

Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

June 2019



Friends enjoying the Third Sunday lunch in March

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

| DATE | TIME | EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated) |
|---|-------------|---|
| 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 |
| Wed 5 th (1 st Wed) | 1.30 – 3.00 | Reading Group at 8 Wilton Rd Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan |
| Thursday 6 th | 7.30 | Whither spirituality in a secular culture: a Quaker case study Professor Ben Dandelion. Christ Church Hall, Avenue Road, Malvern. Free event www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/programme/malvern or phone 565708 |
| Sat 8 th | 10:30-13:00 | Area Meeting at Bewdley |
| Sun 9 th | 12.00 | Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods after Meeting for Worship |
| Wed 12 th June | 4 – 8 pm | Dell House open garden See below |
| Thur 13 th (2 nd Thur) | 6.00–7.00 | Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship 30 minutes MfW followed by drinks |
| Sat 15 th (3 rd Sat) | 10.00–1.00 | Malvern Hills Repair Café |
| Sat 15 th | 7 pm | Poetry Evening with Music at Worcester Meeting House. In support of Refugee Week. All welcome. Read your own poems or poems you like. |
| Sun 16 th (3 rd Sunday) | 12.00 | Shared lunch after MfW Soup or a hot dish to be provided, please bring other contributions. Co-ordinated by Judith Badman |
| Sun 30 th | | Fifth Sunday, but no shared lunch |

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 25th June
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/>

Clerk on holiday

Please note Jill is away 4th to 15th June. Please use me as first contact in her absence to save her coming back to read too many e-mails! . **Elizabeth Rolph**

Special Collection for June: Friends of Hlekweni (Zimbabwe)

Jill Etheridge



Friends of Hlekweni is a charity to help the people of Zimbabwe through education and peace-building. Hlekweni was a training centre founded by Quakers in 1967. It was forced to close in 2014 and the charity now runs a number of projects mainly focussed on improving access to education.

The Dell House Garden Opening for National Garden Scheme Charities



Elizabeth and Kevin Rolph invite Friends and families from Malvern, Ledbury and Worcester Meetings to relax and enjoy their magnificent garden in Malvern Wells. The two acre wooded hillside garden of the 1820s former rectory has fine specimen trees, historic garden buildings, garden railway, spectacular tree carvings and a paved terrace with outstanding views.

(Note, Ledbury Quakers are no longer meeting regularly, but some may come to this).

Admission £6 including refreshments. Children welcome.
All proceeds to NGS charities (Macmillan, MS Society, Parkinsons, etc)

Parking is limited, so it would be helpful to know if you intend to come
01684 564448, stay@thedellhouse.co.uk. See www.thedellhouse.co.uk for direction

The Time is Now – mass climate lobby

Wednesday 26 June, Central London

Quakers in Britain will join people from across the UK for a mass lobby of Parliament to demand urgent action for our climate and environment. We'll call for bolder climate targets, and a strong environmental policy. Join us on the day to meet with your MP. Details of the day to be confirmed. The lobby event will happen in the afternoon at Parliament. Friends are invited to join interfaith workshops in the morning at a nearby venue.

To sign up and for more details, please contact: Chris Walker, chrisw@quaker.org.uk,
020 7663 1047

100 words

A folder with photos and 100 words (or a bit more!) about regulars at our Meeting is being finalised. This was an initiative started a while ago to help us get to know each other. If you haven't done yours then please let **Judith Badman** have the details.

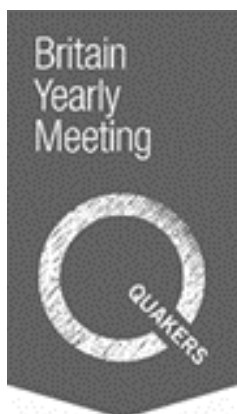
Summer Trip to Stockton Bury Gardens on, Sunday 14th July

Jon Critoph



The trip this year is to some wonderful gardens located in the village of Kimbolton near Leominster. They extend to around 4 acres and offer a variety of plantings and are located at the centre of a working farm. The gardens also offer an area dedicated to plant sales. Included in the ticket price of £12.50 is a cup of tea or coffee and a scone, jam and cream.

