

News and Events

Happy New Year -

Welcome to the 20's.... again!

Congratulations and welcome to the 20's..... although it does seem a little odd that a phrase and saying that has so much connotation with the past, is actually pretty hard to swallow and relate it to the present. Here we are however, returning back to the 20's although we hope that The HopBarn will not need to replicate the *speakeasy's* that were a common association with the 1920's.

Sincere apologies are also needed as having missed the December issue, it was left to the very last minute to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. This couldn't be helped however due to pressing needs on the farm and elsewhere. The biblical deluge of rain that the UK recently suffered throughout the autumn were once again at the mercy of the elements and it was necessary to attend to such matters with priority.

We hope that despite the problems with the weather, no one was left in any serious predicament and managed to dry off relatively quickly. The farm land however will take much longer. Despite battling with the elements, our programmed events in December went ahead and again brought some much needed excitement to what was in essence a wet and dismal period.



The HopBarn Directors after trying to save the farm's grain store (below) from flooding - December 2019



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Jess Gillam and James Baillieu – In Association with Awards for Young Musicians (AYM)

28th November 2019

intimate setting of The HopBarn.

Following a recent invitation to attend a fund raising event for Awards for Young Musicians at the Voices8 Centre in East London, The HopBarn was exceptionally privileged and honoured to have been given the opportunity to host a special evening with young saxophonist Jess Gillam and pianist James Baillieu.

The event was not only a success in offering an exclusive and intimate opportunity to get close to Jess and James and hear them with distinction, but the night also raised almost £600 which was presented to AYM to help continue the work undertaken to help young musicians like Jess, realize their future potential.



From left:

Sanpreet Janjua (AYM)

Stuart & Mary Poole
(The HopBarn)

Jess Gillam,

James Baillieu,

Hannah Turner (AYM)

Jess Gillam has established herself as an rising international star at such a young age and despite her success in the music world, never shy's away from acknowledging AYM as being instrumental in supporting her studies whilst at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. AYM holds such a profound part in Jess's musical Journey that she has become a patron of this important charity and advocates wherever she goes, just how important the charity is in providing music education and training to young people from low income families

BBC Radio Nottingham – Alan Clifford

Hosting Jess Gillam and James Baillieu was not it appeared an single opportunity, but having seen an article in the local paper advertising this concert, The HopBarn was contacted by a producer from BBC Radio Nottingham interested in finding out more about the venue and how it all started.

Radio presenter Alan Clifford spent a morning on the farm with Stuart and Jonathan Poole finding out about the venue and how it all begin. The programme which was aired on Friday 6th December is still available and offers an entertaining and detailed account of The HopBarn's initiation and long term plans.

You can catch the programme by logging onto:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07t7lf6>

Pianist James Baillieu has himself a renowned international having being described by The Daily Telegraph as 'In a class of his own'. The opportunity offered to The HopBarn to host these two international music stars, was decided within an instant and the concert, held on 28th November was an opportunity to hear two exceptional artists in the quiet and

Martyn Joseph – A TrueBlue Music Event 6th December 2019

Finishing 2019's music programme, The HopBarn welcomed back Martyn Joseph thanks once again to TrueBlue Music.

The enigmatic singer-songwriter has amassed a huge fan base following his long career and importantly, has managed to set himself apart from such singers as Bruce Springsteen, John Mayer and Bruce Cockburn amongst others who he has often been compared to. Martyn Joseph appeals because he sings what he believes, a social and political anarchist who is not afraid to confront the problems of society head on, believing strongly in a social change being driven by the young. He himself is not afraid to admit that his generation (including himself) has failed the next, and for this, he strongly advocates for anyone who is younger to take action and impose accountability on those that govern us and who have caused such in-equality in society.



Martyn Joseph during his pre-gig sound check at The HopBarn

Martyn's passionate voice carries the political message with such reverence, that audience members simply cannot help but become intoxicated by his presence. The lyrics are subtle, so well written and composed that you could be forgiven for just enjoying the music and not making connections to his political message. It's this skill that allows audiences to be so easily drawn to him, as just enjoying the music is enough without having to really contemplate and decipher the lyrics in any deep and meaningful way. Just listen and enjoy!

This alongside his exceptional guitar playing and exquisite performance, brought the 2019 music programming at The HopBarn to an end with an exceptional bang. It was once again an exceptional evening profiling an exceptional musician.

TrueBlue Music –

*A fond thank you,
farewell and
good luck for
the future.*



As with many things in life and most certainly in the arts, success is most often due to being in the right place at the right time. For professional musicians, actors and dancers, getting their first big break is perhaps the most challenging. This is in many ways the absolute truth behind the successful music programming at The HopBarn and when Stuart Poole decided one day to convert an old falling down barn into a music venue, the thought of 'how do we go about programming' was in essence thought about only when the buildings were finally renovated.

A chance encounter however one night at a concert in a local village hall would prove to be invaluable to The HopBarn's existence and would lead to both a mutual and beneficial arrangement between two music lovers.

