky selfie picture they took (right) at their last Ram Club appearance indicates. Belinda's sensitive keyboard accompaniment, the pair's perfect harmonies, plus the moving nature of their songwriting, have won them awards and accolades from big names in the folk world and from national newspaper reviewers.

£11 (£12 non-members) ohooleyandtidow.com



MAY 4 – ALLAN TAYLOR ■ Incredibly moving moments from a great collector of stories

Allan is an observer, noting the individual stories of the people he encounters on his travels and capturing them in his music. And with 50 years of experience as a traveller, performer and songwriter, Allan has a fantastic catalogue of stories in his repertoire and a singing and guitar style that oozes class. For example, learning the tragic story that inspired his heart-rending song “Roll on the Day” makes hearing it an incredibly moving moment. With 26 albums under his belt, we shall not be short of great tunes with Allan on stage. **£10 (£11 non-members)** www.allantaylor.com

MAY 11 – MIKE SILVER ■ Gentle singing and playing sit in clear contrast to his sharp songwriting

There is a comforting warmth and gentleness to the singing and guitar playing of Mike Silver, but the smoothness of his delivery sits in clear contrast to the sharpness of his songwriting. His songs are beautifully observed and rich in sweet melodies – but often also carry important messages about how life and lives could be so much better. His last visit to the club a couple of years ago was simply enchanting. **£10 (£11 non-members)** mikesilver.co.uk

MAY 18 – ALDEN, PATTERSON & DASHWOOD ■ Americana music with a very English gloss

A very welcome Ram Club debut for these three talented musicians playing their own engaging brand of Americana. Featuring Christina Alden on guitar, Alex Patterson on violin and mandolin, and Noel Dashwood on Dobro slide guitar, their singing and vocal harmonies are captivating and their repertoire includes both traditional and self-penned songs and tunes. Their sound might be taken from the Appalachians but is given a very English and accessible gloss, thanks to the trio's roots among the landscapes of Norfolk. **£10 (£11 non-members)** aldenpattersonanddashwood.com

MAY 25 – LAURA & CHARLOTTE CARRIVICK ■ From busking to the folk and bluegrass elite

Now garlanded with awards and accolades, the Carrivick sisters began their journey to membership of the folk and bluegrass elite by busking as a duo in 2006 and then graduating to indoor stages and turning professional when they left school in 2007. They tour widely and have released five studio albums, plus last year's live album – a celebration of 10 years of success. Charlotte plays guitar, mandolin and banjo and Laura plays guitar, slide guitar and fiddle, with both singing and harmonising in the special way that sisters can. **£10 (£11 non-members)** www.thecarrivicksisters.co.uk

JUNE 1 – IAN BRUCE ■ 'He instantly had the audience melting with the gentleness of his personality'

Lose yourself in the majestic and lilting singing and playing of this big man from Glasgow. Renowned as a stirring songwriter, he also covers traditional Scottish pieces and is rightly proud of his work on the Burns repertoire. Ian says on his website that his music has achieved full maturity. When he arrived for a Ram Club show a few years back after motorcycling from Scotland in a freezing blizzard, he looked the hardest man on the planet, yet instantly had the audience melting in the palm of his hand with the gentleness of his personality. **£9 (£10 non-members)** www.ianbruce.org

JUNE 8 – GEOFF LAKEMAN ■ Dad's turn to entertain us with his engaging voice full of character

Members of the Lakeman family are frequent and welcome visitors and we have recently hosted Seth, Sean (with Kathryn Roberts) and Sam (with Cara Dillon). Now it's the boys' dad's turn to entertain us in his jolly style and with his rare duet concertina. Described as “a stalwart of the West Country folk scene”, he sings his own and traditional songs, many from his home region, in an engaging, characterful voice. **£9 (£10 non-members)** www.geofflakeman.co.uk

JUNE 15 – 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

JUNE 22 – PETE COE ■ Music that demands attention and rewards everyone who listens

Mojo magazine has described Pete as “one of the most important folk artists in Britain” and he has been referred to on BBC Radio 2 as “a one-man folk industry”. Both are true but neither can do total justice to the range of talents this man has – singer, musician, songwriter and folk dancer – all practised to the very highest of standards. His driving style of folk music demands attention and fully rewards everyone who listens. **£10 (£11 non-members)** www.petecoe.co.uk

JUNE 29 – CLIVE GREGSON ■ It's always a special treat when this man steps on to our stage

The pop world's loss is our gain as Clive's solo career has delivered wonderful new songs and performances aplenty. After disbanding the successful pop group, Any Trouble, in 1984, Clive went solo and has since released 13 albums of music that span the worlds of acoustic, folk, roots and “singer-songwriter pop”. He has also collaborated with many global stars, such as Richard Thompson and Nanci Griffith. Clive now lives in the US and the club is always keen to snap him up for a gig when he's in the UK as it's always a special treat. **£10 (£11 non-members)** www.clivegregson.com



JULY 6 – KITTY MACFARLANE

■ Gorgeous voice and songs that sound fresh, new and traditional

A rising star with a gorgeously clear and youthful singing voice that sits at the heart of the folk tradition. Her songs, too, emerging as they appear to do from the landscapes of her home county of Somerset are simultaneously fresh and new yet carry powerful echoes of the past. Kitty has worked closely with brilliant artists known well to Ram Club regulars – Sam Kelly, Jamie Francis, Ciaran Algar and others – so she will know what to expect on her debut visit to the club. And we can expect a delightfully melodic and enchanting evening. **£9 (£10 non-members)** www.kittymacfarlane.com

JULY 13 – HEIDI TALBOT & JOHN McCUSKER

■ An all-ticket concert – please see Ram Club website to check availability

A rare chance to see this high-profile duo in a small setting. Heidi made her mark in the super-group Cherish the Ladies and is described by the Sunday Times as “vocal heaven”. The peerless John McCusker is one of the UK's most talented and versatile musicians. Expect a sensational night of music, including songs from their mini-album “Love is the Bridge Between Two Hearts”. As a bonus, exciting new kid on the block, Thom Ashworth, who plays stripped back versions of English traditional music, will be supporting. **Advance tickets only – see website.** www.heiditalbot.com



JULY 20 – TOM McCONVILLE BAND ■ Stunning collection of skills promises a magnificent crescendo

A group of musicians to be reckoned with – and who will end our summer season with a magnificent crescendo. Tom's fiery fiddle playing and vocals are enough on their own but when enhanced by the stunning accordion skills of Shona Kipling, the sheer quality of Phil Murray's acoustic bass, and the exquisite guitar of David Newey the result is explosive. The music will range from moving ballads and sweet harmonies to stirring Irish and Scottish tune sets – all held together by Tom and his band's love of humour and fun. **£11 (£13 non-members)** www.tommconville.co.uk/band

THEN CLOSED FOR SUMMER. AND COMING UP... Fara, Jenkins Ear, Honey & The Bear, Dave Ellis & Boo Howard, Wizz Jones, the Goat Roper Rodeo Band (back by popular demand!) – 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 Western Railways