

Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

September 2017



Area Meeting Outing to Bewdley (see report below)

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Every Sunday	10.30	Meeting for Worship
Sun 2 nd Sept	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business
Wed 6 th (1 st Wed)	12.00–12.40	Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship (Bring a packed lunch if you're staying on)
Wed 6 th (1 st Wed)	1.30 – 3.00	Reading Group Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan
Sat 9 th	11 – 4.00	Area Meeting at Telford Refreshments from 10.30, Meeting for Worship at 11.00 followed by a consideration of 'A New Economy'. Meeting for Business at 2.00, tea at 3.30.
Sun 10 th	10.30	Bring a Child to Meeting. Activities will be provided
Sun 10 th (2 nd Sun)	12.00	Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods after Meeting for Worship
Wed 13 th (2 nd Wed)	8.00–9.00	Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship
Sat 16 th (3 rd Sat)	10.00–1.00	Malvern Hills Repair Café
Sun 17 th (3 rd Sun)	11 – 11.30	Home Meeting at Albion Lodge, Hanley Swan. All are welcome. Contact Betty Hudson
Wed 20 th (3 rd Wed)	2.00 - 5.00	Quiet Garden Afternoon at the Dell House Please let Elizabeth Rolph know if you hope to come
Sun 1 st Oct	After MfW	Meeting for Worship for Business

Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday 26th September

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

Don't forget..

.... 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/>

Special Collections

September: Freedom from Torture (June Baguley)

Update from August – FOAG (Betty Hudson)

Thank you to everyone who contributed through the Monthly collection in August. This went to support Rovia Owachira - the disabled Ugandan girl who is living in a wheelchair. Unfortunately due to illness she has had to give up her studies for A levels as she was in hospital for 3 weeks with urinary problems to which she is prone. Some of our support has had to go for payment for her treatment. The Sister who oversees her welfare has suggested an Administrative Course which would be less of a strain on her. In the meantime she has gone home to her mother near the Congo border so that she can care for her until she is well again.

Public Discussion and Debate “ How Can We Make Malvern Safer? ”

Saturday 21st October 2017 - 7.45-9.30pm

Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church, Malvern WR14 2UA

Crime comes in many forms, for example neighbourhood disturbances, drug usage, theft, robbery, violence against the individual, sexual abuse and social media harassment. There is debate now on the effect of reduced police numbers on crime rates across the country. In the national perspective Malvern Hills is a safe place to live. 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. The independent chairperson will be Jenny Jones, Partner (Barrister), Head of Employment at Harrison Clark Rickerbys Solicitors.

Free tickets online: www.eventbrite.co.uk

Outing to Ralph Court Gardens

Jon Critoph

Well the long awaited date for the summer outing was suddenly upon us,. This was a combined event for Quakers and members and attenders of the local support group I run in Hereford. The take up was splendid with 47 people coming along on the day to enjoy the fabulous weather, wonderful and fun gardens and marvellous cream tea (and all for just £10!) People had travelled from far and wide some from just down the road in Bromyard and others from Brecon and beyond. Many arrived early in the morning and enjoyed a wonderful lunch, some like ourselves arrived with a picnic and had that in a group in the car park and others bowled up after lunch.

The owners had done a wonderful job of making a fun and entertaining garden that you could not help but smile at. There were a number of surprises from boiling teapots, smoking breathing dragons and even a green man who if you dared get close enough would cool you down with a jet of water. There was even a wonderful water feature with many water jets all synchronised to music which was enchanting to sit beside and just

watch. There were Mad Hatter and Alice in Wonderland gardens planted with beautiful and scented roses, African themed gardens with the sound of African drums, water gardens and any other themes. There were even some birds and animals weaved into the gardens too.

Everyone was free to request their cream tea (and there was food for gluten free, sugar free, egg free, vegan and many other dietary requests), the kitchen had really pulled out all the stops. The refreshments were excellent and I heard the lunches were too. Such a lovely day and a wonderful opportunity to get to know other Quakers and friends we had not met before as we wandered the many paths around the gardens.

Roll on next year and another summer trip will be planned. We hope to see more of you there.



Editor's Note: Thanks for Jon for doing a splendid job organising it.

Area Meeting Outing to Bewdley: Vessels of love **Eoin McCarthy & Sue Houghton**

How did you spend your Bank Holiday? Well Friends at Bewdley meeting delighted in the presence of twenty five Friends from Malvern (10), Telford (4) and Worcester (2) for Area Meeting for Worship and picnic.

Sitting in our usual quiet manner, inspired by nature's bliss and the occasional steam train, ministry was strong and powerful. We were reminded that, often for useful reasons, not all vessels are filled to overflow, but that vessels of love are at their best when they do overflow.

