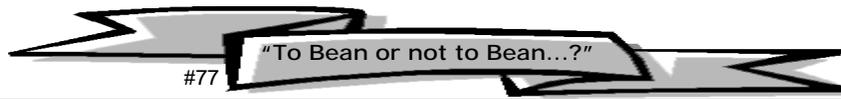




# Bean Soup

## Entertainment & Stuff



Issue 20 Number 1

January - March 2015

Free\*

## Introducing... *Green Valley Hospitality*

**G**reen Valley Hospitality (GVH) is our newest company that is currently functioning as a management company that oversees our 3 restaurants (The Vanilla Bean Café, 85 Main and Dog Lane Café). This company was formed earlier this year to create a streamlined approach to management that is fair and equitable for all three entities. The main office for GVH is located at The Vanilla Bean Café, where all of the administrative duties for the three restaurants are processed (i.e. bill paying, payroll, website maintenance, taxes and all financial oversight). This new company may eventually become a marketing company that will work to develop an overall marketing strategy.

All of our restaurants, while different in name, look and concept, share many of the same common values when it comes to the overall management and operations. First and foremost, we believe that we are in the *Hospitality Business*, hence the word is in our new name. While quality food is an important part of our equation for success, it is

the hospitality and the overall experience we foster that adds to our success. Most of our food is hand prepared and minimally processed. The few food items that we do purchase, we make every effort to purchase from reputable companies that also focus on overall quality. We like to call our product *Food with Integrity*. We source local products whenever we can, organic when feasible and quality all of the time.

When hiring, we look for friendly, happy people, mainly because it is very difficult to teach someone how to be friendly and happy. However, it is possible to teach our staff about food handling, overall food quality, service guidelines, presentation of menu items and many other aspects of overall hospitality, but if a new employee is not happy, no amount of teaching will help.

So, while GVH is our new management company, the same core values that drive our success at each location will remain the same. GVH allows the restaurant managers and partners to take care of the hospitality end of the business while GVH takes care of the business side. ☺



## The Vanilla Bean Café Staff

**O**wners and managers at The Vanilla Bean Café are accustomed to hearing compliments about the staff, which is not surprising considering the exceptional group of people who choose to work in the kitchen and behind the counter at this popular local establishment. Customers enjoy patronizing an establishment where employees smile and appear to be genuinely having a fun time at work. Of course, happy employees are the ones most likely to well represent VBC standards for preparing and serving quality food, providing friendly and efficient service, and interacting in a relaxed, casual and comfortable environment. Happy employees naturally deliver exactly what it takes to create happy customers.

People fascinated with the café culture may wonder, "Who are the people working at VBC and where do they come from?" Barry Jessurun, VBC co-owner answers "we don't find them, we make them." He developed the "continuous transaction loop" philosophy as a tool for building and maintaining productive cohesive teams on his staff. Barry's philosophy has served the Bean well. In 20 years, he has

not run a help wanted ad which he believes attract people who are not connected to the community nor familiar with the Bean culture.

When it comes to selecting candidates for positions at the café, Barry finds his first choices among friends and former employees. He encourages applicants who are related to a favorite customer, a current employee or a former employee and always enjoys hiring applicants who are brothers, sisters, daughters, sons, or people who somehow qualify as leaves grown or fallen from the Vanilla Bean Café extended family tree.

Barry encourages all members of his team to join him in creating the VBC culture. He strives to help them adopt the attitude that they "work for themselves and for their own future self." This practice makes their work more meaningful and offers them the opportunity to make recommendations. They are encouraged to build their own teams, choosing shifts and coworkers that optimize their productivity. Survivor jokes surface in the kitchen - it's always possible to get voted off the island. ☺

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alive if you  
don't at least  
try to do  
something  
remarkable."*

- Anonymous

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\*We may close early during colder months.

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**Bean Soup Ads:** Barry Jessurun  
[barry@thevanillabeancafe.com](mailto:barry@thevanillabeancafe.com)

*"Successful entrepreneurs are givers and not takers of  
positive energy."* - Anonymous

**Bean Soup** is an information and  
entertainment newsletter.

Compiled by Barry Jessurun  
Written by Barry Jessurun

Layout & Design - Barry Jessurun

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## Accolades and Awards

### The New York Times

"The food...is freshly made, well seasoned and extremely tasty."

