

The Grapevine

The Newsletter of the Bridgend Quaker Meeting

Issue Number 4

October 2006

Programme of Events

October	Oct - Dec 2006	
Sun 1st	12.00-1.00	Elders & Overseers Meeting
Thurs 5th	7.30 - 9.30	Discussion Group. Changing structures of the Society. Led by Pete Thompson and Jane Harries.
Sun 8th	12.00 - 1.00	Preparative Meeting
Tues 10th	7.00 - 7.45	Midweek Meeting for Worship
Sun 15th	12.00-1.00	Discussion Group - Membership Processes.
Wed 18th	7.00 - 9.00	Public Meeting - Making Bridgend a Fair Trade County. Speaker Mark Richards - Fair Trade Forum. Bridgend YMCA.
Sun 29th	12.00 - 1.00	Discussion Group - Planning Your Funeral. Led by Pete Thompson and Ann Lewis
November		
Sun 5th	12.00 - 1.00	Preparative Meeting
Tues 14th	7.00 - 7.45	Midweek Meeting for Worship
Sun 19th	12.00 - 1.00	Discussion Group: Support Network within Bridgend Meeting. Led by Liz Dimond.
Tues 21st	7.30 - 9.30	Discussion Group: A Just War? Differing perspectives. Led by Frank Tromby, University of Cardiff.
Sun 26th	12.00 - 1.00	Elders & Overseers Meeting
December		
Sun 3rd	12.00 - 1.00	Preparative Meeting
Thur 7th	7.30 - 9.30	Discussion Group: Studying the Bible. Led by David Harries.
Sat 7th	10.30 onwards	Monthly Meeting at Bridgend Meeting House
Tues 12th	7.00 - 7.45	Midweek Meeting For Worship.

Annual Garden Party

Our annual Garden Party was held on 16th September and a good crowd turned out to support us. A mountain of scones were made, and consumed, and we had the usual stalls. Some of these were outside as we were fortunate with the weather. Slapping Skins, the African drummers, were able to perform outside too, which was just as well, otherwise who knows if even our new ceiling could have coped with the noise level! They were absolutely brilliant and a few brave souls had a go as well.



Slapping Skins Entertain visitors in the Meeting House garden

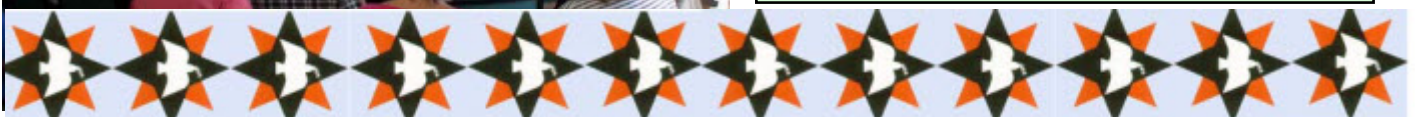
The drumming put us all in an African mood ready for Susy Rogers' entertaining talk about her visit to schools

Susy Rogers, dressed in African costume, talks to Garden Party guests about her recent visit to Uganda



in Uganda. She was accompanied by Gilbert Arinaitwe, who is the youngest brother of the bishop in Uganda whom Susy met while she was there. The conditions in the schools - large class sizes and lack of equipment - gave an added impetus to the fundraising for our "Build a Classroom" Oxfam gift. We raised £200, bringing our total so far to £1,200. We still need to raise another £500. Any ideas?

Many thanks must go to all those who gave their time and effort, including Slapping Skins and

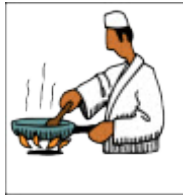


Quaker Recipe - No. 3 Cream Of Tomato And Lentil Soup

This is lovely full-bodied soup , which is quick and easy to make.

Ingredients

2 tbsp	Olive oil	1	Large onion
1	clove garlic	6 oz	Red lentils
14 oz	Tin tomatoes	1 pt	Vegetable stock
½ pt	Milk	2 tbsp	Tomato puree
1 tsp	Caster sugar	1 tsp	Worcester sauce
¼ pt	Single Cream	1 tsp	Ground coriander



Method

- 1 Heat oil in large pan and fry onions and garlic until soft
- 2 Stir in lentils, tomatoes and stock. Cover pan and simmer for 30 mins.
- 3 Puree the soup in a blender. Return to pan and stir in the milk, tomato puree, sugar, Worcester sauce and season to taste.
- 4 Simmer for 10 mins, then stir in the cream. This is an optional extra, and the soup is delicious without it.

Visit To Neath Meeting

In September, some Bridgend Friends attended the Meeting for Worship at Neath. The Neath Meeting House nestles beneath the towering walls of Neath Castle and dates from the 18th century, when Quaker families were responsible for much the industrial development of the area. It has a burial ground adjoining and has undergone little modification since it was built

. This is the second time we have visited Neath and it was planned to take a walk along the Neath Canal and have a picnic lunch. We were joined in this by Friends from the Swansea meeting.

Unfortunately, the weather was rather wet and it was decided that we should eat our picnic lunch in the Meeting House and then proceed on our walk. The feasting over, and numbering about fifteen altogether, we set out on our walk. Contd below



Our "picnic" Lunch in the pleasant surroundings of the Neath Meeting House.

It's Not My Problem ?

A mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package; what food might it contain? He was aghast to see that it contained a mouse trap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning , "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!

The chicken clucked, scratched and raised her head and said, "I can tell that this is of grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me; I can't be bothered with it".

So the mouse turned to the pig and told him that "There was a mousetrap in the house". I'm so sorry Mr Mouse sympathized the pig, " but there is nothing I can do about it except to pray; be assured that you are in my prayers."

Then the mouse turned to the cow, who replied, "Like wow, Mr Mouse, a mousetrap; am I in grave danger, Duh?"

So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected to face the mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what had been caught, but in the darkness, she did not see the poisonous snake whose tail had been caught in the trap.

The snake bit her and the farmer had to rush her to hospital and eventually she returned home with a fever .

Now everyone knows that fresh chicken soup is good for a fever, and so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard in order to obtain the soup's main ingredient.

His wife's sickness continued and friends and neighbours came to sit with her day and night, and to feed them all, the farmer had to butcher the pig.

However, she got no better and in fact she died and so many came to the funeral that the cow was dispatched to provide meat to feed them all.

So the next time you hear of someone facing a problem and you think that it doesn't concern you - remember this story and think again!

Brynmor Evans

Hearing Loop

At last! - we have a hearing loop fitted and working, thanks to the efforts of John Holiday.

Six microphones dispersed around the meeting room ensure that sound is captured from anywhere in the room.

Friends on door-keeping duties need to ensure that it is switched on and if you don't know where the switch is please ask!

Ann Lewis

A Reminder From David Harries

I am leading our Bible study session on the evening of December 7th, to be precise.

I wish to look at the significance of John's Gospel to us today. I would like Friends to read Chapters One to Five and to think about the effect they have on them.

"This gospel thinks on a cosmic scale," claims R J Miller in 'The Complete Gospels', 1994.

The Neath Walk contd.

The canal basin is situated right next to the Meeting House but it is now so tranquil and peaceful that it is difficult to imagine how busy and noisy it must have been in its heyday.

The rain stopped and we had a lovely walk with the tree-lined canal on one side and the river on the other. By Aberdulais, the rain started again and we had to return. But we had all enjoyed the fellowship of the Meeting and the time spent in the idyllic surrounding of the Neath canal. We look forward to next year!

Terry Robbins

