



Almeley Wootton Quaker News

January– March 2023

<https://almeleyquakers.org.uk>

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Laurie
Engel
Fund



Below is some information about the charity for which Almeley village is hoping to raise some funds and that Friends have agreed to support in February. The current initiative is in connection with a 16 yr old boy who has had to have part of his leg amputated through cancer but it is also worth remembering our own little Florence Dawson had all her treatment in Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Laurie Engel lived on a farm in Herefordshire with his parents, Matthew and Hilary, and younger sister Vika. Laurie wanted to win Wimbledon or, failing that, be a sports writer like his dad. Almost anything seemed possible – except what did happen. He was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer. Despite 17 months of intensive treatment, he died in September 2005, aged 13.

The Laurie Engel Fund Laurie was treated at Birmingham Children's Hospital, the childhood cancer centre for much of England. The Engel family found the medical care there world-class, but the facilities and surroundings dismal.

The Engel family set up the Laurie Engel Fund to try to ensure future patients have better conditions than Laurie did. Working initially with Teenage Cancer Trust, the fund raised £1.1m – and as a result a new £2.5m teenage unit opened in 2010. It has been a huge success, delighting patients, parents and staff and setting new standards at the hospital.

The snag was that the unit created a big discrepancy between the facilities available to teenagers and to younger children, who are still being housed in the old, low-grade wards. Recognising the problem, Birmingham Children's Hospital has launched a £4m appeal to bring all their cancer facilities into a similar class.

In January 2013 the Engels decided to redirect Laurie's fund to support this important cause – to try to give all the younger cancer patients the amenities they deserve; and to give them the best possible chance of recovery.

If Friends wish to nominate other charities or organisations that they feel would be a suitable cause for Almeley Wootton Quaker Meeting to support, they can pass on their recommendation to Mike Kirby (Michael.Kirby@smquakers.org.uk) for consideration and inclusion in the list for monthly collections. Please make sure you supply full details including where payments should be sent.

A Christmas Banquet in Cefnlllys Castle 1468 in the presence of Ieuan ap Phylip, Constable to Richard, Duke of York, son of Edward IV.

In September 2022 a group of Quakers were pilgrims walking from Caebach Chapel in Llandrindod to The Pales. Caebach Chapel, established at the same time as The Pales, is managed by Addoldai Cymru who are in the process of taking over The Pales. However our pilgrimage did not get to The Pales, as the excellent tea and cake plus heavy rain forced us to remain at the Thomas Shop in Penybont! Derek Turner of the Thomas Shop then had the idea of adding five pilgrims to tales he had written for the Penybont and District Local History Society as part of their 2022 Christmas celebrations. This was a recorded historical event in which Ieuan ap Phylip held a banquet for his retainers and guests in the great hall of Cefnlllys castle, near to Penybont. The Penybont community hall was laid out for the banquet and we all dressed up in 1468 costumes as best we could.

In the photo below you can see the high table with, from left to right: Angela Coleridge (Deinwen) who spoke of Hope, Kate (Tegwyn) spoke of Connection, John Senior (Arthen) spoke of Discovery, Christine Moore from Addoldai Cymru (Meurig) spoke of Resilience, Derek in the middle as Ieuan ap



Phylip and finally, to the right of Derek, is Veronica Grant (Aaron) who spoke of Taking Control. Angela is from Llandrindod Meeting and John and Veronica are from Llaniloes Meeting.

The Pilgrims' tales were moving. Although set in the historical context and language of 15th Century, Derek deliberately wrote tales containing problems that are prevalent today. Other characters included a herald, nuns, a Knight Hospitaller, a Chaplain, a Jester as well as the famous Welsh bard Lewys Glyn Cothi, who came to deliver a poem in praise of Ieuan and his admiration for the impressive castle at Cefnlllys. The banquet provided good food and drink (coffee and tea!) as well as music and singing and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and players.

Kate Binney

Bootham School is holding an on-line conference which will be open to anyone interested in how education can create a better world

The on-line conferences will be held at 7pm on the 23 February 2023.

This event is open to everyone and will consist of a series of presentations designed to stimulate interest and discussion. To book your place [click here](#)

“We few, we happy few”

This quotation could be used of the Friends who gathered in Almeley village hall on December 11th for our first Christmas lunch together since the onset of covid.

Due to the weather several Friends sadly cried off which resulted in there being only 16 of us.

After Meeting for Worship we drove down to the hall to find it warm and festive; a long series of tables laid out with greenery and candles decorating them.

Mic, Dawn, Carey and Jeff had prepared it all including bringing all those little extras to add to the food contributions that everyone brings. Mic had been left in charge of heating the “welcome” cocktail (non-alcoholic of course!) that due to John Titley has become a necessary part of the proceedings.

Stella and Ian had taken over John’s role but the secret of his success had died with him so a new recipe resulted. They had catered for 25 – 30 but in the event there was no wastage. The new formula proved such a success Friends queued up for seconds, and in some cases thirds!

A feast then followed. The food offerings were all delicious and harmonious. The right amounts of savouries and sweets. How that happens is amazing. During lunch the snow fell really heavily. Jolly from that cocktail (I promise you it really was non-alcoholic) we wondered whether we might get snowed in (it’s certain we wouldn’t have starved!) Jeff G-J revealed he had the key to the (evidently well-stocked) bar in his possession which threw up all sorts of debates! Of course we decided that would be used only as a very last resort, medicinal purposes only.

After lunch no washing up was needed to be done. This year a group of teenagers had “volunteered” to earn some pocket money so we settled down for the post prandial entertainment.

It was of high quality!

Bernard recited a seasonal Benjamin Zephaniah poem. Stella had composed an account of a horrendous (fictional) family Christmas, (hopefully amusing though).

