



## Cake and more cake!



Thanks go to Paula Chapman for opening her home on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July to serve tea, coffee and cake to raise funds for Suffolk Refugee Support, our nominated charity for this year. She raised a total of £273.87, which included £79.50 from the raffle. Thanks too to all those who donated prizes, made cake and came to eat it!



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Buddha. (563-483 BCE)

Believe nothing O monks, merely because you have been told it ... or because it is traditional, or because you yourself have imagined it. Do not believe what your teacher tells you merely out of respect for the teacher. But whatsoever, after due examination and analysis, you find to be conducive to the good, the benefit, the welfare of all beings - that doctrine believe and cling to and take it as your guide.

*The Dhammapada.*

*Thanks to Linda King for sending in this quote*

## Celebrating the Life of Phil Chatfield

15<sup>th</sup> August 1946 – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025



We held a special service of celebration on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July and welcomed Phil's friends and family to share their memories with us before all gathering for refreshments outside in the marquee. Two of the dogs came too. We remember Phil fondly.

Ali sent this message after the service –

*Could you pass on my thanks in the newsletter to everyone who made me, and my guests welcome at the celebration of Phil's life? Their assistance was much appreciated in helping make it a successful event. It was lovely to see everyone and to be back in a place which holds special memories for me. I will be sure to visit again as soon as I can.*

We look forward to welcoming Ali and friends in person and online on Zoom.

## Phil Chatfield

(read by Tessa Forsdike at the service on behalf of our congregation)

I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that without Phil's help, knowledge, experience and skills, this Meeting House in which we celebrate his life would still be suffering and its future would be less certain. In November 2016, at the instigation of the trustees, Phil started work on a Structural Investigation Survey of the building, checking the evidence of render cracking, thermal crack damage, deteriorating window conditions, leakage from the roof – and more! His work was painstaking and detailed and in October 2017 he delivered the 26 page report (plus 6 appendixes) which led to our beautiful Meeting House being put on the Historic England Heritage At Risk register and made it possible for us to claim grants and to start the work to secure the future of this important architectural and historical gem. Without Phil's input we would still be struggling to save the building. With his support we have been able to secure its future, with adequate maintenance, for at least the next 100 years.

Phil loved this building too. He was a member of our congregation for many years, enjoying the beauty, the history and the worship here. He was committed to it in many ways and gave his time and energy too. When we wanted to install new kitchen fittings in the hall, Phil engaged a colleague and my husband David to work over a long weekend from Friday evening to ensure the work was completed without inconveniencing the Nursery who rent the space during the week. He was someone who knew how jobs should be done ... usually his way ...

He was also usually right that doing things his way was the most effective. His experience and skills, honed over years of working in conservation areas gave Phil an edge and a knowledge which it is difficult to surpass. As Mark Frankis, who worked with Phil on the restoration project said - *As the foreman for FA Valiant and Son working on the*



## **Phil Chatfield – cont.**

*Unitarian Meeting House project, I came to know Phil very well over the course of a year. He was a very knowledgeable clerk of the works and a great person to work with. We all learnt a lot from him. Some of the guys here still talk about him and I'm sure he will be sorely missed.*

We do miss Phil – in so many ways. He was a special person and here in the Meeting House we have so much to be grateful to him for. On behalf of the Meeting House trustees, the congregation, the Friends group, the local historians, and the town of Ipswich itself, I say a huge THANK YOU PHIL.

We did also record the service – with some success (please excuse the gaps) so if you missed it, here is the link and the password -

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nfHXgRQvMJeqDXp\\_C7Wce-H9UafjSnYIJ9jJQb1W0sp\\_oY0jQED7r0o1q2sN5Zlf.yDwi3LI7baCN7Ibn](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nfHXgRQvMJeqDXp_C7Wce-H9UafjSnYIJ9jJQb1W0sp_oY0jQED7r0o1q2sN5Zlf.yDwi3LI7baCN7Ibn)

Passcode: EwE7iP=p

## **Titchwell Marsh, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1989 by Edmund Reed, (written when aged 11)**

Titchwell Marsh  
is coarse and harsh,  
With lots of flowers, water and  
grass.  
Butterflies, bullrushes, birds and  
bees,  
Wading in mud right up to  
your knees.  
Migrant  
And  
Resident in  
Sunshine and  
Hail  
Birds of a feather a thrush  
Catches a snail.

Edmund now says this is one of his better works!

