



Malvern Quaker Meeting Diary

October 2018

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Wed 3 rd Oct (1 st Wed)	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship (Bring a packed lunch if you're staying on)
Wed 3 rd (1 st Wed)	1.30 – 3.00 pm	Reading Group. Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan
Wed 3 rd	6.45 for 7.00 pm	Bring and Share Supper followed by illustrated talk by Annette De La Cour on her work in Mongolia. Part of Quaker Week – bring a friend
Thursday 4 th	11.30	Funeral of Olive Edmonds , Shrewsbury Crematorium
Sun 7 th	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business Also – World Quaker Day (see http://fwcc.world/)
Thur 11 th (2 nd Thur)	6.00–7.00 pm	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Thur 11 th	7 pm	Malvern Welcomes Open Meeting and AGM at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church
Sat 13 th	11.00 – 4.00	Area Meeting at Malvern Meeting House
Sat 20 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00–1.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café
Wed 24 th	12.30	Discussion Meeting – Building Quaker Communities Led by Liz Flanagan. Bring your own lunch
Sat 27 th	3 – 5 pm	White Poppy making workshop Led by Diana Phillips. Tea and Cake

Special Collection for October: Pact Supporting prisoners, people with convictions, defendants and their families to make a fresh start. www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday 23rd Oct

Important information about the Newsletter

This diary was sent by e-mail on Friday 28th September to all who have asked to be on the Malvern Meeting e-mail list. If you have not received it please check your spam.

If you are not on the e-mail list and would like to be, or have changed your e-mail, please contact me.

Elizabeth Rolph

Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk or phone 01684 564448



Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

October 2018



Banner making at the Area Meeting Residential weekend at Bewdley, 28th – 30th September More details in the next Newsletter

Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday 22nd October.

Dates and contributions to newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk

Special Collection for October: Pact

Melanie Jameson

Supporting prisoners, people with convictions, defendants and their families to make a fresh start. See www.Prisonadvice.org.uk

Area Meeting at Malvern Sat 13th 11.00 – 4.00

This is a good chance to experience an Area Meeting. There is a sign up sheet by the kitchen for preparing the room, serving drinks, providing cakes, clearing up. More help appreciated. Agenda to follow.

Malvern Welcomes Open Meeting and AGM 2018

Thursday 11 October at 7.00 pm

Guest speaker – Carly Whyborn from Reset. a new charity, partnering community sponsorship across the UK

Come and hear about our work to date, our plans for the future and how you can continue to support what we are doing. We can only succeed with your support!

The meeting is free but it would be helpful if you could register on Eventbrite so we have an idea of numbers.

Ruth Forecast
01684 891810

Sue Wolfendale
01684 562804

info@malvernwelcomes.org
<http://www.malvernwelcomes.org/>

World Quaker Day 7th October

This is the fifth annual day of international Quaker celebration on the theme 'Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories'. To find out more, and see what Friends have done across the world see <http://fwcc.world/>

Advices & Queries No 16

Do you welcome the diversity of culture, language and expressions of faith in our yearly meeting and in the world community of Friends? Seek to increase your understanding and to gain from this rich heritage and wide range of spiritual insights. Uphold your own and other yearly meetings in your prayers.

Editors note: I'm generally working through these numerically. How appropriate that this was the next one, for the month of World Quaker Day.

A Poetry Reading by Averil Stedeford

Thursday 18th Oct; 6.45 for 7 pm at The Dell House, 2, Green Lane, Malvern Wells

The Friends of St Gabriel's Church, Hanley Swan warmly invite you to come and hear Averil Stedeford, poet, physician and hospice pioneer, give a reading of some of her poetry. Averil's poems cover a wide variety of themes; humorous, topical, poignant but always inspiring and thought-provoking.

Admission is £6 per person and includes tea, coffee and cake

Places are limited, so please book Elizabeth.rolph@flatlandic.net 01684 564448

White Poppy making workshop Sat 27th 3 – 5 pm

Have fun making white poppies to wear and give to others. Led by Diana Phillips. Tea and Cake

Prisons Week, 14-21 October

Melanie Jameson

The focus for Prisons Week 2018 borrows from an (unusual) combination of Star Trek and the Book of Hebrews 4v16 'To boldly go' ie to press on, despite setbacks and challenges. Certainly making any headway in today's prisons is a massive challenge.

