



## CCTV Update

Earlier this year we were pleased to be awarded a Home Office grant for the installation of CCTV around and in our building. We had applied for it because soon after having raised huge amounts of funding for the restoration project we experienced vandalism, graffiti, fly tipping, broken windows as well as the usual rubbish (including syringes and alcohol) left on our property. The surrounding CCTV does not cover our area so was unhelpful in seeking the culprits. Our aim in seeking the grant was to avoid and deter any future damage to the building. As this is Grade 1 listed, it is vital that we do this sensitively. We now have the plans for the installation, which have considered the importance of the building. If anyone wishes to see these please contact Tessa Forsdike with any questions. All our neighbours and local businesses are keen for the CCTV to be installed, hoping it will help them too. We are currently working on the planning permission applications.

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## Getting Connected!

After 324 years, the Meeting House is being connected by telephone to the outside world, though we have had an (expensive) internet link since Covid hit us, so that we could offer the services via Zoom. Valiant, our builders on the restoration project were kind enough to prepare an underground pipe with a line through for when we were able to join up to the telephone line boxes in the courtyard. It comes up behind the new toilet and a line has now been installed behind the organ, into the vestry. The biggest challenge was (after two years) to find the other end of the pipe in the courtyard. Huge thanks go to David Forsdike who spent hours digging to discover the end and to save us further expense.



## **Suffolk Sight Service**

We were pleased to welcome Amanda Eves from Suffolk Sight, our nominated charity for this year, to give the address at our service on 29<sup>th</sup> April. She and her colleagues brought with them a display of items which can help people with reduced sight adapt and manage their lives. The helpful gadgets included a spoon which can tell you when a cup is full, and a clock which reads out the time for you. We also collected donations.

Our fundraiser planned for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June has been postponed and we look forward to welcoming Adam Whybray and friends (including assistance dog) in July for the rearranged evening of information and entertainment about the other services available for people with reduced sight. We will announce the date as soon as possible so you can tell all your friends too!

## **Apologies to Rev Cliff Reed**

I offer apologies to Rev Cliff Reed who stepped in at short notice to cover the Easter service, which originally was planned to be led by John Stevens. In the last issue of the 'Ipswich Unitarian' I mistakenly thanked John as, having been away, I had missed that service.

We are especially appreciative of Cliff's ongoing support and his readiness to step into the breach, to lead a communion service and to support Linda King with the filling of service leader slots. Thank you Cliff.

## **Services in June**

4<sup>th</sup> - Paulette Reed & Linda King - Flower Communion – please bring a flower to exchange and take another one away with you!

11<sup>th</sup> - Rev Matthew Smith - Minister Framlingham & Bury St Edmunds.

18<sup>th</sup> - Robert Waller - Ipswich Unitarian – Fathers' Day

25<sup>th</sup> – To be confirmed – volunteers please contact Linda King

## **Oscar Sinclair Service**



We were pleased to welcome Rev Dr Oscar Sinclair to lead our service on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Oscar is an American UU Minister on a six month sabbatical in the UK and came to visit with his family. His address focussed on 'Type II Fun' which was a new concept for us and got us talking after the service and thinking about it after that! The address will be posted on our website so if you missed it, you can still catch up. It was great that we had Oscar and Stacey's daughter Ailish to play in our children's box too –



## Working Party

A big thank you to everyone who came to clean, dust, dig, polish, vacuum, wash, weed, plant new flowers, clear overgrowth ... and much more at our Working Party Day on 13<sup>th</sup> May. We had a long list of jobs and managed to tick some off! We were so busy we forget to take any photos of the workers, but Paulette did photograph some of the overgrowth removed from the back of the building.



We were also revived by the home made biscuits baked by Ann Baeppler – thank you!

## Poetry Group

Our next poetry session will be on 29<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm and we will look at poems by Ted Hughes

## Book Group

We are reading ‘Piranesi’ by Susanna Clarke (winner of the Women’s Prize for Fiction 2021). Our next meeting to discuss the book is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm, so you have time to read it and join us. You are welcome.

## Summer Opening

We have an obligation, to comply with the terms of the funding we received for the restoration, to open the building to visitors for a certain number of hours during May to September. This, too, needs your attention. If you don’t wish to be there on your own you can find a ‘buddy’ to join you. May is nearly covered, but there are vacant dates in June, July, August and September.