## **Services in August**

3<sup>rd</sup> - Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus. Lammas Communion

10<sup>th</sup> - Adam Whybray. Ipswich Unitarians

17<sup>th</sup> - Paulette Reed. Ipswich Unitarians

24<sup>th</sup> - Linda King, Ipswich Unitarians

31<sup>st</sup> - John Quill. Teacher of mindful self-compassion & a celebrant.

## **The Harvest Festival and Congregational Lunch will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

The service will be based on people's memories of harvest and/or festival celebrations in their childhood, whether at school, place of worship or within the family. If you've never celebrated harvest before coming to the Meeting House, your individual contribution will be welcome with a seasonal reading. Please see Linda if you wish to take part but are unable to find a reading or, if you want to write of your memories or offer a reading but don't want to read them out yourself...

In the past, Harvest was very much a community affair, let us carry on this tradition in the Meeting House on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Please let Linda know if you wish to contribute.

## **Lord Foster**

Lord Foster at the WTW 50<sup>th</sup> celebration of the building he designed, and which is now Grade 1 listed, as is our own Meeting House next door.



## Adam Whybray – kidney donation



Adam Whybray is being admitted into Guy's Hospital on the 18<sup>th</sup> August in order to undergo surgery to remove a kidney for donation to one of his former students. He is a bit nervous but excited to do something so helpful. He will talk about this and other topics in his service on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. For the rest of the month his lovely partner Leah will be looking after him in Walthamstow and then he will return to Ipswich in September.

We applaud and admire Adam's courage and wish him and his student receptor of the kidney well. The only bonus to this altruistic gift, Adam tells us, is an annual health check which will pick up any problems early.

### **Correction**

Maximus Benedict Santos Shaw (who we welcomed in the last issue of the newsletter) was born on the **4<sup>th</sup> June**.

*'silly great granny !!'* (said Linda)

## Diary dates at the Meeting House

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 7pm – **'The Harp Maker's Tale'** – with Jorge Jimenez and Joy Smith

Tickets on the door – adults £15, concessions £12 and under 16s free.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September – all day – **SHCT Ride and Stride** fundraising event for Suffolk Historic Churches trust – and for our Meeting House.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September – **Heritage Open Days with the Art Trail starting at our Meeting House**. Art of all media displayed in and outside in the marquee – with opportunity to try some creative options too (for children and adults).

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 7pm – **Stone Conservation – what happens behind the scenes** – illustrated talk by Antonia Hockton – free as part of the Heritage Open Days.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 7pm – **Architectural Oddities - Crinkle Crankle Walls** – illustrated talk by Stuart Edgar – free as part of the Heritage Open Days.

Do please let all your friends know about these events – they are a way of inviting people into the Meeting House and to show what we can offer to the local community.

If you are able to volunteer at any of the events too, we will be pleased to hear from you – to manage the refreshments, to be a fire warden or to welcome visitors – all important 'jobs'.

In October there will be an Ipswich Book Festival and several of the events will be held in the Meeting House on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October - <https://www.ipswichbookfestival.com/events>  
There will be more details in our September issue.

## Hamiltons!

The Hamilton family gathered in the Meeting House for the flower communion in July to the delight of Rosemary. Three daughters, Alison, Rachel and Hilary with two grandsons, Ivan and Declan.



## Birthdays in August

Happy celebrations in August to –

Madeleine Spence on 11<sup>th</sup>; Saskia Sakals on 20<sup>th</sup>; Jenny Spence on 21<sup>st</sup>; John Stevens on 23<sup>rd</sup>; Dan Jordan on 27<sup>th</sup>; Sidonie Sakals on 31<sup>st</sup>.  
May the sun shine on your special day.

## Book Group

The group next meets on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September to discuss *'The Island of Missing Trees'* by Elif Shafak.

All are welcome to join us online – ask Tessa for the link – [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)

## One Big Multicultural Festival

Get ready for a spectacular celebration of diversity and community in Ipswich! Join us at Alexandra Park on Sunday 31 August 2025, from 12pm to 5pm, for The One Big Multicultural Festival - a vibrant, free-entry event showcasing Suffolk's rich cultural tapestry.

You can expect live music from around the world across multiple stages, delicious food stalls, family friendly entertainment and children's fairground and plenty more!

This free event is open to everyone! Bring your family, friends, and community spirit! It's the perfect way to embrace global cultures, enjoy world-class entertainment, and discover something new together.



## Thought for the month

'When a man aims at nothing, he seldom misses' –seen on a poster outside a Unitarian Church, and collected by Phil Mason for a book called – 'Keep on Smiling'

## 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 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, ideally by email to [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)