

Malvern Quakers

Newsletter

July - August 2011

Chris Dyer's work in Tanzania

Jill Etheridge

Chris Dyer, who attends Malvern Meeting when in the UK, went out to Singida Municipality in Tanzania under the auspices of the Volunteer Missionary Movement in July 2010. His task was to develop the work carried out amongst those affected with HIV/AIDS by the Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) through a 'Home Based Care' (HBC) programme at the Faraja Centre. To quote from one of Chris's documents :

'In early September 2010 the Faraja's HBC Focal Person and other project staff who had a regular involvement with HBC clients became concerned that the factor of "absolute poverty" among some of them was serving to severely retard or, in fact, counteract the benefits of the treatment they were receiving. Therefore it was decided to undertake a form of "Household Survey" in an attempt to identify the "poorest of the poor" HBC clients that would subsequently take part in a Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) designed to highlight their income-generation needs and ways of addressing them.' Sixty households were surveyed and the 27 who had scored 5 or less on the wealth/poverty scale were invited to attend a workshop to establish their income needs and preferences. About half wanted to find employment, and half to receive a capital loan to start generating self-employed income. At the final PNA meeting in November 2010, two possible projects were outlined: one, the women's candle-making project we had already heard about in Malvern (citronella candles

are very effective at keeping away malaria-bearing mosquitoes), and the other a pilot "micro-lending" project. There was much enthusiasm for these projects which gave hope for the future. However, at this crucial point of high expectations, the MMM-Singida opted to distance themselves from the PNA/income-generation ideas for HBC clients in favour of just palliative care.'

To cut a long story short, Chris was eventually successful in getting a non-governmental organisation set up with the approval of the Tanzanian Government to take these projects forward as a priority. This is now called Development for Self-Reliance Tanzania, registered on 11 March 2011. Since the Candle-Making Co-op is still - to quote Chris - "getting its act together" - it is the micro-loan project that is being set up as a matter of urgency.

All the details are outlined in the documents Chris has forwarded to Paul Wyatt (Clerk) and Jill Etheridge (Treasurer). Chris hopes that, as well as the fund-raising we have already done on behalf of this work, we may see a way to act as the clearing house for other funds he manages to raise in the UK, since a charge of approximately £25 is incurred for money transfers from any amount up to £5200, and the larger the amount sent out in one go, the lower the percentage lost in charges. The Treasurer has been asked to seek advice at Area Meeting level, bearing in mind the complications that arose for Church Stretton Friends over their assistance to the Step Project. This will take a little while to clarify, but consideration of this matter has begun.



Project meeting



Jan and Tatu



Krensensia January

Photos by Chris Dyer

Malvern Friends Meeting House 1 Orchard Road Malvern WR14 3DA

Email: malvern@wsq.org.uk Website: www.quaker.org.uk

All Welcome at Meetings for Worship:

Every Sunday at 10.30am

Third Thursdays 12.00 noon (followed by bring-your-own lunch)

All events are held at Malvern Friends Meeting House unless stated otherwise. Please note that attenders should seek permission from PM to go to Area Meetings.

Sunday 3 July 12.00
Preparative Meeting for Church Affairs (PM)

Saturday 9 July 11.00-4.00
Area Meeting
 Friends Meeting House, Corporation Lane,
 Coton Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 2NU

Sunday 10 July 12.30ish
Summer Picnic
 at Betty Hudson's home, Rose Cottage,
 Newbridge Green, Upton-on-Severn WR8 0PQ
*You are welcome to travel together after
 Meeting for Worship and bring a picnic*

Saturday 23 July 12.00
Meeting for Worship for Celebration and Rejoicing
 Joseph and Elizabeth Sturge are delighted that Elders
 and Overseers will hold a celebration of the marriage
 of Joseph's daughter Charlotte to Tim.
*A Meeting for Worship will last for half an hour, followed
 by a light buffet. Contributions of finger foods are
 welcomed.*

Saturday 20 - Monday 29 August
Art for Amnesty
See panel on right

Looking Ahead...

