

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
November 2019, Number 271



Sketch by John Geekie

Meeting for Worship and Children's Meeting is held every Sunday @ 10.30am
at Warwick Friends Meeting House, 39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
All are welcome - for more information, please see our website: www.warwickquakers.org.uk

Our name, the Religious Society of Friends, suggests that we think of ourselves not only as Friends in the Truth, which the early Quakers saw themselves to be, but also as a society of friends, prizing friendship highly and recognising its value for the religious life.

In our intimate relationships, as in the wider community of our meeting, openness to one another can open us to the Holy Spirit and enable us to acknowledge that of God in our own hearts and in those of our friends.

1994 Quaker Faith and Practice, 22.02

Welcome to the November edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to the November edition of the Friendly Link. This month heralds the introduction of a new section, the *I Believe* column, which is both thought provoking and interesting. This month also offers the diverse opportunities of a walk and cake, a workshop and a play to choose from.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the December / January combined edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday November 24th. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

Sunday 3rd November: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Saturday 9th November: Afternoon walk with Meg and Rosa at 14:00

Sunday 17th November: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Tuesday 19th November: Exploring influence amongst Friends' Workshop, 19:00-21:30

Friday 22nd November: Ladies Social Evening, 20:00 at Paula's flat

Saturday 23rd November: Area Meeting, 14:00-17:00 at Bull St QMH

Saturday 23rd November: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 24th November: Joan of Arc performance at 11:50.

Sunday 24th November: Soup and a roll at 12:00 noon

Sunday 1st December: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Welcomers' Rota

If you would like to know who is welcoming, you can either visit the website (www.warwickquakers.org.uk), check the notice board or see below!

November	3	Anna Edelsten and Joanna Hardcastle
November	10	Jane Beale and John Sheldon
November	17	Annie Pettifer and Jolyon Hall
November	24	Marilyn and Phil Biles
December	1	Sarah Thompson and John Harding

Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: Seasonal

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
3 Nov	Golden Time and Making White Poppies	Marilyn Biles	
10 Nov	Making a white poppy display for white poppy remembrance Sunday 2pm	Ruth Gaston	John Harding
17 Nov	Joan of Arc rehearsal	Helen Pemberton	Jane Holt
24 Nov	Making People Happy; WARP I p36; Rugby children visit	Wendy Edwards	Jane Beale
1 Dec	Advent Candles- Hope, love, joy and peace	Possibility	Possibility

The topic leader has main responsibility for preparing the topic. However, we would **encourage the topic leader and supporter to chat a few days beforehand**; great ideas result and the session usually flows so much better.

Golden (Unstructured)Time is the topic during children's holidays and busy times; when we expect very few and possibly even no children attending. At these times we will only provide one DBS checked adult and parents will be expected to stay with their children. Golden time is a time when there is a chance for the children to spend time in more unstructured or self chosen activities. We encourage games, craft, painting or if the leader wishes to run a topic of their own we are grateful. We have games, toys, art materials and books available for the children, parents and leader to make use of. The children may also bring games, books, sewing or other activities they might like to share or lead but it would be helpful if their parent could let the leader know if they plan to bring something the evening before.

If you feel led to help with the children's programme or wish to be shown our resources, or a tour of the children's room please contact anyone from CYPC. We are: Annie Pettifer (Convenor), Ruth Gaston, John Harding.

All helpers need to be cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service, but this is not a painful process!

Notices

Afternoon walk with Meg and Rosa 14:00 Saturday 9th November from Dave's house

Starting from Dave Rawcliffe's house, 33 St Mary's Road, Leamington Spa, with tea and cake to follow. Please contact Meg if you can make it.

Exploring influence amongst Friends' Workshop 19:00-21:30 Tuesday 19th November

As Quakers we strive to organise (i.e. 'getting things done together') equally which involves attempting to give everybody equal potential to shape the way forward. Many aspects of Quaker processes have been developed in an effort to promote equal and non-hierarchical ways of organising, such as the rotation of roles every three years. However, we live in societies, and may likely work in organisations, which are substantially defined by hierarchies and top-down control by a designated group of managers or leaders. Consequently, understanding in our Quaker lives what is involved in giving everybody the potential to shape the way forward can be challenging.

- In what ways do we allow others to be influential in setting what is discussable and acceptable action ('giving leadership')?
- How do others allow our views to become significant in what is relevant and important at that moment ('taking leadership')?

This free two-and-a-half-hour workshop is an opportunity to explore these and other questions about influencing dynamics. **Stephen Allen** will be facilitating the workshop; over the past two years he has been researching what leadership means in Quaker organising. He works as a lecturer at Sheffield University Management School and also has funding from a Gerald Hodgett Award (administered by the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies and the Quaker Studies Research Association). He plans to audio record the workshop so that any aspects can be anonymously referred to in subsequent published writing. Friends of long standing **and** those who have recently discovered Quakers are all equally welcome to this session; often newcomers see things more clearly!

