



# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

August 2019



Students in Ramallah Friends School

## Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	11.30 am	<b>A Vigil in Remembrance and Prayer</b> (including remembering the nuclear devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) led by the Revd Peter Grimwood. Meditation in Great Malvern Priory and a Vigil in the Priory grounds at 12 noon "Witnessing to the World"
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>		No Meeting for Worship for Business
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	12.00–12.40	<b>Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship</b>
Thur 8 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur)	6.00–7.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b> 30 minutes MfW followed by drinks
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	3.30-5.30	<b>Andrew Jameson's celebrations in the Dell House garden.</b> RSVP to <a href="mailto:mj@dyslexia-malvern.co.uk">mj@dyslexia-malvern.co.uk</a>
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	<b>Christians Against Poverty Update and Prayers in the Lyttelton Rooms</b> (Guesten Room). All Welcome.
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)		<b>No Malvern Hills Repair Café in August</b>
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday)	12.00	<b>Shared lunch after MfW</b> Soup or a hot dish to be provided, please bring other contributions. Co-ordinated by Judith Badman or Liz Flanagan
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>

If you are not on the e-mail list and would like to be, or have changed your e-mail, please contact me. Contributions to me for the next Newsletter by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August I'm aiming for a bi-monthly full Newsletter, with a mini one in between.

**Elizabeth Rolph**

[Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk) or phone 01684 564448

### Did you Know..

.... that the dates and News Sheets are put on our Meeting website every month. So if it gets lost in your sea of e-mails, see <http://www.malvernquakers.org.uk/>

## Special Collection for August: Ramallah Friends School

Ramallah Friends School in Palestine relies on charitable contributions to fund student financial aid program, teacher salaries, educational projects, and the maintenance of school facilities.

This collection will make a positive difference in the lives of Palestinian students by keeping educational opportunities at the Friends School available to all. Since 1869, the School has been serving the Palestinian community by providing high academic standards, while advocating key Quaker principles of tolerance, diversity, and respect. They believe that no child should be denied access to education due to an inability to pay. See [www.rfs.edu.ps](http://www.rfs.edu.ps)



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### Invitation from Peter Thomas and Barbara Steele

We are getting married at Malvern Meeting House on Saturday 14 September at 11.30am. All Malvern Quakers are welcome to attend our simple ceremony and to join us for light refreshments afterwards. No cards or presents, please.

### Peace Education & Children's workshops at the Meeting House

Rosemary Webb is running workshops for children aged 5 – 10 on a biblical theme with parachute games, craft activities and stories. The first was on July 24<sup>th</sup> and was a success with over 20 children. Lots of clearing up was needed, so if you're able to help at the others on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup> please contact **Liz Flanagan**.

**APE (active peace education)** are urgently seeking new volunteers to work 2 hours per week in term time on this exciting project. All training will be provided, and an opportunity to shadow project leaders will begin in September. Contact **Liz Flanagan** [flanaganelizabeth63@gmail.com](mailto:flanaganelizabeth63@gmail.com).

### Events at Great Malvern Priory

#### 1) Lift a Banner in the Land: During August

A sign of Christian Unity Exhibition of Malvern Churches banners in the North Aisle. Thanks to Diana Phillips for creating one for Malvern Meeting.

#### 2) The Stages of Life', Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 6.30pm

The Well Counselling Presents this evening of poetry, prayers and music to celebrate the journey of life from childhood to old age. All welcome.

### International Peace Day Sept 21st

There will be a vigil at the Peace pole at the Meeting House at 12 followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. At about 1.30 there will be a talk on Climate change and its implications by David Terry.



### Quaker Week: Saturday 28 September to Sunday 6 October 2019

Quaker Week is all about Quaker stories. Do you know each other's stories? Can you share your meeting's story with the world? If you are on social media, use the hashtag #QuakerStories to find examples and share your stories.

**Events at the Meeting House:** On the Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October **Volante Strings** will be performing for us, on a retiring collection basis, at lunch time. **Lucy Aphramor's** event will be at 6.30. This one-woman spoken word show is a mesmerising and unashamedly queer exploration looking at food, body respect and the ways we connect with ourselves and each other.

Any thoughts and ideas about promotion to the public would be appreciated to Clerks.

