**Full review from the 2022 gig at Ilkley Playhouse, published in Fatea Magazine:**

"I have been to Ilkley for shows many times, but never before have I been to the Ilkley Playhouse. Last night I rectified this to see the excellent Jon Palmer Acoustic Band. This was two firsts in one go as I had never seen the band live before either.

The Wildman Theatre is part of the Ilkley Playhouse and is the perfect intimate venue for the band holding around 120 patrons. The show last night was a virtual sell out and the facilities at the theatre are excellent. There is also plenty of street parking nearby.

The six-piece band is headed by Jon Palmer, a quite brilliant songwriter. When you combine this skill with some outstanding musicians who obviously love what they are doing, the end result should be good. To my mind this was not just good, it was outstanding. From the opening number "Musictown" to the encore of Warren Zevon's "Werewolves In London" I, like most of the audience, were both transfixed and royally entertained.

Jon's voice and arrangements brought back memories for me of Dave Cousins and The Strawbs. Musically we were given folk, rock, a hint of bluegrass and an acapella opening to the second set. Jon's lyrics combine pathos and humour, an unlikely pairing and not in the same song of course. Jake Thackray would have been proud of some of the lyrics especially in the Knife Thrower's Assistant which was played unplugged and off the stage. "Retirement" will probably have resonated with most of the seniors in the audience, many of whom will have previously mouthed the lyrics "kiss my a..e goodbye." The lyrics in one piece described as not being a folk song as "nobody dies and nobody drowns" induced howls of laughter from the audience.

Pathos was found in the beautiful and heart rending "Refugee" and served to deliver a serious message in these troubled times. The lyrics again demonstrate what a remarkable songwriter Jon Palmer is.

I cannot let the musical playing side of things go without a special mention of Wendy Ross on violin. Her playing was magical and provided perfect harmony to the songs. This was especially apparent in my favourite piece of music of the night "Wanderlust." Having said that, I can honestly say that I thoroughly enjoyed every piece that was played and that all the musicians are masters of their trade.

It would be very boring to simply list all of the numbers played in this review and would require a much larger piece of paper. Suffice to say that every song played during the almost 2 hour set delivered something different and engaging. A quite magical evening from an incredibly gifted singer songwriter and his musical partners. One to see, listen to and treasure. A genuinely unforgettable evening of quality music and stories. It could be said that this is a gig that had everything and kept on giving!"

**Words by Rory Stanbridge**