The minibus will leave from outside Malvern Meeting house at 12:15 and the journey will take about 45 minutes. We can take picnics and find somewhere pleasant to stop to have lunch before going to the gardens. We will aim to leave for the return trip around 4:30-5pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance from jcritoph@btinternet.com



Britain Yearly Meeting 24-27 May 2019 A Non-Boring Report

Melanie and Andrew Jameson

BYM is a yearly demonstration of Quaker strength and influence, it makes one feel good to belong to such a body. The event more than filled Friends House and included a formal business meeting, taken in parts over four days, special interest sessions, children's and young adults programmes and a groups fair. The courtyard was tented and had lovely vegetarian food and there was food in the coffee shop. It did not seem overcrowded, the closeness made rather for companionship and sharing.

The business part of BYM is a bit bureaucratic, but important and serves to keep everyone informed about the many Quaker activities we are involved in. The agenda is in the BYM programme and minutes are available, all on the website www.quaker.org.uk/ym. One whole morning was devoted to an integrated session on privilege, the climate crisis and "inclusion". The annual BYM Epistle is attached with this Newsletter, or can also be read on the same website.

Catherine West, a Quaker MP, in her opening Salter Lecture provided pointers for solving some of the problems of our divided society – in areas of affordable housing, the living wage and knife crime.

The prestigious Swarthmore Lecture was by Eden Grace (New England YM, USA) on Quaker eco-theology and response to climate change. It was an outstanding visual presentation which we hope will be available on You Tube. There will also be the customary book.

We noticed that the team for the revision of Quaker Faith and Practice has been selected, and there was a handout on which people could send in suggestions. Ask us for a copy. Our Recording Clerk, Paul Parker, stated that, during the revision period, the definitive version of QFP will be the version on the Quaker website.

AJ attended the QPSW session “Tax in the new economy”. The usual shocking figures were pointed out, for example that we could easily afford good education and medical care if there were the political will. ‘As always I came away fuming at the injustice of it all’.

A happier session was the Quaker Life “Simpler Meetings Project”. This seems to concentrate on Area Meetings and ideas for sharing roles and simplification. Ask us for a copy of the handout. Simplification above this level was not mentioned.

The Living Witness session on “Zero Carbon Quakers” by Laurie Michaelis put the problem into perspective with a very effective powerpoint. The talk was full of useful ideas and connections. Join Living Witness to obtain the powerpoint. The Sustainability Toolkit at: www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/sustainability/living-sustainably can be downloaded and you can choose which parts you need.

Melanie co-led a session on the “Legal Regulation of Drugs”, developing further the theme from the QICJ annual conference in February 2019.

Melanie attended sessions which looked more deeply into systemic privilege; ‘we were asked to recall times when we have been marginalised, and how that felt’. What are the ‘pillars’ of oppression?

At the end of this Britain Yearly Meeting, we were left with these questions:

- What is holding us back from taking action?
- What needs to change?
- And we were encouraged to ‘comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable’.

The Lyttleton Well Bookshop

This will be closed from Monday June 3rd to Thursday June 6th for a full refurbishment including new floor, lighting and display units. The cafe will be open as usual. Editor’s note: this is a great place for a light lunch or snack.

Funeral Wishes

Melanie Jameson

Andrew and I have taken over as Funeral Advisers for our Meeting.

This means that we are available to talk over the various issues that arise when planning a funeral.

We have also inherited a folder containing forms on which Friends indicate their funeral wishes. This contained 10 forms, five of which related to Friends who have already died and several from people who have moved away. So, some updating is called for...

What is the point of these forms?

Firstly it is to ensure that your wishes are known, especially if you have not got family around. If you have got relatives who will organise things, are they aware of your wishes? Andrew and I have found it most helpful to consider the various options well in advance (we hope!) in order to clarify our thoughts.

Do we wish to name a charity rather than the default of flowers? Which one? Do we want a green burial? etc. etc.

If you would like to take a look at these forms, please approach your Overseer.

All completed forms will then be filed by us for safekeeping.

Being Green (1): The bigger things.

