

# CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

MARCH 2013

## 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)

<b>February</b>			
Wednesday	27	2.30pm	<b>Quaker Book Review</b> at Margaret Cooper's see below for details
<b>March</b>			
Sunday	3	12 noon	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Sunday	10	2.00pm	<b>Area Meeting for Worship for Business</b> at Wotton under Edge see below
Wednesday	13	2.00pm	<b>Meeting of Elders</b>
Sunday	17	12 noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b> see below
Thursday	21	7.30	<b>Meeting of Pastoral Friends</b> at Nina Odescalchi's
Sunday	24	12 noon	<b>Speakers and shared lunch</b> see below
Wednesday	27	2.30	<b>Quaker Book Review</b> at Margaret Cooper's see below for details

**Area Meeting for Worship for Business** will be held at the Chipping Club Room in Wotton under Edge following Meeting for Worship at 10.30am.

**Meeting for Learning: *Who I am and how being a Quaker affects my life.*** Jo Teakle and Jacek Weyers have agreed to speak. In April there will be no Meeting for Learning as this is the day after the Spiritual Adventure Day in the Forest of Dean.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday speakers:** have been moved to 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 24 March, and the Peace group has arranged for the three QPSW peace workers to speak to us. There will be a shared lunch afterwards. See Peace Group News below for details of the speakers.

**MARCH COLLECTION** is for Scholarships for Street Kids. This charity, run by Quakers in Yorkshire, provides educational opportunities for children from poor backgrounds, often from begging and scavenging families, in developing countries. The support is for everything from literacy classes, family support for a child who is going to school, to vocational training and courses in higher education. The website for more information and to donate is [www.s4sk.org.uk](http://www.s4sk.org.uk). Or send a cheque, payable to Scholarships for Street Kids to: The Treasurer (S4SK) 72-74 Sun St., Haworth, W.Yorks., BD22 8AH. 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.

**REQUEST FROM PASTORAL CARE GROUP:** A particular responsibility of Pastoral Friends is to support all those in Meeting who wish to be supported. To help us do this, if you expect to be away from Sunday Meeting for some weeks, please would you let a Pastoral Friend know, so that we are not unnecessarily concerned. Thank you.

**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 18 March** at the latest

Web address: [http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/current\\_cq.pdf](http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/current_cq.pdf)

## **SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE DAY**

Elders are planning a day at the ASHA Centre in the Forest of Dean on **April 20, 2013**. The title of the day is *Exploring our Beliefs; Living our Values*. The cost is £28 per person.

There is one Meeting room with a gallery which we can use and they will cater lunch in the dining-room for us and provide refreshments. The food is sourced from the garden or other local sources.

The day will start with coffee and tea from 9.00 and the programme will end with tea at 4.15pm. We hope to have a tour of the garden with one of the members of staff during the lunch break, weather permitting. Those wishing to can stay and have a walk round the garden at tea time.

After an introduction and worship led by Richard Lacock, Pat Dannahey will lead the first session entitled "*Foundations*"; after coffee Janet Weyers will lead a session on "*Exploring our Spiritual Lives*" and after lunch Ian Brighton will lead "*Practising our Beliefs and Values*". Sharing and worship will then be led by Richard.

Details are on the notice board in the lobby. If you would like more information, please ask any elder or facilitator or visit the website [www.ashacentre.org](http://www.ashacentre.org). Please sign up on the list on the notice board.

Please give June Drummond details of any dietary needs, offers of carsharing or lifts required. Your cheques made out to *Cheltenham Quaker Meeting* can be given to June or to Mike Lang our Treasurer.

Bursaries are available via Pastoral Friends.

## **NOTES FROM FEBRUARY LOCAL MEETING**

**Nominations and appointments:** We agreed to send the name of Nigel Smith to Area Meeting as a nomination for a Pastoral Friend. This was agreed at Area Meeting.

We appointed Shaun Kenaely as Woodbrooke Correspondent.

**Premises Committee:** Alison Crane reported that we are now ready to seek planning permission for the fixing of PV panels to our roof. In seeking the most ethical way forward, the committee have looked at pollution in the manufacture and disposal of the panels, the health and safety issues of the companies, the carbon saving of different panels, as well as the costs and cost benefits, and appearance in the Conservation Area in which we are situated.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike Lang explained our accounts, which will now go to Area Meeting to be scrutinised along with those from the other Local Meetings in our Area meeting. Details of the accounts can be obtained from Mike.

