

# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

## November 2017



See invitation to open evening

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Wed 1st (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	12.00–12.40	<b>Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship</b> (Bring a packed lunch if you're staying on)
Wed (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	1.30–3.00	<b>Reading Group</b> Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur)	6.00–7.00 pm	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship.</b> Note new time
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	<b>Malvern Welcomes Open Evening at the Cube</b> See below
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)	12.00	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b> after Meeting for Worship
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	<b>Remembrance Sunday - Library Forecourt</b> Guests assemble at 14.00 hours. Malvern Quakers will be called out to lay a wreath. The parade then marches to the Priory for a service commencing at 15.00.
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	10.00–1.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café and Sale</b> Donations needed of sewing, painting, woodwork, festive biscuits, cakes, jams etc. Also volunteers to run the stall. Contact Liz on 07854244591
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)	11 – 11.30	<b>Home Meeting at Albion Lodge</b> (contact Betty Hudson)
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>

The next Newsletter will be for December and January. Deadline: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Dates and contributions to [Elizabeth.Rolph@flatlandic.net](mailto:Elizabeth.Rolph@flatlandic.net) or phone 01684 564448

## **Did you Know..**

.... that the dates and News Sheets are put on our Meeting website every month. So if it gets lost in your sea of e-mails, see <http://www.malvernquakers.org.uk/>

## **November Special Collection: Christmas grant for Malvern family**

Editor's note: I like to put information about special collections in the Newsletter. Local charities advise us about possible deserving candidates.

## **Malvern Welcomes Open Evening**

This is the first Open Evening of the charity, Malvern Welcomes. They have achieved the original aim of encouraging and assisting Worcestershire County Council to accept 12 refugee families, but to date no refugee families have come to Malvern. The meeting will give local people the opportunity to find out more about Malvern Welcomes and to learn of their future plans. The meeting is at the Cube, and free, but please register beforehand, see <http://www.malvernwelcomes.org/>, or talk to **Dick Stockford** 07889 752 169.

## **Conscience and Courage: Exhibitions in Ross on Wye Library**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November during Library opening times.

(Also: Discussion meeting Wed 8 Nov 2.00; and A Comparison with another county (Herts) Tues 14 Nov 5.00.)

Conscientious Objectors in World War One: Who were they? What did they do? What was done to them? Come to explore and discuss their experiences by viewing the Exhibitions about Quaker Service and Herefordshire's own Conscientious Objectors

## **Calais Refugees Men's Clothing Collection Event**

Saturday 11th November, 10.30am – 3.30pm at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church

The local-based charity 'People in Motion' has requested in-kind donations to help refugees in France following destruction of the Dunkirk refugee camp. The young men from that camp are now completely homeless in France and are being harassed by the local French police so they have been returning to Calais.

The urgent requirements are for blankets, sleeping bags, dark hoodies, dark jogging pants, clean-as-new underwear, and toiletries (but not bubble bath, shampoo or shower gel).

## **Faith and Well-Being Event, Mon 13th November**

This is a special event of Worcestershire Inter-Faith group to be held at Holland House Retreat Centre, Pershore.

During the morning a speaker from each Faith Tradition will offer between 5-10 minutes of reflection on the relationship of Well-Being (physical/emotional/mental health) and their particular Faith, e.g. 'What does my Tradition have to say regarding the Well-Being of the individual/community/nation?'. Further details of the day are available from Holland House if you would like to attend: [co-ordinator@hollandhouse.org](mailto:co-ordinator@hollandhouse.org), or 01386 860330.

## **Concert in aid of FOAG, Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Nov Pershore Abbey**

Farmers Overseas Action Group supports farmers, homes for disabled children and nurse training in Uganda, since 1981. This concert is by Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, playing music by Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Tickets £16 (including free drink) 01886 853 295 More details from **Betty Hudson** 594685.

## Different concepts of Good

Jon Knight, an attender at our meeting, will be giving a talk to the Malvern group of the Progressive Christianity Network on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December. He is a former Head of Department for Religious Education and Philosophy. see <https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/malvern>

A session with him is being planned at Malvern Meeting on the theme of Quakers and Spirituality.

### Advices & Queries No 4

The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in Christianity and has always found inspiration in the life and teachings of Jesus. How do you interpret your faith in the light of this heritage? How does Jesus speak to you today? Are you following Jesus' example of love in action? Are you learning from his life the reality and cost of obedience to God? How does his relationship with God challenge and inspire you?



## Peace Education in Schools

**Liz Flanagan** attended a conference at Woodbrooke on Peace Education in Primary Schools. She will report on this in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile please give some thought as to whether you could help deliver assemblies.