Isaac Pennington's well loved text (QFP26.70) enlightened some of us to discern a new opportunity:

Give over thine own willing, give over thy own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee and be in thee and breathe in thee and act in thee; and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of Life, which is its portion.

After meeting we had a scrumptious picnic. Following that Friends were given the option to live adventurously by taking the circular Ribbesford walk, explore Bewdley, or enjoy the serenity of the Meeting House, just to be.



Our next Area Meeting "Worship and Joy day" is currently being dreamed up for Saturday January 6th, 2018.

Beliefs we gradually grow to accept

Suggested by Eoin McCarthy

A helpful prompter for me, was pondering the anecdote of the 'boiling frog'. If a frog hops into a bowl of boiling water it immediately jumps out. But if the frog is placed in a bowl of cold water that is slowly brought to a boil, it just stays there with the inevitable consequence! Some beliefs, which we gradually grow to accept, we wouldn't dream of associating with under more objective circumstances. We would immediately, as it were, leap out.

Many people though are primarily moulded by the beliefs and culture that they grow up with as children. Research shows that we are all deeply subject to the resulting unconscious bias.

Despite this, there are very well-balanced, intelligent Christians, Muslims and others who have well thought through religious convictions. A primary hallmark of the new inclusive narrative, though, would be for such people, while maintaining their faith, to recognise that we are all largely moulded by groups that we have identified with, either from birth or encounter later in life.

It would accept that, like the frog, had we been nurtured in a different culture we would probably - equally sincerely and intelligently - have identified with the beliefs and norms of that culture, whether religious, political or national. If we would all first and foremost acknowledge this phenomenon within ourselves we would more likely be able to walk in the shoes of, and to stop demonising, 'the other'.

from Howard Grace in The Friend recently

Jill Etheridge in 100 words

Fourth child (only girl) of Methodist Minister and wife. Attended worship uninterruptedly nearly every Sunday from minus nine months! until 1996, then alternate Sundays till Elder. Leicester French graduate. Married 1968, four years Sierra Leone, husband teaching Maths, I, French + English. Son born there 1972, daughter 1974 back in UK. Stayed home with children. Ran Playgroup, taught evening classes training playgroup personnel. Fostered one-year-old for 11 years, older sister for 20 months. Discovered Homoeopathy 1979, trained '84-'88. Busy practices Hereford, Monmouth, Malvern. Became Quaker 1990. Moved here 1993. Married David 1996. He left 2013. Hobbies: Music, mainly Classical, Family History.

Advices & Queries 1 and 2

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.

Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Are you open to the healing power of God's love? Cherish that of God within you, so that this love may grow in you and guide you. Let your worship and your daily life enrich each other. Treasure your experience of God, however it comes to you. Remember that Christianity is not a notion but a way.

Report on Refugee Week in Malvern, 19-25 JUNE 2017

Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK. It encourages a better understanding between different communities and successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to society.

This year, to celebrate Refugee Week in our area, three local groups, Malvern Welcomes, People in Motion and Malvern Hills Amnesty Group worked together to arrange a rich and varied programme of events and displays. While these events were taking place the Yarnbombers were spreading a non-verbal message of support for refugees around the town with their colourful display made from yarn and other fibres.

The week started with the event, Shattered Pasts, Shared Futures. This included moving presentations from Baraa Ehssan Kouja, founder of the charity From Syria With Love, and Krista Sojo of Project Hope 4 Kids. We heard informative talks from two very special and committed young people. They both spoke about the realities for people who have been forced to leave their homes, communities, and country. We were given much to reflect upon and the message that we must all continue to educate ourselves and others about the realities of being displaced.

There was a Knit and Natter session at the Vintage Coffee Shop, where people came together to knit squares to be made into blankets which are much needed by refugees. Abbey Road Coffee hosted a poetry event dedicated to the refugee situation and an open mic to raise funds. We have many very talented musicians in our area and they came together to sing and play their hearts out. For those who work with children, Karen Argent, from The Letterpress Project, gave a fascinating talk at the Malvern Book Co-operative. She highlighted the wealth of literature which is available telling refugee stories from a variety of perspectives. We all went away from Karen's insightful and passionate presentation eager to read some of the books which she had recommended.

We rounded off the week with 'A Taste of Syria', which was a lovely, joyous afternoon, hosted at the Vintage Coffee Shop in Malvern Link. We feasted on a variety of delicious dishes, produced by our busy team of cooks and inhaled the aroma of exotic spices to the gentle and atmospheric background music of Martin Thorne and friends. What a wonderful community event!

It was a lovely, harmonious week and we were pleased to be able to raise awareness of the many issues facing refugees in the current crisis. We also raised over £1,500 to help displaced people of which £235 was given to Malvern Welcome. We are always touched by the generosity of people in our community and by how much they care.