### The Boston Globe

"...great food - homemade soups, sandwiches, burgers, and the best fish cakes around - in a relaxed atmosphere."

### Yankee Magazine's Travel Guide to New England

"Editors' Pick" 1997, 2003 & 2004

"One of the outstanding reasons to visit New England."

### Connecticut Magazine Readers' Poll

Windham County - Various years

Best Family Dining - Best Sandwiches

Best Desserts - Best Business Lunch

Best Vegetarian - Best Outdoor Dining

### Yankee Magazine

Editors' Choice - Best of New England  
Connecticut's Best Country Café - 2011

### The Hartford Courant

"This is a place that serves excellent food and brings in some of the better performers on the New England coffee house circuit..."

"The Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret is one of those rare places that truly has something for everyone..."

Oh, yes - the food is truly delicious, too."

### The New London Day

★★★

"The soups are homemade and delicious, the sandwiches unusual and served on breads that are positively delicious..."

### www.VisitingNewEngland.com

"the Vanilla Bean Café is one of those places you simply don't want to leave."

### www.HiddenBoston.com

"This impossibly funky Connecticut restaurant is full of character (and characters), and is truly in a class by itself."

### Recipient University of Connecticut's Nozko Family Business Leadership Award

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- Martha Stewart

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- Albert Einstein

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## January Entertainment

### Friday - 1 - No Open Mic

### Saturday - 2 - Atwater-Donnelly

Every performance is surprisingly different and always entertaining, exciting and educational with the award-winning duo **Atwater~Donnelly**, who provide a unique and thrilling blend of traditional American and Celtic folk music and dance, along with original songs and poetry. The highly praised husband-wife duo blends gorgeous vocals with an astounding array of instruments including the mountain dulcimer, old-time banjo, tin whistle, guitar, mandolin, harmonica, limberjacks, feet and more. "Atwater~Donnelly are marvelous musicians. Their voices blend beautifully, their instrumental work is sparkling, and they are captivating performers. I could listen to them for hours." - Frank Dudgeon, WUMB, Boston, MA. Their performance is appealing to all ages with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence.



### Friday - 8 - Hootenanny/Sessions

2016 marks the 7th anniversary of our monthly series, **Hootenanny/Songwriter Sessions**. Hosted by Lisa Martin, the sessions bring audiences the chance to see some of the best local, regional and touring singer-songwriters. Intimate, in-the-round performances full of fun and spontaneity, are a hallmark of the series as well as the audience chosen "theme" that each songwriter has to incorporate into a newly crafted song for each show. A Hootenanny will begin each show and will be open to songwriters of all experience levels. Signups for the hoot will start at 6:30 pm and the show will begin promptly at 7:00 pm, with the hootenanny preceding the featured songwriters.

### Saturday - 9 - Alex Smith

**Alex Smith** grew up in Long Lake, in the heart of New York's Adirondack Park, and his music strives first and foremost to echo the people of that area. He builds songs from a blend of traditional folk harmony and strikingly modern lyrics, confronting today's most pressing issues with grace while paying homage to the masters who came before him. Sarah Craig, director of the legendary Caffe Lena in Saratoga Springs, NY, calls Smith "A natural storyteller with a rich voice who is creating poignant songs rooted in the heritage of his Adirondack home."



## January Entertainment

### Saturday - 16 - Elis Paul

**Ellis Paul** is one of the leading voices in American songwriting and one of the top songwriters to emerge out of the fertile Boston folk scene. He helped create a movement that revitalized the national acoustic circuit with an urban, literate, folk rock style that helped renew interest in the genre in the 90's. His charismatic, personally authentic performance style has influenced a generation of artists away from the artifice of pop, and closer towards the realness of folk. Though he remains among the most pop-friendly of today's singer-songwriters, his songs regularly appear in hit movie and TV sound tracks, he has successfully bridged the gulf between the modern folk sound and the populist traditions of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger.



