

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

FEBRUARY 2006

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

- Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10:30. Children, First, Third and Fifth Sundays (5th and 19th).
Fifth Sunday shared lunch.
Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:00 Meeting for Worship followed by shared lunch on
First and Third Thursdays (2nd and 16th).
- Tewkesbury:** Fourth Sunday, please 'phone Diana Tovey or Joyce Martin to find out the
time and place, as it varies. **All welcome.**
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DIARY

(All of these meetings at the FMH unless otherwise stated)

January

- Su 12 7:00 **Circle Dancing** (to 9:00)
Th 19 12:30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
We 25 2:30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 26 12:30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 29 11:30 **Fifth Sunday** Video by Peace Group, followed by Shared Lunch

February

- Th 2 12:30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 5 11:30 **Preparative Meeting**
Mo 6 8:00 **Christians at Work:** Talk by Felicity and David Bayne, "Taking the Walk
— a pilgrim Journey to Santiago de Compostella", at the Cottages,
Leckhampton Church
Th 9 12:30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 11 9:30 **End of Life?** Conference at University of Gloucestershire [Details below]
Su 12 2:30 **Monthly Meeting** at Cheltenham
Th 16 12:30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Tu 21 7:15 **World Development Movement Open Meeting** St Luke's Hall [Details
below]
We 22 2:30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 23 12:30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

March

- Th 2 12:30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 5 11:30 **Preparative Meeting**
Mo 6 8:00 **Christians at Work:** Talk by Brian Watts, "Trade Unions and Faith", at the
Cottages, Leckhampton Church
Th 9 12:30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 11 2:00 **Monthly Meeting** at Cirencester. Tea.
Th 16 12:30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Sunday, 29th January, Fifth Sunday

On the Fifth Sunday, which falls within a weekend of Services for Peace and Disarmament, the Peace Group will be showing a video called "Where is the Love", made by the students of the Royal Docks Community School, which is situated by the Excel Centre, site of the DSE arms fair. Puzzled by the huge police presence and by protesters, they determined to find out what it was all about. This short film is the result. There is also a short film about the 2004 Farnborough "Air Show". The whole will take about 20 minutes. We also hope to have readings on the theme of peace. This will be followed by a Shared Lunch.

The Peace Group meets each month on the Fourth Wednesday at 2:30 pm.

Detailed minutes of our concerns and what we are trying to achieve are always on the notice board by the serving hatch. They could make interesting reading as you queue for your cup of tea!

Rosemary Hoggett

Sunday Collections

At PM on Sunday 8th January it was agreed that we ask the Sunday Collections Committee to develop as soon as possible a set of criteria which will enable the current list of charities supported by PM to be reduced to 12 charities per year (one per month). Following this, a list of the other charities with address details etc. will be regularly included in the Cheltenham Quaker to assist people who may want to give individually, thus allowing Gift Aid to be applied.

Philip Paull notes that as usual Sunday collections in February are as follows:

First Sunday: CENTRAL FUNDS
Second Sunday: LOCAL FUNDS
Third Sunday: QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS (latest address not known)
Fourth Sunday: ULSTER QUAKER SERVICE, 541 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GQ.

Please note that it is more tax efficient if you send a CAF cheque or a GIFT AID donation direct to the charity.

John Cross

Saturday, 11th February, 9:30 – 4:30. End of Life? Conference in the Department of Humanities, University of Gloucestershire, Francis Close Hall, Swindon Road.

A range of speakers will look at the problem of waste disposal — its toxic nature, polluting earth air and water. Can politics fix it? What is the role of faith in reducing waste? Rosemary Hoggett has details of the speakers and the programme for the day if any Friends are interested. Cost £15 for the day, £10 senior citizens.

Rosemary Hoggett

World Development Movement Open Meeting, Tuesday 21st February, 7:15 for 7:45, at St. Luke's Hall, St. Luke's Place, Cheltenham.

"We've Yet to MAKE POVERTY HISTORY — What now??" The World Development Movement invites you to an Open Meeting with speakers from Politics and Global Campaign Groups. Key Speakers: Martin Horwood, MP for Cheltenham, Benedict Southworth, Director of the World Development Movement, and David Ransom, New Internationalist. The Meeting will be chaired by Dr. Jonathan Ingleby of Redcliffe College. All welcome. Tea/coffee at 7:15 pm.

Gillian Bailey

Live Exports in Australia (Extract from Autumn Newsletter of "Quaker Concern for Animals")

As members know, we have been taking a close interest in this subject, for several reasons: the numbers of animals exported from Australia to the Middle East is so incredibly high — each multiple-tiered container ship may transport 80,000 animals in deplorable conditions; the welfare regulations in which Australian officials take unjustified pride are completely inoperable once the animals have left their control; and the Australian campaigners, amongst whom we must single out for particular mention Suzanne Cass and Sandra John in Tasmania, are tireless and inspiring in their defence of these poor creatures.

AACT — Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania — <www.aact.org.au>, of which Suzanne is Live Exports Campaigner — has presented to the public the atrocities that occur as a matter of routine in the live export trade. The most recent ship (at the time of her writing) to visit Tasmania, the Al Shuwaikh, has an appalling record of mortalities, having lost 8,100 sheep in two successive voyages and another 1,100 on the voyage immediately following in 2002. It also has a record of detention in Australia for major safety defects — and it is by no means the worst of the ships.

The **Tasmanian Greens** write: "we have long opposed the live export trade for a variety of reasons and we are now seeing a huge groundswell of opposition from the both the wider community and those involved in the industry to the trade..."

We are stewards of the creatures of the earth and we have a custodial duty to treat them with respect and dignity. There is no place for the brutal live export trade in the 21st century and certainly no place for it in Tasmania, as we attempt to convince the world of our Clean, Green and Clever brand status."

On the same subject, **Olga Parkes** (ASWA Australia), sent this:

In July this year, **Richard Llewelin, chairman of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals**, wrote the following letter to the High Commissioner for Australia:

"I write to you on behalf of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals as its Chairman. We are pleased and proud to be able to say that we have members in Australia as well as in the United Kingdom and America.

Fifty years ago, it was standard practice in Australia to move sheep in two-tiered trailers in numbers of up to 1,000 at the time. Journeys could take as much as four days and

three nights, covering hundreds of miles. Regardless of weather conditions, with temperatures commonly reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the animals were never normally let off the trucks for rest and water and many died.

Such horrors, thank God, are no longer possible. Your country has legislated to prevent it. Can you not take similar steps to prevent the even greater horrors of the export trade in live sheep by sea to the Middle East?

We know there are cultural factors involved which have commercial consequences, but might not negotiations at Government level find some way round these? In any case, are there not some times when ethics must prevail over profits? Australians must have thought so in the matter of internal transport.

People who care about Australia and, rivalry over the Ashes notwithstanding, that includes most Pommies — for one thing, so many of us have relatives who are Australians — would rejoice to see an end to a practice that brings Australia into disrepute, and gives such an unfair impression of its people.”

Dorothy Kerwin

Man with a Van

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Rowland Carson

Data Protection Consent Forms

Friends will recall that in November Philip Paull circulated these to members and attenders of our Meeting. Quite a few have not yet been returned, and we are reminded that these are of some importance.

John Cross