



Malvern Quakers

Newsletter

May - June 2011



Dabane Trust

The Dabane Support Fund

Communities in areas of South and West Zimbabwe live under constant threat of disaster from drought. Yet while the surface is dry there is often plenty of clean fresh water all year round in the saturated bottom layers of sand rivers and wadis. The challenge was to find a cheap, simple and safe means of accessing it.

The director of **Dabane Trust**, Stephen Hussey, grew up in Somerset and was educated at Sibford (Quaker) School. After working in Africa for many years, he identified the need for water extraction in Zimbabwe and designed a simple but very effective pumping system. He was instrumental in setting up Dabane Trust, which now has 40 staff who deliver expertise, training and basic equipment to local groups.

Since 1991, the Trust has been working alongside communities to help install cheap and easily-

maintained equipment to extract and store water. Local groups are then trained to organise highly productive agriculture, using water for vegetable growing and for animals, thereby improving nutrition. They also help to set up community market gardens so that people can earn an income from selling the surplus produce. There is an absolute emphasis on ownership and maintenance by the local group which ensures the long term sustainability of the work.

While Dabane Trust is funded mainly through international charities and development agencies, there is a need for additional funds. This is where the Dabane Support Fund, which is a concern of Mid-Somerset Area Meeting, comes in. The Fund spends money collected on equipment and spares for vehicles, tractors and pumps; also for projects such as sand drains, open-pollinated protein seed bulking, granaries,



repairs to vehicles and staff training – when and where there's a need.

Malvern Friends have contributed to the Dabane Support Fund for many years – it has been the beneficiary of the charity collections during April and May – and Joy and David Brandreth took over the task of organising this from Gwen Eccleston. The ongoing collection of used stamps also goes to help this charity so if you have any stamps (either British or foreign), Joy and David would be pleased to receive them. There is a box for this, usually on the table near the kitchen hatch in the Meeting House.

*Images courtesy of Dabane Trust
www.dabane.org*

Malvern Friends Meeting House 1 Orchard Road Malvern WR14 3DA

Email: malvern@wsq.org.uk Website: www.quaker.org.uk

All Welcome at Meetings for Worship:

Every Sunday at 10.30am

Third Thursdays 12.00 noon (followed by bring-your-own lunch)

All events are held at Malvern Friends Meeting House unless stated otherwise. Please note that attenders should seek permission from PM to go to Area Meetings.

- Sunday 8 May 12.00
Preparative Meeting for Church Affairs (PM)
- Saturday 14 May 11.00-4.00
Area Meeting
The Quaker Meeting Room, Meeting Point House,
Southwater Square, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4HS.
- Saturday 14 May 5.30
Gregorian Chant by Musica in Ecclesia
Church of the Ascension, Malvern Link
- Sunday 15 May 6.30
Service to begin Christian Aid Week
St Matthias Church, Malvern Link.
Speaker: David King from Christian Aid
- Thursday 19 May 2.00-3.30
Moving Prayer
Peace, relaxation, simple dance.
For further information call 01684 892482
- Sunday 29 May 12.30
Bring and Share Lunch on Fifth Sunday
An informal opportunity for lunch and fellowship.
There will be no after-lunch speaker
- Sunday 5 June 12.30
Preparative Meeting for Church Affairs (PM)
- Saturday 11 June 10.30-1.00
Area Meeting
Friends Meeting House, Lower Park, Bewdley DY12 2DP

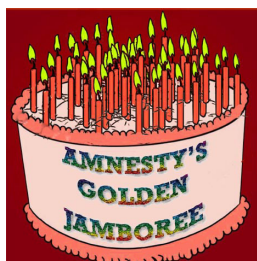
Amnesty's Golden Jamboree

To celebrate Amnesty International's 50th Birthday in May, Amnesty Malvern Hills presents an evening of comedy, music and poetry from some of the most vibrant acts around, all of whom have given their services free in support of Amnesty.

It's on Friday 13 May at 7.30 pm at the Coach House Theatre, Grange Road, Malvern.

Tickets £8, available now from Malvern Theatres (booking fee) or from Books for Amnesty, 3 Edith Walk, Malvern (no booking fee). Price includes a glass of wine or soft drink; no concessions.

Online booking:
<http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk/events/998.html>



Membership News

We have been delighted to welcome Elisabeth Sturge, Helen Chiverton and Betty Hudson into membership in recent months.

'Membership does not require great moral or spiritual achievement, but it does require a sincerity of purpose and a commitment to Quaker values and practices. Membership is a spiritual discipline, a commitment to the well-being of one's spiritual home and not simply appearance on a membership roll. The simple process of becoming a member is part of the spiritual journey: part of the seeking that is so integral to our religious heritage. The membership application process is not only about seeking but also about finding.' *Extract from Faith and Practice 11.01*

Regents Theological College, West Malvern

A Holiday Bible Week entitled 'Looking at life through the Bible' will take place from 9-13 May. The hosts will be Nigel and Rachel Tween and teaching will be from senior members of the college faculty.

