

Forty-Three newsletter

Number 471
July 2018



Oxford Friends Meeting
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW

"We Seek a Gathered Stillness"

"True silence is the rest of the mind; and it is to the spirit what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment."

– William Penn 1699 QF&P 20.11

Elders have been considering the delicate balance between maintaining the structures of our meetings for worship, which enable us to enter into a deep and gathered stillness, and the flexibility that allows us to exercise "a tender hand" in relation to the needs of individual Friends.

Arriving close to the advertised start time helps to create a shared experience we all enter into together. Our usual practice is for all Friends to stay until the meeting formally ends when the Elders shake hands. These practices do not in themselves create a gathered meeting, but do provide the boundary, or container, which supports Friends in entering into the silence. We recognise that there can be a variety of good reasons why Friends may sometimes have difficulty in being present for a whole meeting for worship.

Local meeting has agreed to a small change in our practice to allow friends to enter and leave the

meeting more easily when needed, while causing minimal disruption:

Those who come early to the meeting are encouraged to take a seat well away from the door, so as to keep the seats near the door available for those who arrive later or who may not be able to stay for the whole meeting;

Welcomers will (as before) remain on duty by the doors until ten minutes after the advertised start of the meeting, but there will be no "late bench";

All are welcome to choose whether to sit in the main body of the meeting house or the gallery. Those who arrive later, or who may need to leave early, are invited to sit near the doors;

We encourage all Friends, whether arriving earlier or later, to be disciplined in entering as quietly as possible into the meeting, being respectful of each other in the shared silence.

Sandra Figgess
On behalf of Elders

Deadline for contributions to the February 2018 issue: Tuesday 24 July

Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, would be appreciated to newsletter@oxfordquakers.org, and items for the calendar on page 6 can be emailed to office@oxfordquakers.org. Paper copy can be left in the pigeonhole of any Editor.
For information: tel. 01865 557373 or visit www.oxfordquakers.org

Tuesday Lunch

Our last Tuesday Salad Lunch will take place on 17 July. There will then be a break and we will start Tuesday Soup Lunches on 18 September. Thank you to everyone who has helped prepare food and joined us for these lunches, in particular our Tuesday FODs (Friends on Duty) Hoonie and Anthea.

It has been lovely to see so many people in the building on a Tuesday lunchtime; we have raised nearly £300 for the food bank and stopped a great deal of lettuce and other food from being thrown away! Do put 18 September in your diaries and we look forward to lunchtime gatherings in Autumn.

Deb Arrowsmith and Jacqui Mansfield

Missing Artwork!

On Saturday 16 June Hugh Palmer went to take down his art piece after the recent exhibition in the Meeting House. Two A4 yellow painted pieces of wood – one saying “All the fun of the unfair” and one saying “Fun for half the family” – plus an ovoid shaped piece of thin black wood have all gone missing. This was between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. Any sightings of these would be very useful. Thanks!

Hoonie Feltham

Poetry in the Meeting House @ 43 St Giles Oxford

YOU ARE INVITED @ 7:00 for 7:30 pm on Wednesday 11 July to hear Lauren Rusk, an excellent American poet who spends three months in Oxford every year, read from and talk about her recent book of poems 'What Remains To Be Seen'. These remarkable poems are inspired by children's art from Theresienstadt concentration camp. Everyone is welcome to listen and take part in discussing thoughts that arise.

Stephen Yeo

Meeting for Meeting Day

However you keep your diary, please put a big red ring around **Saturday 29 September 2018**.

We'll soon be sending you a personal invitation to come along to **YOUR “Meeting for Meeting” Day - from 10:30 to 3:00pm**.

We'll be sharing, having fun, discovering each other, maybe doing a bit of “Spiritual Speed Dating” and finding out about all what makes our Meeting distinctive. Some of you will remember “Meeting for Meeting” days - (before my time I'm afraid) but they sound like an idea that needs reviving.

Of course we all come to a Meeting for Worship, meet our friends and share our concerns, but we rarely have enough time together to make connections and discoveries that can really deepen our belonging to this place and these people.

I say YOUR meeting - not to shout at you but to remind us all that we contribute in lots of ways. The Office Team, Pastoral Care Group, Elders, Children's Groups and others around the meeting are planning a live mix of fun, information, and deep stuff. If you want to get involved please do. The main thing is mark that date in the diary, please, because this will be an event you really won't want to miss.

Deb Arrowsmith



Oxford Friends Action on Poverty (OxFAP): Recent Grants

We thought donors and others would like to know about some of OxFAP's recent grants. This shows the range of where your money goes:

Transport for a homeless Italian citizen to get to the consulate to sort out passport problems;

A secondhand double buggy so an isolated mother can get to a mums and toddlers group;

Minibus hire so the residents at Edge Housing can go to the seaside for a day;

The cost of a one-day course to update lorry-driving skills to help someone returning to employment;

Help towards a massive rental debt for a refugee family;

Gym and swimming pool membership for a young alcoholic trying to get fit again;

