



Time to Celebrate

We will be celebrating the restoration and future potential of our historic Meeting House on Saturday 25th September at 2pm. Some invitations have gone out already and we will be sending more along with the programme to all the people who have been involved with the restoration project, all who were generous enough to support our fundraising, all friends of the building, our congregation, local people who have an interest in the history and architecture and people who may be interested in joining us for future events. If you know of someone who may like an invitation, do please mention the date to them and let Tessa know (tessa@tessajordan.co.uk) so that we can keep a track of the number of people who will be joining us. This is important both for catering and for fire risk reasons.

We will be filming the presentations, so anyone who cannot be with us will later be able to watch the edited version via our website –

www.unitarianipswich.com

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Programme – 2pm start

Intrada - Grayston Ives - Organ music by Robert Waller

Welcome from Linda King, Chairperson of the Trustees of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House

The Origins of the Meeting House – Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus

Original Investigation Report – Phil Chatfield MCIQB Building Consultant

The Restoration Project – craftsmanship and skills involved – Stuart Edgar (KHL Architects) and Mark Frankis (Valiant)

Thank you to the Grant Funders and looking to the Future – Tessa Forsdike - Secretary of the Trustees

Chariots of Fire – Vangelis - Organ music by Robert Waller

We will be serving a glass of bubbly and light refreshments afterwards in the courtyard outside where there will be photographs of the process of the restoration work on display. Alongside a slide show in the Meeting House there will be people to answer more detailed or technical questions and many of the craftspeople will be there too.

We will need volunteers to help on the day please – to erect the marquee, to set up the refreshments and presentations, to be fire wardens, to serve refreshments, to answer people’s queries, to register those interested in becoming a Friend of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House and to clear up afterwards.

Events for your diary

1st September – Trustees meeting – if you have anything to raise, please mention it to one of the Trustees as soon as possible.

4th September – Yalda Davis – Cello concert in Orford Church – the 500th such concert she has done.

5th September – Meeting House BBQ at Maggie's home – after the service – please contact Maggie to book and to offer food donations -

maggiehodges70@gmail.com

11th September – Ride and Stride – in support of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust who gave us grants towards our restoration. We will need people to sign in visitors and anyone who would like to can also sponsor our own riders and striders (Riena Jackson; Linda King; Tessa and David Forsdike). Half of all sponsorship monies comes back to our Meeting House.

11th and 12th September – Heritage Open Days – many buildings in Ipswich will be open to visitors, including our Meeting House – let Robert Waller know if you can be a steward.

21st September – East Anglian Unitarian Women's Group meeting – via Zoom and in person here in Ipswich – contact Linda King for details.

23rd September – 2pm – Poetry Group meeting – to discuss poems by Wendell Berry – contact Riena Jackson for the details

23rd September – 7pm - Book Group meeting – we will be discussing 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernardine Evaristo – contact Tessa Forsdike for the Zoom link

25th September – 2pm – Celebration of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House – see front page for more details.

2nd October – Trianon Concert – 7.30pm – in aid of our Meeting House – tickets £10 to include refreshments – see Robert Waller for tickets.

September is a busy month and we thank our volunteers in advance for all their help!

All welcome at our services –



When Ali Mercer came to lead our service on 8th August, she and Phil brought their dogs with them – Mac, Peggy and Bob. So good to see them too.

Services in September

5th - Ali Mercer - Ipswich Unitarian in Devon via Zoom

12th - Lizzie Kingston - Framlingham Unitarians.

19th - Lynne Davies - Norwich Unitarians.

26th - Nick Groves - Norwich Unitarians.

Advance notice – 3rd October - Harvest Festival service. Please bring non-perishable goods and tins. These will be donated to Lighthouse Women's Aid, our chosen charity for this year.

Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House



This group is set up for anyone interested in supporting our Meeting House building – both for its historic interest and for its future survival. We will be promoting this group at the Celebration event but you and your friends can join already. The benefits include –

- Annual private Friends tour of the Meeting House
- Welcome pack with book about the Meeting House
- Priority booking for events in the Meeting House
- Volunteering opportunities
- Tours of other historic buildings, including the Willis building
- Two Friends social events and newsletters each year

Membership fees –

Individual - £12; Family - £20;

Student/Unemployed - £5; Corporate - £50

To join now please send your contact details to Ann Baeppler - Pollys Cottage, The Street, Harkstead, Ipswich IP9 1BT and let her know how you would like to pay the membership fee - by bank transfer to Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House; HSBC; sort code – 40 25 31; a/c 81421980 - PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND 'FRIENDS' AS THE REFERENCE - **Or** by cheque (payable to the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House) Please let us know if you are a tax payer and would like us to claim Gift Aid.

