

Children's TV favourite comes to life on stage

Fireman Sam, Noddy, Digby Dragon and a host of other popular cartoon characters will visit The Mayflower, Southampton for just one day as part of their national *Milkshake! Live* tour.

The show sees Milkshake Monkey starring in his own musical. He is joined by Shimmer & Shine, Wissper, Nella the Princess Knight and the Floogals from the early-morning children's programme on Channel 5. They all help him to overcome his stage fright so that in the end his musical is a great success.

Infectious enthusiasm and happiness emanate from the cast, especially the two *Milkshake!* presenters, who are clearly delighted to be on stage. The audience is urged to join in and it's great fun for all ages.

Milkshake! Live will come to Princes Hall, Aldershot on November 2. For tickets (adult £18, child £16.50, family £64) see princeshall.com

By Tim Saunders



Artists open their doors for Surrey Open Studios

For 16 days in June, Surrey artists will be welcoming the public into their studios for the annual Surrey Artists' Open Studios (SAOS) event across the county.

There will be 297 artists taking part in 180 studios, the largest event to date.

As well as a chance to meet and talk to artists in their place of work, the summer open studios event offers visitors the opportunity to view demonstrations, buy artwork, enter a free prize draw and even get involved in creative workshops. Studio locations are throughout Surrey and its borders.

The launch weekend this Saturday (June 1) and Sunday (June 2) sees artists offering an array of activities exclusively to first weekend visitors.

There will be the opportunity to take part in taster workshops and handling sessions with materials across the arts and crafts as well as refreshments especially put on for the weekend.

In Farnham, arts therapy charity Creative Response will launch its 25th anniversary exhibition *Silver Linings* on Saturday to coincide



Dockenfield artist Alison Ellen will again open her studio this year with this year's SAOS.

Peter Rush is running illustration workshops from 10am to 4pm, adding to live music from Eden Blacklist. There will also be raffle tickets for sale.

The standard is "high and heartfelt", says Creative Response director Julie Wise, with the exhibition open from 11am to 5pm from June 1 to 15 and from 10am to 3pm June 17 to July 19 at 28 West Street.

Another SAOS highlight

will see Haslemere artist David Paynter, who operates under the banner of The Artful Gallery, host 23 award-winning artists at his studio and six acres of grounds in Haslemere later in June.

More than 100 works will be exhibited at the *Art & Soul* show, including paintings, drawings, ceramics, glass, metals and a sculpture trail around the beautiful gardens and woodland of David's "Huf" house on Marley Common.

Entry to the *Art & Soul*

exhibition is free. The show is open to the public from 11am until 5pm on June 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16. The Artful Gallery is located at Whitehanger, Marley Lane, Haslemere, GU27 3PY.

Another feature of this year's SAOS is the Hampshire Borders trail – featuring Jeffrey's Cottage in Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield, the home of Alison Ellen's knitting design studio.

SAOS veteran Alison and a group of visiting artists will be busy showing their work and working methods – from ways of patterning yarn to producing textured surfaces by reticulation and throwing on a potter's wheel.

Jeffrey's Cottage will be welcoming visitors from 11am until 5pm on June 8, 9, and 13 to 16 – and on June 9 is one of four gardens in Dockenfield opening their gates to raise money for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

"Whatever your interest, SAOS is a brilliant opportunity to discover the county through the vast network of creative people who live and work here," said SAOS co-ordinator Caitlin Heffernan.

See surreyopenstudios.org.uk

Musical tells tragic tales of RMS Titanic

Unheeded iceberg warnings, insufficient lifeboats, inaccessible binoculars, inadequate bulkheads, 1,500 deaths by drowning – the facts about the loss of the "largest moving object on earth" are well-known, even a century after the disaster.

FAOS Musical Theatre Group is mounting a production of a remarkable account of those events, *Titanic the Musical*, to be staged at the Farnham Maltings.

Composer Maury Yeston saw the tragedy of Titanic as a unique depiction of turn-of-the-century, class-ridden British culture; but he also wanted to tell a tale about bravery, cowardice and a coming together of humanity.

The script, by Peter Stone, is notable for giving as much attention to the ordinary passengers and crew as to those people whose fame, or notoriety,



was sealed at the London and New York inquests into the disaster.

In this new production by FAOS, director Heather Legat is turning a spotlight on some of those less well-known lives by setting the cast to select real people from the passenger and

crew manifest, research them and give them the tribute of being portrayed on stage.

And these stories will also be displayed in a special exhibition outside the Maltings Great Hall.

Titanic's epic events are portrayed through a monumental score, inspired by British

composers such as Elgar and Vaughan Williams.

Titanic the Musical is suitable for ages six years and over. Tickets (Wednesday, June 12: all tickets £10. Thursday, June 13 to Saturday, June 15: Adults £16, students and children £10) are available from the Maltings' box office (farnhammaltings.com) or 01252 745444.

