Malvern Quaker Meeting





Newsletter March 2026

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter (in Word format please) will need to reach me by ***27th April 2026****. Past editions of the Newsletter are on our Meeting website www.malvernquakers.org.uk. Mary Corfield newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk*

If you are not on the Meeting's email list and would like to be, or have changed your email, please contact emailadmin@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk

EAPPI Talk — Ian Cave

Following the talk by Brad Baker on EAPPI and his experiences in Jerusalem and the West Bank, we have received a letter of thanks below:



Many thanks, Friends, for the generous contribution of £230 towards the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), which will help us to take forward this work at such a crucial time. We continue to hear from Israelis and Palestinians that the presence of internationals like those with EAPPI supports their resilience and is an encouragement to them as they continue to work towards a just peace and an end to the occupation. You can read one story of resilience from our EA Paula, who writes about Aya and her family in this blog: 'The patience of the cactus'.

We value your meeting's support and ask that you pass on thanks to them on our behalf. We would be most grateful if you could give them this message whenever is appropriate:

This donation will support the work of EAPPI, which is managed by Quakers in Britain on behalf of 18 partners in the UK & Ireland. Some of you may already be involved in supporting the work, others may be willing to consider finding out more about how you can get involved. Your offer of support is welcome, no matter how new you may be to Quakers. We have a variety of different opportunities for service – there is probably one that would suit you.

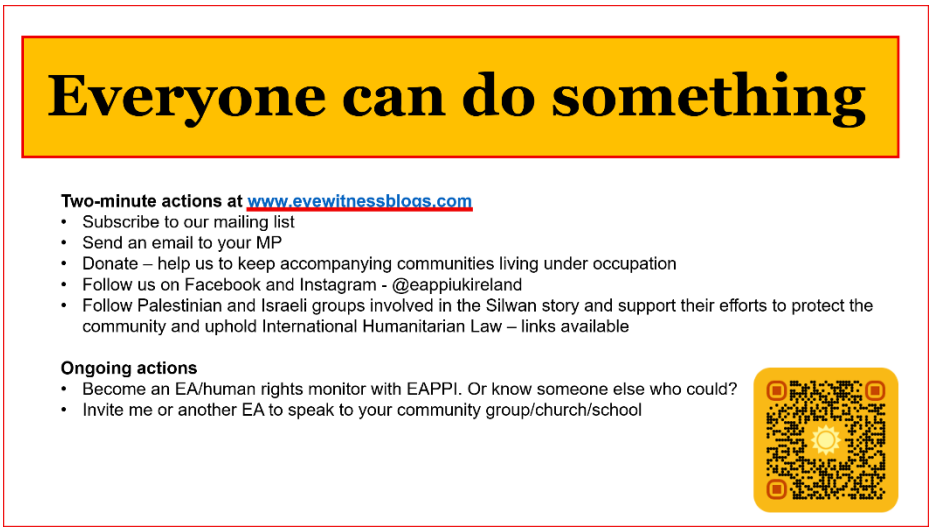
More information from Brad Baker on the EAPPI Programme can be found here.

Please do subscribe to updates and articles on the eyewitness blogs site here, where you will also find two articles I wrote last year, whilst I was in Jerusalem (also linked below):

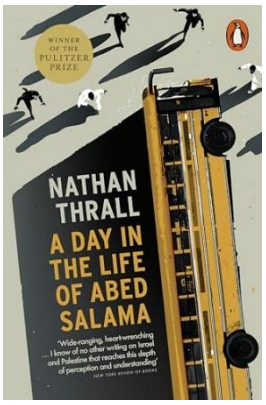
"I feel safe here": Hope for disabled children in Palestine – Eyewitness Stories from Palestine and Israel – EAPPI UK & Ireland

'Save the ArQ' – Rising attacks against Christian communities in the Old City of Jerusalem – Eyewitness Stories from Palestine and Israel – EAPPI UK & Ireland

A reminder of the EAPPI call to action:



Here is a book I would thoroughly recommend. It gives the best possible overview of life in occupied East Jerusalem you could wish for and is highly recommended if you want to know and understand more about the region and the conflict. We covered and visited nearly all the places and communities the book describes.



Advices & Queries Nos 37 & 38

Are you honest and truthful in all you say and do? Do you maintain strict integrity in business transactions and in your dealings with individuals and organisations? Do you use money and information entrusted to you with discretion and responsibility? Taking oaths implies a double standard of truth; in choosing to affirm instead, be aware of the claim to integrity that you are making.

If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions.