Sunday 4 September 12.00
Preparative Meeting for Church Affairs (PM)

Saturday 10 September 11.00-4.00
Area Meeting
 To be held in Malvern

Saturday 26 November 7.30
FOAG Concert in Pershore Abbey

Elders, Overseers and Others

A reminder of who to speak to about what in Malvern Quakers

Elders	Clerk
Richard Bartholomew	Paul Wyatt
Jill Etheridge	Assistant Clerk
Cally Law	Sarah Colloby
Elizabeth Remfry	Lettings Clerk
Overseers	Mary Callaway
Liz Flanagan	Treasurer
Betty Hudson	Jill Etheridge
Melanie Jameson	
David Simmons	

Outing to Avoncroft Museum

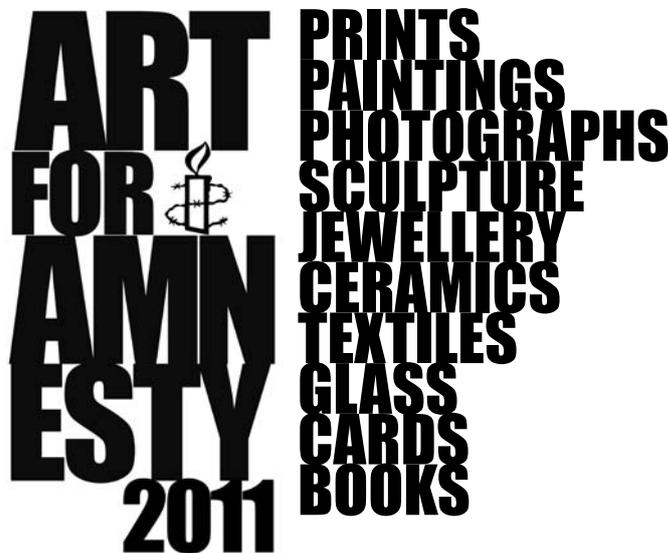
Avoncroft Museum is a unique home for historic buildings which have been rescued from demolition and rebuilt in a countryside setting near Bromsgrove. The collection of buildings includes a mediaeval Guesten Hall, a 1940s Prefab, a tollhouse and the national telephone kiosk collection, to name but a few.

A late summer outing to Avoncroft on **Saturday 17 September** is being organised by Hazel Court and Elaine Tilley who would ideally like to know by the end of July how many Friends want to come. Depending on numbers, costs and transport arrangements can then be properly decided. Please speak to Hazel or Elaine or call 01684 578250.

For further information on the museum, see:
www.avoncroft.org.uk

Quaker Week, 2-10 October 2011

The annual Quaker Week in early October is our opportunity to focus on both outreach and awareness as well as on the celebration of our Quaker identity. Previous years' events in Malvern have included exhibitions and open days as well as speakers and a ceilidh that was open to all. It's time to think about what will take place this year – so far, we plan to repeat the well-received ceilidh night – and we'd like your ideas and offers of getting involved. Please come to the next Preparative Meeting (PM) on 3 July to contribute suggestions, comments and leadings.



The 11th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale in support of Amnesty International, organised jointly by Malvern Quakers and Amnesty Malvern Hills, will be held at the Meeting House from 20 to 29 August, from 11am to 5pm, (2pm to 5pm on Sundays). Official opening on Saturday 20 August at 11am. Contacts:

General enquiries: Trevor Trueman
 01684 573722, oromiasg@waitrose.com

Quaker link: Melanie Jameson
 01684 572466, dyslexia.mj@dsl.pipex.com

Artists: Kate Adamson
 01684 576634, kate.adamson@zen.co.uk

Stewards: Peter Thomas
 01684 575886, petergt@hotmail.co.uk

Maintaining and improving our Meeting House

David Simmons

Few will remember when the door to the kitchen was at the end of the meeting room or access to the children's room was only from the outside. More of you will remember the children's room with a leaky roof, a dangerous step down into it and a happy knack of attracting junk that we could not find a home for. And perhaps more will remember the electricity supply safety switch tripping out leaving us sitting in the dark and, of course, the squirrels.

