



New babies

We welcome two babies to our community—



Paulette and Cliff's great grandson Niall Bradley King born 06/10/24 at 32 weeks 5days, weighing 5lb 4oz, baby of Jiorja Reed and Brad King.

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Also Robert and Hottensiah Waller's great grandchild Wanjiku – baby of Janet and James Gathungo.



We congratulate the families and welcome these new lives.

Ghost Stories – readings from M.R.James

Our thanks go to Adam Whybray for his readings on Friday 25th October to raise funds for Brave Futures. A successful evening which raised over £147 and was enjoyed by all – this is now an annual event!

Malcolm Hawes 17th June 1938 to 24th September 2024

Malcolm's funeral was held in the Meeting House on Saturday 26th October. The building was full and several people also joined on Zoom. Afterwards we shared memories of a special friend at the Sir Bobby Robson Suite at Ipswich Town Football Club – a place dear to Malcolm's heart.

Here too are some reflections about Malcolm –

Cliff Reed introduced the service –

On behalf of Malcolm's family I welcome you to this service of celebration and thanksgiving for his life – a life of service and of love. I also welcome you on behalf of the Unitarian congregation whose Meeting House this is. It was Malcolm's spiritual home for many years and it was here, from the 1980s, that he regularly joined in worship with the faith community of which he was a beloved and much valued member, playing his part with enthusiasm in so many ways. There are, indeed, so many memories of Malcolm's contribution here. And there are fond memories of him in other places where our fellowship took its quest for truth and insight, often with Malcolm in the vanguard, such as Israel, The Netherlands – which was especially dear to him - and Switzerland – where I remember him pushing the wheelchair of a disabled American scholar round Geneva's steep historic streets on the trail of Michael Servetus. These memories, and so many, many more we cherish, and others here will have memories of Malcolm in other settings – as a work colleague, a tennis-player, a football fan, a Christian CNDer, a carol-singer, a neighbour, and a Morris dancer! Who can forget him dancing here with Lagabag at our Christmas carol services! And none will have more cherished memories than Sandra, Mark and Gerrie, and to them and to the other members of the family, we extend our love and sympathy, and our thanks for all they did for him in his last days. We are grateful that his death

was a good death, and that he was able to end his days with dignity, with clarity and even with his characteristic sense of humour. He has now passed into the Great Mystery where, in faith, we believe that all that he was will continue to serve the divine purpose and to bless us and this world - as he did in his long, fruitful and honourable life. In our grief and loss let us find cause to give thanks that we knew him and to celebrate his part in our lives. Welcome to this celebration.



Some personal memories of Malcolm Hawes -

For over 40 years Malcolm has, in a way, been part of my life! He came to Saxmundham as Senior Social Worker to the team where I was working, A caring, questioning man, he never appeared to 'lead from the front', instead, working to imbibe a team cohesion in what was a very disparate group of female workers, I know he was glad when he was able to employ a male worker to the team! Malcolm's care toward his staff was second to none; he was prepared to remain in the office or join a worker on a difficult visit if required. He knew his staff and was very supportive of them in their work. Not only in 'their work'; I'll always be grateful to him that without question, permission was granted for me to drop what I was doing on several occasions when my mother was terminally ill in hospital, even though it resulted in a lot of extra work for him.

If Malcolm was approached for advice his role as

Memories of Malcolm – continued

devil's advocate came to the fore & he would encourage us to look at a problem or question in other ways.

Having Malcolm as 'the boss' we worked hard but he was always fair & ensured we had 'down time' and fun as well.

Running past me across the Sandlings on a fund raising coastal run; Sandra & Malcolm pedalling away on the SHCT bike rides; acting the fool in a blonde wig and dress in our team's 'drama' production at the Christmas party; pub lunches; chairing meetings; standing ground in meetings, firm that decisions made were in the best interests of all involved, In the Meeting House, trustee meetings, washing up, all things, where I see Malcolm & remember him.

