Diary Dates for July

Friday July 6th Farmers’ Market Colchester Arts Centre
Sunday July 8th Area Meeting, Earls Colne FMH
Wednesday July 11th World Population 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
St Nicholas' Church Hall,
Stour Road, Bathside CO12 3HS

**COLCHESTER**
Sunday 10.30 am

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

**SUDBURY**

---

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

---

**The People’s March for a People’s Vote.**

Jan Squire

I couldn’t resist the idea or marching to Parliament Square with the Lib Dem contingent and being kettled in a side road for about an hour and a half whilst the other 100,999 marched past didn’t dampen my enthusiasm. Even dogs were decked out in EU regalia and some of the placards were a delight eg “Education - Brexit breaks it!”

Every UK institution got the same treatment but one placard I particularly liked remarked that leaving the EU was serious enough but we were also leaving democracy behind - a reference to Mrs May’s tendency to bypass Parliament.

The police were nowhere to be seen until we neared Downing Street. Eight stood in a relaxed row with bullet proof vests but no weapons it seemed. Booing started as the first wave of protesters passed the gates and everyone joined in as they too passed. The longest boo in history! There were spontaneous outbursts of song, mostly “Where is Jeremy Corbyn? On the wrong side of history I suspect!"

Then at Parliament Square the speeches began. Caroline Lucas was magical – articulate, passionate, well informed and inspirational. The Suffragettes would have cheered her on for suffrage is what the whole thing was about – the right of the people to have a final vote on the terms and conditions under which we leave the EU. Vince Cable came across as ‘strong and stable!’

Britain is divided almost down the middle and Brexit is the will of only 52% of the few that voted. I was catapulted back in time to 17th March 1992. South Africa teetered on the brink

---

**Editorial**

Dear Friends

What a wonderful summer we are having! though there are a few disadvantages. For instance, I seem to be having hay fever, quite unusual for me. But we hear that Robert Parkes, who had been quite ill, is getting better. All kinds of activities are being arranged and of course we have just had Yearly Meeting. All these are reported elsewhere. News, please, by the middle of the month, to Valerie Graves.
of civil war with experts predicting that the carnage would be as bad as that of WW2. On that day whites voted to end Apartheid. There had to be a two thirds majority. Voter turnout was 85.08% and the majority 68.73%. It united us and gave the government the necessary mandate for the changes that would affect 100% of the people of South Africa. Now that’s a real referendum and it lay the foundations for an almost bloodless transition to democracy via proportional representation and a constitution second to none! So I shouted, to the puzzlement of those around me, the old South African rallying cry “Viva UK, Viva!” Minor change of course!

NB I took lots of photographs but sadly lost my phone on the train home. Too exhausted to be mindful!

Edie

Robbie Spence

Not seen this but it sounds interesting. Sheila Hancock is a Quaker aged 84 so that's pretty unusual for a film star.

Dir: Simon Hunter

Cast: Sheila Hancock, Kevin Guthrie, Paul Brannigan

Ipswich Film Theatre

Screen One: Edie (12A)

Fri 8th June at 8.15pm
Sat 9th June at 6pm
Tue 12th June at 2.30pm
Thu 14th June at 2.30pm

After years of dedication to looking after her sick husband, an elderly woman attempts to fulfill her dream of climbing a Scottish mountain with the help of a young guide. An inspiring drama that reminds us that it is never late to restore lost meaning in one’s life.
Mary Smith

Mary Smith (formerly of Likabula, St Albans Road) Died on Saturday 5th May 2018 at St Michael’s Care Home, surrounded by her family. Constant Widow of Peter, beloved Mother of Kathleen, Jacqueline, Susan, Linda and Johanna: devoted to and adored by her sixteen Grandchildren and two Great-Grandchildren. Mary was a friend to all in need, a great advocate of lifelong learning and an inveterate walker and nature-lover. She committed great energy to church unity in Clacton and to the work of both the RC Church and the Society of Friends. A Requiem Mass will be held at St Michael’s Convent, Marine Parade East, Clacton-on-Sea on Friday 8th June at 11.30, followed by a cremation service at Weeley Crematorium at 1.15. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to The Alzheimer’s Society may be sent to Titford Funeral Service, 151 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 3AU. Tel No: 01255 220066

From Clacton and Frinton Gazette 17th May

Erie Canal

John Hall

At the time that the Erie Canal was being built across New York state in about 1820, shares in the project were a popular investment among Friends. So it was with some dismay that the members of New York Meeting heard such investments denounced by a powerful speaker.

