

White Poppies at Friends House. See below

Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter December 2018

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Every Wednesday	9.30 to 12.30	Open Morning in the Meeting House for gathering and fellowship.
Sat 1 st Dec	3 – 5 pm	Christmas Market at St Mary's, Pickersleigh
Sun 2 nd	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business
Wed 5 th (1 st Wed)	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship (Bring a packed lunch if you're staying on)
Wed 5 th (1 st Wed)	1.30 – 3.00	Reading Group Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan
Sat 8 th	10.30 – 1.00	Area Meeting at Bewdley (see below)
Thur 13 th (2 nd Thur)	6.00 – 7.00	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 15 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00 – 1.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café
Sun 16 th	12.00	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods after Meeting for Worship (see below)
Sun 23 rd	10.30 – 11.30	Meeting for Worship Do bring a seasonal Poem or Reading you'd like to share in the second half
Tue 25 th	10.30 - 11.00	Meeting for Worship
Sun 30 th (5 th Sun)	After MfW	Lunch and Games - Bring your leftovers to share
Weds 2 nd	12.00–12.40 1.30 – 3.00	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship followed by Reading Group – share your Christmas reading

If you are not on the e-mail list and would like to be, or have changed your e-mail, please contact me. Contributions for the next Newsletter by Wednesday 2nd Jan
Elizabeth Rolph

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 Dec & Jan: Maggs Day Centre, Worcester



After a night sleeping rough, Maggs gives homeless people somewhere warm and dry to spend the day. Here they have access to the basics that we all take for granted: a safe place where they don't have to watch their back; toilets and showers; a hot drink and someone to talk to.

See <http://www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/>

Welcome to....

Gill Pennington and Simon Knight who have recently moved to Colwall and went to Selly Oak Meeting: and

Lumiel, Robert and Toby Cunin-Tischle. They have just moved from Cambridge, where they went to Jesus Lane Meeting.

Both are now on the e-mail circulation list.



Peter Thomas

10 December 2018 is the 70th Anniversary of **Human Rights Day** – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Amnesty International celebrates Human Rights Day with its **WRITE FOR RIGHTS** campaign. *'Letters from Amnesty supporters...were really powerful and helped me to stay strong. They protected us because the authorities knew thousands of people were watching'* [Fred Bauma, pro-democracy activist in Democratic Republic of Congo]. It only takes a few minutes to write a letter or postcard but for someone enduring prison and torture just for protesting peacefully; or someone fighting forced eviction, or for refugees left in limbo it can provide the strength to carry on. A message of solidarity tells someone like Fred, they're not alone. It lets their abusers know the world is watching. This year's campaign features ten individuals whose human rights have been violated just because they dared to defend the rights of others. Let them know they're not alone.

Malvern Hills Amnesty Group is again taking part by holding its annual greetings card-writing event on **Saturday 8 December**. This will be at one or more locations in Great Malvern town centre between 10am and 3pm.

Please can you offer an hour or two of your time to help run one of the stalls where we shall be asking shoppers and passers-by to sign cards? If so, please contact our Secretary, Sue Wolfendale on **01684 562804** or **susanwolfendale@btinternet.com**. She will be delighted to hear from you.

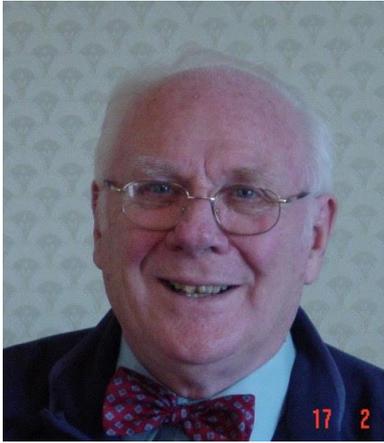
If you aren't able to help run a stall, please drop by and sign a card.



Winter Comforts - Keep the date!
January 26th at 6.30pm in the Meeting House

A rare opportunity to observe Quakers make fools of themselves/dance and play together, (and dine well!) Serious contributions also welcome.