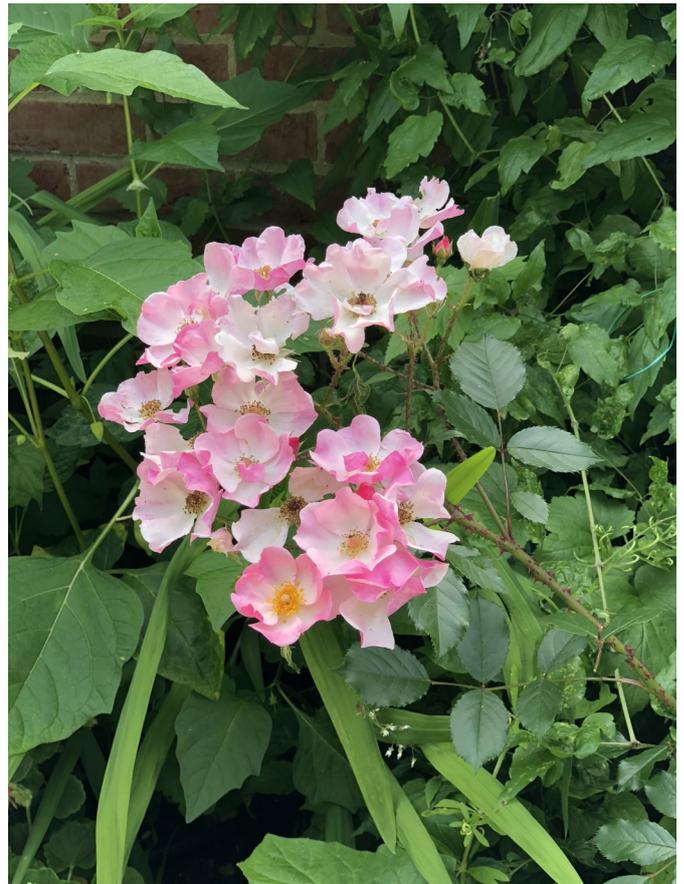
Shoes required for someone returning to work where he is not supposed to wear trainers;

Help for a young Afghan boy who is moving into accommodation after leaving care and has no money to buy domestic stuff;

Broadband for someone with two broken legs.

Donation to Oxford Friends Action on Poverty can be made by cheque to 'Oxford Quaker Meeting' and write "OxFAP" on the back. Please send cheques to 43 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LW or donate via BACS referencing your donation @OxFAP'. Account name: Oxford Quaker Meeting; account number 50000898; sort code: 09-90-38; Bank name: Co-operative Bank 13 New Road, Oxford OX1 1LG

Anne Watson
on behalf of The OxFAP team
<http://oxfap.webs.com>



Family Get Together

This year's 'family get together' will take place on Sunday 8 July, 12:15-16:30pm at 43 St. Giles. All children and grandchildren are welcome.

Adults are also welcome if they **are accompanied by someone under the age of 18!** We are grateful that we now have enough adult helpers on the day. There will be games, a treasure hunt, and a bring and share lunch.

There is a Clowning and Eccentric Dance workshop for 8-14 year-olds and a comedy performance for the under 7s. To help with planning please let Anita Ghosh know if you are planning to attend. (anitaghosh@yahoo.com)

Children's Committee

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2018

All at 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Sun 1 July	12:30	Local Business Meeting
Sun 1st July	19:00	Movies in the Meeting House: "Terezin: Resistance and Revival"
Mon 2 July	18.45	Young Adult Friends Bring and Share
Tues 3 July	19:00	First Tuesday Group
Fri 6 July	18:15	Poems in the Meeting House: Jenny Lewis
Sun 8 July	12.15-16.30	Family Day
Wed 11 July	19 for 19:30	Poems in the Meeting House: Lauren Rusk
Thurs 12 July	19 for 19:30	Thursday with Friends
Sun 15 July	19:00	Movies in the Meeting House "Songcatcher"
Wed 18 July	14:00	Friends Fellowship of Healing
Mon 23 July	16:00	Poems in the Library: Animals
Sun 29 July	12:30	Bring and Share Lunch

From Quaker Faith and Practice

Love silence, even in the mind...Much speaking, as much thinking, spends; and in many thoughts, as well as words, there is sin. True silence is the rest of the mind; and is to the spirit, what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment.

William Penn 1699

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Sundays at 9:30 and 11 am at 43 St Giles
(followed by tea and coffee)

Mondays at 7:00 pm Young Adult Friends
(followed by baked potato supper)

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 am at 43 St Giles
(followed by breakfast at 8 am)

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm at 43 St Giles
(followed by tea and coffee)

Headington LM worships on Sundays at 10 am
at The Priory, 85 Old High Street, OX3 9HT

Advance Notice

Starting on 7 October, there will be a **single Meeting for Worship** on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30am, followed by Meeting for Worship for Business.

Forty-Three is available online, at www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter

If you are considering writing an article or notice but would prefer it not to go online, please don't hesitate to contribute it. Just indicate that the piece is not for inclusion in the internet version — no reason will be asked for. Articles and notices are very welcome to appear in the print edition only, and the same applies to calendar items.

*Editorial Team: SHERRY GRANUM, CATHERINE REDFORD, and SUE SMITH (Joint Editing and Production);
DEB ARROWSMITH, JACQUI MANSFIELD and MAX HOWELLS (Calendar and Distribution)*