

# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter



September 2018

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Sat 1st	From 12.00	<b>Response to English Defence League Meeting return to Worcester</b> (see below)
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	From 10,30	<b>Visit to Ludlow Meeting</b> for Meeting for Worship at 11.00 followed by shared lunch and guided tour
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Wed 5 <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 5 <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
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 – 4.00	<b>Area Meeting Telford</b> (see below)
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Visit to Church Stretton Meeting followed by shared lunch.</b> Contact Eion McCarthy
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur)	6.00–7.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b>
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	12.00	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b> after Meeting for Worship
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	10.00–1.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b>
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	12.30	<b>Autumn discussion group</b> on the Strategic Aims of the Society of Friends. Bring Picnic lunch. Further sessions on 17 October, morning or lunchtime tbc.
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	12.00	<b>World Peace Day event</b> (see below)
28 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept		<b>Area Meeting Residential Weekend</b>
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)	After MfW	<b>Shared lunch and talk:</b> David Straker will speak to us re Woolhope Woodheat, with which we have a long-term investment.
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	6.45 for 7.00 pm	<b>Bring and Share Supper followed by illustrated talk</b> by Annette De La Cour on her work in Mongolia

Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Dates and contributions to [Newsletter@malvern1qm.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvern1qm.org.uk) or phone 01684 564448

Do send me images / pictures, if you want the Newsletter brightened up!

## **Special Collection for September – Oxford Research Group**

This is a charity that works to break the cycle of conflict and violence; founded in 1982, at that time focussing on nuclear weapons. It remains committed to its original values of peace and social justice, aiming to improve long-term global co-operation, stability and peace by promoting effective approaches to defence, diplomacy and development.

### **EDL in Worcester - message from Worcester Meeting Clerks**

The English Defence League is returning to Worcester on Saturday 1st September. We expect them to come in force. Our Meeting will hold a Meeting for Worship in the gardens of the Commandery at 12.30. To reach the gardens, walk alongside the canal beside the Commandery and turn right past the tea rooms through an arch. There are car parks at the junction of Bath Road & Sidbury, and also by the porcelain works.

We feel it is the right action to take on this occasion and hope you will come along and support our peaceful response to the situation in Worcester. The Police know we are having the Meeting for Worship and have assured us the Commandery location will be away from the main protest.

Meet from 12noon onward ready for the half an hour Meeting for Worship at 12.30.

If you have any queries please contact Ade on 07552544986 or [ade.couper@gmx.co.uk](mailto:ade.couper@gmx.co.uk)

### **Area Meeting**

This will be at Meeting Point House Telford.

We hope to include the Trustees Annual report and accounts in our morning Meeting for Business.

The afternoon session is being led by Adrienne Speake of Wem Local Meeting addressing the Area Meeting web site development. This is a follow on from May Area Meeting where the need for a more dynamic web presence was minuted. It is likely to prove an interesting session where our web presence look and function can be explored.

### **Area Meeting Residential Weekend**

**Melanie Jameson**

Final preparations are under way for our Area Meeting Residential weekend at the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer (28-30 September) with the overall theme of Unwrapping Our Gifts and Tapping into the Spirit.

We are reminded to bring our own towels, toiletries and hairdryers – it is stressed that the latter must be ‘properly working’ reminding me of the time I took my sister’s hairdryer to a Quakers on Criminal Justice weekend Conference. Unbeknown to me it was set to an American voltage and plugging it in caused a complete evacuation of the building!

Initially the committee thought we would not fill the spaces we’d reserved, but more and more people have recently expressed interest, pushing the numbers to over 90.

So this will be a really good opportunity to spend time with Friends from our Area Meeting – and enjoy the presence of young people ie under 50! Home Groups will enable us to have a connection with a smaller circle while a range of activities should cater for all interests.

### **Two items from Churches Together in Malvern:**

**Malvern Churches Justice & Peace Group:** On Friday 21st September it is the annual World Peace Day when there will be a gathering by the Peace Pole at the Friends’ Meeting House. On the day, there will be lunch at 12:30pm with guest speaker Chris Louis, a retired UN Peacekeeper who will speak of his experiences in that role.

## **Worcester Festival of Healing and Wholeness**

Dr Michael Harper spoke about this daytime event which is being held on Saturday 20th October in Worcester Cathedral). This is an ecumenical event to which all are welcome.