## **QList**

This is a secure web-based service to help local and area meetings administer their contact and membership lists. Most local Quaker meetings already have someone who maintains a list of contact information, and all Quaker area meetings appoint someone to deal with membership matters. QList is intended to be administered by that person. Access to our own personal data can be limited to Friends in our own Meeting, or shared with Friends at other Meetings and with staff at Friends House.

At our Local Meeting we authorised the present Cheltenham Quaker Meeting Data Manager, Evelyn Shaw, for access and management to BYM QList

## **FROM FEBRUARY AREA MEETING**

**Membership:** Chris Robertson and Kate Robertson are now attending Brecon Quaker Meeting and have requested that their membership be transferred to South Marches Area meeting. This was agreed.

Nan Dower is now attending Bridport Quaker Meeting and has requested that her membership be transferred to Dorset and South Wiltshire Area Meeting. This was agreed.

**World Conference** follow up at Woodbrooke. Robert Maxwell and John Miles attended this event. Robert stressed the need for Quakers to be more aware of the nature of Quakerism throughout the world, and the need to work together to become "careful stewards of all life". John stressed that more proactive support for Friends who have an international connection is needed. We were reminded that other friends from Area Meeting are also involved in work overseas. Pat Dannahey is attempting to support an Arab Waldorf School in Israel, together with a charity in Palestine, and we will be hearing her report at the next Area Meeting.

## **Marriage of Sophie Robinson and Sean Elliott:**

We agreed to appoint a Meeting for Marriage between Sophie Robinson and Sean Elliott at Painswick Meeting House on **13<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm** and we wish them well. The following friends have committed themselves to attending the marriage on behalf of Area Meeting: John Miles, Patricia Dickenson – and we hope more names will be brought forward at the March Area Meeting.

**Finance:** As a Meeting we are asked to make an annual contribution to the expenses of Area Meeting. The contribution, now called Guide Contribution (formally quota), is decided on the number of members of each Meeting. It will be raised from the 2011 amount of £95 to £105 per member for 2013. Friends are asked to take into account this requirement when considering our contribution to our Meeting.

**Greenbelt Liaison:** Geof Kinns (Forest of Dean) and Elyn Mitchell (Gloucester) were appointed to be responsible for organising this in 2013.

**Drones:** The Rapid Reponse Group prepared a response on Drones on behalf of Area Meeting following Minute 12/123 of 9 December 2012. This was sent to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Drones. We have received a response from the Co-ordinator as follows: " We appreciate your interest in the work of the APPG. Many of your concerns dovetail with the aims and objectives of the group. Next month we hope to have a website so you can see the work of the group. In the interim the website <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/> has a search engine facility, which will enable you to see the Parliamentary Questions asked on drones."

**REQUEST FROM PASTORAL CARE GROUP**

Pastoral Friends are compiling a list of groups associated with the Meeting, to inform Friends of our various activities. If you are the convener of a group, please would you contact Evelyn Shaw or Tim Howarth with details of when and where your group meets, whether it is currently open or closed to new members, and a short paragraph outlining what you do. Thank you.

**SUNDAY ROTA REMINDER**

**PLEASE** can Friends look at the **Sunday Rota** and see whether **your name** is on the list. If you are unable to do the task on the day please change with someone else in good time. If you wish to come off the list, please let our compiler, Bill Rowland, know. If anyone else is willing to be put on the list, let him know, too. Below is the list for up until March 31. The list for the next three months is **at the back of this newsletter**.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Doorkeeping</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Teas</b>
Feb.24th.	Sal Drummond	June Drummond	Nina Odescalchi
March 3rd.	Philip Paull	Cathy Rollo	Bill Rowland
March10th	Richard Lacock	Jill Vyle	Chris Vyle
March17th	Dorothy Carson	Janet Weyers	Rowland Carson
March24th	Maureen Steffen	Lydia Sutcliffe	Mary Neville
March31st	Pat Dannahy	Jane Brighton	Margaret Sheldrick

**PEACE GROUP NEWS**

Once again the peace group hopes to support this year's QPSW UK peaceworkers. QPSW provides one-year opportunities in the UK and overseas with voluntary organisations that work for peace at local, national and international level.

