



Visitors to our Meeting House



At the Heritage Open days on 14th and 15th September we welcomed over 750 visitors who had the opportunity to explore the whole of the Meeting House including - as you can see in the photos – seeing what it looks like from the pulpit and having a play on the piano. Lots of people took photos.

On the Saturday Lesley Southgate and her husband George faithfully counted and signed forms for people doing the Ride and Stride charity event.

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Thank you to all the volunteers who talked to the visitors, especially to Paulette and Cliff Reed, Rosemary Hamilton, Lesley and George Southgate and Tessa Forsdike. Some of the most common questions were *'why are there boxes round the pews?'* and *'what is Unitarianism?'* We tried to answer all queries. Children also loved seeking the 'church mouse' and were quicker to find him than their parents.



Faith and Spirituality Network Suffolk

This new body, formed under the wing of the East of England Faiths Agency, has been set up as a resource for individuals to find out about events, courses and seminars which may lead to more harmony and understanding. In these days of discord and division such a project seems to me more than worthwhile, so I was honoured to have been asked by Cynthia Capey (who will be well known to many of you as the founder of SIFRE) to serve as a trustee of this new organisation. More will follow in due course from me – but do check out the EEFA website www.interfaith.org.uk which gives more information about their activities.

Ann Baeppler

Meeting House Annual General Meeting – Sunday 10th November

We will be holding our AGM after the service on 10th November and we hope all members will be able to come. It is particularly important this year as all the Trustees will be either resigning or their term comes to an end. We thank Sandra Hawes, Malcolm Hawes, John Ellis and Tessa Forsdike for their commitment to supporting the Meeting House. The following Trustees are willing to stand for re-election – Paulette Reed, Ann Baepler, Linda King, Andrew Gibbs and Riena Jackson. Thank you to them too. There will be 3 remaining places to fill. To be eligible to stand for election you need to have been a fully paid up member of the congregation for at least one year. If you are interested in standing, do speak to a current Trustee. The intention is to reduce the number of meetings for the next year to four.

Harvest Festival



Well done to everyone who managed to reach the Meeting House for the Harvest Festival meal – enjoyed in the photo above. Some of us even made it to the service too! The extra challenge that morning was the closure of roads (including Friars Street) for the Ipswich Half Marathon Run.



Thank you to everyone who decorated the Meeting House and to Jenny Pile who set up her traditional farm scene in the foyer.

Organ Recital

Huge thanks to our organist Robert Waller, who gave a splendid recital on 21st September to about 50 people – some from our congregation, some family and friends and some organists from other churches. The evening was presented and the music introduced by Brenda Smith, who gave us interesting information about each of the composers.



We also drew the ticket to win the patchwork quilt at the end of the evening – and lucky Bunty Ball won. Thank you to all who bought tickets and to Sarane who made the quilt. The raffle made £281 and the donations during the recital and the open days this month brought in £486.74 for our Restoration Fund.

Sarane writes -

“That’s fantastic news!! I’m delighted with that result and impressed with how it was done! It’s a real treat to have been able to contribute to your gorgeous building! “



Composers played included – Vincent Lübeck; J S Bach; Cecil Armstrong Gibbs; Edward Elgar; Théodore Dubois; Alfred Hollins; Leon Boëلمان, so music ranging from the 17th to the 20th century.



Climate Change

Starting on October 7th, Extinction Rebellion groups across the world will gather in key cities to rebel. Full info about UK Action in London can be found [HERE](#):

www.rebellion.earth/international-rebellion/

Time is running out. Climate and ecological breakdown has already begun. Leading scientists and public figures (including the UN Secretary-General) have estimated we have as little as 18 months to turn it around.

Milk Bottle Tops

Thank you to everyone who is collecting plastic milk bottle tops and bringing them to the Meeting House. These are used to raise money for the MS Society to help people with Multiple Sclerosis. Please remember ONLY to bring tops from milk bottles, which are made from virgin plastic.



This sack of tops was collected over a whole year by a visitor – Kevin – who called in especially to bring them – pictured with Beryl, Maggie & Paulette

Ipswich Outreach



Ipswich Outreach includes Ipswich Soup Kitchen that was formed by Central Churches together in 1992 and has been running every night of the week since then. We also have a bus for outreach work and work with over 30 local agencies including IBC. We have an NHS Team that comes out with us as well. We see 30 to 50 people each night at the Soup Kitchen in Elm Street with many problems such as homelessness, mental health, hardship and loneliness.

In addition the Soup Kitchen works with many other local organisations that can offer the support that we cannot. We have an NHS health Outreach Team that comes down twice a week and The Samaritans twice a month.

The volunteer army that makes all this possible is now 200+ strong and growing. These are folk from all walks of life that give up an evening every fortnight.

We need blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries for the Soup Kitchen and welcome donations of clothes, bric-a-brac, small furniture and small electrical items to sell in our shop. Any items can be dropped off at our shop (pictured above) at 65 Westgate Street Ipswich IP1 3DZ Tel: 01473 214297 Ipswich Soup Kitchen & Outreach Bus: Tel - 07752573833 www.ipswichoutreach.co.uk We are also looking for volunteers to help with the soup kitchen so if you can spare some time to help, please contact us.

Ian Walters

Registered charity – 1164938t

Follower

By Seamus Heaney and suggested by Rosemary Hamilton

My father worked with a horse-plough,
Hi shoulders globed like a full sail strung
Between the shafts and the furrow.
The horses strained at his clicking tongue.

An expert. He would set the wing
And fit the bright steel-pointed sock.
The sod rolled over without breaking.
At the headrig, with a single pluck

Of reins, the sweating team turned round
And back into the land. His eye
Narrowed and angled at the ground,
Mapping the furrow exactly.

