



Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will this year be held online after the service on Sunday 8th November.

Three Trustees will be retiring this year – Ann Baeppler (Chair), Riena Jackson (Secretary) and Andrew Gibbs (Treasurer). They have done sterling work over the years of their service, especially during the Restoration Project for our Meeting House. They have certainly earned a good rest and the gratitude of all our congregation.

Three members (Robert Waller; John Stevens; Tessa Forsdike) have been proposed for election as Trustees and we hope that as many members as possible will stay for the meeting after the service to support them.

Robert Waller writes –

I have attended the Ipswich meeting since 1974 when I was appointed organist and have been a loyal attender since. In 1989 I was involved in a 24hr marathon on the organ to raise funds for the much-needed work to rid the Meeting House of

the death watch beetle. I did a recital celebrating 40 years at the Meeting House and subsequently have been involved in organising annual musical events. In 2019 I did an organ recital as part of a series of fund-raising events.

I was married in the Meeting House to Hottensiah who encouraged me to become a member. I have missed coming to the Meeting House and look forward to returning soon. I'm also looking forward to being nominated as a Trustee and hope I can fill the role with enthusiasm.



John Stevens has been a member and supporter of the Meeting House for some time and has recently contributed by leading services for us. His personal contribution did not arrive in time for publication, but he will be leading the service again on 1st November. The photo shows John with his daughters before his service in the Meeting House in February this year just before we closed for the restoration work to start.

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Tessa Forsdike writes –

I have been an attender and then member of the Meeting House congregation for over 30 years. I have been editor of this newsletter since September 2015 and have been actively involved in the fundraising efforts for the Restoration Project, both in writing grant applications and organising events such as the Music on the Green and Classics & Cream Tea. I am committed to the ethos of Unitarianism and to supporting our congregation and our Meeting House. As a past Trustee, I am now ready to offer myself for consideration again.



Tessa with husband David

Membership Secretary

After many years fulfilling the role of Membership Secretary, Carol Gibbs has decided that the time has come to stand down. Would you be willing to serve our Meeting House community in this way? If you'd like more details of what is involved, Carol would be happy to fill you in.

Contact her on carol.linda.gibbs@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officers

We have two Safeguarding Officers for our Community – a man and a woman. Recently Malcolm Hawes has resigned from the position and we thank him for his support over the years. Daniele Falcinelli has agreed to take on the role alongside Tessa Forsdike. If anyone is concerned about the safety of anybody connected to our Meeting House or would like to discuss a concern, please contact either of the officers.

Birthdays in November

Happy birthday to Hilary Hamilton on 11th

; Franklin Bradbrook on 21st and to Mathilda

Extinction Rebellion

Adam Whybray, a member of our congregation, was accused of aggravated trespass for taking part in an Extinction Rebellion protest targeting a Shell garage in Cambridge earlier this year. Adam's charge of Aggravated Trespass was dismissed from court. All charges were dropped. Adam's intent in protesting against Shell was to draw attention to their unethical practices and contribution to the climate and ecological crises.

Making us Laugh

Rosemary Hamilton found this song online and thought it would bring a smile if not a laugh. Apparently her husband Ivan knew all the words and those of us who remember him fondly will be able to imagine him singing it in his Irish accent. If you would like to hear it, then search online at – <https://www.johnderbyshire.com/Readings/lifegetstejus.html>

*Sun comes up and the sun goes down.
The hands on the clock keep goin' around.
I just get up an' it's time to lay down.
Life gets teejus, don't it?*

*My shoe's untied but I don't really care.
I ain't a-figurin' on goin' nowhere.
I'd have to wash an' comb my hair.
That's just wasted effort.*

*Water in the well's gettin' lower an' lower.
Can't take a bath for six months or more
But I've heard it said, and it's true I'm sure,
That too much bathin'll weaken' you.*

*I open the door an' the flies swarm in.
I shut the door an' I'm sweatin' again.
I move too fast an' I crack my shin.
Just one durn thing after t'other.*

*My old brown mule, he must be sick.
I jabbed him in the rump with a pin on a stick.
He humped his back, but he wouldn't kick.
There's somethin' cockeyed somewhere.*

There's a mouse a-chawin' on the pantry door.

*He's been at it for at least a month or more.
When he gets through there he's sure goin' to be
sore.*

[Chuckles] There ain't a darn thing in there.

