

Mike Stranks Aston Pottery review

What an interesting day...!

Realised on Friday evening that Gordon was playing in my neck of the woods the following evening, but knew that it was probably a 'no go' as I'd be in Bath for the day. Then saw that the gig was at 8pm. Some quick mental arithmetic indicated that I could get there comfortably in time without upsetting the Bath contingent of family-Stranks.

So a quick call to GG to let him know I'd be there and all was set....

Pitched-up about 40 mins before the gig to find things in shall we say, a 'state of flux'. Quick update from GG and... well, a long-story, but I ended-up helping finish-off setting-up the system and mixing Gordon's set. All credit and high-fives to the contracted sound guy who readily welcomed my involvement and suggested that I mix for Gordon. GG indicated that he'd appreciate that so sleeves rolled-up (literally) and off we went.

A lovely venue with evidence that this IS a pottery all around us in a light and airy modern building. This was the first gig there and it was packed.

First on was a local lad of 17, Rory Evans, of whom I'd previously heard very complimentary remarks. A player very much in the Tommy Emmanuel style he was much more than a warm-up and enthralled the audience with his accomplished dexterity.

As usual with a responsive audience GG had them eating out of the palm of his hand and the applause, warmth and laughter was heartfelt and genuine - and enthusiastic! Even I was laughing at some of the stories that I knew well - it's the way he tells 'em!

All this meant that GG was very relaxed and the playing showed it. Top-form and great to hear some old favourites of mine back in the set and some lovely new additions.

All-in-all a great night and everyone went home happy - especially me! At the end of a concert I'm usually faced with up to an hour of 'tote that barge, lift that bale', but this time it was simply a big thumbs-up to the sound-guy, a big smile and "thanks for letting me mix" and that was it! I could get used to being that sort of sound-tech!

PS. Sorry Gordon that Lucifer got "a bit loud" at its climax. Well... they were enjoying it, you were enjoying it, I was enjoying it....!! (Note to Keith Meredith who keeps a close watch on my loudness peaks: this time we hit 12!)