

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

August 2006

MEETINGS

- Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10.30. Children's Meeting: At present there is no regular Children's Meeting, but facilities for children can usually be made available on request. 5th Sunday shared lunch.
- Thursdays, 12.30 to 1.00 Meeting For Worship followed by shared lunch on First and Third Thursdays 3rd and 17th.
- Tewkesbury:** Fourth Sunday, please 'phone Diana Tovey or Joyce Martin to find out the time and place, as it varies.
All welcome.

DIARY

(All of these meetings at 7.30 at the FMH unless otherwise stated)
Sun 13th Circle Dancing, 7.00 to 9.00

July

We 26 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome.
Th 27 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 30 12.00 **Shared Lunch**, following Meeting for Worship

August

Th 3 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 10 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Th 17 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 24 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 26 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** held at Main Gate of USAF Fairford
Th 31 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

September

Su 3 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**
Mo 4 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. "The Story of Leonard Cheshire": Mary Peterson
Th 7 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 10 10.30 **Monthly Meeting** at Cirencester. Packed lunch.
Th 14 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Th 21 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Fifth Sunday Shared Lunch, 30th July

This will take place at approximately 12 o'clock, following Meeting for Worship.

Rosemary Hoggett

Meeting for Worship at Fairford

Monthly Meeting organises a Meeting for Worship outside Fairford Air Base on the fourth Saturday of the month. This takes place between 2.00 and 3.00 pm. Cynthia Barron

Quaker Council for European Affairs

A lively report has been received from the Council.

1) Children of Imprisoned Parents – European Perspectives:

A lively conference was held in Paris. It seems that some young children live with their parents in prison. However, it is estimated that as many as 700,000 are separated from imprisoned parents. The report states that reaction by children to the situation range from fear, anger, confusion, shame and also relief. If the mother is incarcerated the child is put into care, but always financial difficulties arise. The report recommends improved visiting conditions. Quakers have a “Women in Prison Project” and are hoping to contribute to the work of the various organisations, who are working on a strategy to deal with the situation.

2) The Peace Tax 7:

Their application for a Judicial Review has been rejected and they are now appealing to the House of Lords before taking the case to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Q.C.E.A. has been working on getting the Council of Europe to move towards a resolution of the issue.

3) Update on Illegal C.I. A. Rendition Flights:

The European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the illegal CIA rendition flights has issued a mid-term report. The report considers European legislation on the use of national airspace and airports of Member States to be totally inadequate. It states the need to establish new national, European and international standards. National laws should be harmonized immediately. MEPs hope to visit EU Member States in Eastern Europe in which alleged detention facilities existed. The report is being sent to all Member States, the Council of Europe and the U.S. Congress.

The E.U. Parliament:

There are three official seats – one in Strasbourg, one in Brussels and one in Luxembourg! All 732 M.E.Ps have offices in Brussels and Strasbourg. The Secretariat has offices in Luxembourg, Brussels and Strasbourg. Every time the Parliament moves it means hundreds of people and tons of paper are shifted by road, rails and air. Now Cecilia Malmström, a Swedish M.E.P., is asking citizens to support the campaign for one place only. Add your voice on <http://www.oneseat.eu/>.

20th Anniversary of Chernobyl:

At the event organised by the “Intergroup for Peace Initiatives” at the E.U. Parliament, key speaker Felicity Hill (political advisor on nuclear and disarmament issues for Greenpeace) gave a talk on the continued sufferings of those in the Chernobyl area and further afield. Greenpeace says the mandate of International Atomic Energy Agency is outdated and inappropriate. Now twenty years on the I.A.E.A. and the World Health Organisation have released reports on the impact of Chernobyl. Greenpeace calls for more investment in cheaper, green alternatives. See <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/nuclear> for details.

Gillian Bailey

NOTES FROM PM

Nominations Committee:

It was agreed that the recommendation of Nominations Committee that Harold Reeves and Marilyn Jamieson serve as Sunday Collections Treasurer and Assistant should be accepted. Harold and Marilyn have also been invited to join the Sunday Collections (Charities) Group, which meets from time to time.

Correspondence:

Gillian Bailey has brought to us her grave concern about threats to the National Health Service in the Cheltenham area. Individual Friends are strongly urged to consider making representation through letters to their M.P. A Rally Against NHS Cuts is to take place in Cheltenham on 22nd July, and Gillian Bailey is consulting Michael Bartlett, the Quaker Parliamentary Liaison Officer as to the Quaker stance which is being taken. Any friends who are similarly interested, wish to take part in the rally on 22nd July, or who may wish to co-operate with Gillian in pursuing this matter further, are asked to contact her directly.

Meeting House: Improvement of Premises:

Ruth Baker reported on the discussion by Premises Committee in regard to the refurbishment of the Meeting House. It was agreed that a small group comprising Wilma Carson, Judy Clinton, Tim Howard, Jane Shettar and Ann Caro be formed, and that any Friends who have ideas which they may wish to bring to the notice of the group should contact them directly.

Gillian Bailey:

PM congratulated Gillian Bailey who has been awarded one of the 15 Alderman Charles Foster Memorial Awards for her 30 years' work as membership and programme secretary of the local United Nations Association.

John Cross