

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

AUGUST 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 (6th and 20th) by shared lunch.

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

July

Th 16 7.30 **Good Lives** don't have to cost the earth, Session 3
Su 19 12.00 **Mary Birkett Card:** The Struggle to become the Ideal Quaker Woman' A talk by Jo Teakle
Th 23 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 25 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00.
Sa 25 4.00 **Summer Tea** at the Meeting House till 6.00 pm [Details below]
Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

August

We 5 2.00 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome
Th 6 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 6 2.30 **Searchers** at the Meeting House. Topic "Tradition and the New Light." All welcome.
Su 9 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Tu 11 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at Janet & Jacek's house.
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
Fr 21 10.30 **Coffee Morning** at Judy Clinton's house, in aid of Dublin's Motor Neurone Society (details below)
Th 27 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

September

We 2 2.00 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome.
Th 3 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 6 11.30 **Local Meeting**
Mo 7 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Revd. Graham Osborne on "20 years ducking and weaving but He got me in the end – a priest's journey" at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church.
Tu 8 10.30
Th 10 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 13 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Th 17 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

August Collection for Quaker Charities: Tools for Self Reliance

Summer Tea, Saturday, 25th July, 4-6 pm at the Meeting House

Come and enjoy the Summer Tea. If it is fine, this will be outside on the patios.

We ask for a donation of £5 in aid of Motor Neurone Disease.

Margot Roe

Coffee Morning: Friday August 21st at Judy Clinton's house 10.30-12.30

Patrick Callaghan and Judy Clinton are holding a coffee morning at their home in aid of Dublin's Motor Neurone Disease Society, in memory of Brendan, Patrick's brother, who died of the disease earlier this year. Please let us know if you are coming.

Patrick Callaghan and Judy Clinton

Sponsored Cycle Ride

Bill Rowland aims to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats. Bill, 72 years old, plans to cycle the 1000 mile route in September, and hopes to raise money through sponsorship to help children with learning difficulties, e.g. Down's Syndrome Children.

All donations would be gratefully accepted. A copy of the sponsorship form will be on the notice board.

Bill Rowland

Note from Local Meeting:

Report of our Friend Alison Crane's experiences at the Aldermaston protest: (Press report follows this item). We commended our Friend's courage and commitment. At Newbury Magistrates Court the five people concerned will be tried on 8th December, 2009, again at the Magistrates Court. The group will be representing themselves. We agreed to show our support for Alison by ensuring that a number of us will attend the trial. Philip Paull suggested that our Friend might bring this matter as a Quaker concern to our next Local meeting.

John Cross

“Alison Crane was one of three women from Cheltenham, among eleven arrested on Monday, 15th June outside Aldermaston, the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Berkshire where the UK nuclear weapons of mass destruction are manufactured.

Alison Crane, Morgan Woodland and Alison Parfitt were blockading the gates to prevent construction traffic from entering. There is currently a massive building programme in progress, constructing buildings and equipment to design, test and build a new generation of nuclear weapons to replace the current system based on Trident submarines.

Alison Crane, from Naunton Lane, explained, “By preparing to replace Trident, the British Government is in contravention of the Non-proliferation Treaty, which requires nuclear weapons states to work towards reducing their nuclear capacity. It is hypocritical as well as political, military and economic madness to be building new nuclear weapons in the name of “deterrence” while at the same time condemning other states such as Iran for wanting their own nuclear bombs. This is de-stabilising global security and we are risking another nuclear arms race. A new House of Commons Foreign Affairs committee Report recognises this, saying, “The decision to renew the UK's Trident system is perceived by some foreign states and some among the British public as appearing to contradict the Government's declared commitment to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime”. However, so far the Government are not listening. I have written numerous letters to MPs and the Ministry of Defence and signed petitions about the dangers of nuclear weapons. I felt that the time has come to use my body, non-violently, in an act of direct disarmament, aiming to prevent work on Trident replacement for the day.”

Another Gloucestershire resident, Roger Franklin from Stroud, was also arrested in the blockade, which closed one of the gates for over two hours using a caravan to which the protesters were locked. Four other gates were also closed by other protesters.

Those arrested were bailed to appear at Newbury Magistrates Court on 2nd July, charged with obstruction of the highway. Alison intends to plead not guilty, on the grounds that she was upholding international law, and acting to prevent a greater crime. The date for the trial will be probably be arranged on 2nd July, and is likely to be in a few months' time.”

Alison Crane