Diary Dates for August

Friday August 1st Colchester Farmers’ Market
August 2nd to 9th Yearly Meeting Gathering, Bath
Wednesday August 13th Left Handed People’s Day! http://www.lefthandersday.com/
Wednesday August 27th Memorial Meeting for Roy Prockter at Colchester Friends Meeting House
Saturday September 13th Colchester Heritage Open Day
Meetings for Worship

**CLACTON**
Sunday at 10.30 am
1st Wednesday each month
1pm-2pm with Soup & Cheese

**Harwich**
2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30 am
Nicholas’ Church Hall, Stour Road, Bathside
Contact, Audrey Hind

**COLCHESTER**
Sunday 10.30 am
Wednesday 12.30 pm
(Soup and Cheese Lunch)

**EARLS COLNE**
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10.30 am

**SUDBURY**
Sunday 10.30 am
Friars Street, Sudbury
Thursday 12.30 pm
(Bring Picnic, Tea/Coffee provided)

First Contact
For Funeral Arrangements
CLACTON.......................Ray Attrill
COLCHESTER...................Carol Holding
SUDBURY.....................Peter Whiteley

**Area Meeting**
13.7.14 at Earls Colne
by Ann Webb

Nineteen people were present
at the latest Area Meeting in Earls Colne. The meeting began
with Advices and Queries 14 and proceeded to acknowledge
the death of Roy Prockter as well as regular business matters
such as Appointments, membership, and presentation of fi-
nance reports.

The main discussion was ac-
corded to the announcement
that a trial bookkeeping system
will be set up by a firm rec-
commended by Whittles and Co.
This move will allow Local
Meeting Treasurers to operate
as usual, but will transfer re-
sponsibility of monthly colla-
tion of accounts to the
bookkeepers. After collation,
reports will be sent to LM
Treasurers which will make it
easier to report to their Local
Meetings and will allow more
creativity for Local Meeting
Treasurers. Trustees, Treasurers,
and members present agreed to
support the Area Meeting in
this matter.

Next steps in Discerning our Purposes was discussed after a
very succinct summation pro-
vided by Area Meeting Clerk
(available in the Minutes).

Meeting for Sufferings and
Quaker Life Representative
Council reports were offered
and accepted. A Trident meet-
ing, for those interested in a dif-
ferent response than that which
usually occurs, will take place
at Colchester after worship on
July 20 at 12 pm.

Those present reviewed the
decision made in July 2013 to
trial holding AM six times a
year. There was still concern
that our business would not be
adequately addressed in a time-
ly manner if continued. After

**Editorial**

Dear Friends,

Last year it was never warm
enough to wear summer clothes so
I am wallowing in the nice feel of
cotton next my skin. Not to mention
the nice feeling of lower fuel bills.

But I am so tired of all this public wallowing in The War. It goes on
and on, a hundred years since this,
and then that. Venerating medals,
and flags, and all the rest of it. But
not one sensible word do we hear
about how to stop wars. It can be
done. It is much less fun, is hard
work, and gives you a reputation of
almost being a spoilsport. But d
didn’t do my father any good and I
don’t think he ever really got over it.

I certainly remember the last war
and I was either scared stiff or bored,
and at first, very hungry, and tired
of being told “No, of course you
can’t do that, or have that, don’t you
know there’s a war on?” I do re-
member dancing in the streets and
shouting for the King, when it was
all over. But then we had to realise
what a dreadful amount it had all
cost. So no effort is too much, to
prevent it all happening again. As of
course it is still happening, all over
the world. And we go on planning
a new Trident! I can only say, Quak-
ers, do your bit, do absolutely all
you can to promote peace and to
help those who are in the thick of it.

I do notice an atmosphere in the
Meeting, of Friends wanting to do
something positive and to do more
for the local community. Perhaps
the Food Bank started it.

I had a letter from Kids Company
the other day telling about some
very damaged children who no long-
er noticed fighting and other horrors,
they were so used to it. (But they
could be, and were being rescued by
proper care, but it took a long time)
And there is a movement towards
helping deprived children, by the
authorities, for instance providing
school meals, and, amazingly, realis-
ing that it is better to provide them
for all the children.

News, please, by the middle of
the month, to Valerie Graves, (for
contact details, see AM List of Mem-
bers and Attenders).
discussion it was decided that Area Meetings will remain as is with possibility of review in a year’s time. Dates for proposed Area Meetings and locations are listed in the Minutes available from Alison Parkes, Clerk of Area Meeting.

The next Regional Gathering will be held Saturday, September 27 at Saffron Walden.