With four prisons so dysfunctional that they are on 'urgent notification' (i.e. have been referred to the direct oversight of the Ministry of Justice – think 'special measures' in schools) and ten prisons identified by the Prisons Minister as requiring a £10 million intervention to turn round the violence and influx of synthetic drugs, could things get much worse?

Shall we look to the example of HMP Berwyn, the brand new public prison near Wrexham? This is a 'super-prison', built to house over 200 people when it is up to capacity, making it the largest prison in Europe. Last year the Governor was keynote speaker at the annual prison reform conference I regularly attend, explaining his policy of rewarding good behaviour and prioritising rehabilitation. Now he has been suspended pending investigations, drugs are rife (one man has died from an overdose), prison staff have staged a protest walk-out due to the levels of violence and inspections paint a sorry picture of decline.

Against this background the Ministry of Justice ploughs on with the introduction of its Prison Education Reform Framework whereby 'empowered' governors can choose their provider, their core programme of English, Maths, IT and ESOL and (this is the innovative part) buy in services and programmes particular to the needs of their prison population. This is a complicated process that should finally be in place by April 2019. Hopefully there will be enough prison officers by then to make it work.

And, of course, people continue to make a difference at the individual level by connecting with those whom society has put away. We are aware of the tireless efforts of our Quaker Chaplains who must cope with the frustrations of prison regimes while conveying the acceptance, peace and loving support that characterises the Quaker approach.

The prayer for Prisons Week

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, Amen

As usual there is a daily focus throughout the week, as follows

Mon: Prisoners; Tues: Victims; Wed: Families; Thurs: Communities; Fri: Those who work in prisons; Sat: For all working in the Criminal Justice System.

Full information on <http://prisonsweek.org/>



Elizabeth Rolph

Sad news from the Chief Executive of Traidcraft:

It is with great regret and personal frustration that I must inform you of a continued decline in the plc's fortunes. We have invested and fought hard to retail sales, but we have, so far at least, been unable to turn the tide. ... Traidcraft plc's assets remain considerably greater than its liabilities, and while this remains the case the Board of Directors believe it is prudent to close our current loss-making trading operations. Traidcraft plc's mission to put the principles of fair trade into commercial practice is not, in any sense, fulfilled

Traidcraft plc will continue to trade as usual through the autumn and to the end of 2018. We are proud that our final autumn craft collection is one of the best we have produced. Artisans throughout the world have contributed to the range and we have placed great focus on quality and design. We look forward to working with all our supporters right through the season, and we would like to invite our customers to help us end our current trading operations with our best season ever.

So please support us while we continue to bring Traidcraft goods to Meeting, even though we are not as regular as we would like. See what you'd like from their website and I'll order it for you with no postage cost. www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

Discussion Series on the Strategic Aims 2018-2022 presented by Quaker Life Central Committee

Jill Etheridge

At the first in our local series we looked at the statement '*Meeting for Worship is the bedrock of living as a Quaker*'. After reflective silence we considered what 'living as a Quaker' would involve or imply. We came up with the following elements, and you might well add more of your own:

Empathy, Integrity, Valuing the past story of Quakers (e.g. honest trading, establishing Banks, Practicality) We thought about Activists – to be, or not to be! (see Quaker Faith and Practice 20/14).

Suggested inspirational passages re Meeting for Worship can be found in Q F & P, section 2 numbers 10, 12, 17, 37, 60, among others.

'Bedrock' is vitally important: the Quaker way of life is then on solid foundations, not shifting sands.

We concluded our session with a quote from Harvey Gillman in 1988 (Q F & P 20/20):
'For a Quaker, religion is not an external activity, concerning a special 'holy' part of the self. It is an openness to the world in the here and now with the whole of the self. If this is not simply a pious commonplace, it must take into account the whole of our humanity: our attitudes to other human beings in our most intimate as well as social and political relationships. It must also take account of our life in the world around us, the way we live, the way we treat animals and the environment. In short, to put it in traditional language, there is no part of ourselves and of our relationships where God is not present.'

