



MALVERN QUAKER NEWS SHEET

MAY 2017

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday
Special Collection for May – Shelter Box

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Wed 3 rd May	12 noon	Meeting to Celebrate the Life of Mary Read (No Reading Group this month)
Fri 5 th May	7.00-8.00	Meditative Singing Simple chants from round the world and Taize. Worcester MH. (Further details below)
Sat 6 th May	9.30 – 3.00	Meeting House tidy up day. Please come and lend a hand. Soup provided
Sun 7 th May	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business , including consideration of the Meeting House Heating system
Wed 10 th May	10.15 for 10.30	Discussion on Theology of Light: This follows on from Quaker Faith & Practice sessions. Everybody welcome
Wed 10 th May (2 nd Wed)	8.00–9.00 pm	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 13 th May	11 – 4.00	Area Meeting at Wem including consideration of Woodbrooke on the Road coming to Area Meeting
Sun 14 th May	9.30 am	The Big Breakfast in support of Christian Aid. E-mail Liz Flanagan by 10 th May to let her know if you're coming: flanaganelizabeth63@gmail.com
Sun 14 th May (2 nd Sun)	12.00	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods after Meeting for Worship
Wed 17 th May	7.30 – 9.30 pm	The Bundle – An Asylum Seekers Story at Meeting Point House, Telford. This is an Area Meeting funded event. Donations for organisations working closely with asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. See the Journeyman Theatre website (current productions)
Sat 20 th May (3 rd Sat)	10.00 – 2.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café
Wed 24 th May	2 – 5 pm	Quiet Garden Afternoon at the Dell House (see below)

Deadline for next news sheet: Tuesday 30th May

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

Malvern Meeting Use of Funds Committee

The newly created Use Of Funds Committee met for the first time on 25th April at the Dell House. The committee comprises Peter Bevan, Kevin Rolph and Annette de la Cour. Kevin Rolph was appointed Clerk. We shall meet again shortly to clarify our processes and to set the dates when proposals may be brought to the group.

Yearly Meeting Gathering: Request for Help

This request is to individual Friends, and we would be grateful if you could share it as widely as possible. Please can local Friends help to "host" this event? The help varies from welcoming Friends at Coventry rail station, being on the registration desk on the first day, serving on the information desk through the week, or helping lone Friends feel part of the Gathering during the week by, for example, hosting conversation tables or walks at lunchtimes. Further information can be found on our website and offers of service can be made via the form at:

<https://forms.quaker.org.uk/ymg-localoffers/>

In friendship, Krishna Ramamurthy, Events and Committee Services, Quakers in Britain
ym@quaker.org.uk 020 7663 1040 www.quaker.org.uk

Meditative Singing

Friday 5 May 7.00-8.00 Some simple chants from around the world and from Taize. Worcester Friends Meeting House, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UG, followed by light refreshments. For more information Tel: Lea on 01905 26147 Text: 07906 172692

Quiet Garden Afternoons at the Dell House, Malvern Wells

Elizabeth Rolph

This will be an unstructured opportunity for quiet, reflection and prayer. Some guidance and resources will be available. The garden has a significant slope, so reasonable mobility is necessary. The next quiet garden afternoons are on 24th May, 21st June and 19th July.

Suggested donation of £4 including light refreshments.

Please book by e-mail or phone, stay@thedellhouse.co.uk 01684 564448

Refugee Week 19-25 June: Different pasts, shared future

Dick Stockford

Events are being planned at present and everyone can get involved. Please contact refugeeweekmalvern@gmail.com with ideas and activities. Be as creative as you like!

On Monday 19th June at 7.30 there will be an event at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church. Baraa Ehssan Kouja is a Syrian from Aleppo. He is the founder and director of 'From Syria With Love', a charity that works directly with refugees and raises awareness about the plight of the Syrian people. Baraa sought asylum in the UK after doing his MSc and now works with refugees full time.

Krista Sojo is from Holland. She is a graduate in International Humanitarian Action. She just completed her mission as Field Director for the organisation, 'Project Hope 4 Kids', in a refugee camp in the North of Greece, providing informal education to Syrian and Afghan children aged 3 to 14.

Liz Flanagan's 70th Birthday Celebrations: Sunday 13 August

Date for your diary - All are invited to a bring and share lunch at the Dell House.

Vocal ministry

Elders and Overseers have been discussing issues around vocal ministry, and ask Friends to recognise that worshipping Friends and Attenders bring their own life experiences, including

childhood, education and alternative religious backgrounds - or maybe none. We ask that all offerings be accepted as heartfelt and probably spirit-led.

We are guided in our thinking by Advices and Queries No 12 and 13:

When you are preoccupied and distracted in meeting, let wayward and disturbing thoughts give way quietly to your awareness of God's presence among us and in the world. Receive the vocal ministry of others in a tender and creative spirit. Reach for the meaning deep within it, recognising that even if it is not God's word for you, it may be so for others. Remember that we all share responsibility for the meeting for worship whether our ministry is in silence or through the spoken word.

Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be your part. Faithfulness and sincerity in speaking, even very briefly, may open the way to fuller ministry from others. When prompted to speak, wait patiently to know that the leading and the time are right, but do not let a sense of your own unworthiness hold you back. Pray that your ministry may arise from deep experience, and trust that words will be given to you. Try to speak audibly and distinctly, and with sensitivity to the needs of others. Beware of speaking predictably or too often, and of making additions towards the end of a meeting when it was well left before.

Reading Quaker Faith & Practice

Peter Bevan

The last session was about the future direction of the Society of Friends in Britain. Referring to our previous sessions we came up with the following pointers:

- a) How can we become an open monastic community?
- b) The importance of speaking out about the Society of Friends and saying who we are (are we intellectual?)
- c) Responsive hospitality (flexible responses resulting from listening to the needs of others)
- d) Agility in decision-making
- e) Listening to the Quaker Young so that they can become involved
- e) An awareness of diversity and equality.

Funeral Wishes Form

Liz Flanagan

Advices and Queries 29 reminds us to "as possible make arrangements for your care in good time" and 30 tells us to "contemplate our death". We encourage you to give some thought to how you would like your funeral to be arranged. This is very helpful to your family and those at the Meeting who will liaise with them. If you receive this News Sheet by email, you will find a funeral wishes form prepared by Friends House attached together with this newsletter. If you have taken a copy from the Meeting House, there should be spare copies on the Clerk's Table in the Meeting House, or contact Andrew Jameson or Liz Flanagan for a copy. Please return the form to Liz Flanagan, who is our Funerals rep. She would welcome the opportunity to discuss Friends' funeral plans privately. Contact her on 07854 244591 or flanaganelizabeth63@gmail.com to find a suitable time. Andrew Jameson can be contacted at a.jameson2@dsl.pipex.com or 572466.

Malvern Meeting Photo Album: "Short Lives"

After notices recently there was a question about what we might write as an introduction about ourselves to accompany our photograph in the Meeting's photo album. Kevin Rolph suggested we take up the challenge of writing about ourselves in only 100 words, so here is his attempt. Please have a go, and send it to Judith Badman at judith.badman1@homecall.co.uk who is collecting these. If you are agreeable, you could send your "Short Life" to Elizabeth.Rolph@flatlandic.net for inclusion in a future News Sheet.

Kevin Rolph in 100 words

"Owner, with Elizabeth, of the Dell House B&B in Malvern Wells. Moved here in 2014 leaving Cambridge and 30+ years in software development. Quaker since 1987, a direction seeded by the

Quaker-founded Manchester University's Dalton Hall. First experienced Malvern in 1982 through postgrad work on liquid crystals at RSRE. Three adult sons now doing amazing things in very different fields. Black belt in karate, occasional bodhran player but main hobby is board gaming. (If I'd said 'cars' you'd not now be thinking 1935 and Monopoly: board games have moved on too!). One hobby I'll revive this year is the garden model railway."

Gardens at the Cube, including the Quaker Peace Garden.

Report from the Cube Newsletter April 2017

Our team of volunteers headed by Head Gardener and Volunteer Coordinator – June – are keen to continue experimenting with new vegetable varieties, plants and designs, as well as keeping on top of the day to day maintenance.

We continue to grow all our vegetables organically and also have maintained our planting in line with the Lunar cycle. Something must be working as slugs and pests are kept to a minimum – coffee grounds from Cafe at the Cube play a part in this I'm sure!

We now have 16 raised beds and hope that the Connect Group will be taking two of these – and perhaps develop more. The 'Edible Flowers' bed will be used for squashes, and edible flowers will be sown among the vegetables.

The practice of companion planting goes back thousands of years and the evidence for the efficacy of this is still strong.

Our organic seeds are sourced from Stormy Hall (an offshoot of the Steiner Foundation) and from our local Greenlink shop which carries a wide range of varieties.

Thanks must go to the Cube visitors who make donations toward the cost of the seeds and allow us to be more adventurous.

The new herb bed is beginning to thrive so please help yourselves to the actively growing herbs (this is the bed adjacent to the new potting shed).

The new pathway now snakes its way across the grass and around the Peace Garden, allowing those visitors who are less mobile to avoid the steep drive, and we plan to place aromatic and sensory plants along its edge. In addition we hope to plant a shrubbery to one side to improve the 'view' from the seating area in the Cafe. Donations – either 'green' or financial – would be very welcome towards this project.

If anyone has a plant of Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus*) they could give us there is a perfect spot awaiting...

Finally, the gardens are for everyone to enjoy, so any ideas to help us improve your experience would be welcome. Just leave a note for June in the Cube Office or call in and see June on a Tuesday morning.

Message from Ledbury Quakers

We extend a warm welcome to Friends from neighbouring Meetings to join us occasionally for Meeting for Worship on the first and third Sundays of the Month. We meet at the Burgage Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury at 10.30am for an hour followed by tea and coffee. Susan Hepburn (Correspondent) susanghepburn@gmail.com, 01531 634575, 07938 508488.