Diary Dates for May

Friday 3 May, 11.30am-1pm Westminster Abbey, London peace demonstration
Sunday 5th May, Remembering Reg Webb, a concert at the Colchetser Arts Centre, 6.30 for 7pm
Friday 24th to Monday 27th May, Britain Yearly Meeting; Friends’ House, London – theme: ‘the assumptions of privilege’
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
Contact: Ros/Tony Eaton 01255 880500

**COLCHESTER**
Sunday 10.30 am

**EARLS COLNE**
Sundays 10.30 am

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

Editorial

Dear Friends

We are settling into managing without a residential warden for the time being - an excellent opportunity to get things cleaned up and perhaps rearranged, and a lot of things done that probably ought to have been done before now. You will see that lots of events are taking place, in their order, and of course Yearly Meeting.

Several deaths: Dora Apps, who had been ill for some time, and Audrey Hind, who had Alzheimers. We were worried about John Kay, but he seems to be better.

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

We especially liked the article about The Inward Teacher!

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Wildspot

from Valerie Graves

My ceanothus, which suddenly died some years ago, was cut down but recovered and has flourished ever since, is flowering now. I am looking the other way!

Wildflowers are flourishing, but we need some rain. Forget-me-nots are doing well and little blue flowers are everywhere.

I visited Dedham Church recently - very worthwhile. Always lovely, this year they have a special line in rather unostentatious flowers with a creamy yellowish look. It is a lovely place to start a walk along the river.

Area Meeting

Sudbury 14.04.2019
Jenny Kay

As Friends gathered in Sudbury, I sat comfortably appreciating the new chairs arranged in a circle and became aware of the polished parquet floor, which I had hardly noticed before. Charles Bather clerked the Meeting as Diana Naylor is unwell. The Meeting agreed to ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of a second assistant clerk to support Charles until Di feels able to return.

We recorded the death of Audrey Hind of Harwich Meeting. In the silence I remembered how caring she was when John was first undergoing mouth cancer treatment. She telephoned phoned regularly to find out how he was getting on and in particular to enquire after my well-being. Previously Audrey had spent a term at Pendle Hill, the Quaker study centre in Pennsylvania, her photograph appearing in a subsequent brochure. She enthused us with her experience there prior to our visit in 2001.

An intention of marriage was received and a Meeting for Worship in Colchester in July was appointed. We welcomed an active Colchester attender into membership and accepted transfers for a Friend into Harwich and another Friend into Earls Colne.

An overseer was appointed for Colchester. As the sole remaining member of AM Nominations Committee, I thanked Colchester Nominations Group for assistance in bringing names forward to AM. LMs are asked to continue to find names to serve on the AM committee. In the meantime...
the present arrangement will continue.

A sum of £20,000 to be sent to BYM from SEAQM funds was agreed. Giving from our Meetings and individuals averaged £67 per member in 2018, well below the average of £225 needed. Please read my separate item on Contributions in 2019.

We later heard in the Meeting for Sufferings report that giving in total to BYM was down last year. That report appears elsewhere in the Newsletter. The meeting thanked Valerie Graves and John Kay for their consistent efforts to regularly produce the Area Meeting Newsletter.

Plans for the October Gathering at Colchester Meeting House are going ahead. Financial support of up to £1,000 was agreed to enable Woodbrooke participation.

The Meeting adopted the employment policies, drawn up by Trustees and now in use by the Colchester Wardship Committee on the appointment of a temporary non-resident warden. Friends decided that the Health and Safety Policy should be considered a draft to be reviewed by LMs before adoption by AM.

Tea followed. Friends had contributed beyond our needs; unopened items taken to the Foodbank.

**Clacton News**

Hazel Jones has been wishing for some time to hand over the convening of Premises Committee and the answer has come in the form of John Hall, who has been proposed and accepted. John himself also offered this service. This is a great relief to Hazel who has had and still has a very great deal to contend with in her personal life, as most of us will know. She has served us in this capacity for a very long time, as in all her many appointments.

At the previous Premises Committee Meeting, Karl Sage was appointed as the new Gardener at Clacton. Karl is an experienced gardener and as a member of the U3A he organises visits to various notable gardens such as Sissinghurst. To clarify, the gardening job at Clacton is separate from the position of Gardening Friend, which I still am. (The Gardener is traditionally an employee.)

The new Spiritual Friendship Group for Clacton and Harwich takes place on most first Mondays of each month from 11 am and is a very rewarding addition to our other meetings. It lasts for around an hour. Anyone bringing their own lunch may help themselves to coffee or tea and continue to enjoy the conviviality afterwards. At the time of writing, it has not been decided whether, or when, this is to be a closed group. Still time, perhaps?

