Ludlow Quaker Journal

August 2022

This Journal will publish anything that Friends think is of interest; so its range may be very wide. If you find it too long, select only what interests you from the Table of Contents. Please contact Barbara Mark if you would like to have something included or wonder if you have a subject that might be of interest. It will be published on-line only and will come out when enough articles have been gathered in. Comments and letters to the editor are also welcome. Do remember if this copy is pdf you can listen to it via Windows 10 'read aloud' option at the top of the sheet.

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Many thanks to everyone who has helped me on this issue.

We all celebrated Ursula Freeman's 90th birthday after Meeting for Worship on 14th August 2022.

Peter Higgins made two cakes for us all to share again and served them out with crème fresh

In the kitchen.

First to get some cake!

Junior Yearly Meeting Report 2022

Hello, my name is Mo Evans, and this year I had the opportunity of going to Junior Yearly Meting 2022 I come from a place called Elton but go to Ludlow Quaker Meeting.

Junior Yearly meeting is a gathering for young Quakers aged from sixteen to eighteen from around the country. They gather to discuss a theme though workshop and do other activities as well. It is organised, clerked and facilitated by 15- to 18-year-olds in partnership with staff and adult volunteers (over 20s). Britain Yearly Meeting is similar and discuss the same theme but in different ways and is mainly for adults. JYM does however report back to BYM. The purpose of Junior Yearly meeting is mainly to discuss a theme but it is also important to connect with other young Quakers across the country as well.

This year's theme was "Compassionate listening and spiritual engagement: How can we strengthen our faith community to make space for action?" and we explored this during base groups and themed sessions and discussions. We also did fun activities such as ariel adventure and team games, and other activities. The best thing about JYM was discussing the theme as it was really interesting to talk about, but I also really loved making new friends as well as meeting up with the friends I had before.

Thank you so much to Southern Marches Quakers for the funding which meant I could go to this awesome event.

In friendship,
Mo Evans.

Mo's charity event for this year

Two years ago during lock-down she came up with the idea to do an epic walk of 50 miles to raise money for the charity WIRES that helps wildlife in Australia affected by the forest fires. Well this year it is an epic bike ride for the charity SCOPE and you can see more information on this disability charity on the her link below.

And they are out there cycling right now! Fresh back from holiday though the training went on even then, husband John and Mo are doing 70 miles in two days over some challenging terrain, mostly off road. Its no easy route, taking in all of the hills in this area and I am so glad its not me...

However, this is something that Mo really wants to do as something beyond herself, for someone else. Do read about the charity and if you want to donate to inspire them on their way donate however small.

Phi Evans

Hello! My friend amelia evans is fundraising for Scope. Here's their JustGiving page, if you'd like to donate: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mo-evans5?utm_source=whatsapp

Totally Psalamic

Colin Sheward organised another Totally Psalamic event at the Methodist Church in Broad Street on 16th July. It was a great success again but it does take a lot of organisation, finding people who are prepared to take to the stage with readings or music!
Sally Newman - Kidd has sent the following photo's for which we are very grateful

Here are June Buckard and Jane Bishop with their musical creation.

Susie Green with her reading

and Karl with his poem about psalms 71.
He won the prize of £200.

LEMON AND RASPBERRY MOUSSE

This is a simple, tasty, light summer pudding you can make in advance. Serves 4/5

Ingredients

200ml double cream
1 lemon zested and juiced
200g lemon curd
100ml thick Greek-style yogurt
200g raspberries
½ tbsp icing sugar

Serve with shortbread biscuits

Method

Whip the double cream, lemon zest, 1 tbsp lemon juice, lemon curd and yogurt in a bowl with an electric whisk until soft peaks form. Spoon into small serving glasses or ramekins and chill for one hour.
Mash half the raspberries with the icing sugar using a fork, or purée in a small blender to make a coulis. Cover and chill for one hour until ready to serve.
To serve, spoon the coulis over the mousses, garnish with the remaining raspberries and serve with the shortbread biscuits alongside.

Thank you Peter for this lovely recipe

Given the title simply Worship.

