Diary Dates for June

Friday June 8th Colchester Farmers’ Market Colchester Arts Centre
Sunday June 10th Maldon Mud Race www.maldonmudrace.com
Monday June 11th to Sunday June 17th Diabetes Week www.diabetes.org.uk/Get_involved/Diabetes-Week
Wednesday June 20th First day of Refugee Week World Refugee Day www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday
Sunday July 8th Area Meeting Earls Colne Meeting House All Welcome

NEWSPAPER
SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING
June 2018

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Clerk to Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting: Alison Parkes
c/o Colchester Quaker Meeting House
6 Church Street, Colchester CO1 1NF;
email address: AMClerk@essexsuffolkquakers.org

Web Address: www.essexsuffolkquakers.org
Meetings for Worship

CLACTON
Sunday at 10.30 am
1st Wednesday each month
12 noon with Soup & Cheese

Harwich
2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30 am
St Nicholas’ Church Hall,
Stour Road, Bathside CO12 3HS
Contact: Ros/Tony Eaton 01255 880500

COLCHESTER
Sunday 10.30 am

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

SUDBURY
Sunday 10.30 am
Friars Street, Sudbury

FIRST CONTACT
FOR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
CLACTON.........................Carol Holding
COLCHESTER....................Carol Holding
SUDBURY......................Peter Whiteley

Editorial

Dear Friends,

What a peculiar time we are having! the weather is very odd, and the general atmosphere very tense, with nobody feeling very safe. (without actually mentioning the word Trump, you know what I mean). But it is Yearly Meeting time and all sorts of things are happening. You will see the reports elsewhere. It is nice to see our youngsters back for a while, and to hear of their exploits.

News, please, to Valerie Graves, by the middle of the month.

Being Friends Together

Eliza Jones

10 people met in the Parnell room for the first of our trial monthly study sessions on Wednesday May 8th. Being in the Parnell Room with its difficult acoustic and a theatre group overhead was not the easiest start for a Meeting for Worship. However, the following discussion more than made up for it.

Eliza Jones ably led us through an introduction to the materials available from Woodbooke with the help of live access to the materials available on line and some handouts. There were so many possibilities we found it hard to choose our direction but spending time in small groups finding out where we were at the moment on our life journey with religious and spiritual matters was very valuable and gave us some pointers to our way forward.

We recognise that weekday evenings will not suit all our members who want to join in, just as daytime is no good for those who work. We aim to continue in the evenings for the rest of the year as planned but may explore the possibility of a separate daytime group for others who have evening commitments or prefer a daytime meeting. We aim to share the leadership of the group as well as bringing the biscuits to start us off, so sharing the responsibilities. Next month we shall meet in the Childrens’ Room, when Kate Powis will lead us on the theme: Growing as community together: Knowing Each other in the Things that are Eternal...and Everyday

We all strongly felt the need to move on from the bureaucratic, business (busyness?) stuff that has preoccupied the Meeting for the last year or so, necessary though it was. It has caused some fragmentation of our community. We want to respect the past and look forward. We want to get to know each other in a deeper way, exploring tradition, revisiting the foundations, and ‘walk towards the light at our own pace’.

We seek to know one another in the things that are eternal – A&Q 18
Benjamin Lay (1682-1759)

John Hall

These days, even when they feel strongly about something, Quaker try to be non-confrontational. That was not always the case, especially in the case of the dwarf, vegetarian, abolitionist Benjamin Lay.

To introduce the horrors of slavery for the first time to Friends, Benjamin turned up at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on 19th September 1738, with a surprise, literally up his sleeve.

As described by Marcus Rediker in his new biography, “Beneath his coat Benjamin carried a hollowed-out book with a secret compartment, into which he had tucked a tied-off animal bladder filled with bright red pokewberry juice. He explained that slave keeping was the greatest sin in the world and asked, ‘How can a people who profess the Golden Rule keep slaves?’ He then threw off his great coat, revealing a military garb, the blade, and the book to his astonished co-religionists. In a rising crescendo of emotion, the prophet thundered his judgment: ‘Thus shall God shed the blood of those persons who enslave their fellow creatures.’ He pulled out the sword, raised the book above his head, and plunged the sword through it. The people in the room gasped as the red liquid gushed down his arm; several women swooned at the sight. To the shock of all, he splattered ‘blood’ on the heads and bodies of the slave keepers [very many Quakers in the Yearly Meeting being slave owners]. The room exploded into chaos, but Benjamin stood quiet and still.”

I wonder how Yearly Meeting these days would respond to such a tactic.

Earls Colne News

Jenny Kay

Sometimes things come together in unexpected ways. Earls Colne Friends have been seeking a cleaner, with no success, until we had a spring clean work party after midweek meeting and a shared lunch. Shortly afterwards one of the cleaners who had turned us down earlier rang to say that she could take it on. After her first session she told me how much she enjoyed working in the calm peaceful atmosphere that the Meeting House radiates.

