

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
September 2019, Number 258



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

“What can I learn from you about my Quaker identity? How is God's spirit/Life in all its fullness breathing through you, in your life and your context? How can I serve you?” This is what makes for ‘community’, this is the path that can help us hone the ability to spot and respond to “that of God” in everyone.’

Marissa Johnson; God, Words and Us; p22

Welcome to the September edition of *The Friendly Link*

The long hot summer is over and autumn seems to be fast approaching. Welcome back to all those who have been away! This month we have a Kindlers workshop, our second Meeting for Healing and a social committee trip to Ironbridge to look forward to, not to mention our regular events: soup and a roll, all age singing and business meeting. The notices provide more information about the events, there is an article you should read on funeral arrangements, and the new section Eco tips has been launched with two entries. Don't forget to send in your tips for living more sustainably!

Your contributions are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the October edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday September 30th. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.
Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

Sunday 2nd September: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Saturday 8th September: Area Meeting at Northfield Quaker Meeting House, 14:00–17:00

Sunday 16th September: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Tuesday 18th September: Meeting for Healing, 19:30

Saturday 22nd September: Kindlers workshop *Nurturing Our Meetings*, 10:30-16:30

Saturday 22nd September: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 23rd September: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

29th – 30th September: Social committee visit to Ironbridge

Tuesday 2nd October: The Beat Goes On....Journeyman Theatre's latest production starting at 19:30 at Warwick Meeting House

Sunday 7th October: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Mid-week Meetings

12.30pm, Wednesdays: Jeffries Room, Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place

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!

2 September	Ruth Gaston and Joanna Hardcastle
9 September	Louisa Radice and Alan Sanger
16 September	Annie Pettifer and Roger Chapman
23 September	Anna Edelsten and Dave Rawcliffe
30 September	Still need volunteers
7 October	Helen Pemberton and Ann James

Business Meeting Reports

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

January	
February	Library (delayed from 2017)
March	Treasurer Overseers Café
April	
May	Elders Social Committee
June	Nominations Fundraising committee
July	Web Manager
August	
September	Friendly Link
October	CYPC
November	Premises and Finance
December	Library

Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: Arts and Crafts with a spiritual dimension

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
9th Sept	How was your summer?	Anna Edelsten	Jane Holt
16th Sept	Knitting as a spiritual discipline	Wendy Edwards	Gill Smith
23rd Sept	Embroidery and stillness	Annie Pettifer	Rob Hooper
30 th Sept	Golden (Unstructured) Time	N/A	Helen Pemberton
7th Oct	Meditative Crochet Crafts	Meg Harper	Marian Millington
14th Oct	Nesta teaches us how to make Friendship Bracelets to raise money for Water Aid	Ruth Gaston	Ann James
21st Oct	All Age Worship	No Adults required	No adults required
28th Oct	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half Term Hols)	N/A	Marilyn Biles
4th Nov	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half Term Hols)	N/A	Rob Hooper

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

Notices

'Nurturing Our Meetings' Kindlers Day Workshop 10:30-16:00 Saturday 22nd September at Warwick Meeting

Information below. Please contact Paula Button ASAP to ensure your place is booked.

What elements and practices are essential in creating vibrant, supportive communities in our Quaker Meetings? The workshop takes each section of Advice 18 and through a series of activities looks at ways to foster that sense of a vibrant, supportive all inclusive community. It is about discovering love, peace and tenderness through creating radical welcome and opportunities for deepening connection.

In Quaker Faith and Practice it says:

'To Quakers, the visible mark of being a 'church' is not conformity to a particular creed, or liturgical or sacramental practice, but the quality of communal life which reveals the extent of the community's willingness to seek and follow the Spirit's call to loving fellowship...'

How can we build that restorative, loving community from which our lives individually and corporately are nourished and can speak? During the day there will be a range of activities which are all by invitation. By having a range of activities we hope that there will be something for everyone. Friends will be working in pairs, small groups and plenary sessions.

The facilitators for this workshop will be Ann Banks and Val Bone from Hebden Bridge LM and Madeleine Prager from Rugby LM.

