



Maintenance work – ceiling collars

It seems that there is always work to do to look after our Meeting House and as it is a Grade 1 listed building, that is not always straightforward! Recently we have undertaken two largish projects. The first was to fix 'collars' round the main ceiling lights as a way of preserving and protecting the lath and plaster ceiling when we need to lower the lights to replace a bulb ... not an easy process, which we have covered in a previous issue of the Ipswich Unitarian. We are grateful to the Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House (FIUMH) who generously donated £2,600 towards the cost of this work.

In order to do this work the builders (A C Harding) had to move tower scaffolding round the Meeting House – we are glad they have a head for heights! Thank you to Trevor for this photo. We hope this will preserve the ceiling.



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Tree reduction

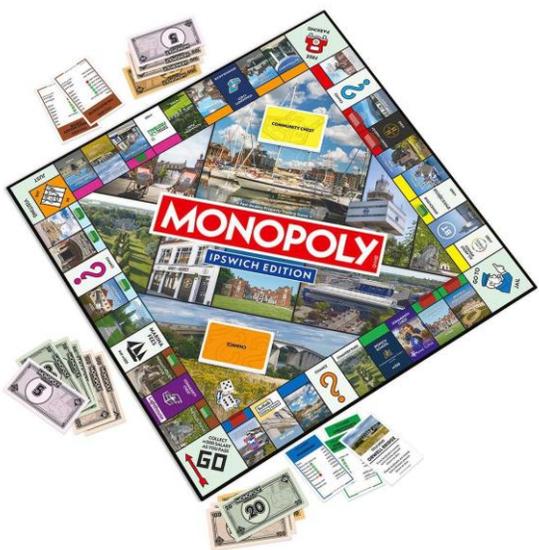
Each autumn the leaves (and seeds) from the surrounding lime trees fall and block the gutters and over the last few years this has caused overflow and damage to the walls, which again is costly to repair. With Council permission we have now arranged for the height of four trees and the holly at the rear of the building to be reduced. This will hopefully mean that the walls will stay sound and we understand that lime trees do recover quickly. One person commented that they now look like totem poles, but as they start to regrow, they will green up again and we may have to repeat this work in 7 to 10 years ...!

Tree reduction cont.

Another person with a head for heights is Will Hardy who climbed athletically up the lime trees to cut them back and to reduce the height.



Ipswich Monopoly



We were pleased to learn that our Meeting House has been included on the new Ipswich focussed Monopoly game – if you look carefully, you can see it on one of the pale blue tiles – with a car on top of it. Prices vary between £29.77 and £34.99.

Events for your diary

Book Group meeting – Thursday 5th March – 7pm to discuss Ian McEwan’s new book ‘What we can know’ – online via Zoom.

In Bloom – an interactive light and sound sculpture on the Cornhill from 3rd to 16th March – come and join in!



Riverside Jazz Trio – Saturday 21st March from 7pm to 9pm in the Meeting House– tickets £12 (concessions £10) – available to reserve by emailing iumhfriends@gmail.com or pay on the door. The trio play in swing, jazz and latin styles.

Poetry Group meeting – 2nd April at 2pm to discuss poems by Sylvia Plath

Ipswich Holi festival – 12th April from 12 noon to 16.00 – in Alexandra Park.

Services in March

We welcome Lizzie Kingston Harrison as our part time trainee Minister and she will be getting to know us and leading two services each month.

1st - Ray Seal, Ipswich Unitarian living in France. – led via Zoom.

8th - Lizzie Kingston Harrison, Unitarian Ministry Student

15th - Lizzie Kingston Harrison, Unitarian Ministry Student. Mothering Sunday.

22nd - Linda King, Ipswich Unitarian.

29th - Paulette Reed, Ipswich Unitarian. Palm Sunday

Angus Hamilton RIP

Angus passed away peacefully on 23rd February 2026, aged 57. Beloved by wife Janine and daughters Ophelia and Tilly, also by mum Rosemary and siblings John, Alison, Kate, Hilary and Rachel. Former pupil of Ipswich School and member of Wolsey Youth Theatre Group.



We are thinking about the whole family and send them our condolences.

Ipswich Umbrella



We opened our doors on Saturday 7th February and Ipswich Umbrella was buzzing from the get-go! Over the day we hosted about 100 people, thank you to all those that attended. We had talks, we had music and we even had some unexpected but very fun impromptu dancing. The Working Group is really proud to have Ipswich Umbrella up and running. We have several regular events and activities planned and we hope you will join us at some (or all) of them. Adam Whybray

Suffolk Refugee Support Donation



From all our fundraising during the last year for our nominated charity, we were able to present a cheque for £1,208 to Suffolk Refugee Support. Thanks, and congratulations to all who supported this effort.

Mayor's Charity Quiz



As we have done for the last few years, we Ipswich Unitarians entered a team in the Mayor's annual charity quiz – and we didn't come last ... in fact at the halfway stage (after playing our joker) we were in second place! Shame that didn't last ...

Birthdays in March

We wish all who celebrate their birthday this month a very happy day and rest of the year, especially – Piper Couzens on 4th; Mia Walker on 6th; Joel Waller on 7th; Kenneth Watson on 15th; and Jenny Pile on 24th.

Ipswich Half Marathon - September 2026

WOULD YOU RUN FOR LIGHTHOUSE?

Are you a budding runner, or do you know of anyone that would consider raising money for a local charity whilst doing an activity they love? Why not challenge yourself and be part of something bigger?

Why not join Lighthouse by running the half marathon in support of our local charity?

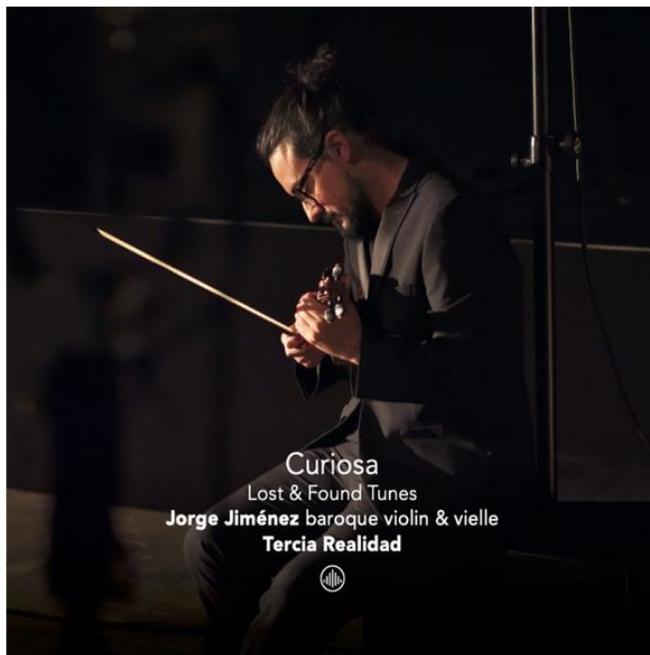
Raising funds from events like these play a crucial part in ensuring that we can continue to deliver our much-needed support to local communities.

If you are interested or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact Deb at: deb@lighthousewa.org.uk



Another photo of the inside of our Meeting House from the U3A Photographic Group – an interesting angle and view of one of the circular windows. Thank you to the group for sharing their work.

Curiosa



Our resident musician Jorge Jiménez will be launching his new cd in our Meeting House with a special concert on Friday 8th May at 7pm. For an advance copy <https://jorge-jimenez.sumupstore.com/product/new-curiosa-lost-and-found-tunes>

Thought for the month

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. - Thomas Edison

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 25th March, ideally by email to

tessa@tessajordan.co.uk

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