## More Help is Needed

Please bring your diary/calendar with you to the Meeting House next time and take a look at the various ‘jobs’ which need to be done to accompany and/or enhance our worship experience. The rota on the notice board gives the following choices: reader(s), greeter to welcome people and hand out the appropriate hymn book, to provide an arrangement of flowers, or to make tea and coffee for us to enjoy as we converse after the service. Paulette Reed

## Hire of our Hall

We have a useful resource available to hire for meetings and group functions – our Upper Hall. Since Covid the interest in the regular hire of our Hall has been lower, so there are more opportunities to select a date which is available. Contact our warden, Adam Whybray for more details - [adamwhybray@gmail.com](mailto:adamwhybray@gmail.com)

## Birthdays in June

Happy birthday to all those who celebrate their special day in June - Molly Stevens on 1<sup>st</sup>; Suzanne Leary and Zoe Bradbrook on 2<sup>nd</sup>; Alison White on 6<sup>th</sup>; Ian Gray on 14<sup>th</sup>; Stephen Reed and Malcolm Hawes on 17<sup>th</sup>; and Lucy Shaw on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

It would have been June Teape’s ninety fifth birthday on 30<sup>th</sup> of June had she not passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> April. We pay tribute to her in the following pages.

## Events

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Suffolk Day Proclamation Parade – arrives at the Cornhill at 08.45.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Trustees Meeting – please pass any requests or questions to Tessa Forsdike as Secretary.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Unitarian Pride Exhibition at the Meeting House.

July – date to be confirmed – Suffolk Sight fundraiser.

## June Elaine Teape BA, LRAM

30<sup>th</sup> June 1928 – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023



June was a long-standing member of the Meeting House and we invited friends and family to send in their tributes and memories of her. Here are those we received –

Anyone who knew June would acknowledge that she was a lady with an incredible gift of music and a wonderful generosity of spirit.

Friendships lasted many decades (3 generations of my family), and many adventures were enjoyed.

One of these adventures began with June encouraging my octogenarian mother to become a National Trust volunteer. June and my mother would set off for Dedham Vale where June would guide tour groups (sometimes in French) and my mother would sell raffle tickets on behalf of the National Trust. It was a wonderful and enjoyable way for two retired teachers to spend part of their retirement.

June lived by an amazing philosophy which was, 'No matter the age or circumstances, life was for living'.

by Elizabeth MacGuire

June Elaine Teape grew up as an only child in a happy Methodist family in the village of Calverton near Nottingham. All her life she delighted us with her enthusiastic Methodist style singing. She received an excellent education at the Nottingham Girls High School and at a first-rate Teachers' Training College in London, specialising in English, music and R.E. It was an exciting gloriously optimistic time just after the war when we were all determined to re-build and do better. As a music student she received free tickets to all the major concerts and operas in London: a wonderful musical education!

Then she met an extraordinarily handsome young Irishman, a farmer's son from County Cork, Nick Teape, who eventually became a student for the Unitarian ministry at Manchester College, Oxford. They were soon married, and June taught in secondary schools in London and later, when Nick became minister there, in Rotherham, moving soon to Ipswich and its historic Unitarian Meeting House, where she remained for the rest of her life, teaching at the Civic College.

June's radiant *joie de vivre* was severely tested by tragic events. Her much-longed-for baby died in hospital soon after birth, an event which marked June for life. Soon after the happy adoption of her son Julian tragedy struck again when her husband Nick suddenly collapsed and died when they were busy restoring the big manor house, Walton Hall, that they had recently acquired.

June was left alone to bring up her son in this vast house. She survived by teaching at the Civic College and giving private music lessons. She also took on the care of her aged mother and astonishingly decided to enrol for a degree in English and music at the Open University. (She was already L.R.A.M.) How on earth did she manage it? Perhaps it helped to take her mind off her problems and keep her sane. She triumphed and came close to achieving a First Class degree.

Nick Teape was an accomplished writer, and June produced a magnificent book, *Gleanings*, from a wide variety of his essays and reviews which she generously offered freely to all who were interested. To the end, despite all the savage blows that life

threw at her, she maintained her irrepressible enthusiasm, her delightful *joie de vivre*, her constant encouragement of others. Dear June! So joyful, so full of fun and jollity, so enthusiastic, so intelligent, so hard-working, so encouraging and full of sympathy and vitality, so loyal and loving! She is a portion of the loveliness which, once, she made more lovely, and we are all the better for knowing her and loving her.