Details: 10:00 for a 10:30 start; refreshments provided; lunch will be bring and share; finish at 16:00.

Please contact me if you have any questions or any special requirements.

Mobile- 07746 348036

Email- paula0206@hotmail.co.uk

In friendship,

Paula Button

Meeting for Healing and Wholeness

Our first Meeting for Healing went well and was appreciated by the people who came. Our next Meeting for Healing at Warwick will be at the Meeting House on **Tuesday September 18th, starting at 7.30pm** and followed by time for a drink and a chat. The Meeting for Healing will last for up to an hour, followed by time for a drink and chat. Please come along if you would like to hold concerns for yourself and/or others in the Light, either sharing aloud, or silently.

Jane Holt, Paula Button, Rob Hooper; Gill Smith

And the Beat Goes On...

As part of this year's Quaker Week, we are hosting a performance of Journeymen Theatre's latest production "And the beat goes on...", which is about the various ways that Quaker men and women have used nonviolent direct action to challenge injustice and inequality; to oppose war, and to speak truth to power. The play uses sketches and monologues to describe how these people in their different ways made waves and rocked the establishment boat. They include the very early abolitionists, the first known woman hunger striker, a Palestinian Quaker peace activist, and the Trident Ploughshares movement. It treats its range of characters with a combination of admiration and playful irreverence, showing the many forms nonviolent direct action has taken, from the power of the pen through to practical measures verging on the subversive, and the sheer ingenuity of creative nonviolence.

Come and be inspired! – and invite friends who might be interested along too, to learn more about Quakers and some of their history.

The performance will take place at the Meeting House on Tuesday 2nd October, starting at 7.30pm. We will serve tea, coffee etc after the performance, which runs for about 70 minutes without an interval.

Journeymen Theatre comprises two actors, Lynn & Dave Morris. They have done a few performances for us at Warwick in recent years, and I am very much looking forward to seeing this new work. It is suitable for those aged 16 and over.

There is no charge for the performance, but Lynn and Dave do ask for donations from the audience. These will go towards work being undertaken by the Seir Women's Co-operative, West Bank, Palestine – their current project is the refurbishment of the village school library.

Please could you email me at janeholt57@gmail.com to say if you intend to come, so that we have some idea of numbers to expect for seating and catering. I would also welcome offers of help with serving refreshments.

Jane Holt

Planning our own funerals

At our business meeting in July I was asked to write this piece and, with the recent deaths in the meeting, it seems timely to do so. Because one Friend had left clear written wishes about their funeral the family were much helped by knowing what their loved one wanted; because one Friend did not make their wishes known it is possible that the family moved away from what would have been most appropriate.

One of the things that I realised, following a conference I attended at Woodbrooke, was that I should re-think my own death and funeral arrangements. I no longer take the view that the funeral can be left to the family left behind on the basis that they should be free to choose how (or if) they commemorate my passing. I now realise that my death may be unexpected and could leave the family in some disarray when they might be helped a great deal by knowing my wishes, or guidance, on how my remains might be disposed of and how my passing might be marked by some ceremony or ritual.

Accordingly I have started to complete the very helpful form produced by the Yearly Meeting which appears online, and is included as a separate attachment/document with this edition of Link (in a slightly amended form) and I will complete it with the help of my family and of Wendy Edwards, who is also a funeral adviser for the meeting. Wendy has asked me to do the same for her.

If you think it would be helpful, we encourage you to complete the form also. Since it may bring up some difficult feelings as well as requiring careful thought we encourage you to seek the help of others eg family members, an elder, overseer or funeral adviser. Please pass a copy of the completed form to Wendy or myself so that it can be held confidentially, centrally and securely.

If you have already completed an earlier version of this form would you let Wendy or me know so that we can double check that it is still on file?

With many thanks

John Sheldon, funeral adviser

Eco tips column

Sustainability matters

As you may know, Warwick Meeting is working towards an Eco Church award, which looks at various areas of our lives as individuals and as a Meeting. The award was designed for Anglican churches but is readily adaptable for Quaker Meetings. The areas covered are: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global aspects, and lifestyle.

