



MALVERN QUAKER NEWS SHEET

March 2017

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Sun 5th Mar	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business: Focus on Use of Meeting Funds (Report from Paul Wyatt circulated on 23 rd Feb)
Mon 6 th March	9.30 – 11.30	Traidcraft Big Brew at the Refresh Cafe, St Mary's, Pickersleigh, Malvern WR14 2EE Fairtrade cakes etc. and a Fairtrade stall. Followed by a Lenten lunch of soup and bread/roll from 12.00.
Wed 8 th (2 nd Wed)	10.30–12.00	Reading Quaker Faith & Practice Chapters: Introduction and Note on the history of the text
Wed 8 th (2 nd Wed)	8.00–9.00	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 11 th	10.30 – 1.00	Area Meeting in Bewdley
Sun 12 th (2 nd Sun)	12.00	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods after Meeting for Worship
Sat 18 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00–2.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café at the Meeting House
Sat 18 th	11.00 – 4.00	Quaker Day of Healing at The Dell House, 2 Green Lane Malvern Wells, WR14 4HU This is an initiative of the Friends Fellowship of Healing. It will be a day of silent reflection and healing. You are welcome to join for all or part, See poster / flyers in Meeting House or contact Elizabeth Rolph (01684 564448) or Peter Bevan (01684 576825) for more details.
Wed 29 th March	7.30 pm	Concert of West Gallery & Sacred Harp music by Malvern-choir Vital Spark. In aid of Onside Advocacy (see below). At Worcester Friends Meeting House , Sansome Place , Worcester.
Sun 2 nd April	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business
Wed 5 th April	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship

ONSIDE ADVOCACY

Richard Bartholomew

This month's collection is for Onside Advocacy, a group who provide advocates/supporters for a wide range of people who need someone to stand with them as they try to deal with officialdom in all its aspects. You will find several different leaflets about Onside's work in the Meeting House.

Worcester Friends Meeting is also supporting Onside by hosting a concert. Please come and enjoy the music and know that you are helping to build Onside as the numbers of people needing advocacy, whether in their care home or hospital bed, with their efforts to get on the housing list or to make clearer their needs for help at home, is growing. Ticket price-£6 per person (on the door or from me in advance, (01684 574399). For a limited number of lifts contact me or Worcester FMH is 10 minutes walk from Foregate Street Train Station.

MEETING PHOTO ALBUM

Judith Badman

Many of you know if you have endured your photo being taken that it has been agreed that I should create an alphabetical album of photos of all who attend our Meeting frequently. This is to help people like me who can't remember names so they need not ask someone for the sixth time but can look up the album. Malvern Meeting tried to produce an album nearly twenty years ago which was a page per person with a photo on the upper half and something about the person on the lower half.

If you agree with this would you please write up to half a page of A4 about yourself, what you wish people to know about you, remember it will be in the Meeting House and may not always be put away.

I shall know by the response or lack of it whether to use this format for our album.

If you haven't had your photo taken and are able to supply one of your head and shoulders, 10cm square that would be great.



News of friends: Hazel and Mary

Melanie Jameson

I met up with Hazel during a trip to Newcastle at the end of last month. She was happy, relaxed and very much enjoying living in the city. She is attending various literary groups, has found a welcome in her large Quaker Meeting and will become an Overseer there. She sends her greetings to us all.

While at the Quakers in Criminal Justice conference (24-26 Feb) I was approached by someone from Mary Callaway's Meeting in Stockport. Knowing I'd be present, Mary sent news via this Friend to let us know that she well settled and feels valued in her Meeting, has joined their healing group and is running occasional Circle Dancing workshops. Though still somewhat frail Mary feels she is 'picking up' at last.

Report from February Area Meeting

Peter Bevan

Tabular Statement: We were informed that the total number of members registered in 2016 was 197 (195 in 2015) of which 67 were men. This includes 9 people who were accepted into membership during the year. The number of attenders was 108 of which 39 were men.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported that at present AM was short of funds and asked LMs to make contributions. He confirmed that at present there was no agreed format for deciding how much each LM should donate to AM. He also encouraged each LM to devise their own budget. He was grateful that all the LM annual reports had been received (even if they had not been confirmed by the LBM). We were informed that progress was being made to change our constitution from being a registered charity to being a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Reports received: Handling Conflicts in Meeting Conference, Forced Migration Conference, Quaker Life Rep. Council Conference, Meeting for Sufferings

Activity: In the afternoon we considered the Quaker role in a secular society and what the vision was for the future. No record was made of the discussion (in small groups).