Bring your families, neighbours and anyone who would appreciate a good supper and light entertainment.



Barry Barber 1933 - 2018

Barry grew up in a pacifist household in Brighton and went to Friends School Saffron Walden as a result of the invasion scare. The family attended the large Brighton Meeting and became Members after the war. A State Scholarship enabled him to go to Christ's College Cambridge where he studied mathematics & theoretical physics and he was Clerk of Cambridge Young Friends for a year. Afterwards, he was registered a conscientious objector and set to work in the fields 'Hedging & Ditching'. To his relief he was soon able to start work in the NHS as a Radiation Physicist at The London

Hospital in a career spanning 40 years. His NHS work took him into computing, operational research, NHS planning, data protection, security and safety variously with The London Hospital, the NE Thames Regional Health Authority and the Information Management Centre in Birmingham.

He served terms as Quarterly and General Meeting Clerk during the period when Sussex, Surrey and Hants QM divided into two. Through his work in Young Friends he met his wife, Barbara, who he later married in 1959. Together they had three children Sharelle, Netanya & Ashly who they brought up in Brighton in the Quaker tradition. From early years it was his idea to have a Camper Van to enable his family of 5 to have holidays in Europe. In later life Barry came to Malvern and established a new life with his partner, Maureen, and together they enjoyed many happy years building friendships in the Malvern Area. During his recent battle with Prostate Cancer his consultant, Dr Gupta, described him as an exemplary patient demonstrating incredible will. After a long struggle he passed away peacefully in the Worcestershire Royal Hospital with Maureen at his side. We pray for his soul to rest in eternal peace.

A Meeting for Worship was held at Malvern Meeting House on Saturday 10th November to celebrate his life. We received the following from Barbara Barber:

I want to thank Malvern Friends for their warm and helpful welcome for Barry's Memorial Service. I shall remember with great thanks the Ministry on the day and the miles travelled of visiting Friends who I'm sure enjoyed the delicious and refreshing tea for which many must have worked so hard to produce.

Advices & Queries No 18

How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome? Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal, bear the burden of each other's failings and pray for one another. As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other's lives, ready to give help and to receive it, our meeting can be a channel for God's love and forgiveness.



We believe the most empowering and sustainable route out of poverty for Uganda's rural poor is a decent income.

This is a charity we support regularly in our Special Collections and other events, specifically with the secondary education of disabled children. See

http://www.foag.org/files/2018_newsletter_final_version.pdf

Elizabeth Rolph

An extraordinary turnaround. The message from the Chief Executive:

“Since we informed you and many other stakeholders in September that we were heading towards significant financial problems, the response has been substantial. Trading has returned to such levels that we believe we now have the time, and above all, the energy, to downsize, restructure and transform the business....”

Please continue to support us by purchasing those items you need directly from us and not in your local supermarket. Sales have improved, but we are still not by any means certain of reaching all the milestones we need to before Christmas.”

Let me know what you'd like from their website by Dec 9th and I'll order it for you with no postage cost and bring it on Dec 16th. www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Also, on Sat 1st Dec there is a **Christmas Market** at St Mary's, Sherrards Green Road, Pickersleigh, WR14 2EE. Fairtrade goods are also on sale here on Monday mornings between 9.30am and 11am during school term-time.

Area Meeting Residential weekend

Judith Badman

The Sunday morning Meeting for Worship was held round the necklace of Friends' skills - each person had written skills on a paper plate.



Quaker participation in Festival of Remembrance Melanie Jameson

By building up relationships over the last two years, Malvern Quakers played a full part in the Remembrance events in town. This enabled us to respectfully convey our message of the need to remember all victims of war and to promote peace. We commissioned a 'proper wreath' from a local florist, with Malvern Quakers on the attached ribbon, laid at the wreath ceremony on Sunday morning. White poppies were out and about: in the Meeting House, at the Cube, Greenlink, Cooperative and Amnesty Bookshops and Natural Choice in Barnards Green.

