



## Spooky Stories



The fourth annual Spooky Stories event was a terrific success and took place on October 22nd, raising over £150 for Suffolk Refugee Support. Despite suffering from laryngitis, I was determined the show would go on, especially considering the sterling decorative work achieved by Paulette, David and my parents and the reliably scrumptious baking already provided by my mum. As such, the prepared Robert Aickman story was swapped out for 'The Raven' by Edgar Allan Poe (due to its shorter length and familiarity) and a very husky rendition of 'The Black Cat' was given, which finished off my vocal cords for the week. Thanks go to those already mentioned, with especial thanks to Robert for his eerie organ playing. I'm looking forward to next year already.

Adam Whybray

## Suffolk Historic Churches Trust RIDE & STRIDE.

The final total raised was £333.00, half of which will go to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and half to the Meeting House. Sincere thanks to all who sponsored me. Linda King.

We too thank Linda for her dedication both to the Ride and Stride scheme and for walking round the local churches. In the past years we have benefitted from a grant from the SHCT which helped us with our roof and with the installation of our toilet.

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## Welcome to Avery



Dan and Suzanne Cohen are thrilled to welcome new granddaughter Avery to their family.

## CHRISTMAS BITS & BOBS STALL

**Book the date - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December.** After the service will be the popular stall for finding the Christmas present you didn't know was needed or for yourself, something which interests you. Please delve into cupboards, drawers and even sheds to find present(s) received but not wanted or items still in very good condition but no longer wanted or required.

Please check that toiletries and food items are still in date.

All proceeds go to our charity of the year.

Please contact Linda King if you have something to contribute but are unable to make the date.

## Tribute to Miranda McIntosh

### 1941 - 2025

Miranda became a member of the Meeting House in February 1982 - sitting at the very back, she said, because nobody would want to hear her sing!

For several years, hosting concerts, entertaining and travelling with her husband Tom, an international pianist, Miranda's regular attendance at the Meeting House declined. She maintained her membership and interest in what was happening & fundraised, with a wonderful cream tea at the Old School.

Soon after Tom died Miranda had a stroke which left her requiring assistance with all aspects of her daily life. Despite her disabilities, Miranda was determined to remain in control of her life as much as possible.

There are many memories of Miranda, besides that of an exceptionally intelligent, independent woman with a keen sense of social responsibility, and social justice...and we believe, the accolade of being the first female solicitor in Ipswich! Her love of history, archaeology, books & religions, led to many interesting conversations with Linda and then when joined by Paulette and Rosemary, there were added gardening, families, and lots of other subjects which it would not do to mention in polite company!

Paulette kept Miranda supplied with the general knowledge quizzes from the East Anglian Daily Times and says that 'she would sometimes take issue with the answers by saying 'that's completely wrong', not accepting that she may have a false memory, usually about dates!

Rosemary writes "I think we should mention our Wednesday visits and THE ECCLES CLUB which we formed: tea and Eccles cakes to share, stories to tell and have fun. I believe we all gained from our long Unitarian friendship and Miranda telling us of her travels and the happy times she had with Tom.

### **Tribute to Miranda cont.**

Our last visit at home to Miranda was two days before her admission to hospital; she was in bed and our offer to leave was met with a very definite “no, stay”.

We sat around the bed chatting, eating Eccles cakes and drinking tea: a gathering of women who always felt uplifted after our visits to Miranda. We will miss her very much.

Paulette, Rosemary & Linda.

Linda King

### **Trianon Music Group Concert**



The Trianon concert on 11<sup>th</sup> October was successful, raising a total of £231.72 from donations and contributions for the drinks provided.

The music included solos, instrumentals and choir. We thank the group for their generosity and entertainment.

### **Supporting our Chosen Charity - Suffolk Refugee Support**

As our year of fundraising for Suffolk Refugee Support soon draws to a close, it's the time to thank all those who've contributed to making the fundraising so successful. And some individual efforts deserve to be singled out: Paula Chapman for her summer tea and cake fundraiser, Adam Whybray for his Spooky Stories dramatic reading for Halloween, and Tessa Forsdike for her dedication in preparing batches of greengage jam to sell at our services and events. Thank you all!

As we have all witnessed, over the last year, the rights and plights of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK have, sadly, become a highly contested political football in what Nick Young, Patron of SRS rightly described at their AGM this October 2025 as “poisonous” ways. I attended the AGM on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and the urgency of their work is apparent in all of the ways SRS address their clients’ basic needs (immigration status, housing, education, physical and mental health, employment and personal safety). SRS’s work provides a crucial counterweight to dehumanising rhetoric around asylum seekers and refugees by focusing on the first of the charity’s core values: namely, that “Individuals Matter,” and that “each client is unique and has an intrinsic value and constructive role to play in UK society.” This was my second year attending the SRS AGM, and the atmosphere was yet again one of joyful embodiment of their first core value. Entering the Museum Street church, we were greeted with the aromas from the cooking underway, the creative work of the women’s sewing group was on display, and we were treated to an inspiring musical performance by a Ukrainian singer-songwriter. This is an AGM that truly puts into practice a celebratory recognition of each client’s intrinsic value.

