

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
July & August 2020 Number 278



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

We know, with varying degrees of acceptance into awareness, our own weaknesses, and there is a tendency to think that others - who seem, on the surface, to be very sure and confident - do not struggle in the way we do. But many of those who appear to cope and be strong and tireless are indeed very different behind their masks. We are all wounded; we all feel inadequate and ashamed; we all struggle. But this is part of the human condition; it draws us together, helps us to find our connectedness.

June Ellis, 1986 Quaker Faith and Practice, 21.14

Welcome to the July & August edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to this edition of the Friendly Link. As you may be aware, there is the possibility of Meeting for Worship happening in person for those who would like to attend. As yet there is no firm date for this, nor for any other of our regular in-person activities. You will be informed of developments via the group email list.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the combined September edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday August 30th. Please send your contributions to: 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

Sunday - 18:30 for an hour

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83544122405?pwd=a2MxaHZJY2daQWtudkVnWEJjMVNqZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 4412 2405

Password: 191499

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=TTh0YUM0d2prci9oWkYyTmZmeEJNQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 4301 9529

Password: 010376

Sunday 5th July: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom

Tuesday 14th July: Area Meeting at 18:00 via zoom

Sunday 6th September: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom or at the Meeting House

Link to Area BM Minutes: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/area-business-meeting/minutes/>

Welcomers' Rota

Suspended until further notice.

Notices

Reflections on The Wheel of Friendship

In June's Friendly Link the overseers asked for feedback on how the Wheel of Friendship is working, and we are pleased to report that all the replies have been positive. Nearly everyone who comes to Warwick Meeting is now linked into the wheel, and some others are on a spur to one or more people who can support them.

The help given is taking many forms; some is spiritual, holding each other in the light, prayer, sharing insights; some is practical, doing a bit of shopping, providing food, or perhaps helping with internet difficulties, looking up items, doing some research or printing documents for people who are not online. Sometimes what is needed is simply friendship, a phone call, listening ear, or exchange of news by email.

The overseers are very pleased that all this is already happening, and encourage everyone to continue, not only during lockdown, but in whatever awaits us afterwards.

“In our meeting we can each hope to find love, support, challenge, practical help and a sense of belonging. We should bring ourselves as we are, our strength, our weakness; and be able to share friendship and warmth.” QFAP 10.03.

And don't forget overseers are always available where extra help is needed.

Jane Beale. Marilyn Biles and Ann James

Children and Young People's Events

Young People's Online Programme 2020

A week of online gatherings for those aged 11-17. Daily sessions in age groups from 3- 7 August 2020. The sessions will have a combination of games, discussion and worship and are aimed at those connected to Quaker meetings. Apply [here](#) before 17 July. Questions contact judea@quaker.org.uk

Central England Area Events

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

Posts from CEQ

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

New posts include:

“Chaplaincy catch up”

“Tax Justice Sunday”

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

Let's make things better!

The views of a lady of Ugandan heritage living in Aylesbury.

From personal experience, I can honestly say that many of the white people I engage with are progressive and welcoming but sadly I'm one of the lucky ones. When we think of racist encounters, we tend to think of circumstances that involve violence or some sort of unpleasant verbal communication and although these happen a lot, most of my personal experiences have been subtle. These range from being followed round shops (high street and high end) in case I shop lift, black cabs not stopping for me but stopping 50 yards down the road for my white counterparts (yes we used to have to split up so we can get home) and such like. I can go on but I think you get the gist of it. Of course, these are unpleasant but sadly we have adapted to this way of life as it makes life easier and anyway, you can never prove anything.

My son has had much worse experiences as would be expected for a young black male, some obvious ones and some others just too distressing. Luckily, he has a good group of friends (Black, White, Asian) that stick together and walk away from these situations. Perhaps he can relay his experiences to you another time.

So, having had several discussions with family and friends, below are some ideas that we think would help to start making a difference and therefore improving the situation, particularly in this country.

Firstly, I think it is important to be willing to put one's head above the parapet and calling out racist comments and inequalities when we see them. It's easier to let things slide or fail to consider how different groups of people may be differentially affected by things and not to notice the inequalities. This can be applied in any setting be it the work environment, schools, etc

In line with the above, if organisations take a public stance with a clear and concise message (for example on the website or social media platforms) to show that they do not stand for any racial inequality, that sends an important message to the world.

Other ideas include: engaging with local BAME groups, supporting charities that stand for racial justice, supporting BAME businesses - locally and globally, and one that may seem obvious is educating ourselves by reading about different cultures and understanding their history.

Finally, one idea that may take some time is to try and vote for political parties whose policies support racial justice. It is by voting that we influence policies.

I hope this is helpful and thank you again for bringing the discussion to the table. Let me know if you wish to discuss this further.

Elizabeth Nsereko Hunt (relative of Diana Biddlestone)

Community Notice Board



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

This is going ahead, with measures in place to promote social distancing. So for those who enjoy camping and are wondering what to do this summer, consider a holiday in Watlington! Do get in contact if you have any queries.



*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 31st July.
- all on-site courses and learning events are suspended until 31st July.
- all Woodbrooke on the road events are suspended until 31st July.
- all other residential on-site activity (conferences and B&B bookings) are suspended until 31st July.

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

Online courses

Thurs 2 July	Creative Climate and Social Justice Action from Home; £10
Mon 6 July - Sun 2 Aug	Essentials of Quakerism; £15
Mon 20 July - Sun 30 Aug	Courageous Living amid a Climate Crisis; £36.00
Fri 31 July - Sat 1 Aug	Awakening the Prophetic Imagination: a Bible study course; £45.00 with live sessions
Thurs 6 Aug	Quakers Do What! Why? Book Launch
Fri 7 Aug - Fri 7 Aug	Early Quakers and Creation: James Nayler's Eco-Theology; pay as lead
Mon 10 Aug - Sun 20 Sept	Bayard Rustin: reflections on his life and witness; £54.00
Thurs 20 Aug	What do we actually mean by privilege? Pay as lead
Fri 28 Aug	Bringing Quaker and Buddhist Practice Together: a joint online retreat with Woodbrooke and Plum Village UK; £72
Mon 7 Sept - Sun 18 Oct	European Quaker Voices; £25