

Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter



December 2017 and January 2018



Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Wed 6 th Dec (1 st Wed)	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship (No reading Group)
Sat 9 th	10.30 – 1.00	Area Meeting at Bewdley
Sat 9 th	10.00 to 2.00	Write for Rights Amnesty International event in Malvern (see below)
Sun 10 th (2 nd Sun)	After MfW	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods Get your purchases promptly before
Sun 10 th	12.00	Meeting for Worship for Business Note change of date so Andrew can chair his last Local Meeting.
Thur 14 th (2 nd Thur)	6 – 7 pm	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 16 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00–1.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café
Friday 22 nd	8 pm	Concert at Worcester Meeting House (see below)
Wed 3 rd Jan	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship (No reading Group)
Sun 7 th	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business
Thur 11 th	6 – 7 pm	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 13th 	6 to 9 pm	New Year Supper Party A chance for Friends to relax, enjoy each other's company and share a hot supper, drawing on the talents of Friends for our entertainment to include comic drama and dancing. Please let Liz know if you will be there, without your support this will not happen! 01684 573315 / 07854244591
Sun 14 th	After MfW	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods
Sat 20 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00–1.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café

Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday 23rd Jan

Changes in Malvern Meeting

Elizabeth Rolph

Welcome to the last edition in 2017, and the last edition with me as 'Compiler'. In 2018 I will continue with putting the Newsletter together, but my role will be wider. At the October Local Meeting Jill Etheridge and I were appointed as Co-Clerks. This is a new approach to Clerking, with a division of tasks. Jill will be the main contact for Meeting matters, from new enquires to issues relating to the Meeting House. She will also Clerk business meetings, and generally give notices. David Simmons will assist in these matters.

I will be more in the background, dealing with communications. Hence I would deal with the e-mail information received from Friends House, local organisations etc. Where possible I would incorporate them in the Newsletter, and/or they could go in notices and occasionally sending information round mid-month.

An e-mail has been set up: clerks@malvernlqm.org.uk. Jill and I will both receive these e-mails, and where appropriate, agree how the information should be distributed. There is a different e-mail which will come to me only for items specifically for the Newsletter Newsletter@malvernlqm.org.uk. Please also e-mail this address if you do not currently receive the newsletter by e-mail and would like to.

This change is part of a wider change in roles. Appointments to positions in Quaker Meetings are normally for three years, and at the end of each Triennium new appointments are made. Elders and Overseers are appointed by Worcester and Shropshire Area Meeting, other appointments by Malvern Local Meeting. 2017 was the last year of a Triennium and all the appointments for 2018 to 2020 have now been made. With this Newsletter is a 'Who's Who in Malvern Meeting' for you to keep handy for future reference.

Special Collection December: Requiem for Aleppo (Cally Law)

Aleppo is the capital of Syria and took the brunt of the four year civil from 2012 to 2016. The large scale devastation of the Battle of Aleppo and its importance led to be named the "mother of battles". It was marked by widespread violence against civilians and alleged repeated targeting of hospitals and schools.

The Requiem for Aleppo is a non-political artistic response to the human tragedy in Syria. 12 dancers from around the globe explore themes of love, loss, anguish and hope. The performance is punctuated by real-life stories of people from Aleppo. The aims of the production are to raise money for Syria and to act as a reminder now and ongoing, of the suffering of a people and what the world has lost.

Special Collections 2018

Please let Andrew Know any suggestions for consideration at the December Local Meeting.

PRE – CHRISTMAS SALE at the Repair Café

Liz Flanagan

I am very happy to report that we raised £110 on our stall fund raising for the Quaker Homeless Project which works chiefly in London but is based in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Thank you to all the kind people who donated items and to those who turned up to set up the stall and run it for the time the Repair Café was open. Next year we will publicize it more widely. Please put in your diary that it will be held on November 17th 2018. Happy knitting, crafting, cooking

Write for Rights 2017

Peter Thomas



Every year, Amnesty International runs a WRITE FOR RIGHTS campaign in November and December, encouraging people to write a letter or card to people throughout the world who are suffering unjust imprisonment or are victims of other human rights abuses.