The main argument was that if the Lord had intended to put a waterway there he would have done so. The Meeting for Church Affairs, subdued under the effects of the oratory, settled into a disturbed silence. It was finally broken by a man of slight build and not too strong voice, who quoted, "And Jacob digged a well." [John 4:6]
Recycling

Here's a lovely example of recycling at its best. Alan Arnold, an attender at Earls Colne and a very skilful engineer and wood turner has made this effective wood burning stove from an old gas canister. This he says copes with the large quantity of shavings resulting from his wood turning and provides a useful amount of heat in the process.

About Tigers

Valerie Graves

My eleventh great-grandchild has had his first birthday and is still devoted to the scruffy stuffed tiger that I gave him and that everybody said he wouldn't like - but he loves it! It was definitely a success.

Utter Ignoramuses

A particular professor was known to have a sour disposition, and one day he barked at his class, "If there are any utter ignoramuses here, please stand up!" After a long silence, one friend in gray slowly stood up. "I see," said the professor, "so you admit to being a total ignoramus, then?" "Um, not exactly, Friend," replied the boy, "but I do hate to see thee standing up there by thyself."

Courtesy of North Carolina Meeting
**Endangered Species & Extinction**

Dave Lawrence

From: Ten Reasons Animals Go Extinct by Bob Strauss
Updated May 03, 2018

The earth teems with life but by most reckonings, since the beginning of life on earth, 99.9 percent of all species have gone extinct. Why?

1. **Asteroid Strikes**
   It is likely that many of the earth’s mass extinctions were caused by such impact events, and astronomers are constantly on the lookout for comets or meteors that could spell the end of human civilization.

2. **Climate Change.**
   This poses a constant danger to terrestrial animals. You need look no further than the end of the last Ice Age, about 11,000 years ago, when various mammals were unable to adapt to quickly warming temperatures.

3. **Disease.**
   While it’s unusual for disease alone to wipe out a given species, the groundwork must be laid first by starvation, loss of habitat, and/or lack of genetic diversity.

4. **Loss of Habitat.**
   As human civilization expands relentlessly into the wild, these natural habitats diminish in scope—and their restricted and dwindling populations are more susceptible to the other extinction pressures listed here.

5. **Lack of Genetic Diversity.**
   Once a species starts dwindling in numbers, there’s a smaller pool of available mates, and often a corresponding lack of genetic diversity. If during the lifetime of a certain species successful births do not keep pace with deaths extinction is inevitable.

6. **Competitively Better.**
   Such populations always win out over those that lag behind.

7. **Invasive Species.**
   While most struggles for survival transpire over eons, sometimes the contest is quicker and more one-sided.

8. **Lack of Food.**
   Mass starvation is the quick, one-way, sure-fire route to extinction; especially since hunger weakened populations are much more prone to disease and predation.

9. **Pollution.**
   While it's virtually unknown for a single environmental disaster (such as an oil spill or fracking project) to render an entire species extinct, constant exposure to pollution can render plants and animals more susceptible to the other dangers, including starvation, loss of habitat, and disease.

10. **Human Predation.**
    Modern humans have only occupied the earth for the last 50,000 or so years, so it's unfair to blame the bulk of the world's extinctions on us. But, there's no denying that we have wreaked ecological havoc during our brief time in the spotlight. Are we wise enough to change?

Taking inspiration from history, science and the natural world what do we learn?
Wildspot
Valerie Graves

I have never seen such roses! Everything that can flower is flowering extra extraordinarily and indeed many plants that I have never seen flowering have suddenly decided to have a go. The effect is remarkable.

The other rather peculiar thing is that quite a lot of plants which died have decided to come back to life again. I can only say "Wait and see". Altogether it just looks a bit hectic and not quite right, but I am enjoying it.

