

Ipswich Unitarian



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December 2016/January 2017

At the end of one year ...

We held our AGM after the Remembrance service on 13th November. The trustees standing for re-election were voted back onto the committee and are preparing for the work of the year ahead. So your trustees for 2016/2017 are –

Ann Baeppler; Andrew Gibbs; Riena Jackson; Sandra Hawes; Malcolm Hawes; Linda King; John Ellis; Paulette Reed; Tessa Forsdike.

Our Minister Lewis Connolly also attends the meetings. The next Trustees' Meeting will take place on Thursday 8th December. If you have anything you would like raised at this meeting, please let Riena know as soon as possible.



Unitarian Gardens

Veronica Andrews grew up in the houses next to our Meeting House and has fond memories of them, before they were demolished to make way for the Willis building. The photo below shows some of the houses, our notice board designed by then Minister Nicolas Teape and cars parked on our foreground. At the time there was no barrier but when a taxi firm rented a shop to the left of our entrance, a metal pole barrier was put up to stop the taxis parking on our property. Linda King tells us that it didn't really work as the drivers then parked across the entrance!



Photo courtesy of the Ipswich Society

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Veronica remembers –

I believe these were Georgian houses as they were over 100 years old when we lived there. There were seven terraced houses and an attached shop/house. The windows were sash and I believe the top windows had six panels and the first and second had twelve. I lived there from approximately 1957 - 1969 when the houses were compulsorily purchased

Unitarian Gardens – cont

to build Willis Faber and Dumas. The moving fee paid was just £75. We were the last family to be re-housed and to leave. The houses, including the sweet shop were owned by a Miss Tyrell. My father was offered all of the houses and the shop for £800 by Miss Tyrell but unfortunately did not have the ability to purchase them from her.

The houses were occupied by.....

- No 1 Mr Hobson and a lodger
No2 Mr and Mrs Osborn and five children - Richard, Sonia, Dudley, Duncan and Preston
No 3 Mr and Mrs Bird and two children - Timothy and Andrew.
No 4 Mr and Mrs Fowler and four children - Stephen, Kevin, ?
No 5 Mr and Mrs Flurrie and three children - Tommy, Nigel, Tracy,
No 6 Mr and Mrs Pentz and one child - Gerda. Mr and Mrs Smolarek and one child. – Carla and a lodger.
No 7 Mr and Mrs Klusch and five children - Veronica, Ralph, Mark, Heide and Melanie.
No 8 Rev and Mrs Smith and two children
Mr and Mrs Bertalan
Mr and Mrs Licence and one child -

Barbel.

Sweet shop Mrs Button.

Sadly, Richard has recently died.

As far as I am aware, Timothy, Andrew and Kevin live in Australia. Tracy, Heide and Barbel live in America and Gerda and Mark live in Germany.

The houses were three stories high and each had a cellar with four rooms. Ours was used thus - Coal cellar, the coal was dropped by the coalman into that room via a trap door in the hall floor; Drying room for the washing; Dad's carpentry workroom which held a large iron range where he would burn off-cuts of wood which in turn heated the rooms at the front via the chimney breast. A storeroom for paint and in the area dividing all the rooms was where the cool box was. As they were terraced houses the back garden was only reached by going through the hallway. One day the Birds were asked to look after someone's horse but they couldn't get it down the two hall steps leading to the back garden so it spent the night in the hallway. Both the back and front gardens were small. The back garden had a tin bath hanging on the wall and a toilet at the far end of the garden. To stop the toilet

freezing in Winter a small paraffin lamp was left by the cistern. We were lucky, the lady who had the sweet shop didn't want her back garden so she gave it to us. It ran the length of the gardens from No 4 to No 8. Access was through the shed at the end of the garden and was a truly secret space. We had a see-saw, a swing and a sandpit made by Dad in there. Attached to the garden was a paint factory and their fire exit. There was no bathroom and only cold running water into the kitchen. Bath night in the kitchen entailed a copper heating all day and the tin bath taken in turns. The kitchen was heated by means of a paraffin heater. Rooms consisted of a kitchen, front room, four bedrooms and an attic room on the same level as the top two bedrooms. My bedroom overlooked the church and the hall where once a month I watched the Caribbean ladies in their beautifully coloured traditional dress and men in smart suits arrive for an evening of steel drum music. I would go to sleep with my window wide open so I could listen. We used to play "Cowboys and Indians" and "Hide and Seek" in the churchyard and often a wigwam would be seen amongst the headstones. We would run through the back passages to the sweet shop in Franciscan Way. The land at the back of the church was used by Mr Smolarek as a vegetable garden and beside the church, in front of houses 7 and 8 was a shed where Dad kept his motor scooter. In the garden of no 6 was a gas lamp. Mr and Mrs Flurrie were the church caretakers. It was a good and happy place to live.



Veronica's family

Tim Macy: an Appreciation

Tim was formally welcomed into membership of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting in January 1988, having attended services for some time before that. He had first discovered Unitarian ideas, and been attracted to them, through a poster seen on Ipswich station. It was several years, though, before he discovered that there was an active congregation locally.

Once he had, he regularly made the journey from Felixstowe to our Meeting House, not only for Sunday worship but for other activities too.

