



HEREFORD QUAKERS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

Thurs 2 nd	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	Picnic lunch
Sun 5 th	10.30am	Mtg for Worship	Business Mtg
Thurs 9 th	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	Picnic Lunch
Thurs 9 th	7.30pm	Book Club 56 Broomy Hill	see below
Fri 10 th	2pm	Experiment with Light	
Sun 12 th	9.45am	Reading from QF&P	<i>Openings Chap.19 1 - 32</i>
Sun 12 th	10.30am	Mtg for Worship	
Tues 14 th	7.30pm	Education Mtg	
Thurs 16 th	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	Picnic lunch
Sun 19 th	10.30m	Mtg for Worship	
Tues 21 st	7 for 7.30pm	Millichap Peace Lecture	<i>Bruce Kent</i>
Thurs 23 rd	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	Picnic lunch
Fri 24 th	2pm	Experiment with Light	
Sun 26 th	9.45am	Reading	<i>Openings Chap. 19 33 - 61</i>
Sun 26 th	10.30am	Mtg for Worship,	<i>Children's Mtg , Shared Lunch, Food Bank</i>
Thurs 30 th	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	<i>Picnic lunch</i>

Unless otherwise stated meetings will be held at Quaker Meeting House, Kings Street, Hereford

Area Meeting Provisional Dates

May 11 th	Almeley Wooten
June 8 th	Pales Fellowship Day
July 14 th	Ross
Sept 14 th	Abergavenny
Nov 9 th	Hereford

Appeal for Appeals

If Friends know of any small local charities that would benefit from our support please let myself or Dominic Walker (appeals organisers) know about them.

P.G.

Book Club

May	The Uncommon Reader	Alan Bennett	<i>For more about reading group... contact: Judith Baresel</i>
June	The Hare with Amber Eyes	Edmund De Waal	
July	Cider with Rosie	Laurie Lee	

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILLICHAP PEACE FUND

A fund was established in 1998 by the family of Rae & Harley Millichap in memory of their work to promote education and action for peace. The fund, administered by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Hereford, is used to arrange local events broadly on the subject of peace and reconciliation. Harley, who worked as a youth leader, and Rae, who was a teacher, both held strong convictions against the horrors of war and felt deep concern for injustice in many parts of the world. Harley was a member of the Independent Labour Party and a conscientious objector in the Second World War. Their zest for life was evident in their work and led them to encourage creativity in others in the fields of music, drama, poetry and sport.

Working for reconciliation wherever possible, they saw peace as a positive state and not merely an absence of war. They were not discouraged by the magnitude of prejudice to overcome. They actively promoted possibilities for co-operation and demonstrated their belief in the brotherhood of man. They were both active members of the Quaker Meeting in Hereford.

By drawing on the Fund, Hereford Quakers have arranged a number of large public meetings addressed by well-known and respected people on varied aspects of building peace in the world. In addition, smaller meetings, workshops and school visits have been arranged or supported, always in the hope of encouraging more people to think widely and positively about the issues. The fund will continue to be used for such activities and will always be open to promoting fresh ways of bringing to our local community aspects of peace and reconciliation throughout the world

Bruce Kent
War no More

Tues 21st MAY 7 for 7.30pm

Quaker Mtg House



Paul Allen
Centre for
AlternativeTechnology

Tues 1st October 7 for 7.30pm St
John's Methodist Hall St
Owen St, Hereford.

Letter to County Council about Climate Change

Jane Straker has brought to us the suggestion that we write to tell our councillors about the specific examples of commitment to action on climate change given by Powys County Council. We ask our Clerk to write to Herefordshire Council now to express our welcome for the declaration by the council of a climate emergency and the expectation that there will be specific policies to put this into practice.

In subsequent months, Friends who would like to write to their councillors on this subject are invited to get in touch with Jane who will suggest which action to write about each month.

From April Business Meeting Minute

Reflections on individual thoughts on the Spiritual Life of Hereford Meeting: from our report to Area Meeting

We are grateful to Friends who contributed to the Spiritual Life Report, and the following is an overview of their comments.

A general remark among respondents was how helpful and enjoyable it was to come together for learning, discussion and meditation through:-

- ✚ Reading Quaker Faith & Practice together, which brought support, inspiration and insight to a number of Friends. The discussions enabled them to become more familiar with one another, and it had been a good preparation for Meeting for Worship.
- ✚ The Experiment with Light which has allowed participants to meditate, to go deep within themselves and to be challenged by that experience.

For some Quakers, especially the young people, the natural world was the spiritual space where they could enjoy friendships. 'Seeing beautiful stuff in nature' was indeed nourishment.

Friends found Quakers and Meeting for Worship offered nourishment through being attuned to similar concerns.

Friends were seen as caring, and that same caring was also experienced and recognised in others outside of Quakers.

Meeting for Worship for one Friend offered them 'The Peace of God that passes all understanding.