Her funeral on May 10th at the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House, which she did so much to restore and maintain, was conducted by her old friend the Revd Frank Walker of Cambridge.

by Frank Walker

I first met June Teape when I was at the Ipswich Civic College in the early 70's.

We had a subject called General Studies and one of the tutors was June. She had gleaned that I was interested in piano and that I had played hymns for school services. The organist at the Ipswich Meeting House then was going to move away and June suggested (twisted my arm as I like to say) that I came and played the organ. She liked to challenge me at the Carol Service with something that I hadn't seen before. I was always wary of that time of the year of what I would be faced with. She was very keen to encourage her students to be involved with Carol services and other concerts in the Meeting House. She taught both Zoe and Joel piano in later years. She has always encouraged me to develop and 49 years later it has stood the testament of time.

by Robert Waller

June made an impact on the lives of many people through her teaching and encouragement. June was my friend and mentor. From the age of 3 she taught me music- not just the notes- but how to love music and how to seek solace and companionship in music. She was an advocate for the rights of women. This meant encouraging and celebrating the everyday achievements of the women around her. During my 6-year doctorate in which I also worked part-time, June encouraged me through the stress of it with singing lessons; We drank tea, ate biscuits and occasionally managed to get around to doing some singing! When I finally achieved the doctorate, she refused to introduce me to anyone as anything other than my full title. June was kind and fair, and fiercely stood up for her values. She fought for nature (quite literally in some cases), she

challenged inequality, and she was determinedly independent in thought and action.

June was the greatest of women; a 'rare bird' (using her own phrasing), brave, and adventurous. She continues to be an inspiration to me. I am so glad to have met June.

by Dr Elaina Taylor

June was always a strong presence when I started attending the Meeting House in 1991. Adjectives that come to mind when thinking of her could be "intrepid" and even - now and then - "formidable"! I can't pretend to have known her well, but I was full of admiration for her willingness to participate in concerts and of course in the annual candlelit carol service. And when Cliff was our minister and was on annual leave for the month of August, June could be relied on to volunteer to lead a service – equally when we have been without a minister. She was a regular attender on our zoom services when no longer able to travel from Felixstowe to Ipswich and I was sad when even this was no longer possible for her.

June's death has left a significant gap in the life of the Meeting House.

by Ann Baeppler

I have total admiration for June Teape, the achievements she made during her lifetime including education, career, talents, motherhood, difficult times and her kindness to many people who were lucky to know her and be in her presence.

May she rest in peace.

by Maggie Hodges

June was always there – when I first joined the congregation over 35 years ago, she seemed almost an institution. She sat always in the same pew at the back of the Meeting House, next to the organ – fittingly where her son Julian sat for her funeral. Her soprano voice rang out during the hymns and she regularly contributed to the carol service each year – either singing, reading, playing the piano – or all three. I am left with memories of a strong woman who passionately loved the Meeting House and was prepared to fight for its survival.

by Tessa Forsdike

So much to remember over so many years - all sorts of memories have been racing round in my head. I first met June in 1970 when as a student nurse she became my landlady and she introduced me to her friend and business partner, Michael Carr, who she had met through the church and which I also joined. Nick Teape married Michael and me in 1971 and our families became joined on our adoption of Nick's great nephew a few years later. June and I shared a friendship of over 50 years supporting each other in times of both laughter and tears. My children remember her, among other things, for her bribery with wine gums during piano lessons and in Duncan's case promises of strawberry jam on toast after the lesson if he would only concentrate. I shall never forget her wonderful personality and friendship.

by Lesley Tooke

I have fond memories of sitting on the Felixstowe bus on the way to the Meeting House with June regaling me with stories of her time teaching. While I can't remember any specific anecdotes, what struck me was June's stubborn courage in teaching any subjects and children she was required to teach. It inspires me now as a trainee teacher.

by Adam Whybray

To my dear friend June

If during coffee you inquired of June how she is, make sure you have time to listen. You will learn more than just the fact that she is well. Instead, if you are lucky, travel back in time as she paints a picture of her life growing up in the North, how she met her lovely Irish husband, Nick, saw him through college to become a Unitarian minister and how their son Julian came into their lives. June, I learned, taught singing and piano and had a love of bridge. She and Nick also started a drama class in the old church hall and saved an old Grade II listed house. There is more but as "*I don't want to detain you long,*" I will end here.

