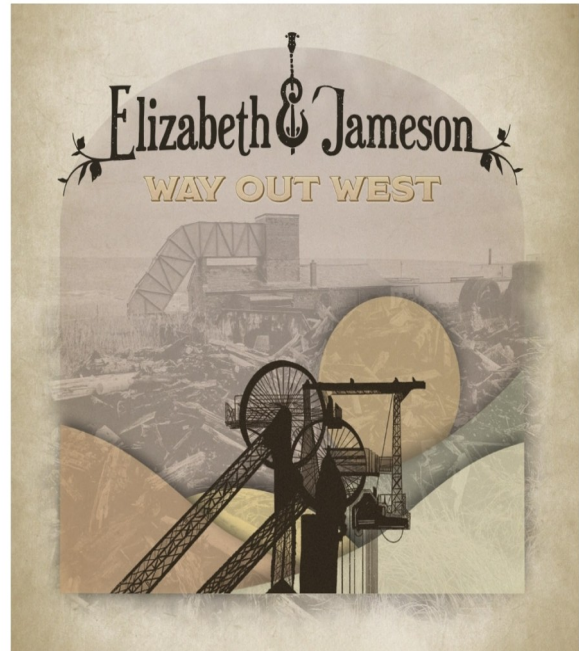


'Way Out West' by Elizabeth & Jameson

Reviewed by Carl Filby (Nov 2025)

I have been a fan of Elizabeth & Jameson for a few years now ever since they played in support of Tin Giants for a one-off concert in 2019. That was an early taster for Royston MusicFest 2019 and they have kindly returned to play for MusicFest in subsequent years when their busy schedule has allowed.

From the outset of their partnership they have acquired a reputation as a hard working, entertaining and personally likeable duo on the regional folk scene and increasingly on the national scene and this album is likely to cement that development and I hope will bring them more well-deserved success.



Recorded in the earlier part of this year and released in October this is the duo's second full studio album after ***Northern Shores and Stories*** in 2020 though I have a few EPs which they also release from time to time to keep their fans engaged.

This feels like a more personal album and the press release confirms that it contains some references to grief and family legacy, perhaps more connected to the historical stories of the South Wales Valleys where Griff hails from rather than Hannah's native Hertfordshire. Of course there will be some elements of the album where only they will know the true origins of the story and that is where one of their strengths lie, in storytelling. They have a way of evoking forgotten memories in some of their songs, perhaps most obviously on this album with ***Old Town*** which charts the impact that a factory and its closure had on the lives of those who relied on it for employment. It's a common theme but expressed beautifully in the playing and harmonious singing for which Elizabeth & Jameson are well known.

Of the other songs that I took an immediate liking to I think ***The Valley*** may be one of those 'personal' stories that I referred to above and as well as the trademark harmonies I enjoyed the violin and the embellishment of the flute provided by Eddie James, underpinned by the accomplished playing of Griff on guitar and the additional vocals of Kathy Pilkington who contributes to several other songs on the album. The album also benefits from the presence of Griff's brother, Gafyn Jameson on bass guitar & piano, Lachlan Golder on guitars, mandolin, piano & music box and Tom Dougherty on drums.

Another song that immediately stood out was the exuberant ***YCH A FI!*** the meaning of which I looked up and was slightly disappointed to find that it equates roughly to "yuck"! I

thought it might be ruder but it did provide a great contrast to some of the other songs on the album, though it is not an album that lacks variety.

No doubt other songs will grow in strength with further listening and I am looking forward to seeing Elizabeth & Jameson at **Royston Live** on Thursday 27th November. They are actually in the middle of a nationwide tour and you can find details in the **Featured Events** section on the home page of **Unicorn Folk** and also on their website: [Elizabeth & Jameson](#) from where you can buy the album. Better still, why not buy the album at one of their gigs still to come, including at Huntingdon with the full band but just the duo on their own will provide an excellent evening's entertainment.