Malvern Hills Amnesty Group is supporting this campaign with a special event on Saturday 9 December (the day before International Human Rights Day). From 10am to 2pm they are running two stalls in Great Malvern Town Centre (outside Lyttelton Well, Church Street and Greenlink, Graham Road). Please drop by and write or sign a greetings card, or better still, if you can spare an hour or two to help staff a stall, please contact the MHAG Secretary, Sue Wolfendale on 01684 562804 or susanwolfendale@btinternet.com. She will be delighted to hear from you!

There are a number of booklets in the Quaker Meeting House explaining more about the campaign - please help yourself. Or go to: amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/

Carol Concert

Richard Bartholomew



Worcester Friends have kindly made available their Meeting House for a West Gallery Carol Concert by Vital Spark of Malvern on Friday 22nd December. Refreshments will be made available and Vital Spark will be selling their CDs, an ideal Christmas present.

Funds raised will go towards supporting the work of Onside Advocacy with those who need a helping hand in their dealings with the complicated bureaucracies that make up our modern world.

The music comes at Loud or Very Loud and the singers are accompanied by musicians playing fiddles, concertinas, bassoon & recorders. If you have not come across West Gallery music before then Thomas Hardy's Under the Greenwood Tree is a good way to get the social history behind the music.

Admission £10 (concessions) proceeds to/tickets from Onside Advocacy 01905 27525 (Leon)



White Poppies

Melanie Jameson

White poppies were on sale in a dozen venues round Malvern this year – following a good response from a handful of venues last year. However a number of the shops that had said they would like to sell white poppies had little success.

Greenlink Organics were the most successful, collecting £37.50 followed by the Co-operative and Amnesty Bookshops and Natural Choice. £130.00 was the final figure, including from Malvern Meeting. A local florist made a white poppy wreath which was laid by Melanie and Tony during the act of Remembrance on November 12th.

Update on *The Long Way Down* by Averil Stedeford

Elizabeth Rolph

This book is a very personal account of the pathway Averil trod when her husband died. The journey describes the agony of separation and leads the reader through to the positive fruits that can emerge from suffering.

Terry Waite, CBE, author and former hostage negotiator

The Long Way Down is a testament to Averil's professional expertise, movingly linked with her very personal experience of loss and skilfully communicated in poetry. I am delighted to have received a copy of this book as a resource for staff and a tool to use with patients and families.

Lead Chaplain, St Richard's Hospice

These are comments we will put on the back of Mum's book when we reprint it next. I had read the book by *Out of the Silence - memories / poems / reflections* by Terry Waite. I would thoroughly recommend it; I was impressed with how it got across what he had been through in such an accessible way. (I'd also recommend *Taken on Trust*, although it is a harrowing read). Given that reflections on death is a theme throughout Terry's book, I decided to send him a copy of *The Long Way Down*. To my surprise I got an immediate and friendly response, so decided to pursue it and ask him for a quote. Hence the above.



We have now raised enough money to make our first gift to charity, and visited St Richard's Hospice to give them a donation. We were impressed with the facilities and services they offer, both to in-patients and those being cared for at home. It has a spiritual space near the entrance with a beautiful stained glass window. We got on particularly well with the chaplain, and Mum was delighted to be able to share her previous experience working in the hospice in Oxford from the beginning, a significant time in the development of hospices, as this was the first hospice built in the grounds of an NHS hospital.

I have copies of the book for sale for £6, £4 of which goes to hospice, cancer and bereavement charities.

Extract from Quaker News

Contributed by Peter Bevan

QPSW staff member Sam Walton, acting in a personal capacity, was in court in October on a charge of criminal damage. He and a Methodist companion, Rev. Daniel Woodhouse, took action to disarm British-made warplanes bound for Saudi Arabia, where they would join the bombing campaign in Yemen. Sam and Dan were found not guilty because the judge recognised "their belief that this amounted to war crimes".

We have not been vocal about this because Sam did this as an act of personal witness, not as part of his paid work for Quakers in Britain. We are relieved at the decision and hope that this will shine a light on the destruction wrought by the UK arms industry. Read about the case here: www.quaker.org.uk/news

Malvern interfaith

Jonathan Penley

Malvern interFaith is a warm hearted group that meets on the second Sunday of each month at the Wheel of Life Centre in North Malvern. We sit in a circle with an altar at the centre, and individuals can elect to lead a meeting on a theme of their choice. A meeting usually includes a round of names, placing of candles on the altar, circulating a 'basket of plenty' and a round with a talking stick. Other activities may include: readings, guided meditation, singing, dancing,.. and, like a buffet meal, everyone is free to participate or abstain as they feel. To find out more - come along; talk to Jonathan Penley, Brian Graham or Elin Dodson at Quakers; or visit www.malverninterfaith.org.uk.