The title of the next Aim, and discussion group (**October 24th, 12.30p.m.**) is 'Quaker communities are loving, inclusive and all-age'. Clearly Quaker Life Central Committee is thinking seriously about our Aims and we may have a way to go yet in some!

Malvern Foodbank

Elizabeth Rolph

There is a box under the table by the Clerks noticeboard for donating items to Malvern Foodbank. I receive e-mails from Chris Bray with updates about what is required approximately once a month. If you don't already receive these updates and would like to please let me know. newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk

The current shortages are:

UH T milk, Nappies size 5 and 6, Baby Wipes, Adult toothpaste
Bottles of squash, Coffee, Teabags 40 & 80 size
Pasta'n sauce, Packets of crisps, Jam, Tinned fruit,

See www.malvernquakermeeting.org.uk

Malvern Meeting House



Historic England are assessing our Meeting House for listing as part of a project they are undertaking on Quaker Meeting Houses. Once they have carried out the preliminary assessment they will send us a copy of their consultation report. We will be invited to make any comments you wish to about the architectural or historic interest of the building. So watch this space.

Meditation on the roof struts in Malvern Meeting House

Rosie Adamson-Clark [Member of Bolton Meeting]

When visiting Melanie & Andrew in Malvern we accompanied them to Meeting. The roof struts in the Meeting House caught my eye, and as we sat and worshipped that Sunday on our holiday, they spoke loudly to me, about hands reaching out and supporting each other. The wooden 'arms and hands' supported the roof, the sides of the building, and they kept the people inside warm, dry, safe and secure. These beautiful and simple structures, of an ancient design, did a magnificent job of be-friending in a simple and profound way. They simply protected and upheld in a lovely lightness those who come to share, worship and offer hands to each other. The oak... hard, dependable, sure, always there, bridging a gap, and being 'true', was for me the sign of our faith; it was the representation of the Friends/friends who seek the inner Light, the simplicity and the honesty to live out our testimony as Quakers. Nothing was complex about it, it wasn't over busy, or fussy, the wood was light and plain. I felt renewed and supported after the worship...as it should be.

People in Motion sorting sessions: Wed and Sat 10-1pm

Melanie Jameson

Two weeks ago I popped into the sorting centre of People in Motion, now conveniently re-located to Colwall (not the Bromyard Rd address on the fliers in our Meeting House).

What a hive of industry!

All round the inside of a huge shed are labelled 'depots' (e.g *Men's T-shirts – medium*) and taped up boxes ready for dispatch to Calais or further afield. A large sorting table is where all the action takes place. As bags of contributions are tipped out, helpers sort them into the various receptacles. When full, these are moved into boxes, taped up and labelled. A van outside is loaded up.

The greatest need at present is for new underwear and socks, for men, women and children. Food is also welcome, especially tinned fish, chickpeas, tea and coffee and oil. Beware – it is chilly working in that shed (something I failed to take into account during my visit) but hot drinks are offered round at half time.

I do hope that this is something that Friends can be involved in – both to donate and to help sort.

Directions: drive into Colwall to the Colwall Park Hotel. Instead of turning left to their carpark and the station, turn right then immediately right again down a narrow lane; this leads to the shed and car parking area. If you find yourself in a housing estate you have missed the lane.

Collection boxes in Just So, Barnards Green and in Iapetus at the top of town

Bewdley Refugees enjoy a day out

Colin Billet

Extract from an article in the Friend 31st Aug

A few of us at Bewdley have been involved with the Syrian refugee families in Kidderminster for the last two years. As well as going into the homes to teach English there is a weekly 'conversation cafe' organised by the Wyre Forest Refugee Support Group. In the summer holidays we organise outdoor trips and activities.