The UK peaceworkers this year are Owen Everett at Forces Watch and War Resisters International, Alissa Hitzemann at Oxford Research Group and Rhiannon Redpath at Gender Action for Peace and Security to raise awareness in the UK of the impact of conflict on women in conflict areas.

We hope to have one or all of these to speak of their work and experiences to Meeting in March.

Cynthia Baron

**NOISES OFF**

Once again the perennial of high noise levels before Meeting for Worship on Sunday has raised its head.

If you look back through Meeting minutes you will see that the subject features regularly over the years and much time has been spent addressing it both theoretically and practically but still the problem persists.

We all recognise the problem, when we get to Meeting we meet and speak to friends, conduct a little business, the noise level increases and before we know it, it's 10.30. Perhaps this may be a good time to remind ourselves that Meeting for Worship commences when the first person enters and sits down in the Meeting. In our Meeting this is regularly a little before 10.20.

It's been pointed out that when we congregate in the lobby we may not know the time because there is no clock there. This is being addressed and you will shortly see a clock mounted above the Quaker Notice Board.

The noise situation is aggravated by the fact that the heavy Meeting Room doors are left open, out of consideration for people entering the meeting in wheelchairs or using walking frames. It is probably unfair to ask the doorkeeper to ask people to be quiet and shut doors because as 10.30 approaches they are likely to be greeting friends and welcoming visitors. It would not surprise me if we have to revisit the issue in the future and have to think again of measures to overcome it. Could it be that we even consider fitting curtains across part of the lobby or having an usher (or should it be shusher?) to remind Friends to keep their voices down, as has been considered in the past.

Bill Rowland

### **QUAKER BOOK REVIEW (Book Club)**

The meeting for **February** will be at Margaret Cooper's at 2.30pm on Wednesday the 27th, the book will be, *Silence and Honey Cakes, The Wisdom of the Desert*", by Rowan Williams.

We have had helpful and stimulating discussions in a homely and relaxed manner.

If you would like any further information please feel free to contact David Clayton whose contact details are in the Cheltenham Quaker Meeting Address List.

All future meetings will be on the last Wednesday of every month.

David Clayton

**CHILDREN'S MEETING:** There will be a brief meeting of anyone interested in helping at Children's meetings (or who think they may be) on Sunday 17th March. Just grab a cup of tea and we will meet in the Children's room for 15 minutes or so.

### **FOOTSTEPS GOING FURTHER FOR FAIR TRADE**

Global Footsteps, the fair trade cafe and shop at 16 Portland St, Cheltenham, is "Going Further for Fair Trade" to celebrate Fair Trade Fortnight, 25<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a sale of all non-food fair trade items throughout the fortnight, and two major events.

On Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 2pm, a drop-in "Big Brew" event, where £5 will buy a hot drink, including a mug and knitted "mug-hug", which you can knit yourself if you prefer.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Palestinian lunches will be served from 12 noon, and at 1.30pm, two speakers from Zaytoun, a Palestinian Community Interest Company which produces and exports fairly traded food products will talk about their experiences. Abu Rafat is an olive farmer, and Manal Abdallah is Communication Manager for Canaan Fair Trade. The event will be introduced by Pat Dannahy.

Zaytoun and other fair trade food products will be on sale on the day and throughout the fortnight, as well as other items from Palestine.

Alison Crane

**GLOUCESTER MEETING** are currently holding their Meetings for Worship at **2.15pm on Sundays** at Park Street Mission Hall, 17 Park Street, Gloucester GL1 2DA. They have unfortunately suffered another break-in. They hope to be back having Meetings for Worship in Gloucester Meeting House soon.

## WHY AM I A QUAKER AND WHY DO I COME TO MEETING?

A brief summary of Bill Rowland's presentation at our Meeting for Learning in December

When Philip asked me to speak on this I thought it could best be illustrated in the form of various stages in my life.

Firstly I am not a birthright Quaker and there was no flash of light on the road to Damascus for me.

To understand this I have to go back to my childhood in Manchester. My family is nominally Church of England but not church attenders although I went to Sunday School. My recollection of this time is collecting the usual yearend books and the Sunday School outings by train with games and a picnic in the Cheshire countryside, but overall no other lasting impressions.