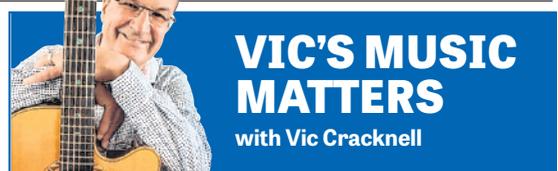
Win a pair of tickets to Titanic the Musical

Simply add your name and phone number below, and the first two entries drawn out of the hat at midday on Thursday, June 6 will each win a pair of tickets.

Send the form to: [Titanic.competition,114-115 West St, Farnham.](mailto:Titanic.competition,114-115 West St, Farnham)



Name:.....
Phone:.....



Enjoy music? So much choice

We are fortunate to have an abundance of music and arts around the *Herald* area – as ever, the arts can be sustained only through the support of the public.

So do try to support a gig, visit a show and maybe even buy a CD or some merchandise to help support the artist.

June sees the start of the Farnham Flash Festival – a fringe festival celebrating local music and arts and now in its third year (see Page 30).

The festival puts a focus on the month of June and is hosted by Performers Together in association with Farnham Town Council, the Farnham Institute and FAOS Musical Theatre Group.

Their brochures have been distributed locally and include events on each day of June. If you haven't got their brochure, all the event details can be found at www.farnhamflashfestival.org

This Saturday Grayshott Folk Club has Jarrod Dickenson playing – all the way from Nashville, USA, but originally from Waco, Texas.

Tall hats and even taller tales are woven into the fabric of The Lone Star State, and singer-songwriter Jarrod can spin a yarn with the best of them.

He spends most of his time on the road, bringing his own particular brand of soulful Americana to a wide variety of music-loving audiences around the globe.

Jarrod has supported legendary artists such as Bonnie Raitt, Don McLean and The Waterboys and has acquired a formidable and loyal bunch of fans across the globe, including BBC radio hosts Dermot O'Leary, Cerys Matthews, Huey Morgan, Janice Long, Robert Elms and Alex Lester.

After his special Grayshott gig, he travels through mainland Europe before returning to the UK to play at Cambridge Folk Festival on Sunday, August 4, along with Richard Thompson, Fisherman's Friends and The Unthanks.

Support is from Ben and Steve Somers. Ben is a composer, musician and educator. His primary instruments are double bass, saxophone and voice and he plays across the genres of jazz, folk and roots music. His dad Steve is also a mighty fine musician.

Tickets are £15 for adults or £8 for under-16s. Call Des O'Byrne on 01428 607096 at Grayshott Village Hall, or see <http://www.grayshott.com/events/>, www.grayshottfolkclub.co.uk or https://jarroddickenson.com/home

Meanwhile Brian Player hosts his folk, roots and



Jarrod Dickenson

acoustic music show each Tuesday at 8pm on Wey Valley Radio, based in Alton. He showcases emerging artists alongside established ones.

He has two studio guests on Tuesday, June 4. One is Phil Cooper from Wiltshire, who is well known on the singer-songwriter circuit for his thought-provoking songs. His other guest is Paul Lynch from London who is promoting his new single *Oh So Quiet*.

Wey Valley Radio is on 101.1FM or online at www.weyvalley.uk

Gig Guide (free entry unless stated):

Thursday, May 30
Vic's Buskers Open Mic at Bat and Ball, Farnham

Friday, May 31
The Dolomites at The Alexandra, Aldershot

Trevor John Band at The Links, Liphook

Battle Of The Bands at The Plough, Farnham

Mick Clarke at Three Lions, Farncombe

Saturday, June 1
Farnham Flash Festival at Gostrey Meadows, Farnham (midday to 3pm) including Mike Twiddy, Rock Choir, Choir Company and Hugh Alford & Friends

Bitter Blues at The Plough, Farnham

Papa George at Three Lions, Farncombe

Vic Cracknell Swing Band at Lurgashall Fete (2pm to 5pm)

Jarrod Dickenson at Grayshott Folk Club (£15)

The A31s at Little Festival, Chawton

Sunday, June 2
Rhythm & Groove Big Band at Guildford Castle Bandstand (2pm to 4pm)

Junction 4 Big Band at Godalming Bandstand (2pm to 4pm)

Nic Bennett at Three Lions, Farncombe

Tuesday, June 4
Jazz with Esmond Clements Trio at Farnham Maltings (£8) 1pm

Unplug The Wood at Lion Brewery, Ash

Wednesday, June 5
Not Just Jazz at Farnham Maltings featuring Digby Fairweather

Jam Night at The Plough, Farnham

Send listings to viccracknell@gmail.com if you would like to be included

Thanks for reading *Vic's Music Matters* and keep supporting local live music.