



MALVERN QUAKER NEWS SHEET

OCTOBER 2015

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon 28th Sept	7.30 – 9.30pm	Malvern Inner Transition Group: Opening session for 2015/16: Recovering the Wisdom of Gaia Malvern Cube
Sat 3rd	10.30 – 3.00	End of Life issues: Workshop 3 [SEE OVERLEAF]
Sun 4th	From noon	Malvern Quaker Meeting, MEETING FOR BUSINESS
Tues 6th	10.30 – 2.30	Reading Day at the Dell House for catching up on reading, reflection etc. £5 to cover drinks – bring your lunch
Wed 7th	10.00 – 3.00	Meeting House open for Quaker Week [SEE BELOW]
Wed 7th	12.00 – 12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship
Wed 7th	1.30 – 3.00	Swap & Share Book Group: Books I can't bear to part with
Sat 10th	11.00 – 4.00	AREA MEETING in Malvern Afternoon topic: Nominations
Sun 11th	11.00 – 11.30	Home Meeting for Worship Tel. Betty 594685
Sun 11th	From noon	Sale of Fairtrade Goods
Mon 12th	5.30 – 6.30	Syrian refugee march, Malvern Priory [SEE OVERLEAF]
Wed 14th	8.00 – 9.00	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 17th	10.00 – 3.00	TIDY UP OUR MEETING HOUSE DAY – please come along
Sat 17th	10.00 – 2.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café at the Cube, Albert Rd
Wed 21st	10.00 – 12.00	Share thoughts on revising Quaker Faith & Practice, Ch 1
Sat 24th	7.45 – 9.30	Public Debate on future health services <i>Worcestershire NHS: More or Less</i> , Lansdowne Methodist Church
Wed Nov 4th	7.30 [Ticket £10]	Vital Spark Concert in aid of Syrian Refugees. Meeting Ho.

National Quaker Week 3rd – 11th October

<http://quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quaker-week-2015-live-adventurously>

Our Meeting House will be open 10.00 – 3.00 on Wednesday October 7th, to celebrate National Quaker Week. Tea / coffee and an elder will be available. All are welcome at the lunchtime Meeting for Worship, the picnic lunch to follow and the 'Book share' discussion. Please invite a friend or neighbour to join us. Look and listen out for nation media coverage.

TWO REMINDERS ABOUT OUR MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Please try to arrive and enter the Meeting around 10.15 so you are settled and ready by 10.30. Please speak loudly and clearly when offering ministry in Meeting; some Friends have said that they struggle to hear what is said.

NEWS and VIEWS

End of Life issues: Workshop 3

In the morning, with Nick Wilde, we shall consider 'Approaching old age with courage and hope'. After buffet lunch, the focus will be on issues arising when we invite carers into our own homes.

Revising Quaker Faith and Practice

Quaker Meetings have been asked to participate in a read-through of *Quaker Faith and Practice*, chapter by chapter, to inform a future revision. Please read Chapter 1 by our meeting on Wednesday 21st, so we can share thoughts on possible changes, omissions and deletions.

Drop Scones or Bombs!

Dick Stockford

On 12th September I joined a demonstration blocking the road into the Excel Centre in London. I was there to protest against the sale of arms (and instruments of torture) by British firms to the rest of the world. Yes, this does happen in these enlightened days, and it is considered by the Government to be a valuable export. For this reason the Excel Centre (in the Isle of Dogs) is heavily fortified for the duration of the "fair" (armed police and security guards, even a helicopter!). The demonstration was peaceful and drew perhaps 500 people from many different organisations. The police were reasonable and not confrontational but drew to our attention that blocking a public highway is an offence.

One banner declared: **Drop Scones or Bombs!** Quakers also had a banner protesting arms sales and as the morning went on a Meeting for Worship was proposed. About a dozen of us sat in the road and 'met'. As we did so we were joined by more and more protesters. The police formed a rather ominous line near us but everyone was calm and quiet. The Meeting was deep and sustaining - although a helicopter circled overhead at one stage! After a good hour we concluded and, of course, shook hands to find that our number had trebled if not quadrupled!

At this stage the police announced that since we were committing an offence they would start to arrest people unless they moved out of the road per se. The majority of protesters stayed put but I did not. I felt our point had been made, and the police had been extremely tolerant.

I'm staggered that we sell arms to countries who use them to oppress their own populations, and other 'friendly' countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar who pass them on to their allies in Al-Qaeda and Isis.

I have no idea if anyone other than the truck drivers we held up were seriously disrupted. I doubt it, but the whole day was filmed by a BBC cameraman (*I wonder if this footage will ever be shown? Ed*). This trade is our modern equivalent of the slave trade. Our involvement through Government licensing to manufacturers demeans and shames us all.



Welcoming Syrian Refugees in Malvern – public witness on Monday 12th

County and District councils in Worcestershire are still dragging their heels about applying to receive refugee families. A march has been organised to demonstrate our strength of feeling in Malvern. Our focus is the onset of winter: last year 12 children died from hypothermia in the camps and more deaths are inevitable unless these vulnerable families are relocated. We are all urged to join this march, meeting outside the Priory, and wearing thick winter clothing.