To quote words by Kate Bowler; *'Whether it is our parents, our teachers, friends, churches or neighbours, people have been pouring into us ...'* for me, Malcolm has been one of those people. Although at times he could be quite infuriating, his example as a caring and fair human being, a man of strong principles, faith and a questioning spirit he will be much missed from daily life and memories of Malcolm will last a long time.

Linda King

We were saddened to hear of Malcolm's death.

He, and Sandra, were always very helpful and supportive to us – lending us a dining table and other furniture when we set up home together. A particular memory is of when we were scheduled to pick up a relative from Stansted airport and Ray was suddenly hospitalised with a problem following a hernia operation and Sheila was anxious about driving to Stansted on her own. Malcolm immediately offered to act as chauffeur much to the amazement of the arriving relative who thought that Sheila had a new boyfriend!

Malcolm was a regular attender at the Framsdon rambles that we organised in the past and was always interested in Sheila's activities in the 'Folk'

community.

We enjoyed the circle suppers sometimes held at his home and the delicious mince pies he and Sandra provided at the Meeting House each winter.

Ray particularly remembers the encouragement and support he received from Malcolm when he trained for Lay Pastorship and took on Framlingham and Bedfield chapels.

Since moving to France we have been rather out of touch and some of these memories are from the distant past, though doubtless Malcolm would have remembered them.

Ray & Sheila Seal

Dear Malcolm. A warm and friendly man, always ready for a chat.

My memory and it always makes me smile. After a congregational meal, Malcolm would appear from the kitchen where he had been clearing up and say ... right now, hands up for tea and then hands up for coffee. Just to make sure I've got that right, and no-one has changed their mind, can we do that again!

He was right - someone had always changed their mind ... Rosemary Hamilton

After I had become a member of Ipswich UMH it was Malcolm that proposed that I should be a trustee of the meeting.

Not long after, I was involved with putting Christmas tree inside the Meeting House. Malcolm organised the purchase and delivery. We would agree a date and Malcolm, Sandra and I put the tree up.

Malcolm insisted that the tree would be 9ft tall. The tree would be put into a bucket of sand then fixed in place with house bricks.

Once in place Malcolm would insist that it was secured with orange string tied on parts of the surrounding parts of the furniture. I suggested that maybe a couple of bits would do? Malcolm insisted that he needed more! After putting up the tree we would go and have coffee and cake in the nearby cafe. Robert Waller

Memories of Malcolm – continued

It was through my recent association with the Unitarian Meeting House, that I heard of the Diamond Wedding celebrations of a certain Malcolm and Sandra Hawes. Was this THE Malcolm Hawes, the distant cousin for whom I had been searching? Yes, indeed it was.

As soon as introductions had been made (and my own health permitted), Susan and I were cordially invited to Corder Road. Malcolm was as fascinated as I was to exchange reminiscences of mutually-known people, for example: Malcolm's Aunt Dulcie, whom I had known in the 1950s when accompanying my mother to a smart dress shop of which, I believe, Dulcie was the manageress. Also, in the 1950s, I just remembered Malcolm's grandfather, Harry Pollard, with whom my parents exchanged Christmas cards. Having moved from Stowmarket (where I grew up) in 1970, to attend Reading University (where I met Susan) and then to Derbyshire where I taught for many years, I had almost no contact with Ipswich. Since I began family history research in 1985, Malcolm's branch was the only one I hadn't managed to 'find'. Malcolm was well enough to follow my excited family ramblings. With the occasional comment and question, and with huge support from Sandra, we managed to complete a picture, as it were. Though I could not discern a reaction from facial expression, I was very much aware of his enthusiasm for, and keen interest in what I had to offer. He set me the task of discovering the precise identity of someone called Lizzie Oxe, which I just managed to do, earlier this year. Malcolm was astonished. And so was I.

[For those of an equally enquiring mind, Hannah Elizabeth Oxe was a relative by marriage, born in Shelland, Suffolk, in 1873....and died in Ipswich, in 1965.]

Tonie Pollard

Words to describe Malcolm – kind, caring, welcoming, fun, mischievous and loving. We will miss him.