On Saturday afternoon there was a Remembrance Concert in the Priory, with a programme of contributions. The programme includes our logo, some text and information on the reading which was given by **Jon Knight**:

'I did not have time to share the extract from Quaker faith and practice, but instead I put the poem into a context before reading it. I mentioned that courage is shown in many different ways, that my two grandfathers both showed courage; one fought all the way through the

war and the other was imprisoned as a conscientious objector, I spoke particularly to the young people there, that they would need courage in their future lives to hold on to the faith that humans were basically good, that understanding would win over ignorance, that love would consume hate and that kindness would defeat fear.'

Courage by Anne Sexton

It is in the small things we see it.
The child's first step,
as awesome as an earthquake.
The first time you rode a bike,
wallowing up the sidewalk.
The first spanking when your heart
went on a journey all alone.
When they called you crybaby
or poor or fatty or crazy
and made you into an alien,
you drank their acid
and concealed it.

Later,
if you faced the death of bombs and bullets
you did not do it with a banner,
you did it with only a hat to
cover your heart.
You did not fondle the weakness inside you
though it was there.
Your courage was a small coal
that you kept swallowing.
If your buddy saved you
and died himself in so doing,
then his courage was not courage,
it was love; love as simple as shaving soap.

Later,
if you have endured a great despair,
then you did it alone,
getting a transfusion from the fire,
picking the scabs off your heart,
then wringing it out like a sock.
Next, my kinsman, you powdered your sorrow,
you gave it a back rub
and then you covered it with a blanket
and after it had slept a while
it woke to the wings of the roses
and was transformed.

Later,
when you face old age and its natural
conclusion
your courage will still be shown in the little
ways,
each spring will be a sword you'll sharpen,
those you love will live in a fever of love,
and you'll bargain with the calendar
and at the last moment
when death opens the back door
you'll put on your carpet slippers
and stride out.

White Poppies at Friends House:

From the Collateral Damage Project:

Over 4000 white textile poppies have been made up into a magnificent and very moving display in the corridors around the Large Meeting House at Friends House (opposite Euston Station in London) until 21 December 2018. A short video about the project that has been made for us by ConsciousFilmCo. You can find it a

<https://www.facebook.com/whitepoppies2018/> or
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7bh8OQWPDw&t=56s>



Other News from Friends House

Quakers in Britain has become the first church in the UK to announce it will not invest any of its centrally-held funds in companies profiting from the occupation of Palestine. The decision was made by trustees in consultation with Meeting for Sufferings. The recording clerk said, "As Quakers, we seek to live out our faith through every day actions, including the choices we make about where to put our money."

Quakers, friends or foe of the earth: Call to declare a climate emergency and de-carbonise

from an Attender

Dear friends

Extinction Rebellion is a network of conscientious actors that recognises we are currently in a mass extinction of all life, therefore asking the government to declare a climate emergency and decarbonise the economy as soon as possible.

The movement is a gathering of concerned individuals willing to support in a wide range of measures including protest in the tradition of those who have previously given up their liberty to demonstrate for change against a regime of great injustice, where all other tactics have fallen on deaf ears.

Support for the movement doesn't necessarily involve being arrested but depends on a persons' or groups' spirited concern and action from a place of gathered conscience. Any protest must be open, transparent and peaceful, it is wise to take action as a group with full knowledge of the authorities in order to receive the protection against repercussions.

There is a shared recognition by the movement that unless the appropriate requests are met and do all we can do as quickly as possible, rather than as slowly, the consequences are too horrific to consider and any previous disaster including the prior mass extinctions will look a bump in the road. A further understanding that a continuation on the current course of eating the fruits of responsibilityless greed would be the seed of global conflict over resources and could lead to the destruction of all life on earth even before an almost certain extinction takes place.