Another interesting discussion ensued after the Area Clerk suggested an Area Meeting web site. It was noted that most Area Meetings in the UK have a website listed on Quaker.org.uk. The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and other interested persons will prepare a report about the issues faced by such a web site and report back at the next Area Meeting. Please contact the AM Clerk if you would be interested in investigating the possibilities of an AM web presence.

After discussion of other issues (which are summarized in the Minutes) the meeting was closed and a wonderful tea of savouries and sweets was offered.

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**Clerk’s Corner**

Alison Parkes, Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting Clerk

**Becoming more visible in the wider community**

At Area Meeting on July 13, it was agreed to ask the Friends of each Local Meeting to consider how they might take forward seven statements made in Minute 39, from our second day of discernment in June, and to return their thoughts and leadings to AM. I expect it will take some time for Friends to give full consideration to each statement. Friends from Earls Colne and Harwich, we are interested in your thoughts and experience too, and invite you to contribute to the discussion so we can benefit from your experience and wisdom.

Here (in italics) is one of the statements from Minute 39:

> We considered how we might raise our profile in the wider community, and become more visible, either as individuals or as a body. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money to do this. One way of getting noticed is by doing something.

At AM on Sunday July 13, this follow-up request was minuted (Minute 46):  

> We ask LMs to find ways to raise their profile in the wider community and become more visible and to bring their findings to AM.

Raising the profile of Quakers in the wider community is not easily done and requires perseverance, whether that is through advertising our Meetings for Worship, by signage to our Meeting Houses, “by doing something” (as Minute 39 itself recognises), or by other means. This is an opportunity for each LM to share what it is doing, especially what seems to be working well, and to perhaps look outside our own AM and see how others are becoming more visible in their communities.

One way in which the AM is likely to raise its profile is by the creation of an AM website. There are many AMs around the country who have websites, which can be found on the Quakers in Britain website: http://www.quaker.org.uk/area-meetings-and-other-regional-websites So there are numerous models we can consider. Setting up our own AM website is something the AM is keen to do, and a few Friends are starting to look into the options before us, which will be presented at a future AM.

Minute 39 concluded with the following words:

> We want to become more visible in our communities, enabling
those who may be searching for Quakers to find us. We were reminded that we are “a people of God” and that the foundation of our actions stems from that divine source. We recognise that we will need to test our leadings in a gathered meeting and will welcome the leadings of Friends.

Friends, this minute was recorded by AM on behalf of all AM Friends. We hope that more and more Friends will take part in the further discernment we are called upon to make.

Area Meeting minutes are available from the Clerk by email: rnparkes.family@ntlworld.com or for a printed copy, telephone 01206-523235. Next Area Meeting to be held at Colchester Meeting House on Sunday, September 14 at 2.15 pm. Attenders are welcome to attend, please speak to the clerk before the meeting. AM Friends and Attenders are also welcome to join the Colchester Quakers Yahoo group, please contact Emma Steadman, Alison Parkes or Mervyn Carter.

**News from Clacton Meeting**

From Ernest Hall
Roy Prockter

During recent weeks, the sudden and unexpected death of Roy Prockter at the age of 64 on 17th June 2014 has been foremost in the minds of all Clacton f/Friends. A Meeting for Burial after the manner of Friends was held at Wrabness Woodland Burial Site at 11.30 am on Thursday 10th July, and a meeting to give thanks for the Grace of God made evident in the life of our late Friend Roy Prockter, will be held at Colchester Meeting House at 3.00 pm on 27th August 2014, the day on which Roy would have been celebrating his 65th birthday.

Particularly because of his activities in the cause of peace, and his devotion to the bicycle (or tricycle – he had both!) as his preferred means of transport, he was well-known to Quakers not only in our own area and region but nationwide. Our Clerk, Hazel Jones, told Clacton Friends that she had received enquiries and messages from far and wide. Hazel estimated that about 100 f/Friends and relatives were present at the Woodland Meeting for Burial and she anticipates that there will be a large attendance at the Memorial Meeting on 27th August.

Liz, his widow and an attender at Clacton Meeting, had asked that there should be no flowers at his funeral but that those who wished to do so might make a donation in Roy’s memory to Quaker Peace and Social Witness.

Roy first became interested in Friends when, as a twenty-year old already committed to the cause of peace, he attended the Quaker Exhibition that we mounted in connection with the official opening of our new Clacton Meeting Room by George Gorman on 12th July 1969. At that time Clacton Friend Joyce White (then Joyce Bissenden) was Monthly Meeting Clerk and I was Clerk of Clacton Preparative Meeting. Had that Exhibition attracted no enquirer other than Roy Prockter, it would have been well worth the trouble and expense involved!

