

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
February 2018, Number 252



Sketch by John Geekie

Meeting for Worship and Children's Meeting is held every Sunday @ 10.30am
at Warwick Friends Meeting House, 39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
All are welcome - for more information, please see our website:
www.warwickquakers.org.uk

Do we have enough confidence in each other to know that our problems as well as our convictions and uncertainties can be shared with understanding?

Peggy McGeoghegan, 1976, Quaker Faith and Practice, 10:10

Welcome to the February edition of *The Friendly Link*

Hello! As many of you will know, I have taken over editing the Friendly Link from Ruth Gaston. A big thanks to Ruth for a great handover last weekend. I'm really looking forward to being Editor and contributing to our community in this way. I can't take something over without making a few changes (whether they are improvements or not I will rely on you to tell me!), and this month I have introduced a table of contents to help us all navigate the sections more easily and re-considered some of the sections. I am very happy to listen to your ideas and feedback, so do get in contact.

Contributions are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the March edition of The Friendly Link will be Sunday February 25th. Please send your contributions to: -
editor@warwickquakers.org.uk. Anna Edelsten

Table of Contents

To go directly to any section, hold your mouse over the relevant words, and click your mouse with your left finger whilst pressing the CTRL button (bottom left of the keyboard) at the same time.

Quaker Diary	3
Welcomers' Rota.....	4
Business Meeting Reports.....	4
Children's Meeting Rota	5
Appointments for 2018.....	6
Notices	7
Yearly Meeting 2018	8
Central England Area Events	9
Woodbrooke Course Corner	11

Quaker Diary

There is no Area Meeting in February.

Sunday 4th February: Business Meeting. 12:00 noon

Sunday 4th February: Social committee film trip to Warwick Arts Centre to see *The Post* at 19:30

Sunday 11th February: Social committee trip to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry; 13:00

Sunday 18th February: All Age Singing 12:00-12:30, bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them.

Saturday 24th February: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 25th February: Deadline for contributions to the March Edition of the Friendly Link.

Sunday 25th February: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

Sunday 25th February: Eye witness - stories from the West Bank & Israel, Maria Huff; 12:45; admission free.

Sunday 4th March: Business Meeting. 12:00 noon

Saturday 10th March: Morning walk around Lowsonford, 4 - 5 miles, meet at 10.30.

Mid-week Meetings

12.30pm, Wednesdays: Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place, and Leamington

1.15pm, Tuesdays during term-time: Chaplaincy Centre, Univ. of Warwick

Welcomers' Rota

If you would like to know who is welcoming, you can either visit the website (www.warwickquakers.org.uk), check the business minutes or see below!

February 04	Alan Sanger, Edward Creasy
February 11	Joanna Hardcastle, Louisa Radice
February 18	Mel Dearing, Diana Biddlestone
February 25	Jane Beale, Clive Dove-Dixon
March 04	Marian Millington, Rob Hooper

Business Meeting Reports

Those reports that are due over the next few months are highlighted in bold.

January	Overseers
February	Elders
March	Café
	Treasurer
April	Fund-raising committee
May	Social Committee
June	Nominations
July	Web Manager
September	Friendly link
October	CYPC
November	Premises & Finance
	Library

Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: Daughters of Eve: Strong Women of the Bible. CYPC will leave 2 copies of this book in the Children's Library. It is a fabulous book so you may want to buy your own second hand or new copy.

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
04 Feb	A Passion for Discovery: Alexander Graham Bell	Wendy Edwards	Sarah Thompson
11 Feb	The Shepherd who became King: David	Anna Edelsten	John Harding
18 Feb	A flight of cranes: Sadako Sasaki	Helen Pemberton	Marilyn Biles
25 Feb	Youth Journeys 9: Alcohol and drugs (older children)	Ruth Gaston	Zoe James
	Activity time for younger children	Wendy Edwards	Marian Millington
04 Mar	Journeys in the Light (book available from Anna): The Fugitive	Meg Harper	Ann James

The topic leader has main responsibility for preparing the topic. However, we would **encourage the topic leader and supporter to chat a few days beforehand**; great ideas result and the session usually flows so much better.

Golden (Unstructured)Time: Golden time is the topic during children's holidays and busy times; when we expect very few and possibly even no children will be attending. At these times we will only provide one DBS checked adult and parents will be expected to stay with their children. Golden time is a time when there is a chance for the children to spend time in more unstructured or self chosen activities. We encourage games, craft, painting or if the leader wishes to run a topic of their own we are grateful. We have games, toys, art materials and books available for the children, parents and leader to make use of. The children may also bring games, books, sewing or other activities they might like to share or lead but it would be helpful if their parent could let the leader know if they plan to bring something the evening before.