Janet Thomas

*Sissinghurst*
Contributions to LM, AM and BYM in 2019

Jenny Kay, SEAQM Trustees

Hopefully you will have received a pack containing all that you need to make your financial contribution to Quaker Meetings this year. These are currently circulating and there is one for everyone who wants it. A letter from Trustees explains local needs and how to contribute. The BYM leaflet sets out the central work of our organisation. It is suggested that if you choose to give to BYM, then giving directly could be a better way than through AM. The money will reach BYM sooner and save the AM some administrative work. Please use the blue form for this.

BYM have calculated the need per member again as £225. The AM needs approximately the same amount. However we give according to what we can afford, that may be more, less or perhaps nothing. Giving time in service is a valuable way to contribute to the life of Meeting.

This year Trustees have taken on the role of distributing the packs and making arrangements to receive your contributions. The AM book keeper ultimately receives, records and banks our contributions. These will reach her through me or through local treasurers in Clacton and Colchester. Please contact me if you haven’t received a pack or want any further details.

Quaker Funerals

Dora Apps

Her committal will be at the Quaker Burial ground at 11 am on Thursday, May 9th 2019, a small gathering but Friends are welcome to attend. It will be followed at 12.00 by a memorial Meeting for Worship at the Meeting House, afterwards by refreshments in the Parnell Room.

Audrey Hind

Woodland burial at Oakfield Burial Ground Wood, Wrabness CO11 2PQ, Friday 24 May, 3 pm. Simple Quaker funeral at graveside, afterwards Meeting for Worship and refreshments in Wrabness Village Hall.

RSVP to Victoria, victoria.hind@gmail.com.
Online Hymns

The Peaceful Kingdom
We wait the Peaceful Kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh, when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike; a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.

Where is the Peaceful Kingdom? When will this new day start? We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart. Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home - we pray that all Creation will one day find Shalom.

That little child shall lead us to walk the Chosen Way, to share the Peaceful Kingdom, to greet God’s newborn day. The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains, to bring through Word and Table the Day when justice reigns. Isaiah 11:1-9

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Edward Hicks - Peaceable Kingdom

Swiss Quaker Life

John Hall
Recently a Friend from my Meeting lent me a compilation of writings of Friends in Switzerland, Swiss Quaker Life, Belief and Thought 2009.

Although I found the German and French a little beyond me, within the English works I discovered a poem by Dorothy Woods which, as we say, "spoke to my condition.”

Maybe it will to yours.

Silence
Unspoken is the truth that ties One Friend unto the other Friends. The silence is the river which Bears currents of our means and ends.

The silence bolsters hope, fights fear. Makes inwardness the changing force. The silence filters out our will To let the godly takes its course.

In silent prayer we hear the Voice, We offer up our best replies. Conviction grows; commitment shows. Unspoken is the truth that ties.

Originally published in News and Views of Geneva Friends No. 7 1994
An early food bank?
John Hall

From the Moravian town, on the river Le French, came six or seven Indians, among whom was John Killbuck, and his son, who had been educated at Princeton college, but has again resumed Indian habits and manners.

These poor Indians, who do not go to war, have been driven about from place to place, and much distressed. Governor Simcoe has now granted them ten miles square of land, which they are beginning to cultivate; but at present their situation was represented to be very distressing for want of provisions, having scarcely anything to subsist on, but roots, until their corn grows. Friends took it into consideration, and no other resources appearing, we thought it right to procure corn and flour for them to the amount of one hundred dollars; part of which they immediately took off in their canoes. William Savery [in what is now Canada] 1793

Six things you never knew were invented by Quakers (cont.)
Jon Martin

5. Sanitary towels
This tale begins in Birmingham, England, with Quaker brothers Thomas and William Southall. In 1820 they established a firm of manufacturing chemists that eventually came to be known as Southalls (Birmingham) Ltd. In 1888 Southalls brought out pads for ‘Ladies Travelling by Land and Sea’ – possibly the first ever commercial sanitary towels.

Another claimant to that title is US pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson who brought Lister’s Towels to market around the same time. Even this invention has a Quaker connection, if you dig deeper into the towel’s namesake, Joseph Lister.

Lister transformed surgical practice thanks to his pioneering use of antiseptics, and was also (you guessed it) a Quaker. Lister’s father was an amateur scientist and wine merchant and gave Lister a solid Quaker education packed with scientific enthusiasm. Lister went on to join the Scottish Episcopal Church, but we’ll still count him!

