

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

OCTOBER 2012

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Are on Sundays at 10.30 at Cheltenham Meeting House. There is usually a shared lunch on each fifth Sunday. 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.

DIARY (All of these meetings are at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)

September

Friday 21 8pm **Joint Meeting with UNA** see below for details Also **Vigil** in Gloucester
Sunday 30 12 noon **5th Sunday Meeting** see below for details

October

Thursday 4 6pm **Evening Public Meeting** see below for more
Sunday 7 12 noon **Local Meeting for Worship for Business**
Wednesday 10 2.30pm **Book Circle** at Margaret Cooper's
Wednesday 10 6pm **Evening Public Meeting** see below for more
Saturday 13 11am **Paul Parker, BYM Recording Clerk** will be our speaker before:
2.00pm **Area Meeting for Worship for Business.** Venue to be arranged. Bring a packed lunch
Sunday 14 After Meeting **Book Sale** see below for details
Thursday 18 2.30pm **Healing Meeting** at Maureen Steffen's new house
Wednesday 24 7.30pm **Liaison Committee Meeting**
Saturday 27 10am-1pm **Area Meeting for Learning Workshop. This has been cancelled.**

GLOUCESTER MEETING HOUSE

Colin Gerard and Elyn Mitchell have given us the following sad news:-

Gloucester Meeting House re-opened after the repairs to the roof and plasterwork and redecoration, following damage caused by the theft of lead from the roof. It was looking good.

However, on the night of 12 September, the Meeting House was broken into again and a fire started in the lobby. The only structural damage appears to be to the lobby but the whole of the ground floor has smoke damage. Our insurers, the police and fire services are involved but the Meeting House will be out of use for a while.

Our Gloucester Friends ask us to hold them in the Light while they try to make sense of this and the consequences.

This means that the next Area Meeting with Paul Parker as speaker in the morning, which was due to be held in Gloucester Meeting House, will have to find different venue or different date. The Area Meeting for Learning workshop has been cancelled

OCTOBER COLLECTION is for Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). The purpose of this international group of Quakers is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

Since 1948, FWCC has had "consultative" status with the United Nations and is responsible for the two UN Offices in Geneva and New York. FWCC recently organized a World Conference of Friends in Kenya.

Friends who are taxpayers are encouraged to send donations directly to the charity, using Gift Aid or a charity voucher (CAF, Charities Trust, etc), possibly adding a note to say that they belong to Cheltenham Quaker Meeting. Donations to FWCC can be sent to the World Office, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX.

Website is: www.fwccworld.org

Items for inclusion in the next newsletter should be sent to the editorial email address or by post to the editor Janet Weyers by

Monday 15 October at the latest

SEPTEMBER 5TH SUNDAY MEETING (30 September) will be a showing of the DVD of this year's Swarthmore Lecture followed by a shared lunch. The lecture is by Pam Lunn and explores the topic **Costing not less than everything, sustainability and spirituality in challenging times**. This is "An important contribution to the Quaker commitment to a low carbon footprint" – "A positive, practical and spiritual approach." From the chapter *The Time is Now*: "We are the people alive now, we are the people who know about the problem. Who else do we imagine is going to do what needs to be done? What we need is a consciousness and a spirituality that creates in us joy, gratitude, determination, courage and humility – in the knowledge that we are doing God's work. And we cannot do this without spiritual practices and ways of living that will sustain and nourish us over the long haul."

JOINT MEETING WITH UNA (21 September)

Cheltenham Quaker Meeting is holding a meeting jointly with UNA Gloucestershire County Branch on Friday 21 September at 8 pm in Cheltenham Quaker Meeting House to mark UN International Day Of Peace. The speaker will be Dr Peter van den Dungen of Dept of Peace Studies, University of Bradford. His subject will be **Philanthropy and peace - one hundred years of change** and reflects on the centenary (2013) of the Hague Peace Palace - the gift of Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-American Industrialist. The Palace is now the home of the UN International Court of Justice.