**Making Meeting Appointments**

A Meeting for Church Affairs held after Meeting for Worship on Sunday 6th July considered appointments’ in the light of Roy Prockter’s sad and unexpected death. He had been our Meeting’s Treasurer, a valued member of the Premises Committee, the Meeting’s correspondent to the national Quaker Peace and Social Welfare (QPSW) Committee and the national Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) and, with Mary Smith, had represented us on Churches Together in Clacton.

Martha Schwager has been appointed Assistant Treasurer with the intention that she will train as Treasurer. It is hoped that she will attend a Woodbrooke Training Course in the near future. Martin Rogers (husband of Silva Garton-Rogers) is to make up the numbers on the Premises Committee.

Correspondence from QPSW and QCEA is to be sent to the Meeting House in the future. The Meeting was unable to find a second representative, with Mary Smith, for Churches Together in Clacton.

Martha Schwager has been acting unofficially as door keeper for several months, and has agreed to continue in that role for a triennium ending 31.12.2016.

**Colchester News**

John Kay

You have probably guessed that the bride and groom, here photographed at Welwyn Meeting House in 1964, 50 years ago were our own dear Friends Carol and Tim Holding who on Friday 25 July 2014 celebrated their Golden Wedding. They brought a large home baked Parkin cake to Meeting last Sunday for Friends to enjoy with their coffee.
A Day for Re-imagining Children

That is the somewhat enigmatic title (could it mean considering children in a new way?) of an event to be held at Friends House on Saturday 29th November. We have asked Martha Schwager and Jane Welford to attend on behalf of the Meeting and the Children and Young People’s Committee and have agreed to pay their travel costs.

Ray Attrill and Martha Schwager

Clacton f/Friends have been delighted to learn that a more-than-friendly relationship has developed between Ray Attrill and Martha Schwager, and we wish them both all future happiness.

In the ‘barrack room’ of the building in which, as a prisoner of war, I spent the final eighteen months of World War II we had a ‘year-off’ calendar with a ‘thought for the day’, in German of course, for every day. One of those ‘thoughts’ that I have remembered for seventy years was by the German poet Goethe; *Lieben und geliebt zu werden ist das höchste Glück auf Erden* (to love and to be loved in return is the greatest happiness on earth).

Heather and I found that to be abundantly true and I hope that Ray and Martha will too.

Photo attached: Ray Attrill and a somewhat windswept Martha Schwager on the prom at Clacton on the occasion of the first meeting of the Bus Club.

Heritage Open Day at Colchester

Jenny Kay

Colchester Quaker Meeting House is open to the public on Saturday 13 September from 10am to 4pm as part of Heritage Open Day as an annual event each year. This is a useful form of outreach as it attracts many people to our Meeting House along with other venues in the town. Anyone who feels they can offer to help host the event and help to welcome visitors please contact Robbie Spence robbie.spence@btopenworld.com

Robbie is organising a display produced by Peace News.

“The World is My Country” highlights the untold history of people who opposed the war at the time – of feminist peace initiatives, clandestine printing presses, striking German munitions workers and communities of resistance from Huddersfield to Hackney. This is a series of up to 10 colour posters, celebrating key figures and events from the First World War anti-war movement, featuring the distinctive graphic art of Peace News’ Emily Johns. The project has been named ‘The World is My Country’ – a phrase of Tom Paine’s used by jailed anti-war activist Alice Wheeldon in a letter from prison in February 1917.

Wildspot 1: The Return of The Sparrows?

from Valerie Graves

A few months ago I wrote about the return, after about ten years absence, of the all-dancing, all-singing frogs, with resulting masses of spawn and tadpoles and now, delightful little minia-

ture frogs like jewels. But now I was astonished to see a group of genuine sparrows. Lots of small birds look like sparrows but on a close look are no such thing. (And it is fairly local, quite a lot of people in nearby villages have never lost them. A daughter-in-law in Braxted says they are quite a plague!) I was afraid it might just be a flash in the pan, but I have seen them, and heard their raucous voices, on several occasions. I hope they will stay.)

Wildspot 2: From the Barn Swallow

Pauline Fouchier

My Birds on the Farmyard fence are gaining in numbers with every second week. Today I pointed out to my son the difference between the Swallow and the Martin, which are both very smart birds, quite wealthy. But it was the Swallow that is our friend, who has not wronged us in the past; the Martin is the opposite of this, and pretentious, which is not something I can respect.
Colchester Castle Concessions

Joan Rew

This may be of interest to our senior members. I learnt from my U3A magazine:-

There have been comments about the entrance fee for Colchester Castle being £7.50 per adult with no Senior concessions (unless on benefits). If anyone is likely to visit the Castle more than once a year, it would pay them to become Friends of the Colchester Castle for £7.50 individual or £12 for a couple. Then you can visit the Museum as often as you like and attend the interesting lectures for a greatly reduced rate.