*Hound dog howlin', he's so folorn.
Laziest dog that ever was born.
He's howlin' 'cause he's a-sittin' on a thorn —
Just too tired to move over.*

*Tin roof leaks an' the chimney leans.
There's a hole in the seat of my ol' blue jeans.
An' I've et the last of them pork an' beans.
Jus' can't depend on nuthin'.*

*Cow's gone dry an' the hens won't lay.
Fish quit bitin' last Saturday.
Troubles pile up, day by day —
Now I'm gettin' dandruff.*

*Grief an' misery, pains an' woes.
Debts an' taxes, an' so it goes.
And I think I'm gettin' a cold in the nose ...
A-choo! Ah, life gets tasteless, don't it?*

East Anglian Unitarian Women's Group

At our last meeting held on Zoom on the 6th October, it was decided that future meetings on Zoom would be held monthly instead of bi-monthly. The next meeting, hosted by Helaina Checketts, Octagon Chapel, Norwich, will be held on Tuesday 3rd November, 10.30 for an 11am start. The topic under discussion is *'Unobservable mysteries'*, a quotation from Mary Oliver's poem 'Fall Song'. The EAUWG is open to women belonging to or regularly attending a Unitarian place of worship in East Anglia or is a member of the National Unitarian Fellowship. If you wish to know more about the group or would like to attend the meetings, please contact Linda King tel: 01473 712366 email: lindapendal@gmail.com

Tom Hunt MP visits the Meeting House



The photo shows Tom Hunt with Mark Frankis (Foreman for Valiant); Trustees Paulette Reed; Linda King; Ann Baeppler and Andrew Gibbs.

The DECMS (Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport) had alerted Tom Hunt to the major grant awarded to us by Historic England. He was keen to find out about the why's & wherefores, so requested a visit. On a wet and windy 27th October, four Trustees met with him and his agent Dominic to show him the building and to explain more about the restoration. (Sadly our Property Manager Phil Chatfield, whose report had set the restoration wheels in motion and Tessa Forsdike who has done so much towards fundraising were not able to join us.)

Having had our temperatures checked and filled in a Covid form, the contractors allowed us into the building. Tom Hunt's reaction was similar to that of so many who enter the Meeting House for the first time, which was something akin to "WOW" - even though the interior didn't look at its most resplendent with polythene sheeting covering so much. He stayed for around a half hour and was impressed with the history and use of the building and to find out that it had been used continuously for worship ever since its opening in 1700. He said he was pleasantly surprised that such an historic building exists in the town.

He wished us well, saying he would be prepared to write in support of any further grant applications and that he'd very much look forward to coming to our opening event when the work is all finished.

Harvest

At our Harvest service on 11th October, Cliff's prayer was read to the delight of all -

ON THE THIRD DAY – A ROLL CALL OF THE FRUITS OF THE EARTH

'And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after its kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.' (Genesis 1: 12-13)

Bring Apples to the Harvest Table, and Apricots; and, with a whiff of salt- fish on a tropical breeze, bring Ackees and Almonds.

Bring Bananas and Breadfruit, Blackberries and Blueberries, Barley and Black-eyed peas – and, from the shrinking rainforest, bring Brazils.

Let there be Cabbage on the Harvest Table, and Currants – red, white, and black; Chestnuts for an autumn fireside, Cranberries, Carrots, Cauliflowers and Cashews. And Conkers, for their beauty and their memories. Bring Dill, Dates and Damsons; Elderflower cordial and Elderflower wine; Figs and long-forgotten Fat-hen and Feverfew.

Bring Ginger and Gooseberries, Grapes and Grapefruit, Gherkins and Gunga-peas.

Find a place for Hazelnuts; for Hops and Hips and Haws; for I-tal Illalu and Iceberg lettuce; Jackfruit and Juniper. Bring Kiwi fruit and Kale; Lemons, Limes and luscious Lychees.

With thanksgiving, bring Marrows and Melons, Maize, Mint and Mushrooms; even Nettles, neglected and reviled but good for us and for butterflies.

Oranges and Olives, Onions and Oats all have their place; and Plums and Plantains, Pears and Peaches, Peppers and Parsley, Potatoes and Pistachios.

Bring Quince, Bring Raspberries and Rice, Rosemary – for remembrance – and Runner beans.

Put Strawberries on the table and Starfruit; Spinach (to make us strong!), Soya and Sugar – both beet and cane. Bring Turnips and Tangerines; Thyme and even Truffles (if you can find them!)

Bring Ugly fruit; holy Vervain and fragrant Valerian; Walnuts, Wheat and Watercress.

Xeranthemum, for eternity, takes its place at the table and, for mortality, autumn leaves, golden with Xanthophyll.

Bring Yams – and Zinnias, to represent the flowers!

Let us give thanks for this Harvest Table, groaning but far from complete, and all that God found good on the Third Day.

This is from Cliff's last book *'Caravan of Lamps'*. He is pleased to announce that the Lindsey Press has confirmed that they will publish his next book of prayers, meditations and words for reflection, entitled *'Sunlit Smoke'* in 2021.



Riena Jackson collected donations of food of all sorts to take to the Women's Refuge as our Harvest collection. The photo above shows the boxes about to be loaded into her car. She says – 'I took them today and it was a treat to see their absolute surprise and delight. Four women came down with their children and were just so excited. Fantastic!'

