



A stunning new concept in theme bar entertainment...

Letters of Support

Sent to roots.net after closure

4th November 2000

Dear roots.net

Just let you know that I was completely devastated when your place was closed. I enjoyed so much the place. I found your initiative really courageous and incredibly interesting. It was what we need in this city, a cultural offer for everybody and not only for people related to the university or academic circles (including popular prices!!!!, quite not the rule these days, where culture seems to be only for privileged). The kind of music you were selecting was simply great, exploring different cultures, countries, trends. In the end, in this crazy world, what we need is that, fusion, knowing more about what's happening outside our homes, and I'm talking about culture, and specially music, a real linking point that doesn't need any other language/vehicle to make itself understood.

I was also delighted by the extensive offer of workshops, courses, etc you were organising. I simple find great to have a place where exchange of experiences, teaching and learning can be done outside the academic world. I really miss the musical lessons!!!!

On the more material aspect, I also would like to praise you by the way you were carrying the 'bar' section. Affordable prices, friendly atmosphere... but nevertheless the musical and cultural offer was what most impressed me.

I really hope this dream can be real again. I keep my fingers crossed to see roots.net again up and running.

All the best

Jesús Zurdo

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To Dave and all the team at Roots.net

I'd like to say how much I enjoyed singing and playing at Roots.net. The thoughtfulness of the staff working there made us feel welcome. The space itself was great to play in, a feeling of intimacy with the audience which also allowed them to dance or to sit and enjoy the music. After eating the wonderful food that was cooked with love in the restaurant. The ideal Music and Community Arts Centre. I wish there was a place like Roots.net where we live.

Good luck with the future. I hope it re opens, it will be a sad loss if it doesn't. I would always be very happy to come and sing at Roots.net again.

Health and Joy

from XXRory (McLeod). and family, Aimee and Solly.

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Dear Dave

Thanks for the message. I am delighted to hear that you may be re-opening Roots.net before Christmas this year.

I really enjoyed the venue, I miss it and I would be happy to write a 'letter of intent' stating that I would use the venue if it reopened, to any potential funding body.

The success of the place from my point of view was the choice of musicians you invited to perform. Whilst Oxford is saturated with mainstream clubs selling expensive fizzy lager and playing very loud computer generated dance music, there is nowhere else like Roots.net where you can get a fantastic pint of real beer and listen to real musicians playing real music with heart and soul. The atmosphere you managed to create was wonderful and unique it is always nice to find a place that you can come to with friends or alone and find like minded people to spend the evening with. There has been no where similar to go on this side of the city since Roots.net closed. I really hope you can re-open.

Good luck, and best wishes.
Mary Jullien.

>>>>>>>

Dear Roots-net,

I was glad to receive your message and hope very much that it will be possible to get Roots back on its feet soon.

It's not only been an important venue for Oxford (and the UK) but also holds enormous potential for future performances, workshops and cultural exchanges etc. for music enthusiasts of all kinds. Most importantly it seems to me that Roots provides a PLACE for meetings and events that are already happening in Oxford but need a venue with the necessary facilities and space and, moreover, a PLACE for attracting concerts and workshops to Oxford which would not otherwise find their way to this city. I was very impressed by the events and broad programme that Roots.net hosted within the short time of its existence so far and hope very much that this was only a taster of many more get-togethers, performances, celebrations and exchanges to come.

With best wishes,
Karen Ludtke.

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Dear David, (To David Francis, Foundation Administrator, PRS Foundation)

I am writing in my role as Music Officer at Southern Arts in support of the application by roots.net for funding from the PRS Foundation.

roots.net has the potential to make an important contribution to music provision for roots, jazz, folk and world music and dance locally and nationally. It is a unique organisation, and the range of musics it embraces is impressive.

For many years, funding for music was directed largely towards supporting mainstream classical music and its infrastructure. Recently there has been a move towards funding the historically under supported musics both nationally and particularly in the Southern Arts region. One of our core-funded organisations is Traditional Arts Projects (TAPS) who provide a great deal of outreach activity and professional performances across the region and beyond. Should roots.net receive funding it has the potential to complement the work done by TAPS and make a significant contribution to local, regional and national activity of both participatory and professional performance.