### Advance Notice:

Peace Education in Schools Initiatives are working hard to counter the government-funded militarisation. On November 9<sup>th</sup> **2018** it is planned to invite all school age children to celebrate PEACE in local churches, mosques, meeting houses synagogues etc. It is hoped the Malvern Meeting will take part.

## Art for Amnesty 2017

**Peter Thomas**

Jointly organised by Malvern Hills Amnesty and Malvern Quakers, this was held at the Meeting House from 19 to 28 August. It made a profit of £1,243 for Amnesty International, and a further £225 for the Syrian Refugee Charity.

A big thank you to all of those who contributed artwork, helped set up and take down the exhibition, and who acted as stewards.

## The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier

**Richard Beach**

I have recently read this book given me by someone, not a Quaker, who liked it and thought I would also like it because I am a Quaker. Indeed, I thought it a brilliant novel and thoroughly recommend it.

The story, set in the 1850s, follows the life of a Dorset girl Honor for a couple of years. After being jilted she decides to go to Ohio with her sister who is going there to marry. The story is probably deliberately a little slow in developing, but with domestic detail from that era woven into the story it reflects what must have been a normal pace at that time. In those early settlements of Ohio unforeseen things happen: the consequences of illness, an attraction to an unsuitable person, marriage and motherhood, the mother-in-law, and the question of whether to try to help escaping slaves in that time before the American Civil War. All this is seen through the eyes of the main character, not a heroine, but an ordinary person, with insights into her Quaker faith. Those insights and practices still resonate. The story culminates dramatically. The notes after the novel has ended are also interesting to read, so too are other historical novels by Tracy Chevalier.

## A New Economy: Report from Area Meeting

Judith Badman

This is a flavour of a talk given at Area Meeting held at Telford Sept. 2017 by Phil Harrison as far as I grasped it!

The supreme ideology of our time which did not exist 100 years ago is a “global economy based on continued expansion and growth. In its pursuit of growth it is often unjust, violent and destructive.” [Min. 23 BYM 2011] QPSW has been studying this since 2011, leading us to consider alternatives to how our country is led. See the QPSW website and its “Quakernomics Blog”. Other places to study the new ideas are The New Economics Foundation, the Doughnuts Economics and the book The Econocracy.

Phil asked us what happened in 2008 in Manchester and Oxford – students boycotted their economics lectures as being so much baloney. The present assumption is that economic policy should create national wealth. One of the many exercises Phil set us to do in twos was to come up with our idea of what wealth is. 81% of British people support the idea that the government’s main objective should be people’s happiness! Read “The Spirit Level” by Richard Wilkinson [One common factor links the healthiest and happiest societies: the degree of equality among their members] Bhutan’s measure of wealth is Gross National Happiness [GNH] If you have not seen Bhutan’s excellent Prime Minister on YouTube, I urge you to watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Lc\\_dIVrg5M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Lc_dIVrg5M) where he speaks amusingly and intelligently of his country’s resolve to stay carbon NEGATIVE! This is an excellent piece for all who are interested in Climate Change and the new economy. Spare a quarter hour and you will find it well worthwhile – I just did. GNH guides the country’s policy decisions which keep them carbon neutral and even negative.

Another measure used in some US states is Genuine Progress Indicator which captures unpaid voluntary work and housework. Yet another is the Happy Planet Index developed by NEF – this measures a country’s environmental footprint against combined data on life satisfaction and life expectancy. Countries like Guatemala, Costa Rica and Cuba are not necessarily the world’s happiest countries but they are efficient in “converting” the planet’s resources into happy lives.

Ten Principles for the New Economy are written up in a Quaker pamphlet. The tenth principle is this:

A revitalised, participative and more truly representative democracy is key to our peaceful and prosperous coexistence. In the new economy all individuals and groups have meaningful routes to influence public and economic policy; all voices are heard. In this way power is distributed and the equality essential to this vision is maintained.

See <https://quakers-production.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/store/9740c93365a184f18e0d6859233be9a0beab725cb8dc84a3b2e44c832565> or ring Alison Prout at Friends House on 020 7663 1035.

## Brain Teaser

Richard Bartholomew

Who wrote this? Have a hard think before you reach for a dictionary of quotations or the internet and write down your best guess before you do. Were you right?

“Religious suffering is, at one and the same time, the expression of real suffering, and a protest against real suffering. Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions.”

## Walking for Refugees

**Dick Stockford** founded Growing Points in 2012. It is a charity that supports people from excluded communities to do great things: to help them reach positions of leadership within their communities and chosen field. He did a major walk to raise money in September.



