



MALVERN QUAKER NEWS SHEET

JULY & AUGUST 2017

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Sun 2 nd July	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business
Wed 5 th July (1 st Wed)	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship (Bring a packed lunch if you're staying on)
Wed 5 th July (1 st Wed)	1.30 – 3.00	Reading Group Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan
Sat 8 th July	10.30 – 3.30	Area Meeting in Worcester (See below)
Sun 9 th (2 nd Sun)	12.00	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods after Meeting for Worship
Sun 9 th		Meeting Visit to Ralph Court Gardens (See below)
Monday 10 th	9.30 – 11.30	Fairtrade Breakfast at Refresh Café, Pickersleigh (See below)
Wed 12 th (2 nd Wed)	8.00–9.00	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 15 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00–2.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café
Wed 19 th	10.30 – 12.00	Exploring how we could 'live better in the world' (William Penn QF&P 2302)
Wed 2 nd August	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship
Wed 2 nd August	1.30 – 3.00	Reading Group
Sat 5 th	11.00	Hiroshima Day at Great Malvern Priory (See below)
Sun 6 th	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business
Wed 9 th	8.00–9.00 pm	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sun 13 th	12.00	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods after Meeting for Worship
Sun 13 th	12.30	Liz Flanagan's 70th Birthday Celebrations at the Dell House (See below)
Sat 19 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00–2.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café

Deadline for next news sheet: Tuesday 29th August

Dates and contributions to Elizabeth.Rolph@flatlandic.net or phone 01684 564448

Welcome to a bumper News Sheet

Elizabeth Rolph

I have combined July and August partly because I have a busy July, but also because I thought there would be less going on. I was wrong on that one! Hopefully September will have some reports – it would be good to have pieces from those who haven't contributed before. Do keep things coming over the summer, avoiding the rush at the end.

Feedback always welcome. A small point – would anyone mind if it became Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter?

Don't forget 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/>

An Invitation to Area Meeting and Preparation for Yearly Meeting Gathering on Saturday 8th July

Area Meeting is a meeting of members from most of the Quaker Meetings in Worcestershire and Shropshire. Attenders can come but should let Andrew Jameson know. If you are thinking of becoming a member, it is a good idea to broaden your experience. Worcester Meeting House is a delightful place like a tiny village with an old Quaker burial ground and beautiful garden, miraculously preserved right in the centre of Worcester.

We gather from 10.30 (drinks available) and start with a short meeting for worship at 11. There is a business meeting from 11.30 with reports and discussions. Lunch is at 1.00 (drinks available). Most people bring a packed lunch if they are staying through the afternoon.

The afternoon usually consists of open discussion and activity on a Quaker topic. This time we shall be looking at the Spiritual Preparation questions for Yearly Meeting. It goes from 2.00 and finishes at about 3.30 with tea and cake.

We hope to see you there, Angie Dunhill and Jackie Fowler
(Co-clerks, Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting).

Summer outing to The Ralph Court Gardens

Jon Critoph

This is on Sunday July 9th. We hope those coming will enjoy their time there. The gardens open at 10 am and your ticket will permit you entry anytime that day and you can take your cream tea at any time. For those who requested it a gluten free cake option will be ready for you as will other dietary requirements I have been told about.

The address for the gardens is Ralph Court Gardens, Edwyn Ralph HR7 4LU and is just outside Bromyard on the Tenbury Wells road and is well signposted. There is a café there serving lunches (not included in your ticket price) if you want to make more of a day of it. Most will aim to arrive around 1:30pm. If you know of others going from your area why not consider a car share. Look forward to seeing you there and fingers crossed for the weather.

Fairtrade in Malvern

To celebrate the opening of a permanent Fairtrade stall, there will be a Fairtrade Breakfast at the Refresh Cafe on Monday July 10th. There will be food to suit all tastes/diets. Payment by donation which will be sent to the Fairtrade Foundation.

The Refresh café is at St Mary, Sherrards Green Road, Pickersleigh, WR14 2EE. This community Cafe runs on Monday mornings between 9.30am and noon during school term-time. As well as refreshments they offer free internet access, free printing service for forms, labels or other online documents and a nearly new shop with a range of men's, women's and children's clothing; books & DVDs; household goods. Fairtrade goods will be available between 09.15 & 11.00 while the Cafe is open.

Special Collection July: Growing Points

Dick Stockford

This charity helps people from excluded communities to achieve their leadership ambitions. We appoint volunteer Guardians to create opportunities for them. We have just seen 20 refugees in Leeds through the NHS apprentice nursing programme, we are very proud and they are very happy! See www.growingpoints.co.uk

Refuges

Submitted by Judith Badman

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way.

(Now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston

Special Collection August: FOAG

Betty Hudson

Malvern Quakers have been collecting regularly for Farmers Overseas Action Group and are currently supporting sponsorship for a girl called Rovia Owachira. FOAG is an independent charity whose mission is to aid social and economic development in Uganda's rural communities. It provides support to 12 projects in four key sectors; health, education, economic empowerment and the environment, with the overall goal of alleviating poverty. They concentrate on small scale constructive action for community development through the funding of innovative projects that are often too small for the objectives of larger international charities. It was founded in 1981 by a nucleus of Worcestershire farming families to practically address the needs of Uganda's agricultural development.

Hiroshima Day 5 August

Organised by Malvern Justice and Peace Group (multi-church group), there will be a Service 11.00 at the Priory followed by a Vigil at 11.45 on Saturday 5th August. The vigil is in the Churchyard, with placards, facing Church Street. Quakers usually attend and Sue Beverly will officiate. There is a Hiroshima exhibition in the Priory from 31st July to 12th August.

