

COMMUNITY NEWS - Tuesday 9 July 2024

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

There I was: standing quietly by my gate waiting for a friend to give me a lift when this elderly gentleman limped past. He nodded and made some remark about the weather, and a parting comment said to me: "I see you're like me living in God's waiting room". Well, I was not really ready for such Black humour having witnessed Joe Biden's participation in the previous week's debate and remembering that I am older than him. But in the expectation that I am not where this gentleman said we were, I hope to be back in rehearsal again this week when amongst the orchestral works we shall be rehearsing Sir Malcolm Arnold's *Padstow Lifeboat March*, written when he was living in Cornwall, and as a tribute to the crew.

Arnold spent his later years in God's waiting room in Norfolk, and the last time I saw him was in the audience at a concert I was conducting at Snape Maltings. His music lives on and I was conducting his wonderful English dances. Many critics have now come to the realisation that Arnold was one of our greatest twentieth-century composers capable of creating masterworks in many genres. A recent Naxos CD brings together five of his lesser-known orchestral works including Concertos for cello, flute and saxophone. Amongst the luminaries involved in this recording is Nicholas Ward who directs two of the performances. Nicholas is a frequent visitor to Felixstowe where some of his family live and is a member of Champagne String Quartet (Naxos 8.5726-40).

It is 24 years since the Ipswich Town Lectures were launched and this Thursday Felixstowe-based Janet Dann will be talking about *Ronnie Blythe in his own words*. The 50-minute session starts at 1pm at Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich and admission is free with a retiring collection. Janet is always an entertaining speaker, and this talk should attract a capacity audience.

A new free exhibition *An Eye For Life: Photography by John Ferguson* which celebrates portraiture, identity, and home has opened at Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich. John Ferguson is an internationally established documentary, lifestyle, and portrait photographer who lives in Ipswich. His images tell stories which are approachable and intimate. This will be the first exhibition to showcase John's photography in Suffolk and explore his past career, with highlights including his work as a senior photographer for a leading national newspaper.

Presenting portrait projects that John has worked on over the years, the exhibition will feature Ipswich's newly acquired Black Suffolk photographic portraits, funded by The Art Fund and The Friends of the Ipswich Museums. The series of 20 photographic portraits creatively explores the concept of home for a diversity of people from the African-Caribbean community who were born in the county or

who have made Suffolk their home. The exhibition also covers John's work with celebrities like Oasis and the Spice Girls. Entry to the exhibition is free and it remains open until 27 April 2025.



*John Ferguson: Black Britannia.
Credit: John Ferguson.*

I have mentioned these before, but I will again- the Ipswich Town Walks which take place on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons starting from the Ipswich Institute in Tavern Street at 2pm. Today's Walk is entitled *Martyrs and victims*, whilst Thursday's is called, *I have never seen that before*. Typically, the cost per person for each walk is £5 with a Blue Badge Guide. For more information, visit the Ipswich Institute website which give details of all the walks during July.



Martyr's Memorial, Christchurch Park, Ipswich. Credit: Stuart Grimwade.

So to one of our smaller museums in Braintree which has won a major accreditation award by the Arts Council England. Accreditation is the benchmark for well-run Museums and Galleries. It means that both Braintree Museum and Warner Textile Archive are properly managed and governed to the nationally agreed industry standard and shows the Trust takes proper care of its collections, sharing them with visitors and keeping them safe for future generations.



Staff of Braintree Museum. Credit: Braintree Museum Trust.

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