



Almost there!

Hybrid: *'thing composed of different elements'*, and it certainly is that! I'm talking about the delivery of our worship services.

Initially, no problem. At the start of the restoration in February 2020, services were moved to the Hall, then came the lockdown. The decision was made that we must find a way to continue running services every Sunday if possible. Being a very 'spread out' community, some travelling over 30 miles to regularly attend services, the need for our congregation to have a regular meeting point was really important. Those that had a bit of a clue how to achieve this, set to and 'did'. Without any break, Zoom services were put into place and soon attracted ex members of our congregation who had moved out of the area, some abroad – one, in the USA getting up regularly at 5am to zoom into services. We were able to invite service leaders from a distance, previously not possible because of travel expenses costs, (we couldn't afford the flight fare from Australia!) and were pleased to attract and

Contents –

- 1 – Almost there!
- 2 – Farm Walk; SHCT Ride and Stride
- 3 – From Me to You; Return to our Meeting House; Poetry Group; Dates for your Diary
- 4 – Thanks to Andrew Gibbs; Flower Rota; Stewards for the Meeting House; Letter from Giles; Services; Birthdays
- 5 – Talk on Sudan; Trans Person; Ipswich CAN; Contacts; Thought for the Month

welcome Unitarians from other congregations around the country.

On 27th June we returned to services in our Meeting House ... not without glitches! Not wanting to lose some of our Zoom congregation, it was assumed that those who knew how, would sort it out! There have been several 'blips' some major, some minor but alongside this has been the determination of a motley crew to get it working...and last Sunday it did!

The Pride service went very smoothly; music, hymns (we sang) and all voices were able to be heard clearly both within the Meeting House and those joining us on screen via Zoom; we were even able to have a joint coffee and chat after the service!

Our thanks go to Robert Waller, Tessa & David Forsdike, Ali Mercer (Devon) & Gerrie Hawes (Brighton) for all their work in getting our hybrid services up and running. There may still be a few blips now and again but so what.

Linda King.



Spyhole in the side door: photo Historic England: Patricia Payne

Farm Walk



Ten of us made the journey to Great Oakley on 26th July and visited Jenny's family farm. Her son Roger told us many interesting facts about farming at, it seemed to me, the edge of the world. Part of the land is regularly flooded by the sea and through the years farming land has had to succumb to the forces of the water all together. It was high tide when we visited which was good timing for Larkin the dog to have a swim. Had we been there at low tide, we might have seen seals basking in the mud, 500 metres or so from the farmhouse! We all went for a walk around the fields where barley and other grains were grown and saw wonderful wildflowers and butterflies on our way. Paulette hoped to add to her list of butterflies and moths as the rare Fisher's Estuarine Moth is found on the Hogs Fennel (photo below) only in NE Essex and Kent – including on Roger's farm! We ate our picnic in the field, next to an enormous combine harvester while enjoying amazing views with sailing boats in the distance and a wide sky. We had a great time and felt privileged to be there. Thank you, Jenny and Roger!
Riena Jackson



Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride

Saturday 11 September 9am – 5pm.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) fundraising event is almost here. What are you going to do to support a Trust which so generously supported Ipswich Unitarians in their restoration fundraising? Just remember - every time the new loo is used, it's there because we had SHCT support to help pay for it!

The money received comes, in part, from their fundraising to support them and other Suffolk Churches, just as we were supported.

Ipswich town centre has at least 10 churches within 10 minutes' walk of the Meeting House, some of them with no more than 5 minutes between them. Calculate: five sponsors at a fiver each brings in £12.50 for SHCT and £12.50 for Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House ... any more or any less would still be very welcome!

If you would like to walk the walk and don't want to do it alone, see Linda King and we can work something out depending on your individual walking abilities.

Robert Waller is our organiser and has the sponsorship forms – or help yourself from on the top of the piano.

Riena Jackson, Linda King, Tessa and David Forsdike have already started collecting sponsors – do add your contribution if you are unable to walk or ride yourself!