On 16th August we visited Harvington Hall, near Kidderminster. It was built by a Roman Catholic and has the greatest number of priest hides of anywhere in the country, and a moat and lovely grounds. We prepared our visitors by developing the Reformation from Martin Luther onwards, and the changes of fortune of Protestants and Catholics during the Tudor period - sectarian struggles that still last today in some parts of the UK. Everyone enjoyed the day, especially playing in the afternoon sun.

Why Experience-Sharing Sessions on Anger?

Richard Bartholomew

You may have heard announced after Meeting for Worship that there are going to be 2 sessions on Anger on Wednesdays 7th & 21st November at 12.30 for an hour. Why on earth would peace-loving Quakers want to explore this emotional cess-pit? Is it indeed the cause of most of the world's strife?

I have suggested these sessions, and am planning for them, because I find Anger one of the most challenging emotions that I experience, yet a decade or so into recognising that I am quite an angry person I am also starting to see that Anger is not all bad and may offer us some ways into living the sort of life that most of us feel that we should be living.

I have called these sessions experience-sharing as I don't plan to preach or lecture to anyone who turns up, well not too much anyway, but it seems to me that it would be worth

exploring what has brought Friends to the sessions, so that we can garner as much of their experience as people are happy to share. For example how might we use Anger for good, or how might we 'disarm' it and transform it into another sort of energy?

Is there a religious angle to all this? I think there might be when we think of how Jesus used Anger to cleanse the Temple of the money-lenders proving that he wasn't just a mild-mannered sort of character. Also when we consider the Old Testament prophets, if indeed we do consider such folk, they were obviously fired up by lots of things that they thought were not Godly. I am going to be looking at Mary Grey on Prophecy and Mysticism, and her perspective that our reserved British approach to Anger is sometimes perhaps based on overly-individualistic foundations and that perhaps there are issues where it is appropriate to have collective Anger. Certainly I will want to explore how we also guard against assuming that just because something/someone gets on our wick that it must be God's will to denounce it/them.

I have also found Misha Glenny's book "Mc Mafia" (the factual analysis of organised crime in Europe that underpinned the recent drama based on its findings) helpful in trying to probe where some of the awful things that have unravelled in Europe since the break-up of the Soviet empire started from, and it wasn't all based in Anger.

So that's my pitch and if you decide to come along you may have a very different angle on it- the big question is whether we will get angry with each other because of it?

Malvern Individuals for Peace (MIP) Petition response Melanie Jameson

I had a meeting with Ken Nottage, CEO of the Three Counties Showground, when handing over our petition. He said he'd bring the matter before the trustees. This has now happened. He sent me the following letter:

Dear Melanie

It was very nice to meet you, thank you for explaining the background to your organisation and providing me with a copy of your petition.

As promised I took your concerns to our Board of Trustees meeting.

After considerable debate the Trustees concluded that it holds an apolitical position at all times, therefore would not restrict our Solicitors from holding the Defence and Security Expo at the Showground.

Thank you once again for bringing the matter to our attention

Yours sincerely

Ken Nottage

Since my first aim was simply to get this whole issue of secret Defence activity out of the shadows and 'aired' - this was much as we could hope for.

So I'm happy with the outcome.

Journeys of Witness – QPSW Spring Conference

22–24 March 2019, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

The QPSW Spring Conference will be held in March 2019. The conference is an ideal way for new Friends and attenders to find out about the work QPSW does on behalf of Friends and how they can get involved. Staff from various programmes of work will be present and are happy to talk to Friends outside the workshop and plenary sessions to answer questions. Come and share your stories!

Info: www.quaker.org.uk/events/2019-qpsw-spring-conference

Peace Education

Jon Knight

“What is the point?” This was a question asked in my teaching career quite a bit, not just by the students I hasten to add, in their dreary days of February. “What is the point?” should be a question asked not when there is a realisation that there is little point to the abstract examination class or the archaic model that one knows will be superseded in A level, especially not when one is in absolute doubt of one’s own abilities and esteem. Teachers should know WHY they are offering tasks and information, we should be aware of why the student and therefore society as a whole will benefit from this exercise, students deserve to know what the point is beyond the praise and consequences of austere adults and depersonalized exam standards. Education must have a point!