This is not about blame but recognition of the value fossil fuels have created, forgiving our use out of ignorance and best intent. Now it seems imperative to find unity in building on and recreating the systems of the world collaboratively in a way that doesn't reward greed or wasteful burning every bit of the planet we can dig up but instead enables human's to improve our quality of life without harming ecology of our shared habitat of planet earth. We have all the necessary technology and sufficient finance to turn the ship, we only need the focus and collective will power.

History shows it can be done, we had a similar situation in the Malvern Hills area, on a much smaller scale, until we gathered together to protect the natural environment for future generations and now we take it for granted we wouldn't allow harm to our precious natural environment. It took bold vision and courage then and, as I understand, the support of Quakers, and now the same is true now if balance is to be restored on a global scale.

Those who have been working to raise awareness and defend the environment have moved from a place of grief to one of action, now there is nothing left to lose, modelling the movement on the work of other heroes who have been left no option and ended up being successful in the end despite much personal suffering using tactics of non-violent direct action and civil disobedience means this peaceful war for survival is open to any and everyone's imagination and interpretation.

If conscience isn't enough to convince and guide action, the precautionary principle states that if a risk is so great, we just shouldn't take it. The science is clear and the consequences are likely to happen in your lifetime as we have sown the seeds of our own destruction. But

we can nip our decline in the bud, if we believe so and collectively walk together, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The movement doesn't necessarily ask for unconsidered wild action, it requires prayerful or quiet consultation of conscience in combination with self education about the nature of the emergency. If together with a group a unified action emerges it is important to remember that the other side are violent and aggressive so safety in numbers with the support of the local police keeping all information and action in the open to avoid unpleasant reactions from those in a state of greed and destruction and depending on the action it may be important to protect your personal identity.

Peacefully, collaboratively and in the spirit of salvation of life, we can work creatively to rediscover the way to coexist in balance, harmony and paradise like cooperation, humans living together with nature.

It has been heard by my ears that Quakers are walking in unity along a path of light to restore the garden of Eden piece by piece on God's good earth enabling an eternal balance through guidance of the Spirit. For the love of nature, I hope so.

More details including links, facts, resources, networks and proposed actions are available at <https://sites.google.com/view/ermalvern/>

Repair café: <http://www.malvernhillrepaircafe.co.uk/>

The team are really looking forward to repairing your broken or tired items. We will attempt to repair ANYTHING, and usually succeed!

Remember, whilst repairs are undertaken without charge, we will always welcome a contribution to help us cover our overheads.

Oh, and the home made cakes we have on offer are simply DELICIOUS!!!

Minute from Mental Health Workshop held at Bewdley Meeting House

We thank Alison Mitchel for this workshop on promoting mental health within our Area Meeting.

We include in this minute a photograph of our mental health tree. Our mental health tree sprouted many leaves in response to 'what maintains our own individual mental health'?

The tree then grew flowers indicating ' what we celebrate as good mental health practice within our Area Meeting'.



The tree finally bore fruit outlining what we already do in our Local and Area Meeting to promote mental health.

This fruit we hope will enable us to contribute to Britain Yearly Meeting development in promoting mental health.

We will be forming a mental health special group in order to pursue this end.

Please contact Eoin McCarthy if you wish to be part of this group. eoin.mccarthy@decisionstrust.org

Peace Train event

Melanie Jameson

Kim (of the Hereford Peace Council) has sent me a record of the meeting with Caroline Lucas (and others) at the end of the Peace Train journey for which many of us signed postcards.



They were very fortunate in being able to deliver the letters to Caroline Lucas, MP and Fabian Hamilton, MP and asked how to campaign more effectively on the issue of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

They seemed impressed with the amount of mail collected by the 'Peace Train' Caroline Lucas offered to deliver the mail addressed to the Prime Minister and Amy Keegan assured us that she would deliver the rest.

