

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.

Recent Events:

**Claude Bourbon -
Medieval & Spanish Blues
guitar and songs**

11 Feb 2017

Thank you to all who attended Claude Bourbon performance on Saturday 11th February. The music played and sung was sublime and beautifully presented by Claude. It was a very special evening attended by nearly 100 audience members, a remarkable turnout for such a small venue in an isolated and rural location.

The contribution of poetry by poets Martin, Hazel and Leanne also helped to ensure the evening was fulfilling and enjoyable for all.



**Setting a long term vision
for The HopBarn**

Back in 2010 when work began to restore and diversify the buildings that now comprise The HopBarn, important considerations were raised in regards to what the centre would offer, and whether such an offer was one of value.

Music is a key importance and priority to The HopBarn as the principal idea was to establish a venue that could be used for rehearsals, recordings, and small-scale music events. Over the past 18 months it has been possible to increase the programming offer of music due to the positive feedback and response we have received from audience members as well as the groups and musicians performing. This feedback has been overwhelming and in many ways has endorsed the initial reputation of The HopBarn as a viable arts centre. Work continues to increase this offer, although creating an offer that is sustainable for the venue and the local area needs careful consideration.

Historically it can be noted that Southwell has a rich history of music and is well known for the quality of music being programmed. Such an offer stems from The Minster and its long history of choral music. Together with the Girls Choir and The Minster Chorale, this offer is well established and internationally recognized.

The affiliation that Southwell Minster has with The Minster School, further cements the offer of high quality music in the local area. The Minster School not only supports the younger members of the Cathedral Choir with Junior and secondary education, but also prides itself on the broad offer of music education offered to all pupils.

More recently, Southwell Music Festival and the Roots and Acoustic Festival (formerly Southwell Folk Music and Dance Festival) have both contributed to an ever-increasing offer of live music. In addition, True Blue Music, which The HopBarn has a strong working relationship with, was established in 2015 as a non-for-profit music promotor and programmes regular music events throughout East Nottinghamshire.

So The HopBarn has to question its contribution to an already vibrant and active music scene. What's interesting to note is that *creating opportunities, progression and artist support* are three key areas that have surfaced over that past two years whilst The HopBarn has been in operation. Whilst both music festivals provide important platforms for musicians to showcase their work, consideration has to be given to the process of creation and where such activity takes place. It is in many ways unfortunate that audiences do not witness the long drawn out and sometimes-arduous times spent in the studio either rehearsing or devising work. Often the process of artistic creation and refinement can be extremely insightful and offer a deeper and more profound understanding of what an artist is thinking, how they are inspired and the working techniques used to finalize a finished artistic product.

LaPelle's Factory



Moving aside from music for the moment and taking into consideration the opportunities that LaPelle's Factory and Brink Dance Company had when in residence at The HopBarn, it is difficult sometimes to quantify their time experimenting with ideas and seeing where they lead. With regards to LaPelle's Factory, it was the connection to Derby Theatre that provided them with the opportunity to reside at The HopBarn and experiment on new ideas and material. Such time, spent in isolation allowed the company to focus on their work with increased speed and intensity without the distraction of their normal daily lives. At The HopBarn they could shut themselves away and experiment freely without feeling scrutinized every moment. The same is true of Brink Dance Company who felt that the time away allowed them to become closer as a company. Such considerations are of huge value when working during such intense rehearsal periods and allow for a sense of freedom throughout the rehearsal process.

Crucially for both company's was the knowledge that whilst they were at The HopBarn they were not restricted by time, needing to end their practice due to other events scheduled in the studio that would impose further pressure on their direction. When an artist or group is in flow, it can be detrimental to the work if they suddenly have to stop due to external factors. Working at The HopBarn removed this threat, allowing them to focus intently on the work in hand.

Artistic residencies can therefore be invaluable and whilst a focus will remain on the programming of quality music events, the opportunity for artists, groups and musicians to reside at The HopBarn in order to devise, incubate and finish new work also features in the long-term vision for the centre.

Further to this and in regards to progression and creating opportunities, a viable learning and education offer needs also to be considered to allow the transfer of knowledge and skills between generations. In this situation it is hoped that the professional musicians, groups and companies residing or performing at The HopBarn, will be willing to open up their rehearsals from time to time or offer workshops to children, young people and adults. Having such a wealth of artistic knowledge and experience at The HopBarn would surely offer members of the local area and possibly beyond, useful and invaluable insights into extended artistic practices. These opportunities might then inform progression roots and access into the industry for those participants who may be considering the pursuit of such a career.

There is a lot to consider and contemplate here and recognition has to be given to huge amount of work required to ensure this vision becomes realized. Whilst The HopBarn remains in the very earliest stages of its development, other arts centre's such as Snape Malting's in Suffolk and The Stable's near Milton Keynes offer a useful insight into similar industrial units diversified in order to create a viable and worthwhile venue for the arts. Both are now well-established arts centre's and the long term vision (dream) of The HopBarn is to establish its offer akin to such venues. Whether this can be achieved remains to be seen although when looking back over the past 18 months, a very exciting albeit challenging opportunity lays ahead.



Brink Dance Company in Residence

www.thehopbarn.org.uk / info@thehopbarn.org.uk / 07880973365

The HopBarn Hockerwood Lane Upton Road Southwell Notts NG25 0PZ

Spring Craft Fair

Saturday 1st April 2017

11am - 4pm



A day of arts & crafts created and presented by highly skilled artisans



Caroline Jordan

The HopBarn is delighted to host a Spring Arts and Crafts Fair bringing together over 10 highly skilled artisans working in the field of woodwork, metal work, ceramic, textiles, embroidery, fine art, jewellery, silk painting and glass.

Artisans include:	Jane Lightfoot	Textiles
	Jude Rawson	Fine Art
	Claire Brown	Jewellery
	Mark Greene	Woodcraft
	Susan Isaac	Fine Art
	Katherine Edge	Silk painting
	Susan J Morton	Ceramics
	Ali Brusby	Textiles
	Caroline Jordan	Fine Art

Entrance fee £2, with all money raised from raffles, refreshments and entry going to

The Teenage Cancer Trust



Jane Lightfoot



Susan Issac



Susan J Morton

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