Tessa Forsdike

I cannot remember exactly the first time we met, but from photographs I've been able to deduce it must have been sometime in the early to mid 1980s when we went on CCND marches – Christians Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Shortly afterwards they (Malcolm, Sandra, Mark, and Gerrie) started coming to services. Malcolm, Malcolm, Malcolm! When I was asked to do a tribute I hesitated. In the words of Monty Python's *Life of Brian* Malcolm "was a very naughty boy"! He could say things with a double meaning (and the French have a word for that) leading us into fits of laughter.

Another side to Malcolm, once fully immersed in the life of the Meeting he would never ask "Is there anything I can do?", "Can I do this or that for you?" Instead he would say "Let me help". What a difference that makes. Malcolm served the congregation as a Trustee, and for a number of years took on the responsibility for providing and putting up a Christmas tree which we would then decorate for our Carol Service. You have Morecambe and Wise, cheese and biscuit, and Malcolm and Sandra; individuals in their own right but shared plenty together.

In 2005 when I was going to Jamaica to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of my mum, Malcolm and Sandra accompanied me and it was a great comfort to have them with me, after all Malcolm's jokes about going to different countries in the Caribbean. There were lots of tears but we also had fun.

But my abiding memory of Malcolm involves a raincoat! Not any old raincoat. On a family holiday a few years ago, and it was raining. There was this retro boutique named Granny Wouldn't Like It, and I bought a trendy clear plastic raincoat. Back in Ipswich on a rainy day, arriving at the Meeting House wearing my raincoat Malcolm was at the door, he was laughing...and when I got near enough he said he thought he was seeing a giant condom walking up the path!!! I soon got rid of my raincoat. More recently I was up in Yorkshire, rain; I saw a similar raincoat and bought it, all the while thinking I hope Malcolm doesn't see me wearing this.

If I have to use one word to describe Malcolm, that word would be KIND.

Safe journey, friend!

Paulette Reed

India Fund

Several months ago, I wondered whether the General Assembly was associated to any charities in some way, and then remembered the India Fund - the GA acts as a financial go-between. So I decided to write about it for The Associate, as it may not be known to many Associate Members.

I knew the Women's League (WL) runs The India Fund as their charity, so I wrote to Janet Poole, Women's League Secretary and India Fund Treasurer to ask her about it. Then co- incidentally The India Fund appeared in the September edition of Uni-News, in conjunction with giving money to North-East India Unitarians towards a new school. This co-incidence told me it was worth going ahead with this background to Associate Members.

Janet Poole responded by sending this account.

"The India Fund was initiated in 1937 by members of the Unitarian Women's League 'for promoting Unitarian interests in India, notably the work begun by the late Rev A. Margaret Barr, in the Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, Northern India'. A charity the League continues to support today. Donations to the India Fund come mainly from WL Branches and Districts. At the end of 2023 members of the WL were most concerned to learn that there was a significant amount, believed to be around £30,000 in the Fund, which had not been used for the purpose it was intended, i.e. to support projects in the Khasi Hills. A request from the Women's League was sent to the GA EC urging the release of the money to put towards a project to build a High School for Girls in Kharang."

I am happy to say that I read in the September issue of Uni-news:

"The EC are delighted to have made a significant donation from the GA India Fund to support the development of a Unitarian School in North East India. We look forward to sharing more news on this, and our thanks to the WL for their long-standing fundraising towards this fund, and to the Bowland Trust for support in connecting us with the School Project."

Rev Annie Margaret Barr, a Unitarian Minister, and a remarkable woman, had a very interesting, if hard life, which she wrote of in her book, 'A Dream Come True – The Story of Kharang'. Information is also

available by typing Margaret's name into Google.

The Women's League (WL) is committed to continuing to raise funds for the India Fund; however, with a decline in membership and Branches closing, donations are also in decline. Any donations from our wider Unitarian family would be most welcome and gratefully received. Cheques should be made payable to: General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches, and sent to myself: Janet Poole, 9, Pennington Mews, Leigh, WN7 3TX. Janet added that the WL looks forward to hearing of the progress of the Girl's High School, and hopefully to being able to support further projects in the Khasi Hills.

