

'Wide String Tremelo'

A diary from the river bank by Walter Otter



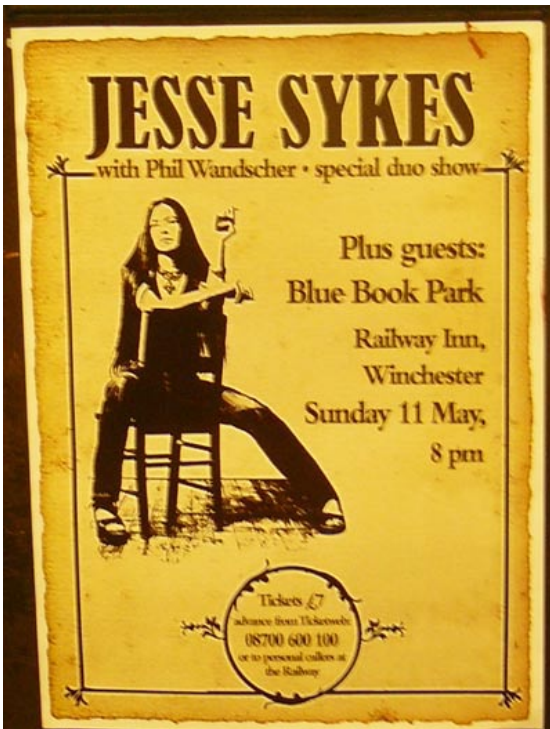
Jesse Sykes, intense brooding songs like a Rosetti sister

"... they could hear the electronic harmonium, dissonant Schoenberg frequencies, metallic fifths rattling the stain glass windows. The sun was hazy bright, the crocuses and jonquils poked pointed heads through the freshly cut lawn."

- Richard Farina

It had been a hot day of mint juleps on the river and the beer halls of Winchester were muted in the evening sun. On such a night, on such a river, Millais embraced Ophelia's melancholy amongst the dog roses.

Tonight Jesse Sykes and Phil Wandscher's set reminded me of Millais painting and Richard Farina's novel *Been Down So Long It Looks Like Up To Me*. It was a brooding tapestry, songs of poetic love, yearning, Jesse Sykes's pre-Raphaelite heartache strung on the strings of Phil Wandscher's exquisite, shimmering guitar work. Their harmonies were as delicate as the buzz of dragonflies. It was bare, down to the boards and superb.



and the hits keep on coming, another unique and special gig in the annals of the boys with the awesome stuff, Oliver and Richard . . .

BLUE BOOK PARK from Southampton, opened the night with deja vu harmonies harking back to Crosby Stills and Nash even down to taking digs at each other between songs . . .

