



# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

**April 2018**

**Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)</b>
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> April		<b>Easter Sunday – No MfW for Business</b>
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	12.00–12.40	<b>Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship</b>
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> (Rescheduled - normally 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	1.30 – 3.00	<b>Reading Group</b> Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan
Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur)	6.00–7.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b>
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 4.30	<b>Woodbrooke on the Road at Bewdley</b> (see below)
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	12.00	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b> after Meeting for Worship
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 – 6.30	<b>Peaceful Schools Movement Meeting</b> (see below)
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> tbc	tbc	<b>Yearly Meeting Preparation</b>
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	10.00–1.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b>
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Area Meeting Event</b> (see below)
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	After MfW	<b>Celebration of David Simmons 80<sup>th</sup></b> followed by a talk on <b>Quakers and Spirituality</b> by Jon Knight
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> May	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>

**Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**Dates and contributions to [Newsletter@malvernlqm.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernlqm.org.uk) or phone 01684 564448**

## Special Collection for April: Glebe House - A Therapeutic community

The Friends Therapeutic Community Trust (FTCT) was established in the late 1960s in response to the concerns of a Quaker Probation Officer. He had not been able to find an appropriate residential resource where intensive work with troubled young men took place. Now the focus is working with sexually harmful and challenging behaviour and we have acknowledged expertise of working with young men in this area.

Residents come to Glebe House (in Cambridgeshire) through referral by Local Authorities and Social Services or as directed by the Court. Over an average of two years, residents are encouraged to recognise and effectively reduce the risks and threats that they face and represent. The aim is to help residents resume independent living.

See <https://www.ftctrust.org.uk/glebe.php>



## Woodbrooke-on-the-road day with Alex Wildwood Speaking of God - or not

**Bewdley Friends' Meeting House, Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10.00 to 4.30**

For over 350 years Quakers have spoken of 'discerning the will of God', an understanding which underlies the expectant waiting of Quaker worship and of our business meetings. But today Quakers in Britain reflect the pluralism of the wider culture. While some Friends still find traditional God language deeply meaningful, others find the word has too many negative associations and seek new ways of describing and relating to the mystery at the heart of life. This is a chance to listen respectfully to one another, explore the significance and potential of our current spiritual diversity, and reflect together on 'things eternal'.

Please support this event, currently undersubscribed. Let David Rolfe know if you want to attend, [david@daverolfe.org](mailto:david@daverolfe.org). Cost to Friends is £10.00.

## Peaceful Schools Movement Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April

This movement has been initiated by Liz Flanagan and is one of the ways in which Malvern Meeting is using the legacy funds. This meeting is to launch the movement and is being widely publicised in Malvern. Ellis Brooks, the Peace Education Programme Manager from Quaker Peace and Social Witness is leading the event. There will be tea and cake at 4.30, with discussion from 5 – 6.30. Contact Liz for more details or to offer help, 07854 244591. (See article by Jon Knight below)

## Woodbrooke Online Meetings for Worship

Joint them for an online Meeting for Worship each Wednesday at 09:30 and Friday at 13:00.

See <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/online-mfw/>

## Climate, the environment & economic justice

### Confident Conversations skillshare, 21 April 2018, Friends House, London

How do Friends have the confidence to have difficult conversations with people in power about economics and climate justice? This skill share will give you tips and opportunities to practice so that you leave the day better able to have productive conversations that contribute to change. See <http://www.quaker.org.uk/events>

### Area Meeting event

Following a much enjoyed Area Meeting Get Together at Bewdley last August, similar events are to be held simultaneously on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Shrewsbury and Bewdley Meeting Houses.

The programme is:

Meeting for Worship 11am to 12 noon, followed by

Picnic lunch to 1330 and an

Optional local guided walk of approximately one hour.

Contact Eion McCarthy to share transport to Bewdley: [eoin.mccarthy@decisiontrust.org](mailto:eoin.mccarthy@decisiontrust.org)



### Yearly Meeting 2018: 4 - 7 May 2018, Friends House, London

This year Yearly Meeting will be considering whether it is time to revise Quaker faith & practice. The full programme was sent out with this Newsletter and is on the Meeting notice board. Even if you are not thinking of going, it's good to know what will be going on. It's not too late to decide to go. See also <http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

There will be a discussion meeting organised by Elders, on 25<sup>th</sup> April or 2 May, tbc

## Summer Outing Update

**Westonbury Mill Water gardens, Pembridge, Herefordshire HR6 9HZ**

**Sunday 15th July 2018 at 1.30pm until 5pm**

A minibus will be leaving the Meeting House at 12.15, and returning there by about 6 pm. You could then buy lunch at the gardens or picnic in the car park, or you can go in your own car. The price is £10 including a cream. Book your ticket from Jon Critoph 01684 540 372 or 07766 828 072 or email: [wellbeingwisdomworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:wellbeingwisdomworkshops@gmail.com)

### Update on Rovia

**Betty Hudson**

We support Rovia through FOAG, the Farmers Overseas Action Group. We have received this from the Sponsorship Organiser for FOAG:

"The fees for Rovia have now been paid and received by the College for her to start on her book-keeping course. There was enough money in her account for this payment, with some left over for the next Semester. Our June monthly contributions will be sent to FOAG for Rovia. She hopes to continue on for the diploma course after this year's certificate. Please thank your supporting friends in the Quakers."

More money will be needed for the next semester so our collection in June will be very timely to add to that remaining in the FOAG Account.

### **Advices & Queries No 31**

We are called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars'. Do you faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your own way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God.