## **PROTEST AGAINST THE DEFENCE & SECURITY EXPO**

**Melanie Jameson**

In this, its third year, the Defence & Security Expo at the Three Counties Showground has doubled in size, with the addition of a 'Special Products Industry Day' (16th July), previously held at the defence college at Shrivenham - so Malvern Individuals for Peace was back in action! This time we had help from Rebecca of the Hereford Peace Council and Ade of Worcester Meeting, who is our Area Meeting representative on the Quaker Roots of Resistance group (formed to plan actions against the DSEI Arms Fair this September in London).

A look at the exhibitors section of the Expo's website [www.3cdse.co.uk](http://www.3cdse.co.uk) reveals BAE Systems, amongst others on the CAAT blacklist, along with some of their products. Closer scrutiny makes clear that the main purpose of this event is to recruit small and medium enterprises into the defence and security industry. The website boasted that delegates would have access to 2000 'decision makers', and 150+ exhibitors, although we have no way of knowing whether these numbers were achieved. Security had been dramatically increased with attendance limited to 'industry' members and those intending to supply industry/military/law enforcement agencies. 'Our' prospective delegate was therefore unable to register because of this new requirement for everyone to have current security clearance.

Driving past the Showground that morning, to check which Gate was being used, cars were backing up on the Hanley Road as all were searched on entry; this even happened at the end of the day when cars drove in to collect people at the end of the day.

Now to the elements of our protest on Wed 17th: At 2pm Friends from three Meetings and local supporters met at Barnards Green, with banners and placards, and held a vigil round the trees. We then marched through the village and on to Qinetiq, which has recently signed a partnership agreement with Saudi Arabia. Here Dick Stockford read out his moving testimony (reproduced below this report) and a wreath was attached to their main roadside sign, in memory of young children killed in the Yemeni conflict. A surprised Qinetiq employee emerged and was invited to listen.



From there, lifts were provided to the Showground exit gate on Hanley Rd and, facing the delegates' cars as they left, we formed a line displaying our messages, these included:

- Malvern Showground Welcomes Arms Traders - NOT IN OUR NAME
- Quakers Say: Use your Technology to Heal our World
- Quakers Say: Use your Skills to Tackle the Climate Emergency.

Meanwhile Malvern Pagans were staging their own witness up in town, near the Elgar statue. Ian Woodcock informed us: *Early afternoon we laid flowers at the Malvinha Spring, with a notice that they were for all those harmed by Malvern's support for the arms trade. Elgar was given some paper darts with 'Fly Darts not Drones' printed on them. We also performed with peace songs and affirmations in the presence of some supportive well water fillers.*

The end of the day did not mean the end of the activity. Signatures have been collected to accompany an Open Letter to the Showground Board of Trustees. Now that around forty people have signed, an appointment will be made with the CEO of the Showground to hand-deliver it, as last year, which enables us to have a meeting with him. There is also the need to spread the word; Rebecca has informed CAAT and the Malvern Gazette has published a much reduced version of the information they were sent, accompanied by a full justification from the industry. This in turn has prompted a spirited response from our side on the Gazette website and a couple of letters submitted by Tony and Dick, so we wait to see if either of these are published.

We see this Expo as a further stage in the militarisation of the UK as these secretive events are on the increase – just at a time when our best technical brains are so badly needed to address the climate emergency. As long as this Expo continues, so shall our witness.

### **DICK STOCKFORD'S TESTIMONY OUTSIDE QINETIQ**

“We are at the gates of the Malvern Technology Centre.

This is the Development Centre for Qinetiq who are Arms dealers, the 5th largest in Britain. They don't produce arms here, the job of the Centre is to provide the data information and communications to guide the weapons that kill the enemy. This is the job of Qinetiq whatever their website may say and it's our job to name the truth because these weapons kill millions of innocent world citizens every year. All of this is supported by a licensing system run badly by our Government who pay scant regard for how the weapons are used by the unscrupulous countries who buy them.

This is why the unprecedented achievement of CAAT in persuading the Appeal Court to deem arms sales to Saudi Arabia, as unlawful is so important. This could be a tipping point ruling and particularly so for Qinetiq who have just signed a partnership deal with Saudi Arabia. But this ruling has come too late to save the 35,000 children under 5 who have died in the Republic of Yemen where the civil war is stoked by arms Qinetiq and others sell to Saudi Arabia.

So we remember those children who have not lived to fulfil their potential in the hope that those who made these arms will in future, use their undoubted skills and vital technology to heal our world and overcome the climate emergency.

