

The Grapevine

The Newsletter of the Bridgend Quaker Meeting

Issue Number 6

September 2007

Programme of Events Summer/Autumn 2007

<i>September</i>		
2nd	10.30	PM - Bridgend Quaker Quest - Swansea
14th - 16th		Meeting of Friends in Wales Residential Weekend - Swansea University
22nd - 29th		National Outreach Week
29th		Open Day - Bridgend Meeting House
<i>October</i>		
2nd	7.30 pm	Testimony to Equality - Jenny Sen
3rd	7.30 pm	"Working Together. Finding The Balance" - meeting to discuss how we support ex sex-offenders whilst protecting vulnerable people in our churches
7th	10.30	PM - Bridgend
9th	7.00 pm	Midweek Meeting
13th		Monthly Meeting - St Davids
21st		Autumn Walk
30th		Testimony To Peace - Pete Thompson
<i>November</i>		
4th		PM
11th		Monthly Meeting - Neath
13th	7.00	Midweek Meeting
27th		Testimony to Truth & Integrity - Ann Lewis
<i>December</i>		
2nd		PM
8th	7.00 pm	Midweek Meeting
30th		Shared Lunch; Christmas Party

Our Revamped Website

We have recently re-organised our web site, to bring it up to date and make it more topical and dynamic.

It is intended that the site, as well as giving some background information on the Quakers movement, should also serve as a means of publicising our future program of events and specific happenings and also recording some of the more recent activities of the meeting.

So there is now a page containing the current Meeting programme (as laid out above) and also each Newsletter will become part of the web site as it is published, thus hopefully increasing its audience.

In particular details of, and application forms for, the forthcoming Residential Weekend at Swansea are available on the web site at bridgendquakers.org.uk.

Welcome to Grapevine Newsletter No. 6

Once again we are publishing our diary of events for the coming months, up until Christmas and once again, it's a very full calendar. As well as the usual round of regular meetings there are a number of events of particular interest and deserving of a special mention.

- Friends Residential Weekend. This is being held on the weekend of 14th - 16th of September at Swansea University. Participants can book accommodation at the University or come along on a daily basis. An exciting programme has been planned and an informative and enjoyable weekend is in prospect. More details are available on our web site at www.bridgendquakers.org.uk.

- Focus on the Quaker Testimonies. Some of the talks/presentations covering each of the Quaker testimonies. Planned for the summer, had to be postponed and have now been re-scheduled October and November. These have proved quite successful and a must for all Quakers and for anyone interested in finding out more about the organisation.

- National Outreach Week. This will be held in the third week of September and Bridgend Meeting will be organising several events in connection with this. For more details watch our web site at bridgendquakers.org.uk

OxfamUnwrapped

Earlier in the year, Bridgend Quakers completed their fund-raising for an Oxfam Unwrapped project, to build and equip a classroom in a developing country. A cheque for £1,700 was recently presented to Oxfam



shop manager, Teresa Chislett.

Summer Walk



Crossing the stepping stones at Ogmore Castle. Friends risking an unwelcome ducking at the end of the walk.

In what has been a wet and dismal summer, we were blessed with a lovely sunny day for our second summer walk around Ogmore Castle and Merthyr Mawr. Starting with a picnic lunch at the Castle, we crossed the Ewenny and Ogwr rivers to get to Merthyr Mawr, and then back over the chain bridge and the stepping stones to the castle. Hardly a strenuous walk but the weather, the scenery and the company made it memorable. There's another walk in October - why not come and join us?

Art Exhibition

The exhibition of the work of Emily Johns. A fine artist, printmaker and peace campaigner a display of her work was set up in the Meeting house on the weekend of 12th /13th of May.



Visitors to the exhibition discuss some of the pictures displayed at the exhibition

The exhibition was called **Drawing Paradise On The Axis Of Evil**. Emily had visited Iran in May 2006 and she had produced a series of woodcuts and linocuts based upon some of the drawings she had made during that visit. Her work showed a high degree of artistic excellence and the resulting pictures strongly invoked the hopes and fears and dreams of so many communities of that troubled area.

Garden Party



Taha Idris talking to guests at the Garden Party.

In spite of the generally very poor summer weather, we were fortunate once again to have a lovely day for our Garden Party on 16th June.

Taha Idris, Director, of Swansea Bay Race Equality Council, spoke to Friends and to members of Bridgend Coalition Against Racism about the problems which arise when looking after asylum seekers and particularly those whose applications for asylum

Strawberries and scones and cream and a variety of home produce was on sale and about £300 was raised towards the Welsh Refugee Council's Destitution Fund.

Residential Weekend

This event is being held at Swansea University from Friday 14th Sept to Sunday 16th. The theme is "**Stories of Slavery and Freedom - Listening, Speaking and Responding to the Truth**"

This exciting event will include -

- "**Slavery Then and Now**" - Guest Speaker Richard Ennals of the Centre for Education in World Citizenship (CEWC), and author of a recent book "From Slavery to Citizenship"
- Quaker Quest: A chance to practice "speaking our truth", by rehearsing this exciting outreach programme.
- A rehearsed reading of the Play "Only the Truth" commissioned for the 350th anniversary of Quakers in Swansea.
- (Optional) viewing of "Ghosts", Nick Broomfield's film of modern-day slavery, which dramatises the Morecambe Bay tragedy, where 21 Chinese cockle-pickers lost their lives.
- Opportunity for Young Friends and older Friends to participate in an inclusive, all-age weekend.
- Discussing how we can respond to modern-day slavery and related evils such as the persecution which leads people to seek asylum today.
- Sharing and entertainment. Please bring poetry, music etc. to share. 'Women in Jazz' will put on some musical items from 'The True Story of Willis the Fugitive Slave', with background explanation of Swansea's historical links with slavery and abolitionism.

Although this is a residential gathering, it is possible to attend on a daily basis at a much cheaper rate

For further details and an application form please contact Peter Davies at peter.davies19@hotmail.com. Alternatively details and application forms can be downloaded from our web site at bridgendquakers.org.uk