Join the Celebration

Liz Flanagan and family invite Friends celebrate her 70th birthday at a Bring & Share Lunch on August 13th 12.30-5pm at The Dell House, Green Lane, Malvern Wells.

Absolutely no presents but please let me know if you can come and if you are bringing a salad, a dessert, a vegetarian dish or a bottle of something (01684 573315 Mob. 07854244591). Please car share if possible.

Amnesty Art Exhibition, 19-28th Aug

Cally Law

This is an important annual event for Amnesty and the Meeting House. Volunteers are needed to help with either a stewarding session (morning, afternoon or a Tues / Thurs evening) or with the set-up on 17th and 18th Aug. For more info about what is actually involved in stewarding please contact Cally on her mobile 07814 616653, and let her know when you are available. It's a great outreach activity and a good way to meet interesting visitors and artists.

Prison worship group

Melanie Jameson

The Quaker worship group is greatly valued at Long Lartin, in the bleak surroundings of a high security prison. We continue to welcome men from both the mainstream and vulnerable prisoner populations, along with those who have chosen solitary confinement for their own safety. Each time I have attended (usually once a month) it is noticeable how hard the Quaker Chaplains have to work to ensure that everyone on their list is escorted to the classroom where we meet.

Everyone is deeply respectful and the warm handshake that each prisoner offers to all those present on entering the room will contrast with the wariness and care necessary to negotiate the difficult relationships and power structures in prison life. Two men are now ploughing through Quaker Faith and Practice, all are ready to enter into conversation, which takes place over tea after our half hour of quiet.

The Chaplains can bring in a few flowers; I observe how those present feast their eyes on this modest offering. I am all too aware of the complete lack of all aspects of nature in their lives - not a tree, plant or even blade of grass is visible from any part of the estate. The small memorial garden for prison officers is en route to the main building so only seen by staff (and inspectors). The anti-corruption, anti-grooming and anti-conditioning training I have now received (!) stresses how wary I must be in all interactions. But if we neglect their humanity, how can we begin to answer that of God within each one?

Children's Room

Liz Flanagan

We now have a more attractive Children's Room which we are keen to fill with children having fun and learning about the Society of Friends.

I suggest that September 10th be "Bring/Invite a Child to Meeting Day".

I commend Advices and Queries No 19.

Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care. Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God's gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours. How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do you invite them to share their insights with you? Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?

Meeting House Open Day (Tuesday 20 June 10-4)

Andrew Jameson

This is the second year that we have held an open day during Malvern Civic Week, which is a “celebration of summer” arranged by Malvern Civic Society. We had a small display on Quaker history, spirituality and Quaker achievements, and the Meeting Room was set out as for a Quaker Meeting, with an explanation of Quaker Worship. There was an introductory talk at noon to which three people came.

Motivations were various: one person had discovered her ancestors were Quakers, another had visited the art exhibition and wanted to know more. One man had attended Meetings as a child in our small children’s room and brought his wife to see. Altogether we had seven visitors and some long conversations about Quaker life and values. The value of holding an open day during Civic Week is that the work of publicising our presence is done for us, and this event is arguably more fruitful than the customary Quaker Week which takes place each year in October.

Dick Stockford in 100 words (30 actually)

My name is Dick Stockford. I am married to Diana. I have 4 children Jessica, William, Leo and Freya. I live in Malvern and have been a Quaker since 1996.

Judith Badman says: Keep them coming – it needn’t take you too long!

A Review of “A Long Way Down” by Averil Stedeford

Liz Flanagan

(Submitted to The Friend)

The title poem sets the tone for this recently published collection of poetry. It is simple, explicit and accessible yet contains personal and poignant truths. It was written when Averil and her husband had received the news *for this cancer nothing can be done*. The poem describes how her husband had been tempted to take a short cut to the *steep drop past jagged rocks*. Instead *holding close we re-pledged our love, thankful that we chose the long way down*.

I was touched by the reality of the *Shadow* reminding us that even a *happy man has a shadow*. *This stayed at home, fell on us*. And *One Loo Roll* and *Lonely* remind the reader of the reality of loss and widowhood for *only the NHS observes my nakedness*. The humour of *Double Delight* gives permission to all who grieve to enjoy ourselves too.

Section three contains the poems written while Averil was working at Sir Michael Sobell House in Oxford as a therapist and teacher of palliative care. *The Last Invitation* contains a wonderful simile of the inevitability of tides destroying the children’s sandcastles. Or *Does it destroy? Dare we believe it’s the last invitation to play?*

The poems inspired by a depressed patient *If Wheelchair were a Pram* and *New Wheels* remind us that the right equipment and support can lighten the last journey as *only the useless body went through the chapel door*.

The Red Hat resonated with me as I am sometimes told “No tears now” and I reply “I’ll cry if I want to. You’re worth it” knowing that trite advertising slogan never fails to irritate. The poem tells us that *your tears will be like water / a potter throws on clay / to ease the changing form*.

Her Christian theology is apparent in several poems but I found the most moving to be *The Priest* as a cup of tea given to a dying man becomes a memory of sacraments given and received.

I must own that Averil has befriended me and welcomed me to her room in her care home, looking up to the Malvern Hills. Often she has shared a poem and asked for my response, explaining how she came to write it. Her clear thinking mind cuts through some of my confused thinking and makes sense of my experiences.