

Welcome to the The HopBarn's newsletter, which provides information and insights into The HopBarn, as well as offering further notification of up coming events and performances.

We hope that such information proves to be useful and informative to our readers, but if you would like to offer feedback and suggestions as to what to include or what to focus on, please feel free to e-mail or write in with your suggestions and we will try to accommodate them where best we can.

What happened in February!

An Evening of Comic Songs and Humour 3rd February 2018

Too often we can be accused of being a little too serious although thanks to Guy Tuner and Ed Turner (no relation), The HopBarn hosted an alternative music event in support of **Awards for Young Musicians (AFYM)**.

Very rarely do musicians and composers draw inspiration from the love lives of pigeons or even the exploits of pigeons whilst living it up in Munch during the annual Oktoberfest; but thanks to Guy, through his mastery of musical talent, such stories were intertwined into a brilliantly well thought out evening.

Along with Guy's own compositions, including further warnings about over indulging on sloe gin, a number of works by the late *Flanders and Swann* and readings from *Jerome k Jerome*, *Terry Pratchett* and *Bill Bryson* also helped to provide a somewhat quirky and not too serious evening.

We would like to thank Guy and Ed for their performing exploits and the audience who attended and were somewhat coerced into singing 'mud, glorious mud' during *The Hippopotamus* by *Flanders and Swann*.

Thank you also to Ros, Gareth, Helen and Andy who took care of the bar ensuing that orders were served at the table.

The evening helped to raise £250 towards AFYM.



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The HopBarn Hockerwood Lane Upton Road Southwell Notts NG25 0PZ



Guy (right) and Ed (left)



Ray Cooper 10th February 2018

Returning to The HopBarn courtesy of *True Blue Music* and following Guy and Ed, Ray Cooper's music draws inspiration from real life events that often convey

the human struggle during times of turmoil.

There is a real sense of purpose in Ray's work which is to communicate lost or forgotten stories of immense courage and survival. In one extremely poignant song, Ray depicted the heroism of a WW1 soldier who despite his bravery on the battle field, was shot due to his drinking and insubordination. A further song related to a neighbour who as a young child had made a perilous sea crossing to Sweden in a sailing boat in order to escape Eastern Germany and the Russian occupation. Many had attempted the same crossing only to lose their lives in the process.

When listening to such stories, it is impossible not to draw comparisons with events that are taking place today. Whilst the news reports the facts, Ray provides a more humanistic side of the story, conveying in his music and lyrics the emotions, thoughts and feelings that cause such decisions to be acted upon.

To provide further insight into Ray's musical background, we were extremely thankful that prior to his evening set, Ray offered to talk to a number of young musicians who had applied to *Plug in Tune Up*. Here Ray spent some time, talking about his musical journey and his inspiration whilst also offering the young musicians a valuable insight into the life of a musician and how best to make it successful.

For the young musicians, it was extremely useful to talk to someone who has years of experience and can offer them some important advice towards pursuing such a career. Ray steered clear of trying to make his career look rosy, but instead ensured that the young musicians understood the challenges faced, how important it is to work hard, stay focused and remain passionate.

We would like to thank the poets, Richard Young, Daron Carey, Becky Deans and Trevor Wright who provided an opening to the evening.



Ray Cooper



Ray with *Plug In Tune Up* applicants Sam, Alex and Betsy



Poets Richard, Daron, Becky and Trevor

March Focus:- Chris and Denny

In June 2017 Chris and Denny were scheduled to play at The HopBarn although shortly before they were due to appear, we all realised that they had already been booked by The Gate to Southwell to play for the annual Roots and Acoustic Festival. Such situations can happen and rather than cause conflicting problems, it was decided to postpone The HopBarn gig until a more suitable time revealed itself.



Denny Bartley and Chris Sherburn

Thanks once again to True Blue Music, we are extremely excited that Chris and Denny will now be playing at The HopBarn in April although this time they will be joined by singer and fiddle player Emily Sanders.

It is often mentioned that the beauty and excitement of live music, lies within the audience witnessing and experiencing a unique and individual event, one that can never be repeated no matter how much time and preparation is undertaken beforehand. With Chris and Denny this statement is absolute as they make a deliberate attempt to ensure that every concert given offers something different.

As individual musicians, both Chris and Denny have played throughout Europe and North America since the early 1990's. A chance meeting however during a recording session brought them together spawning an enduring and lasting musical partnership that continues to attract new audiences.

When listening to Chris and Denny play, a distinct charm is conveyed within their musical set. This is both endearing and humble and is often emanated from the constant light-hearted banter as they play off one another in-front of audience members. In contrast, their sheer brilliance as individual musicians, as well as their intrinsic ability to know each others musical direction, produces a truly unique pairing, one that has been described as a 'near physic' connection.

When you read into their past, you immediately

understand how music has affected them and from where they both draw their inspiration. For Chris, music seems to have been in-bedded into him from a young age. His home was a constant draw for travelling musicians and folk singers. Now a master of the anglo concertina, such past exposures to live music must have helped enrich his innate musical capability.

For Denny, having grown up in Co Limerick, his music draws on an array of traditional folk techniques including old-age slide, slow airs, slip jigs and wild reels. Inspirations from further afield including American and British tunes provide Denny with an uncompromising awareness of how Irish, American and British influences can intertwine seamlessly. This offers a truly fresh and original approach to the ever-evolving nature of folk. In addition, Denny's rustic voice and exquisite guitar playing, complimented by his broad knowledge and acute understanding of folk ensures that his audience remains captivated throughout.

Whilst recognized as truly exceptional musicians in their own right, it is when playing as a duet that much critical acclaim has been brought to them. Alongside the near psychic ability that they possess when playing together, Chris and Denny have also been described as having an alchemist's quality for shaping their musical interludes into profoundly emotional experiences. Such is the nature of their musical chemistry, that perhaps it is therefore no surprise to

understand how each gig that they play, offers something compelling and unique. A truly lasting and memorable experience felt by all.

Their current tour, which includes the addition of fiddle player Emily Sanders promises to offer a fresh and exciting take on past gigs. Emily, a former member of folk and roots group *Isambarde* brings a new depth to the music, again offering another opportunity to create something uniquely different.



Former *Isambarde* member Emily Sanders

Chris, Denny & Emily - A True Blue Music Event
Saturday 21st April 2018
7.30pm / £14



Tickets: eventbrite.co.uk
thehopbarn.org.uk

Coming Up Sunday 4th March!



*The sun rises over a buzzing desert
a chick hatches*

*The Eagle leaves the nest
in search of food*

Below the meerkats are alert

The Journey begins

Landscapes

Mimika Theatre

The HopBarn is extremely excited to invite back Mimika Theatre and their enchanting production **Landscapes**, an award winning 50 minute theatre experience.

Originally created for children aged 6 to 9 Mimika Theatre soon discovered that there were in fact no real upper or lower age limits

The non verbal base and the narrative accessibility also means that the work is appropriate for children where English is not their first language and for children with moderate and severe learning difficulties..

It is Theatre for all!

**Tickets: £8 Adults
£6 Children**

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