If you are able to attend the workshop, you will be very welcome. **Please confirm your attendance by emailing** Stephen at stephen.allen@sheffield.ac.uk, or by phoning Jane Holt on 01564 779235 if you don't use email. Places are limited to twenty people. If you are not able to attend the workshop, but are interested in contributing to the workshop discussions please email Stephen your responses to the following questions:

1. When do you hear people talking about influence within Quakers? What is spoken about?
2. When do you hear people talking about leadership within Quakers? What is spoken about?
3. How successful do you think Quakers are at striving for equality in how things get done?
4. Are there times in Quakers that you don't feel listened to, or listened to too much?

Ladies Social Evening 20:00 Friday 22nd November at Paula's flat

Topic is Women's Health Issues. Venue is Paula Button's flat, 17, Birch Meadow Close, Warwick, CV34 4 TZ. Please contact Paula if you can come.

I Believe Column

I read recently that during a recent heat wave in New York, air conditioning was using something like 50% of the total power the city was using. People had to be cut off from the grid.

But the phrase in the article which really caught my eye was “load building”. The utilities that operated the power plants - and sold electricity - actively sought ways to increase demand and sell more electricity. AC fitted the bill perfectly. The warmer it gets, the more we use air conditioning. The more we use air conditioning, the warmer it gets. Load building.

But perhaps we should not blame wicked, capitalist companies for “load building”. Because I think there seems to be a very deep-seated human tendency, in every sphere of life, when something is going well to want to do more of it, to grow, to “load build.”

Which is why I believe our Quaker testimony to simplicity is so important. And perhaps so difficult.

Because for the people designing and building new homes in the US, air conditioning was a great simplifier. Architects and construction companies no longer had to worry much about differences in climate - they could sell the same style of home just as easily in Florida as in Seattle. Just about any problems caused by hot climates, cheap building materials, shoddy design or poor city planning could be overcome “by the brute application of more air conditioning”. Very simple.

Or perhaps more accurately: very convenient.

“Load building” not only goes with the grain of human nature but also appears to make life more convenient. Opting for simplicity might be both counter cultural and very inconvenient. Why do it?

In Quakers’ early history they believed that a person ought to live a “simple life” in order to focus on what is really important - a person’s spiritual life and character. The quantity of goods possessed; their monetary worth were just distractions. This is still important, however more recently Quakers have increasingly felt that their Testimony to simplicity should also mean that we do not use more than our fair share of the Earth’s limited resources.

So the answer to why we need a testimony to “Not Using More Energy Than We Need To”, is that the Earth’s resources are finite. Which is definitely very inconvenient.

Dave Rawcliffe

Children and Young People's Events

Selly Oak Bonfire, Sunday 3rd November, 14:30 at Selly Oak Meeting House

There will be no youth group this month. Instead, please come to our bonfire! Meeting for worship will start at 2.30pm. In children's meeting we will prepare food for the bonfire tea, then after meeting we will light the bonfire, have a bring and share tea, sparklers and fireworks. You would all be very welcome either for meeting or to just come after Meeting. Younger siblings and whole families welcome too! Please bring gloves for holding sparklers.

European wide youth event, 28 December 2019 to 2 January 2020, Germany

The European and Middle Eastern Section of Quakers (EMES) is organising an event for 16 - 18 year Quakers in Germany from 28 December 2019 to 2 January 2020. They are hoping to have young people there from as many different Yearly Meetings as possible. For more information contact Michael Eccles at emes@fwccemes.org.

Central England Area Events

To find out about events taking place go to: <http://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/events/>

Regular events:

Creative Day Sat 2 Nov 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH

Global Warming Vigil 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Nov & 4th Dec 13:30-13:45 Northeast of St Philip's Cathedral

Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 7 Nov & 5 Dec 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH

'Global Warming' Weekly Silent Vigil outside St Philip's Cathedral, Wednesdays 13:30-13:45

In an attempt to keep the issue of climate change and global warming in the forefront of people's minds beyond the excitement of the recent mass demonstrations I have thought it might be a good idea to hold a regular brief silent vigil outside St Philip's Cathedral. My idea is that the vigil should be open to anyone and should not be associated with any particular faith group. I have shared the idea with the Dean of St Philip's, Matt Thompson and he has said that although a political protest would be difficult, "we wouldn't seek to move on people quietly exercising their right to free speech or dignified protest". I hope that the vigil will be attractive to people on their lunchbreaks in the city centre and that it might be something which would interest Friends attending the Wednesday meeting for worship at Bull Street. I am planning to start the silent vigil each Wednesday at 1.30 and will stand to the north east of the cathedral (near Rackhams/House of Fraser) holding a simple banner which will read "Global Warming Silent Vigil". Anyone would be very welcome to join in. *Howard Saunders, Bournville LM*

Creative Day Saturday 2nd Nov 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH

This monthly Saturday is a BYOP (bring your own project) craft day. Come along for an hour or the whole day. We have a bring & share lunch at 13.00. If you don't have a project contact Tina (07802413143) and she can bring a project for you to try your hand at. Open to all abilities. The PAT lady is coming 10.00-11.00. If you have a sewing machine, iron, pyrography tool or any portable electric tools that you take to workshops most venues require they are PAT tested. So bring them along and for a donation of £1.50 per item you can have them tested.