RIP”



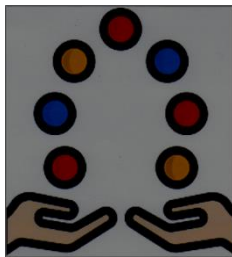
## News from Friends House: The Arms Fair in London

The international arms fair, Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI), is setting up shop in London in September 2019, to export war and conflict around the world. When we play host to one of the world's largest arms fairs, war, repression and injustice start here. Let's stop it here.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness has been working with a coalition of groups, including Stop the Arms Fair and Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) to organise a silent, candle-lit Vigil before the arms fair opens, in solidarity with victims of the arms trade. Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm to 8pm. Meet at 6.30pm sharp at South side Royal Victoria DLR, by roundabout, on Seagull Lane, E16 1BY. See [www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events](http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events)

## QUAKERS AT WEST FEST

Raphael Bate



We (Eoin, Jonathan and I) shared a pergola with Extinction Rebellion at West Fest on 29th June. We had information on the Friends and specifically on the recent initiative "Active Peace Education in Malvern." (APEM) This is a six session program for primary age children in Malvern which Liz Flanagan and Rosemary Webb have initiated for the Friends of Malvern. Two programmes, "Child Rights" and "Self Esteem" have been created and three more to follow.

It was a very hot day, the sky was blue, the music too and loudly coming from three directions. To me active peace is illustrated in festivals, where celebrating the wonder of being human and savouring the skills, ideas and creativity flourish. Our pergola provided a little sanctuary from the heat but not the volumes of mixed sounds. It was a great day of fusions and encounters conversations and joy.



I had brought examples of the activities from our "Self Esteem" program to share with the Fest Fans:

### 1. Fomo to Jomo (Fear Of Missing Out to Joy Of Missing Out)

An opportunity to reflect on real needs and what you could live without. It is the first step of transition to a simpler life.

### 2. In the Shoes of Another

A set of exercises to explore how the body and mind interact to create a negative or positive sense of self.

### 3. Cheering up Cards

A design activity in which participants consider what words and images would be helpful in lifting the spirits of a friend or acquaintance who is troubled using all the elements of design colour, shape text and font. Well this was the plan!

Our Quaker presence enabled us to provide information, meeting parents and teachers and young couples who were interesting in finding out about the Quaker philosophy and way of life. Good close exchanges (they had to be close so we could be heard), took place in the cool oasis of the Friend's Pergola.

### GO APE

I would be prepared to offer an active session to Friends to illustrate part of the APE program as described if there was interest.

## Summer Outing to Stockton Bury Gardens

Mary Corfield

On a pleasantly warm and sunny day on 14 July, an intrepid group of garden lovers set off after Meeting for a summer outing to Stockton Bury Gardens near Leominster. We wended our way through deep Herefordshire countryside, stopping on a hill above Bromyard for a leisurely picnic lunch and enjoying the delightful view of Bromyard down in the valley below.



After arriving at Stockton Bury Gardens, we immediately set off to explore the gardens in little groups. The four-acre garden was truly inspirational and has been created by two plantsmen. It is full of mature plants and offers lots of ideas for one to take away and recreate in different ways in one's own garden, including a kitchen garden with interesting ways of growing vegetables. In one area of the garden we could just sit and enjoy the views of the countryside and Hay Bluff in the distance.

To round off the afternoon we all sat in the peaceful sunny garden by the tearoom and savoured a delicious cream tea. For those who could not resist, there were plants to buy for our gardens at home. It was a memorable afternoon, and we were grateful to Jon Critoph for his impeccable organisation of the event and for an enjoyable journey there and back again.

## Malvern Pride

This is a Minute from Local Meeting in May 2019:

*Re Malvern Pride (in Priory Park July 27th). Elders have given their support to Jon Knight to run a stall at the event, providing information about Quaker attitudes to sexuality and gender issues. The Meeting House will be open on that day. The Quaker attitude to this reflects the importance we place on diversity and on our testimony of Equality, which, under Divine guidance, encourages all people to be who they truly are within themselves.*

The event was a great success and we thank Jon for his initiative, and giving a talk about Quakerism, supported by his family. We hope next year that we can do something similar, providing more publicity for the Meeting House being open.