The garden and burial ground have had some attention too. A Friday garden work party freed the roses from encroaching shrubs, the wall from the ivy and saw three fruit trees; greengage, plum and quince planted to join the winter flowering cherry in the burial ground. These have put us on the Earls Colne community orchard map, hopefully bringing more visitors to our site in the future.

My Taxi Service

from Valerie Graves

If you are getting old and tired, as I now often do (this has nothing to do with Quakers, really), try getting a taxi account. Mine was actually a present from a son who has moved a long way away. I thought “but I never use Taxis!” I do now. You cannot imagine how useful it is.
**Wildspot**

from Valerie Graves

As I said, it is a very strange time, quite extraordinarily bright, and everything quite unusually floribundant, not only individual trees but trees and plants which usually don’t usually flower at all. Some trees which had died in the great heat have come back to life again. You feel that you could believe anything! Just one example; I have a group of purple sage plants which make a nice display but never flower, are now covered with buds. Several cherries look almost like cauliflowers. But you will have your own examples.

**Credentials For Quaker Service**

One busy Friend was recently heard complaining to another about the tremendous volume of mail he received as a result of serving on Quaker committees. "It almost seems as though I need a Master's Degree in Library Science just to file it all," he said.

The other Friend, who was of a more practical bent, replied, "Actually, all you really need is a Bachelor's Degree in solid waste disposal."

(from Kimo Press, Chuck Fager)

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**Quakers and Leadership**

Quakers and Business Group
ANNUAL GATHERING & AGM
Saturday 30th June 2018
Friargate Meeting House, York

We're hoping this will be a provocative and creative opportunity to explore the links between leadership of organisations and people, and Quaker experience and values of leadership amongst our worshipping communities.

The subject chosen this year is as a direct result of requests made by a wide range of people, including not just Q&B members, but other Quakers, and from those outside the Quaker community who are being prompted to enquire how the Quakers values they hear and read about are relevant - and can be used - today.

We have three high profile speakers;
Antonia Swinson – Chief Executive Officer of the Ethical Property Foundation
Cáit Gould – Reading Meeting House Warden, and ceramic artist from BBC2’s 'Great Pottery Throw Down'
Danielle Walker Palmour – Director of Friends Provident Foundation

For more information see [https://qandb.org/gathering-2018](https://qandb.org/gathering-2018)

Attendance is priced at £26 for Q&B members, £40 for non-members, and £16 for students, including refreshments and lunch.
Bursaries are available.
Reflections

On a very still day Dave Lawrence took these beautiful photographs of reflections on the River Colne at Colchester. He tells me that a duck and her ducklings swam across the river between shots and he waited for some minutes for it to clear again.

John Kay

On Conscientious Objectors

from Valerie Graves

The Friend has been running a series of articles on the first year of the First World War lately which reminded me of Friends I knew in Chelmsford years ago, and strangely enough I remembered their names, Grace and Terence Lane. They were an elderly couple who came to Chelmsford Meeting, very austere in their lifestyle but good fun to be with. Terence ran Bible Study groups which were hard work but enjoyable. As I got to know him he gradually told me about his experiences in Dartmoor Prison, which were in general use, unbelievably harsh and often resulting in death, especially if the man were elderly and unfit. (But they were often just shot out of hand, anyway.) They were regarded as not really human.

Terence was regularly woken up by being soused with a hosepipe, then he put his clothes on and was regularly soaked again, and then went to his daily routine of hard labour. This was standard practice and he bore no malice!

I don’t know if people in general were more uncaring than they are now, but I remember them not being particularly upset by the treatment of Jews by the Nazis before the war started, and it was left to the Quakers to help with the Kindertransport and to take the children in. (Have you seen the statues at Liverpool St?)
Film Premiere

Robbie Spence
Accidental Anarchist film premiere in Colchester

Carne Ross, diplomat turned activist, travels the world in search of direct democracy.

Saturday 30 June 1:30pm at Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, Colchester.

Admission is free and there will be a collection to cover costs and a post-film discussion.

The "Accidental Anarchist" in question is Carne Ross, who was one of a handful of people who were honoured as a Visionary for a Just and Peaceful World by the Quaker Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) in 2004.

The film follows his life story as diplomat turned activist. He resigned from his job as a high-level British diplomat over the lies about WMD that he was employed to tell to the UN in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war. It tells of his travels around the world in search of direct democracy. One of the places he visits is Rojava, the Kurdish region of Syria, where battles between the Kurds and both Isis and Turkey in the towns of Kobane and Afrin have attracted worldwide attention. The films tells of the Kurdish democratic system that is emerging in an otherwise chaotic country.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the show.

Notes from the Minutes

AM at Sudbury, 13.05.2018
Jenny Kay

Nineteen gathered in the presence of God to remember Mary Smith who died on 4 May 2018 and to hear the Epistle from BYM held at London on 4-7 May.

Administrative matters

Arrangements for the administration of the new data consent forms were put in place. With the relevant text in QF&P 4 made available in both as an overhead and hard copy, it was minuted that AM has carried out its responsibilities during 2017.