Birthdays in September

Happy birthday to Thomas Shaw on 8th, to Freddie Gray on 14th and special congratulations to Karen Tricker on 7th and to Ann Baeppler on 20th as both are celebrating round number birthdays!

Historic Photographer of the Year opens for entries

Historic Photographer of the Year celebrates the best historic places and cultural sites across the globe, from the most famous national treasures to the most obscure hidden gems. With varying restrictions in place across the globe, rather than asking entrants to head out and explore, Award organisers are instead seeking entries that have already been captured. By taking part, entrants will get the chance to win an array of prizes including a special behind-the-scenes heritage experience from Historic England.

<https://www.historicphotographeroftheyear.com/>

Historic England is always looking for photographs to enrich the List. The National Heritage List for England has at least 400,000 historic items. Click here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/> to sign up and upload your photos of your favourite historic building/feature.

Maybe one of the photos you have taken of our Meeting House would be a valid entry?



Photo – Historic England – Patricia Payne

A Personal Response to “Beyond Darkness – Words for Reflection”

Following the publication in 2020 of Cliff Reed’s latest collection of writings, many of you will have seen the Zoom conversation between our Minister Emeritus and Kate Brady McKenna and will similarly I imagine have treated yourselves to your own copy of “*Beyond Darkness*”. A review also appeared in “*The Inquirer*” some months ago, so what follows are just one or two personal thoughts.

We were lucky enough to have Cliff conduct several Sunday services last year, and items included from his new book gave us a rich preview of what was to come. Of course at that time we had not long been plunged into lockdown and Covid 19 was a terrifying and all too present threat, so maybe you, like me, will particularly remember the impact of the prayer “*In a Time of Fear*” which urged us not to “*fall into panic and hysteria*” – probably the default emotional state of many of us in those early months of the pandemic? And with everything that’s going on in the world at the moment, the invitation to pray for the ability to face a crisis “*with sound knowledge and clear sight*” is as relevant now as it was then. I also recall the deep chord struck by “*Colours of the Rainbow*”, which encouraged us not just to see the negative but to widen our view to embrace both optimism and gratitude.

I certainly wouldn’t want to give the impression that Cliff’s subject matter is mainly linked to the pandemic. Its range is far reaching, moving from material appropriate to worship services of all kinds, to reflections on various life passages as well as to musings on historical events, life in general and on his own in particular, as well as some exquisite poems inspired by Nature. For myself, I know that when winter gloom descends again, re-visiting “*Greenwood*” will give a welcome reassurance that Spring will return. And as Autumn approaches, how lovely to anticipate the finding of the “*First Conker*” – is there anyone who can fail to be moved by this joyful reminder of their

childhood? For us “*Suffolkians*” being given the reference to the place which inspired a poem adds a further enriching dimension – I’m not yet familiar with Captain’s Wood but I’m looking forward to discovering it, particularly on a wet day! (See Greenwood p.60).

The mood of the poems is far from uniform – being Welsh with a love of the minor key in all things, I particularly related to those striking a more poignant note, viz “*Mothering Sunday*” and “*Another Autumn*”, but that doesn’t mean to say that “*Too Hot – Advice in a Heatwave*” didn’t make me chuckle! And the idea of Mary Magdalene being a rock star – how fantastic and refreshing.....

But what I experienced throughout was a renewed appreciation of Cliff’s thoughtful and open mind when it comes to “*matters religious*” - how wonderful to find “*God*” named as the “*Great Mystery*” in “*Late Autumn Meditation*” and to be reminded that the essence of religion is discovering “*how to live from a place of loving*”.

I’ve long valued what I’ve called Cliff’s “*way with words*”, of which *Beyond Darkness* is a more than an ample corroboration. Thank you, Cliff, for your insights and inspiration.

Ann Baepler

PS If you don’t yet own *Beyond Darkness*, it is available from The Lindsey Press - RRP £9, go to www.unitarian.org.uk/shop

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 Monday 27th Sept 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

In order to have faith in your own path, you do not need to prove that someone else’s path is wrong. — Paulo Coelho