



Diamond Jubilee

As Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrates the diamond jubilee of her reign this month, we all, whether republicans or royalists, wish her well.



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Recognition for our Restoration Project

We have received two more awards in recognition of the quality of our restoration project for the Meeting House.

The Suffolk Preservation Society presented one to us as Heritage Champions in recognition of our contribution to Suffolk's heritage. The photo shows Paulette Reed and Robert Waller who went to accept it on our behalf.



We also received an award from RIBA which was accepted by Stuart Edgar (architect) and Adrian Valiant (from F.A. Valiant & Son Ltd – our main contractors for the work). The award was in the restoration category of the RIBA Suffolk Craftsmanship Awards and is evidence of the quality and attention to detail of the work done on our Meeting House – thanks to all who shared their expertise and knowledge.



Paulette writes below about the visit to receive our Suffolk Preservation Society certificate -

The invitation to Sibton Park Orangery courtesy of Mr and Mrs Jon Hunt recently was a welcome one. Robert Waller and I made our way via the beautiful Suffolk Countryside to this equally beautiful setting. We did not have much time to enjoy the scenery because as we neared our destination there was a long queue of traffic, which made us think we were going to be late. The cause of the hold up? Two adult swans with cygnets being herded towards where we were heading. It turned out that several of the cars in the queue were guests going to the same place as us.

We listened to Sir Laurie Magnus CBE, Chair of Historic England, talk on "The Power of Heritage to Transform Places and Improve Lives". Big ones, tiny ones; local and national, structures and open spaces. We have it in our power to make sure these places are preserved and used.

Robert Waller and I went as representatives of the Meeting House to receive another certificate. This time from the Suffolk Preservation Society. It is in recognition of the outstanding restoration work carried out over the last eighteen months.

Please help –

Refugee link person – following the national appeals for people to host Ukrainian refugees and John Steven’s article in the April newsletter, we would like to find a volunteer from the congregation to be our link with the local refugee organisations so that we can support in any way possible. Our aim is to stay linked to the news and to be ready to support, to publicise, to engage and to care.

Hosting for service leaders – sometimes the person leading our services has travelled a distance and needs accommodation overnight the Saturday before they come to the Meeting House. If you can offer bed and breakfast (and sometimes a dinner the night before) we will be happy to pay you a token fee as expenses. If you would like to talk this through to find out more, please contact Linda King (01473 712366).

Fundraising Events

Thanks to everyone who organised and supported the recent events where we were raising funds for the Lighthouse Women’s Aid project.

The launch of Peter Watkins’ book of poetry – *‘As if Everything Were a Miracle’* on 29th April, where Peter and friends read some of the poems was well attended and raised £257.95. It was a wonderful evening of calm and rest which prompted those of us there to rest and reflect. (photo by Robert Pott)





Our organist Robert Waller entertained us well on 20th May and raised £205 for Lighthouse. Thank you Robert – it was a thoroughly inspiring evening.

Suffolk Pride

Suffolk Pride* is holding their big event on Saturday 18th June at Ipswich Waterfront. Several of our congregation will be joining in behind our banner proclaiming Unity in Diversity.

Please contact Liz Constable or Linda King if interested in coming along to give support to a very important organisation.

**Suffolk Pride is a non-profit organization that hosts the LGBTQ+ Pride Festival in Ipswich, Suffolk annually. Alongside this, they work with the community year-round to promote diversity, community, acceptance and inclusion.*

There will also be a Pride service at the Meeting House on Sunday 19th June led by Lynn Davies from the Octagon in Norwich.

Lighthouse Care Packs

As part of our support for Lighthouse, we prepare packs for women and children as an emergency support for when, because of the danger from domestic abuse and violence, they have left their homes at short notice, often without anything except what they stand up in. The basic contents of each pack for women contains shampoo; shower gel; hair conditioner; toothpaste; toothbrush; notebook; pen; sanitary towels; novel; deodorant; hand sanitiser, tissues and often hand cream. We like to add other items such as hairbrush and emery board when we can.

We prepare two types of packs for children – for ages 2 to 6 and ages 6 to 10. Each has toothbrush, drawing paper; colouring pens or crayons; story book; toy and anything else suitable such as a pot of bubbles to play with. Occasionally we also make up a pack for female teenagers, although fewer teenage children end up in the refuge.

The funds raised by the Organ Recital and Poetry Launch will go towards buying the essential items for the packs as well as a direct donation of funds to Lighthouse.

Sometimes people have asked about donating items for the packs. We have some wonderful support from Paula Chapman who makes the beautiful drawstring bags to put everything in. If you would like to buy items, the most helpful would be to buy the special items we need –

- Hand cream
- Emery boards
- Hairbrushes
- Children's toys (safe ones)
- Felt tip pens
- Thick crayons

Please pass these to Tessa Forsdike or leave them at the Meeting House. Alternatively you can make a financial donation to help fund the standard items. We suggest a financial donation so that we can buy all the items for a whole pack rather than having some of them and not being able to make up a full pack. Thank you.

A Meeting House Nightmare

I had found myself in hell! Disaster and trial had followed one another incessantly. My wife, baby son and I had just got to the underground shelter complex when the first nuclear bombs burst. In the year 2077 I had invested all to provide us with suspended animation to see us through the inevitable nuclear holocaust to a time when it would be safe, and the investment had appeared our only chance. But then, after apparently no time, I awakened to see my wife brutally murdered and my son taken away by people in hazard protection clothing... then I was fully awake and had exited the sheltering vault to a ruined still radio-active world peopled by monstrosities, murdering raiders and fascist mercenary troops and then all I could do was just survive.