Poem read at Roy’s Funeral

Supplied by Alison Parkes

Let there be peace in the Universe and let there be peace on every planet within the Universe.

Let there be peace on the Earth, the planet that I dwell on.

Let there be peace in the hearts and the minds of every living creature including the mountains, the rivers that flow, the creatures that fly in the air, the creatures that swim in the ocean.

May the Great Spirit bestow peace in my mind, my body, my heart, so that my presence on this incredible Planet called Earth is a tribute to the love and the quality of life that resides within.

May this peace spread and flow forth from all that I am!

Quaker Compromise

John Hall

An amusing malapropism that I discovered in the book “The Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies”: "Protestant women missionaries compromised over half of the staff at most mission compounds …" page 316

Technical Problem

John Kay

Occasionally we all have problems, recently my main computer locked up and I was obliged to take drastic action and reinstall Windows. As most IT aware people will know this means not only that one has to struggle to trace all the information one needs from backups, but also there is the necessity to reinstall every program that is needed. And I need quite a few programs.

One of things I have to do is to reconstruct my lists of email addresses that are used to send out the monthly Area Meeting Newsletter. If therefore you had previously received it by email but missed out for the August issue or if you have received it for the first time and do not wish to receive it by email please let me know by any means, including email.
**Quaker Stoicism**

John Hall

On my recent trip to 1652 country, I came across this Quaker burial ground at Colthouse in Lancashire. Nineteen years before Friends built their meeting house, they had set up these flag seats on the wall of the burial ground so that they could hold Meetings for Worship. Imagine how cold it must have been in the winter sitting there for the two and three-hour Meetings they had.

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**Laurence Binyon**

Joan Rew

This is a stamp that will be issued this month which bears the words that are said every year at the Cenotaph. They come from a poem by Laurence Binyon “For the Fallen”:

They shall not grow old, has the we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon was a Quaker and a pacifist, son of a vicar from Lancaster and a cousin of Arthur Ransome, he was also related to the Wordsworth family.

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*Gean Wild Cherry and eschscholtzia*  
*Photos both by Joan Rew*
Wildspot 2: An Extravagance of Colour

from Valerie Graves

Can it be global warming, everything seems to be in excess? If it rains, it is a downpour and we get floods, even in top-of-the-hill Lexden! We have had spectacular thunderstorms going on for hours. (Luckily my ancient dog is stone deaf so they don't disturb her as they used to.)

But the other side of the coin is all good. I have never seen such banked, brilliant flowers, such roses and flowering shrubs - Choisya like a cauliflower, and even humble euonymus in full bloom and swarming with honey-bees. One goes round the garden saying “Cor!” or something more elegant. Anyway, enjoy it while it lasts.

The unspeakable subject

Back in the 1980s, I used to examine the accounts of a Meeting some miles from here. One thing I saw, which other Friends did not, was how much each person and/or family gave to its local and area meetings. It varied from absolutely nothing from a few to £1000 each year by one couple (£2640 in today’s purchasing power). The Meeting was very rich and so there was no pressure on people to contribute; and anyway, Friends don’t like to talk about money, do they?

But what should one give? After all, except for the income from investments of legacies former Friends have left, we are the only source of the Meeting’s revenue.

Apart from Friends House saying that they need £150 per Friend and Attender each year in order to run the central work of the Society, we are given no indication of what the average donation should be to run our local and area work. I know that Colchester’s Finance Committee is working on this but even if we get an average figure, how does each person decide what to donate?

One of the problems is, of course, that we each have different incomes and different demands on it. So, it is only the individual who can decide for her(him)self. So how to do it? There will be some for whom outgoings are higher than income and in those cases it would be wrong to expect a contribution. But for others, is this the case? Are there Friends in our Meetings who, at the moment, give nothing? Could they consider a contribution, say £150 to central work and £150 to local work? Spread over 12 monthly payments, and gift aiding it, that would be a standing order of only £20 a month (if my maths is okay). Is that possible?

The other thing is, whatever figure you decide upon, what do you do each year? Prices rise. Although it is difficult to say by how much, perhaps 5% would cover it. That would mean increasing the monthly payment by one pound each year. Is that possible?

So, to the bottom line. How much should I give each year to the Meeting? And, have I done it this year? If so, do I need to top it up?

John Hall