

# The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting  
June 2020 Number 277



*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](http://www.warwickquakers.org.uk)

Remember your responsibility as citizens for the government of your town and country, and do not shirk the effort and time this may demand. Do not be content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert and questioning mind. Seek to discover the causes of social unrest, injustice and fear; try to discern the new growing-points in social and economic life. Work for an order of society which will allow men and women to develop their capacities and will foster their desire to serve.

*Advices, 1964 Quaker Faith and Practice, 23.01*

## **Welcome to the June edition of *The Friendly Link***

Welcome to this edition of the Friendly Link. I hope you are all well and enjoying the glorious weather and easing of lockdown. This is a slender edition, perhaps representative of the reduced happenings in our lives, or alternately the very busyness of other aspects of our lives! However, there are still a number of opportunities and a thoughtful reflection to be found in this edition - read on!

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the combined July & August edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday June 28th. Please send your contributions to: [editor@warwickquakers.org.uk](mailto:editor@warwickquakers.org.uk).

*Anna Edelsten*

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## **Quaker Diary**

Meeting for Worship is currently being held at the following times via zoom:

**Sunday - 10:30 for an hour**

<https://zoom.us/j/404903873?pwd=RTBDdUxuWjhEOTRQeVZ1WDJ4c29Kdz09>

Meeting ID: 404 903 873

Password: 137252

**Mid-week - Wednesday at 12:30 for half an hour**

<https://zoom.us/j/581141952?pwd=N1drWCtwaGVUQ1dQeC9rSUpmS0xoQT09>

Meeting ID: 581 141 952

Password: 955319

**Kenilworth - every third Thursday @ 2:00pm for half an hour**

<https://zoom.us/j/96143019529?pwd=TTh0YUM0d2prci9oWkYyTmZmeEJNQTO9>

Meeting ID: 961 4301 9529

Password: 010376

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June: Area Meeting at 14:00-17:00 at Cotteridge Meeting House or via zoom (await updates).

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom

All in-person meetings and events organised for June at Warwick Meeting have been cancelled.

## **Welcomers' Rota**

Suspended until further notice.

## Notices

### **Wheel of Friendship**

Overseers hope that everyone who wanted to be linked on the Wheel of Friendship is finding their links helpful, positive and a way of getting to know people better. We believe that each of us have strengths we can share with others, and also each of us will have times when we need to lean on other people, so that these relationships go in two directions, with each Friend having opportunities to give and to receive support.

We would be glad to hear any feedback you may have.

It's important to be clear with your linked friends, if you are sharing something you wish to remain confidential.

Of course you can still contact Overseers if you wish, or need to, perhaps particularly in relation to financial support or bursaries.

Very best wishes to everyone at this difficult time, from Overseers.

*Jane Beale, Marilyn Biles, Ann James*

## Children and Young People's Events

### **What's available for our young people?**

In June there will still be no formal Children's Meeting. However, Alice Yaxley is offering a session on Sundays after Meeting for Worship, and regular online sessions at 16:30 during the week; so please contact her for more information. For older children there is The Youth Club being run online by the Waters at Selly Oak. Contact Ruth Gaston or Annie Pettifer for dates and invites.

In Friendship

*John Harding*

### **National online youth groups for Quaker young people**

In these unusual times a little connection can help. Quakers in Britain, are hosting online youth groups for young Quakers from across England, Scotland and Wales [online youth group](#). Join a weekly group, with a choice of different days 4.30pm to 6.00pm. Fill in the [online form](#) to indicate your interest. Questions? Contact [Judea@quaker.org.uk](mailto:Judea@quaker.org.uk).

## Central England Area Events

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

All in-person events are cancelled.

### Appeal for Woodbrooke

Woodbrooke's ability to generate income has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak and we are concerned about the long-term impact on Woodbrooke. All of our commercial and on-site courses are currently suspended and as a charity, we aren't eligible for the majority of the current government support. We would welcome any contributions via donations, grants or low-interest loans. If you can help in any way please get in contact.

To donate and for more information please go to:

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/support-us/make-a-donation/#donate-now>

### Posts from CEQ

Access these articles here: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/news/>

New posts include:

“A Message from Christians at Pride”

“Reflection on Volunteering at a Food Bank”

“Reflections on Earth Day”

## National Events

### Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) Summer Series 2020 - Where our Witness is.

The Summer Series is an online series of workshops and seminars looking at the work QPSW (and key partner organisations) does with and on behalf of Friends to build a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. Sessions include climate justice, peace and disarmament, nonviolence success stories from East Africa, the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, spiritual activism, and peace education and more.