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Also mentioned in that Uni-News was a name – the Bowland Trust. I decided to follow this up and contacted Tony Cann who told me that the Bowland Charitable Trust has been involved with Meghalaya for many years, particularly with the Unitarian schools set up by Margaret Barr in the Khasi Hills. Volunteers go out every year to give help where necessary. For the past three years, a new system of learning, called Learning by Question has been introduced in the primary schools and is about to be introduced into the Margaret Barr High School, which the India Fund money will help to fund. He also mentioned John Hewerdine, the well-known photographer at many Assembly Meetings and I wrote to him. John has visited the Khasi Hills and the Margaret Barr High School on a number of occasions over the years, and on his last visit, described how the school had received no money for maintenance and looked to be in need of it. He hopes that this donation from the India Fund, run by the Women's League, will bring renewed interest and hopefully support by UK Unitarian congregations in the Indian Unitarian congregations and way of life.

I also happen to know of one congregation which was involved at the turn of the century, when there was an appeal to build the Margaret Barr High School. Ipswich responded and donated money for five years.

I would be interested to know if any Associate Member knows any more about the Fund and how it has been used in the past. There's lots of information in the GA's Margaret Barr Worship Pack -

<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Margaret-Barr-Worship-Resource-Pack.pdf>

Rosemary Ruston

## **Ipswich Connections to the India Fund**

As Rosemary mentions in her article, for at least five years, we in Ipswich supported the school in Shillong which Margaret Barr started and in 2007 Tessa and David Forsdike visited. Here are some photos –



## **Amnesty Appeal**

Ipswich Amnesty supporters call for the release of software developer and writer Alaa Abdel Fattah unjustly imprisoned in Egypt. His sentence has just been extended by two years as the authorities refuse to count his two year pre-trial detention as part of his sentence. He has already spent 10 years in prison and has missed his son Khaled growing up.

Jenny Brabazon



The photo includes Deputy Mayor, Lynne Mortimer and Tom Davies, Priority Campaign Manager from Amnesty UK.

Jenny Brabazon was interviewed on BBC Radio Suffolk on 4<sup>th</sup> October between 7.40 and 7.42. Also, there is an article online which features the Meeting House thanksgiving on BBC Suffolk:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2ln789xw0yo>

## **The C word and Bits & Bobs.**

After the service on the 1st December in the Hall there will be a Bits & Bobs table for all the new and unwanted gifts received during the year, home-made decorations and the nearly new items which are good enough to be recycled as Christmas gifts. As is our custom, no prices will be put on the items. All monies raised will go to the Meeting's chosen charity.



## Launching a Poetry Group

Inspired by the Ipswich Poetry group, Marianna Michell decided to launch one in Cambridge -

Some months ago I had been welcomed by Ipswich Unitarians' poetry group to attend their zoom session, to support my idea of doing something on poetry, with Cambridge Unitarians. I was impressed by the Ipswich group's quite deep and authentic responses to the poetry read that day, revealing a level of openness and trust.

During July, I circulated via Cambridge Unitarians news of an in-person group which initially would meet at my flat due to its fairly central position. Those who responded were in walking or cycling distance. We took as theme, *'Short poems - what they can pack in!'*

We agreed upon a monthly gathering and the second time, we gathered at another member's home, where two others including a Scottish member, appeared. This time, our theme was *'What themes do we return to, when we write or read poetry?'*

At our third session, we agreed to meet at Cambridge Unitarian Church in the common room, it being equidistant for most people who had shown interest thus far. Our theme was *'Rhyme/Rhythm - or not?'* By that point it had become clear that three regulars are poetry writers, with another member researching her father's wonderful sonnets.

Session 4 took place also in the Common Room and as there was a nip in the air, we searched out a heater, and the topic was, *'Why do we write seasonal poetry?'* By this point, the congregation's What'sApp group yielded a Haiku from someone who could not attend.

