

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

MAY 2014

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)

April			
Wednesday	30	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
May			
Saturday	3	to 15th	Friends Relief Work Exhibition in Gloucester Cathedral see below for details
Sunday	4	12.00noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	11	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business see below
Tuesday	13	2.00pm	Meeting of Elders
Thursday	15	7.30pm	Talk by Diana Francis in Gloucester Cathedral. See below under Quaker Service Memorial Trust Exhibition for details
Thursday	15	7.00pm	Searchers Group see below
Sunday	18	12 noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Wednesday	28	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's

Area Meeting for Worship for Business will be held on Sunday 11 May starting at 1.30pm, at Armoury Hall, Dean Road, Newnham, hosted by Forest Meeting. Friends are welcome to Meeting for Worship at 11.00am and to visit the Quaker Library in the High Street and to eat their packed lunch (not provided!) there, if preferred.

Searchers Group: This is a new group who will be meeting on the third Thursday each month at 7.00pm at the Meeting House. There will be discussion on a range of topics followed by tea and biscuits at 8.00pm. Everyone is invited, especially those who have not been worshipping with us for very long, who would like to learn more about Quakerism and fellow worshippers.

Meeting for Learning in May: Hilary Browne, the mother of Sally Davies of our Meeting, will be talking to us about her visit to Gaza in a talk entitled 'Gaza – a liveable place?'. She was an Ecumenical Accompanier in the West Bank in 2008/9.

MAY COLLECTION is for the Quaker Housing Trust, a charity set up by Britain Yearly Meeting to be a practical expression of the Quaker concern about the needs of badly housed and otherwise homeless people in Britain. The emphasis is on the provision of homes – not just housing. They aim to give informal advice and support to housing projects which meet the criteria. This may include Quakers who are wanting to start a new project or make use of their Meeting's property to meet housing need.

More information is on their website at www.qht.org.uk or from Alison Crane, one of the Trustees. Donations, made out to Quaker Housing Trust, can be sent direct to Quaker Housing Trust, Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ. Friends who are taxpayers are encouraged to send donations directly to the charity, using Gift Aid or a charity voucher (CAF, Charities Trust, etc)

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 19 May** at the latest

Web address: http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/current_cq.pdf

SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE IN 2014:

A residential weekend has been arranged for our Meeting, to take place at Charney Manor 20-22 June 2014. The title will be *'What is my Ministry: What is Ours?'*.

The weekend will be facilitated by Zelig Gross of South Wales Area Meeting. During the weekend we hope to:

- Get to know one another in the Spirit and strengthen our sense of community
- Deepen our awareness of spiritual nurture in our worship, including vocal ministry
- Explore our understanding of ministry as service and how we share our gifts
- Think about communications in our meeting: how can we make being in touch

in many different ways work for us as a Meeting?

- Discover ways of supporting one another on our spiritual journeys

The cost will be £190 for a single room and £365 for a twin room. Bursary help will be available. £50 deposit for each person will be required **by 27 April** and the final payment should be made by **25 May**. Payments can be made by cheque or bank transfer, or cash in special circumstances. Look out for the sign up notice on the notice board; if you have any queries, please ask one of the Elders.

Programme:

Friday 20 June

4pm		Arrivals & Tea
7pm		Supper
7.45pm	Session 1:	Communicating for meaning and purpose Raising awareness of the ways we communicate in our meeting
9.30pm		Epilogue
9.45pm		Evening drinks

Saturday 21 June

8.30am		Breakfast
9.30am	Session 2:	Our community – the bigger picture Noting absent Friends. Who we are in the wider context of AM and BYM, our local community and our connections further afield.
11am		Coffee
11.30am	Session 3:	Deepening the life in our worship Spiritual practice; vocal ministry. How do we nourish our spiritual lives?
1pm		Lunch <i>Free time to explore Charney, plus optional self-led activities</i>
4.00pm		Afternoon tea
4.30pm	Session 4:	Service and ministry: Gifts of the spirit The gifted meeting; owning and sharing our gifts; blocks to service
6.30pm		Supper
7.30pm	Session 5:	What makes our hearts sing and our spirits fly? Sharing our journeys; knowing one another in things eternal, temporal - and trivial
9.30pm		Epilogue
9.45pm		Evening drinks

SUNDAY 22 June

8.30am		Breakfast
9.30am	Session 6:	Creativity and Learning: essential building blocks of community Supporting one another and working together - a creative activity
11am		Coffee
11.30	Session 7:	Worship Encouraging ministry "Epistle"
1pm		Lunch & Departures

YEARLY MEETING GATHERING 2-9 AUGUST 2014

This year our YMG will be held at Bath University campus. This is perched on top of a hill overlooking the beautiful Somerset countryside, just outside Bath. The site is flat and accessible and no more than a couple of hundred yards from one end to the other.

The Swarthmore Lecture is being given by Ben Pink Dandelion and a one day trip has been organised by our clerk Ian Brighton for the day it is being given. Please contact him for more information.

BYMG organisers are hoping to have **volunteers** who will help them both before the Gathering starts, to prepare welcome packs, and during, for many posts such as doorkeeping and showing Friends to their accommodation on arrival. If you think you can help, please contact Judy Roles.