Churches Together Secretary: Jane Hagger [je\\_hag2@aol.com](mailto:je_hag2@aol.com)

## **Successful Art Exhibition for Amnesty International Peter Thomas**

As previously reported, in the absence of the annual Malvern Hills Amnesty / Malvern Quakers Art for Amnesty this August, we were delighted that artists from Worcestershire Open Studios held a Small Affordable Art Exhibition at Malvern College of Art from 11-16 June, kindly donating half the proceeds to Amnesty International. Visitors were invited to bid for works in a secret auction, and in the event, many artists generously gave the whole of their sale price to Amnesty. We are immensely grateful to them all for raising and donating the magnificent amount of £759.50.

## **Enough: social action theatre piece, Sunday 7th October**

This is being held during Quaker week at The Hive, Shrewsbury 7pm, pay what you can on the door. All welcome.

It explores privilege, inequity and trauma through personal story, linking Grenfell Towers, the MeToo movement and Advices and Queries. It is especially relevant to Friends with an interest in mental health and social justice.

Lucy Aphramor Shrewsbury LM

## **Silence Inside at HMP Long Lartin**

**Melanie Jameson**

Quaker-led worship in the prison is well established – referred to as Friendly Friday by some of the participants, suggesting that this is a time when they can relax amongst F/friends and be themselves. There are usually two visitors from outside, I attend monthly. Some of the men stay behind for a Quaker study group using the Becoming Friends resource; when I joined them we looked at a section on QPSW and crime & punishment.

Within the worship group, we now have an elder, who became a member a couple of years ago, and someone acting as informal overseer on his wing who has applied for membership and now been visited. Visiting him, along with Tim Newell (former governor of a therapeutic prison) was a privilege. As so often, his background is one of abuse/cruelty and neglect; in this case followed by many years of homelessness but alongside these damaging experiences was an appreciation of nature and kernel of compassion waiting to be expressed.

## **Extract from Quaker Peace & Social Witness August Newsletter**

As summer draws to an end, the Quaker Peace & Social Witness team are working on Remembrance for Peace events in preparation for Armistice Day 2018. We are focusing on reaching out to young people to teach them about alternatives to war. By working in a coalition of charities and schools under the INSPIRE Peace Project, we have been able to support Friends in organising educational peace initiatives for thousands of children across Britain.

**Quakers in Malvern** have persuaded a secondary school to hold a Peace Week using our resources....

The young people going to these events will have an opportunity to learn about peace and the First World War, feel part of a movement alongside their peers, and celebrate what can be achieved through their own efforts.

## **Quakers Sharing Experience 30th November 2018**

**Eoin McCarthy**

Led by Geoffrey Durham and Lea Cowin

This session forms part of our 'More About Friends' series, all welcome.

The essence of Quakers Sharing Experience is very simple. Participants are encouraged to talk to one another about their lives and life experiences - spiritual, religious or secular - for a maximum of five minutes at a time. Nothing is sprung on them - they are given time to think and prepare what they might say - and the topics are carefully chosen, so that each one can be addressed lightly, casually, or at a much deeper level. No one is actively encouraged to go deep, but it frequently happens that, as the sessions progress, people find they are talking about quite profound experiences in their lives. The groups change constantly, so they never become too familiar or stale. The sessions always end with a group discussion, when the participants often discover that they know each other in ways that they never did before.

The session is from 9.00 and will be rounded off with participants sitting down together to eat a 'picnic' lunch (each bring their own). Tea and coffee will be provided) Donations towards the cost of bringing this to Worcester can be made on the day, if you are able.

There is a maximum of 28 participants. To Book Contact:

Lea Cowin leacowin@hotmail.com or Telephone 01905 26147 or

Eoin McCarthy eoin.mccarthy@decisionstrust.org or Telephone 01684 91566

<http://www.quakerssharingexperience.com/>

### **Repair café – every third Saturday, 10.00 – 1.00**

The team are really looking forward to repairing your broken or tired items. We will attempt to repair ANYTHING, and usually succeed!

Remember, whilst repairs are undertaken without charge, we will always welcome a contribution to help us cover our overheads.

Oh, and the home made cakes we have on offer are simply DELICIOUS !!!

<http://www.malvernhillrepaircafe.co.uk/>

#### **Advices & Queries No 13**

Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be your part. Faithfulness and sincerity in speaking, even very briefly, may open the way to fuller ministry from others. When prompted to speak, wait patiently to know that the leading and the time are right, but do not let a sense of your own unworthiness hold you back. Pray that your ministry may arise from deep experience, and trust that words will be given to you. Try to speak audibly and distinctly, and with sensitivity to the needs of others. Beware of speaking predictably or too often, and of making additions towards the end of a meeting when it was well left before.