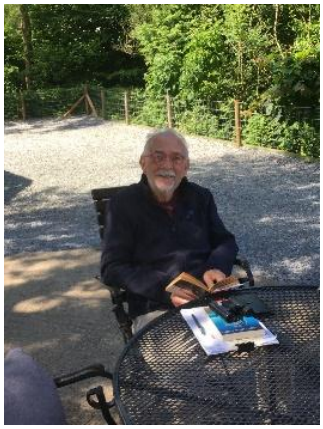
A Reading Sent in from Clun Valley Meeting — Ros Mcgregor

This has been sent to me from Clun Valley Meeting in Shropshire; each week a reading is chosen by a Friend and circulated beforehand. It may have not been read out during MfW. I think this one is particularly special, and thought other Friends might appreciate it, too.

Even in error deem not the God of the Hindus to be other than the God of the Muslims, worship one God, recognize the Enlightener. All men have the same human form. In all men blazes the same divine light. Love all God's creation, both the whole and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of light. Love the animals, love the plants, love each separate thing. If you love each thing, then you will perceive the mystery of God in all, then you will thenceforth grow every day to a fuller understanding.

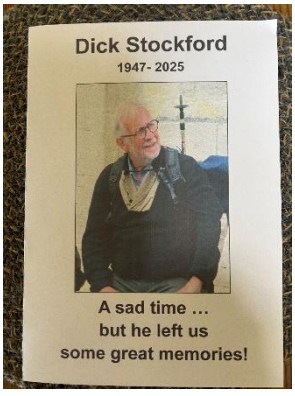
Fyodor Dostoevsky, Christian in 'The Brothers Karamazov'

Dick Stockford 1947-2025 — Melanie Jameson



I have been thinking a lot recently about Dick Stockford who died a year ago (March 22, 2025). Formerly a member of this Meeting before he and Diana moved to Wales some years ago (so many of you will not have known him) but maintained his connection with our Area Meeting by zooming into Bewdley's blended MfW from home. Dick preferred a silent meeting above other forms of worship, so it was appropriate that we remembered him in silence after an introduction towards the end of our MfW on March 29.

Dick was born in 1947 and went to school locally. His professional life combined academic posts and Director-level strategy roles in the NHS including Social Care leadership. But he always combined the practical with the theoretical. A typical enterprise was Social Action for Health of which he was a Patron; this was set up in the east end of London and focussed on helping people from ethnic minorities and other excluded communities to access healthcare.



On retirement, he established the charity Growing Points in 2009 which assisted refugees with a healthcare background to find suitable placements in this country. Growing Points Guardians were an essential part of this operation, appointed to use their professional and social experience / contacts to help in a range of ways. This could involve interview practice, help with CVs, using the telephone etc, contacting funding bodies or educational organisations, and general moral support while people went through the process of applying for jobs or getting onto courses. One of the great successes of Growing Points was the training programme, arranged with Leeds Teaching Hospital, which resulted in over 50 refugees going through the NHS nurse training courses and into jobs in the NHS.

But I knew him in another role. When what appeared to be an arms fair moved from Hereford to the Three Counties Showground in 2018, I suspected that the companies exhibiting were about more than 'Defence' and 'Security' (as described). Campaign Against

Arms Trade (CAAT) confirmed that this was indeed the case and major arms traders were present. As Quakers we must be alert to 'preparations for war' and the whole aim of the Three Counties Defence and Security Expo, (3CDSE, now rebranded 'the Specialist Defence and Security Convention and exhibiting at the NEC) was to draw local companies into partnerships with these major arms traders and the MoD.

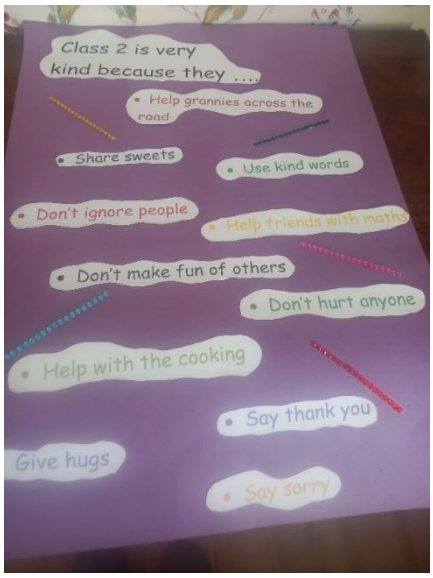
Dick supported me in evolving a strategy to shine a light on this hidden event. A petition was circulated, two huge banners commissioned, and we organised witness on the day that delegates attended 3CDSE. Furthermore, Dick and I met with the Three Counties CEO but were unable to engage with the man behind all these reinventions of an arms convention: Richard Morgan of Harrison Clark Rickerbys solicitors. HRC work with defence companies in the so-called Defence Golden Triangle of Gloucestershire (GCHQ), Herefordshire (SAS) and Worcestershire (QinetiQ).