The extension, completed in 1992, was very successful, enabling all rooms to be accessible from the lobbies. It also provided an additional room that is now the library. The children's room was modified when we cured the leaking roof. We needed storage space for 15 tables that had been acquired as part of a deal with a long term hirer as well as a place to store gardening tools. So we reduced the size of the actual meeting area to allow these to be included within the original room space. The floor was raised to the level of the rest of the building which removed the hazardous step.

The problem with the power tripping was traced to an incompatibility between the main safety switch and the relays controlling the heating, so this has now been changed to one that is more suitable. At the same time, extra safety switches were fitted to the power circuits and the kitchen cooker. Light bulbs blowing can also affect the main safety switch so our lighting is now by low energy units wherever possible. Emergency lighting has also been installed in the meeting room and lobbies. The damage inflicted to the wiring by squirrels was much less severe than first anticipated and was easily repaired. And damage to the insulation will be taken care of during the upgrading of our ceiling insulation.

All of these problems have now been sorted out, together with a number of other improvements, by the efforts of the premises committee and its volunteers. At the same time we have given consideration to sustainability and the requirements of disabled people, these being ongoing projects. More details about current premises projects and proposals for future improvements will appear in future newsletters.

Advices and Queries read in Meeting for Worship

It has become customary in Malvern to record which of the Advices and Queries have been read during Meetings for Worship. These are then noted during each PM and included in the minute. Elders and Overseers may invite individuals to read an A&Q of their choice at a suitable moment or it could be that some Friends feel called to quote one as part of their ministry. Please ensure that, if you do read one out, it is then recorded on the chart on the shelf near to the main Meeting Room door so that our minute can be as accurate as possible.



Martin John Nicholls' *Beyond Belief* is described as a beautiful and moving concert telling the stories of those who courageously work for peace and justice in the Holy Land. With the support of Christian Aid, it is being promoted locally by Paul Kippax of Worcester, on Friday 8 July at 7.30pm in St Peter's Baptist Church, St Peter's Drive, Worcester WR5 3TZ. Admission free.

In support of the same cause - reconciliation projects between Israelis and Palestinians - Paul and colleagues are undertaking a sponsored cycle ride on 19-21 August. For details see <http://bit.ly/iVIKek>

Further information on both events from Paul at pkippax@btinternet.com

The Newsletter

Please ensure that any items of news, diary dates or things to share for the September-October newsletter are given to Cally Law, Mary Callaway or Sarah Colloby, placed in the brown envelope on the noticeboard or emailed to:

scolloby@yahoo.co.uk
before 10 August.

If you are contributing creative writing, photography or artwork, please provide the name of the author/artist so that they may receive due credit.

If you would like to receive an email copy of the newsletter, please contact Peter Thomas at petergt@hotmail.co.uk.

Help needed for Link Lunches

On the 4th Thursday of each month the United Reformed Church in Malvern Link hold a monthly lunch from 12 noon to 1.15pm as an outreach to the community.

The lunch is attended by older people mainly from the local area, but is open to all.

Unfortunately it has had to close for the summer months owing to a lack of volunteer helpers due to increasing age and ill health. It is hoped to recommence the lunches in September but without further help this will not be possible. Cooks would be very welcome and help is needed in the kitchen or serving and clearing meals so if you feel you can help in any way, even if it is on a rota basis, please contact Christabell Wilson on 01684 572333 or email christabell41@bluebottle.com

A Lyttelton Well Appeal

As you may be aware the Lyttelton Well Coffee House in Church Street, Malvern relies very heavily on volunteers to serve, wash up and to manage the till. In recent months a number of our long serving volunteers have hung up their aprons and we are very keen to find people to replace them.