To find out more, email judy.warrington@elimhq.net

Saturday Day Retreats

Nigel Groom, artist, musician and spiritual counsellor, offers guided day retreats to people of all faiths or none at Outpost, his lovely house and hillside garden at the Wyche. Some Malvern Quakers have attended 'Quiet Space' days here and Friends are especially welcome.

The retreats, with a theme of 'The Journey', take place between 11.00am and 3.30pm on Saturdays 7 May, 4 June and 16 July.

For further information or to book:
01684 577775 or nigelharvey@supanet.com

The 11th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale in support of Amnesty International, organised jointly by Malvern Quakers and Amnesty Malvern Hills, will take place at the Meeting House from 20 to 29 August. Melanie Jameson is the Quaker link person. Other contacts:

Exhibitors: Kate Adamson
01684 576634, kate.adamson@zen.co.uk

Stewards: Peter Thomas
01684 575886, petergt@hotmail.co.uk

ART
FOR AMNESTY 2011

A thought suggested by David Simmons

Q. How many Quakers does it take to change a light bulb?

A. None, we allow the light bulb to search for its own way to change!

God created both gravity and levity and if we use one without the other we ignore sacred opportunities to celebrate God's omnipotence.

Notice Board

Elders and Overseers

Cally Law has been appointed as an Elder. Her previous role as an Overseer is now undertaken by **Liz Flanagan**.

Cally writes:

'In late February three Elders, Jill Etheridge, Richard Bartholomew and myself took the opportunity to attend a one day Woodbrooke workshop on Eldership and Oversight. We all enjoyed the day and found it helpful and thought-provoking as, in both large and small groups, we examined aspects of the roles and the challenges presented by them and shared ideas as to how to develop and enhance the life of our Meetings.

'One issue that particularly stood out for us was the importance of fostering a spirit of worship in all our business meetings. This was especially relevant as there has recently been disquiet voiced by some Friends that our own Meeting for Worship for Business was not always being conducted in a manner and spirit required of us by "right ordering". We have since discussed the matter at our Elders and Overseers group (the record of which is pinned up by the kitchen) and we agreed that we would simply like to remind everyone of our shared responsibility for creating a worshipful atmosphere which promotes mutual respect and real listening. It also involves upholding the clerk and assistant clerk as they try to get a true sense of the will of the meeting and supporting them in silence as they formulate an appropriate minute.

'This issue was also the subject of fruitful discussion at one of our recent enjoyable evening groups and some useful ideas were put forward for ways of promoting the worshipful atmosphere we seek to achieve. We look forward to welcoming as many members and attenders as possible at future Meetings for Worship for Business when we have the opportunity to come together as a community to fulfil our responsibility for developing the life of the Meeting in all its aspects.'

Financial Giving *Jill Etheridge*

Thank you to all of you who support our Meeting in so many ways. Last year's finance appeal resulted in a very pleasing increase in giving. Some are able to do so in a pledged way which enables them to plan their giving and others put in the wooden box what they feel they can afford from week to week. Others again have little to spare in money terms but are generous with their time, practical help and quiet service in all kinds of ways. All of this is valued.

Giving is and must always be a personal decision, otherwise it's a levy and not a gift. But for those who ask for guidance, I want to make it abundantly clear that while there is no 'ought-to-give', you may like to ask yourself if one of the statements below reflects your own view:

- I go to Malvern Quaker Meeting regularly and it's only fair that I should contribute to the costs of heating, lighting and the upkeep of the garden.
- I want to support financially all our local efforts to let other people know what Quaker Meeting for Worship offers and asks of us...and also what Quakerism stands for.
- I realise that this Local Meeting is more than the Meetings for Worship and for Business and the other local activities. We link with the Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting which has its own expenses.
- I know that Britain Yearly Meeting (based at Friends House in London) is the hub of a great deal of work that takes place nationally and internationally under Quaker auspices and would like some of the money I give to help in these extremely worthwhile enterprises.

If you would like to give, please see Jill Etheridge, Treasurer.

This is an edited extract from this year's appeal leaflet.

The Newsletter

Please ensure that any items of news, diary dates or things to share for the July-August newsletter are given to Cally Law, Mary Callaway or Sarah Colloby, placed in the brown envelope on the noticeboard or emailed to: scolloby@yahoo.co.uk before 10 June.

If you are contributing creative writing, photography or artwork, please provide the name of the author/artist so that they may receive due credit.

If you would like to receive an email copy of the newsletter, please contact Peter Thomas at petergt@hotmail.co.uk.

Helping out

Would you like to help with the work of Malvern local meeting? We rely on our own members to take on the different jobs needed to maintain the spiritual, social and practical life of our meetings. It's difficult to know all the interests and skills of members and attenders, so we invite you to tell us how you could help, if you would like to. What you tell us would be confidential, and it wouldn't put you under any obligation. Andrew has a form with some suggestions, or you can just write him a note. Please write to Andrew Jameson, 6 Gilbert Road, Malvern WR14 3RQ or email him at a.jameson2@dsl.pipex.com

At the moment we are looking for volunteers for two practical jobs:

- A Recycling Czar. Please could someone undertake to regularly remove and recycle the paper, plastic and glass which collects in the meeting house, mainly the kitchen?
- Also, would someone like to take on the project of renewing the cushions on the Meeting House chairs? This will involve some research, contacts, costings etc.