## **Malvern Quakers Educating For Peace**

**Jon Knight**

Peace is one of those words which everyone uses every day, it has many meanings in many contexts and so when it comes to pinning it down to a definition, well it is pretty tricky! How then do you teach about something which is at best a "sort of commonly agreed thing sort of like this..."? The simple answer is you don't, education is always about peace and always has been regardless of its content or superficial practical purpose, it is about the transforming of fear and ignorance into understanding and security, the provision of words and intellect in a struggle rather than a blind whirlwind of fists. If I was pushed to define peace I would say it was "The fading of fear and threat" I know that this is far too simplistic, but it is a start and what is more it is the start point of our educational work.

Both Liz Flanaga and I have invested a large proportion of our lives to the cause of educating younger people, we have done so with the understanding that empowered and informed individuals secure in their capabilities are less threatened and fearful of the "Other" or the "Unknown" they have a greater ability to rationalise, seek evidence and consider rather than be pushed into an animalistic reaction of fear or anger, in short they become far more likely to engage and communicate than bulk and fight.

As a child I was scared of the dark, I am sure this is a common response of most young people to the unknown. My mind would fill the sensory ignorance with all manner of spectres and risks, my senses over alert ready to fight or flee, yet with a flick of a switch they all disappeared from the room and/or my mind.

Education for peace is all about finding and nurturing the child's light, powering it up with inquisitiveness, focusing it with searching questions, turning up the power with each joy of discovery, the glow and warmth of shared exploration, the flicking on of the switch in another corner of the mind expelling another spectre alleviating another unreal fear, all these actions serve to brighten their light, increase the power and longevity of their batteries and cast open the width of their rays.

It seems that humanity has arrived at another point in history where leaders are willing to use fear of the other and reactionary protectionism to secure their own ascent or kick start the economies of war. It seems the tide is unstoppable with a press only too eager to sell bad news, yet they can only succeed if our children are susceptible to their fear, if they are made to glow then shine, to question and talk openly of the alternatives, if they confront the other with discussion and not threat, If the next generation is educated for peace not taught to be peaceful, then Machiavelli will be proved wrong again and the tyrants will hopefully fall before a war.

Educating for peace is just proper educating! Encouraging inquisitiveness not fear, questioning and curiosity not threats and to look for the commonality of humanity not the irrelevant distinctions. It is about bring up explorers of the universe and humanity so they can walk free from a dark cave and meet with their equals in the sunshine in peace.

## **New books in the Library**

Several of us attended a memorable evening at Colwall Church listening to **Terry Waite** talking about his time as a hostage. We came away with two of his books: **Solitude** and **Out of the Silence**. Look out for them in the Library.



### **Meeting house in the snow**

Taken by Nat Macara on the morning of Sunday March 18th. He was amused to see Fox tracks going round to the back door!

## **The Quaker Peace Garden at Malvern Cube**

**Melanie Jameson**

Have you ever visited the Quaker Peace Garden? Situated outside Malvern Cube, it greatly enhances the attractiveness of the site. But it is more than a pleasant garden; the Quaker dimension and the four-part symbolism it embodies lend it a deeper significance.

You enter the Garden by one of four quadrants; Peace, Truth, Simplicity and Equality. All lead to the centre and each segment is carefully planted to reflect its theme.

The Peace quadrant includes three Peace Roses, reaching up above the other plants. The pathway across this quadrant is broken and haphazard, just as the road to peace-making is fraught with obstacles and diversions. Unlike the path within the Truth section: this is straight and unbending; the planting is erect and distinct while strong colours speak of different truths.

A simple meandering path signifies Simplicity. Spring bulbs are first seen here. The Equality quadrant is planned as a celebration of opposites – different but equally valued. All will grow together as the garden matures.

This wonderful vision and the regular work of caring for the Garden is thanks to June Baguley. She has revived a rather overgrown plot and re-imagined it in a way that has enhanced its original creation.

It was originally designed for the 2010 Spring Garden Show by Matthew Jackman who had attended a Quaker school. He envisaged his garden as 'a calm thought-provoking and

focused space' to reflect the atmosphere at a Quaker meeting. It was awarded a silver medal. See photo on the front of this Newsletter. Malvern Quakers decided to buy it and set it up in its present location.

Over the years it has been adopted by the local community; passers-by wander along the paths, some stop to sit quietly. June has been approached by bereaved people wishing to pay for a plant in memory of a loved one. It has even played host to a wedding party (see photo).

This garden is for everyone to enjoy, so come and sit, think and enjoy the special ambiance.

You can read more about Malvern Cube at [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com)

## Glenthorne Guest House

Glenthorne welcomes families and individuals of all ages for holidays or short breaks in the heart of the English Lake District. They aim to meet the differing needs of all our guests in a peaceful atmosphere with Quaker values and ethos, with a daily meeting form Worship. A few courses coming up:

Walking holiday. - Monday 30th April – Friday 4th May

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June – Quakers Sharing Experience. Led by Geoffrey Durham

To see more go to [glenthorne.org/events/events-programme-2018/](http://glenthorne.org/events/events-programme-2018/)



Worcestershire & Shropshire  
**AREA MEETING GATHERING**  
September 28th-30th 2018  
\*\*\*  
Worcestershire & Shropshire Area Meeting  
invite you to a weekend of fun and creativity  
at the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.  
*Unwrapping our gifts  
and tapping into the spirit.*

Full poster and booking forms in the Meeting House or from Elizabeth Rolph