

People & Places

A LOOK AT THE PEOPLE WHO HELP TO MAKE THE COUNTRY AND ROOTS MUSIC SCENE HAPPEN

Clubhouse Records

Clubhouse Records, a new UK-based label, specialises in Americana, country and roots music. The label's first album release, *DIVIDED BY A COMMON LANGUAGE: A COLLECTION OF UK AMERICANA*, is a compilation featuring some of the best from the UK's Americana scene. Included are Southern Tenant Folk Union and Redlands Palomino Company, two bands that appeared at the first Maverick Festival in 2008 and Two Fingers Of Firewater, who have appeared at the Maverick Festival in both 2008 and 2009, when the legendary Al Perkins joined them for an absolutely dynamite show. Clubhouse Records was formed by twin brothers Danny and Tristan Tipping along with their friend Pierre Thiebaut. Danny explains: "Well, first and foremost we're roots and country music fans and we've spent the last couple of years in or around the growing UK Americana scene going to shows and the ever increasing number of club nights as well as playing the occasional gig."

The Tipping's were actually members of indie rock band the Kynd (1996-2000) from Buckinghamshire. Danny played guitar and Tristan was on bass. Their love of music is clearly evident from their enthusiastic conversation. This passion for music led to the formation of their own record label so as to be able to get some of the best Americana music out to the many fans throughout the UK. The label is based in the Clubhouse, a small recording studio cum hang-out nestled in the heart of rural Buckinghamshire.

Their first release, *DIVIDED BY A COMMON LANGUAGE*, has been receiving some very good reviews from the music press, which will hopefully lead to healthy sales. Danny explains a little about the acts chosen for the album: "The collection contains unreleased material from some of the UK's most-loved Americana and country acts including the 'godfather of the UK country scene' Alan Tyler, the Parsons-esque vibe of live favourites Redlands Palomino Company, and devilish string band mountain folk Southern Tenant Folk Union. Also featured are tracks from the much-loved the Snakes, Treecreeper and the Cedars. There are also some choice album tracks from recent releases by Two Fingers Of Firewater, the Barker Band, Mat Gibson, the Epstein and the Hi And Lo. Finally



there is an inspired selection of brand new tracks from emerging talents such as Roseville Grand, Wild Pines, Dusty and the Dreaming Spires and Sparkwood & 21. In short, *DIVIDED BY A COMMON LANGUAGE* constitutes a 'who's who' of the very best bands and artists around at the moment on the UK scene."

"We hope this will be the first of many releases from Clubhouse Records. We plan to showcase predominantly UK-based acts as well as the possibility of a smattering of fine country and Americana artists from Canada yet to release their work in the UK."

Although a love and passion for the music has long been there I wondered what gave them the final push to start up a record label? "It struck us one day that no one had put out a collection of UK acts playing the music we're into and there had to be at least an album's worth of great bands that might be willing to contribute if we asked them. When everyone we asked said yes we had to bite the bullet and actually start a label! Despite having been involved with bands and labels ourselves in various guises over the years, there's a little more to it than we first thought but once we had secured a distribution deal it all came together pretty quickly."

"The Clubhouse is a small converted outbuilding that has become our HQ and hang out for passing musicians. It's our private recording studio full of all manner of musical paraphernalia as well as the Clubhouse Records office. We're pretty self-contained as a label taking

care of everything including design, packaging and website etc. all from our little rural retreat. Should we get to the stage when the book-keeping gets tedious, I'm sure having a pedal steel, upright bass or mandolin lying nearby will be a welcome relief."

Clubhouse hosted a launch party on March 15, 2010 at the Lexington, a new London venue. It featured many of the acts from the album and you can log onto YouTube to watch a short promo film featuring interviews from some of the artists as well as footage from the launch party; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYfW7FPL_wg

The label intends releasing EPs by Mat Gibson and Wild Pines plus an album by Canadian artist John Wesley Chisholm. The live music scene is also a big agenda for Clubhouse. "We'll be involved in a couple of festivals this summer bringing your favourite UK Americana acts to a much wider audience. We're involved with the Gallery Americana Festival on 10th July in London featuring between 8-10 acts from the compilation. We are also co-hosting a stage with Bob Harris at the excellent Truck Festival in Oxford at the end of July. Again there will be a selection of UK bands from the compilation and some US bands picked by Bob. It will be like a UK vs. US Americana face off! There are also plenty more plans in the pipeline, so it's going to be a busy year for Clubhouse Records." **David Knowles**

www.clubhouserrecords.co.uk