From Me to You

*There are those who speak with good rhetoric,
But you spoke with erudition and compassion,
A noble companion to my thoughts and feelings.
I will miss your services Unitarian,
Thank-you, Reverend Clifford Reed.*

*From me to you,
I don't wish my ashes to be
Scattered on the cruel green sea,
Nor from some blasted windy mountain top
Or in the middle of Lake Shallot.*

*From me to you,
No burning in the fire for me,
I want to be buried in Framlingham's cemetery,
With a service Unitarian, so my
Grandchildren can see my grave and say,
God took Grandad Gruffalo away.*

John McEwan

John submitted this poem written at the time Cliff Reed retired from Framlingham. A fitting tribute to our Minister Emeritus.

Return to our Meeting House

My first morning back I thought of this poem by Ali Mercer. To me it says how I feel and felt that morning back in "my pew" I keep the poem pinned up in my dining room on the bookshelf. – Rosemary Hamilton

*The feel of the wooden seat against your back,
The softness of the cushion under your hand,
The sound of feet on wooden floors,
The way light falls through the high windows
To illuminate the darkness*

*Memories of words and deeds
Of laughter and tears
of joys and sorrows
Burn bright in the mind then melt away
Like the candle smoke in the air.*

*Shared experiences and private moments
Stories told and retold
Sacred space entered and held,
Shaped by hands and minds long gone,
Still shaping all who encounter it.*

Poetry Group

Our next poet for discussion is Walt Whitman on Thursday 26th August at 2pm – contact Riena Jackson for the link –

mjack76748@aol.com

Dates for your Diary!

Now that the world is opening up, even though more slowly for some, we can welcome the opportunity to put events in our diary and start to meet friends and family.

Book Group – 5th August 19.00 – to discuss 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn – contact Tessa for the Zoom link

Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House Committee meeting – 19th August 09.00

East Anglian Unitarian Women's Group meeting – 24th August via Zoom

Poetry Group - 26th August 14.00 (see above)

Trustees Meeting – 1st September – any issue to raise please let one of the Trustees know.

Yalda Davis playing cello in Orford Church – 4th September at 16.00 - her 500th charity concert in Suffolk churches with friends and family playing the Schubert String Quintet in C major: Florence Cooke and Rosie Lowdell (violins), Kurosh Davis (viola), Sheida and Yalda Davis (cellos). crosswaysfarm.co.uk/suffolk-churches/concerts

Meeting House BBQ – 5th September (after the service) – our annual BBQ at Maggie Hodges' home can happen again.

SHCT Ride and Stride – 11th September – (see article on page 2)

Heritage Open Days – 11th and 12th September

Celebration of our Meeting House – 25th

September from 14.00 – originally we had planned a 'Grand Opening' when the restoration project was complete, but we had to alter our plans as the pandemic continued. This celebration will include presentations, talks, a Q and A session and the chance to mingle and appreciate the preservation of our building for years to come. On the day we will need support with the roles of fire wardens, refreshment servers, people to welcome and direct and answer questions.

Trianon Concert – 2nd October

Thanks to Andrew Gibbs



Andrew Gibbs has been our Treasurer for a good many years and stayed on in post to see us through the recent Restoration Project. A fine job he's made of it (managing the finance not the building work!). As a sign of our gratitude we, the current Trustees, agreed to show our gratitude and presented him with a small token to say a BIG THANK YOU.

In the picture are: l to r Paulette Reed, Andrew Gibbs, and Linda King.