### Saturday - 23 - Don White

There is no one-word description for what **Don White** does. He has survived and thrived for over twenty-five years, bringing his audiences to laughter and tears in his live performances, studio recordings, and on the printed page. He is a storyteller-comedian-author-troubadour-folk singer-songwriter. He is a walking challenge to the phrase "file under." Best to just sort him under "Don White." Don's approach to music is a weird, unique blend. If he just played folk music, it would be a handy label. But he has invented his own genre with a mix of humor and powerful songwriting. White's shared the stage with greats like Christine Lavin, Arlo Guthrie, Taj Mahal, Ritchie Havens, Patty Larkin, Bill Morrissey, Tom Rush, and Loudon Wainwright III.



### Saturday - 30 - Howie Bursen & Friends Benefit for NE CT Food Bank

An annual event since the early 1990's. **Howie Bursen** will be joined by fiddler **Jeff Davis**, singer and guitarist **John Bailey**, and **Martin Grosswendt**, who plays anything with strings. Bursen is a virtuoso instrumentalist, respected songwriter and an acclaimed true master of the frailed banjo. On top of that, he can sing! Don't miss this great night of entertainment for a great cause!! All proceeds will benefit the Northeast Connecticut Food Bank.



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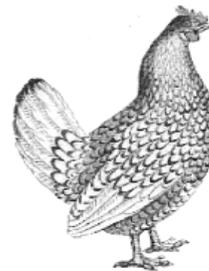
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*"Music is the shorthand of emotion." - Leo Tolstoy*



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## February Entertainment

### Friday - 6 - Open Mic



**Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Kala Farnham - Feature - Wishbone Zoe** is a teller of stories, a rum-mager of the discarded tragedies and hopes of human beings, cyanide devourer, ex-roller coaster line-pass negotiator, charmer of coyotes, sidewalk-licking, slop-delivering, claw-dancing, slap-happy Sky Child, a solo act, a band, an orchestra. Using a collection of assorted bottles and electric drills, banjos and guitars, a megaphone and a coconut kalimba, she manipulates the word into fire and the note into smoke.

### Saturday - 7 - Kevin Connolly CD Release

Writing and performing for over twenty years, **Kevin Connolly** has carved out his own way of writing American songs and earned a reputation as a passionate performer. Connolly has toured extensively in the U.S. and Europe while maintaining a strong presence and tie to his New England roots.



Working the college and coffeehouse circuit solo, Kevin has also played major festivals including Newport Folk, SXSW, Kerrville Folk and Bumber-shoot. He has opened up for a long list of notable artists including Indigo Girls, Huey Lewis, Todd Rundgren and Joan Osborne. Kevin's songs have also appeared on network television shows and in major motions pictures as well as independent films.

### Friday - 13 - Hootenanny/Sessions

### Saturday - 14 - Delta Generators

As their name implies, **The Delta Generators** combine the urgency and soulfulness of delta blues with



the power and energy of early rock 'n' roll. While, in the broader sense, they could be classified as a blues band, there is room on that big blue canvas for brush strokes of Memphis soul, LA funk, and classic rock 'n' roll. The combination of clever songwriting and inspired performances on their new CD "Devil in the Rhythm" shows why critics and audiences are calling them the best new blues band in New England. Taking top honors at the Blues Challenge last summer was no small achievement: The Delta Generators bested seven of the most popular bands in the region to earn the right to represent the Hub in the Blues Foundation's prestigious 2009 International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

## February Entertainment

### Saturday - 20 - Uninvited Wilson

In August of 2012, three best friends formed **Uninvited Wilson**. Mike Homiski and the Chad Homiski (father and son) along with longtime friend Justin Bonosconi created a group that is all about the music. Mike has been singing as long as he can remember while Justin is the most musically talented of the three members (he can play almost any instrument you hand him). Chad has only been playing the cajon for a little over two years now and has become the heartbeat of the band. Marybeth Murdock joined the band in early 2015 and brings a whole new level of musical talent with an incredible singing voice that everyone loves.