This is an invitation to Quakers to come.

The event is free and if you wish to attend please advise Chris Dickenson at grb.una-uk@live.com - for guidance on numbers for refreshments.

Anyone willing to help with tea making etc please contact me.

Mike Lang

QUAKER WEEK 2012

The week will be marked at Cheltenham by two evening meetings, each with its own title:

Thursday 4th October "*Why I became a Quaker*",

Wednesday 10th October "*Quaker Peace and Simplicity*"

Each evening will commence with a light meal at 6pm, followed at 7pm by personal statements, of six minutes each, from three individual Quakers. This should raise questions, to which participants may contribute answers. We felt that specific items, such as the business method (no voting), would arise in the personal statements or, after these, in the answers to questions. It was agreed that the question and answer session would be followed by a short Quaker Meeting for Worship, to end at 8pm.

We need to enlist the participation of most Friends, whom we ask to bring a friend or neighbour to one or both meetings. We shall be advertising the meetings to attract enquirers. The presence of most Friends is seen as important to the success of the meetings. Please let Philip Paull know how many people you are bringing, to help with the planning for catering. Philip will put a list on the noticeboard for this.

The supper will be a buffet and we are catering for 40 people. If there are masses more than this we will have to try to make it stretch! **Details of the meetings is on Page 4.**

If anyone who is not on the list of volunteers would like to help, please let Philip or Mary Neville know.

THE QUAKER BOOK CLUB (The Quaker Review) next meeting is on the 10th October at 2.30pm in the home of Margaret Cooper,

We shall be continuing with the book *Learning to Fall* by Philip Simmons who learnt he had Motor Neuron Disease when he was 35. Commendations for the book speak for themselves: "This is a very uplifting book. He writes with clarity and a passion for honesty laced with wit. An extraordinary book." "As intelligent as it is inspirational." "*Learning to Fall* glows with vitality and honest hope".

The members felt it would be good to continue with this book, enabling those who have not yet read it to do so. We also felt as we had had such a helpful discussion, we would like to continue exploring it.

The book is published by Hodder 2002, ISBN 0 340 82261 9.

David Clayton

NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER LOCAL MEETING

Nominations and Appointments: We appointed Bill Rowland to the Nominations Committee for the Triennium. Gillian Bailey to stand down from Treasurer Scheduled Donations. Nominations committee is still looking to fill this post.

Donations: It was agreed to hold two collections each Sunday, one for Local Meeting and one for our charity of choice. The donations for Local Meeting should go into the collection box on the door outside the Meeting Room. One off donations in response to appeals will be limited to £2,000 per year.

NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER AREA MEETING

Membership: The application from David Barker (Nailsworth) was approved and we are glad to welcome him into membership.

We are glad to welcome Frank Bonner by transfer from West Wilts & East Somerset Area Meeting. He and his wife Bonnie hope to attend Stroud Meeting.

News of Friends: We were sad to record the deaths of our Friends Mary Chick (Cirencester Meeting) who died on 19 August and of John Arnold (Wotton under Edge Meeting) who died on 14 July. A Testimony to the Life of Mary Chick is to be prepared by Cirencester Meeting.

Nominations and Appointments: We appointed Paul Freke and Patricia Stevens (both of Cirencester Meeting) as Elders.

Sue Le Fleming is appointed as Funeral Friend in place of Ray Robinson who has laid down this service.

Jane Mace asked to lay down the role of Meeting for Learning Coordinator and Nominations Committee is asked to bring forward a name to share this role with Alison Crane.

Multi-Faith Spaces: It was agreed to look at the possibility of mounting an exhibition of this name, perhaps in several of our Meeting Houses. Su Card (Nailsworth) was asked to take this forward.