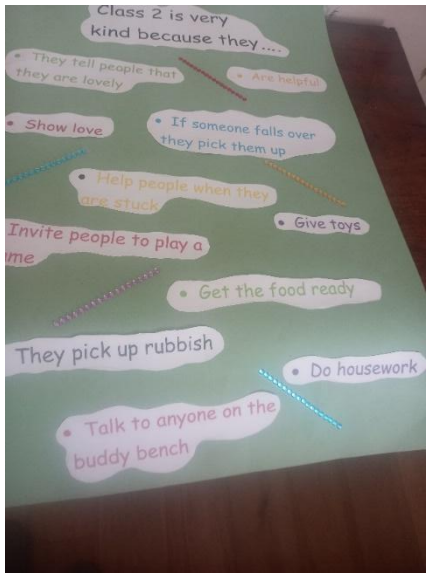
Dick had his sights set on QinetiQ, campaigning doggedly against them for supplying military technology that was used against Yemen (via a partnership with Saudi Arabia) for many years. Every year on what used to be Yemen International Day, a few of us, led by Dick, left a wreath of white poppies outside the main gate.

I would summarise Dick Stockford as someone who, guided by Quaker principles and faith, combined an unwavering ethical stance with practical action.

A Little Bit of Kindness All Around — Liz Flanagan

These are comments by the 6- and 7-year-old children at Northleigh School after a discussion on 'What is Kindness?'.







Special Collections

The Special Collection for March was in aid of West Mercia Women's Aid – whose core purpose is to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in West Mercia by providing support, protection and prevention services that empower those affected by violence and abuse to rebuild their lives and those of their children. See https://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/. A total of £183 was raised.

The Special Collection for April is **Malvern Welcomes.** This is a local charity providing housing and support to help resettle local refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently MW is also part of a campaign to expand the Community Resettlement Scheme under which it has directly sponsored 4 families to resettle in Malvern, to include Palestinians fleeing the violence in Gaza. See https://www.malvernwelcomes.org/

Helping Ukraine

Melanie Jameson

Malvern Rotary Club are undertaking a spectacular operation to send aid to Ukraine, in tandem with Rotary Clubs round the world. Last Monday we had the chance to hear about it at a fundraising evening for the Rotary Ukraine Appeal. Will Jackson ('heroic' is the only word to describe him) sets off regularly from Malvern to Ukraine with a van loaded up with essentials. Over the last few years this has expanded from warm clothing and an emphasis on baby formula - because traumatised mothers cannot breastfeed and the tins of baby milk are very expensive in Ukraine. Now he seeks out medical equipment and has discovered (through a medical relative) that Manuka honey has a unique effect in stopping wounds from becoming infected in the vital time lag between injury and operations.

A second man spoke and described his part in the operation. His specialty is logistics and he spends his time coordinating deliveries from all over the world, drawing on the international Rotary network. Some examples: lorries containing three 4x4 vehicles are packed round with medical equipment, nappies (always) and other supplies. Another group from Germany provide essential items that they are able to source, some Americans fly over to volunteer as drivers.



Usually, two vehicles will be driven to Ukraine, and one handed over; there is a great need for vehicles with so many being destroyed. Ambulances must be disguised as ordinary vans, otherwise they would be targeted by drones. The photo shows an ambulance donated by Malvern Rotary Club, along with extra information about the event.

https://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=942115&ClubID=611

The upside of this operation for the volunteers is the warm welcome they receive and the joy at being able to help Ukrainians help themselves. The downside, of course, is what they witness, the harrowing tales they hear and the knowledge that, whatever they do, the need is vastly greater than their capacity to meet it.

We are asked to donate two items in particular: Baby formula 2 (i.e. one up from the infant preparation) and nappies marked as sizes 4 and 5. These can be left at any time in the porch of 4 Sling Lane (the little road near the Cube). Will is setting off again soon. Donations are desperately needed too, details follow
Rotary Ukraine Appeal
Account Name: Malvern Rotary Club
Sort Code: 40-31-09 Account Number: 81083392

This is inspiring work, excellently coordinated, but it is deeply distressing to hear of this man-made devastation via firsthand accounts. Ukrainian soldiers who have to stop shooting because they cannot bear to kill any more Russian soldiers, the awful injuries, the ubiquitous deadly drones, the post-traumatic stress that damages family life once soldiers return home etc etc. The evil of war, now spreading further afield.

The Dell House open gardens

Elizabeth & Kevin Rolph



As you know, we open our garden through the National Garden Scheme. We have done this for over ten years and now raise around £2,000 a year. In 2025 the NGS raised nearly £4 million through people like us opening their gardens. Nearly all of the money raised goes to charities, including Macmillan, Marie Curie, and the Carers Trust.

As well as having specific open days, we are open anytime, by appointment. So, if you would like to come and spend time here, exploring the 2 acre wooded hillside garden, the many tree carvings, or just enjoying the view from the terrace, get in touch. It's currently full of primroses, our camassias are just appearing, and azaleas won't be far behind. If you've been before, but not for a few years, it would definitely be worth a return visit to see what's changed, or bring family or friends. £5 entry, £5 refreshments.

Email stay@thedellhouse.go.uk, or phone 01684 564448