

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

JUNE 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.)

May			
Saturday	24	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Pastoral Friends Tea Party
Wednesday	28	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Friday	30	til 28 June	Friends Relief Work Exhibition in various venues
June			
Sunday	1	12.00 noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	5	7.30pm	Meeting of Pastoral Friends
Sunday	8	1.00pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business see below
Tuesday	10	2.00pm	Meeting of Elders
Sunday	18	12 noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Thursday	20	7.00pm	Searchers Group see below
Wednesday	25	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Sunday	29	12.00 noon	Fifth Sunday talk followed by shared lunch

Area Meeting for Worship for Business will be held on Sunday 8 June hosted by Stroud Friends at the Whiteway Colony Hall, Stroud.

Meeting for Learning in June will be a preparation for the weekend at Charney Manor. We hope everyone will come especially if you are unable to come to the weekend.

Fifth Sunday 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.

JUNE COLLECTION is for Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). This was formed in 1937 to encourage spirit-led fellowship between Friends from all parts of the world. It aims to bring Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, to express our common heritage and to give our Quaker message to the world. Consultative status with the United Nations and association with our two Quaker United Nations offices offer a means to monitor and present Quaker contributions to world affairs. FWCC unites with other churches in the World Council of Churches in working together for justice and peace. Through the four autonomous, cooperating section offices, FWCC runs programmes in different regions. Quaker groups all over the world can be discovered by contacting the World Office, based in London. Donations can be done through the website www.fwccworld.org or sent to FWCC World Office, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AX. tel: 0207 663 1199. 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 16 June at the latest

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

SPIRITUALADVENTURE 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. The final payment should be made by **25 May**. Payments can be made by cheque or bank transfer, or cash in special circumstances. 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

NOTES FROM MAY LOCAL MEETING

The Treasurer reported that he sent £100 to Pales Quaker Meeting - mid Wales - in response to their appeal for help to replace their water reed thatch roof.

Meeting agreed that the fee of £195, and travel costs, should there be any, would be paid by Meeting so that our Treasurer might attend the Treasurers' Conference at Woodbrooke 9 - 11 May.

Following the conference "Transforming ourselves -- transforming the system" (Canterbury Commitment Conference 7-9 March 2014) we are exploring the possibility of a Fifth Sunday Meeting to inform and inspire us to action. 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.

The Calendar is now on our website; Clerks would like to augment it by adding in dates for groups: Searchers, Quaker Book Group and Quaker Art Group and any others. Clerks ask representatives of these groups to email our Co-clerk Pat Dannahy so that these may be included.

NOTES FROM MAY AREA MEETING

Membership: Pat Beard was welcomed into membership and will be attached to Cirencester LM. Lis Parker was welcomed back into membership, having resigned her birthright membership previously. She will be attached to Nailsworth LM.

News of Friends: Mary Brown's book "Confessions of a Prison Chaplain" will be launched on 29 May.

Concern from Nailsworth Meeting: It was agreed to send the following Minute from Nailsworth Meeting to Meeting for Sufferings:

"We ask Area Meeting to request Meeting for Sufferings to consider how Quaker organisations might best respond to the situation in Ukraine, to seek a peaceful resolution to the crisis. We also ask QPSW, as a matter of urgency, to prepare a briefing for Friends on the complex Ukraine situation and potential non-violent solutions. We ask our Peace representatives to keep us informed of relevant information and action, and to prompt further discussion and discernment as needed."

Reports: Written reports from the conferences on "Towards a Quaker View of Mental Health" and "Exploring the Work of QPSW" can be found in the AM Minutes circulated on News of Friends, and in the Library.

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 co-clerk Ian Brighton for the day it is being given. Please contact him for more information.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 Margaret Cooper.

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?

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

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.

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

Please sign up on the noticeboard in the lobby if you can offer to help.