This fits well with Area Meetings request for all of us to consider Transgender and nonbinary inclusion by Meeting for Sufferings helped by an initial statement made last year by Quaker Life Central Committee (QLCC) and a statement sent by Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM). See

[www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/our-structures/quaker-life-central-committee](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/our-structures/quaker-life-central-committee) and [yfgm.quaker.org.uk/docs/trans-and-non-binary-statement/](http://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/docs/trans-and-non-binary-statement/)

## A seventeen-year-old Quaker's urgent call for climate justice



In June more than 100 Quakers took part in a mass lobby of parliament that urged MPs to take action on climate crisis and environmental breakdown. Youth Climate striker and London Quaker, Anya Nanning Ramamurthy, addressed faith groups saying that “our climate crisis is rooted in inequality”

[www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/our-stories/a-seventeen-year-old-quaker-s-urgent-call-for-climate-justice](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/our-stories/a-seventeen-year-old-quaker-s-urgent-call-for-climate-justice)

## Quaker Activist Gathering 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, Friends House, London

This is a free event where Quakers and Quaker-curious people gather together for an intergenerational, restorative and invigorating day, focused on how we do social action. Exploring our shared lives of worship, witness, testimony and activism, we will build connections, reflect and share stories, to bring our faith deeper into practice.

You might be new to Quakerism and putting your faith into action, or you might be tired and seeking the spiritual nourishment of being with others who care as deeply as you do – there will be something for everyone.

Lyndsay Burtonshaw, 020 7663 1064, [lyndsayb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:lyndsayb@quaker.org.uk)

[www.quaker.org.uk/events/quaker-activist-gathering-2019](http://www.quaker.org.uk/events/quaker-activist-gathering-2019)

## Library Matters

Mary Corfield



I have taken the occasion of reissuing the catalogue to take stock of what is in the library and what should be in the library. There is a small number of books that would appear not to be of relevance to a Quaker library and it is my intention to dispose of these following the guidance from the Library of the Society of Friends. There is also a large number of books which are multiple copies of some titles. In this case it is recommended that only one copy should be kept with the exception of very popular titles. Given our space constraints these will be offered to other Quaker libraries, starting with the Friends House Library in London and the library at Woodbrooke.

I also wanted to let you know that a little while ago we had a very kind donation of five books to the library from the family of Barry Barber. We are very grateful to them for this donation.

If there are particular books you would like to see in the library, please let me know – and don't forget that you can search through the current catalogue on the web site. There is also a list of recent accessions.

## Advices & Queries No 25

A long-term relationship brings tensions as well as fulfilment. If your relationship with your partner is under strain, seek help in understanding the other's point of view and in exploring your own feelings, which may be powerful and destructive. Consider the wishes and feelings of any children involved, and remember their enduring need for love and security. Seek God's guidance. If you undergo the distress of separation or divorce, try to maintain some compassionate communication so that arrangements can be made with the minimum of bitterness.



## Being Green (2). Developments in recycling

Andrew Jameson

Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) provides excellent guidance on what is recyclable by them and what is not. MHDC works together with Severn Waste which has a recycling centre at Norton (it has an Education Officer, why not organise a visit and see how it works?).

The wrong thing in the green bin/pink sack can mean a lorry load is unusable. Fortunately Malvern Hills has low levels of contamination. Some of this is sheer absent-mindedness, e.g.: clothing, coat-hangers (!), wood, saucepans, CDs, ink cartridges. (There are better places for all of these.) But food waste and nappies are – just evil.

The recent series of very informative emails from MHDC provides feedback and news about recycling. Recently they pointed out how few plastic items from bathrooms are recycled – why? They only need a minimal rinse. Cleaning products with “triggers” can go straight into the r/c. Those with pump tops need to have the top unscrewed and put in the black bag.

The major No-Nos are: paper/card with glitter, bows and ribbons (tear it all off!), shredded paper (it gets mixed up with the glass and spoils it) and plastic sticky tape and Post-Its (jam the machines). No black items either - the machine can't see them!

Positive tips are: put the tops back on plastic drinks bottles (the fork-lift driver loves popping them!) and glass bottles (but only if you have a green bin).

Full details available at <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/recycling>

## Exhibition in London: Writing in times of Conflict

This exhibition was found by Annette de la Cour.. 'Exploring the power of words used to strive for peace and reconciliation in the last 100 years', it is of interest to Friends. At the University Senate House Library until 14 December.

See: <https://www.senatehouse library.ac.uk/exhibitions-and-events/exhibitions/writing-times-conflict>