If you feel led to help with the children's programme, please contact Annie Pettifer, convenor of CYPC.

All helpers need to be cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service, but this is not a painful process!

John Sheldon, Annie Pettifer

Appointments for 2018

Clerk: Meg Harper

Assistant clerk: Diana Biddlestone

Treasurer: Sarah Thompson

Assistant treasurer: Alan Sanger

Assistant treasurer (accounts): Marilyn Biles

Examiner of Accounts: Anne Ullathorne

Elders: Jane Holt, Rob Hooper and Paula Button

Overseers: Jane Beale, Helen Pemberton, Ann James, Marilyn Biles

Premises and finance: Paul Rutter (to 12/19), Stephen Holt (to 12/18), Mel Dearing (to 2020). Ex officio: Treasurer. In attendance: Warden

Fund-raising group: Sunita Evans, Marian Millington, John Sheldon, Ex officio: Treasurer

Library committee: Stella Rutter, David Hardiman

CYPC: Annie Pettifer, Meg Harper, Ruth Gaston, John Sheldon (rota only). An elder and overseer will try to attend each meeting of this committee.

Nominations committee: Roger Chapman, Jane Beale, Wendy Edwards

Peace Festival: John Harding, Ruth Gaston

Web manager and Meeting Information Manager: Dave Rawcliffe

Café committee: Marilyn Biles, Dave Rawcliffe, Sarah Thompson. Paul Lively, cafe manager, is ex officio and up to four community reps co-opted by the committee.

Social committee: John Harding, Stella Rutter, Paula Button

Welcomers' rota: Ann James, Wendy Edwards

Safeguarding co-ordinators: Diana Biddlestone, John Harding

QPSW link: David Hardiman

Friendly Link editor: Anna Edelsten

Data protection: Paul Rutter

Contact for University of Warwick: Rob Hooper

“What I believe” column co-ordinator: Paula Button

Warwick Hospital chaplain: John Sheldon

Funeral Advisors: Wendy Edwards & John Sheldon

Notices

Announcement from Overseers and Safeguarding Coordinators

Members and attenders who missed the important announcement given out at the Meeting for Worship on 14th January 2018 are invited to contact an overseer for further information.

In friendship
John

Learning opportunities at Warwick Meeting

Elders held our first meeting on 18th January and would like to share some of our thoughts concerning the spiritual well-being of Warwick Meeting.

Spiritual Learning and Growing

We would like to provide opportunities for learning for the meeting as a whole. In the short term, two Elders will be attending a study day at Bull Street in mid February based on a new Quaker book recently published called God, Words and Us. This explores some of the challenges that language presents to open communication in the area of religion/belief/the spirit, and gives plenty of room for sharing and discussion. We hope that this will be appropriate to offer ourselves as a study session for Warwick meeting.

We would also like to invite individuals to contact us with any ideas they may have of areas they might like to explore or study. We are keen to hear what interests people have and we could then discern the best way of setting up appropriate groups. So please feel free to contact us and have a chat!

In friendship,
Jane Holt, Rob Hooper and Paula Button

Social Committee Plans and Ideas

We held our first meeting of the year on the 17th January. Please see all the upcoming events in the Quaker Diary section and we hope you will join us.

We are also considering the following ideas:

- A 'learn to crochet' group (and support a local charity by making poppies or green squares?).
- Other films (join our film group): Darkest Hour and The Shape of Water.
- A weekend away at Ironbridge to visit The Darby Houses and attend a Meeting for Worship there. 29th/ 30th September. Youth Hostel, camping or a visit for the day.
- A summer's evening boating in St Nicholas Park, Warwick.

Please let us know if you have any other suggestions.

John, Stella and Paula.

EYE-WITNESS: Stories from the West Bank & Israel. Sun 25th Feb, 12:45 at Warwick Quaker Meeting House. Admission free.

What is daily life under occupation really like? What is the Israeli peace movement doing? What can we do to promote a just peace in Israel-occupied Palestine? For answers to these questions and more, come and hear Maria Huff who visited the West Bank for 3 months in 2016. For more information please contact Wendy 07952 251523.