Future Events: We were reminded of **Quaker Quest** at Telford, an enquirers Session at Worcester on 19 March. It is anticipated that LMs will give consideration to **Refugee Week** (June 19-25)

Membership

Elizabeth Rolph

Two of our sons have now transferred their Membership to this Area Meeting. They became Members while in Cambridge. Martin is currently living in France and Simon in Sheffield, doing a PhD in Mathematical Biology. Jonathan, our youngest (and tallest) son, moved with us to Malvern having just taken his A Levels. He came to Malvern Meeting a few times with us in his year out and is now reading Fine Art in Newcastle, and creating animations for Lego in his 'spare time'.

Summer outing: Sunday 9th July 2017 Ralph Court Gardens

Jon Critoph

Each year we arrange a summer trip or outing and this year we are starting with a visit to these amazing gardens near Bromyard. There are 12 different gardens set in the 3 acre grounds of a gothic rectory to explore. Places are limited and will be on a first come first served basis. This is a ticketed event which must be booked and paid for in advance. The cost of the ticket is just £10 and will include entry to the gardens plus a cream tea.

Buy your tickets from : Jon 01684 540 372 or 07766 828 072 or Nicky 01432 342 342
Or email: wellbeingwisdomworkshops@gmail.com

Yearly Meeting Gathering: 29 July to 5 August at the University of Warwick.

This will be concluding the three year consideration of 'Living out our faith in the world'. Bookings are now open. There will be opportunities for worship, sharing experiences, formal sessions and relaxation. Funding is available - talk to an Elder, or your Overseer to find out more. see <http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

Demise of The Leavers

Bryan Ratcliff

Sadly, all efforts to secure core funding for the Leavers has failed, and so the Trustees have had no option but to close down the charity as required by charity law. An EGM will take place on Saturday March 4th at 14.00 in the Priory Rooms of Quaker Meeting House, Bull St., Birmingham. The main business will be a proposal to close down the Leavers as soon as the Trustees are able to. Nevertheless, it is also intended to be celebratory as well as functional, looking back at the Leavers' considerable achievements of the last 30 years.

However, it is not all bad news. One of the most successful projects run by the Leavers has been an annual residential weekend for orchestra and chorus, which started life many moons ago, and has been typically attended by around 35 people or so each year. The choral component has been run by Roger Moon and the orchestral component by Joy Paul. Venues over the years have included Glenthorne at Grasmere, Charney Manor and more recently places like Cober Hill just north of Scarborough and High Leigh in Hertfordshire this February 2017. At this particular gathering a new Quaker phoenix arose from the ashes: this group of people will at some point in the nearish future launch a new group with the putative title of 'Quaker Music Network'. This will be essentially a voluntary group, one of whose main objectives will be to keep the popular February residential project going, but also to promote music-making in general amongst Quakers (in ways that have yet to be worked out).

As regards finances, Great Malvern Meeting recently donated £500 to the Leavers. However, any such money so donated should not be regarded as 'lost'. It will help to close down the Leavers in an orderly and proper manner, enabling it to meet all its legal obligations, and any residue will be forwarded to BYM Quaker Life.

New ways of Doing Justice and Promoting Harmony

Melanie Jameson

After a weekend at the Quakers in Criminal Justice conference I am firmly convinced of the need to support and develop better ways of achieving social justice and dealing with harm. An opening session, led by very experienced restorative justice facilitators from N Ireland, showed just how well this approach can work – in fact it seemed the only possible way to bridge such deep divisions. And a timely topic given our divided post-Brexit society. What are the elements of this alternative way?

The most important aspects were that everyone is heard and all voices are equal. We are innately 'relational' so relations must be restored through valuing those with opposing views and listening to where they are coming from, creating communal spaces to bring the sides together in shared activities. We were advised 'not to give up' – an encouraging message for me in my criminal justice work.

The Justice Matters project is investigating the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (CJS) as the main way of 'dealing with' social harm. Looking back to 1997, we see an unprecedented increase in the scope of the CJS with 3,000 new laws, police numbers up but a service still stretched to the limit trying to cope with the 84% of calls not actually related to law-breaking, mainly concerning the mentally ill - including suicides and needs that should fall within social services. The loss of youth services, the closure of the huge mental asylums without a corresponding growth in social care and the on-going failure to support children leaving care all seem to direct troubled individuals towards the police: the gateway to the CJS.

It is no co-incidence that countries with the highest levels of inequality have the highest level of incarcerations – and prisoners always comprise the most marginalised and vulnerable populations with complex needs. So, about time to consider how we might do things differently – and more effectively.