If you have a few hours to spare each week and would like to join our happy band of volunteers, doing something positive and contributing to Christian outreach in Malvern by serving, we would love to hear from you. If you would like more information, do please call in or give Dave a ring on 01684 573702.

News of the Quaker Garden

Report and pictures by Andrew Jameson

This is how the Quaker Garden, acquired by Malvern Friends from designer Matthew Jackman following its exhibition at last year's Spring Garden Show, looks today (early June). It was installed last summer on the premises of Malvern Youth Centre, next to South Worcestershire College in Albert Road North and has become known to students and centre users as 'The Peace Garden'. Following one or two health and safety related alterations it has become established and survived the recent drought, with various volunteers tending and weeding it from time to time.



As you may know, the future of Malvern Youth Centre is now under threat. Some of its land is to be sold, and the College would like to use the space (where the MYC and the Garden are) to extend its activities. The public meeting held on Wednesday 18 May discussed the complicated issues around this and Melanie and Andrew have a set of notes from the event, too complex to summarise here! Cllr Liz Eyres (Conservative cabinet member for children's services) who had not known that the Garden was there 'became much more concerned about protecting the Peace Garden when she heard how much it had cost and that it belonged to someone else.'



However, the College would probably want it moved and so the proposed formal gifting of the garden from Malvern Friends to MYC has been postponed until the situation has become settled. Please contact Andrew if you would like to see the notes of the meeting or are able to join the informal group which looks after the garden.

5Rhythms

A response to 5Rhythms Dance at Malvern Quaker Meeting House, May 2011 by Karen Langley

Moving, stretching, feeling my way across smooth wood floor. Unknowing of the dance within, only knowing that it is there, waiting to begin. A thundery, humid May evening in Malvern is transformed into a swampy, lamp-lit deep southern night, beckoning us to reveal the shaman within.

The air is thick as we hear the first heavy drumbeats through the sound-system. Head says take it steady, don't blow all your fuses too soon, heart says open up, let the love ebb and flow, body says come on, let's get moving, what is there to lose apart from your over-rated dignity? Body wins and I twitch and gyrate to the music. It's not just about letting go to pure rhythm and movement. For me, it is a way of communication, both with myself and with those around me and expanding out into the universe. I imagine myself a Native American or a Masai tribesman at a ritual. At times during my dance, I can jump up and down with ease, body parts flailing, finding their own balance – I bounce, just like the painted men I wondered at on a David Attenborough programme years ago.

Childlike too, in my own self-absorbed intensity, I enjoy discovering where each new footfall or wrist bend will take me. I meet and revolve around other dancers. I crouch, animal-like, holding down my passion and earthing it with feet that have become as big as paddles. The body is no longer a body. It is a molecular structure undergoing change, transmuted by the glamour of the rhythms.

Thunder rolls and beautiful, searing lightning strikes the hills outside. Our dancing is part of this universal offering of change, flexibility, acceptance and total freedom.

At times, during the wave, an empty remembrance or a shift into self-doubt steals into the part of me that still hangs on to control. This part would like to stop the flow, is fearful of the love, the change, the moving on. I am gentle with this old friend nowadays and dance a brief waltz with him before I ask him to leave quietly, with no fuss.

Just as I think I can dance no more, when my body tells me it is wracked with aches and flashes of pain, I suddenly feel I can dance more, and more, and more! Because this dance is about feel, not think. Each barrier I break down, each thinking arch I go through, takes my body and my soul higher. I could be dying and I don't care. I am dying every moment. This way I am dancing my death; not only that, I am conscious of it. Slowly the dance descends to stillness. Quiescence, acceptance, expansion. No tiredness or pain; they have been replaced by a glorious nothing. The nothing that we spend our lives trying to fill with something, the something that never satisfies. I came into the dance with money, a friend and some water. As I leave and smile at those at the door, I exit with my friend. I have no money and water bottle is empty. I leave with nothing. I feel whole.