Peace Conference: Safety in Numbers? Saturday 2nd Nov 14:00-17:00 at the Priory Rooms, Birmingham

Our project Peace Hub is organising a conference, asking: How can we rethink security for a just & peaceful world? A day for anyone interested in how we can work together to make a world that is more peaceful, just and secure for everyone. Through talks, workshops & discussions, we will explore what 'security' means in a peace & justice context, and how we can use this as a tool (or framework) when campaigning on a range of issues. The keynote speaker for the event is Patricia Sellick, Associate Professor at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University (she is also part of the Rethinking Security Network). Read more and register here: <http://peacehub.org.uk/events/peace-conference-rethinking-security/>

Towards a better understanding of Israel / Palestine Sunday 10th Nov 11:30-17:00 at Bull St QMH

A second gathering organised by Bull St Quaker Meeting and Central England Quakers, including a film showing of 'Two Sided Story' about an initiative bringing together bereaved families from both sides of the conflict. Followed by small group discussion. Registration and Refreshments at 11:30, bring and share lunch at 12:30, film and discussion from 13:15 to 17:00. If you are able, please RSVP to the Central England office to help us plan for numbers: ceqam@quaker.org.uk

Quaker insights in the context of ecological crisis. Convincement: guilty but forgiven.

Wednesday 13th Nov 10:30-11:30 at Bournville QMH

A study group held at Bournville Friends Meeting House on the second Wednesday morning of each month from 10.30 - 11.30 from October 2019 to June 2020. The meetings will begin with around 20 minutes of Quaker worship, and then a further 40 minutes exploring how the ecological insight for the day can help us in our daily lives. Tea and coffee from 10.15 and again afterwards. Based on a nine-part framework devised by Stuart Masters, Senior Programme Leader for on-site learning at Woodbrooke.

Safeguarding Meeting and Training Session Saturday 16th November 10:00-13:00 at Bull St QMH

Central England Quakers' Safeguarding Officers, Carole Pannell and Sarah Fishpool, invite all Local Meeting Safeguarding Coordinators to this meeting & training session. The programme covers safeguarding adults (exploring the CEQ Policy issued in 2018), children and the opportunity to complete DBS checks. This event is aimed at Local Meeting Safeguarding Coordinators, Elders/Overseers/others involved with elderly or vulnerable Friends, Children's Committee Clerk/Members. We would be pleased to welcome two attendees from each local meeting and happy to consider more. To book, please contact Sarah Fishpool via this form: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/events/safeguarding-meeting-training-session/>

Woodbrooke Course Corner

To find out about courses run at Woodbrooke, either pick up a copy of the *Woodbrooke Learning Brochure* for 2018 from the information table in the coffee room, or go to <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/view-course-search/> for residential courses and <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/online-learning/> for online courses.

Residential courses

Set in the beautiful grounds of the former home of George Cadbury, a peaceful environment awaits you. Please ask overseers if you require financial assistance. You may also attend these courses as a non-resident.

November

Fri 1 - Sun 3	All Are Welcome: growing our all-age Quaker communities
Fri 1 - Sun 3	Celebrating Samhain: exploring the Wheel of the Year
Fri 1 - Sun 3	Spiritual Surrender: the ego strikes back
Fri 8 - Sun 10	Why Have a Book of Discipline?
Fri 15 - Sun 17	A Friendly Introduction to Discernment
Fri 15 - Sun 17	Being a Quaker Treasurer
Fri 15 - Sun 17	Handling Conflict in our Meetings
Fri 22 - Sun 24	A Friendly Introduction to the Quaker Way
Fri 22 - Sun 24	'Faith of' or 'Faith in' Jesus
Fri 22 - Sun 24	Quaker Funerals
Fri 29 - Sun 1 Dec	Exploring Quaker Spirituality
Fri 29 - Sun 1 Dec	Mental Health in Our Meetings

December

Fri 6 - Sun 8	Living, Loving and Engaging With the World Together: parents and adult children
Fri 6 - Sun 8	No Sects Please, We're British: understanding diversity amongst British Muslims
Mon 30 - Thu 2 Jan	Dances of Universal Peace

Online courses

Fri 1 Nov - Mon 16 Dec: Quaker Nominations

Mon 4 Nov - Sun 1 Dec: The Birth of Liberal Quakerism in Britain

Mon 4 Nov - Sun 15 Dec: Speaking to That of God: building a Quaker web presence

Mon 18 Nov - Sun 15 Dec: A Friendly Introduction to Membership

Tue 19 Nov: Seeking Sanctuary and Stillness