We have had an initial look at this, with a couple of other Friends, and intend to work through the programme. This has given rise to ideas such as the Local Food Fair being held on Sunday 9th September after Meeting for Worship, and twinning of our toilets to provide 3 toilets in a country where such facilities cannot be taken for granted.

We would love more people to get involved, to whatever degree they feel able to – if you would like to do this, please let us know!

Friends are invited to send their particular ways of reducing their carbon footprint to the Friendly Link editor so that these can be shared and help us all to live more sustainably. And why not calculate your baseline carbon footprint - you can use a website such as <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk> then you can track your improvements along the way.

Wendy Edwards & Jane Holt

Contact us: wendy.r.edwards@gmail.com; janeholt57@gmail.com (or speak to us after Meeting!)

Water saving

Due to the long hot summer (now ended!) I started saving water by putting a bucket under the shower to catch the water as we waited for it to change from cold to hot. I also did this with the kitchen tap and our washing up. I was taken aback by how much water we usually waste waiting for the system to warm up the water. Now that the rain has returned, I would like to continue to save water, but have no obvious use for the excess. Does anyone have any suggestions? We already have water butts to capture the rain water for the garden and rarely need more. Please email me at akedelsten@gmail.com or catch me after Meeting. Thank you!

Anna Edelsten

Community Message Board



Tree of Life Event Sat Oct 20th 9:30-17:30 at Beeches Conference Centre, 76 Selly Oak Rd, Bourneville B30 1LS

Solihull Friends are hosting a stand at this event, and would be thrilled if anyone felt moved to support them. They are also giving an half hour talk at 10:00. If you are interested in attending or helping out, please contact Donald Whitlock at donald.whitlock7@gmail.com.

Anna Edelsten

National Events

Facilitation Skills Day *Sat 10 November 10:00-16:30; Friends House, London*

This is a one-day event for those with experience of, or interest in, facilitation. There will be a space for sharing skills, stories and challenges with a chance to meet other facilitators. The day will include updates on the how Quaker Life Network facilitators are helping support Quaker meetings. There will be optional workshops on: Conflict, Mental Health, Radical Hospitality and Turning the Tide. Travel costs will be reimbursed. For more information and to book go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/facilitation-skills-day-tickets-48277190376>.

Children and Young People's Events

Facilitation and Leadership *19 – 21 October, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre*

This is a weekend for 15 – 21 year olds. The weekend is a dynamic combination of theory and opportunities to apply learning about facilitation and leadership using practical activities. This event will enable participants to develop confidence, understanding and skills as facilitators. There will be discussions, activities, group work, role-plays and video clips. It costs £95 (bursaries are available) including full board. Bookings close on **7 October**. For details and booking information go to: <http://www.yqspace.org.uk/FL2018>

Quaker Pilgrimage *19 – 22 October, Lancaster*

This is an event for 12 – 15 year olds. It provides an opportunity for young Quakers to follow in the footsteps of George Fox and other early Quakers alongside their peers. It will include visiting sites such as Pendle Hill, Firbank Fell and Swarthmoor Hall. There will also be time for worship, games, activities and reflection on the days' experiences. It costs £125 which includes accommodation, food, entrance fees to Lancaster Castle and travel during the event. Places are limited, the closing date for bookings is **20 September**, book early to avoid disappointment. For details and booking information go to: <http://www.yqspace.org.uk/pilgrimage-2018>

Living as a Quaker Link Weekend *24-25th November, Cotteridge Meeting House*

Have you been asked “What do Quakers believe?” or “Why do you call yourself a Quaker?” This can be a bit scary as you may be unsure what you really think and believe. This is a chance for you to explore what living as a Quaker means to you and to discover which Quaker Values and Testimonies matter to you. You won't be doing it on your own but with other young people who are asking themselves the same things. We hope you will be able to answer those questions with much more confidence!

This weekend is aimed at 10-14 year olds. It starts at 10am on the 24th and finishes at 12pm on the 25th. Closing date for applications is **2nd November**, but it is limited to 20 spaces so apply soon! For more information please contact John Harding.