### Sunday - 21 - Peter Mulvey

His latest album, *Silver Ladder*, is an auditory shot in the arm from veteran touring songwriter **Peter Mulvey**. It is a lean, muscular collection of tightly constructed songs, leavening Mulvey's tendency toward ruminative and yearning acoustic songs with a dose of sharp-witted, punchy rock and roll. Peter has developed a strong national following in the indie folk/rock scene through his relentless touring and critically acclaimed albums. Starting his musical career in Milwaukee while at Marquette University, he honed his performing skills while traveling in Dublin, Ireland. He is best known for his warmly wry songwriting and his intense percussive guitar style.



### Sunday - 27 - Pat McGee

**Pat McGee** started his professional music career in 1995 as leader of Pat McGee Band, touring relentlessly for over ten years all over the United States, including one stretch doing 98 shows in 103 days. The band, dubbed PMB by legions of adoring fans, sold out venues all over the US and shared stages with The Who, Allman Brothers, Fleetwood Mac, James Taylor, Counting Crows, Rat Dog, Levon Helm & more. His latest self-titled album *Pat McGee* was influenced by the classic albums of the 1970s that were spun in his childhood home. "I was inspired to write a record that was not based on a 'single' but on the wholeness of the complete album," Pat explains. "I was at a friend's house, listening to what I thought was someone's playlist on an iPod. When I realized they were spinning full albums on vinyl, I was blown away."



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## March Entertainment

**Friday - 4 - Open Mic**



**Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Kala Farnham - Feature - Charles Paul** - first picked up a guitar and has been playing it ever since. On September 14, 2014 he wrote and released the EP *Learning to Dance in the Rain* with the song *Fallin'* that received runner-up placement in the worldwide songwriting contest Song of the Year. The second track on the EP, *Rainfall*, received the number-one placement in the Miller Music (LLC) Songwriting Contest.

**Saturday - 5 - Ron Anthony & Denny Collin**

**Ron Anthony and Denny Collin** are among the finest roots performers on the CT acoustic scene today. They're known as "musicians' musicians" with great songs played with superb craft. Ron Anthony is a Connecticut acoustic treasure with his wonderful original songs, steeped in blues, folk and country, coupled with a driving guitar. Ron represented CT at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN, after winning the Connecticut Blues Society competition for Best Solo Blues Artist. Denny Collin is a wonder in his own right, backing Ron for a sound that's much more than the sum of its parts, and breaking out with solo work that's beautifully accomplished on its own.



**Friday - 11 - Hootenanny/Sessions**

**Saturday - 12 -**

**Blackstone Valley Bluegrass**

**Blackstone Valley Bluegrass** with Dave Dick on banjo, his brother Bob Dick on guitar, Dan Nowlan on mandolin and Ken Taylor on upright bass, this original lineup have been together for over 15 years - rare for bluegrass bands these days. Over the years this seasoned group has built up a solid and ever expanding repertoire to go along with an engaging stage performance; these guys can really mix things up musically and entertain an audience! They're all multi-instrumentalists and play a wide range of bluegrass styles... but what really sets them apart are their powerful three and four part harmonies. Great bluegrass music, smooth harmonies, fast but tasteful pickin', and most importantly, a great time!



## March Entertainment

### Friday - 18 - WA Open Mic Project Graduation Benefit

This Open Mic is open to all Woodstock Academy students. All proceeds from this show will benefit this year's Project Graduation. Each participant will be able to perform 2 songs (or spoken word pieces). This is a 7:00 pm show that will continue until 10:45 pm.

### Saturday - 19 - Cashel Rock

Cashel Rock is made up of veteran New England artists, Peter Lange, guitar and vocals, Peter's daughter Rachel Lange, vocals, Carol Soucy, vocals and standup comedy, Tim St.Jean, vocals, bodhran, and mandolin, Vikki Baker, vocals, flute and tin-whistle, John Gilmore, bass and vocals, Cathy Day on fiddle and vocals, and Ed Clement, vocals and guitar, had the place jumping with their renditions of Irish drinking songs, ballads, and laments. According to *Victor Infante of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, "If you want straight-ahead traditional music with a vibrant feel, then it's hard to do better than Cashel Rock. There's a great spirit about this band, a joyous energy that makes listening to them a great occasion."



