

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JUNE 2009

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Cheltenham: Sundays at 10:30. Children are always welcome in our Sunday meetings for worship. If during the hour parents feel it is appropriate, they can go with them to the children's room, where they will be joined by one of the children's meeting volunteers. Fifth Sunday shared lunch.

Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:00 Meeting for Worship, followed on First and Third Thursdays (4th and 18th) by shared lunch.

DIARY (ALL OF THESE MEETINGS AT THE MEETING HOUSE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

May

Sa 23 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00
We 27 7.30 **Talk and Discussion on Energy Use** at the Meeting House.
Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 31 12.00 **Introduction to Rex Ambler's Experiment with Light Meditation** led by Maureen Steffen.

June

Mo 1 8.00 **Christians at Work.** Melanie Smallwood on "Hitting the High Notes", at Glebe Cottages, Leckhampton Church
We 3 2.30 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome
Th 4 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 7 11.30 **Local Meeting**
Tu 9 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve
Th 11 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Th 11 6.30 **Area Meeting** at Painswick Meeting House (Tea from 5.30)
Su 14 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 18 9.30 **Good Lives** don't have to cost the earth, Session 2
Th 25 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Sa 27 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00

July

We 1 2.30 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome
Th 2 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 5 11.30 **Local Meeting**
Th 9 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 11 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Nailsworth Meeting House
Su 12 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Tu 14 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve
Th 16 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

June Collection for Quaker Charities: Peace Tax Campaign

Christians at Work, Monday 1st June at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

The speaker this month will be the Melanie Smallwood on “Hitting the High Notes”. Melanie studied among other places at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and has sung with various Opera companies. She teaches singing in Dorset, and her talk will encompass her Christian background, her career path and a reflection on the way that her faith and family focus have informed her decisions and affected her career, and the path that her life has taken to date.

Roy Crompton

Mary Birkett Card: The Struggle to become the Ideal Quaker Woman

Sunday, 19th July at 12.00 after Meeting for Worship, Jo Teakle will give a talk about the life of her great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Birkett Card (1774-1817), a Quaker poet who lived in Dublin.

Jo Teakle

The Effect of our Economic System on the Environment

We have received details of a conference on 26th September at Friends House, open to all, and a seminar at Woodbrooke on 30th October - 1st November for which Area Meetings are asked to nominate a representative on the subject “A zero growth economy – what would it mean for us all?” These meetings are part of Friends' consideration of the effect of our economic system on the environment.

Martin Quick

Mike Joy

Mike Joy would like to thank everyone who kindly offered him plumbing work whilst he was training to be a plumber. However, you may be aware that his life has taken a slightly different turn. He is back in his field of building conservation, which is a full time commitment. He very much enjoyed meeting you and being able to be of help, and sends his best wishes to you all.

Jo Joy

Further Recollections of Peter Hazell

Many people came to the memorial meeting for our dear Friend Peter Hazell on Sunday 29 March (and many more would have come had they been free to do so). It was a moving time together in which memories of Peter were shared, and of Bess too – being so much of a duo as they always were. Peter's energetic spirit and vision was very much with us as we heard stories of things that he had done and said. He gave so much to the meeting over many years and is much missed. Yet we cannot be sad for him as he had made it very clear that he no longer wished to go on living in the state that he was in. His was a long life lived with much joy and he made a tremendous loving contribution to all those he met.

Peter's daughter, Sally, read a poem that she had found amongst Peter's papers which encapsulated most beautifully Peter's vision for the meeting (and the world generally). I feel that it is a marvellous message to be left with from Peter:

We form a circle of hope.
We pass the flame to one another.
If my candle goes out, yours will light it.
Together we make a brighter light.
Each candle promises something of its own
So that darkness is not the last word.

David McCauley
American Friends' Service Committee

Peter had read (or possible even heard) this poem at the end of a lecture by Jean Zara, a Ramallan Quaker on THE DEMANDS OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. This whole text, a subject most dear to Peter's heart, can be found on the website:
www.atonementfriars.org/lectures/the_demands_of_peace.htm.

Judy Clinton

Christine Hazell wishes Cheltenham Meeting to know how greatly she appreciates all that Peter was to her and her two children.

She met Richard, Peter Hazell's younger son whilst she was grieving the lost of her first husband. He, a hill walker, had not returned from a mountain climb, and sadly was found dead next morning.

Peter and Bess welcomed Christine with love and caring into partnership with their son. She was surprised to find them so broad-minded, taking everything as normal. Peter had said at the outset, "I am your friend to you and your children", and so it was throughout, apart from becoming a father-in-law. When Christine's son was fourteen years of age he developed M.E. And missed several years of schooling. Peter frequently sent cards of encouragement to let him know what a great lad he was. Now at twenty he is pursuing his education.

Christine had wanted to tell the Meeting herself on Sunday, 29th March, but felt she should hold back in respect of Richard's tender emotions at that time. He has been unwell since his father's death. Richard is missing his father so much, their walks together are precious memories. Ruth Baker

Notes from Local Meeting:

Nominations Committee: Nominations Committee brought forward the name of Alison Crane to serve on Premises Committee, who was appointed to serve until the end of the Triennium.

Ann Caro has agreed to allow her name to be brought forward to Nominations for the position of Lettings Officer, who was appointed to serve until the end of the Triennium. She will be consulting with Rowland Carson as to the development of an appropriate operating system. Meeting thanked Ian Brighton for the splendid job he has done as Lettings Officer over the past years.

Overseers and Elders have expressed a need for additional members, and Nominations Committee will be seeking these. Nominations Committee also needs to recruit additional members, and would benefit greatly by being joined by some younger Friends.

Report from Local Meeting Treasurer: Philip Paull presented and explained the Local Meeting Accounts for 2008 referring to the Statement of Financial Activity and two additional charts. The accounts were accepted, and Philip was thanked for all the work he has done on our behalf. We also thanked Eleanor Pratt, Richard Lacock, Marilyn Jamieson, Harold Reeves and Tim Howarth for their assistance in financial matters.

Climate change and sustainability: QPSW has asked us to consider how we are to respond to climate change, and has asked us to consider the following questions:

- is our Meeting willing to commit itself to progressively reducing its carbon emissions?
- Are we willing to change our individual life styles?
- What first steps will we take?
- What sorts of help might we need?

As a Meeting we are already committed to the Woodbrooke course on Good Lives don't have to cost the earth, future meetings to be held on 18th June and 16th July, to be facilitated by Dr. Morgan Phillips. We agreed that at our Local Meeting in June the issue of sustainability would be examined in terms of what can be done in practical terms. It was agreed that we should send a Minute of Record to the Recording Clerk of Meeting for Suffering as follows:

"He who would do good to another, must do it in minute particulars.

General good is the plea of the scoundrel, hypocrite and flatterer" (William Blake)

Cheltenham Local Meeting supports the proposal that Friends make a public statement on sustainability issues in the run-up to the Copenhagen summit.

Children's Meeting: It was reported that we are beginning to adopt a slightly more formal approach as the children get older. Further consideration will be given to including the children's sharing what they have done in their Meeting in Meeting for Worship. It was agreed that the doorkeeper will ensure that parents and children are invited into Meeting to hear notices. John Cross