For another Friend it was 'The stillness and calm in thine own mind'. And yet for another 'The enlightenment of being amongst the fellowship of being'.

The metaphor of a sailing ship came to mind for one Friend with the Meeting for Worship being the anchor. But when the wind got into the sails the possibility of going beyond the normal Quaker circle was energising in the Spirit. However, there was a note of caution, for at times the boat could become overloaded with 'Quaker cargo'.

The Meeting House is a place that gathers us all from the past, to the present, to the future.

The gathered meeting: The stubborn 'I' melts away; true nature enters the void seeking the light of eternity where all is one, all loved with life abundant – yet in deep humility...

Some brief insights by different members

"The limitations of language to express the deeper, inner spiritual experience."

"To be open to love and truth and new, fresh light."

"To see our skills and abilities as God's gifts - to use in love for all God's creatures and his world."

"The handy little booklet Advice & Queries ever present as a pocket-size reference and reminder of the Quaker Way."

One member honestly declared they were "still seeking" a Quaker spiritual way which could speak to them and nourish them. In truth this person is probably not alone as all of us, as individuals and as a Meeting strive in changing circumstances to live a spirit led life

But what is spirituality? How do we define it?

We may only have glimpses of the spirit as we care and love one another, aware of each other's needs and concerns. Perhaps it is for others to know and recognise the workings of the spirit within ourselves and our Meeting.

What Canst Thou Say?

Ride 4 Equality and the Common Good

From Swarthmore to London



This was a witness to our concern about the suffering caused by welfare cuts and a wish to affirm that we can afford to care for all.

We hope to expand this witness:

This seems particularly important in the light of the recent statement by Philip Austin, the UN Envoy investigating poverty in the UK: he concluded that “The UK Government’s policies and drastic cuts to social support are entrenching high levels of poverty and inflicting unnecessary misery in one of the richest countries in the world” and that ministers are “in a state of denial” over the extent of poverty in Britain

Before and during the Ride this summer we gathered over 100 stories on postcards which record the impact of the cuts on vulnerable people as well as celebrate what has been achieved by the public sector and welfare systems since World War 2. We have committed to share these with MPs. But there are many more such stories waiting to be gathered. Working with Meetings across the country we hope to collect at least 1000 and join with other organisations who are trying to ensure that those who are feeling that their needs are no longer deemed important are given a voice.

From Kendal and Sedbergh AM

We hope to make visible all the stories shared with us as follows:

a. The cards will be carefully copied so that we can share one copy with MPs and retain a second copy for an exhibition initially in Kendal Meeting and perhaps later in other places. It may be at a local level through local Friends and/or through lobbying Parliament.

b. Quotes from the cards are being typed up, ensuring confidentiality, and are being shared on our Facebook page and posted on our new website www.quakersforthecommongood.co.uk which shares the thinking about our concern and photos from the Ride.

Please consider how you might reach out to your own community to gather stories that could be shared...

a You could enquire amongst members of the Meeting about whether they have been impacted by cuts or whether they have wider family members who have and would be willing to share and have their stories displayed and presented to MPs.

b You could approach one of the organisations which work with vulnerable people in your community and ask if there is anyone who has been impacted by recent cuts who would be willing to talk with you. You can then add a summary on a card. Organisations you might approach are food banks, groups working with the homeless and Christmas Shelter events...

We hope we can work together in giving a voice to those who are not being heard.

For those completing postcards, please ensure that either they are anonymous, or, if signed, that the signatory consents to their name being shared. Postcards can be posted to us individually or returned together in an envelope. The return address is on the postcard.

Ruth Stanier has a supply of cards for Hereford Friends.



Was World Development Movement

At the heart of our movement are our activists, members and supporters.

Because we know that our campaigns for justice depend on people like you. Here are just a few things we achieved together:

- Our new campaign for affordable medicines is already making headway. We've met with senior MPs who are eagerly awaiting our new report detailing how publicly-run drugs production could work in practice.

THIS MONTHS APPEAL

We wouldn't have achieved any of these successes without a strong movement of committed people demanding justice.

It's the support from people like you that makes our campaigns so successful. So that we can continue running hard-hitting campaigns with strong public support, let us know what areas of our work you're interested in – it only takes a few minutes (see website).

- As part of a movement in 2016 we defeated the US-EU toxic trade deal, TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). We've worked with Green Party co-leader Caroline Lucas, to draft and table a key trade democracy amendment to Liam Fox's dangerous new trade bill, given evidence in parliament and been much quoted in the press and beyond.
- Our tireless campaigning on the misuse of aid has had real success as our proposals for a progressive aid model have largely been integrated into Labour Party policy.
- For two years we've been pushing back against growing xenophobia, to replace hatred with humanity. Now the government's 'hostile environment' for migrants is beginning to crack as awareness across the country grows of what it means for real people in the wake of the Windrush scandal.

Deadline for June issue 25th May
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