I stumbled in his hob-nailed wake,
Fell sometimes on the polished sod;
Sometimes he rode me on his back
Dipping and rising to his plod.

I wanted to grow up and plough,
To close one eye, stiffen my arm.
All I ever did was follow
In his broad shadow round the farm.

I was a nuisance, tripping, falling,
Yapping always. But today
It is my father who keeps stumbling
Behind me, and will not go away.

UNI-Fest (Peak District) - 25-28 October -

this family weekend is almost full so contact the [Nightingale Centre](#) if your family is interested in a last-minute space.

Margaret Atwood on Christianity, 'The Handmaid's Tale,' and What Faithful Activism Looks Like Today – link to an interview by Layton E Williams -

<https://sojo.net/articles/margaret-atwood-christianity-handmaid-s-tale-and-what-faithful-activism-looks-today>

Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival 25th – 27th October 2019

All events will be held in the Bury Unitarian Meeting House – see Events section for details of buying tickets – and for more info go to – https://www.facebook.com/BuryLitFest/?ref=br_rs

Date	Time	Author(s)	Edited summary	Cost
Sat 26 th	11.30 am	Josh Winning (novelist)	A talk about his books 'Vicious Rumer' and the fantasy 'Sentinel Trilogy'.	£8.00
Sat 26 th	12.45 pm	Anne-Marie Howell (novelist)	A reading from her magical debut novel 'The Garden of Lost Secrets'.	£8.00
Sat 26 th	2.15 pm	Francis Young (historian)	A talk about 'Holy and Unholy Suffolk: Adventures in Suffolk's History and Folklore'.	£8.00
Sat 26 th	3.30 pm	Ruth Hogan (novelist)	A conversation about her warm-hearted fiction.	£10.00
Sat 26 th	5.30 pm	Charles Mugglestone	A talk and reading of the poem 'Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam'.	£8.00
Sat 26 th	7.30 pm	Sophie Hannah (poet and novelist)	A talk about her work as a poet, crime novelist and self-help guru: 'How to Hold a Grudge'.	£10.00
Sun 27 th	10.30 am	Jackie Carreira (playwright) Pauline Manders (novelist)	A discussion of the highs and lows of independent publishing.	£2.00
Sun 27 th	11.30 am	Matt Gaw (naturalist)	A talk about his work as writer, journalist and naturalist.	£8.00
Sun 27 th	1.00 pm	Erica James (novelist)	A conversation with the author and opportunity for the audience to ask questions.	£10.00
Sun 27 th	2.30 pm	Sam Byers (novelist)	A talk about his novels 'Idiopathy' and 'Perfidious Albion'.	£10.00
Sun 27 th	4.00 pm	Georgina Harding (novelist)	A conversation with the author.	£10.00
Sun 27 th	6.30 pm	Wendy Cope (poet)	"The much loved Wendy Cope brings the Festival to an end with her witty and pitch perfect poetry."	£12.00

Events in October

12th – Dementia Walk

13th – BBC Radio Suffolk – news review with Tessa Forsdike – 7.20am

16th - Trustees Meeting – 6pm

17th - Conversation in the Upper Room – 7pm

24th - United Nations Day

25th to 27th – Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival in the Bury Unitarian Meeting House -

https://www.facebook.com/BuryLitFest/?ref=br_rs

Buy tickets online via

www.wegotickets.com/burylitfest (10% booking fee) - or - in person from Oakes Barn, St Andrews Street South (no booking fee) or at the door.

... and also in November ...

7th – Conversation in the Upper Room – 7pm

10th - Remembrance Service and Meeting House AGM (after the service)

24th – St Cecelia musical service and Lewis' last one

Services

All our services start at 10.45 on a Sunday and all are welcome.

29th September – led by Professor Geoffrey Levermore

6th October – led by Lynne Davies

13th, 20th and 27th led by Lewis Connolly

After Lewis leaves as Minister at the end of November, we will be looking for people to lead our services and Linda King would like people to suggest themes for a series of 'circle services' for future Sundays. Please let her know on -

lindapendal@gmail.com)

Birthdays

Happy birthday in October to Maggie Hodges on 17th; Isaac Shaikh on 18th; Louis Hawes and Edmund Bradbrook on 25th; Andrew Gibbs on 27th and a very special mention for Sandra Hawes on 25th, who celebrates her 80th!

Updates

We are happy to report that our Treasurer Andrew Gibbs is out of hospital and making good progress. We wish him well in his recovery.

Taizé Singing Group

After a summer break, 12 of us gathered in the Upper Room on 8th September to sing together again, with the patchwork quilt on display to encourage the purchase of raffle tickets! It's amazing how the sounds of the children in the nursery school below become eclipsed as we become immersed in the joining together of our voices, only to re-emerge into our awareness after the chant has died away.

We talked about holding a service again in the Christmas/New Year period. Liz Gerrie, one of the group's leaders, will be away over Christmas itself, so the likelihood is that we will offer a service to usher in the New Year.

New members are always welcome: we meet from 10 - 12 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Ann Baeppler

Historic England funding grant application

We are still awaiting a decision from Historic England about match funding for our restoration. The tension is mounting ... and made worse by our not knowing when the decision will be made. Fingers and toes crossed!

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 Friday 25th October – to ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS
To contact our Secretary, Riena Jackson, ring 01473 210064/email mjack76748@aol.com
To contact our Minister, Lewis Connolly, ring 01473 422528/email revdlewisconnolly@gmail.com
Website - <http://unitarianipswich.com>

Thought for the month

Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now - Alan Lankein