Claire Johnson also brought our attention to the Foodsavvy Project which encourages us to avoid food waste. Households in Suffolk (and Norfolk) waste on average up to £730 of edible food each year. You will find details on the following link <https://www.foodsavvy.org.uk/>

Poetry Group

On Thursday 26th November at 2pm we will look at Paul Durcan, an Irish poet. All are welcome to join the discussions – contact Riena Jackson to be sent the Zoom link for the meeting.

mjack76748@aol.com

Update from our Property Manager

Dear Members, I am pleased to report that work on the Meeting House refurbishment is now progressing towards completion. The new lime plaster is drying out and carbonising, a process which has to be monitored and completed properly if the new plastered walls are to give us many years of protection. While this is going on, the new lime wash painting is advancing, providing a breathable finish to our walls. See photo of the painter working the lime wash assisted by fine water spray.



The roof is near completion with the good news that the corner arris tiles are now fired and on site, allowing the hipped ends of the roof to be completed. Internally, Mark the site foreman has been carefully restoring the wall panelling where the structural work was carried out, work which will remain hidden from view, much in the same way that the structural defects remained hidden until we dug around and realised the need for repair.

The damaged windows have been beautifully repaired, retaining all our lovely old glass and only adding matching glass to areas which had broken. The lead work in the windows has been cleaned and refurbished, with the windows at all levels now looking their best. Another lead worker has made lead flashings to protect the windows, carrying out his work with the other trades to ensure weather tight junctions above and around both the square and circular windows.

With the work moving towards completion on the building, we are now turning our attention to the



access and are planning to re-landscape the front forecourt to allow easy access for all to the Meeting House and improving the currently lumpy surface. We will also be laying drainage and a water supply to the building in readiness for the proposed new toilet within the porch area. At the same time, fire protection work has been installed; compartmenting the roof space along with a special fire detection system being installed to give early warning should a fire start within the building when unoccupied. We are also fine tuning the toilet layout to suit all users. There is still much to do to fulfil our obligations to Historic England, including having a maintenance and fire prevention operations plans in place. Nonetheless, we can now see light at the end of the tunnel and the Meeting House building is looking great. This will help I'm sure in attracting more people to our congregation in the future. Thank you all for playing your various parts in bringing this important work towards completion.

Kind regards to you all, Phil Chatfield, your Property Manager.

Fundraising Good News

In the last month we have heard from two of our grant applications and are extremely grateful to the [Alfred Williams Charitable Trust](#) for their donation of £3,000 and to the [Suffolk Historic Churches Trust](#) for their second donation (this time towards the toilet installation) of £3,000. We are checking how much remains to be raised – we are almost there!

Meeting House Doors

The Trustees were invited to choose the colour to paint the exterior doors of the Meeting House – after some consideration they chose an original colour. In the photo you can see the mocked-up picture to get an idea of how they will look -



Previously the doors were painted blue and Dee de Roche tells us that in the Amish community in Pennsylvania, a blue door is a sign that there is an eligible daughter living there ...

Services in November

Thank you to all volunteers who are offering their services to cover our online Zoom services during these challenging times – and to Linda King who is co-ordinating them.

Here are the service leaders for November –

1st John Stevens - Ipswich Unitarians. (London)

8th Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus. Ipswich.

Remembrance Sunday. **Meeting House AGM to follow the service**

15th Ali Mercer. Ipswich Unitarians. (Devon)

22nd Tristan Jovanović. Kensington Unitarians.

29th Margaret Robinson. Stockton Unitarians.

As part of Linda King's service on 18th October, we had a film of a young woman signing to the hymn 'Spirit of Life'. If you want to learn the same ways of signing this, [GoogleYouTubeSolpart3HowtosignSpiritofLife](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Solpart3HowtosignSpiritofLife)

Pastoral Care

During this time without a Minister, Ann Baepler has volunteered to be a resource for people who may need to talk through a problem or who need some pastoral support. Please contact her on 01473 327089 or annbaepler@gmail.com in full confidentiality.



Above you will see a photo of our volunteers during the Ride and Stride event in September. In total our riders and striders raised £800 for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust – of which £400 will be returned to us. Thank you to all. Despite the extra challenges from the Covid restrictions, SHCT hope to raise approximately £100,000 – which will compare well with last year's £130,000. It can take many months for all the funds raised to reach the Treasurer.

Book Group

We next meet (via Zoom) on Thursday 19th November at 7pm and will be discussing *Homo Faber* by Max Frisch. All welcome to join us – just ask Tessa for the link – tessa@tessajordan.co.uk

Disclaimer –

We welcome contributions from all members and friends of our congregation. Views expressed in the articles are those of the individual and not necessarily those of our congregation or of our Unitarian community

Contacts Contributions PLEASE for the next newsletter to Tessa before the deadline of Wednesday 25th November by email to ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS

To contact our Secretary, Riena Jackson, ring 01473 210064/email mjack76748@aol.com
Website – www.unitarianipswich.com

Thought for the month

I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small my mind could comprehend it. *Harry Emerson Fosdick, American Pastor. (1878 -1969)*