### Saturday - 12 - Tony Memmel

**Tony Memmel** is a songwriter and performer with unique charisma and creativity. Though he was born missing his left forearm, he taught himself to play the guitar by constructing a self-made cast out of Gorilla Tape that secures a guitar pick to his arm. With powerful, personal lyrics and well-crafted melodies, his music stands alone. Memmel often says, "I don't want to be a good guitarist with one hand, I want to be a great guitarist and songwriter, period." Applying this attitude to his craft earned him the 2013 WAMI Award for Singer-Songwriter of the year.



*"Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone."*

- Pablo Picasso

#### VBC Review Quotables...

"Extremely Tasty" Food - *New York Times*

"Relaxed" Atmosphere - *Boston Globe*

"Truly Bizarre" Service - *New London Day*

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- Jim Rohn

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- Audre Lorde

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- Swami Vivekananda

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*"You may only succeed if you desire succeeding; you may only fail if you do not mind failing."*  
- Philippos

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## Weekend Breakfast

A full breakfast menu is served Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon. We offer a variety of specials including recent items like Apple Crisp Crepes, Roasted Mushroom Omelet, and Crab Ricotta Benedict. We use only 100% maple syrup and top-quality Hormel bacon. ☪

## Dinner at The Bean

We are open for dinner Wednesday - Sunday. Each night we run four or five dinner specials. Recent items include: Wild Mushroom Ravioli, Pan-Seared Cod, Steak Medallions and Chipotle Cinnamon Rubbed Pork Loin. We offer a truly quality dinner at a great price, in a warm and friendly atmosphere. If you haven't tried us for dinner yet, it's time you did. ☪

## The Artwork Gallery

The Café displays artwork by local artists year round. Some shows have openings and some do not. Most of the artwork displayed is for sale and often prices are listed with the piece or on a list located in the room. One hundred percent of the sale price goes to the artist.

**January - Cindy Smith-Bilbro**

**February - Tom Sayers**

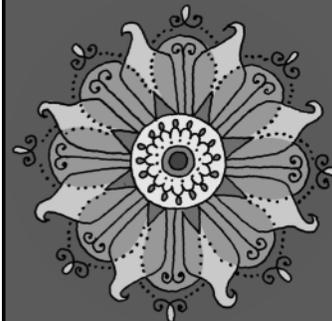
**March - TBA** ☪

## Entertainment

The Café is on the National Folk Music Circuit and attracts talent from all over the United States while featuring mainly New England performers. The majority of the shows are on Saturday night and start at 8:00 pm. Our Open Mic night is on the first Friday of each month. During shows, a theatre curtain separates the listening room from the tiled dining room and kitchen in an effort to keep the music in and the kitchen noise out. ☪

## On-Site WiFi

We provide complimentary wireless internet service. Bring your lap top to the Café, search for available networks and log on to the VBC. Get some work done or check your email while you eat lunch! Password: *goodfood* ☪



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## ananda

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## Our Pricing Practices

**1. Sales Tax Included** - Our prices include the 6.35% Connecticut Sales Tax. The prices listed on the menu are exactly what you pay. Our prices february seem to be inflated; however, a \$10.00 menu item is actually \$9.40 + \$.60 sales tax. Furthermore, this practice makes it easier for the customer, especially if that customer is a child who has exact change for a cookie. What you see is exactly what you pay - what could be simpler?

**2. Not Market Standard Pricing** - We are not trying to fool the customer into thinking that \$9.95 is less expensive than \$10.00. We find this type of pricing insulting to our customers. However, the reason it is used so extensively around the nation is that it works effectively. We don't like that practice, and we also like to believe that our clientele is not so easily fooled.

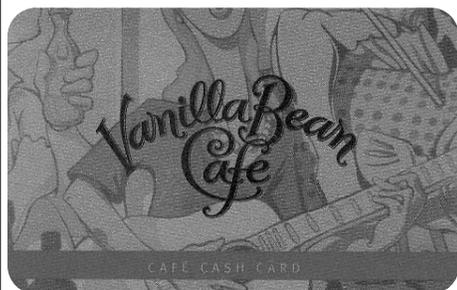
**3. No Pennies, Dimes or Nickels** - Because our prices include tax and we do not price in the standard way, we do not have to use pennies, dimes or nickels. This is a service to both the customer and to us. We don't give you lots of change, and we only have to use quarters and fifty-cent pieces. This also helps our staff to be more efficient performing transactions, which saves time and money. An added bonus is that we don't have to count change at the end of the business day.

