

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## JUNE 2007

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### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10:30. At present there is no regular Children's Meeting, but facilities for children can usually be made available on request. Fifth Sunday shared lunch. Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:00 Meeting for Worship, followed on First and Third Thursdays (7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>) by shared lunch.

**Tewkesbury:** Fourth Sunday, please 'phone Diana Tovey 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)

#### May

Sa 19 9.30 **Spiritual Adventure Day**, at Barns Centre, Toddington until 5.00  
We 23 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome  
Th 24 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.  
Sa 26 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00  
Th 31 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

#### June

Su 3 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**  
Mo 4 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Rev. Paul Wilkinson, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church  
Th 7 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 7 6.30 **Monthly Meeting** at Painswick  
Su 10 7.00 **Circle Dancing** (to 9.00)  
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  
Sa 23 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00  
We 27 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome  
Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

#### July

Su 1 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**  
Th 5 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Sa 7 2.00 **Monthly Meeting** at Nailsworth`  
Su 8 7.00 **Circle Dancing** (to 9.00)  
Th 12 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Th 19 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

## **National Quaker Week**

“We hope that our new publicity materials and efforts in the media will raise people’s interest in Quakers.” National Quaker Week, from 22 – 30 September, 2007, aims to do just that. By combining national media work and advertising with local events and activities, the week will raise the profile of Quakers across the UK.

“A joint effort on advertising and events throughout the country is a great way of boosting the Quaker profile,” says Steve Cappleman, Outreach Co-ordinator, “if people hear about Quakers from a number of sources at the same time, it will hopefully arouse their curiosity.”

(See Notes from PM.)

### **“Support a Quaker project in your Meeting”**

In response to a QPSW request to “support a Quaker project in your Meeting, the Peace Group has chosen the project “Truth and Reconciliation in Post-Yugoslav Countries.”

When Yugoslavia broke up in the early 1990s, bitter ethnic conflicts followed. All parties to the conflict are implicated in war crimes to some degree, though there has been no definite truth and reconciliation process. Widespread denial of what happened in the conflicts means that large sections of society cannot move down the road to reconciliation, and minorities are still very vulnerable.

Quakers work between the three most entangled countries, Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, running workshops and seminars for young people and bringing together groups that have been bitterly opposed to each other.

We hope to involve as many people in Meeting as possible, either to organise fund-raising events or to support those that are arranged. I have a lot of material on the project, including CVs of some of the QPSW representatives, fund-raising ideas, a book list, even recipes, and will be introducing the subject in more detail at a future Meeting

Cynthia Baron

## **Some Good News from the Netherlands**

**A Victory for the Animals:** On Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006, the partij voor De Dieren – the Party for the Animals – gained two parliamentary seats in the 150-member legislature of the Netherlands in the Dutch general elections.

This makes the Netherlands the first country in the world in which a party for animal welfare is elected into a representative body of the people.

Party leader, Marianne Thieme, said, “We are thrilled with such a wonderful result of our campaign. Finally, we can start realising our party’s highest priority, namely ending all animal suffering. We want a constitutional amendment, guaranteeing animals the right to freedom from pain, fear and stress caused by humans. Let’s begin with easing the suffering of the hundreds of millions of cows, pigs and chickens stuck in factory farming.” Thieme feels success in the Netherlands could help the movement elsewhere. One of the party’s purposes is to be an inspiration for other countries and animal rights activists.

Dorothy Kerwin

## **Cheltenham Artists Open Houses 2007**

Taking place from June 9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, an opportunity to view the work of over two hundred artists and craft makers, at 58 venues. Several of us are participating, including Gabriel Parlour, Maureen Steffen and myself. For more information phone Tony Browne.

Tony Browne

## NOTES FROM PM

### **Support for former Yugoslavia:**

We agreed that relevant information from the QPSW CD “Building Peace in the Post-Yugoslav Countries” would be printed out. Cynthia would insert something about this initiative in the Cheltenham Quaker, and speak to everyone after Meeting one Sunday next month to share this material.

### **The Children’s Room and Lobby:**

We agreed that Premises Committee should arrange for the stained and worn carpet tiles in the Lobby and Children’s Room to be replaced. The Premises Committee will liaise with the group which is currently looking into the refurbishment of the Children’s Room, and also with the parents of children currently attending Meeting.

No further reference to PM will be required prior to the floor-covering work and the decoration of the Children’s Room being undertaken.

### **Quaker Outreach Week, 22-30 September, 2007:**

There is to be a national Quaker Outreach Week, 22 – 30 September, 2007. We agreed to ask Elders and Overseers to convene a working group to investigate ways in which Cheltenham PM might play an active part in emphasising the Quaker presence in Cheltenham, and this group would report back initially to PM in June.

Ann Caro