

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

March 2006

MEETINGS

- Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10.30. Children, 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 5th and 19th.
5th 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 7.30 at the FMH unless otherwise stated)
Sun 12th Circle Dancing, 7.00 to 9.00

February

- 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
- Su 19 12.00 **Experiment with Light Workshop** at FMH, following packed lunch [Details below]
- We 22 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
- Th 23 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
- Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

April

- Su 2 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**
- Th 6 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
- Su 9 10.30 **Monthly Meeting** at Wootton. Packed lunches.
- Th 13 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
- Th 20 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
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Memorial Meeting for Bess Hazell

The meeting to celebrate the Life of Bess Hazell will be held on Saturday March 4th at 3.00 pm at the Cheltenham Meeting House.

Experiment with Light

In 1998 a substantial number of us from Cheltenham Meeting were led by Rex Ambler at Charney Manor in a meditation called "Experiment with Light". Rex had devised the meditation as the end result of careful, rigorous study of all of George Fox's letters and journals. Rex had wanted to establish quite what it was that early Friends were doing when they met 'in the light', and what it was that they found that enabled them to stay true to it, despite terrible persecution. After experimenting with this meditation both personally and with small groups of Friends, Rex took his findings out to other meetings both nationally and abroad.

Those who attended Rex's weekend were so inspired by this meditation, and the understandings behind it, that we established 'Light Groups' to work with it on a regular basis. These, which met at variable time intervals and times, proved to be powerful for those who were involved and also appeared to enrich the Meeting as a whole. One Light Group still meets every two to three weeks and we all find it an invaluable part of our spiritual lives – as well as deepening friendships.

We feel sure that other Friends and Attenders could benefit from being part of a Light Group too, so we are holding a workshop on March 19th to give people an opportunity to learn a little about it, and to take part in the meditation itself

For those who are interested, please bring a packed lunch. We propose to have an early lunch following Tea and commence the workshop at about one o'clock, finishing about 3.30.

Any questions or comments, please contact Judy Clinton on 01452 863627

Judy Clinton

Peace Group Films

Following on from the powerful films the Peace Group showed us in January, I have two videos of the Peace work of the Zen Buddhist THICH NHAT HANH, one of Peace Reconciliation in South Africa, and a video of the excellent half hour programme recently on BBC2 by Martin

Bell, showing that war is no longer a viable solution to any problem. Jon Snow also participates in this. I'm happy to lend any of the above.

Rosemary Hoggett

An Impression of the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the U.N. as organised by the U.N. Association (U.K.)

In January 1946 the U.N. was formally started in Central Hall, Westminster. Now sixty years later almost to the day, the hall was nearly full in celebration of that event. I am glad to say that a large proportion of the audience were young people. Cheltenham M.P. Martin Horwood was one of the few M.Ps present. He sat with his mobile on. However, he didn't have to go (That was the famous day when the P.M. was not present and they lost!)

The event was started by our new President Lord David Hannay (former U.N. ambassador). Jack Straw appeared relaxed and cheerful. He stated that "a robust and effective U.N. was essential in the cause of Human Rights and Peace Building. He praised the U.N. Association for its work, especially for the recent public consultation and the resulting report, "In Larger Freedom". He cited Environment, Iran and Cyprus as being the greatest problems of our time.

A great standing ovation greeted Kofi Annan, who had had a busy day with top level talks. (A slightly sad man – perhaps he had hoped to do more for his own poor country, Ghana). He cited Climate Change, Poverty, Terrorism and HIV Aids as the main concerns for the future. We need much more determination to reach 2015 Development Goals. However, the General Assembly's mandates were being reviewed. A new counter-terrorism strategy was being worked out, and new resources for Human Rights were being put in place. Countries must be able to compete in trade and states must be able to protect their citizens. He said that Britain had "always punched above her weight". His unenviable task almost complete, we wonder who will succeed him!

Gillian Bailey

Cheltenham PM Used Stamp Collection

Today I have posted a small package of used stamps to Friends House for Alan Bell, stamp collector for the Quaker Used Stamp Club. The package was small this time because sadly there is no longer a market for used 1st and 2nd class nor Christmas stamps, which have been the bulk of Cheltenham PM's used stamps in the past.

Thank you for taking the trouble to save your used stamps and put them in the box on the table in the tea room or in the hall cupboard. In the future foreign stamps and commemoratives are the only stamps of any value to collectors, except for early Victorian Penny Blacks, of course.

If you can spare the time, leave 1/8" border round these stamps when you cut them off the envelope. Thank you.

Olive Betterton

Meeting House Courtyard

I have updated the paddles giving the plant list in the courtyard. Damage, theft and funny seasons have made the growth slower than I was expecting. Gardening is a great excuse for optimism. These plants all delight me reliably at home, and I hope they will you. By the end of the new triennium I hope to be able to look back and say 'why was I disappointed?'

Jill Main

NOTES FROM PM

Bess Hazell:

We recorded with sadness the death on 29th January of our dear Friend Bess Hazell. The funeral was held at Edgeworth Parish Church on Monday, 6th February. It is planned that a Memorial Meeting for Bess Hazell will be held at Friends Meeting House in Cheltenham on Saturday March 4th at 3.00 pm

Sunday Collections: Administration:

Philip Paull outlined the difficulty that had been experienced in appointing Treasurers. Charity collections are not part of PM finance, and so could be regarded as a separate entity. It was agreed that we should ask advice on this matter from British Yearly Meeting Finance and Property Committee. One individual with one or two helpers will be sought via the Nominations Committee to undertake the role of Sunday Collections Treasurer. A job description will be outlined and published in the Cheltenham Quaker

Nominations:

The Meeting appointed June Drummond as the third member of the Website committee for the duration of the current triennium.

John Cross