If you would like any further information, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,
David Everett.
Music Officer, Southern Arts.

>>>>>>>

Dear organizers, I just wanted to say that I think Roots.net is great. I heard that it was closing down and I was very disappointed. I think it is a great venue, has amazing music at attainable prices and the folk that run it are really friendly and welcoming. To my mind there is nothing like it in Oxford.....I think the people that pulled out from funding it are going to be sorry in the long run. I wish you every success in finding new backers. You can be sure that I will continue to spread the word that it is a great venue. I hope that you are up and running again soon.

Yours sincerely, Sasha Spring.

>>>>>>>

We've only just discovered you. Andy Sheppard was great. Please stay in business.
Rob Mattingley

>>>>>>>

Dear Dave

I am very pleased to hear that there is a chance of Roots.net being back in action soon. As the folk development agency for the Southern Arts region, we are keen to support a high quality folk, roots and world music operation such as yours in any way we can.

There is an acute need for a specialist venue in the area with good access for adult and young musicians alike. I am keen to revive the notional programme we were jointly developing with regard to both school outreach and evening and weekend workshops and to work with you on sourcing both artists and clients for this programme. We are about to appoint an Education and Training Co-ordinator, in association with Oxfordshire County Council Music Service; the post will be based at Oxford School and I expect that the appointee will be in touch with you to keep track of developments and work on joint projects as soon as these become viable.

In the meantime, I hope we can work, as discussed, on our Millennium Festival Jazzceilidh event, which was originally planned for November, taking place in the Golden Bough on December 30th. The evening dance event will be accompanied by daytime workshops for musicians.

Please keep me informed of developments.

Best Wishes,
Roger Watson, Artistic Director, Traditional Arts Projects (TAPS).

>>>>>>>

Hi Dave, I just wanted to say how sorry I was to hear the news in the Oxford Mail about Roots.net and to thank you for all the hard work you put into making the music available to us all. Everyone was so positive about the place - of course, venture capitalists want quick profits...

I realise that at this moment you've got your hands full and it's hardly rewarding but rest assured that large numbers of people really appreciate what you achieved. I hope something comes up to bail out the place.

All the best. Keep in touch.
Bob Lloyd.

>>>>>>>

To whom it may concern,

I have been going to musical events on all scales (from Glastonbury to the Back Room at the Bully/Magic Cafe) and in all locations (bars in Connecticut, Kibbutzim in Galilee, Deserts in Sinai) and of all types of music (the latter three locations were - Old guy in bar on acoustic guitar, Trad Middle Eastern - New wave fusion and a Rave).

Yet roots.net provided the singularly most stunning musical event of 2000 - Kate Rusby singing like an angel ... and you could have heard a pin drop. No-one spoke. The room was transfixed, the sound crisp and perfect. A perfect venue for a perfect performer.

The loss of roots.net means I have to suffer the half-assed bands that purport to play music whilst shoulder to shoulder with loud pissed teenagers who think they can deliver a more tuneful rendition in my ear, whilst the sound system is poorly mixed, over-driven, distorting and breaking my eardrums.

I miss roots.net

Good Luck,
and I hope to hear from you soon

Gari Clifford

>>>>>>>

Wonderful news! I don't have much to say other than there were a number of very unhappy people in Balliol JCR when we found out that roots.net had closed. I hope you do get it back open.

Yours,
Robert Watkinson

>>>>>>>

Really, really sorry to hear it. I was only discussing with The Bushburys last week what a brilliant venue you were. I shall miss you. I'm on the mailing list, so please let me know if any progress is made. We live 50 miles away, but promise all support we can give. Keep music live. Especially at Roots.net

Graeme Houlden

>>>>>>>

I would like to say a few things.

Roots.net, in its short life was not only my favourite venue, but in my opinion, the only venue in Oxford worth visiting. Many factors draw me to this conclusion.

