

A Swinging Start to the Year!

January 8th

It was a welcome return for the club members of John Grant, guitarist, saxophonist, vocalist and raconteur. He has been performing since 1968, principally accompanied by his guitar. He told us previously he took up the saxophone to improve his breathing after COVID, and I still remember his rendition of *Baker Street*. Sadly, this did not feature today, but there was plenty to keep our feet tapping and our vocal chords exercising.

He began with several saxophone numbers, notably *The Girl from Ipanema* and then *Stranger on the Shore* by the late Acker Bilk, both superb. Afterwards, he effortlessly switched to the guitar and delighted us with the well-known number *Ain't no sunshine when she's gone* from the film *Notting Hill*. Then came a complete contrast, a rousing version of *Belle of Belfast City*. We were invited to take to the dance floor, but too much Christmas pudding and mince pies kept us firmly in our seats.

Imagine our delight, too, when we discovered we had hidden talent in our midst. Don White was called upon by John to join him in *Is this the way to Amarillo*, as they used to sing together, which he did to rapturous applause. John finished with *Sweet Caroline*, and everywhere you looked arms were held aloft and everyone was joining in with the chorus.

It was a super way to banish the January blues and help us forget the icy roads awaiting us. Thank you, John, and we hope to see you again soon. If you can't wait, you'll find him and his sax in Damons on Tuesday evenings. Worth a visit?

Barbara Pearce