



MALVERN QUAKER NEWS SHEET

APRIL 2016

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed 6th	12.00 – 12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship + picnic lunch
Wed 6th	1.00 – 2.30	Swap & Share Book Group: bring along a favourite biography or autobiography. All are welcome.
Sun 10th	11.00 – 11.30	Home Meeting for Worship at Albion Lodge, Hanley Swan <i>Offers of lifts needed Tel. Betty 594685 if you can help</i>
Sun 10th	After Meeting	Sale of Fairtrade Goods
Tues 12	3.00 - 5.00 Great Malvern Hotel	Positive Money meeting. Further info overleaf
Wed 13th	10.30 – 12.00	Share thoughts on Quaker Faith & Practice, Ch 12 Caring for One Another & Ch 17 Quaker Funerals
Wed 13th	8.00 – 9.00	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 16th	10.00 – 2.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café at the Meeting House
Sun 17th	After Meeting	Informal Talk TO BE CONFIRMED
Wed 20th	12.30 -2.00	Soup Aid - raising money for refugees <i>Help needed getting out tables</i>

SUPPORT SOUP AID! The last one funded 4 wood-burning stoves for refugees

On Friday April 1st, a member of the HMP Long Lartin worshipping group will be welcomed into membership. Our clerk has sent Guy a card on behalf of the Meeting. Melanie will be attending.

LOOKING AHEAD: There is no Business Meeting in April- the next one is Sunday May 8th

Saturday 7th May Fifth “Presence and Absence” Workshop: Afterwards

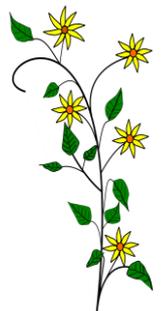
An exploration of the challenges and issues arising for those left alive after a death; the healing power of grief; the execution of a will and the disposing of personal effects.

27th- 30th May Britain Yearly Meeting, London

Friends are asked to consider whether they are able to attend, even if only for one day, to participate in our central gathering and ‘see one other’s faces’, as urged by George Fox. Being in such a crowd of Quakers is very uplifting and stimulating after our quiet Malvern meeting.

We are asked to register if attending. Full details on <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/bym/>

Thurs June 2nd Coach Outing to Laskett Gardens, Herefordshire, a marvellous new creation. Please sign up now on the list by the kitchen hatch or contact Eoin and Paula 01684 893591.



NEWS and VIEWS

Home Meeting (for our less mobile friends)

Betty Hudson

We had a warm welcome for our March Home Meeting at Mowbray Nursing Home. There were 8 people present. This month, we'll be going to Albion Lodge. All are welcome.

Positive Money

Eoin McCarthy

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12 April, Great Malvern Hotel 3pm-5pm



Positive Money is a campaigning organisation that aims to promote a vision of money being used in a democratic, accountable and transparent way. Based in the UK, it is now linked to a growing number of organisations in other countries.

According to the website: *"The way money is created can either benefit or be hugely detrimental to a nation. Our current system opts for the latter: Positive Money has real-world ideas on how to change this situation for the benefit of us all. Everyone should support this cause."*

There is now a group meeting regularly in Malvern to discuss and understand the state of our money system, and how we can fix it, through alternative control of the creation and allocation of money. The April meeting will include a review of Mervyn King's new book on Banking, and will discuss ways of promoting the Positive Money agenda. SEE <http://positivemoney.org/>

The Crimes of the Powerful

Melanie Jameson

Coincidentally these same title words have cropped up, both announcing a keynote session at the annual conference of the European Society of Criminology, and at the recent Quakers in Criminal Justice (QICJ) conference: *The Crimes of the Powerful*.

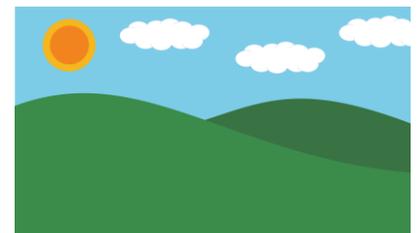
These largely overlooked wrong-doings are now in the spotlight. Usually an organisation is at fault and it is difficult to pin the crime on individuals. Often the company cannot even be held to account, because it is embedded in another organisation which is out of reach of national jurisdiction. SERCO is a good example of such a multi-national conglomerate, with funds disappearing into tax havens and the holding companies which channel these funds. Untraceable supply chains are another reason why it is difficult to determine accountability, even when criminal negligence has occurred.

In our QICJ session we learnt of circa £10 billion of public aid reconstruction money being corruptly channelled to American and British contractors, about Ford Pinto cars in the 70s which were known to have a fault, but which would cost more to fix than paying out following deaths. Why do corporate scandals go unpunished? Are the laws framed to protect the powerful (who may cause millions of pounds worth of damage) but pounce on individuals who cause far less harm but cannot disappear behind the protections of the elite?

Getting up on the Hills: Conservators to the rescue

Richard Bartholomew

For anyone who would really like to get to the top of the Worcestershire Beacon but finds that their legs are no longer so reliable, the Conservators are working with the H2O Cafe at the Wyche Innovation Centre to acquire two Trumper vehicles; these are like a 4x4 version of the mobility scooters that our older people buzz around on.



If all goes well, the Trampers will arrive in a few weeks, and you will be able to have a basic driving lesson and then be allowed to take it up to the Beacon.

Gong Resonance 17th April, Meeting House 2.30 – 3.30 Email: gongresonance@hotmail.com

Jon Critoph urges us to try this experience, a combination of mediation and reflection. The musical vibrations of the gongs are sensed within all the cells of the body, encouraging deep relaxation.