Christmas Angels Project

Submitted by Churches Together

Did you see the white knitted angels last year that appeared in and around Malvern early in the morning a few days before Christmas? If so, you will know that each angel had a label tied to it with a Christmas message, and the invitation to 'take me home'. Around 560 angels were distributed and practically all were taken by lunchtime.

The aim of the project is to share God's love at Christmas and bless the community. The project is gaining momentum and is now carried out in several towns in Britain, see www.christmasangel.net

If you would like more information, please contact Jenny Bull 01684 561307
jennybull10@btinternet.com or Cynthia Merryman 01684 566927
merriman_cynthia@yahoo.co.uk

Advices & Queries No 5

Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light. Remember the importance of the Bible, the writings of Friends and all writings which reveal the ways of God. As you learn from others, can you in turn give freely from what you have gained? While respecting the experiences and opinions of others, do not be afraid to say what you have found and what you value. Appreciate that doubt and questioning can also lead to spiritual growth and to a greater awareness of the Light that is in us all.

Extract from a letter to Liz Flanagan

This was from Emilia Boehm when she returned to Dresden.

"At the Quaker Meeting I met so different but kind and friendly people. I think I won't forget them all of my life"

Quaker Meeting at Albion Lodge

November was the last of the meetings which have been held monthly at Albion Lodge. The number attending from the home have dwindled, and Betty Hudson and Pat and Stuart Slack have agreed it is better if they pop in to visit when it suits.

Quaker Council for European Affairs Conference: *Sanctuary Everywhere*
Brussels, 1-3 December

Melanie Jameson



The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) has worked to promote Quaker values in Europe since its foundation in 1979. Based in Brussels, it is well-placed to liaise with various committees connected to the EU, in order it feed in Quaker views and concerns.

Now reorganised with experienced programme leaders, it has a more focused approach on fewer areas. In addition to research and briefing papers, QCEA offers a uniquely Quaker service: providing a neutral space for discussion and bringing people together who represent various sides of an issue.

The December event will look at forced migration and keeping societies in Europe open; it is followed by an optional day on the European Court of Human Rights.

Andrew, Melanie and Nat are attending and will report back in the next newsletter.



Betty Hudson in 100 words

Born 1929, near Alvechurch Worcestershire.
At Sidcot School 1942 – 1945. Nottingham University 1948 – 1951 (BSc Agric)
Married October 6 1951 at Beoley Worcestershire to fellow agricultural student Martin Hudson
5 children, 9 grandchildren. Widowed 2003

Farmed at Green Farm, near Worksop (Chatsworth Estate) 1957 – 63, Sink Farm, Hanley Castle (Severn End Estate) 1963 – 69, and Merevale Farm, Hanley Castle (Severn End Estate) 1969 – 2003

Voluntary Work: Worcs Federation of Women's Institute (Current Affairs / International and Executive Committee (10 years)

Malvern CAB adviser and later Management Committee

Rural Community Council for Hereford and Worcestershire - administering Parish Council Association, Village Halls refurbishments etc

Upton Community Care (office) - arranging volunteer drivers for medical appointments.

Campfire Conventions

Melanie Jameson

A new initiative seems to be springing up in various venues across the UK: Campfire Conversations. I decided to check this out when I saw one advertised as part of the FEAST weekend (Festival of Equality and Society thro Theatre) at Malvern Cube 9th -12th Nov. The concept is simple – meet and talk about any number of local and topical issues, mix in some live music or poetry, food and drink. The founder, Pete Lawrence, (former organiser of the Big Chill Festival) is enthusiastic. He sees future Conversation events developing under the umbrella of 'Campfire Beacons', enabling local area groups to form and put together their own programme.

Part of our conversations arose out of a presentation by a climate change specialist who had recently been on Al Gore's training programme – so the ensuing conversation was similar to a discussion one might have at a Transition meeting.

Will this idea catch on? Well, a look at the website suggests that it already has, with Beacons showing up all over the country. Will it keep going? Who knows, but in these uncertain days, local communities coming together seem more important than ever. www.campfireconvention.uk/