Central England Area Events

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

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

Regular events (please see previous newsletters or Central England Area events link above for full details)

- **Creative Day at Northfield** *Sat 01 Sept and 06 Oct 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH*
- **Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing** *Thurs 06 Sept and 04 Oct 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH*
- **Exploring the Quaker Testimonies** *Wed 12 Sept 10:30 - 11:30 at Bournville QMH*
- **Becoming Friends - Faithful Diversity** (see below) *Tues 02 Oct 18:45-20:45 at Bull St QMH*

Family Cycle Ride *Sat 8 Sept 10:30-12:30 at Northfield EcoCentre, Birmingham*

Cycle South Brum invites Area Meeting Friends to join a cycle ride in the local area. Lots of bikes are available at the EcoCentre including children's cycles. You do not need to bring your own! The ride will last approx. 2 hours. Lunch is then available before Area Meeting, and there is a chance to visit Northfield EcoCentre as well. Please let us know how if you are coming and if you are bringing children to let us know their height beforehand. Contact: Judith Jenner, email: jjennerq@virginmedia.com

Prayer Vigil for Peace at Roxel *Mon 10 Sept, 8:30- 10:30 at Roxel, Kidderminster*

Quakers are joining with other Christians for a prayer vigil for peace at Roxel, organised by Midlands Christian Action. People from different denominations will take turns to lead prayers for peace. There will be a period of silent worship led by Quakers. Roxel manufacture engines for Stormshadow and Brimstone missiles. For more information, please contact micha@peacehub.org.uk

Becoming Friends *Tue 11 Sept, 18:45-20:45 at Bull St QMH, Birmingham*

On behalf of Elders & Overseers Support Group, Liz Collinge-Hill and Hilary Johnson have been joined by elders/overseers from other meetings to run a Becoming Friends Course, open to all interested Friends within the area meeting. Becoming Friends will help you develop an understanding of Quakerism, while exploring your own journey and connection with Friends. We welcome you to all sessions, though each session stands alone if you are unable to attend all dates. Welcome and drinks at 18:45; start at 19:15. This week's topic is Advices & Queries.

"Everything is connected: a lively discussion about identity, climate change, justice, and peace" *Fri 14th Sept, 19:30-21:30 at The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham*

Ruth Wilde, a UK Outreach Worker for Christian Peacemaker Teams and National Coordinator for Inclusive Church teams up with Peterson Toscano, a quirky queer Quaker

performance artist and scholar from the USA, well-known at Greenbelt. This will be an engaging, entertaining and thought-provoking evening. We are expecting this to be a popular event, so please book your tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/everything-is-connected-peterson-toscano-and-ruth-wilde-on-tour-tickets-45588957800>

‘God, Words & Us’ Tues 18th Sept, 19:30-19:00 at Edgbaston QMH, Birmingham

Based on the booklet ‘God, Words & Us’, this evening’s event will give us an opportunity to discuss our own experiences and understandings. You are most welcome to join us from 7pm for light refreshments. Discussion starts at 7:30.

Love Your Place on the Planet! Sat 22 Sept, 10:00-16:00 at Stourbridge Quaker Meeting House

A Quaker led day for people who want to make changes. Presentations & workshops by: Ruth Tetlow & Chris Martin from Small Footsteps, Hilary Whitehead from No Faith in Fracking, Friends of the Earth (Stourbridge). Creative activities include: cooking a surprise veggie/vegan meal on the day, creating a pledge to build a sustainable future for our children, creative activities for children throughout the day. Bring vegetables or fruit from your garden to help make our fest for the day. For the full timetable go to:

<http://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Love-your-place-on-the-planet-FINAL-timetable.pdf>

Becoming Friends Tue 25 Sept, 18:45-20:45 at Bull St QMH, Birmingham

See entry above. The topic this week will be silence and waiting.

Harvest Home 2018 Sat 29 Sept, 10:30-14:30 at Cotteridge QMH, Birmingham

An Open Day at Cotteridge Quaker Meeting In aid of B30 Foodbank & The Project (formerly South Birmingham Young Homeless). Activities include: ‘Food for Thought’ display; Re-Use/Re-Home table-top sale; Books, Garden Produce & Preserves; Children’s activities & treasure hunt; Free Tea/Coffee & Cake; Soup & Bread £1 from 12.30 Please get in touch if you wish to donate good quality items for the table-top sale.

