

## COMMUNITY NEWS - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with Chris Green

The contributions to *Arts in Celebration!* keep coming in. This month-long programme of videos compiled by Ipswich Arts Association is proving a great hit – indeed, many hundreds of hits if the daily log is anything to go by. Members of the public have been viewing over seven hours of material produced by individuals and groups in the area, much of which has been produced during the pandemic.

What is so rewarding is to hear people say “I never knew that she or he could do that!”; in other words, there is a surprise element in all of this, and that is backed up by reports coming from different parts of the world. So, I had a comment from someone with a sister in Portugal who had watched it, and from my family in Australia. I might even get my in-laws to watch it from their home in Hertfordshire.



Cllr. Jan Parry Mayor of Ipswich and consort, husband Nic Parry.

One of the outcomes of *Arts in Celebration!* is, I hope, that the Mayor of Ipswich’s charities will benefit from any contributions members of the public make as a result of seeing the videos. Her Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Jan Parry has been involved in the launch of the Celebration and we thank her for her enthusiasm. This is second term of office-unusual in itself but due to COVID she has continued to serve the citizens of Ipswich whilst the Consort, husband Nic, has been also playing his cello at various gigs.

Now, I mentioned the hundreds of “hits” the Ipswich Arts website has had, and we are able to establish that on a daily basis. We also know some of the very popular videos. I should say immediately that there is no intention

of creating a popularity poll. Every video is equally important. However, amongst the popular videos is those produced by 19-year old David Williams from Capel St Mary playing his guitar. It is also good to see so many young performance artists involved in various activities.



Guitarist, David Williams.

Ipswich Arts Association Trustees met last week and confirmed that the Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday evening 4 November by Zoom. Papers for the meeting will be sent out shortly to all members- individuals and societies and additional reports will be placed in a secure area of the IAA website where members can visit via a password. The same arrangements will be made by Trianon Music Group which is holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 9 November also by Zoom. Members of Trianon will have just received the monthly e-Newsletter and there is a special mailing in the post to them this week.

I enjoy watching *Waiting for God* which is being repeated each evening on the Drama channel. If you look at the credits, you will see that the signature music (by Schubert I think) is played by the Nash Ensemble, and it is the same distinguished group which performs this week's recommended recording. Their programme on the Hyperion label provides a real treat introducing many of us to little heard music by two women composers – Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann, (Hyperion CDA 68307). Both excelled as musicians and composers but writing music at the time they did, meant their work was often consigned to being suitable for private salons and not for wider publication. Two piano trios and one string quartet grace this new release and shows what generations have missed. As the sleeve note says “Musical women who aspired to professional careers in the nineteenth century faced countless obstacles”. Well, here is a chance to

help redress that, nearly 200 years later. I wager that if any of us were subjected to a “hearing “of any of this music, we would be hard pressed to tell it apart from works created by their male contemporaries, thus dispelling the belief that music never did reflect the gender of its creator.

I am delighted when I hear some music groups restarting rehearsals- even though they should only be of one hour duration. I am more concerned when members are not provided with clear guidelines about the rehearsal before they choose to attend. I heard of one local group last week that had undertaken a risk assessment, but I think many of us know that this is not enough. Meanwhile, the Stour Choral Society has been singing it “safe”. Virtual choir practices recommenced in September with medleys from *Oklahoma!* and *Les Miserables* in anticipation of being able to perform again next year.

The Manningtree-based choir has some planned dates for concerts in 2021. Members hope that they will go ahead, but, of course, it will still depend on Government advice regarding COVID nearer the time. They hope to bring us ‘*Stour Choral Society goes to the movies*’ on the evening of Saturday 15 May 2021 at Old Hall in East Bergholt, and later in the year, the postponed performance of Handel’s *Messiah*’ on Saturday 23 October 2021 at Mistley Parish Church. This performance will be in celebration of Stour Choral Society’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

If you have a story to share with other organisations, please email IAA chairperson, Professor Chris Green at [cjc.green@talktalk.net](mailto:cjc.green@talktalk.net)

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