

The Grapevine

The Newsletter of the Bridgend Quaker Meeting

Issue Number 8

October 2008

Welcome to Grapevine Newsletter No. 8

This is the Autumn 2008 newsletter of the Bridgend Quaker Meeting and I hope that it will prove of some interest to Friends.

Quaker Fortnight In Bridgend

Diary of Events & Activities Autumn/Winter 2008

29th Sept	Hearts & Minds Prepared (10)	7-30 Bridgend MH
4th - 19th Oct	National Quaker Fortnight	Exhibition Bridgend Library
5th Oct	Business Meeting	12.00 MH
5th Oct	Autumn Walk	After meeting For Business
11th Oct	Area Meeting for Spiritual Nurture Guest Speaker Laurie Michaelis	1.00 Cardiff MH
13th Oct	Hearts and Minds Prepared (11)	7.30 pm: Bridgend MH
14th Oct	Mid-week Meeting, followed by coffee cakes & Questions	7.00 - 9.00 Bridgend MH
19th Oct	Open Day. Meeting for Worship, shared lunch; DVD; Fairtrade stall etc	Bridgend MH
25th Oct	Meeting of Friends in Wales	Aberystwyth
27th Oct	Hearts & Minds Prepared (12)	7.30 Bridgend MH
2nd Nov	Business Meeting	12.00 Bridgend MH
9th Nov	Area Meeting	11.00 Neath MH
10th Nov	Hearts & Minds Prepared - review & social	7-30 Bridgend MH
11th Nov	Mid-week Meeting	7-00 Bridgend MH
30th Nov	Shared Lunch & Discussion Group "What Do Quakers Believe Anyway?"	12-00 Bridgend MH
7th Dec	Business Meeting	12-00 Bridgend MH
13th Dec	Mid-week Meeting	7-00 Bridgend MH
28th Dec	Shared Lunch & Christmas Party	12.00 Bridgend MH



*What do Quakers say?
There is something sacred in all people.
All people are equal before God.
Religion is about the whole of life.
We must be willing to discover a deeper sense of God's presence.
True religion leads to respect for the earth and all life upon it.
Each person is unique, precious, a child of God.*

Meet local Quakers

Meeting for Worship Tues. 14th Oct. 7.00 - 7.45pm
followed by coffee, cakes & questions 7.45 - 9.00pm

Open Day Sun 19th Oct.

Meeting for Worship 10.30 - 11.30am
followed by a Bring & Share lunch 12.15 - 4.30pm
Plus DVD on Quakers & book box of Quaker literature.
87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ

Quaker Exhibition

Sat. 3rd - Sat. 19th Oct.

Mon. - Fri. 9.30 - 6.00pm, Sat. 9.30 - 5.00pm
Bridgend Library, Wyndham St.



www.bridgendquakers.org.uk



Quaker Fortnight is being organised by Bridgend Meeting between 5th and 19th of October and there will be a series of events aimed at presenting Quakerism to the general public of the area.

Throughout the period, there will be a Quaker Exhibition at the Bridgend Library at Wyndham Street and there will be an Open day at the Meeting House on Sunday 19th Oct, when there will be a shared lunch, a DVD presentation and Quaker books and media on sale.

The mid-week meeting on the 14th Oct, will be followed by coffee, cakes & questions.



Peace One Day

Listening recently to GMTV, I heard about the idea of a Global Peace Day or Global Cease Fire Day, when, for one day, there would be no war and no fighting anywhere in the world.

Peace One Day was founded as a non-profit making organisation by film maker Jeremy Gilley in 1999 to promote global peace.

His feature-length documentary film, Peace One Day has played all over the world and has become a powerful tool in the raising awareness of the peace movement.

The first ever annual day of global cease fire and non-violence was declared in 2001 and now takes place every year on September 21st.

Jeremy Gilley and Jude Law, the actor and ambassador for Peace One Day, have just returned to Afghanistan, after a successful mission last year.

Following their visit, the Ministry of Public Health joined by UNICEF, the World Health Organization and local vaccinators used Peace Day to carry out a mass vaccination against polio of 1.4 million children. By returning to Afghanistan this year, Gilley and Law hope to continue raising awareness of Peace Day and stimulate further action on and around the Day.