Yearly Meeting 2018 4-7 May at Friends House in London

Yearly Meeting is when Quakers in Britain come together to worship, make decisions and spend time as a community. Yearly Meetings are also occasions in which we can learn, practise, improve, and take back to our local meetings ways of conducting business which are rooted in Quaker tradition and our own experience yet also meet contemporary challenges. The purposes and functions of Yearly Meeting are described in Quaker faith & practice 6.02-6.11, which also gives the background to the business agenda.

Those in formal membership of one of the area meetings within Britain Yearly Meeting are encouraged to attend and take part in the deliberations. Attenders who want to attend sessions can do so with the permission of the Yearly Meeting Clerk. They should ask an elder at their local meeting to write a letter of support to the Yearly Meeting Clerks via Friends House.

While no booking is required, Friends are asked to assist in the practical arrangements for Yearly Meeting by registering their intention to attend. There will be an online form early in 2018. To find out more about Yearly Meeting go to: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

The Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting is open for bookings: From 5 - 7 May, during Yearly Meeting, the Children's Programme is available on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday in the mornings and afternoons. This enables 0 - 11 year olds (born between 1.9.06 and 3.5.18) to participate and share in Yearly Meeting in their own ways. The different age groups will give children age appropriate ways to explore their place in Quakers and the world, make friendships, worship, be creative, have fun and play games. It is an opportunity to be part of making and experiencing a Quaker community. For more information and a link to an online booking form www.quaker.org.uk/events/cp2018.

The Young People's Programme at Yearly Meeting is open for bookings: From 4 - 7 May the Young People's Programme (born between 01/09/2002 and 31/08/2006) provides an opportunity for young Quakers aged 11 - 15 to gather in community with their peers, whilst engaging with Yearly Meeting in age appropriate ways. The event provides space for worship and exploration of concerns that are of importance to Quakers. It will be fun, thought provoking and exciting reflecting the Yearly Meeting topics. It takes place residentially at Feldon Lodge in Hemel Hempstead. For more information and a link to an online booking form www.quaker.org.uk/events/ypp2018.

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) nominations: Places are available for JYM, which takes place for 15 - 18 year olds (born between 1.9.99 and 31.8.02) residentially May 4 - 7 at the same time as Yearly Meeting. Young people can be nominated through their Area Meeting or can apply for a place directly. Full details can be found at www.yqspace.org.uk/junior-yearly-meeting-2018.

Central England Area Events

To find out about events taking place in the Area Meeting go to:

<http://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/events/>

Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 01 Feb 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield Quaker Meeting House

All are welcome to join us on the first Thursday of every month. A small group come together for a silent half-hour of remembering, praying for, and 'holding in the Light' those people who are personally known to each participant, and who are ill, possibly disabled too, and who may be recently deceased or bereaved. The names of those who are ill are listed beforehand, and there is usually a little 'background' provided by the informant. At the end of the silent prayer meeting, all the names are read out by the convenor. The prayer group participants also express their more general concerns about pain & suffering in the wider world; these are similarly listed, and later read out. 'Healing' as such is simply seen as a component of prayer. The prayer group has occasionally received positive feedback from those who have been the subject of prayer, to the extent that they feel 'supported' in their plight.

Digging the Dirt Sat 03 Feb 14:30 - 17:00 at Sutton Coldfield Quaker MH

Multistory theatre company presents a 5 star rated, award-winning production that weaves together two stories: a couple from a time past attempt to dig themselves a brighter future whilst a couple from time present face the repercussions of whistle-blowing. Rooted in both historical and contemporary events, the twin stories twist around each other as the pressure builds. What do you give up in the name of freedom? How far do you compromise to protect your principles? All are welcome; this is a free performance with a collection afterwards.

Exploring the Quaker Testimonies Wed 14 Feb 10:30 - 11:30 at Bournville Quaker Meeting House

A monthly discussion group for Quakers to explore and deepen our understanding of the fundamental principles central to Quakerism which we strive to honour in our daily lives. About twenty minutes of mostly silent contemplation, which might be focused on a brief reading concerning the principle of the day, is followed by a further forty minutes exploring how this principle can help us in our daily lives. Tea & coffee available from 10:15 and again after the discussion.

God, Words and Us Sat 17 Feb, 10:00 - 14:00 at Bull Street Quaker Meeting House RSVP by Feb 4th to hilary.johnson1@blueyonder.co.uk with your dietary requirements

A study morning to begin to explore the issues raised in the new booklet 'God, Words & Us' in preparation for Yearly Meeting. For elders, overseers, pastoral carers and other interested Friends. Coffee is available from 10:00, the sessions start at 10:30, a light lunch will be provided at 13:00. Hilary Johnson & Donald Whitlock are facilitating on behalf of Elders & Overseers Support Group.