They did emphasize that letter writing is important even though it can be frustrating for the writer getting form letters in return with seemingly no results. Both MPs agree with the TPNW in principle but pointed out that they are a small minority in the House of Commons. However, they were quite interested in the 'Peace Train' and seemed to enjoy the photos of our stops along the route. They noted that creative events such as the 'Peace Train' encourage them in their work and increases public awareness. They recommend continued creativity in further actions to grab public attention.

It was interesting to learn there is an Early Day Motion 374 that we can ask our MPs to sign unless they have already done so. The Hereford Peace Council is working on a Christmas letter to MPs with seasonal message and request for them to sign EDM 374.

This Early Day Motion is also attached. The Hereford Peace Council is drafting a letter to MPs which will go to this list.

Andrew (Jameson) will be speaking about our Defence Expo campaign at this weekend's meeting of the Quaker central body (Meeting for Sufferings) when all the regional reps are asked to share what has been going on in their area.



Area Meeting Matters

The Meeting in September included a workshop on a new Area Meeting Website. One of the items in December is to address feedback on the new web site. <https://wsqm.weebly.com>

Area Meeting held at Malvern Meeting House in October: Extracts from the Minutes Trustees - Sustainability issues

David Baker updated us about the request from Britain Yearly meeting for Area Meeting Trustees to record sustainability issues in their annual reports.

We agree that sustainability issues should be part of our Trustees and Local Meetings Annual Report for 2018. In order to address sustainability issues further we ask our clerks to prepare a workshop in a future Area Meeting.

Afternoon session Malvern Education Project

Jon Knight and Peter Bevan outlined the Malvern Education Project that has been designed with help from Friends House and Woodbrooke using legacy monies left to Malvern Local Meeting.

We undertook a sample session led by Jon Knight. This focused upon a 'family' having to make ethical and moral decisions. Our Quaker ethos and practice was evident in this example and provided opportunity for reflection and development peace and conflict teaching within this education project.

We thank Jon for this enlightening presentation.

JUNIOR PEACEMAKERS WORKSHOP

21 November at Friends Meeting House Malvern

“This is a workshop to develop positive peace: the presence of peaceful beliefs and behaviours, cultivating values such as inclusion, participation, justice, equity and equality – as well as the absence of violence and aggression.” (JPM)

Key stage 2 children and their teachers came from local schools to experience a well crafted programme with Jackie Zammit from “Peacemakers” Birmingham. The day was divided into activities to look at Fairness and Justice and how we can make a difference.

We examined the differences in lifestyle, appearance and isolation using a case study of a boy from a circus family.

The young people were very attentive and creative in their reflections, and the appreciation of differences was apparent.

Each participant was asked to select two images from a pile of brand logos seen in ordinary life and discussed, in depth, how they can reinforce alienation and/or unity: flags, religions, clothes, consumer goods may create “otherness” in general.

We examined inspiring local initiatives by young people, which all attempted to ameliorate some aspect of marginalised groups. One DJ through music and gardening, another, a young woman who reached out to lonely people by writing encouraging words and attaching them to places where isolated people might be e.g. park bench, corner of a playground and bus shelters.

We identified the inner and outer qualities of the young activists to manage their projects and listed the attributes and skills necessary.

Groups selected from their own experience, some school life issues and chose one problem on which to work together. It was the dominance of the footballers using the playground space, in breaktime. This was a wonderful opportunity for creative ideas to be applied to a real problem.

The emerging, unanimous, idea was to have different activities on each day. For example:

Magic Monday.....Football for the key stage one.

Choosing Tuesday.....Choose from a range of activities.

Well-being Wednesday...Cooperative Games

Thinking ThursdayInvent Games.

Free Friday.....Free football

An action plan was created and each individual's volunteered in different roles to help develop peaceful approaches in their schools.

It was a wonderful day and the programme was very well executed by Jackie to bring out lively participation of the children.

They left with enthusiasm to take up their roles as Junior Peacemakers in their school communities.

**This was an initiative of Active Peace Education Malvern
Liz Flanagan, Rosemary Webb and Raphael Bate**