Putting the ‘C’ into Community: Exploring Local Community Mon 01 Oct, 19:30 - 21:00, at Cotteridge QMH, Birmingham

Panel Presentations and Discussion. The panel consists of: Richard Trengrouse JP: (local historian, author and community development expert), Mat Wilson (Senior Minister Rowheath Pavilion Church) and Sue & Elaine (Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House wardens).

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.

September

Mon 3 - Tue 4 Sept	o 24 Hours for Stillness: An Experiment with Light Retreat
Mon 3 - Wed 5 Sept	o Losing Sight of the Shore
Mon 3 - Thu 6 Sept	o Let Me Tell You a Story...: Deepening Your Message Through Storytelling
Fri 7 - Sun 9 Sept	o Transgress & Transcend: An Exploration of Gender and Sex with Gay Bible Scholar Peterson Toscano
Fri 7 - Sun 9 Sept	o Exploring Quaker Chaplaincy
Fri 7 - Sun 9 Sept	o Handling Conflict in Our Meetings: A Course for Roles Holders
Mon 10-Wed 12 Sept	o Strength in Weakness: 18th Century Quaker Women, their Networks, Struggles and Successes
Mon 10-Wed 12 Sept	o Threshing and Clearness
Fri 14 - Sun 16 Sept	o Being a Quaker Trustee
Fri 14 - Sun 16 Sept	o Eldership: Our Gifts in and to Our Community
Fri 14 - Sun 16 Sept	o Oversight: Our Gifts in and to Our Community
Mon 17-Wed 19 Sept	o Light in Our Lives: Recasting Our Life's Story
Mon 17-Wed 19 Sept	o A Fresh Approach to Nominations
Fri 21 - Sun 23 Sept	o Quaker Fellowship for Afterlife Studies Annual Conference
Mon 24-Wed 26 Sept	o The Buddha and His Aunt: Real Women and Female Symbols
Mon 24-Wed 26 Sept	o How to be a Conscientious Objector Today
Wed 26 - Fri 28 Sept	o The History of The Hedge: Quakers and 'The World'
Wed 26 - Fri 28 Sept	o Dancing with Words: Life Writing Inspired by Movement
Fri 28 - Sun 30 Sept	o Being a Quaker Clerk
Fri 28 - Sun 30 Sept	o Feminism, Quakers and Wonder Woman
Fri 28 - Sun 30 Sept	o Discernment and Leadership: The Inner Place from which we Operate

October

Mon 8 - Wed 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploring Nominations
Mon 8 - Wed 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Caring for One Another ● Forced Migration and Human Rights
Mon 8 - Thu 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Into the Actual Presence of God’: the Letter to the Hebrews
Mon 15 - Wed 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early Quaker History: the Everyday Lives of Seventeenth Century Friends
Fri 19 - Sun 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Walking With a Smile into the Dark ● Fire in the Bones: Encountering the Prophet Jeremiah
Mon 22 - Thu 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Spiritual Anthology: a Toolkit for Silence from Quakers and Others
Fri 26 - Sun 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploring Islamophobia
Mon 29 - Wed 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friends to the End: Accompanying Dying Friends ● Answering That of God

Online courses

Mon 3 Sept – Fri 12 Oct: Living the Heart of Christianity

Mon 3 Sept – Fri 12 Oct: A Taste of Life Writing for Transformation

Wed 5 – Wed 26 Sept: ‘That Your Love May Overflow’: Paul’s Letter to the Philippians

Mon 17 Sept - Sun 14 Oct: Meeting for Worship for Business: An Online Course

Mon 1 - Sun 28 Oct: Friends from the Start: Exploring the Early Quaker Story

Mon 1 Oct - Fri 9 Nov: Eldership and Oversight

Mon 22 Oct - Fri 16 Nov: Spiritual Practices for Every Day

Wed 24 Oct - Wed 28 Nov: The Theology of Quaker Testimony