Up to date news of the gathering and the timetable can be found on <http://groupspaces.com/quakerymg>

NEXT FIFTH SUNDAY TALK

The next talk will be on 29 June, when Margaret Sheldrick's son and daughter in law, Andrew and Sally Feyi-Waboso, will be talking about their charity Sight Malawi.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB

This group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at Margaret Cooper's at 2.30pm. We consider books that will encourage us on our spiritual journey. Here is careful thought, laughter, tea and talk.

If you require any further information please contact David Clayton or Margaret Cooper.

WW1 INFORMATION REQUIRED

Gloucester City Museums are marking the anniversary of WW1 and would very much like to hear from anyone who could tell them about Quaker individuals who had some kind of role or experience in Gloucester during the war years. Real stories about real people would be invaluable in making the exhibition interesting. If you have any information that might help, please email the curator of the City Museum in Gloucester, David Rice on David.rice@gloucester.gov.uk or get in touch with Rachel Pardoe of Forest of Dean Meeting.

NOTES FROM APRIL LOCAL MEETING

Quaker Tapestry: After the presentation on this at the recent fifth Sunday Meeting, Friends expressed interest in making a panel ourselves. Anyone having ideas on this and/or would like to be involved are asked to contact Pat Dannahy who plans to bring this back to us in the autumn.

NOTES FROM APRIL AREA MEETING

Membership: Monica Jones has transferred her Membership from Bristol to Gloucestershire Area meeting. She will be attached to Stroud Meeting.

Yearly Meeting: The Local Friends Planning Group are hoping to produce a film to show at the welcome session of Yearly Meeting. It is hoped to include images of our stunning West Country landscape, interwoven with Quaker history, heritage and personal Quaker stories, from the past and present. It is hoped to make the finished film accessible on line as a resource for Quaker outreach for Friends everywhere. We agreed to make a contribution of £100 towards this project.

Canterbury Commitment Conference 7-9 March 2014 called *Transforming ourselves – transforming the system* The aim of this conference was “to help energise our Quaker community in the urgent response to climate change and energy injustice“, with particular focus beyond individual action to change in the wider social and economic system.

After the report Friends took time to consider the positive ideas relating to sustainability which were raised. The full report can be found in Appendix 2 to the Area Meeting minutes.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE QUAKER CAMP

This will be from 16 – 23 August in the Gower. There will be the opportunity for lovely walks, games and access to the sea. All Friends and Attenders of all ages and their families will be welcome. To find out more ring or email Martin Quick of Stroud Meeting.

QUAKER SERVICE MEMORIAL TRUST EXHIBITION

The QSMT has been involved in the setting up of the stone memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, commemorating service in the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service during and after WW1. They have put together an exhibition, which is to visit our area in May/June this year, showing Friends' relief work – WW1 is just one episode of nearly two centuries of relief work under Friends auspices, starting with the Irish famines in the 1840s.

What is the exhibition?

12 portable self-supporting panels telling the story of the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service in both wars, along with Quaker peace activities up to the present day.

Where and when?

- Gloucester** Cathedral South Transept 3 -15 May
- Nailsworth** Meeting House: 17 - 25 May as part of Nailsworth Festival
- Lydney** High Street: 30 - 31 May
- Newnham** George Café: 2 - 5 June
- Cheltenham** General Hospital, Sandford Road: 7 - 13 June
- Dursley** St Marks' Church: 14 – 20 June
- Cirencester** Meeting House: 21 – 28 June (as the first in a series of events in Cirencester around WW1)

Other activities planned to link with the exhibition

Public Meeting at Gloucester Cathedral **Thursday 15 May at 7.30**. Talk entitled *Peace Now: Time for Action* given by Diana Francis, next year's Swarthmore Lecturer, trainer and author in conflict transformation. Diana Francis is an inspirational person – not to be missed!

Silent video on continuous loop (produced by Fiona Meadley) showing archive footage from WW1 and the work of the FAU during WW2

Cirencester Meeting WW1 Poetry event: Saturday 21 June 2 - 5pm CMH

Evening talk: at Cirencester MH Wednesday 25 June 7.30pm by Robert Heaven (a member of Cirencester Meeting and a JP) on *Quakers in Gloucestershire: trials and tribulations*. This will include an enactment of a WW1 trial of a conscientious objector.

Archive material: we are hoping to make available on our Glos Quakers website archive material about Gloucestershire connections to the FAU and conscientious objectors. Hopefully we may also be able to display some memorabilia from the FAU in a portable display cabinet next to the exhibition.

Help requested from local meetings:

The Area Meeting Peace Group, who are mounting the exhibition, have the following requests:

We need your help with publicity

There are:

- Small flyers about the exhibition with small separate sheet inside about the public meeting
- A4 posters about the exhibition, A4 posters about the public meeting
- A5 posters about the exhibition, A5 posters about the public meeting

We need your help with stewarding at Gloucester Cathedral 3 – 15 May

The exhibition will be in the south transept of the cathedral for nearly 2 weeks from Saturday 3 May to Thursday 15 May (stewarding from 10 am to 4 pm).

We do not need stewards all the time and Gloucester Friends will be taking the lead, but they will need lots of additional help as it would be good to have people stewarding at all busy times such as Saturdays and Sunday afternoons.

Some help will be needed for the Cheltenham Hospital venue 7-13 June

Offers of help for any of these to Alison Crane.