

January 2015

Okehampton Quaker Meeting

Dates for your diary

in addition to usual Meeting for Worship at Castle Ham Lodge each Sunday at 10.30

Date and time	Venue	Event
Sunday January 11 th 2015	Castle Ham Lodge	Children and Young People's Meeting Fairtrade stall
Sunday February 1 st 2015	Castle Ham Lodge	Meeting for Worship for Business
Wednesday February 4 th 2015 9.30-11.30	Janet's flat Castle Ham	Experiment with Light group
Sunday February 8 th 10.30	Susan Eckles' house	Children and young people's meeting
Sunday February 8 th 2015	Castle Ham Lodge	Fairtrade stall
Saturday February 21 st	St Austell Meeting house	Devon and Cornwall Gathering Theme: "Europe" in conjunction with QCEA (Quaker concern for European Affairs)
Saturday February 28 th	Exeter (?)	Elders and Overseers meeting
Wednesday March 4 th 9.30-11.30	Janet's flat	Experiment with Light group
Saturday March 14 th 11am	Exeter Meeting House	Devon Area Meeting
Saturday April 18 th 10.30-4pm	Exeter Meeting house	A day for attenders and enquirers – All welcome

If you have anything to go in the next newsletter please let Barbara Childs know on 01837 55805 or Barbara.childs@btinternet.com.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT OKEHAMPTON MEETING

Special Collections are a way of broadening our giving – beyond central Quaker work, Area Meetings or Local Meetings. The idea for a collection may come from a leading in a Meeting for Business, or from an individual.

As money given is at the discretion of each individual (rather than from our collective funds) the system can be very simple.

- 1) The person wishing to hold the special collection liaises with the Treasurer who has a calendar to co-ordinate the collections, and will:
 - Find mutually agreeable dates for the collection.
 - Discusses the arrangements for collecting and banking the money
 - Establish where to send the final sum

NB: If there is a concern the proposed charity may be outside Quaker values, the Treasurer will ask for it to be considered at a Meeting for Business.

- 2) 5 slots are available: (up to 4 consecutive Sundays)
 - Feb/March
 - April/May
 - June/July
 - Sept/Oct
 - Nov/Dec

- 3) The person proposing speaks to Meeting prior to the collection starting, and written information is provided.

- 4) So all are aware when the collections are taking place there will be: a list on the board at Meeting; added to our Quaker monthly calendar and given as a notice during the weeks of the collection.

The Treasurer (Ruth W) coordinates the process for Special Collections.

In Friendship Ruth White, Treasurer Tel: 01837 52011
rutharw@phonecoop.coop

email:

DEVON & CORNWALL QUAKERS

A day for attenders & enquirers

Saturday 18th April 2015

Exeter Friends Meeting House

Wynards Lane, Magdalen Street, Exeter, EX2 4HU

10.30 - 16.00hrs (coffee/tea at 10.30 , 11.00 start of session)

A day for sharing, questions and discussion and for meeting people.

Come along if you are new to Quakerism – to discover more...

Also you're very welcome if you are a "seasoned" Quaker and would like to take part in the day!

Tea/coffee and lunch provided.

Accessible space.

Travel costs for enquirers will be reimbursed, as required. See www.swquakers.org.uk for travel directions etc. Limited parking available.

If you cannot manage a whole day, but want to come, you can "drop in " but an idea of numbers would be helpful to us. If you would like to come, or want more info, feel free to contact one of us: Jill Bennett, email:

jilly.eric134@gmail.com Tel 01395 512195 or Barbara Mitchels, email:

Rather overdue but here are Barbara and Christopher's memories of Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath.

Barbara Childs' experience of YMG 2014 at Bath

This year I was fully involved in YMG as I was part of the Children and Young People's team. As well as going to a very full planning week in May, we worked from 8.30 till 6 each day apart from Wednesday with a couple of evening duties.

What an enriching week it turned out to be. Our planning and work was underpinned by worship. Each day the children had two periods of worship and on one memorable morning the 9 to 11s and the 5 to 7s held a meeting for worship as centred and as powerful as any I have experienced. There was silence and ministry for nearly twenty minutes with two 10 year old Elders shaking hands at the end.

Each day the adult helpers held a short meeting for worship which I valued. Each worker and each child was held in the light and I wondered what our workplaces and schools might be like if that could happen in more places.

I was able to attend the Salter and George Gorman lectures as well as the opening and closing sessions, World War One commemorations, groups' fair and singing sessions. Although my week was different I certainly didn't feel I had missed out.

It was good to attend the Experiment with Light AGM, and be appointed to the network's nominations committee. It was good to meet some of my children's friends and their parents as well as catch up with people I see very rarely.

Each time I have been to YMG I come back enthused. The first time I made a commitment to myself to make coming to Meeting for Worship a priority. Before that I only attended occasionally. After Canterbury I found myself involved in helping to introduce Experiment with Light at workshops. This time I realised I wanted to make more of an effort to stay involved in Quaker activities in a wider context.

Most people found there was too much choice at Bath. I suppose that with 2000 people we needed that choice. But it made me think that we shouldn't have to wait for YMG to experience this. Many of the people offering workshops and talks are willing to come to local meetings, area meetings and gatherings as well so I will be trying to make an effort to go to these when I can. Also, the experience of worship and the spiritual basis for our Quaker way which I saw demonstrated in how the children's programme was put together will stay with me.

Although I didn't get to the Swarthmore lecture I did hear Ben Pink Dandelion when he visited the children. I have enjoyed his book immensely and as I didn't buy my own copy typed out 4 pages of quotations that really spoke to me. I thoroughly recommend it. Not everyone has welcomed it in my glowing terms so it would be interesting to hear what others think.

In three years' time YMG will be at Warwick University and I hope to be there.

Christopher Childs' memories of Junior Yearly Meeting 2014 at Bath

The week of August 2nd to August 9th might, for some people, have been a week that flew past like any other with nothing of consequence happening. This definitely wasn't the case with the 2,000 Quakers who attended YMG, a 7 day long event that united Quakers across Britain for a week of fun and reflection. Of course, among those 2,000 Quakers there was a hefty number of young people as well, and this year JYM, a young people's programme, was host to more than 70 14-17 year olds. The attendees had travelled from many different parts of the country. A few had even travelled from Scotland and entertained us all with their accents. As always at young Quaker events, the strong sense of community and friendship was felt by all the youths and created a welcoming atmosphere where we could, at the same time, discuss our spirituality and explore the theme while having fun and messing around. I don't think I've been to a Quaker event where I connected with the theme (which this year was about the future of Quakers) as much as I did at JYM, and it got everyone thinking about how young people aren't just the future of our religion but the present.

The theme was explored by attending lectures in the main tent, then discussing what we thought about them afterwards. The lecture that undoubtedly got the youth talking was the Swarthmore Lecture by the man (myth?) named Ben Pink Dandelion. He believed that Quakers should define our beliefs more and stop being so unsure about things. We weren't sure what we thought about this and it left a lot of us feeling quite unsure.

At the end of JYM It was to my surprise to find I had been chosen to help facilitate next year's event! Wahay! I think this year's event has been so super I can only hope to EMULATE what was JYM 2014.

Christopher Childs