Andrew Jameson

We have just had 6 of the latest solar panels fitted to our garage roof. The garage is behind the house and no special permission was necessary. The cost was about £3k and the panels will reduce our electricity bill by about £300 per year. One attraction was that it will be easy to add a battery to store power for evening use, and we can also add an Electric Vehicle charger if/when we change our car. The contractor was Caplor Energy (Hereford). We use LED lighting as far as possible. We have also renewed our two toilets to reduce water usage. They are of German manufacture (Duravit) are of modern design and have a reliable dual flush. After years of using the automatic programme on our washing machine we have actually discovered the Express (light) Wash option and have not looked back since!! * We do not use a tumble drier, a simple washing line is enough for us.

We use the gas central heating less but can add 'spot heat' using small electric convector heaters. Insulation is a problem in a house with small rooms and solid brick walls, but we are investigating new types of thin internal insulation and improving insulation of doors and windows. You may be interested in Worcester Bosch's new offers of integrated heating systems using a gas boiler, solar panels and hot water storage cylinders. They are highly recommended by Which? And they are right on our doorstep. Details on their website.

* If you don't have such a setting, wash at 30 degrees. Note that a 'Quick wash' may not be the best, as it can be more intense, therefore use more energy. Elizabeth

Calling Carers

Liz Flanagan

Do you know any carers of those with a life limiting or palliative diagnosis? My sister has developed a free four module programme may just be the resource and support they need, and you'll be contributing to her PhD research.

Contact kate@katediggory.com 07879 635456

Extinction Rebellion protests about climate change

Richard Bartholomew

Phil Kingston from Christian Climate Action Group and Grandparents for a Safe Earth came to share his experiences of recent action weeks with Extinction Rebellion in London. I have known Phil for some 40 years ever since he was a lecturer on my social work course. Back then he was one of those who taught by example as he was in weekly practice as a social worker and therapist as well as a college lecturer. He is a Roman Catholic but very much in the Quaker mould (!) as I recall him telling me some years ago of how he felt compelled to stand up and challenge his parish priest who had just spoken some mis-truths about development work and foreign aid and of the misguided efforts of some in the congregation who were supporting CAFOD, the Catholic development charity. This I think is a fairly unusual thing to happen in modern churches, let alone in mid-sermon, but was the sort of thing that the early Quakers regularly did when they visited what they called 'steeple-houses' to spread what they thought was the 'true message'. I think George Fox, in particular, was on his feet on a pew in Dent Church in Cumbria for several hours as he proved to the vicar that he had better knowledge of the Bible. Thus my describing Phil as a Quaker Catholic.

Phil spoke of the ways in which the blocking of various London bridges and road junctions in both November and around Easter-time had been planned, and the volunteers prepared to cause inconvenience but not to provoke aggression as the point was to underline the

emerging climate emergency. In this way the volunteers sought to engage with the police and the inconvenienced public as fellow human beings whose families were also facing the climate emergency. The volunteers had to decide if they were prepared to be arrested or be there in other support roles. Phil recounted how he had been arrested 4 times in November and was interviewed by a journalist as he was being taken to the police van and when asked what he was being arrested for replied 'For saving the earth'; and when asked where he was being taken replied 'To heaven'. The volunteers were all encouraged to say to the police officers who may have to arrest them that they understood that the police had a job to do, but that they had a job to do too.

Phil had explained to me before the meeting that he had been advised by his lawyer that he should not comment on the more recent court appearance he had been involved in as it could lead to complications. He was not able to say in the meeting that he had been arrested for writing on a Heathrow-bound Express train that air travel was causing global heating, nor that he and others had got onto the roof of a Docklands Light Railway train bound for the London finance centre at Canary Wharf to protest at the role that big finance was playing in heating the world. I had seen a press report where the judge commended him for his fitness in being able to climb onto a train at 83 whereas she knew her knees would never manage anything comparable! As Phil was unable to say these things in the meeting, I mentioned them for him.

In the discussion Phil made use of some simple concepts from Non-Violent (or Compassionate) Communication, which a couple of us in Meeting are learning, and this was when he asked contributors if they were able to distinguish between their observations (of the issues), and the feelings that those observations evoked and then the needs those feelings seemed to indicate. It is an apparently simple way of trying to disentangle some of the things that can get us all a bit tied up. Maybe try it at home?!



