

The Religious Society of Friends Abergavenny Meeting Newsletter June-July 2006

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 18th June, The last Meeting for Worship at the Schoolroom and Young peoples programme see below for details.

Wednesday 21st June, Midweek Meeting for Worship, see below for details.

Sunday 25th June, Move to Llanfoist Village Hall Meeting for Worship at 10.00am. See below for directions or call Gill 01873 855 499

Sunday 2nd July, Meeting for Worship, Children and Young People's Meeting at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am, followed by Preparative Meeting.

Saturday 8th July, Monthly meeting, Machynlleth.

5Sunday 9th July, Meeting for Worship at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am.

Sunday 16th July, Meeting for Worship, at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am.

Sunday 23rd July, Meeting for Worship at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am, for those who wish, Young people's meeting and anyone else who wishes will be joining in meeting for Worship at Quaker camp.

Sunday 30th July, Meeting for Worship at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am.

Looking ahead

We're moving! First meeting at Llanfoist Village Hall Sunday 25th June

From the Waitrose roundabout take the road to Llanfoist continue past the car show room on the right. Continue slowly and turn right following the signs to the Garden Centre, less than 100 yds on your right turn into the entrance to the sports field and park behind the new village hall. There is a side entrance with access for wheel chairs leading from the car park to a side door.

Midweek Meeting for Worship

At Edna Spencer's home, 10 Greystone Close, Mardy O1873 85 8757 on the 3rd **Wednesday** of the month. The next Meeting is on **21st June** at 10.30am

All are welcome.

Please call a member of the pastoral care group (Gill, Klaus, Megan, Penny, Ronald and Hetta) to arrange a lift.

Young People's Programme for June and July

18th June. Visit to the Lam Rim Buddhist Centre. Meet at The School Room to share cars at 09.30

2nd July, Kate will lead a discussion on mental health issues, while the younger children have fun outside with Penny.

16th July-No young people's meeting

23rd July Visit to Quaker Camp

No young people's meeting in August, beginning again on 3rd September.

Who's doing what?

Stephen has recently appeared on Weekend Word. He writes;

WEEKEND WORD (June 9, 2006)

Good morning.

They're all at it - David Cameron, Tessa Jowell, offices, shops and cars. In many parts of Britain the flag of St George is suddenly fluttering everywhere in the long-awaited sunshine.

Today, of course, heralds the start of the World Cup –hence the displays of English national pride. In some quarters this patriotic flying of the flag seems to have caused concern. A senior policeman in North Wales has urged England supporters to be sensitive about flying the cross of St George in Wales. He's afraid it might incite racial violence.

And so there's a rather chunky question here. When are we within our moral rights to unfurl the banner of our tribal allegiance and when are we being provocative and irresponsible? When does our expression of who we are cause pain or offence to others?

Often, flying the flag is surely innocuous. My wife is from Brazil, where football, as everyone knows, is practically a religion. Normally when the World Cup is on she flies her Brazilian flag at the entrance to our farm. Nobody has ever accused her of stirring racial

hatred, In fact, people generally seem pleased to see the flag of a famous soccer nation waving in the breeze down a little Welsh lane.

Perhaps a flag contains within it the values and the story of the tribe it represents. The Brazilian flag, particularly when flown at the time of the World Cup, represents Pele, Ronaldinho, soccer wizardry.

I can't help wondering whether the concern of the English policeman might be rooted in doubt about the values and the story in the cross of St George. Is it the symbol of English soccer hooligans or something much nobler?

It's a new phenomenon in modern Britain that this flag is quite so popular. There is, it seems to me, an exploration of English identity going on here and that surely is an unstoppable process.

The journey of a nation, of a tribe, is not so very different from the journey of an individual. Along the way there are many choices, many possible paths.

In the matter of flags, in line with Quaker tradition, my personal inclination is to be trusting, to believe that the other tribe and its banner will do me no harm. The other's journey of self-expression must surely, in the best traditions of the law in England and Wales, be judged innocent unless proved guilty.

Stephen is also running a workshop *on July 14 2006 10.00am - 4.00pm*
"The Spirituality of Leadership", part of his Gaia Coach Institute, and working with the church in Wales. More information and a booking slip overleaf. :

John reports on his trip to Junior Yearly Meeting in April.

On April 9th I was lucky enough to be able to go to Junior yearly meeting. The event took place at the Royal Russell School in east Croydon where 140 young Quakers from all over Britain gathered for four days.