Jude Law says, "The extraordinary events in Afghanistan around Peace Day last year set an important precedent. Jeremy and I are returning to the country this year to help keep the momentum going. As an ambassador for Peace One Day and as a filmmaker myself, I hope that my involvement will help the project to grow. I'm proud to be part of it."

Although we've missed the day this year, I feel that the Bridgend meeting should do something in future, to mark the day. Perhaps Bridgend Friends could undertake for that one day to declare a personal "cease-fire" on our own doorstep. A "Hold Your Tongue & Stay Your Hand" Day. No bickering, arguing or quarrelling. As Quakers, perhaps everyday ought to be such a Peace Day and each one of us should make an agreement to carry out one action to further peace in our own lives; to keep our mouths shut and keep cool!

Lara Morgan

A Poem

The Girl on The Cork Ferry.

I met her on the top deck
of the ferry bound for Cork.
I said, that if she didn't mind,
could we have a little talk?

She told me as she gazed my way.
I reminded her of the sea,
I thought, this must be my lucky day,
and that surely, she couldn't mean me!

Did she find me wild, powerful,
and uncontrollable, I asked her with a thrill,
What I meant she said, is when I looked at
you,
you made me feel quite ill.

Brynmor Evans

Idle Thoughts Of An Idle Fellow - contd

Following on from the last edition of Grapevine, David Harries reflects further on his walking holiday earlier this year.

When I went on my walking holidays, earlier this year, the weather was dry. Since, I have avoided starting long walks in the rain. And it has rained for weeks on end. In my last article, I mentioned that I had visited valleys and castles. I should have added: churches.

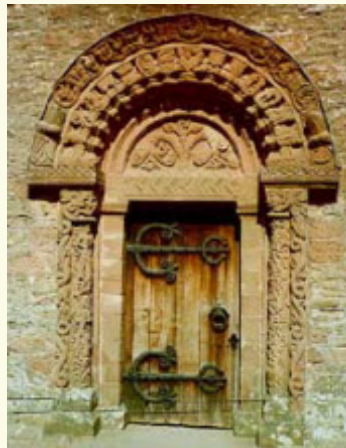
Three of the churches are situated in south-west Herefordshire, an area formerly known as Erging or Archenfield. For centuries, there were Welsh-speakers and Welsh place-names in the area.

Welsh Bicknor has a youth hostel, close to the Wye. The hostel is a former rectory. The church has an Italianate tower. It has been declared by the Church of England Commissioners as "redundant" and is closed to visitors. For nearly two hundred years, till 1844, Welsh Bicknor was regarded as part of Monmouthshire.

Abbey Dore is situated in the so-called Golden Valley, which runs from Pontrilas towards Hay. The Cistercian monastic buildings have been lost; but the huge church remains. Concerts of classical music and jazz are held there.

Perhaps the most unusual church I visited was that at Kilpeck, situated to the east of the A465 Abergavenny-Hereford Road.

Kilpeck dates back to Norman times and is Romanesque in style. It is built in sandstone. It is marked by numerous stone carvings – about ninety "corbels" still survive. Are the motifs Celtic, Saxon, Scandinavian, or a mixture? The pictures are based on beasts, human figures, birds and foliage. Many of the beasts and humans have staring eyes – the technical word for this is "drilled".



Decorated Door Kilpeck Church

Back in Wales, I also visited Skenfrith Church. This also dates back to Norman times. It has an unusual square tower – the best way I can describe it is "clerestory".

Grosmont is nearby. The tower and spire of the church are unusual in that they are eight-sided. The nave has been partitioned off from the church, forming a large hall, available for communal events.

In a fairly small area, there are numerous places of interest, what with castles, hills, (with viewpoints), churches, villages. There are not many visitors. I should add that one of the attractions of the area that Newport (my home town) is still at the centre of my "mental map", and I still see the above-named places as



River Wye at Symonds Yat

within easy reach.

Future plans include: the Three Castles Walk, sections of the Offa's Dyke Path and the Wye Valley Walk, and climbs up the Blorenges and the Sugar Loaf. Is anyone interested in joining me?

David Har