This is a photo of our speaker Phil holding hands with Greta Thunberg, the Swedish school climate activist, at the rally at the end of the Easter climate emergency actions. This photo seems to me to demonstrate the challenge of the climate emergency, a friend sent it to me with the comment "Not the Generation Gap?" as the 16 year-old Swede and the 83 year-old Brit show us all what it is all about-namely all generations finding a way through this dangerous mess together. Phil also commented that he feels empowered as an 'elder' to get involved with this campaign for life as he has nothing to lose-he can't be thrown out of his job and being a grand-father he has a focus on the needs of future people. And as someone who is due to become a grand-dad in a month or so, I confess this is starting to feel personal for me too.

Malvern Meeting House is now a Listed Building: Extract from the Report



Malvern Meeting House is a well-articulated Arts and Crafts design that makes a modestly elegant impact on its residential setting, set back from the road behind a raised lawn and planting. Restraining in detailing and yet with a lively and interesting set of elevations and roofs the design has a mixture of vernacular charm with some subtle Art Deco touches to the main entrance and the tile crease kneelers to the roof eaves. The hardwood casements are of a domestic appearance, asserting the familial nature of this community building as a place of meeting rather than traditional church worship, in keeping with Quaker traditions. The yellow brick laid in stretcher bond is of a warm hue and also suitably domestic in its appearance.

The planning of the meeting house conforms to the requirements of the period with a main meeting hall and informal seating, and with rooms for community activities provided. Unusually for its interwar date, the main hall includes a stage or platform; perhaps a choice of Armstrong's influenced by the example at the Bournville meeting house. The meeting hall is an impressive space fitted out with bespoke wainscoting and floors, and with substantial timber roof trusses supported on carved stone corbels. The high quality fittings, including brass door and window furniture (to original hardwood casement) and light switches are complemented by the bespoke Brynmawr furniture (not fixtures and therefore not listable). Some quality fittings are also retained in other parts the building and the mid-C20 extension to the rear has good quality hardwood fenestration.

The meeting house survives well with the most notable alteration being the late-C20 extension to provide additional meeting and library space. This has altered the original layout of the corridor, but has been carried out sensitively. The design both internally and externally has been in keeping and thoughtfully executed. Other changes include the reordering of the kitchen and bathroom areas, and the installation of an internal porch. These changes are to be expected of a building in communal use and they have not harmed the principal planning feature that characterises the meeting house: the access between the front doors and the meeting hall. In fact, the evolved planning of the building illustrates the C20 Quaker insistence on the importance of community engagement and education.

Malvern Meeting House is overall an excellent interwar example of the building type, clearly evoking its purpose in its structure and design with a composition and layout that serves the requirements of a purpose-built Quaker meeting house. It has strong claims to architectural special interest as a confident Arts and Craft design of the period with simplicity of style that chimes with the Quaker ethos. Furthermore, this well-conceived and characterful design illustrates the resources and confidence of the Friends. Added to this it has historic interest as one of the few purpose-built meeting houses of this era and for its link to the Bournville Village Trust and the Cadbury family who were prominent Quakers and attended meetings here while holidaying in the area. Malvern Meeting House meets the criteria for listing and should be recommended at Grade II.

Advices & Queries No 19 & 24

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?

Children and young people need love and stability. Are we doing all we can to uphold and sustain parents and others who carry the responsibility for providing this care?

Events at the Priory

May 30th - June 9th: Hundreds of local Christians will be joining forces during a worldwide 11 day prayerathon for local communities and for the world. Local participation takes place in the Priory grounds. There will be two marquees in the grounds of the Priory laid out with prayer stations, and a display of Morgan cars!

June 24th: 1000 people will be participating in the annual Lifepath event just under 800 children attending from 22 local schools and up to 150 volunteers from 21 churches in Malvern helping out. Children will have the opportunity to dress up as monks and experience the daily rhythm of work and prayer.

See www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk (go to activities)

Looking for a use for unwanted items?

People in Motion collect donations of clothing, shelter and food to send to those in need. Items are distributed in the camps in France or sent to containers headed for Syria and Greece. Lapetus Gallery on Bellevue Terrace is a collection point. See <http://www.people-in-motion.co.uk/sorting-and-donations>

Costa Coffee in Malvern is a collection point for clothes / bedding for the homeless.

Repair café

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 !!!

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