

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

What a choice of topics this week – well even more if one includes last week’s budget statement and the impact that may have on so-called “cultural” activities. So, what is it to be Guy Fawkes and his conspirators, or the Presidential elections? Actually, neither. Instead, I have been prompted by the fact that the Ipswich Jazz and Blues Club will be joining Ipswich Arts Association which means that nearly 50 organisations from across Suffolk are now in membership. Ipswich Jazz and Blues meets at Venue 16 Tuddenham Road, Ipswich.

The next gig is on Sunday 10 November when *Pete Long Salutes Benny Goodman*. Doors open at 2pm with a 2.30pm start, and to book, phone 07732 022 396 or via the website (www.ipswichjazzandblues.com) – and that leads me neatly to reminiscence of the time when I nearly interviewed Benny Goodman. I was at Snape Maltings waiting to do a radio interview with the winner of a major singing competition. Competition over, I escorted her to the Green Room where I had set up my equipment to record the interview, only to find a man sleeping on the couch. He had not been there 30 minutes earlier, and when I approached the Stage Manager, she threw up her hands and exclaimed “Please don’t wake him!”. What was so special about him? Well, it was Benny Goodman, so here I was in the same room with one of the world’s greatest jazz musicians and not able to interview him. Ironically, the biopic about him was also being screened on television that afternoon.



*Duke Ellington.
Credit: Tulane University.*

So, my current distraction led me to concentrate on another famous jazz musician – Duke Ellington. A concert I am conducting later this month includes some of his music. In anticipation of that event, I put on a CD, *Tribute to Duke Ellington* in which Daniel Barenboim steps down from the rostrum and plays the piano with other artists who, together provide 15 great arrangements of standards such as *Mood Indigo*, *In a Sentimental Mood* and *Take the ‘A’ train* (Teldec 3984-25252).

I have a neighbour who keeps bees. However, that should make me all the more of this “superorganism” which is the subject of the Ipswich Town Lecture on Thursday 14 November. Jeremy Quinlan is the Guest Speaker. He has been keeping bees since 1985, and is President of the Suffolk Beekeepers’ Association. This unusual talk is scheduled to start at 1pm at Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich. Admission is free with a retiring collection. And from swarms, to human gatherings and the Annual General Meeting of Ipswich Arts Association which is taking place by Zoom on Friday 8 November. Following the business part of the meeting, there will be a presentation and launch of the new IAA website which should certainly contribute to the publicity options for member societies.

The following day, give a thought to the Band and Corps of Drums Display Team from the Royal Hospital School. Members will be taking part in the Lord Mayor’s Show in London which starts at 11am from the Royal Courts of Justice through to Mansion House.



Royal Hospital School members of the Corps of Drums. Credit: RHS.

The following day, the school will host a Remembrance Service in the RHS Chapel with a service at 9.45am followed by the spectacle of Divisions on the parade Ground at 11am in support of the school’s chosen charity, the Greenwich Hospital. As is customary, there will be

such services throughout the region, but the one that I always felt brought me closer to my ancestors is that held in Christchurch Park on Sunday 10 November. As usual there will be a parade to the park starting from Elm Street at 10am.



RHS Chapel. Credit: RHS.

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