Over the last year, SRS has provided 9675 individual client advice contacts (not including group work) with housing and education/personal



## Supporting our Chosen Charity –cont

development calling for the most support. Among those supported by SRS, Iraqi Kurds, Ukrainians, Sudanese and Afghans make up the largest groups in Suffolk, and across the county, SRS has provided support to 130 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children through working with colleges. As presenters at the AGM pointed out, it is unsurprising that addressing housing constitutes a top priority in SRS's work. In July 2025, the risks of homelessness for new refugees increased when the Home Office reversed the decision to extend the 56 day move-on period and reverted to 28 days for single adults. The "move-on" period refers to the period after refugee status is granted, before they are evicted from asylum accommodation and required to find their own. Everything we know about the rental market, and the requirements for potential tenants make it clear how complicated, baffling and exhausting it may be for newly arrived refugees to identify affordable and safe housing in 28 days. Given the intense politicising of the situation of asylum seekers and refugees, Martin Simmonds, their Fundraising and Communications Manager, has prepared a valuable "Refugee and Asylum Facts and Figures" sheet. Copies of it will be available at the Meeting House. While many people will be familiar with the realities of the situation in the UK, the facts and figures may also help us correct the skewed and inflammatory perspectives others may hold on refugees and asylum seekers. For example, in Europe, the UK ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in terms of asylum applications per head of capita; refugees make up just 0.75% of the UK's population; asylum seekers cannot claim mainstream benefits or access council housing; and it's really important to remember that apart from the UK's resettlement schemes (e.g., the scheme resettling Afghans who had worked for the UK government) since you have to be in the UK to make an asylum claim, there are no safe and legal routes to the UK for the purpose of claiming asylum. Liz Constable

## Green Brolly??



Member and trustee of the Meeting House Adam Whybray, local activist and artist Sue Hagley and a small team of others have secured premises in the Butter Market (near Waterstones) to establish a volunteer-led Climate Emergency Centre and Community Hub in Ipswich, similar to other successful schemes in Norwich and across the country.

They have decided on a name:

Ipswich Umbrella (though Adam informally thinks of it as Green Brolly) and the project is moving forward. On the first Saturday of October, Green Brolly held a successful street stall in the Butter Market outside their new premises.

They took ideas from the public about the kind of services and events they wished to see inside; and are now planning on not only having a repair cafe and craft workshops, but also potentially a toy library.

Informal volunteers will be needed. It should be a great community initiative so please come along to meet the group (and get in at the ground floor) at our first meeting on Tuesday 11th November from 7:00 pm at the lovely Brewers Arms pub (near Coes).

## Services in November and December

2<sup>nd</sup> November - John Quill

9<sup>th</sup> November - Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus. Remembrance Sunday. Service to be followed by AGM, which will also be available on zoom.

16<sup>th</sup> November - Linda King. Safeguarding Sunday.

23<sup>rd</sup> November - Robert Waller - Ipswich Unitarians - St Cecilia's Day

30<sup>th</sup> November - Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus. The first Advent candle will be lit - followed by communion.

7<sup>th</sup> December - Lynne Davies, Octagon Unitarian Chapel, Norwich. 2nd Advent Candle.

14<sup>th</sup> December - Andrew Benedict. 3rd Advent candle

### **Saturday 20th December. CAROL SERVICE.**

**6pm.** Paulette Reed & Linda King. Ipswich Unitarians. Please let them know which reading or song you would like to contribute to the service.

21<sup>st</sup> December. Rev Matthew Smith. Minister, Framlingham & Bury St Edmunds Unitarians, 4th Advent candle

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December. CHRISTMAS DAY. Rev. Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus. 5th Advent Calendar. **Please note this service will not be available on zoom.**

28<sup>th</sup> December. Linda King. Ipswich Unitarians. Circle Service.

## **Birthdays in November and December**

We wish all who are celebrating their birthdays these months a very happy day and year ahead – On 11<sup>th</sup> November – Hilary Hamilton; Erin Reed on 16<sup>th</sup>; Franklyn Bradbrook on 21<sup>st</sup> and Mathilda Hawes on 24<sup>th</sup>.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December Ray Seal; on 22<sup>nd</sup> Edward Shaw; on 26<sup>th</sup> Carol Gibbs; on 30<sup>th</sup> both John Hamilton and Liz Constable.

## **Book Group**

We will next meet on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December to discuss 'The Grave Digger's Daughter' by Joyce Carol Oates.

## Charles Dickens at Christmas



**CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
READINGS FROM  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
AND OTHER FESTIVE DELIGHTS

READINGS BY  
BOB ALLEN  
WITH MULLED WINE  
& MINCE PIES

READING BY BOB ALLEN

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7:00PM  
IPSWICH UNITARIAN  
MEETING HOUSE,  
FRIARS STREET, IPI TD

TICKETS ON THE DOOR £12 / £10 FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS  
WWW.IUMHFRIENDS.COM

## Thought for the month

If you shed tears when you miss the sun, you also miss the stars – Rabindranath Tagore.

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

To contact our Secretary, ring 07980 641620 (or email [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)) or ring our Treasurer Robert Waller on 01473 610723.