LIBRARY NEWS

October 14th **Bring and buy book sale** (voluntary donations, actually)

Live with less	<i>and share your pleasure</i>
Bring a lot of books	<i>and take home a few</i>
What sort of books?	<i>any sort (well nearly)</i>
For a good cause?	<i>donations for our library, and books left over will go to</i>
	<i>the excellent British Red Cross Charity Bookshop</i>

Alan and Nancy Sentance

Suggested Reading from our Library

'*Bad Dog – A memoir of love, beauty, and redemption in dark places*' by Lin Jensen (Cat.no. B60). This true memoir reads like something Steinbeck might have written as fiction. Jensen writes with 'a deep understanding of life, the land, and the human spirit. He observes human life struggling towards the light and he shares with us the courage to go right to the heart of pain, finding the love that hides there.' The book is 'compellingly beautiful... a reading experience that is both gut-wrenching and inspiring'.

Nancy Sentance

GREENBELT FESTIVAL 2012 24 – 27 August

We held two successful Meetings for Worship again this year with the Saturday Meeting recording higher attendance than ever previously recorded and the Monday evening having about 60 present, similar to a previous Monday evening time slot. Rowland records that several people remarked afterwards that the MfWs had been deep and rich for them. Rowland has written a report of the Meetings which can be obtained from our Clerk. Rowland is intending to lay down his liaison work with Greenbelt after tying up a few loose ends. Area Meeting hopes to take up this role in future.

THOUGHT FOR THIS MONTH

One of my favourite prayers, taken from "Asking God", by Oliver Tomkins, now out of print, but reproduced with permission from the Canterbury Press, ISBN 1-85311-200-3, published 1998

God, you are silence beyond all quietness,

You are brilliance beyond all light,

You are tranquility beyond all peace.

Teach me to listen to your silence, let me glimpse your brightness and grant me that tranquillity in which the search for You begins.

Yet, none of us could seek if we had not been found

By the Word who interprets the silence

In the Face which reflects Your glory,

Through the passion which is our Peace.

Through Jesus Christ, in whom our search begins and in whom it ends, who with You and the Spirit, are the One God in all and through all.

Amen

And can I add another (Contemplative Prayer) from the same source

I AM who made you, calls you and awaits you; still your restless spirit by gentle dwelling in Himself alone, until His breath is yours.

From Jo Joy

Cheltenham Quaker Meeting: Quaker Week 2012

Notes from the planning meeting held by Elders at 12noon on 16/09/2012

The participation of most Quakers is important. Quakers are asked to bring neighbours and friends to one or both meetings. It was agreed that the question and answer session would be followed by short Quaker Meeting for Worship, to end at 8pm.

Publicity and resources are being arranged by Ni Smith. The Carsons pointed out the existence of various resources in the corner cupboard and A&Q at their home.

Thursday 4th October “*Why I became a Quaker*”

4.30 to 6.00	Food preparation and serving	Elma Detheridge Dorothy Carson
6.00 to 7.00		Janet Weyers
5.30 to 7.15	doorkeeper chairs & tables	Julie Stubbs Dorothy and Rowland Carson
Before 7.00	Clerk/facilitator	Margaret Sheldrick
7.00 to 7.30	Speakers	Rowland, Jo Joy, Richard Lacock
8.00 onwards	Washing-up and clearing	Julie Stubbs Philip Paull

Wednesday 10th October “*Quaker Peace and Simplicity*”

2.00 to 6.00	Food preparation	Ann Caro
4.30 to 6.00		Elma Detheridge Nina Odescalchi
6.00 to 7.00	Serving	Janet Weyers Margaret Sheldrick
5.30 to 7.15	doorkeeper chairs & tables	Judy Roles, Philip from 6.45 Evelyn Shaw and Edward Trezise
Before 7.00	Clerk/facilitator	Pat Dannahy
7.00 to 7.30	Speakers	Judy Roles, Maureen Steffen, Edward Trezise
8.00 onwards	Washing-up and clearing	Alison Crane Margaret Sheldrick