Firstly, it catered for my music tastes like no other venue ever has before or since. In addition to this, I often went to gigs where I didn't know the artist and was suitably impressed with new talent or other bands who I hadn't heard of. There was so much variation. I felt like I belonged there. I felt it was there for ME. And I suppose everybody like me. The sound was great, the PA, mics etc. of top notch quality and the staff actually cared and gave a damn, something I have not experienced before. Everyone was so dedicated.

The beer was fantastic, someone behind the bar knew their stuff. And the organic cider, well.....! The atmosphere was relaxing and I always felt safe. Lively when you wanted to jump around like a loon and sedate and romantic when it was important to listen. How many venues could you say that about? On my first ever visit, the "bouncer" on the door offered to watch my bike for me. I was so shocked. Can you imagine anywhere else where that would happen? Great public relations. There was never any trouble, no fights, no arguments, just people out for a good time without the corporate mainstream rubbish that goes along with most other venues. So friendly.

So please, bring it back. There's an untapped market out there. There are lives unfulfilled because they've never seen the likes of Pressgang and Rory McLeod in such a place.

The Good Old Boys are on me when you reopen Dave!

All the best, and I hope there's some good news very soon.

Robin Wheeler

>>>>>>>

Dear Dave and all the Roots team,

I really hope you manage to re-open the venue. It was a gorgeous place with a great vibe and so much potential... and something the Oxford music scene badly misses. Nowhere else offered such a diverse range of music. I'm from London and really miss the clubbing now that I'm living here as a student, so really appreciated great nights like the Ninja Tunes/Undercurrents event... but Roots would have stood out as a top venue in any city. I know a lot of my friends feel the same way.

Good luck - let me know whenever you find out about your future!

Jane Kinninmont

>>>>>>>

When Roots.net opened I thought at last what Oxford really needs, a place to listen to good music, admittedly places like the Zodiac sometimes "Got Lucky" but you could be almost guaranteed that if you went to see someone at roots they would be good, entertaining, and usually having fun, harrah! I thought (well something along those lines)

But then it closed...

I was sad...

The world went dark... (well maybe it didn't, but it was definitely a huge shame)

So I wish you all good luck, and will be there when you re-open, please let it be soon!!

Roger Mortimer

>>>>>>>

Great to hear Roots might be open again soon.

Nothing else came close to matching the quality and enjoyment I've had there in the past.

Alan Craft

>>>>>>>

dear all at roots,

what a wicked place it was down in the jam factory- the bruce and i really loved our nights there- really hope you can keep it all alive...

look forward to seein yous again,

will and emma the bruce

>>>>>>>

Dear Rootsies!

We couldn't believe it when R.N closed. It had rapidly become my favourite venue and I used to go out more than usual just to catch the quality acts. And I always bumped into someone I knew.

Good luck with your new venture! Keep in touch.

Bless,

Jem Renals

>>>>>>>

Hi Dave,
I am just writing in with a message of support. The venue is great, and I hope sponsors will recognise the quality it is !!

Julian McEntegart

>>>>>>>

Dear Roots.net,
Thanks for the mail and glad to hear that you're still working toward reopening. So in support I can say I found performing at your venue excellent, respectful treatment, good organization and facilities. We were made comfortable and setting up and sound checking was painless and, when there as a punter, I enjoyed the shows and everything else.

Thanks and Good Luck
Alan Burton

>>>>>>>

Hello, go for it and best of luck. We need you in Oxford, parochialism is not our cup of tea.

Dr Cecile Deer

>>>>>>>

Well, All the very best from both Tricks Upon Travellers and K-Passa. TUT had a most enjoyable time playing at Roots.net, you guys are the friendliest bunch there is... Nice food too!!!
I look forward to playing there again soon... If you're interested, K-Passa will want a date around March time, during their UK tour...

Mark Knight

>>>>>>>

I'm really sorry to hear that you have closed. You were a haven for world/roots/folk music lovers, and in the Midlands too. I would have come much more often if there was a train service from Oxford to Leamington later than 9.30pm! I do hope you can find the means to reopen. Good luck.

