



MALVERN QUAKER NEWS SHEET

MAY 2016

PLEASE NOTE: this month there is no book group and no 5th Sunday shared meal & talk

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed 4th	12.00 – 12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship + picnic lunch
Wed 4th	6.30 for 7.00-9.00	Positive Money meeting in QMH. [Further info overleaf]
Thurs 5th	<i>ALL DAY</i>	<i>VOTING FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS</i>
Sat 7th	10.00- 3.00	Presence and Absence Workshop: Afterwards
Sun 8th	From noon	Quaker Meeting for Business
Sun 8th	11.00 – 11.30	Home Meeting for Worship at Albion Lodge, Hanley Swan Offer of lifts needed. Tel. Betty 594685
Sun 8th	After Meeting	Sale of Fairtrade Goods
Wed 11th	8.00 – 9.00	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 14th	Area Meeting	Church Stretton 11.00 – 4.00
Wed 18th	10.30 – 12.00	Share thoughts on Quaker Faith & Practice , Ch 16 Quaker marriage procedure and Ch 22 Close Relationships
Sat 21st	10.00 – 2.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café at the Meeting House
Sun 22nd	After Meeting	Informal Talk by Eoin McCarthy: Difficult Conversations - How to discuss what matters most.
27th – 30th		Britain Yearly Meeting in London

WELL-DRESSING FESTIVAL – Bank Holiday weekend

Remember to take a tour of our springs, dressed for this year's festival, with a theme of Friendship/Amitié in recognition of our newly twinned town, Bagnères-de-Bigorre.



Thurs 2nd June: Visit to The Laskett Gardens, leaving the Meeting House at 9.30am,

Our garden visit will last from 10.30 -12.30, please bring a packed lunch to eat afterwards. Entrance fee is £12.00 and there will be a charge for the coach. Our Meeting is considering whether the cost can be capped - there will be more information shortly.

Please sign up, if you haven't yet by emailing paula.kingston49@yahoo.co.uk, ringing her on 01684 893591, or signing up on the sheet on the Meeting House notice board.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Meeting For Sufferings (MfS) 2 April 2016

Report from Andrew Jameson

MfS can be very roughly compared to a Quaker Parliament, with representatives from Area Meetings (AMs) and important Quaker committees. Its job is to receive tested concerns (i.e. concerns endorsed by AMs) and to provide spiritual guidance for all Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). It meets six times a year, usually in London. Each AM has one representative and one alternate; at the moment I am the alternate for our Worcs & Shropshire AM

The meeting of 2nd April started as usual with worship, followed by a certain amount of Quaker bureaucracy, dealt with quickly. Here are the agenda items which concern us.

1. Living out our Faith. Every AM had been asked for information about how they did this, and there were many contributions on the topic. Our AM had provided a report. We had been asked for tested concerns, but the discussion at MfS went wider than this, and it was plain that the membership had clear ideas about living out their faith all over Britain.
2. The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) has recently called on us all to act positively and live sustainably at individual, local, area and national level. A paper was circulated with suggestions at each level about how to do this.
3. A concern has come to MfS from Cornwall AM regarding the decriminalisation of the possession, for personal use, of all drugs. This chimes with various moves in Europe and the Americas advocating the ending of the "war on drugs" which has filled our prisons and seems to many people to be self-defeating. Area Meetings are asked to consider this matter, and our Minutes will be considered alongside Cornwall's later in the year. A statement has been agreed which will be used by FWCC at the UN General Assembly Special Session on world drug problems (April 2016).
4. Another concern comes from Quaker Peace and Social Witness with a paper on "a vision for a criminal justice system". AMs are asked to consider this and to respond directly to MfS. MfS will return to this later in the year.
5. The BYM treasurer reported that contributions from the membership last year covered current expenditure of about £2m, however if we are to keep up with current trends, he asks for members to increase contributions by about 50%. The average contribution from members now is about £150 per year; this is not obligatory and amounts vary widely.

All documents mentioned are available from Andrew on request. There is a two-page report on this session of Meeting for Sufferings in The Friend of 8 April 2016.

May 4th Positive Money event www.positivemoney.org

Eoin McCarthy

Henry Ford said: *It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning*



Our leaders argue about what the policy should be, but nobody ever tackles the underlying problem, we license the banks to create 97% of our money as debt for their own and their shareholders' advantage. Forget LIBOR fiddles, bankers' bonuses and dodgy investment packages. As serious as these are, they're just a smoke-screen for the real cause of our troubles.

If you want to understand better, come to a presentation, quiz and discussion on how our money system is at the root of unaffordable house prices, high debt and inequality - and what we can do about it! 6.30 refreshments for 7 p.m. start until 9 p.m. at the Meeting House, £3 at the door.

May 7th: 5th Presence and Absence Workshop: Afterwards

Eoin and Liz

In the morning (after hot drinks from 10 a.m.) we will explore the challenges and issues arising for those left alive after a death: the healing power of grief; execution of a will; disposing of personal effects, etc. After a buffet lunch, we will work together in discussion. We aim to finish by 3 p.m.