Vince Ion began TrueBlue Music 5 years ago.

Initially the idea was a 'grow your own gig': done to raise money for Theatre Imp's production of Jerusalem. The first gig promoted was Steve Knightly at The British Horological Society on 1st February 2015, and it was so successful that TrueBlue Music was formed. Vince then went on to promote further gigs either at The Horological Society, the Assembly Rooms in Lincoln and crucially The HopBarn.

This incredible relationship between TrueBlue Music and The HopBarn has without doubt built the programming foundations for this small rural arts venue, and without Vince's continued support and working partnership, it would not have been possible to have built up such a reputation that The HopBarn has acquired. The HopBarn is therefore indebted to Vince and to TrueBlue Music for continuing to programme regular events at this venue.

Over the past five years, Vince has brought an exceptional array of quality music and has advocated for an extensive range of roots and folk from artists ranging from Luke Jackson, Sunjay, Phil Beer, Miranda Sykes, Steve Knightly, Claude Bourdon, Daisy Chapman, Chris and Denny, Sam Carter, Winter Wilson, Plum Hall and the Red Dirt Skinners. This also includes the countless poets who have supported these exceptional musicians and have read their own work prior to and during each gig.

It is crucially important to highlight that all the above artists mentioned are recognised singer-songwriters in their own right and each perform their own work.

A further testament to Vince's motivation behind TrueBlue Music, is also to recognise his contribution to charity. Following the initial gig in February 2015, the proceeds from each gig have all gone to Beaumont House Community Hospice in Newark. This important charity provides palliative care and support to patients with life limiting or terminal illness and their families living in the Newark and Sherwood District.

Vince is unable to put a final figure, although he believes that almost £3,000 has been raised

from TrueBlue Music and the music promotions in support of the important work that Beaumont House undertakes.

Unfortunately however, Vince has decided that the time is right to end with TrueBlue Music. It's been an exceptional relationship, one that has benefited The HopBarn greatly so it only seems natural to offer our sincere gratitude to Vince for all he has done and wish him well for the future.....he's going to need it we think!

The Refugee Doctor Project

In answer to the growing need of medical doctors in this country, Vince is leading on an creative and ingenious way to fill the shortage of trained NHS doctors able to practice legally in this country, although his area is restricted only to Lincolnshire. This model however could be expanded nationally if proved successful.

The BMA has calculated that it costs approximately £300,000 to train 1 foundation year doctor in this country. In comparison it costs just £25,000 to train a qualified doctor from a foreign country and who is considered a refugee. The Refugee Doctor Project, is a charity headed by Vince Ion, that is seeking to support the training of refugee doctors in order to fill a workforce gap in the NHS.

This project is in many ways crucial to the long term survival of a quality health service provided by the NHS and it is only right that Vince is allowed to focus all his energy and resources on this unique opportunity.

You can find out more about the Refugee Doctor Project by visiting:

www.lincsrefugeedoctors.co.uk

Whats On - Music and Performance / January & February 2020

Sunjay Sings Buddy

25 Jan 2020

£14 (+ booking Fee)



SUNJAY SINGS BUDDY

"Sunjay is very much the man of the moment. Not so much the flavour of the month is the flavour of the year." – Living Tradition

In the Spring of 2017 Sunjay was invited to play the lead role of 'Buddy Holly' in the touring theatre show 'Buddy Holly & the Cricketers'.

Sunjay started learning Buddy Holly songs aged just 4! Being in the stage show gave Sunjay the opportunity to perform his favourite Buddy Holly songs night after night, in front of thousands of people; a dream come true you might say!

Having worked up a vast repertoire of Buddy's songs Sunjay was inspired to record the aptly titled 'Sunjay Sings Buddy' CD (also featuring some of the stage show band members who have become firm friends). Now with his own 'Sunjay Sings Buddy' stage band, see Sunjay strut his stuff! Rave On!

"Listen, watch and take note."

- FATEA Magazine

Keith James (Songs of Nick Drake)

08 Feb 2020

£14 (+ booking fee)

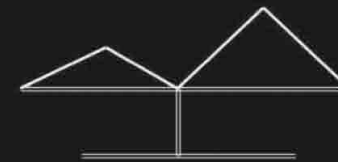


Nick Drake is the most revered and loved of all this country's singer/songwriters. He recorded three cherished Albums between 1969 and 1972 but was almost entirely unknown in his day. After his tragic death in 1974, aged only 26, his music almost disappeared into obscurity. Now, thanks to a massive resurgence of interest and a worldwide re-evaluation of his genius, Nick Drake has become a National treasure.

An important book, *Remembered for a while* was released a couple of years ago, written by his elder Sister Gabrielle Drake, this volume throws light on almost everything attributed to Nick's brief career as a songwriter and recording artist as well as on many corners of mystery and supposition.

'Meticulous dissection of Nick Drake's idiosyncratic guitar techniques handled with surgical precision'

Northern Sky



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