However, let me say my initial question on her health was well rewarded and that walk down memory lane with June, was a total delight and worth every moment of my time.

by Rosemary Hamilton

Recollections of June, my dear cousin. -

I was June's youngest cousin. June's mother, Dorothy, was my mother's sister. I have two older brothers, Richard and Roger, who came with me to June's 'Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Life of June Teape'.

As I was the youngest, some 14 years younger than June, my memories of her as a child were rather vague, but my brothers, who were evacuated to Calverton during the war, are full of stories about her. June escorting them up to Nottingham on the train, from Goodmayes where we lived at the time. (I was probably a baby then!) Immediately on arrival at her mum and dad's cottage, rushing them off to enjoy a local fair. (I suspect this was after the war had ended.) When I was a bit older we spent lovely holidays with our Nanny who lived in an adjoining cottage to June's parents, Dot and Walter. June was already in London at the time.

I do remember going to her wedding to Nick. I am sure he wore a dark green kilt and the place had lots of wide steps leading up to the entrance. The reception must have been in the same place as I remember my mother giving me a good telling off for eating too much ice cream with disastrous consequences!

Later in my life I got to know June better. I was aware of the three great tragedies in her life. The loss of her baby girl at full term was a very sad time for both Nick and June. Fortunately, they were able to adopt a baby, and Julian became the centre of their lives together. It was heart breaking to then lose Nick in their home, whilst he was doing some renovation work. There followed a period of time when June had to work hard to make ends meet. Dorothy (Aunt Dot, as I called her) having previously been widowed, became infirm and June welcomed her into her home so that she could look after her. I remember visiting her with my mother. It was very frustrating for June that Dorothy developed a medical problem that require a hospital stay, and that she was unable to manage her care at home. Her mother died in hospital, but I don't think June ever forgave herself, but she had nothing to feel guilty about.

When June retired, my brother Richard would periodically visit June, ostensibly to help her control her garden! It turned out that June really didn't mind the garden going wild! Occasionally we would go out to lunch, but June really preferred to stay at home

and make something for us. I realised how knowledgeable June was, not just about music, about art and books. While visiting June in hospital just before she died, I met one of her friends, who told my brother Roger and I, how they had had many holidays together travelling all over Europe.

I went to witness June being placed in her final resting place in Calverton, in a grave next to Dorothy and Walter Hempshall. Walter bought the two plots in 1934, but the cemetery is now completely full and June will be last person to be buried there. Julian and Richenda, and another distant cousin, Andy Mead and his wife were the only family present and we each said a few words. Whatever comes next, I am sure you will be welcomed with open arms.

by Elizabeth Hawes

Thank you to everyone who shared their memories and to Elaina for the photo.

### **Ipswich Solar Party**

Christchurch Mansion – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Look through real telescopes and other equipment to explore our star, the Sun. We will be joined by experts from the Orwell astronomical Society who will astound you with their knowledge and equipment. Please note that you will only be using specially equipped telescopes to safely look at the Sun.

Follow the link for more information -

[https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/events/solarparty/?mc\\_cid=9e4af7365c](https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/events/solarparty/?mc_cid=9e4af7365c)

### **IF**

If our lives have become shallow,  
Deepen them.

If our principles have become shabby,  
Deepen them.

If our ideals have become tarnished,  
Restore them.

If our hopes have become faded,  
Revive them.

If our loyalties have grown dim,  
Brighten them.

If our values have become confused,  
Clarify them.

If our purposes have become blurred,  
Sharpen them.

If our horizons have become contracted,  
Widen them.

If our hearts have become chilled by  
Indifference, fear and disappointment,  
Warm them with mercy and faith and love  
For ourselves and for each other.

Unknown

This was found in the beginning of 'TA for Teens and other important people' by Alvyn M. Freed and it seemed worth sharing ...

### **Thought for the month**

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. African proverb

### **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 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June by email to [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk) We welcome poems, cartoons, reflections, reports, reviews and news.

To contact our Secretary, ring 01473 728498 or our Treasurer Robert Waller on 01473 610723

email [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)

Website – [www.unitarianipswich.com](http://www.unitarianipswich.com)