Malvern Hills Photo: Olga Marks-Goloenko

There Is A Spirit

Helen Chiverton

I chose for my 'welcome to membership' book *There Is A Spirit: The Nayler Sonnets* by Kenneth Boulding. Gerald Heard wrote in the foreword 'The sonnets are, for the poet a 'purely personal act of meditation'. They expand into memorable form the last words of James Nayler as he lay dying. He expressed a faith which had carried him from the early fevers of evangelism through extremities of brutal torture and contempt to death by violence.'

Verse 1 'There is a spirit which I feel...'

Can I, imprisoned, body-bounded, touch
The starry robe of God, and from my soul,
My tiny Part, reach forth to his great Whole,
And spread my Little to the infinite Much,
When Truth forever slips from out my clutch,
And what I take indeed, I do but dole
In cupfuls from a rimless ocean-bowl
That holds a million million million such?

And yet, some Thing that moves among the stars,
And holds the cosmos in a web or law,
Moves too in me: a hunger, a quick thaw
Of soul that liquefies the ancient bars,
As I, a member of creation, sing
The burning oneness binding everything

Taking the Lead

Mary Callaway

Friends who enjoy Woodbrooke and all it offers may be surprised to learn (as older Friends will recall) that twelve years ago, its future was very doubtful. Jennifer Barraclough, then a trustee, felt a strong leading to apply for the post of principal, a post she held until the end of 2010. In an interview in Friends' Quarterly in February 2011, she says that when the going got rough 'I was sustained by an awareness....that I was to be given some of the strength and capability to deal with it. Although I shouted at God a good deal of the time.'



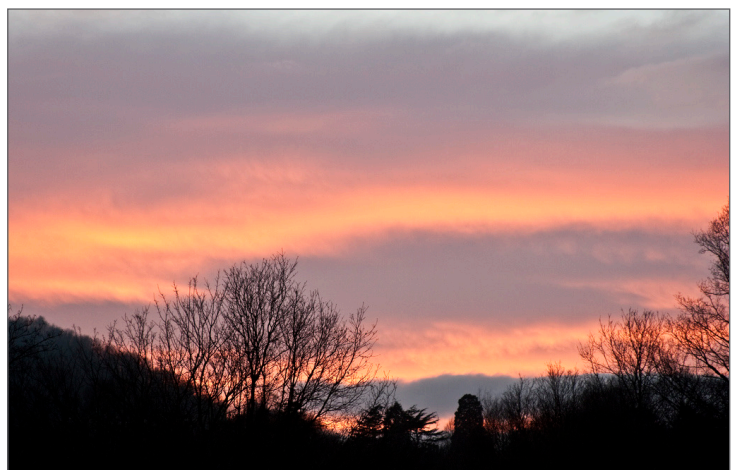
Woodbrooke
Photo: Andrew Jameson

There was £3,000,000 in the bank and despite the frightening practical challenges she was not afraid of money – or of Quakers. Even the one who, rolling his eyes upwards, said Quakers had only one director, wouldn't a better title for her be co-ordinator? 'I replied that I needed to take responsibility and offer directions.....getting things done!' Which she did supremely well, gathering and galvanising her teams, never too busy to exchange friendly words with all staff, tutors and visitors and with an eye for detail and an uncanny memory for names. Perhaps this underlines the fact that clear leadership is not 'un-Quakerly' and can often be appropriate and necessary.

Hokusai says

Hokusai says look carefully.
He says pay attention, notice.
He says keep looking, stay curious.
He says there is no end to seeing.
He says look forward to getting old.
He says keep changing,
you just get more who you really are.
He says get stuck, accept it,
repeat yourself as long as it is interesting.
He says keep doing what you love.
He says keep praying.
He says every one of us is a child,
every one of us is ancient
every one of us has a body.
He says every one of us is frightened.
He says every one of us has to find a way to live with fear.
He says everything is alive - shells, buildings, people, fish
mountains, trees, wood is alive.
Water is alive.
Everything has its own life.
Everything lives inside us.
He says live with the world inside you.
He says it doesn't matter if you draw, or write books.
It doesn't matter if you saw wood, or catch fish.
It doesn't matter if you sit at home and stare at the
ants on your veranda or the shadows of
the trees and grasses in your garden.
It matters that you care.
It matters that you feel.
It matters that you notice.
It matters that life lives through you.
Contentment is life living through you.
Joy is life living through you.
Satisfaction and strength is life living through you.
He says don't be afraid.
Don't be afraid.
Love, feel, let life take you by the hand.
Let life live through you.

Roger Keyes
contributed by Eoin McCarthy



Malvern Hills *Photo: Olga Marks-Goloenko*