Kate Oliver

>>>>>>>

Dear Roots.Net

Many thanks for your message - initially very sad - but also very hopeful. We need every music venue possible in a city like Oxford - it would be a disaster to lose Roots.Net - because of the type and range of music and musical events it provides. Two of my Grandchildren (and their parents) go to Womad every year - what a great education for them. I (was) am (let's be positive) looking forward to Roots perhaps doing some workshops on Womad Kids' lines if possible.

I am the Secretary of the Workers' Educational Association Oxford Levellers Branch and we are currently running a course called 'Songs that Change the World' with tutor, Liz Hodgson, a voice practitioner. We are singing and studying the political, social and cultural contexts of songs which encompass different themes such as justice, freedom, women, work, ecology and liberation. It is extraordinary how music and singing touches all people's lives. It is so important for Roots.Net to be reborn and to thrive and I wish it great good luck. I will look forward to the re-opening.

With very best wishes from Bette Jones.

>>>>>>>

Dear Roots,

I am very pleased to hear this news and hope that you get going again. I really enjoyed the gigs I went to and thought your programme was excellent - very varied and interesting. The atmosphere was always very good and Roots.net was a comfortable place to be.

I look forward to hearing more news.

Best wishes,
Kathy Biddulph

>>>>>>>

Splendid news!

We have been lamenting the closure of roots.net, and the gap it left for good venues in Oxford. Wishing you all the best for re-opening!

We will most certainly be back..... ;)

Alex Dalitz

>>>>>>>

Dear Roots,

Thanks for your note and the update on the plans to re-open Roots. I thoroughly enjoyed the five or so gigs I went to whilst Roots was open - both those in the larger room and the smaller, more acousticy ones (Bert Jansch was great!). Oxford needs a decent place for folk/roots music, and Roots provided an excellent venue and a good atmosphere. Good luck in trying to get things going again.

Best wishes,
Philip King.

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From: All the musicians in Matthew's Tree
To: Absolutely everyone involved with roots.net

Dear Folks,
Just got your message. Yes we miss it like crazy - especially the Sunday Craic. We loved the music - especially the Flook, Peter Knight and Kate Rusby sessions. We loved the atmosphere - there's nowhere else like it; even in our native Hertfordshire. We loved the Guinness - actually we love it almost anywhere, but the atmosphere helps no end. In fact - please, please do it again - our small amount of support is guaranteed!

We can only imagine how hard it must be to set up something like roots.net but don't give up, keep fighting. It's worth fighting for. Remember: Non illegitima ad carborundum or Don't let the bastards grind you down.

Best of luck,
Tim, Ian, Richard and Nev.

>>>>>>>

Good to hear that there are plans afoot to get Roots up and running again - really miss the place - Oxford needs a venue which concentrates on roots music - we're hoping very much for your return and the return of the fantastic musicians that you played host to.

Jules Stone

>>>>>>>

Hi, thanks for the update...

I found out about your venue **just** too late last time, I'm studying part time for an MSc at Oxford Uni and since I'm an enthusiastic amateur musician I wanted to find out great places to go and listen to good live music. I found your site on the web but discovered that it was "resting"...

If there is anything I can do to help with respect to publications/webpages etc. just ask!

And let me know when you are about to open since I have a couple of web URLs that I intend to get running shortly (folkclubs.com and folkgigs.com (and the matching .co.uk sites)) which I'd be glad to give you a prime advertising slot on in exchange for the occasional free ticket, free diet pepsi etc. <grin!>

best wishes, and I hope you have every success!

Chris O'Shea

>>>>>>>

Dear roots.net team

Thanks for sending me this update - I'm really pleased to hear that things are looking positive for reopening.

I for one was very sad when the place had to close. It's been years that I've been wanting to have somewhere like roots.net to go to on a regular basis. As a music programmer myself, it's great to be able to see top quality artists at a venue that isn't the sterile atmosphere of the Purcell Room or Barbican Centre in London and that's on my doorstep - well, all but a little train ride from my doorstep!

