

FOLKNORTHWEST Magazine

Jon Budworth – Gregson Lane Folk Club

Who's Jon Budworth? – was the question asked by a few of our regulars at Gregson Lane when we booked Jon on the recommendation of one of our members. I must admit that I hadn't come across him before – for some reason he was completely off our radar.

I listened to his CD "Trees Turn To Fire" that came along with the recommendation, I was very impressed with the material therein and even more so when I checked out other stuff on Jons website <http://www.jonbudworth.co.uk/> which contains some excellent 'No frills'(WYSIWYG) video footage of this excellent singer/musician in action.

So the booking was made and culminated in last nights performance in front of an enthusiastic Gregson Lane audience and despite the fact that he was recovering from a nasty bout of laryngitis Mr Budworth (Bottle of Sandersons Specific in close proximity) delivered the goods and gave us a first class show.

Not only is Jon a very accomplished guitar player (he uses two guitars both in open tunings) he also writes some excellent songs and tunes. I loved - Waiting For The Lightning – Time Machine - The Great Escaper – and Jon's Jig. I'm always impressed when Singer/songwriters are not too self-centred to stick a few popular standards in their program and Jons versions of – Vincent Black Lightning (Thompson)– Twa Recruiting Sergeants – Canadee I O – Beeswing (Thompson) & Angi (Graham) where performed to perfection. All this interspersed with friendly chat to engage the audience.

From a folk club organisers point of view; Budworth is the perfect package – not only a very competent and entertaining performer but a professional attitude and approach to the performance. Great publicity material (posters) - forwarded to the club organiser well in advance of the gig and when Bernadette & I arrived, at the club, last night, Jon was already in there, his stall set-out ready for the arrival of the audience.

I got nothing but excellent feedback from members of our audience they liked the whole Jon Budworth package; first class presentation – very competent musician – great selection of material and a very warm personality.

So next time the question should not be - "Who? - but When? & Where?

Thanks to Bob Gilbert for hosting the evening.

Graham Dixon