

# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

## October 2017



Liz Flanagan's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations at the Dell House in August

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
<b>Every Sunday</b>	10.30	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> (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 4 <sup>th</sup> (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 8 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)	12.00	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b> after Meeting for Worship Follows by <b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b> (rescheduled from 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	8.00–9.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b>
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 – 4.00	<b>Area Meeting at Malvern</b> See below
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	2.00 - 5.00	<b>Quiet Garden Afternoon at the Dell House</b> Please let Elizabeth Rolph know if you hope to come
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	10.00–1.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b>
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)	11 – 11.30	<b>Home Meeting at Albion Lodge</b> (contact Betty Hudson)
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)	12.00	<b>Vedic Wisdom &amp; Yoga talk</b> (see below) Followed by <b>Shared lunch</b>
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>November</b>	12.00–12.40	<b>Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship</b>

**Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday October 25th**

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

## **Special Collection: Women in Prison**

**Melanie Jameson**

This effective charity supports women both in prison and post-release, including those who face deportation. It also campaigns for a better sentencing policy for women and builds on the ground-breaking Corston Report of 2007.

## **Theme for Quaker Week: 'In Turbulent Times .....be a Quaker'**

Quaker week is 30<sup>th</sup> Sept – 8<sup>th</sup> October. There are no specific events in Malvern as we focused our efforts on Malvern Civic Week.

Extra special editions of The Friend have been ordered. These are designed for outreach and wider distribution. Please think if you know anyone who might be interested in this snapshot of Quakers.

## **Area Meeting in Malvern on October 14th**

**Liz Flanagan**

In the afternoon we are offering a workshop on "Vulnerable Adults in Meeting". Richard Bartholemew and Paul Wyatt will be leading this but we would welcome input from anyone with a personal or professional interest in this subject.

We are also responsible for catering for a number of visitors on this occasion and would welcome the following assistance:

- Serving teas and coffees at 10am
- Making a pan of soup to be served at 1pm
- Serving soup at lunchtime
- Offerings for afternoon tea to be served at 4pm
- Serving tea at 4pm

Please let Liz know which of these you can help with.

## **Vedic Wisdom & Yoga with Jonathan Penley**

Yoga is far more than twisting the body for health and fitness. Yoga actually means 'union' with the Divine - our ultimate spiritual nature. The yogic system is a 'subjective' science with a vast collection of practices which can help us remove blocks to consciousness and become more attuned to our spiritual nature. The talk will include demonstrations of a few very simple practices.

## **PRISONS WEEK 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October**

**Melanie Jameson**

Following hard on the heels of Quaker Week comes Prisons Week, established in 1975 to pray for, and raise awareness of, the needs of prisoners and all who are connected with them in the wider society.

As usual, we are asked to follow a daily prayer schedule throughout the week, as outlined below and to consider what we might do to help those for whom we pray.

**Monday** prisoners; **Tuesday** victims of crime; **Wednesday** prisoners' families; **Thursday** rehabilitation and our communities; **Friday** those who work in prisons; **Saturday** those who work within the criminal justice system

See [www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org). A video is also available: <https://vimeo.com/233884365>

The opening prayer for Sunday is as follows:

*Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.*

Latest figures (July 2017) give numbers of prisoners as 86,070 with 98,122 children who have a parent in prison. Year on year our prisons become more desperate and dangerous places. There are three main reasons for this, in my opinion. Firstly, the on-going effects of earlier drastic cuts in prison officer numbers –whatever enlightened programme might be on offer, nothing will happen in a prison if there are insufficient officers to escort prisoners to and from the venue.

The second factor is the availability of spice and other volatile synthetic drugs. Finally, the frequent change of Secretary of State (since 2010 we have had Clarke, Blunt, Grayling, Gove, Truss and now Lidington); this means that no-one has ‘had their feet under the desk’ for long enough to see through a comprehensive reform programme. However reforms have been formulated and are being worked out by civil servants, including my area of interest: support for and identification of prisoners with dyslexia.

Glimmers of hope include the enlightened governor of the first public prison to be built in 30 years, HMP Berwyn in Wrexham. He is prioritising education and training along with a regime of rewards rather than punishments. Let’s hope that good inspections will highlight this approach as a model for other establishments.

## **Public Debate: How Can We Make Malvern Safer?**

How can we make sure the area and its people-- young and old—continue to be safer in the future? What can we do to contribute?

A panel of local police community safety officers and community representatives will address these issues and discuss your questions and ideas with the audience on Saturday 21st October 2017 - 7.45-9.30pm at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church, Malvern. Free tickets online:[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk). Lansdowne Public Discussion and Debate

Note from Andrew Jameson - Someone at Meeting for Sufferings recently asked during the business meeting “How come the Methodists seem to speak out before we do?”

