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## Jo had at touch of the jitters

A CONVIVIAL time was had by all at a folk evening organised by the Epsom 18 - plus group and held at The Charter Inn, Epsom, on Friday.

The evening was opened by a young local group, The Shades, who proved very promising for a group who had been together for less than two months and were appearing in public for only the third time.

The group comprise John Davis, John Bishop, Peter Sharp, Dave Frohnsdorff, all 18, and a very attractive 16-years-old girl singer, Jo Battley.

Apart from an initial bad case of nerves, which happily wore off, they had surprisingly few rough edges for a group in its formative stages.

Unfortunately, Jo still had a touch of the jitters in her version of the Pentangle's "Once I Had A Sweetheart", but allowing for that, she sang beautifully, with much clearer enunciation than Jacqui McShee!

Other highlights of the act were "Streets Of London", "Painting Box" and "Green Stamps"—a mock-serious corruption of "Greensleeves".

The hirsute Ned Clamp, known as Fluff, with his inexhaustible repertoire of songs bawdy, witty and serious, was deservedly well received. His act included the favourites "Chastity Belt", "Wild Rover", James Taylor's "Something In The Way She Moves" and a number of rugby songs and "talkin' blues".

David Hodson filled an all-too-short spot with some tasteful classical numbers.

IAN ELVIN

# Likeable Mr. Kelly left them breathless

SINGER-SONGWRITER Jonathan Kelly gave an immaculate performance at a concert organised by Ewell Technical College's Student's Union and held at the Adrian Mann Theatre last Thursday, writes IAN ELVIN.

Shaggy head bobbing and tossing like a bearded marionette, the likeable Mr Kelly attacked his mainly up-tempo folky songs with a gusto that invariable left him — and the audience — breathless at the end.

Encouraged by his warm reception, he developed and maintained a friendly rapport with his audience throughout the performance.

Much has been written about the prospect of even greater success for Jonathan Kelly, which is unnecessary to repeat here.

But apart from his undoubted talents as a musician and songwriter, he also has two outstanding qualities which must stand him in good stead with the discerning fans of music of that genre.

One is just the right degree of "professionalism" which, I am convinced, the majority of concert-goers want to see. Now, everyone knows that guitars have to be tuned and that performers make the occasional error. A performance devoid of these would seem more like the work of a machine.

But if only more artists realised how infuriated fans get by prolonged tuning, too-frequent false starts to num-

bers and general time wasting.

Happily, Jonathan Kelly manages to fit nicely between the two extremes.

The other quality is the enormous respect with which he treats the people who buy his records and go out of their way to attend his performances.

He has the ability — possibly an unconscious one — to make his audience feel that they are the important ones, the stars, and they are doing him a favour by turning up at the venue, rather than vice-versa.

Other artists appearing on the bill were local folk group Flyntlocke and Gryphon, a band specialising in mediaeval-flavoured numbers.

Flyntlocke, kicked off the evening with a tasteful programme of mostly traditional songs.