> The link gives a real understanding of the Meeting for Worship using language that would not put off those Friends of too sensitive a nature with regards to the term God.

https://youtu.be/kZcw-IFbeEA

> Thank you John Crook for this

CARING FOR
GOD'S ACRE

Lichens through time

Have you ever taken a close look at the intricate and beautiful living patterns that decorate the stonework within churchyards and other burial grounds? These are organisms known as lichens and of the 2,000 species, over 700 are often found in burial grounds. A lichen rich site may have over 100 different species. They are++ easy to find at any time of the year but seem to particularly stand out during winter when other wildlife takes a step back.

There are several reasons why churchyards and other burial grounds hold such a wide and significant array of lichens.

• Firstly, they contain a lot of old, exposed stone, in some cases the oldest stonework in the parish. Stone was used for the boundary walls as well as the church or chapel buildings. Many gravestones dating back to the 1700s can still be seen today, encrusted with lichens that are likely be as old as the headstones themselves.

• Secondly, the type of stone within a single site varies hugely. Although historically gravestones and building stone were likely to be hewn from a local source, in the wealthier parishes stone (including sandstone, slate, fieldstones, granite, marble and limestone) may have been brought in from further afield. This practice has become more common in recent times as a result of improving transport and globalisation – leading to a range of different stone types being present. Different lichens prefer different types of stone, depending on its texture, water holding capacity and chemical composition (whether it is an acidic or calcareous i.e. the pH). Calcareous stones such as limestone or honed (unpolished) marble are likely to have different lichens than those on more acid stones such as sandstone or slate. This can result in a spectacular range of lichens in a very small area.

• Finally, the positioning of the stones and the carving influences the lichen distribution. The lichens on shaded stone, for example, will be very different to those exposed to the sun. Gravestones traditionally face east, but the presence of kerbs, chests tombs, monuments, buildings and walls mean that the aspects of stonework and microhabitats within a burial ground are many and varied.

Next time you are passing take a look at these wonderful organisms and, if you can, take a magnifying glass with you to see them in all their glory!

Andrea
Andrea Gilpin

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George Fox

It is the 400th anniversary of George Fox's birthday in July 2024 . This may be something our Area Meeting will look toward celebrating.

Then, as I thought of this, Colin emailed this interesting thought. As we struggle with the heat and drought and the Shropshire Star newspaper shares photos of fires and dried up streams he remembered that George Fox loved the imagery of The Prophet Joel. People then relied on rainfall, and understood the importance, much more that we have become used to in modern times in the rich West.

Colin reflected on Joel verses 19 and 20.

To you, LORD, I call,
for fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness
and flames have burned up all the trees of the field.

Even the wild animals pant for you;
and streams of water have dried up
and fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness.

News from Hereford Green Christian Group

Methodist Church endorses Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

At its annual Conference in late June, the Methodist Church of Great Britain unanimously endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, becoming the largest denomination in the UK to join the movement calling for an end to all new oil and gas exploration around the world and for a fair, just transition that supports workers and communities

Routemap to Net Zero by 2030

In July the Church of England's General Synod approved a Routemap to Net Zero by 2030 as proposed by the CoE Environmental Working Group. The CoE's definition is the reduction as far as possible of in-scope carbon emissions (i.e. those from the oil, gas and electricity used in buildings, and petrol and diesel used for transport) and the removal of an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere for all remaining in-scope emissions. Essentially, the CoE's approach will be to reduce direct emissions as far as possible and offset only as a last resort. The plan is to reduce direct carbon emissions year on year in order to have cut 90% of today's emissions by 2030. The Routemap is a framework for decarbonising actions across the Church of England's estate – including churches, offices, vicarages and schools – where it believes it has most direct control or significant influence. It doesn't focus on procurement, construction, land, or climate resilience, and is not intended to cover the biodiversity crisis, though this is in scope for the wider CofE Environment programme.