*"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."*

- Harriet Beecher Stowe

## The Café Cash Card

The first Café Cash Card was introduced in 1997. The appearance of the card has changed since then, but our card still works like the gift cards available in most stores today. Café Cash Cards can be purchased in any amount at the restaurant or online and



are reloadable - add to the card balance at any time! Cards can be used to purchase any menu item at Vanilla Bean Cafe. **Note:** A bonus of 10%

is added to the card balance when you purchase a card for \$200 or more. The card must be presented to redeem it at the time of purchase. The Café Cash Card makes a great gift for friends and family members and is ideal for students at the local schools. Café Cash Cards have no expiration date.

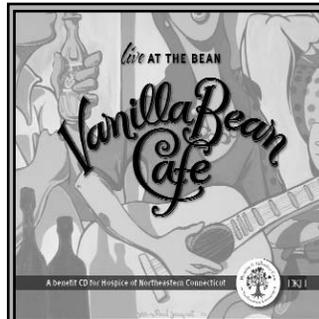
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*"People who succeed have momentum. The more they succeed, the more they want to succeed, and the more they find a way to succeed. Similarly, when someone is failing, the tendency is to get on a downward spiral that can even become a self-fulfilling prophecy."* - Tony Robbins



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**Elaine W. Lind, Office: 860-774-1047 Cell: 508-450-7395**

## What's Happening at *The Bean*...



All shows start at 8:00 pm unless otherwise noted

- **Friday January 1<sup>st</sup>** No Open Mic
- **Saturday January 2<sup>nd</sup>** - 15.00  
Atwater-Donnelly
- **Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 pm - 5.00  
Hootenanny/Sessions - Lisa Martin Hosts
- **Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>** - 12.00  
Alex Smith
- **Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup>** - 20.00  
Ellis Paul - *Marina Evans Opens*
- **Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup>** - 15.00  
Don White
- **Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>** - 20.00  
Howie Bursen  
*Food Bank Benefit Concert*
- **Friday February 5<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 pm - 5.00  
Open Mic - Wishbone Zoe
- **Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup>** - 15.00  
Kevin Connolly - *CD Release*
- **Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 pm - 5.00  
Hootenanny/Sessions - Lisa Martin Hosts
- **Saturday February 13<sup>th</sup>** - 20.00  
Delta Generators

- **Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00  
Uninvited Wilson
- **Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup>** 7:00 pm - 15.00  
Peter Mulvey - *Hayley Reardon Opens*
- **Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>** - 20.00  
Pat McGee
- **Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 pm - 5.00  
Open Mic - Charles Paul
- **Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>** - 15.00  
Ron Anthony & Denny Collin
- **Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 pm - 5.00  
Hootenanny/Sessions - Lisa Martin Hosts
- **Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>** - 15.00  
Blackstone Valley Bluegrass
- **Friday March 18<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00  
Woodstock Academy Open Mic  
*Benefit for Project Graduation*
- **Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>** - 10.00  
Cashel Rock
- **Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>** - 15.00  
Tony Memmel

Cash or Check Only for show Admissions

Call ahead, shows are subject to change

WiFi available in Dining Room



P O Box 206  
Pomfret CT 06258

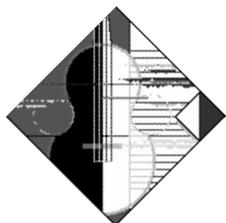


2016 ... What's Happening at The Bean ... 2016  
~ January, February & March ~

**\*\*Saturday - January 16<sup>th</sup> - Ellis Paul\*\***

**\*\*Sunday - February 21<sup>st</sup> - Peter Mulvey\*\***

**\*\*Saturday - March 26<sup>th</sup> - Tony Memmel\*\***



"To Bean or  
not to Bean...?"  
...is it really a question?



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