I was always impressed by the consistent quality of the programme - thanks and looking forward to more.

Jo Ross

>>>>>>>

Thanks for your note: it's great news to hear that you will be opening again - I was really disappointed when you closed down (especially with such a good programme ahead!) I will definitely be coming once you reopen (with friends) - especially for any world music events you'll be having.

In the spirit of constructive criticism, I would say that although the programme was excellent, I had the feeling that roots.net could have been slightly better organised, i.e. the fact that you could not book by credit card was a problem - when I came to see Baka Beyond, we had to come early to collect the tickets, queue in the rain and then the concert started late and we had to leave after about an hour. The bar could have been exploited better (i.e. staff were slow, and seemed to run out of supplies quite early) - important when it comes to making money! Otherwise, I thought it was great to have a place like this in Oxford, and I am definitely looking forward to your reopening.

Margery Diamand

>>>>>>>

To Dave and all at Roots.net

Thanks for the update on the state of play. Everybody at Oxford CAMRA wishes you every success in re-opening the venue, not just because we all miss the excellent West Berkshire beers you had on offer there, but also because Oxford has suffered several losses on the live music front recently, with the closure of the live music venue at The Jericho, and The Elm Tree. I understand The Bullingdon is to be refurbished soon which will mean closure for a while.

Please keep us informed of future developments, and we look forward to drinking in the Jam Factory again....

Matt Bullock
Oxford CAMRA

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You did a great job, providing interesting and exciting world music, and much else, in Oxford. I wish you every success in your 'new' venture and that it may run and run.

Chris Peters

>>>>>>>

So pleased to see that attempts being made to revive roots.net. Although I only went to one event (Andy Sheppard), I thought venue and facilities really impressive and there was a terrific atmosphere. I had intended to subsequently attend more events (although I live in Amersham...) and then the bad news broke.....

Good Luck and Best Wishes for future of venue.

Mike Lovell

>>>>>>>

I would be very pleased if Roots reopens, I saw some fantastic artists there for whom I would have had to travel miles before, such as Andy Sheppard, Helen Watson, Kate Rusby etc...

What I really liked was the informal, intimate atmosphere and decent ale on hand.

Good luck with getting restarted!

Mark Field

>>>>>>>

I hope that you revive the Desta*^{*}Nation nights when you reopen. Oxford really needs a proper alternative venue like Roots, and I was most vexed when you had to close. Your choice of world foods and drinks were a refreshing change, and that great orange carrot and lemon juice you stocked was incredible. Let me in!

Nellee

>>>>>>>

I look forward to the venue reopening, I was there for the Lindisfarne concert, in fact I'm on the web page wearing the Guinness sweat shirt! It was a shock coming back from Spain in June to find that you had had to close down, after all the hard work that had gone into it, the variety of acts was very impressive. Look forward to hearing about the future.

Simon Whittle.

>>>>>>>

Dear Dave et al,

Very best wishes for the future to all of you. Thanks for the update. The current (temporary!) absence of roots.net is Oxford's loss.

With a great range of class music, a friendly atmosphere and a sensible location for public transport (well, when this country has a decent railway again!)... you deserve to succeed. Good luck with getting the business afloat again.

Cheers,
Paul Cheshire

>>>>>>>

Dear Dave and all at roots.net

I was really pleased to hear you are hoping to open again soon - Oxford was really lucky to have such a unique and exciting music venue. Lots of luck and looking forward to being there!!

Julia Molden

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It was a great venue so we wish you all the best of luck to reopen soon.

Kind regards,
Juan and Helen Martin

>>>>>>>

It's great to hear that you might be reopening. I really miss the relaxed atmosphere and mixture of music. A New Years party at roots would be amazing.

Good Luck,
John Bullock.

>>>>>>>

Very sad to see the demise of this brave venture. Now we have lost the Elm Tree too, what is to happen to Roots music in Oxford? Thanks for all you achieved and hope once again to see the Jam Factory re-open.