Why are we containing and concentrating these minds together often against their will? Is it to keep them from under cutting the labour market? Is it glorified babysitting? Is it to homogenise them into the standard 21st Century human? I always knew there was a point, it was to allow the individual to grow in an understanding of themselves and then an understanding of their interactions with others, to offer them situations and simulations with in which they could explore the benefits and dangers of differing approaches to complex issues and scenarios.

Education for Peace is not just one aspect of education, it is the point of education. I could argue quite convincingly that a lot of violence and hatred in this world whether at a personal or a global political level is motivated through ignorance and fear, either from the reaction of one’s own fear or in the manipulation of others fears. The key to dispelling this ignorance and fear is not to stop wishing it to be different and negate a desire for justice and understanding, the key is to force open the comfortable mind set of snug ignorance and shine a light into its dark recesses. Bring the prejudicial to the open tabled debate, challenge the beliefs based on ignorance with evidence, bring people told they are enemies together preferably with a common goal.

Educating for peace is not peaceful, it challenges students to be honest about their beliefs and to have them bought before peers for scrutiny, Educating for peace is not kind, it places young minds in imagined conflict and stress and gives them no authority but each other and co-operation to find the way back. Educating for peace is not comfortable, it rips down the curtain, takes away the bed and the crutch and tells them to get up and walk.

We can not train children into peace, it is born from a personal understanding of oneself and others, it comes from a lack of ignorance and reducing of fear, the ability to be true to self and not follow a group in order to replace thought with belonging. All we can do is give them the space to explore, all we can offer is the question and the silence for them to fill.

Liz Flanagan has been leading a task group dedicated to working with teachers in both primary and secondary schools to bring about bespoke programmes matching students needs. Liz has liaised with existing peace education programmes and practitioners, the peace programme in Birmingham, West Wales and Ellis Brooks at Woodbrooke and Friends House. Jon Knight has also been into Tewkesbury High School twice and The Chase High School where he has lead workshops on understanding others chosen identities, peaceful resolution in complex ethical situations and institutional violence.

The project is still in its infancy and Liz and Jon are still attending meetings with other accomplished peace educators in order to hone their understanding and resource base, that said we understand implicitly that peace begins with the child bringing them self and their thoughts into the light.

From an As-Yet Unwritten Yearly Meeting Epistle

Richard Bartholomew

Have you ever sat in Meeting for Worship and noticed that every now and again the stillness is punctuated by a gentle electronic beep, tune or chirrup? Pondering this I started to think about the Epistle that a future Yearly Meeting might adopt in response. It goes something like this, and of course it may never emerge in this or any other form!

“Dear Friends

Our recent Yearly Meeting affirmed that the Holy Spirit appears to us in often surprising and unexpected forms. This was in the context of YM considering whether we should allow more formally for the Spirit to emerge in our Quaker worship through both human and non-human means. There was a fruitful discussion about the great potential for the general good in the careful adoption of certain aspects of Artificial Intelligence and digital communication.

At this stage Yearly Meeting was not fully convinced that we should routinely look to the Spirit intervening in our Quaker worship, or Quaker worship for business, through the medium of electronic devices in Meeting. Much was said in the course of the YM that was valuable and may lead us in future years to carefully explore the ways in which Friends as a wider worshipping community may come to the point of adopting certain aspects of digital communication as part of our worship, but that time has not yet arrived.

We therefore urge Friends to ensure that if they do bring electronic devices into the Meeting Room that they are ideally switched off. At this stage of our deliberations we feel that Friends should be advised to not even have such devices in Meeting for Worship in ‘silent mode’ as this would imply an unwillingness to accept Quaker discipline in this matter.

Whilst our deliberations were held in good heart, many Friends were challenged by the suggestion of some that even World Cup results could be seen as a movement of the Spirit that might lead to a deepening of our worship if allowed to be imparted silently to Friends through, for example, an ear-piece. Quaker worship is surely a game of two halves, and the second half is yet to come and the score as yet uncertain.

Clerk of YM”