## ***Calling All Creatives!***

**Liz Flanagan**

On November 18th it is proposed to hold a small sale of work to catch the crowds at the Repair Cafe. The money raised will go towards a Quaker charity giving us an opportunity to flag up some of the good work done.

Any sewing, painting, woodwork etc etc will be welcome as well as the traditional festive biscuits, cakes, jams and jellies. Contact Liz on 07854244591 to discuss further.

## **Malvern Welcomes Open Evening, Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm**

This is the first Open Evening of the charity, Malvern Welcomes. They are currently embarking on a new and exciting project which they want to share with individuals and groups in the Malvern area. The meeting is at the Cube, and free, however those coming are asked to register – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/malvern-welcomes-open-meeting-tickets-38092630082> (also link from Malvern Welcomes website)

## **Quakers Sharing Experience Workshop - November 25<sup>th</sup> in Malvern**

QSE workshops are a new way to help deepen the communal spirituality of Quaker Meetings. Geoffrey Durham has worked with Eoin McCarthy to develop a workshop approach that enables Members, Attenders and newcomers to explore and share our spiritual experience.

There will be one in Malvern Meeting House from 9.30 to 2.00, finishing with a shared lunch. It is limited to 24 places, and has filled up fast, with some Friends from Worcester and Cirencester joining us. Please let Eoin know now if you want to book one of the last few places.

### **More “Short Lives”**

These are introductions to go in to Meeting Photo Album being put together by Judith Badman. Kevin Rolph challenged us to keep to 100 words – some of us don't quite make it! Keep them coming.

### **Elin Dodson**

I was born in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, in 1933. I have a sister and two brothers. I married and had four children. In 1965 we moved to Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. As a mature student I went to University and did a Fine Arts degree, with English and anthropology. I ran a biological laboratory supplying schools, etc in South Africa. My husband divorced me and I married again, this time an Englishman, Alan Dodson, who was a letterpress printer. He chose to return to England and we bought a house in Malvern where he established his business. I worked in a cafe which employed mentally and physically handicapped men and women. My husband died. I let my house and moved down to Church Meadow Court. We attended the Quaker Meeting together until my husband returned to the Catholic Church of which he had been a member. I continued with Quakers.

### **Elizabeth Rolph**

We recently celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, which is a good time to look back. We were married in Headington parish church (Oxford), where I had worshipped with the family. Kevin and I were then regular attenders in Bury St Edmunds and Chelmsford Meetings – depending on where we were spending time together that weekend. We therefore added the Quaker tradition of saying our vows unprompted, out of the silence. It was a wonderful wedding.

We moved into our Cambridge house immediately on return from our honeymoon, and there we stayed for 27 years. We soon were accepted into Membership and became very much part of Hartington Grove Meeting. I worked for Cambridge City Council for all this time, although had three maternity breaks and worked part time while the boys were in primary school.

We moved to the Dell House in Malvern Wells in 2014 just after our youngest son, Jonathan, had taken his A Levels. A major lifestyle change for us and not the quieter life we had intended, but we haven't regretted it once! See [www.thedellhouse.co.uk](http://www.thedellhouse.co.uk)

### **Advices & 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.

## Possible Study Group

Richard Bartholomew

I would be interested to initiate a Quaker study group that could over 3 or 4 sessions examine our responses to the question IS ANGER THE ROOT OF VIOLENCE?

I do not pretend to have a conclusive answer to this existential question but I know that I am challenged by anger in myself and others, and have some clues at how we might approach the topic using both personal experiences and some references to Quaker and other history. This would however need to be a collaborative undertaking, or I promise to get very, very cross!

My hope is that once we do have an authoritative answer to this question we should then be able to move onto other important ones such as: Why does my toast get burnt in the toaster; why is my mobile phone never off in Meeting for Worship? And why do Quakers like weak tea?

This idea has not been brought formally to Elders or to the Meeting for Worship for Business, so I think at this stage it is just an attempt to see if others would want to be involved-and if so to put it to both of the above.

If you want to think about the topic some more then I invite you to think what YOU mean by violence at the moment and what you would exclude from that category? For example, my consideration of the term 'violence' has been affected by a student conference in 1968 entitled Poverty is Violence that I was unable to attend. I am sure that I would have benefitted by attending but I know that I also benefitted just from having the title to ponder. You might also want to think about what you mean by 'anger' and the emotional reaction that the term has for YOU, and those expressions of emotion that do not have that same emotional resonance for you.

Then when you have done that think what bits of Quaker or other history might help you to either unpick this a bit more, or even might make it a bit more complicated. I prophesy that if we do all this then we will not actually need the group at all-but it's up to you.

## Sharing Lunch

Eoin McCarthy

On Tuesday Sept 5th, five Malvern Friends gathered for a very enjoyable shared lunch at Eoin & Paula's



Eoin, Liz Flanagan, Mary Corfield, Paula McCarthy