

# The Grapevine

## The Newsletter of the Bridgend Quaker Meeting

Issue Number 11

April 2009

### Bridgend Meeting - Summer Programme

Tues 14th Apr	Mid-week Meeting	7pm: Bridgend MH
Sun 19th Apr	Mini walk to see the bluebells	12.30 pm Bridgend MH
Sun 26th Apr	Shared Lunch & Ideas for Outreach	12 pm: Bridgend MH
Tues 28th Apr	Internal Quaker Quest	7.30 pm: Bridgend MH
Sat 2nd May	Garden Working Party/Brunch Club	9.30/11 am Bridgend MH
Sun 3rd May	Meeting for Business	Bridgend MH
Tues 12th May	Mid Week Meeting	7pm Bridgend MH
Tues 19th May	Internal Quaker Quest	7.30 pm: Bridgend MH
Sun 31st May	Shared Lunch & talk on QPSW Project in Burundi	12 pm Bridgend MH (after MfW)
Sun 7th June	Meeting for Business	Bridgend MH (after MfW)
Tues 9th June	Mid-week Meeting	7pm Bridgend MH
Sat 13th June	Area Meeting	Bridgend MH
Thur 25th June	Internal Quaker Quest	7.30pm Bridgend MH
Sat 27th June	Meeting of Friends in Wales	Lampeter
Sun 5th July	Meeting for Business	12pm Bridgend MH (after MfW)
Sat 11th July	Area Meeting	Milford haven MH
Tues 14th July	Mid week meeting	7pm Bridgend MH
Sat 25th July to Sat 1st Aug	Yearly Meeting Gathering	York

### Treferig Meeting House

I recently came across a booklet entitled "A History Of Tonyrefail" published by the Tonyrefail History Society in 1971. In it was a photograph and an historical account of the old Quaker Meeting House at Treferig (reproduced below).

According to the book, the Quaker cause in the area began about 1665 when John Bevan (born 1646), the owner of the manor house at Treferig was influenced by George Fox to become a Quaker and as a result of this and other "radical" activities involving the non-payment of tithes, he was excommunicated by the vicar of Llantrisant.

Having heard of William Penn's intention of setting-up the province of Pennsylvania, he and his family set sail for America in the "Morning Star" in July 1683, and he bought 2000 acres of land in north Philadelphia in an area called "The Welsh Tract". He prospered and was prominent in local government. He returned home however, in 1704, after over 20 years in America. He died in 1724 and his wife in 1710 and both were buried at the Quaker burial ground in Treferig.. The booklet is vague about



*The Quaker Meeting house At Treferig - a photograph taken towards the end of the nineteenth century, when it was being used as a dwelling house.*

**Treferig Contd.** when the Meeting actually started or when it ceased to be used. However, it quotes extensively from a Charity Commission Report of 1897 regarding leases and trustees, and it appears that although the meeting house had been sold, the attached burial ground (referred to as "Ty Cwrdd") was still the property of the Monmouth Monthly Meeting.

All in all the article contains a wealth of information on the genealogy of the families involved and there is an appendix dealing at some length with the Charity Commission's report, and it is hoped to post all this on the Bridgend Meeting web site. **Terry Robbins**



## Quaker Recipe No 6 Dean's Flapjacks

This recipe is supplied at the request of those who arrive hungry at meetings.

There are many variations, just add whatever falls out of the cupboard, or is

about to go out of date.

It helps get flapjacks out of the baking tray, saves waste and washing up if it

is lined with baking paper.

150g butter/margarine

150g sugar

90ml/3 ozs golden syrup/honey

300g oats/ground almonds/semolina/chopped nuts/dried fruit/apricots

1or2 teaspoons of mixed spice or ginger as liked

Optional block of dates

Soak dried fruit in boiling water if liked

Chop dates add 2 ounces of water and cook gently in saucepan until soft.

add butter/margarine heat gently until runny

OR heat fat in bowl in microwave

stir in sugar and dry ingredients mixture should be sticky

put in baking tray in oven 170 degrees for about 15 minutes

score into squares and cool in tray.



Enjoy from Deana!

## In Your Own Write

The proposed anthology by Friends and attenders at our Meeting House is still ongoing. We would welcome contributions of any sort of prose, poetry, photos, illustrations etc. The only stipulation is that it has to be your own work!

Because of space limitations, contributions must not exceed 250 words for prose etc, poetry items, not too long. For further details contact: Joint editors, Jean Barraclough 01656 786531 or Brynmor Evans 01656 742008.

## Meetings for Clearness

I had thought that Meetings for Clearness were something long-ago Quakers held - I had not heard of their recent usage until attending an Elders' and Overseers' weekend earlier in the year. I now have a much greater appreciation of their potential value in a range of circumstances, and have even been able to participate in a short trial of such a meeting. I can see they have a lot of potential!

Meetings for Clearness are where about four or five trusted Friends come together for a meeting, which includes some periods of quiet, in order to assist a "focus person" develop a greater sense of clarity about a particular issue of concern to the focus person. In practice, the person wishing to become more "clear" on whatever is his/her issue normally consults local Elders and Overseers, who can facilitate the process. The issue could be about a conflict, a decision to be made, an application for membership, or about consideration of marriage or some other area of concern. It is sometimes advised that the focus person write down a brief account of his/ her issue, in order to enable the Friends making up the Meeting for Clearness gain an understanding of the key elements of the issue, if it is a complicated one. An Elder or Overseer, or some other trusted Friend will act as facilitator and when the group meets, will explain the process and keep a note of the discussion and also of timings. Each Friend then has the opportunity to ask questions/clarify points in order to explore the issue further. Short periods of silent worship may be interspersed with the question asking. When it is felt that the issue has been fully explored, the meeting is concluded, not with the expectation that the issue has been resolved, but with the hope that it has been fully explored from a range of perspectives, so that the focus person can then go away and come to his/her own decision, having been helped to fully think through the issue.

Quaker Faith and Practice has several sections on this process, primarily sections 12.22-12.25. It is certainly a process worth considering if you have any decision you need to make, but are unsure how to proceed. My own experience in a short trial Meeting for Clearness was very valuable; they certainly have much to offer us, if we take up the opportunity!

Liz Dimond