In case you’re wondering: yes, Listerine is also named in honour of Lister. The neat ending to the tale is that like the towels, Listerine is now also owned by Johnson & Johnson. The Southalls factory in Birmingham, however, closed down in 2007.
On roses

from Valerie Graves

Of course there are lots of lovely roses, but I think I am especially fond of semi-wild ones like rugosa. You can cut them to the ground and up they come again. If you are lucky enough to have a toad, it will live happily under the leaves, and eat all the slugs.

Meeting for Sufferings (MfS)

Friends House London 6th April 2019

Robert Parkes

As Friends we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us. We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love: all our testimonies grow from this leading. (QFP 1.01)

In 2017 Yearly Meeting asked MfS to consider diversity in our committee and organisational structures and to think of ways in which Quakers can remove barriers and seek wider participation in the full life of our meetings. Two years on and we received the report from BYM’s Diversity Coordinator Edwina Peart. She has found Quakers are, at their core, a community of people committed to a loving, simple and rich-in-the-spirit way of life. Yet it came as no surprise to hear we do not represent the diversity of British society. We have a tendency to claim diversity as something we do, i.e. in various aspects of our work - because we are Quakers - rather than truthfully examining who we are. Across the Society lies a range of diverse identities, experiences and perspectives. What barriers - real, imagined, self imposed - prevent us from exploring this diversity? We were asked in home groups to consider three questions. Does anyone have a claim on the universal? Do Quakers think that everyone should aspire to become middle class by middle age? What makes for a welcoming welcome? We had no ready answers. AM might wish to consider them further. In plenary session we reflected that some things are visible and others invisible - those in a dominant group are not always aware of their dominance. We need to know ourselves and the ‘baggage’ we hold to enable us to be truly welcoming of others. ‘Jesus asks us to love each person, whoever they are; not necessarily to agree or approve, but to love at a deep lev-

News from Earls Colne

Jenny Kay

Friends heard that Refugee Support Braintree Group is planning for a refugee family, most likely from Syria, to be housed in Earls Colne the end of May. At short notice the organisers requested the hire of the Meeting House to introduce the scheme and to seek befrienders. In 2017 AM linked with the Sanctuary Meeting Programme and mindful of this, Friends agreed to offer our facilities free of charge on this occasion. None of us were able to attend the meeting but I have since learned that Muslim families living in Earls Colne, with connection to the Braintree mosque are offering support. We are waiting for further news and hope that we will be able to offer some form of support to the refugees and their befrienders.

"Bluebells, High Woods" Photo: Julia Usher
el. There should be no ‘other’ – we are all family.’ We were reminded of the importance of listening to each other. This is on-going work, which is both challenging and sometimes uncomfortable. Diversity, inclusion and privilege will be considered at Yearly Meeting in May, in London, to which all Friends and Attendees are warmly urged to attend.

We heard about the Vibrancy in Meetings (ViM) project that has now been professionally evaluated. The project has not had a direct impact on our AM as we were not part of the pilot. However, those involved have felt transformed particularly in the areas of community, Quaker discipline and collaboration. Half of the meetings currently served reported deeper quality of ministry at their meetings; and many feel better engaged with Quakers in Britain. How ViM goes forward has yet to be discerned, probably later in the year.

A couple of highlights from the BYM Trustees that we may wish to think about:

The annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 show both income and expenditure down on the previous year. The loss of £3million for the year includes a stock value loss of £2.3million and the reserves, of which two thirds are held in property, stand at £77 million. About £5million was gifted by Friends in 2018, but Quaker support was actually down by £0.75million. We remain supported more by deceased Friends than by those alive today! The Hospitality Company continues to uphold the Society to the tune of £1.3million.

The median number of members in LMs has fallen from 24 to 18 in the last ten years, but there are now more children’s meetings than 10 years ago and 16 ‘Young Adult Friends’ groups around the country.

As usual, a full report of the meeting and papers can be found on the dedicated MfS pages on the Quaker.org website. MfS also gets reported in *The Friend*.

Robert Parkes

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**On apples**

from Valerie Graves

I have probably written about the Tanns and their orchard near Earls Colne. She is old and lonely and I visit her most weeks. They have a lot of different varieties and also some vegetables and things like medlars (could you call that a fruit or vegetable?) in a very ancient bit of Essex.

Andrew will tell you that fruit should be left on the tree longer than most people do. We used to have a peach tree, very tall and thin, which had masses of delicious fruit (full of wasps), which we left to fall off. And tiny alpine strawberries make a good edging for a border.