Dave Emburey

>>>>>>>

Oh joy! The best news I've heard on the music scene for a year - the possibility of roots.net reopening shines a light at the end of the dark tunnel that has enshrouded Oxford music recently.

I was devastated when the venues closed. We had barely a chance to adjust to Oxford having its own 'permanent festival' before fate snatched it from us. This time last year the choice of excellent music venues in the city was so exciting. Since then, the music scene has been butchered. The loss of roots.net was followed by the closure of the Elm Tree to musicians of various genres, the Cricketers on Iffley Road is about to bite the dust, and several other music venues are closed or under threat. Recently I stayed in on Saturday night and watched Inspector Morse as I couldn't think of anywhere in the whole city I wanted to go. I later discovered that 2 musician friends had done exactly the same thing for the same reason. Not only boring for us, but a loss of revenue for the venues we would have happily supported. OK, only 3 of us, but there are more besides multiplied by other such evenings.

I was a bit peeved following your closure by the number of friends who, though meaning to come and check it out, hadn't got around to it quite yet. I guess that indicates that it takes more than a few weeks, or even months, to build up the reputation that roots.net was developing and etch itself firmly on the local consciousness. But I fully intend to guilt trip those people should the longed-for reopening occur! They owe you; and me.

What did I most appreciate, and therefore miss? Well the music, of course. It was my cup of tea alright - the concerts, the sessions, even the recorded music in the Wood of Faces when I dropped by for lunch. But what was really special was the atmosphere, the spirit of the place. Already it had the feeling that a lot of care and love had gone into making it a place people would be happy to be in. It was also somewhere I could happily come along to on my own as the staff were so friendly, and I felt secure there - other friends have said the same.

Much as the closure was a loss to the people of Oxford, I think the opportunity was lost (suspended, hopefully) for roots.net to become a specialist centre of excellence for world music for miles around; its position right beside the railway station and 5 minutes from the bus station being a golden opportunity to attract music lovers across the county and beyond.

Oh loads and loads of luck, I'm keeping my fingers and much else besides crossed that the dream will become a reality.

Good luck, best wishes, many thanks and big hugs.

Jane Thurlow

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Dear Dave and all the team at roots.net,

Thank you for your email to let us know of your activities and your efforts in trying to reopen roots.net. Our group performed there last year, and I can quite honestly say it was one of our favourite venues of the year, and that's out of the 120 venues that we played at last year! The atmosphere was good, the staff were friendly and helpful, the food delicious. We usually perform at theatres and arts centres where the audience are seated, and we really felt that although it's not usually done, our music really suited a venue like yours. It is thanks to your forward-looking programming that the citizens of Oxford were fortunate enough to see Taiko drumming and many other forms of world music at this kind of venue. I think that if roots.net is able to stay open for a long time, it would become the kind of venue which is sought out by musicians and bands as the ideal venue to perform in thanks to its wonderful atmosphere. We sincerely hope that you have success in reopening the venue, preferably with grant funding rather than leisure companies involvement. Our experience with performing at venues owned by leisure companies has not been great (e.g. Pearl and Dean adverts during the interval of our show!). Best of luck in your efforts to reopen, and please do keep us informed of the progress.

Best wishes,
Neil Mackie,
Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers.

>>>>>>>

Dear roots.net,

I recently heard a rumour that roots.net may be reopening again soon? That's fantastic news ;-) I know these things are difficult to arrange but I just wanted to say that I'm all behind it.

We used to go there every week/fortnight 'cause it was the only venue in Oxford that guaranteed to provide for world/folk music types. I was always amazed that come a Friday night, you'd be guaranteed the quality of the band even though I'd never have heard of them before. Some real eye-openers too. We were all very disappointed when it had to shut down. You'd certainly have our custom again if you manage to get it reopened, whether it be only at weekends or every night.

the very best of luck ;-)
darragh

>>>>>>>

Great to hear roots.net may be making a comeback - best of luck and looking forward to a reopening.