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/nzc_2030_routemap_june22.pdf

Heatwave: what just happened?
Green Christian issued a press release asking Christians to 'read the signs of the times' as the UK experienced extreme temperatures in July. It congratulated churches which opened 'cool sanctuaries' for rough sleepers and vulnerable people during the heatwave and called on churches to prepare for wider pastoral impacts as the climate emergency unfolds.
(https://greenchristian.org.uk/heatwave-what-just-happened/)

Earth Overshoot Day is the date when humanity has used up more resources than the earth can regenerate in a year. This year it fell on 28th July, the earliest it has ever been. https://www.overshootday.org/

Harvest time
Resources for harvest services are available at https://greenchristian.org.uk/harvest/

Dates
26th–29th August: Greenbelt, an arts, faith and justice festival, at Boughton House, Kettering, Northamptonshire. Green Christian will have a stall in the Hothouse area.
1st September – 4th October: Season of Creation. This year's theme is 'Listen to the Voice of Creation'. For resources see https://ctbi.org.uk/season-of-creation-2022/

The Friend publication 12th August
In respect of Gaia by Kenneth Cukier who celebrates the life of James Lovelock who died recently.

Gaia is the Greek Goddess of Earth, the mother of life. In the 1960's James produced a theory that the planets natural systems, from air and water currents to wetlands and volcanoes are a self regulating system, like a living organism. It was far off mainstream science but made sense to the 'green movement'. Nowadays it is a standard way to think of the earth's systems.
He was a well respected scientist measuring bacteria in bomb shelters to producing the prototype chromatograph mass spectrometer experiment that was part of the Viking mission to Mars.
Brought up as a Quaker he never lost his belief in that 'still small voice within' but was not religious.
It was a very interesting article which is well worth looking at. Copies of The Friend can be found at The Meeting House.

Book Reviews
Foster by Claire Keegan
(now made into the film ‘ The Quiet Girl’)

This story is told by the girl herself and starts with a car journey away from home toward a another place for the school holiday. The couple she is left with are unknown to her, although gradually the reader realises they are family. A new baby is arriving at home and there are just too many children to feed and look after for the mother.
It is an Irish tale but it could be from anywhere. It is a joy to read with beautiful, gentle descriptions of everything around. It is alive with feelings and kindnesses, but the realities of life are deeply significant. It is very well observed.
The ending comes too soon and with its own twist.
Thank you Colin for sharing this.
This book is now on the curriculum in Ireland I am told. A good choice.

Hope by Rebecca Solnit

"Hope is an embrace of the unknown and unknowable, an alternative to the certainty of both optimists and pessimists." The Guardian 2016
Hope, by Rebecca Solnit, is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart; it transcends the world that is immediately experienced, and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons...an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed. It faces the darkness with a resounding AND YET! Extraordinarily inspiring.
this came via a facebook contact
Barbara

XR Midlands news for September 2022

❤ PHASE ONE

Stunning new set of posters coming to paste everywhere in our local area in the weeks before Rebellion, before coming together in London on Friday the 9th to do a Paint the Streets on a scale never seen before!

🤍 PHASE TWO

Meet at Marble Arch on September 10th, and build our space together. We are all crew! Anyone who can camp, join our occupation, but everyone can help create the world we want to see for our Festival of Resistance. At the end of the three days on Tuesday. we will be going out with a bang!

💗 PHASE THREE

Our glorious three buses will be heading out from London through all the Regions and Nations, bringing love, workshops and training to local groups to support them in bringing a People's Assembly to every part of the UK.

💗 PHASE FOUR

The big one! We will return to London (Westminster, probably) on the **14th of October**, and we will stay there until we win, or they drag the last one of us away. What do we want? An end to the fossil fuel economy and Citizens Assemblies. When do we want it? NOW!

350@350 are also doing action by opening a zoom conversation for people around the world.

They say…..We'll be hosting three sessions on 1st and 2nd September (each one will be run twice, in different timezones), that cover the state of our movement, how we sustain our activism in the long run and stay resilient, and organising after climate impacts.

These are for you if you're feeling disconnected after the worst of the pandemic, if you're gearing up for the September climate strikes and looking to support different actions at COP27 at the end of this year.

Brianna Fruean, Mitzi Jonelle Tan, Rebecca Solnit, Yeb Sano, Bill McKibben, and leaders from communities directly impacted by the climate crisis will join the discussions and help us weave big themes out in the movement landscape with practical stories of how people are adjusting to the changing landscape.