Tim soon became one of our most active, devoted, and best-loved members. Eventually he became a trustee and, briefly, Chair of the Meeting but it was about then that ill-health struck and he resigned. His active participation in the life of the Meeting more or less came to an end, although Tim remained a member to the last. His increasingly rare appearances were more welcome than he could have known and his absence from the Meeting House was keenly felt by those of us who had known him in happier times.

While Tim was in good health there were few in the congregation who contributed more in time, ideas, and enthusiasm. He was a leading figure in the Worship Group that flourished at that time and produced many imaginative and profound services. He could be relied upon to lead worship on his own when the need arose, and the result was always both thoughtful and spiritually rewarding. Perhaps the best remembered Worship Group services took place around Christmas, when they usually included a seasonal playlet. These were based on a story by Leonard Mason or Bret Harte, or on a medieval 'mystery play' about the Nativity, but it was Tim who adapted them and produced the scripts. We had great fun rehearsing them and I will always remember Tim's laughter and delight as they took shape. The end result, though, was the centre piece of an authentic act of worship.

Tim's faith as a Unitarian was strong, well thought through, and always compassionate. He had a deep interest in things spiritual. Combined with his kindness, his gentleness, and his generosity, these all made for a truly good man.



Tim was someone we could ill-afford to lose, and I am truly grateful for the support he gave me in my ministry at the Meeting House. He was one of a very special breed. Tim was, of course, a fine and devoted teacher and his profession also suffered a great loss when ill-health struck him so cruelly. Tim was without malice. He was honest and dependable in all things. He was one of those church members that ministers pray for, willing to take responsibility and to do what they have said they'll do – and do it well. May Tim rest in the peace he so richly deserves.

Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus.

This is the address Cliff gave at the service of memorial held at our Meeting House on 17th November.

Birthdays

Happy birthday in December to – Ray Seal on 12th; Edward Shaw on 22nd; Carol Gibbs on 26th; John Hamilton on 30th.

Happy birthday in January to – Paulette Reed on 14th; Riena Jackson on 26th; Juliette Spence on 27th; Mark Hawes on 29th

Services are held every Sunday at 10.45

11th December – Bohdi Sunday (led by Lewis Connolly)

Saturday 17th December - Carol Service at 6pm

18th December - Reflective Taizé style service

25th – Christmas Day service at 10.45

Collections for Christian Aid will be taken throughout the festive period.

Our chosen charity

For the last year we have collected money for AgeUK Forget-me-not clubs and raised a total of £2,226.22p. Here is a photo of Vicky Hutchinson from AgeUK, receiving our cheque from Chair of Trustees, Ann Baepler and with Rosemary Hamilton, who proposed the charity last year.



During the next year we will be raising money for our own charity – the Meeting House, which needs a lot of renovation work done on it very soon. Our Property Manager Phil Chatfield is currently assessing the whole building and preparing a report for the Trustees which will give us the necessary information to plan and fundraise once we have a target figure.

Found on LinkedIn –

Bill Gates: “So, how’s Heaven, Steve?”

Steve Jobs: “Great! It just doesn’t have any wall or fence.”

Bill Gates: “So...?”

Steve Jobs: “So, we don’t need any Windows and Gates. I’m sorry, Bill, I didn’t mean to offend you.”

Bill Gates: “It’s OK Steve, but I heard a rumor.”

Steve Jobs: “Oh, what rumor?”

Bill Gates: “That nobody is allowed to touch Apple there, and there are no Jobs in heaven.”

Steve Jobs: “Oh no, definitely there are, but only no-pay Jobs. Therefore definitely no Bill in heaven as everything will be provided free!

Thought for the month

"Friends are those rare people who ask how we are, and then wait to hear the answer." Ed Cunningham

Events

Saturday 3rd December – 12 noon – Tim and Tony’s wedding

4th December – Bits and Bobs stall after the service in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice

10th December – Essex Hall 1 pm – meeting of Forum 18, a human rights organisation based in Norway that promotes religious freedom

Saturday 17th December 6pm – Carol service – all contributions to Lewis as soon as possible.

The Adventure

The released lines, slap against the dock,
As the boat slips away from its berth.

The wild, wind - swept waves lie before us.

The adventure has just begun.

Sails are set,

The land behind us slowly fades to nothing.

Fierce waves slash the hull,

Like a gunshot,

Sound rings in my ears.

Sea creatures of all kinds,

Glide through the water beside us.

Our colossal wake

Glitters in the afternoon sunshine.

As a small speck in the distance,

Our destination is in sight.

The hulls slice through the water as we enter the bay,

Sails are lowered and anchor dropped,

Evening comes,

The sun drops out of the sky,

and the exquisite moon takes its place.

We have made it.

by Finn Hamill, who is a keen sailor, lives in New Zealand and is Rosemary and Ivan Hamilton’s grandson

Ipswich Unitarian Newsletter –

For contributions to future newsletters, please email them to Tessa at - ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post them to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS before the copy deadline for the next issue of Thursday 26th January 2017

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive this regularly by email, please just ask.

To contact our secretary Riena Jackson, ring 01473 210064/email - mjack76748@aol.com

To contact our Minister, Lewis Connolly, you can email him at revdlewisconnolly@gmail.com or ring him on 01473 422528.