Steve Ainsworth

>>>>>>>

I've just heard that Roots.net might yet re-open, and that I could send you a message of support/encouragement, so here goes:

I'm from Oxford, I'm in my 40's now, and in all that time there's never been a better venue in the city. I loved the cafe, the choice of bands was excellent, the decor was great (especially the little goat in the cafe!), the staff (have to be careful here, 'cos I knew some quite well!) were all brilliant, and I loved it when Catweazle Club moved there just before the closure. My friends and I couldn't believe Roots had closed, and were very depressed for a long time afterwards. So PLEASE, PLEASE, don't think we don't want Roots to reopen, WE NEED ROOTS!!!!

Hoping that reopening is soon more than a rumour!
Bonita Morris xxxx

>>>>>>>

hello roots

Such a shame you're not open any more, but thank you for all the nights and events that my mates and I enjoyed. Please keep me on the mailing list.

cheers,
Hugh Fielding.

>>>>>>>

Hi Dave,

Thanks for the latest news on Roots.net

Members of Readifolk Song Club would like to add their support for the re-launch of Roots.net.

We all wish you well in your efforts to raise the necessary funding to ensure the long-term future of Roots.net in Oxford.

We hope to see you in the not too distant future - perhaps at the re-launch party?

Best wishes,
Colin & Una Waters

Dear Dave

Thanks very much for updating me on developments with roots.net. I was very sorry to hear about the financial problems which arose so soon after the venue opened as I was very much looking forward to working with you on developing opportunities to present Asian music in Oxford.

As you know, the Asian Music Circuit's programme ranges from traditional and classical music from across Asia to contemporary developments, fusion and club nights. To have a venue dedicated to the kind of music we produce is a very exciting prospect and I very much hope that your funding bids are successful and that the venue will be able to re-open and continue to develop its programme soon. We would certainly like to discuss opportunities to work closely together in the future.

With all good wishes,
Penny King, Asian Music Circuit

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Very best luck for getting Roots.net back in operation. I found the best venue in Oxford when I first walked in, and it was full of people that felt the same. Couldn't believe it when I found it had closed down. Roots.net had the most potential of any new venue in Oxford, and I will give any support I can in getting it back again. I should also tell you that in its short life it gained the most remarkable reputation. I have met many, many people who had heard of it and it was on their list of new places to check out - so when it reopens, they will be there waiting. Keep me posted.

Gill Breeze

>>>>>>

Dear Dave,

Just a few words to say it's great news that you intend to continue with the club. Felicity and I both played there and have to say that it was one of the best venues we have played. I saw Gonzo at one of the Steeleye gigs on the last tour and we both said what a shame it was that you were no longer open. We wish you the best of luck with all you are doing and it is worthwhile. The club is unique as far as the atmosphere goes. There is nothing like it. The hospitality shown to the musicians is second to none and really appreciated. Please let me know when you're up and running and I'll put something up on my Web Site about it. I'll also put a link to your Site.

All the best for now and good luck.
Peter Knight, Steeleye Span.

Dear roots,

Just heard that the future of roots is still in the balance, and letters of support are welcome - so here's mine:

I do hope roots will reopen. I am still holding out to use it as the site for the Oxford Crick-Crack club which would be UK's premier stoytelling venue, given that the London club is closed. I would also imagine running a range of story events including kids' matinees and so on. I will be applying for grant funding which could help roots substantially and would be open to working more closely with roots management if desired. So I hope you can reopen.

Good luck,
Chris Smith, Storyteller.

>>>>>>>

Roots.net was wonderful - great atmosphere, great music, good company, friendly and helpful bar staff - a place to go where a good evening was always more of a certainty than a likelihood. Its loss is really felt locally and it has left a major gap in many people's lives...

Many thanks,
Esther Coren.

>>>>>>>

I heard that there might be a possibility that Roots could be opening again. This is great news as it was a fantastic venue and brilliant music and I miss it! (as do a lot of people).

Please keep me informed of any developments!

Best wishes,
Fiona Speight.

>>>>>>>