*Our aim is to support the resettlement of refugees in the Malvern Hills area and to provide practical assistance and advice. We work to nurture a culture of welcome in which people fleeing violence and the horrors of war can live fulfilled and happy lives as part of the community, free from poverty, discrimination and harassment.*

**Date for your diary – Malvern Welcomes Open Meeting and AGM Thursday Oct 11th**

7.00 pm at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church, Malvern WR14 2AW

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

'The last year has been a significant time in developing our aims as a charity. We will be reporting on our experience of receiving a family. We will also talk about our plans for the forthcoming year and how members of the community can continue to support what we are doing.

The meeting is free, however, so we have an idea of numbers it would be helpful if you could [register on Evenbrite](#)'

We look forward to welcoming you and/or others of your group.

Ruth Forecast

Sue Wolfendale

**Signposts for the Soul: Conference of QAAD**

**Melanie Jameson**

As your Area Meeting Representative for Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs, I was nominated to attend their biennial conference at Woodbrooke. The blend of people in recovery, 'close others' and professionals makes for a special atmosphere. People who have never met before find an affinity and support each other in deep conversations. The one thing that pains me is that some have not found fellowship within their own Meeting and do not feel able to share that they or a close relative have problems of addiction.

This conference was bound to be very different: the long-standing Director, Helena Chambers, had stepped down after a careful handover period to her successor, Alison Mather. Alison decided to put her faith in a process called OPEN SPACE rather than the usual approach of speakers grouped round a theme. This entailed three hours being devoted to 45 minute slots determined by participants. Anyone with a topic they wished to discuss, announced it, wrote it on a piece of paper and fitted it into the timetable of available rooms and time slots.

I have always been interested in what factors lead to a turning point in people lost in addiction. Ten of us turned up to consider this – which I found helpful, in view of friends I have with addicted adult sons. I am composing a longer report for the forthcoming Area Meeting, including the findings within this group which I convened. My message to Friends is that there is no shame in facing these challenges either personally or within your family; please feel you can share them with your overseer or a sympathetic Friend. To discover what support you can gain from QAAD email [Alison@qaad.org](mailto:Alison@qaad.org) and visit [www.qaad.org](http://www.qaad.org)

**Ledbury Quakers** extend a warm welcome to any Friends from neighbouring Meetings who could come and join them occasionally for Meeting for Worship on the first and third Sundays of the Month. They meet at the Burgage Hall, Church Lane, at 11.00am for an hour followed by tea and coffee.

## Woodbrooke Short Courses

**Eoin McCarthy**

There are a number of short courses which would attract Bursary support. If you need a bursary, please approach me or your Overseer.

Monday, 24 September 2018 - Wednesday, 26 September 2018

The History of the Hedge: Quakers and 'The World'

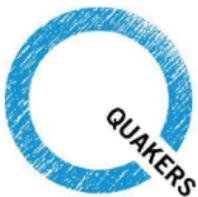
Monday, 8 October 2018 - Thursday, 11 October 2018

Early Quaker History: The Everyday Lives of Seventeenth Century Friends

Friday, 19 October 2018 - Sunday, 21 October 2018

Spiritual Practices for Every Day

See website [here](#) for details of these and more



## News from Friends House –

Extracts from monthly mailing received by your Clerks

### **Answering that of God in everyone: A diversity and inclusion national gathering**

18–20 January 2019, Woodbrooke

A diverse and inclusive community where all are welcomed has been an ever present aspiration for Quakers. This conference aims to equip Friends to make it a reality, offering keynote speeches, workshops, opportunities for informal discussion and all-age worship, all as discreet standalone sessions. We will explore diversity in a variety of forms, including race and ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and gender, in an intersectional way. Prepare to be challenged and inspired.

[edwinap@quaker.org.uk](mailto:edwinap@quaker.org.uk), 0207 663 1148

(Bursaries also available)

### **End Hunger UK Petition**

End Hunger week will be 13–20 October 2018. As part of it there is a petition calling on the Prime Minister to fix Universal Credit, so as to prevent people going hungry in this country. See leaflet and sign the petition at the Meeting House. Also available from

[www.quaker.org.uk/mm-sep18](http://www.quaker.org.uk/mm-sep18)

### **QPSW Relief grant and Simmons grant**

Applications opening in October

QPSW Relief grants of up to £4,000 per year for a maximum of three years are available for projects both overseas and in the UK for peace-building, and addressing relief of people who are suffering as a result of social and economic deprivation, natural disasters, climate change, war or conflict but not immediate crisis relief. Simmons grants of about £1,500 for one year will be available to aid Quakers' support/ involvement in overseas projects helping rural young people become self-sufficient, or with a similar educational purpose. Projects need to be a concern of your local or area meeting.

Ann Pfeiffer, [annp@quaker.org.uk](mailto:annp@quaker.org.uk)