

## COMMUNITY NEWS - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with Chris Green

The Annual General Meeting season is well under way. I have attended or chaired three in the past fortnight. All have been conducted by Zoom with great success. Last week Trianon Music Group met with a large number of members filling two screens to undertake the necessary business of any AGM, except that this year the reports presented by officers painted a picture of extremely challenging times.

All performance arts societies are now contemplating the immediate future – not just when “lockdown” ends (if it does) on 2 December, but into the spring and the possibility of returning to events where members can gather to talk, sing, play and engage in other forms of performance arts. The Ipswich Chamber Music Society has been busy in rescheduling its autumn concerts. Having successfully sold out for their October and November events, the latter has had to be postponed. The Maggini String Quartet visited Ipswich in October with two performances, both with restricted seating. The next event was scheduled for last weekend with the Metamorphoses Trio. Andrew Leach, Chair of the ICMS tells me that- all being well- the rescheduled date will be Saturday 12 December 2020. The line-up has changed slightly for the recital will be given by Jean Johnson (clarinet) accompanied by Steven Osborne (piano). Together they will be playing music by Brahms, Poulenc and Bernstein. The Society has wisely postponed booking until after the intended ending of lockdown on 2 December. Booking for the two performances at 4.30pm and 7.30pm will open on 5 December.

Some readers may remember that in September I gave the Ipswich Town Lecture when I talked about Musical Visitors to Suffolk. I had been assisted in preparing at short notice by a number of people including Graham Ranson who had provided me with material about the history of the Ipswich Orchestral Society. It was with great sorrow that his colleagues heard about his sudden death last week. For many years Graham had been a member of the Ipswich Orchestral Society of which he had been leader of the cello section as well as Chairman. Our condolences go to his widow, Christine and their family. The expression of sympathy and support is also extended to another much valued musician - Colin Wright. Colin lived with his wife in Hadleigh, and was well-known as a committed singer and

member of Hadleigh Choral Society and Trianon Music Group. He also was one of those musicians who was willing to help out other groups when needed as well as being an organist. His funeral will take place next week. Again, we extend our sympathies to his widow, Lily and her family.

The talk I gave in September has been put to further use for last week I was honoured to be asked by the Orwell Inner Wheel to talk to them and their President suggested I repeated the topic. In fact I did change it quite a bit because further information had come to light since September, not least the puzzle about the appearance of the celebrated French pianist and composer Cécile Chaminade in Ipswich.



Cécile Chaminade, distinguished French composer and pianist. Credit: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

Chaminade was born in Paris in 1857 began composing at the tender age of 8 and her compositions were applauded by Bizet. She gave piano recitals and made her first visit to England in 1892. Like many composer-pianists such as Chopin, Mendelssohn and Liszt she toured widely. The point of all this is that I had seen an old postcard of the Ancient House in Ipswich with a billboard outside advertising a recital by Chaminade who had become a celebrated artiste. I frustratingly could not find the source of the postcard before

the September lecture, but it only took a few hours after its finish for IAA member, Ann Cloke to send me a copy.



The Ancient House, Ipswich with billboard advertising a concert. Credit: Public domain

Chaminade found Paris too noisy and much preferred London. Well Gene Kelly certainly contributed to the noise in Paris with *An American in Paris* which has been my “good feel” CD of the week with a reissue of the Very Best of Gene Kelly – 23 songs that have become part of the Hollywood legend such as *I Got Rhythm*, *Broadway Melody* and *Almost being in love*. Of course, *An American in Paris* is there as is *Singin’ in the Rain*. A great disc for banishing any current blues (Alto ALN 1974).

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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