As a teenager I joined the Boys' Brigade which was attached to the Congregational Church so this could be the non-conformist link. The centre of the B.B. is the Bible Class and all the rest, the uniform, bands, badges and sport are just the trimmings. The Cong. also had an active Youth Club and a group of us were involved until National Service beckoned and the group fell away as they joined the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

A little later I was working as a Draughtsman and I recall most vividly chatting to a chap in the office, a Quaker, Norman Wood of Marple Meeting who said to me 'You are a Quaker. You don't know it but you are'. I dismissed this at the time, being more interested in motorbikes, football and beer. My understanding at the time was that Quakers had silent services and were all very good people. All very off-putting. Looking back I do wish I had paid more attention to Norman.

Later I attended one or two other churches but there was something missing and mainly I felt that I was being asked to make a personal commitment and make promises in prayers and hymns that I knew in all honesty I could not fulfill.

When we came to Cheltenham I was still searching and happened to see in the Daily Telegraph an advertisement inviting people to write for an information pack about the Quakers. Reading George Gorman's book 'The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship' was a great help and if any Friends, both young and old, have not read it, please do so, I do recommend it. So it was that in the 70's I went to my first Meeting for Worship in the old Meeting House in Portland Street where I was made welcome and felt comfortable in the Worship. What made an impression on me was the Simplicity, Honesty and Practicality of the Quakers and this continues to this day and this is why I come to Meeting for Worship which for me is the core of Quakerism. I know I said that I felt comfortable initially but it is not an easy ride, as you continue your spiritual journey and are guided and constantly challenged by the *Advices and Queries* and the insights and wisdom contained in *Quaker Faith and Practice*. You may recall the anecdote where William Penn asked George Fox should he cease wearing his sword and George replied 'Wear it as long as thou canst'.

After two years I applied for membership and on being accepted was presented with a copy of *Christian Faith and Practice* which later became *Quaker Faith and Practice*. What impressed me about Quaker Worship is that it is not judgmental and we are free to travel on our spiritual path at our own pace and do not proselytize to boost head counts for membership. I recall the wisdom of a Weighty Friend or should I say a Seasoned Friend who said that Quakers are happy to be available to help someone on their spiritual search or journey regardless of the time they stay with us. If they feel they need to move on and we've been of help we've played our part.

I'm still on my journey but with the fellowship and company of my Friends - you.

### Doorkeeping, Flowers and Teas April 7<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Date	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
April 7th.	Elaine Boulter	Margot Roe	Tim Howarth
April 14th.	June Drummond	Janet Weyers	Philip Paull
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Rowland Carson	Lydia Sutcliffe	Dorothy Carson
April 28th.	Jo Teakle	Julie Stubbs	Margaret Sheldrick
May 5th.	Jane Brighton	Mike Lang	Jo Teakle
May 12th.	Alison Crane	Richard Lacock	Pat Dannahy
May 19th	Judy Roles	Elaine Boulter	Richard Lacock
May 26th.	Jack Danes	Margaret Danes	Brenda Judge
June 2nd.	Julie Stubbs	Sal Drummond	Maureen Steffen
June 9th	Tim Howarth	Iris Terrell	Margot Roe
June 16th.	Ann Caro	Pat Dannahy	Ian Brighton
June 23rd.	Sal Drummond	Ruth Baker	Nina Odescalchi
June 30th.	Philip Paull	Cathy Rollo	Cynthia Baron
July 7th.	Joy Heaven	Jill Vyle	Chris Vyle
July 14th	Dorothy Carson	Nancy Sentance	Rowland Carson
July 21st	Maureen Steffen	Lydia Sutcliffe	Mary Neville
July 28th	Janet Weyers	Jane Brighton	Margaret Sheldrick

If a date is not convenient to you please arrange to swap with someone else on the list or contact Bill Rowland.

**Doorkeepers**, you will need to arrive just after 10 am. Please read the list of instructions which is in the wooden rack on the wall by the door into the garden.

**Teamakers**, Please bring milk and biscuits, you will need 2 pints of milk. Lay out cups and saucers and preheat the water before Meeting. Please take your expenses from the dish for contributions. It might be a good idea to ask a friend to help you.

If, in doing the 'teas' you spot anything in need of repair or replacement in the Kitchen please contact a member of the Premises Committee.