

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

SUMMER 2019

APRIL 26 – MIRANDA SYKES ■ A real treat as Miranda returns to her solo format

Our fabulous summer season opens with a delightful artist who has wowed Ram audiences every time she's visited. Admired for her singing and silky playing of the double bass in duos or with the renowned Show of Hands, Miranda also accompanies herself on guitar – which means we're in for a real treat as she returns to her sparkling solo show format, with her rich, velvety voice, commanding stage presence and gorgeous repertoire. **£10 (£12 non-members)**

MAY 3 – LUKE JACKSON ■ With a charm of his own that appeals to audiences of every age

A young man who packs a surprising punch thanks to the extraordinarily mature wisdom that defines his lyrical creativity. His songs are full of deep insights into relationships and events that should be way beyond his years. An excellent guitarist and singer, he has a charm of his own that appeals to audiences of every age. If you've seen Luke before you'll know how special he is – and he's developing fast as a writer and performer. **£10 (£11 non-members)**

MAY 10 – THE FRANK BURKITT BAND ■ Performances full of energy and joy

Inspired by the music of James Taylor, Van Morrison and Tim O'Brien, Frank's musical road began in the Scottish Highlands, took him to Edinburgh, then the UK's folk clubs and on to a new home in New Zealand, where he's lived for five years. Once settled, he formed a band that includes Cameron Dusty Burnell (mandolin, banjo and guitar), Kara Filbey (vocals and flute) and James Geluk (double bass). Frank calls himself a story-teller, songwriter, singer and guitarist – in that order – and his band's performances are full of energy and joy. **£11 (£12 non-members)**

MAY 17 – NINEBARROW ■ A heady mix of traditional folk and innovative, original compositions

These two super singers hardly need instruments to impress – but the beauty of their harmonies is nonetheless enhanced by clever use of harmonium, ukulele and mandolin. Jon Whitley and Jay LaBouchardiere have been friends since the age of 12 and that long-standing connection really shows. They have been showered with awards – and rightly so – for their heady mix of traditional folk and innovative, original compositions. **£10 (£11 non-members)**



Miranda Sykes, April 26



Frank Burkitt Band, May 10



Dovetail Trio, May 31

MAY 24 – FLOSSIE MALAVIALLE ■ A powerful and sensitive singer offering something for everyone

Flossie, the Frenchwoman who decided it would be easier to speak English like a native north-easterner than to convert the whole region to her perfect text book version, is a powerful and sensitive singer and interpreter of the greatest songwriters' works. She has released 13 albums since moving to England in 2002, singing songs she holds close to her heart and that cover a range of styles and tempos – she truly has something for everyone. **£10 (£11 non-members)**

MAY 31 – THE DOVETAIL TRIO ■ Sheer quality of the vocal harmonies will take our breath away

Three sparkling musicians playing traditional music with a vigour and freshness that becomes totally winning and infectious – that's the beauty of an evening in the company of The Dovetail Trio. Rosie Hood sings with clarity and elegance; Jamie Roberts, familiar to us from his partnership with Katriona Gilmore, provides the driving force with his slick guitar work; and multi-instrumentalist Matt Quinn on melodeon, mandolin and fiddle adds a delicate touch. But above all, it is the sheer quality of their vocal harmonies that will take our breath away. **£10 (£11 non-members)**

JUNE 7 – JAMES HICKMAN & DAN CASSIDY ■ All the magic ingredients for a wonderful experience

Dan and James make a rare and unlikely concoction that works like a charm. James is quick, lively and steeped in folk traditions and world music; Dan, brother of the late Eva Cassidy, is from an American swing background and performs with an impassive serenity and dry wit. Add in James's surging guitar and soaring vocals, and Dan's virtuoso fiddle playing and all the magic ingredients are in place for a thoroughly wonderful experience. **£10 (£11 non-members)**

JUNE 14 – THOM ASHWORTH & ELLIE WILSON ■ Superb tenor voice and exquisite fiddle playing

Thom made such an impression when he played as support for the sold-out Heidi Talbot concert last summer that he had to be offered an evening of his own. He plays stripped back versions of English traditional music on acoustic bass and has already made a name for himself with his inventive arrangements of traditional songs. Ellie, a key member of Stick in the Wheel folk group, is a violinist and composer who plays with an “exquisite beauty”, says Mojo magazine. Together, she and Thom create a sound that is innovative, atmospheric and subtle. **£9 (£10 non-members)**

JUNE 21 – KIERAN HALPIN ■ Quantity and quality from a master of the stage

With Kieran you get quantity AND quality. He has written a huge number of songs over more than four decades without any loss of verve or spirit, has released 22 albums and had his compositions covered by the like of Dolores Keane, Niamh Parsons, and Flossie, a visitor to the Ram Club on May 24. Kieran is a master of the stage, entertaining audiences with scene-setting stories and his no-holds-barred, yet moving, delivery. **£10 (£11 non-members)**

JUNE 28 – CLIVE GREGSON ■ Wonderful new songs are pop world's loss and our gain

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 has spent several years 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 occasion. **£10 (£12 non-members)**



James Hickman and Dan Cassidy, June 7



Vera van Heeringen Trio, July 12

JULY 5 – KENNY SPEIRS ■ Borders stalwart goes solo after illustrious collaborative career

This sensitive guitarist, singer and arranger is now going solo and singing his own songs after an illustrious career as a band member or in duos. Kenny has long been part of the Borders folk scene since co-founding the John Wright Band. After further collaborations and a period of reflection, Kenny has now been inspired to write and release “Sleepwalking”, his first solo CD of wholly self-penned songs, which form the basis of his live shows – while still leaving room for a few songs from the Border country. **£9 (£10 non-members)**

JULY 12 – THE VERA VAN HEERINGEN TRIO ■ 'Intimate, under-stated, stripped back and potent'

It is impossible to praise this band too highly: Vera's songs are stunningly well crafted in a laid-back Americana style, strongly reminiscent of the great Gillian Welch; their vocal harmonies meld gorgeously into a single voice; and their instrument playing is as smooth as silk. When Vera says on her website that her performances are intimate, under-stated, stripped back and potent, she is not exaggerating: she is a brilliant guitarist and singer, as is Dave Luke on guitar, vocals and mandolin, with Andy Seward, sublime on the double bass. **£10 (£11 non-members)**

JULY 19 – JOHN KIRKPATRICK ■ Hearty good cheer, hilarious tales and stirring renditions

We reach a rumbustious and rollicking climax to our summer season with this larger-than-life character, full of hearty good cheer, hilarious tales and stirring renditions from the traditional English songbook. John wields assorted squeezed instruments with gusto – he is a master of them all – and as songwriter, composer, choreographer, and musical director, he has contributed to more than 60 theatre and radio plays. His music can be heard on more than 200 commercial recordings – and, most importantly, at the Ram Club on its last night of the summer season. **£10 (£11 non-members)**

THEN CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER And back on **SEPTEMBER 6** with the brilliant Boo Hewerdine and an autumn season featuring, Bob Fox, The Black Feathers, Mick Ryan and Paul Downes, and more....

■ 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