What does Peace & Justice mean today? Sun 18 Feb 12:00 - 12:45 at Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House

Cotteridge Quakers invite you to a talk by Peter Doubtfire of Peace Hub. Peter will give a talk about 'What Peace and Social Justice means today; why Quakers care about it; and how we can all make a difference' followed by a discussion. If you're curious how Quakers put our faith into action, come along and feel free to ask questions. Before the discussion, you are welcome to join Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30, and/or to stay after the talk for a shared lunch. All welcome, no need to book. We look forward to meeting you!

Quaker Panto Workshop Fri 23 - Sun 25 Feb All Day at Selly Oak Quaker Meeting House

You are warmly invited to join this weekend-long workshop, in which participants will devise and then perform a Quaker Panto! Friends (of any age!) who would fancy joining us for a weekend of theatre making and sheer ridiculousness (with a Quaker twist) would be very welcome. No prior experience of performance is needed - just a willingness to have a go and a sense of humour! The Panto will be performed at 14:30 on Sunday 25th February at Selly Oak Quaker Meeting House. If interested get in touch with Clare Peat at sellyoakquakers@gmail.com

This event has been organised by Friends who feel that since Leavers was laid down they've missed the opportunity to have fun making theatre and music with other Friends in an inclusive Quaker environment. It will be facilitated by a former Leavers staff member.

Woodbrooke Course Corner

To find out about courses run at Woodbrooke, either pick up a copy of the *Woodbrooke Learning Brochure* for 2018 from the information table in the coffee room, or go to <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/view-course-search/> for residential courses and <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/online-learning/> for online courses.

Residential courses

Set in the beautiful grounds of the former home of George Cadbury, a peaceful environment awaits you. Please ask overseers if you require financial assistance. You may also attend these courses as a non-resident.

February	March
<p>Fri 02 - Sun 04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Navigating Life's Changes ○ Being a Quaker Clerk ○ Sex and the Spirit 	<p>Fri 02 - Sun 04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From Militarisation to Peace
<p>Mon 05 - Wed 07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anger Management with Art ○ A Friendly Introduction to Discernment ○ Mark: Good News for Dark Times 	<p>Mon 05 - Wed 07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Being a Quaker Trustee ○ Metaphysical Poets
<p>Fri 09 - Sun 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quakers and European Politics ○ Mental Health in Our Meetings 	<p>Mon 05 - Fri 09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Icon Painting as a Spiritual Practice: from Traditional to Contemporary Icon
<p>Wed 21-Fri 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stepping into the Parables: Creative Approaches to the Teaching of Jesus ○ Resilient Communities 	<p>Wed 14 - Wed 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Apocalyptic Tradition ○ The Art of Grounding Oneself
<p>Fri 23 - Sun 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to Experiment with Light 	<p>Fri 16 - Sun 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Changing Face of Faith in Britain. How should Quakers Respond? ○ Building a Diverse and Transformative Movement for Change ○ Exploring Nominations
	<p>Fri 30 - Mon 02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wise Hands: an Appleseed Course

Online courses

Mon 5 Feb - Sun 18 Mar: A Quaker Response to Animal Suffering

Mon 5 Feb - Sun 12 Mar: Being a Quaker Treasurer

Mon 19 Feb - Sun 1 Apr: Reality and Radiance - a Retreat with Inspiration from Swedish Quaker Emilia Fogelklou

Tue 6 Mar -Tue 10 Apr: The Mother of Quakerism - The Life and Writings of Margaret Fell

Mon 19 Mar - Sun 29 Apr: An Online Retreat for Young Adult Friends

Thu 22 Mar - Thu 5 Apr: Writing Brilliant Annual Reports

Conference

Quaker Conference Nontheist Friends Quaker in 2032: What Will our Society Look Like? *Fri 9 - Sun 11 Mar, Woodbrooke £220* Speakers: Linda Murgatroyd, Harvey Gillman and David Boulton

In 2005 Quaker Studies analysed the trends of falling membership of the Society of Friends as dwindling to 0 by 2032, when British Quakerism would become history. We are more optimistic today. But what will our Society look like in 2032? How will it change socially, theologically, and influentially? Our explorations and discussions will be led by three well known speakers covering the diversity and wide spectrum of different views amongst Quakers in Britain today.

Booking should be made via Hugh Rock: 26 Fairmile, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2LA. Tel: 07500 914440 Email: hugh_rock@btconnect.com