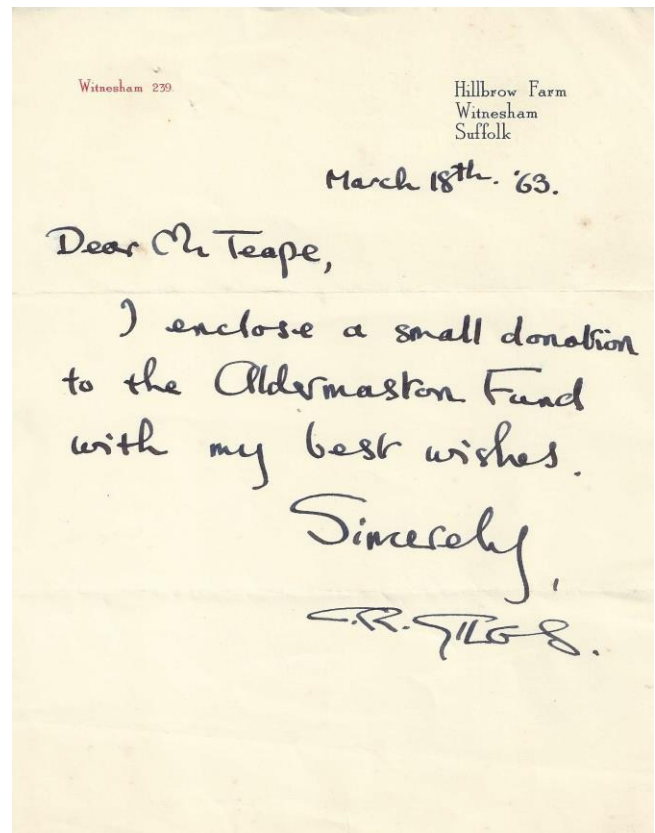
Flower Rota

Now that we are back in the Meeting House and it is also open during the week for visitors, it is important that we have a fresh show of flowers each week. Maggie Hodges holds the rota for this and would welcome more volunteers to refresh the flower display each week. If arranging flowers is not your forte, you can still support us by making a donation towards the cost of flowers. Contact Maggie on - maggiehodges70@gmail.com

Steward for the Meeting House?

Do you fancy a (relatively) quiet hour or two in the Meeting House, welcoming visitors and sharing your passion for our building? Robert Waller will be pleased to hear from you to help fill the rota for stewarding the Meeting House on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12 noon to 16.00 through to the end of September.

Letter from Giles



As June Teape was clearing some papers recently she found some correspondence from famous people to her husband Nick Teape, our Minister for 17 years to 1974. Above is the letter of support from the local cartoonist Giles.

Services in August (all start at 10.45)

1st August - Andrew Benedict, East of England Faiths Agency

8th August - Ali Mercer, Ipswich Unitarian - Devon

15th August - Stefan Freedman

22nd August - Nick Groves, Octagon, Norwich and *bring your teddy bear to the Meeting House.*

29th August - Corrina Dolso, Kensington Unitarians.

Birthdays in August

Happy birthday to Madeleine Spence on 11th;

Phil Chatfield on 15th; Saskia Sakals on 20th;

Jenny Spence on 21st; John Stevens on 23rd and

Sidonie Sakals on 31st

Talk at Ipswich Institute 2nd September 2pm

Anthony Wooding is giving a talk entitled '**My experience as international observer in Sudan**'. Ant is an excellent speaker and makes his subjects extremely interesting. You don't need to be member and they are taking bookings now. Here is a link on Shopify where you can book directly.

<https://ipswich-institute.myshopify.com/collections/talks/products/an-international-observer-in-sudan>

Any problems you can ring them on 01473 253992.

So You've Met a Trans Person: How We Got Where We Are Today

Joni's brilliant, informative & engaging Trans History Talk 'So You've Met A Trans Person: How We Got Where We Are Today' is now available to watch again on our YouTube channel! Share it with anyone who may be helped by knowing a bit more about trans+ people & history in the UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErfZgR7mTY>

Ipswich CAN

Here is an extract from the statement sent to the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board meeting recently by Tony Horner –

I have been asked to make this statement by Ipswich CAN and its supporting organisations who have been campaigning for SCC and IBC to tell people about the health impacts of air pollution, what we can all do to help, and lobbying for action to reduce Ipswich's air pollution to legal and government target levels in line with its statutory obligations and for the health of its citizens.

Covid has graphically demonstrated that our health is the most important thing to us all and that given leadership the people of the UK can change their behaviours to protect our families, friends, working colleagues and neighbours.

We also know that Covid has disproportionately affected the poorest and BAME communities whose

health has already been disproportionately weakened by the relentless day in day out air pollution which is higher in the areas that they live. All air pollution kills, weakens, and produces ill health. It reduces quality of life and productivity, whilst costing the NHS £20bn a year and impacting an already overloaded system.

Ipswich has had illegal air pollution and formally been in breach of government targets for 13 years. No actions taken by SCC and IBC have reduced pollution during this time.

For the full statement go to - www.ipswichcan.org



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 before the deadline of Wednesday 25th August by email to ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS
To contact our Secretary ring 01473 728498 email tessa@tessajordan.co.uk
Website – www.unitarianipswich.com

Thought for the month

Money can't buy you happiness, but it certainly lets you choose your own form of misery –
Groucho Marx