Half way through the walk

**And in the End...** (His final blog, see <http://blog.growingpoints.co.uk/> )

Well it's over! At 11.45 on Thursday 28th September at Pierhead in Liverpool, to be exact. More than 200 miles, nearly 1/2million footsteps, 4 events, 15 overnight stays, from Hull to Liverpool preceded by 6 months of planning, logistics and imagining how it might all be; the potential disasters and the things that go bump at 4am, and then JDI time on my 70th Birthday, put up or shut up!

How is it done? A day at a time and after 2 weeks you've done it! Keeping your eye on the map, having sufficient underpants, places to sleep, good routes to take, stuff to eat, baths to relax in, clean 1000 mile socks to wear, meeting walking companions, setting up events, measuring strides, handing out cards, writing blogs, tweeting, facebooking, crowdfunding, and the kindness of strangers.

My proudest moment? Standing next to Ddiako at the Leeds event while she spoke with such confidence about what a difference Hidden Talents had made to her life. I feel I have been very lucky too. The weather had been exceptionally kind bearing in mind how bad it has been around the world, my feet and body have held up remarkably and my plan to walk 4 hours from an early start meant that by noon I usually had 12 miles clocked up, and the rest of the day was downhill! My luck was in too with all the support I got, most days I walked alone but I didn't feel on my own, there was a tiny organisation acting like a big one; updating Websites, tweeting, facebooking and crowdfunding all a vital part of the walk.

So my thanks to everyone who walked, held whip-rounds, baked-off, printed T-shirts, arranged suppers, shaved heads, put me up, donated money, updated web-sites, did laundry, fed me, cheered me on, redirected me, watched Strictly with me, gave me lifts, met in pubs, bought drinks laid out events and talked well of Growing Points, and helped it all happen. It was a great experience and one I treasure and one from which, when the final tally is done Growing Points will have benefited financially.

I now have to get out of a 6 months mind-set of making it happen and burst the walking-bubble that I've lived in for the past 2 weeks and get back to the day job!

Donations still gratefully received, through <http://growingpoints.co.uk/can-help/>

## **Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs – and Gambling (QAAD)**

**Melanie Jameson**

As Area Meeting rep for QAAD, I decided to attend a special meeting held in Charney Manor, Oxfordshire, at the end of October. (Actually part of my motivation was that I've always wanted to visit Charney Manor - and it did not disappoint: a charming old Cotswold house, used by Quakers for retreats and courses, also available for B&B.)

This was the weekend where Helena Chambers, the long-standing Director of QAAD, stood down after a staged handover period, to be replaced by Alison Mather who has a background in evaluation and report writing.

The weekend combined deep sharing from those who have been directly affected by alcohol and drugs – now in recovery, mothers (never fathers) of addicted adult children, and professionals. Although I am somewhat on the edge of this spectrum, my interest being in addiction as it relates to the criminal justice system, I always feel very welcome and valued. I was able to contribute an information sheet I have produced on ways of working with government, which complements the guidance from our Quaker parliamentary engagement officer Jessica Metheringham.

QAAD is now planning its biannual conference, in summer 2018 at Woodbrooke, drawing less on expert speakers and more on participants who are all 'experts by experience'. One action that we must take forward is making Area Meetings more aware of the 'epidemic' of alcoholism, drugs and gambling that are causing much unseen misery in society.

Quakers are not exempt from its temptations.

## **Worshipping Group at HMP Long Lartin**

**Melanie Jameson**

Every month when I visit our worshipping group, I find it has grown by one or two people as regular attenders spread the word. Some have registered themselves as Quakers to ensure that they are escorted up and are proud of this allegiance. A few are ploughing through Quaker Faith & Practice.

To mark Quaker Week, our excellent Chaplains had asked group members to take away Advices & Queries to see if any of the entries were especially meaningful to them, and then to read the passage out during the Meeting.

This made the contributions very heartfelt; talking to the men afterwards, some had obviously considered their choice very deeply. It was also a good way to engage with A&Q and to gain confidence for ministering, which most of them lack.

Since that Meeting there has been an 'incident' at Long Lartin which made the national news and necessitated an intervention by the elite Tornado Teams. This is rare at high security prisons and illustrates what pressure the whole prison system is under.

## **Fairtrade in Malvern**

There is a Fairtrade stall at the Refresh café, St Mary, Sherrards Green Road, Pickersleigh, WR14 2EE. This community Cafe runs on Monday mornings between 9.30am and noon during school term-time. As well as refreshments they offer free internet access, free printing service for forms, labels or other online documents and a nearly-new shop with a range of men's, women's and children's clothing; books & dvds; household goods. Fairtrade goods will be available between 09.15 & 11.00 while the Cafe is open.