Bursary help for educational purposes

Jack Fields Legacy With the memory of Jack and Phyllis Fields in our minds through the work of trustees it was minuted that bursary applications from all members and attenders of Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting can now be con-
sidered for funding from the Jack Fields Legacy. The Friends and attenders are invited to apply for bursary help; the form and guidelines are to be found on the Business page (AM Documents) of the AM website and are available from Friends in roles of Clerk, Treasurer, Elder and Overseer.

Kendal and Freshfield Fund

Trustees confirmed the continued designation of the Kendal and Freshfield fund at £55,000 to be used when the Jack Fields Legacy has been spent to be used for the same educational purposes.

Charitable Giving, supporting AM concerns

Glebe House

Further support for the Glebe House Circles Project was brought as a concern from Earls Colne LM. The minute read:

“We understand the challenge faced by Glebe House in funding the Circles Project. We agree to a further donation of £30,000 this year, as a bridge to support the work of the Transition Team and in the expectation that it will become self-supporting next year. We look forward to reading the research evaluation of the project and will review any future donations in that light”.

Colchester Foodbank

We heard that our donation of £5,000 this year and another £5,000 next year has been received with thanks.

Beacon House

negotiations are taking place to try to establish longer term emergency accommodation. John Lewis will keep us updated on progress.

Colchester Rough Sleepers Group

Sylvia Jeffcock reported that this group are in the process of converting a coach to provide a mobile shelter which they are calling Chariot 180, with the purpose of helping people turn their lives around (through 180 degrees). The Rough Sleepers Group is already working with homeless people in Colchester and one of their aims is to set up a Street Buddies scheme, which would involve training and the cost of a defibrillator. AM minuted that:

“Most of the people being helped by these schemes have needs far beyond our resources. Our support may be modest yet it is essential. We agree to make a donation of £9,000 towards these initiatives. We ask Sylvia Jeffock and Tom Tebbutt to liaise with Colchester Rough Sleepers Group on our behalf and to ask that they report on progress in 12 months’ time."

Meetings, gatherings and a workshop

Meeting for Sufferings report. Carol Holding’s report from her last time at Sufferings was read out. It appeared in the May Newsletter.

Yearly Meeting 2018

Sylvia Jeffcock described the powerful sense of being part of a gathered meeting, uniting behind the decision to revise Quaker faith & practice, our book of discipline. We received the following minute from Harwich on the revision of QFP&P which was forwarded to the revision group.

“We find that the sections on Church Government (Sections 3 - 17) at the beginning of Quaker Faith and Practice could discourage further reading and would prefer to find them at the back of the revised version. We hope that the revised version will include more mention of the diversity of spiritual experience Friends now bring to Meeting. We feel it important that historic quotes remain as Quaker Faith and Practice should reflect where we have come from as well as where we are going.”

Friends interested in suggesting passages to include in the next book of discipline are asked to email qfp@quaker.org.uk or write to Michael Booth at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

Area Meeting Gathering

The theme of the gathering to be held at High Leigh Conference Centre in October will be “The Journey” providing opportunities to share our faith journeys and to renew our fellowship and community. The application form is now available in printed form and will also be uploaded to the Business page (AM Documents) of the AM website. Friends are encouraged to register their interest with Peter Whiteley by 30th May.

Kindlers Workshop

Colchester Meeting is hosting a Kindlers Workshop for all Friends and Attendees of the Area Meeting on Saturday November 17th, on the theme of Vocal Ministry. Details will be made available in the autumn. Friends will be asked to sign up for the workshop, as there is a limit to numbers.
“The Journey from the personal to the collective”

A residential weekend gathering from 12 - 14 October 2018 for all adults in Southern E Anglia Area Q Meeting at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon.

The programme will be led by Simon Best of Woodbrooke on the Road “ and will include worship, various sessions on our theme; opportunities for creative activities; walks in nearby woods, or by the River Lee.

The full programme will be distributed to all participants by early September. We will endeavour to enable all to share transport to the venue, which can be viewed on Google Earth at post code EN11 8SG.

Please register your interest by 30th May by returning the form below to Peter Whiteley (Colchester LM) together with a cheque for half the cost (£75) payable to: “Southern East Anglia Area Quaker Meeting” (Full board is £150 for the weekend) (Bursary help is available - enquire through Overseers for an application form) (If you could pay more to support the Bursary Fund, your contribution will be very welcome)

Any Queries?
Contact: Peter Whiteley; Anne Watkinson; Sylvia Jeffcock; or Kate Powis.

Participants names / Special dietary requirements

(Please bracket together those names to share a double room)

1

2.

Telephone Number: Total enclosed £

Address:

Please circle names above of those who prefer to avoid stairs.

In order to run this event we will need to record this information. We will only hold your details for the purpose of organizing the gathering and after the event they will be removed.

May we use your personal information as outlined above? Yes ( ) No ( )

How many people can you offer a lift to? ( )
Would you like a lift if we can find one? Yes / No

Are you willing to help with: Welcoming ( ); Leading a small discussion group ( ); Leading a walk ( ); Sharing a creative skill or activity ( ) (please specify)

Please post this slip and your cheque to:
Peter Whiteley, 133, Melford Road, SUDBURY, Suffolk, CO10 1JT.