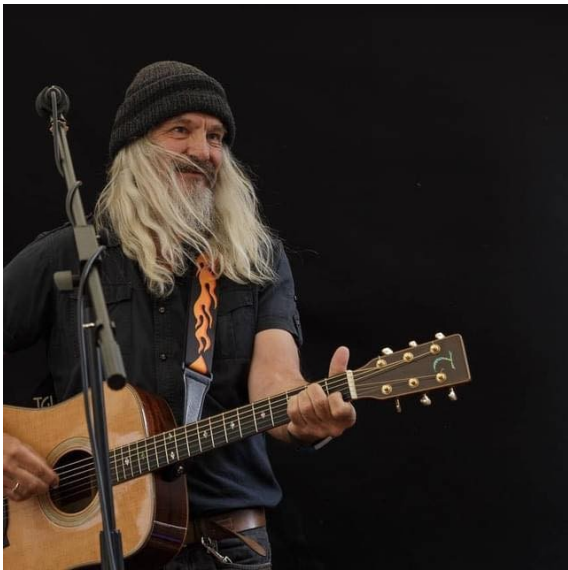


Bob Whale: Round the Fireplace at the Dukes Arms



Stevie Pooler's 'Round The Fireplace Acoustic Session', Dukes Arms, Woodford last night. It struck me when we'd finished, that if Del Boy had attended, on his return to flat 368, Nelson Mandela House, Peckham, he'd have said "It was Blinding Rodney!"

The sessions are consistently good and a credit to Carol Poole and Vince Gorman who have ably kept them afloat despite a long lay off due to all attempts at capsizing via a certain Virus. Like all similar sing arounds, attendance can vary from one man and his dog to running out of seats. Of course in the 'one Man' scenario, that guy or indeed girl, will get to sing all the songs while the dog seeks cover!

Last night comprised, Vince Gorman, Carol Poole, Liz Mathers, Adam DeSantis, Lesley Hirst, Paul and Suzy Woods and Family, Bob Whale, Keith Philpot, Andy Night, Nicola Minney and a chap who's name I don't know I'm afraid....anyone?

The thing I love about this group is how a perhaps diffident player is not only made to feel welcome and part of something a bit special, but spurred on and encouraged to let their inner musician run riot. We all did just that last night when we sang our hearts out to Vince's rendition of 'Meet Me On The Corner'. Swooned to the harmonies of the Woods family's version of 'Don't Think Twice', mellowed to Nicola's gorgeous Folk tunes, marvelled at Andy's instrumentals, loved the guy's (who's name I don't know) take on some great numbers, exclaimed "Yeah!!" when Adam played amazing slide guitar, not only appreciated Keith's T Shirt ("In Dog years I'm dead") but loved his two new self penned songs, kept it all together with Liz's Bodhran maintaining the beat and thoroughly enjoyed the 'difference' that Lesley's excellent pipe playing brought to proceedings. Returning briefly to the 'Blinding' adjective.



For me the stand out and most 'Blinding' moment of the night has to go to the Woods for their moving and stunning rendition of 'Here Comes The Sun'. Wonderful (Blinding) harmonies, not a note out of place, but most of all the beautiful and impeccable guitar work from young William Woods. Perhaps their version should be called 'Here Comes The Son'?

All in all a Blinding night for us all. Anyone who'd like to join in the sessions, they take place every Sunday night (7:30 for 8:00) at the Dukes Arms in Woodford.