Members and attenders are welcome to sign up for one or more of the sessions which are taking place throughout June and July. For more information go to:

<https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/2020/05/19/qpsw-summer-series-where-our-witness-is/>

## Reflection

### Living on the wave's edge

My friend Barbara who has been very involved in the ministry of the Church of England and who worshipped with us in the meeting house in February told me how welcomed she had felt and of how she had a sense of coming home. She rejoined us on Zoom a couple of weeks ago, on 17 May, when Roger read a passage from *Quaker Faith & Practice* by Philip Rack. It's 20.06 and reads like this:

Some among us have a clear sense of what is right and wrong - for themselves personally if not for everyone else. They have a reassuring certitude and steadiness which can serve as a reference point by which others may navigate. There are others who live in a state of uncertainty, constantly re-thinking their responses to changing circumstances, trying to hold onto what seems fundamental but impelled to reinterpret, often even unsure where lies the boundary between the fundamental and the interpretation...

Please be patient, those of you who have found a rock to stand on, with those of us who haven't and with those of us *who are not even looking for one*. We live on the wave's edge, where sea, sand and sky are all mixed up together: we are tossed head over heels in the surf, catching only occasional glimpses of any fixed horizon. Some of us stay there from choice because it is exciting and it *feels like the right place to be*.

This reading seemed to touch a nerve in the meeting and engendered several thoughtful pieces of ministry, one even suggesting that Friends who have "a reassuring certitude and steadiness" may themselves be "standing on the wave's edge, where sea, sand and sky are all mixed up together".

Barbara wrote to me afterwards saying:

It felt like coming home all over again. To 'meet' with people of a like mind, arriving at this place together, was such an affirmation and comfort. The Meeting brought forth such insight, wisdom and reassurance that I'm not mad. And since this morning I've been reflecting on those images of surf, sand, waves, rock and finding myself happily beached on the shore of exploration which I trust will continue until my last breath. I was born and remain a pilgrim.

While the established church has a mission to transmit some key things, without which we may lose essential truths, it is surely not wrong to ask 'why' and 'what does that mean exactly' and 'how do I live this?' Teachers and prophets like Richard Rohr, John Main, Laurence Freeman, the Desert fathers and mothers and so on, shine a holy light on these questions along with those whose insight is recorded in 'Quaker Faith and Practice'. Whew what a relief.

I once heard someone from another church say how much they valued the Religious Society of Friends and described us as a quiet chapel in the great cathedral of Christendom. However, we can be so busy getting on with our Quaker lives and the affairs of running the meeting that we forget the precious essentialness of why we are here and what has drawn us to Friends. We have been given a heritage which we carry for ourselves and future generations. Roger's reading, the ensuing ministry and Barbara's reflections all reflect the precious jewel which we carry for ourselves and others.

*John Sheldon*

## Community Notice Board



**Quaker Camp Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at White Mark Farm,  
82 Hill Road, Watlington, Oxfordshire**



This is looking increasingly likely, so for those who enjoy camping and are wondering what you are going to do this summer, reserve these dates! I am awaiting guidance from the campsite after which I will be emailing the campers list. Do get in contact if you have any questions.

*Anna Edelsten*  
*Clerk, Quaker Campers*

## Woodbrooke Course Corner

To find out about courses run at Woodbrooke 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.

### Statement by Woodbrooke

The current position regarding courses is as follows:

- the site is closed until 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- all on-site courses and learning events are suspended until 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- all Woodbrooke on the road events are suspended until 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- all other residential on-site activity (conferences and B&B bookings) are suspended until 31<sup>st</sup> July.

For the full statement see: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/statement-19-march-2020-covid-19-impact/>

### Online courses

Mon 1 June - Sun 28 June	Spiritual Practices for Everyday (£36)
Mon 1 June - Mon 13 July	An Introduction to Peace Education (£36)
Mon 1 June - Sun 12 July	Eldership and Oversight Online (£115)
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Storytelling in Climate Crisis (£10)
Tue 2 June - Tue 30 June	The Roots of the Quaker Way (£54)
Thurs 4 June - Thurs 16 July	Heaven on Earth (£54)
Mon 8 June - Sun 19 July	Exploring Quaker Chaplaincy (£115)
Mon 15 June - Sun 26 July	Being a Quaker Trustee (£115)
Mon 29 June - Sun 26 July	TESTIMONY; FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT (£36)

There are no courses commencing in July.