

Celtic Connections

NEW VOICES REVISITED: GILLIAN FRAME, BRITANNIA PANOPTICON MUSIC HALL, GLASGOW

MARY BRENNAN

★★★★★

NOT just a "new voice" but an old building was happily revisited here – with a wee bit of musical/music-hall history made into the bargain. For last night's audience were the first paying customers to enjoy a live show in this once-thrumming venue since 1938. A colourful intro from Judith Bowers (of the Friends of Britannia Panopticon society) left everyone – performers, especially – well clued-up about old-time audience participation . . . if they didn't like you, you got pelted with everything from rotten veg to metal rivets.

No such hostile responses, however, for either of the sets in last night's programme. Gerry Cambridge (moothie) and Neil Thompson (vocals/guitar) offered up an opening selection of gentle, often whimsical songs that occasionally jiggled about but most often harked back to poetic reflections (some of them penned by Cambridge). His *The Thought of Snow* – with music by Thompson – had a curlicue of Incredible String Band-ishness to it that was utterly engaging, while a doggone ditty about canines, *Banjo Blues*, was witty'n'nifty enough to make cat-lovers howl in appreciation.

This time last year, Gillian