The theme was 'Who am I? Exploring the self in an unselfish way, living truthfully in challenging times and developing our identity.'

The first workshop was led by Chas Bailey, a Police Superintendent. As a Quaker he discussed the challenges he faces in his job while living truthfully as a Quaker. For me this was very interesting as he spoke about how he did all his duties as a police officer and staying true to his faith, for example restraining offenders in a fairly peaceful way and only using self defence when absolutely necessary.

Another very interesting workshop involved everyone being given an identity, such as model or business person. We then had to ask ourselves questions like how do you spend your time? We had to describe our identities without revealing them. Our task was to find other people with the same identity by asking the questions we would have to decide whether they had the same identity but still we couldn't reveal our identities, even when we grouped together. I was given 'evangelical Christian' and somehow our group ended up with two terrorists, but as we discussed it we found it was not so hard to believe as both identities follow their beliefs strongly.

The activity which I found I got the most out of was the small group discussion. I chose the groups on Identity and being male. This discussion involved how men are seen by women and the media, their roles in society, and how we see ourselves. As this discussion was only for young men, we found it easy to share our thoughts and feelings and at the same time had a laugh. It struck me how open we could all be with personal issues.

For entertainment in the evenings we had a ceilidh with a live caller, which was different but really fun. There was also a talent night which was hilarious, we performed in our base groups and there was music, role plays and game shows.

I really enjoyed JYM. In the four days we built a little community in which everyone was welcome and equal, I made many friends and met a few old ones. At JYM I felt such a strong sense of belonging and by the end it felt like I was leaving a family behind.

Gossip- one more for Children's Meeting!

Just in case you haven't heard, Sara Burch and Peter Munn are engaged to be married and are expecting a baby in November.

If you want to update your address book, Peter is now living with Sara, Kate and Sam at 17 Park Crescent, Abergavenny, NP7 5TH. His email address remains the same.

Rota Reminders...

OPENING UP AND GREETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR NEW MEETING VENUE.

There are still opportunities to put your name down on the rota for June and July. Tasks may change slightly once we move, but are still not onerous!

Editor's Note:

Contributions for the next newsletter, thoughts or comments about this newsletter are welcome either by post or email to:

Sara at sara@burchandcope.fsnet.co.uk or Gill at gillbranch@aol.com

Spiritual Leadership Workshop- Gaia Coach Institute

Dear All,

“An experiential ‘end of term’ day at the Gaia Coach Institute, to look at your journey as a spiritual leader. Participants have a chance to put on three “leadership hats” – community-builder, coach and storyteller. God willing, we’ll spend part of the day outside in the fields and orchards of Llwyn Ffranc Farm. Running through the day will be two questions to consider-- What are you definite about, what are you flexible about? How do you ground your leadership in love?”

Stephen is a professionally trained life coach who has lived and worked on every continent except Antarctica, mainly in his role as a Reuter’s journalist. He set up the Gaia Coach Institute as a learning community for personal and planetary renewal. In 2007 the institute intends to launch a course on Gaian Leadership, exploring how we can live on this planet as if we intend to stay.”

This proved a wonderful end of term event for Telos last year. As you will see from the description above, it is a very different day from our normal meetings and gives an opportunity for retreat and reflection in a beautiful location. This is the only charge we make for Telos during the year and it covers a wonderful lunch and Stephen’s hospitality in his own house, as well as his time. This will be £25.00 payable to Gaia Coach Institute, but please send your cheque with your booking form to Lisa as below. Do book this one as soon as possible. Meanwhile, our next event is on May 26th with Major General Peter Chiswell 11.00-2.30 – bookings to Lisa please.

(DIRECTIONS TO LLWYN FFRANC FARM

From Cardiff, take M4 eastbound and leave the motorway at junction 26. Travel up to Abergavenny and at the big roundabout just before town take the A465 in the direction of Hereford.

Go three miles along the A465 and turn right at the sign to PEN-Y-PARC.

Travel 1.4 miles along the lane – don’t take any fork to the right. At the 1.4 mile mark you’ll see a small stone bridge on your right with a sign saying Powell Street. You’ve arrived!)

RSVP Lisa Martin, Church and Society, The Church in Wales, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9XF. Please make cheque for £25.00 payable to Gaia Coach Institute.

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....Email

Dietary/other requirements

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