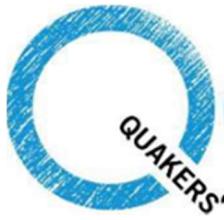


Malvern Quaker Meeting



Newsletter May 2022

Items for the June issue of the Newsletter will need to reach me by 23rd May.

Ukraine Supper

Liz Flanagan

A big thank you to Liz for all her hard work in organising this

A few weeks ago at the end of our meeting for worship I commented on the birdsong from outside the window and compared it to being in areas of Ukraine where we would have heard only the sounds of war.

From this grew two images in my mind: firstly, having a supper for 60 and raising £600, and secondly seeing Ukrainian families using our meeting house as a gathering place to exchange news and ideas, have a drink, let children play and have a translator teaching English.

Well Friends, you exceeded my expectations on the first! Today I forwarded £900 to Paul Wyatt who will transfer it to the Polish charity providing medical aid in Ukraine. Although the event was a great success financially I also want to celebrate all the good F/friends who made it possible: the furniture movers, the table layers, the cooks and cake makers, the amazing salad providers, our very young waiters and their dad, the music makers, the washer-uppers, the wonderful story teller, the china packer and deliverer, the table hosts who made such an impact, the flower arranger, donors who were absent, the clearer uppers staying till the very end.

I think many of us were moved by the wonderful atmosphere, the willingness to pray together for Ukraine, the learning about Quakers and the great sense of a powerful community.

Meeting for Worship next morning had a renewed sense of togetherness in worship. We all gave but I think we all received in good measure too.



Area Meeting for Worship for Business 14th May

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Next Area Meeting for Worship for Business will be IN PERSON, for the first time since lock down, in Worcester Meeting House on Saturday 14th May 11am to 3pm.

The Business Meeting will be in the morning;

then soup, bread and cheese will be provided for lunch by Worcester Friends at 1pm.

- **In the afternoon you will have the choice of 4 activities:**
- **Circle Dancing, - led by Anne Burghe**
- **A walk around Worcester's historic sites, led by Val Brittin**
- **A discussion on Prepared Readings and Ministry, led by Jackie Fowler and May Youett**
- **Reflection and Colouring to Live Celtic Harp Music, -led by Jan Scarrott**

Tea at 3pm provided by Worcester Friends

QCEA Report April 2022

Andrew Jameson

The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), had a difficult year in 2021. In addition to Covid, problems were revealed in its governance practices, resulting in a change of director and the departure of several staff. It is a pleasure to be able to report that there are no problems with replacing staff, and that the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of QCEA are working to resolve problems in a constructive manner. The annual EU study tour organised by QCEA is planned to take place in Autumn 2022, and details will be available in the QCEA newsletter **around europe** (see end). All UK members and attenders are eligible to take part. You can also find information at

www.qcea.org/events/. The Conference on the Future of Europe which was launched on 9 May 2021 to expand EU democracy and increase public participation has been welcomed by civil society, however progress has been slow due to rivalries and lack of understanding of what was intended. Was it to be a wish-list or actual treaty reform?

Further pages in the latest **around europe** bring news of QCEA changes and new staff, the EU's growing interest in Defence; the military and COP26; and the QCEA statement on Ukraine.

To subscribe to the digital edition of **around europe** go to www.qcea.org/home, look for "Stay in Touch", enter your email address, and click on "Subscribe".

Advices and Queries No 3

Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life. Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of dependence on God's guidance for each day? Hold yourself and others in the light, knowing that all are cherished by God.

Special Collections

Kevin Rolph reported that the collection for CYEN [the Chrysallis Youth Empowerment Network] accumulated £145 at the Meeting House, plus at least £100 donated directly, thus £245 in total.

Area Meeting for Learning 11th June

Further to the item in last month's newsletter, here are the details for booking a place:

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting is arranging a Meeting for Learning on the theme of **Death and Dying**, led by one of our members, Hugh McMichael.

Hugh himself faced death as a teenager. He says the doctors were so unhelpful that he determined to become a doctor to 'do better'. He practised as a physician, often diagnosing incurable illness, then worked in hospices for nine years. Volunteering as a Samaritan and later as a prison chaplain brought him into close contact with suicide and led him to question the assumption of 'will to live'. He offers a day to explore our expectations and fears around death, dying and bereavement. Because of the personal and intense nature of the subject, there will be a limit of 12 participants. *Please note: people in the midst of such events may find it difficult to look at the processes which influence their responses.*

This will be a day-long session on **Saturday 11th June, 10am-5pm, at Malvern Meeting House**. Transport will be available from Great Malvern Station for those wishing to travel by train.

Tea and coffee will be provided, and participants are asked to **bring food they would like to share with others** for snacks and lunch. It would also be a good idea to bring a cushion, as the Meeting House chairs can feel hard after a time!

If you would like book a place at this event, do not reply directly to this message but please email the Area Meeting Clerks at worcsandshropsam@quaker.org.uk by **Monday 23 May**. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, and you may expect a reply within a few days of booking. If all 12 places are taken before 23 May, later requests will be placed on a waiting list.