My Favourite Fruit Scones
Una Lawrence

Makes about eight

Ingredients:
450g SR flour
85g Sultanas
115g Butter cubed
One egg, beaten
85g Castor sugar
200ml Milk

Preheat oven 200c
Lightly oil baking sheet
Sift the flour into a mixing bowl and rub in the butter... use your fingertips until it resembles fine bread crumbs. Stir in sugar and fruit.

Add the egg and gradually mix about 150ml of milk to make a soft dough.

Turn out onto floured surface and knead very lightly. Roll out to about 2/3 fingers thick.

Stamp out with cutter. Brush tops lightly with remaining milk

Bake on baking sheet for 10 to 15 minutes until risen and golden brown.

Serve warm... (best eaten on day of baking).

Split into two, spread with butter (or not), top with strawberry jam and double cream.

P.S. How to decide... Jam or cream first, either way they are just delicious for a summer time treat.

Dinner Guest
John Hall

Here is a story I came across in a Pendle Hill pamphlet of 1946.

A man who knew little about Friends’ ways was invited to a Quaker home for dinner. Before he accepted, he asked a friend who was acquainted with Quakers whether he should go. The friends said, “Go ahead. They’re all right, and you’ll get a good meal.” A few days after the party the two men met again. “Well, how did it go? Did you get along all right?” “Oh, everything was fine. There was a little awkward silence at the beginning of the meal, but I just told a funny story and broke the ice.”
**Introversion and Extroversion**

It is my impression that throughout history there were trends, usually decided by what the powerful did, which favoured introversion or extroversion. It does not take a great deal of imagination to envisage the climate of, for say, the later Tudors, the later Stuarts, the Commonwealth, Georgian or Victorian times.

Extroverts are the thing to be nowadays. You have only to listen to any television audience to realise that the days of polite quiet applause have long since disappeared. The behaviour, largely imported from the football terraces of shouting, swearing, whistling and booing is now the norm, being part of a crowd seems to relieve individuals of a sense of responsibility for their actions.

The rise in frequency of programs on television with a slightly aggressive, competitive emphasis is very noticeable nowadays. This can be in any field at all cookery, fishing, painting, even specially devised artificial game situations.

Particular repeated feature is that in which participants are winnowed out on a knockout basis, a one, ‘loser’ or more being rejected each week until the final ‘winner’ is declared. The relief of those left in and the excessive pseudo sympathy shown to the rejected is suitably savoured by the audience as a nakedly real-life drama instead of an appeal to the worst of anti-social emotions.

Extroverts love competition. Competition establishes status within a group.

The group ethic loves stigmatising those taking part in anything public as winners and losers. In the avoidance of being with large numbers of people, loners are frequently seen as ‘Losers’.

The introvert however tends to the introspective, mildly autistic sort of character, avoids large crowds of strangers, especially drunken and consequently uninhibited.

I have heard many Friends lament the fact that we are so few in number compared to other religious groups. It is surely of note that those religions with the largest intake, namely the ‘born again’ Christians, the Evangelicals and the Congregationalists to name but three. We should not be surprised to find that they are those which appeal mostly to the extroverts in all society.

Quaker outreach seems almost to be an oxymoron, inreach almost seems to be a more apt term

The concept of outreach always seems me to include a measure of persuasion together with a sense of excitement, as it most certainly does in the wider world.

Convincement, from a Quaker point of view, always to have more validity if it results from within after a great deal of quiet unemotional reflection. Certainly not from instant conversion. This hopefully is not acquired as the result of continuous outside pressure but from experiencing the effectiveness and appeal of Quaker ways through our ministry and practice.

Quaker gatherings are very different in quality, there is a security in knowing that everyone is valued as an individual and respected as having intrinsic worth.

In this company you would not be required to seek validity as you would in a more selective group. In this you would be soon required to offer required shibboleths or proofs as a passport of status and desirability. Hopefully also proof against being judged on appearance or behaviour alone.

Happily judgemental and critical behaviour is not well regarded in our society, of ourselves as well as of others.