

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JULY 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.)

June			
Friday	20	Til 22	Cheltenham Spiritual Adventure Weekend at Charney Manor
Saturday	21	til 28	Friends Relief Work Exhibition in Cirencester QMH
Wednesday	25	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Sunday	29	12 noon	Fifth Sunday Talk see below
Monday	30	10am	Meeting of Elders
July			
Sunday	6	12.00 noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Monday	7	7.30pm	Liaison Meeting see below
Sunday	13	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Cirencester QMH
Thursday	17	7.00pm	Searchers Group see below
Sunday	20	12 noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Thursday	24	7.30pm	Meeting of Pastoral Friends
Wednesday	30	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's

Liaison Meeting: This meeting is for Clerks, Elders, Pastoral Friends, Treasurers, Premises Committee, Children's Committee to meet and share the work they have been doing. It meets about every three months.

Meeting for Learning in July will look at sharing our experiences at the Charney Manor weekend and ahead to Yearly Meeting

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.

JULY COLLECTION is for County Community Projects. This local charity offers advice and support to people with multiple problems relating to homelessness, family breakdown, substance and alcohol abuse, mental health, criminality, training, education, employment, and social deprivation. Their trained volunteers support people in police custody, family mediation and give families support in their own homes. Their Cheltenham 1st Stop project is open for information and advice at 305 High Street Cheltenham from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. The website for giving is www.ccprojects.org.uk or call 01242 228 999.

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 21 July at the latest

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

NOTES FROM JUNE LOCAL MEETING

Spiritual Adventure Weekend at Charney Manor: It was reported that our facilitator has had to withdraw for compelling family reasons. Elders were asked to use the existing programme and planning to organise the event as a cooperative effort by the Meeting.

Premises: Alison Crane reported that we have been given a grant from Western Power towards Meeting House Lighting, enabling us to change various of the light fittings to take LED bulbs.

Data collection of Membership: Our Area Meeting Clerk for Membership, Sal Drummond, brought to our notice that we are currently tabulating Friends for our records as male/female; similarly, our marriage certificate is not up to date, certainly with the latest legislation, but also possibly no longer in line with our values. We agreed to find out what Friends House does with the information we send and that the item is put on the Agenda for Area Meeting and brought back to our July Local Meeting.

Quaker Week: Judy Roles brought us up to date with the work of the group organising this. They propose two initiatives: one on site, one off site. On site, Sunday 21 September: inviting representatives from Meeting House hirers, coinciding with the Cheltenham Green Doors week in Cheltenham, to include a display about energy relating to our solar panels and having a display on Quaker beliefs and practices; the off site one is likely to involve the University.

Alison Crane gave us her thoughts on returning from Australia:

Alison reminded us that she attended several meetings in Australia; returning to our Meeting anew, she was concerned to find that our notices and the introduction to minutes in Local Meetings sometimes do not include a context; some of our members are not on email, and we do not always take this fully into account; notices: is there a necessity for brevity? We do not currently welcome visitors and newcomers in a way that allows them to speak, should they so wish.

We reminded ourselves that we each have responsibility for the conduct of the Meeting. Specifically, Elders were asked to consider the question of formally welcoming visitors and newcomers, and thinking about notices.

NOTES FROM JUNE AREA MEETING

Membership: Patsy Dickenson was welcomed into membership. She will be attached to Nailsworth LM.

News of Friends: Molly Scott Cato (Nailsworth) has become the first Green Party MEP for the South West.

Financial Report: Sarah Eilbeck, AM Treasurer took us through the financial report for 2013. Our finances and those of BYM are in a healthy financial position.

Criminal Justice matters: Friends involved in a variety of criminal justice matters brought us up to date regarding the current situation. We heard from Mary Brown (Positive Justice, Gloucestershire); Sue Barrance and Judy Roles (prison work at Leyhill, Long Larton); and also Sue Barrance briefly introduced an item related to Circles of Support and Accountability.

Greater detail of reports can be found in the AM Minutes circulated on News of Friends, and in our 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.

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.

DUTIES ROTA

The number of Friends who have put themselves down to help with doorkeeping, teas and flowers has diminished recently and our compiler of the list, Bill Rowland, is in need of more volunteers. Most people who do one or more of these small tasks enjoy it, and the more people volunteer, the less often they are called on to help. Please contact Bill if you would like to find out more, or put your name on the list.

Also, please, if you are on the list and can't help on the day, ask someone else to change with you. It makes it very difficult for everyone if no one turns up to do doorkeeping or teas, and the table looks so much nicer with some flowers.

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. When Pastoral friends meet we hold friends in the Light. If you feel you need support or you know of someone in Meeting who may need support, please tell one of the Pastoral Friends.

Tim Howarth

TEA PARTY

Pastoral Friends would like to thank all those Friends who supported their Tea Party on Saturday 24th May. It was a lovely opportunity to share food together, along with the experience of walking a labyrinth. Some reflections on the latter included "spiritual food for thought", and a "relaxing and calming experience". All in all a happy afternoon, and £100 was raised in aid of CRUSE Cheltenham (the bereavement support charity). Thank you.

Jo Joy

Please see over for the latest copy of the rota -

Doorkeeping, Flowers and Teas Aug. 3rd to November 30th

Date	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
Aug 3rd	Pat Dannahy	Mike Lang	Tim Howarth
Aug 10th	June Drummond	Janet Weyers	Philip Paull
Aug 17th	Rowland Carson	Lydia Sutcliffe	Dorothy Carson
Aug 24th	Jo Teakle	Julie Stubbs	Margaret Sheldrick
Aug 31st	Jane Brighton	Margot Roe	Jo Teakle
Sept 7th	Alison Crane	Elaine Boulter	Janet Weyers
Sept 14th	Jill Vyle	Maureen Steffen	Brenda Judge
Sept 21st	Jack Danes	Margaret Danes	Nigel Smith
Sept 28th	Julie Stubbs	Iris Terrell	Maureen Steffen
Oct 5th	Tim Howarth	Pat Dannahy	Margot Roe
Oct 12th	Mike Lang	Sal Drummond	Ian Brighton
Oct 19th	Ann Caro	Ruth Baker	June Drummond
Oct 26th	Philip Paull	Janet Weyers	Richard Lacock
Nov 2nd	Joy Heaven	Jill Vyle	Chris Vyle
Nov 9th	Dorothy Carson	Philip Paull	Rowland Carson
Nov 16th	Nigel Smith	Lydia Sutcliffe	Ann Caro
Nov 23rd	Margaret Sheldrick	Jane Brighton	Jo Teakle
Nov 30th	Philip Paull	Margaret Johnson	Judy Roles

If a date is not convenient to you please arrange to swap with someone else on the list

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.

Flowers It would be helpful to the Meeting if the flowers could be put on the table by 10.15am

Contact

Bill Rowland