I had made my way into the skeleton ruin of Boston and had followed a trail to the Old North Church, still remarkably intact. I had to fight my way through the feral ghouls, humans who had become so irradiated and changed so as to lose all humanity and had developed a lust for animal protein of any kind and was able to enter the church... and then further shocks... for I was confronted with a memory from another life and a sight that surpassed all other nightmares!

Well, perhaps a little overwrought! Last year Mrs Gray presented me with a Virtual Reality Headset for my birthday and my eldest son a copy of the game 'Fallout 4 VR'. For those who are not computer gamers, a virtual reality headset puts you into a full three-dimensional world in which you can move around and interact with your environment in quite incredible detail. It can be quite daunting to begin with but you soon learn how to manage your world. The game, 'Fallout 4' is part of a franchise set in a post atomic war USA with a complex story but from a kind of alternative world modelling on the 1950s 'atomic' culture when people used to go to Las Vegas to watch the

nuclear testing for fun and following on with a culture not unlike 'The Jetsons' TV animated series. There is a surprising amount of quite subtle satire about the American way of life including enough weaponry to equip an army! A devastated USA set around the Boston area is shown in horrific detail. Overall, the experience is rather like actually participating in a long novel. Apart from the shoot'em ups, there is positive side in which you can gather the lost and help to build working communities.



My great shock upon entering Old North Church was that it was uncannily like a devastated and burned Ipswich Meeting House, something that genuinely shook me at the time. Although there are obvious differences the similarity was shocking. Make your own mind up with the screenshots taken from the game!

On a more relaxed level and of Unitarian interest, I would like to recommend 'WALDEN a game' based on Henry David Thoreau's year spent living by Walden Pond (that incidentally is also a destination in 'Fallout 4' in a rather different context). It has rather beautiful graphics and the object of the game is to manage your environment to enable your stay, at the same time learning much about the man and his life. Character such as Ralph Waldo Emerson are included. Overall, a pleasant way to spend several evenings. The game is available from 'Steam', probably the largest provider of games on the internet at £7.19 for the download, unfortunately PC only.

by Ian Gray

Photo Gallery



Suzanne Cleary and Dan Cohen visited our Meeting House recently during their stay in the UK. Without a car they were only able to join our services via Zoom and send us their best wishes.



Maggie and Neil Hodges celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on 20th May – congrats!



Maggie Hodges and her sister Janet Holland went to the Not Forgotten Association garden party in the grounds of Buckingham Palace recently. It is held annually for injured serving and ex servicemen and women, those with disabilities and their escorts.

Rosemary Hamilton prepares for the jubilee tea – see photo below -



Services in June

5th – led by Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus.

Communion will follow the morning service.

12th – led by Paulette Reed, Member of Ipswich Unitarians. Flower Communion -please bring a flower – or put one in your hair!

19th – led by Lynne Davies - Octagon Chapel, Norwich Pride Service.

26th – to be confirmed

Birthdays in June

Happy birthday to Molly Stevens on 1st ; Suzanne Leary and Zoe Bradbrook on 2nd ; Alison White on 6th ; Ian Gray on 14th ; Stephen Reed (a special one) and Malcolm Hawes on 17th ; Lucy Shaw on 22nd ; June Teape on 30th

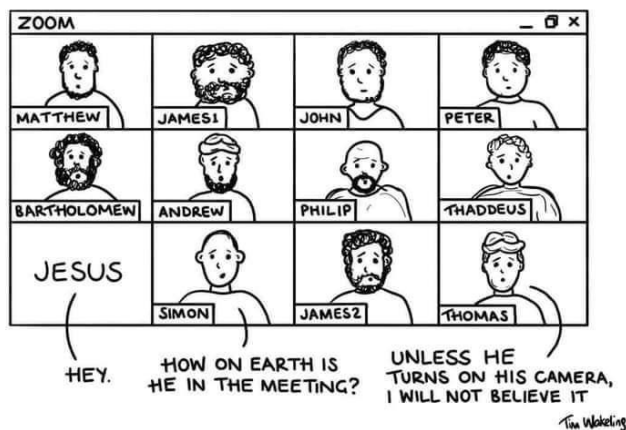
Book Group and Poetry Group

Both groups will be meeting in June but have not set the dates before the deadline for this newsletter. Contact Riena Jackson for the Poetry Group and Tessa Forsdike for the Book Group (which meets via Zoom).

Two Rivers Sailing trips

The Ipswich Maritime Trust have organised day trips on the rivers Orwell and Stour- Thursday 23rd June and Thursday 18th August both start at 9am from the waterfront at Ipswich near the Old Custom House. Contact John Warren for more details or check the website –

<https://ipswichmaritimetrust.setmore.com>



The 2022 issue of the Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society is now available. In this issue, you'll find articles on Unitarianism, slavery and philanthropy, and much more.

Link -

<https://velvethummingbee.com/2022/03/30/transactions-of-the-unitarian-historical-society-april-2022/>

Unitarian Penal and Social Affairs Panel

The UPSAP is advertising for a part time Social Action Officer for 5 years. Contact Bruce Chilton on bruce.ge.chilton@gmail.com for more information.

Dates for your diary

Bob Allen has offered to entertain us – a session of stories and poetry for children on Saturday 27th August in the afternoon and a Dickens evening on Saturday 19th November.

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 29th June 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

The mind once stretched by a new idea, never returns to its original dimensions
Ralph Waldo Emerson