Reviews

Jon Budworth

Album: Trees Turn To Fire
Label: Self Released
Tracks: 6
Website: http://www.jonbudworth.co.uk

Compared to a number of his peers, Jon Budworth, has come to performing relatively late, which I've got a sneaky feeling is slightly more frightening than hitting the music trail with the optimistic naivety of youth. I'm not sure that experience of life and the world is always a good starting point for the creative arts, but if "Trees Turn To Fire" and its predecessor, "Time Machine" are anything to go by, it may not be as frightening as I imagine.

"Trees Turn To Fire" is a combination of self penned and traditional songs, with the style very much drawing on folk for its stylings. The focal point of the album is Jon and his guitar, but at times this is augmented by accordion and violin, bringing all the instruments together for my preference of the traditional tracks, "Searching For Lambs".

For me, though, it is the self penned songs that give this mini album/ep its strength. Budworth is a man that knows how to use a metaphor, you can feel his life experiences being laid out as well the less tangible concepts that a lot of us find ourselves pondering as the years pass by with seemingly accelerating speed.

Whilst I get the feeling that song and sound have been honed in the clubs and have a slightly in session feel about them, that doesn't detract from a feeling that these songs are aimed at you the listener and are more than capable of generating a reaction coming off the disk. It gives the songs an edge, as well as a feeling that he's not an artist that's concerned about the song sounding the same every time it's played, for that reason I'd recommend getting hold of a copy, if only to tide you over until he's put a few more dates together.

Neil King

Reviews

Jon Budworth
Album: We All Share The Same Sky
Label: Self Released
Tracks: 10
Website: http://www.jonbudworth.co.uk

.Jon Budworth, a Leyther who worked teaching guitar in schools in Wigan. A career change, no more "Smoke On The Water" for kids eager to rock their flight of fancy. Jon trained to become a pilot. He flitted from Lancashire to Yorkshire, settled in the bustling town of Otley and started work on this his first album

"We All Share The Same Sky" is an accomplished work of art, it is accessible in the same way that listening to a Ralph McTell record always is. You associate quickly with the lyrics, the feelings expressed strike a chord. The opener "Waiting For The Lightning" for example probes the depths that we all sometimes experience when you wonder just how much worse it can be before it surely gets better.

We feel stress, we want to escape the pressure, to revert to a simpler time, a time where elemental forces are the only distraction. To become a "Lighthouse Keeper" one such dream of escapism. Introspective self penned songs, a fine fingerpicking acoustic guitar style which is both clear and bright and you gain the impression that these songs are well rehearsed and familiar, songs that have been lived in and grown, polished and honed. "Hill View" is a homage to those who stand apart perhaps, whilst "3am" is fast, frantic and captures the essence of anxiety and the feeling of not being able to sleep, insomnia fuelled by worry.

The true story of Bernard Jordan is told sympathetically, an octogenarian living in a care home in Hove who decided he would join the 70th anniversary commemorations of D-Day, sparking a police search when he went "missing". Dubbed "The Great Escaper" he made it to France with his medals hidden under a raincoat. It proved to be his last big journey as he died months later followed sadly by his wife Irene seven days later. A tale worth telling and Jon Budworth certainly does the gentleman proud.

Inspired by local past events "Dusty Roads" is a love song set around the time of the English Civil War which divided the town of Leigh and "Some Days" expresses the beauty of the changing seasons to a lane just off the East Lancs Road at Glazebury.

Joining Jon on "We All Share The Same Sky" are Wendy Ross (violin), Phil Snell (mandolin), Bernard Cromarty (accordian) and Lynne O'Malley on backing vocals, they complement and never overpower the songs. All in all "We All Share The Same Sky" is a debut worth investigating.

Ian Cripps