This was duly included in that session, and here is Elizabeth Buie's haiku:

*« Again they bring chill,*

*Geese in archetypal V,*

*Unzipping the sky. »*

Marianna Michell

## Ipswich Poetry Group

The group usually meets on the last Thursday of the month and for details please contact Ann Baeppler [annbaeppler@gmail.com](mailto:annbaeppler@gmail.com) or Riena Jackson [rienajackson@icloud.com](mailto:rienajackson@icloud.com).

## Ipswich CAN

Hello everyone,

A lot has happened since our last message.

We have a new national government, and it was heartening to see a significant and increased vote for green issues (especially in Suffolk), despite many people feeling they needed to vote tactically.

Most importantly though, we have a Premier League football team 😊 which is helping to inject some positivity into our town - and got us some new rubbish bins ...

So, let's ride this improving mood of optimism to see if we can move the intractable Ipswich and Suffolk councils to discharge their legal obligations after 20 years of obfuscation, misdirection and telling big fibs.

Following a request for views on removing an Air Quality Management Area (email at end), Tony Horner represented us on Gen-x radio Suffolk with IBC councillor John Cook. About 1 hour 25 mins in <https://www.merlinsoftware.co.uk/radio/listen/playe.r.asp?showid=17753>

Interesting that John indicated he was ready to work with us to gain our knowledge and ideas. Come on, let's be positive that isn't just another brush off and we won't hear from him again ☺

From our conversations with you, we believe that gaining Truthfulness is our next step. We're going to achieve this through formal public council meetings we will keep asking the right questions until eventually we get an acknowledgment of legal obligation to act.

Please get in contact if you are willing to ask questions (we will create them together) – either just written questions or combined with personal attendance at these meetings.

As usual if you have any further ideas please get in touch.

Regards,

Chris Armstrong For [www.ipswichcan.org](http://www.ipswichcan.org)

## The Trinity Players

present

# Gaslight

14, 15 and 16 November at 19:30

An entertaining Victorian play  
which is the origin of the term  
'gaslighting'.

**Felixstowe Methodist Church @ Trinity,  
Hamilton Road / Orwell Road,  
Felixstowe, IP11 7AN**

**Tickets are £10 from Anne and Ian on  
07780 702099 or on the door.**

*In support of Lighthouse Women's Aid*

### Sad news

We often saw Robin with his three-legged rescue dog, Sansan, walking through our courtyard and resting in the gallery when we visited.



IN MEMORIAM

2008 - 2024

Sansan was an integral part of my life from May 2015. She came to work with me every day and was always popular with customers. Sadly I took the decision with a heavy heart but it was necessary. She will be sorely missed and forever in my heart.

Robin

**Christmas by Candlelight** – readings by Bob Allen from Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' and other festive delights – on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 5pm - £12 (£10 for Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House). Mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

### Services in November

3<sup>rd</sup> - Lynne Davies, The Octagon, Norwich.

10<sup>th</sup> - Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus, Ipswich  
Remembrance Day service followed by the  
Congregational AGM.

17<sup>th</sup> - Rev Margaret Kirk. Unitarian Minister (ret'd)  
Zoom service.

24<sup>th</sup> - Robert Waller, Ipswich Unitarians. St  
Cecelia's Day service.

### Birthdays in November

Happy birthday to Hilary Hamilton on 11<sup>th</sup> ; Erin  
Reed on 16<sup>th</sup> ; Franklyn Bradbrook on 21<sup>st</sup> and  
Matilda Hawes on 24<sup>th</sup>

### Humanitarian Appeal

The UK Government will match pound-for-pound up to  
£10 million donated by the public to this appeal,  
meaning your support will go even further.

[DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters  
Emergency Committee](#)

### Thought for the month

When you talk, you are only repeating what you  
already know. But if you listen, you may learn  
something new. - Dalai Lama

### 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  
Forsdike before the deadline of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
November, ideally by email to

[tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)

To contact our Secretary, ring 01473 728498 (or email  
[tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)) or ring our Treasurer Robert  
Waller on 01473 610723.