Ian read from Just William about Christmas presents before David W told us about a rogue grand piano in S. America!

Time then for Carey and Jeff to give us a short recital on harp and guitar before Kit led us in community singing.

It was now 3.30 Time to depart. The snow had melted and the roads were clear. The key to the bar was safely in Jeff’s pocket, unused!

We had all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, had had an opportunity to chat with everyone and eaten and drunk very well indeed. It was a pity that the hard work put in by the organisers had resulted in such small numbers.

A big Thank you to Mic, Dawn, Carey and Jeff. You did us proud!

Stella R Sterry

The Quaker Truth & Integrity Group (QTIG)

The Quaker Truth & Integrity Group (QTIG) began as an informal group of Quakers sharing a deeply felt concern about the state of truth and integrity in public life in Britain. In March 2022 it gained official recognition by the national Quaker body (Britain Yearly Meeting) as a “Quaker Recognised Body”. [Click here](#) for further details and to visit their web site.

Recipe for A Happy New Year

Take twelve fine, full-grown months;

See that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancour and hate

Cleanse them completely from every clinging spite;

Pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness;

In short, see that these months are freed from all the past

Have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time.

Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts.

Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time

(So many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work

(Some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavour of the rest),

Hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness,

Rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), Prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution.

Add about one teaspoonful (or more according to your taste and need) of

Good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly,

A sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humour.

Enjoy each day and welcome each moment with joyful anticipation.

Relax and savour each experience, whether happy or not, in your life journey, Knowing and trusting that God is with you each step of the way.

Anon

The Thirteenth day of Christmas

The small spruce tree lay on the wet grass,
Stripped of celebration, a single silver thread entwined,
Forest green against the weary garden green ...and a thrush was singing.

The mistletoe bough had tumbled away

Tucked 'neath the hedge, the kissing long forgotten.
A foraging mouse found a feast in the dulled berries ... and a thrush was singing.

The ivy that had decked the doorway disappeared,

Caught by the wind of epiphany, it snagged the fence
Where the sheep from the hillside had stripped the stems ...and a thrush was singing.

Was it singing on the first day of Christmas,
Drowned out by a partridge in a pear tree?

Were we deafened by doves, french hens and calling birds
While the thrush was singing?

What is his song in this bleak mid winter? Is it of snowdrops and aconites, of small catkins
And precious extra minutes of daylight? On the thirteenth day of Christmas
A thrush was singing.

Carey Glyn-Jones

Camp Reunion Walk - Sunday 19th March

12.30 - 16.30 at Llwyn Celyn Threshing Barn <https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/properties-list/llwyn-celyn-threshing-barn/holiday/#Overview>

Everyone is welcome to join Abergavenny Meeting for Meeting for Worship at Llanfoist Village Hall <https://llanfoistvillagehall.co.uk/map-directions/> We meet at 10.30 and are happy to offer Children's Meeting but please let me know in advance (penny.harding@smquakers.org.uk)

Please bring a packed lunch and food to share for tea at 15.30.

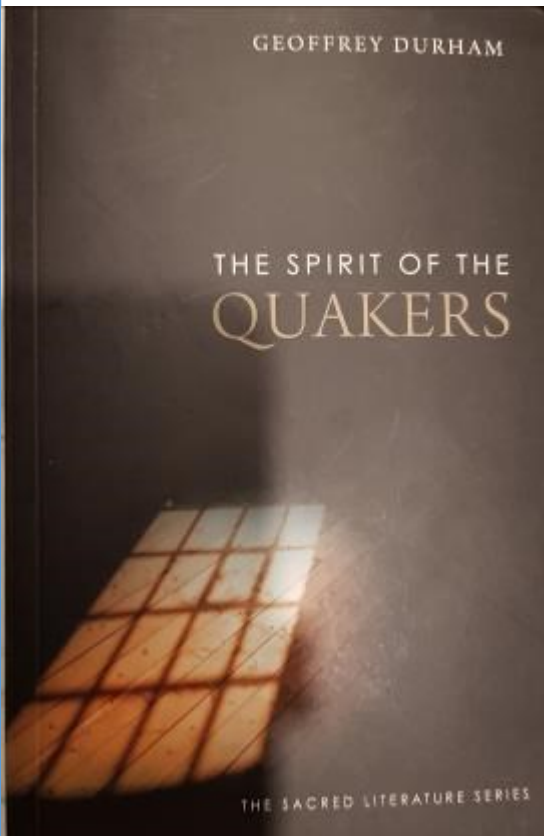
Weather permitting, we will have a walk that will give you a taste of the countryside around where 2023 Camp is located. It will also be possible to just enjoy the Threshing Barn - and put the kettle on for the walkers' return!

Look forward to seeing as many as can make it

In Friendship Penny Harding
Abergavenny Local Meeting

Can I recommend?

Can I recommend a book to you?



Many of you will already know it, and I am sure value it, but it is one that I have only become acquainted with in the past few months. It was published in 2010 so it is not new. It is an anthology of Quaker writings by Geoffrey Durham titled **The Spirit of the Quakers**. It differs from the beloved QF and P in several ways, it includes many of the same writers, but until the revised edition of the latter is published also includes more recently written extracts.

One particular difference is that Durham is happy to be our guide to the extracts, introducing the sections with historical notes or comments on Quaker ways and customs.

He previously wrote the excellent guide for newcomers to Quakerism and this book too is aimed at them but his personal but comprehensive selection and collection of views is such that, shall we say even “seasoned” Friends can gain greatly by dipping in to it.

He states that everything in the book is geared towards trying to make the rich variety of Quaker thought accessible to enquirers.

Durham allows some extracts to be longer than found in QF and P which give us more insight into the writer.

The Chapter headings are similar to the red book – Meeting for Worship, Faith in Action, Testimonies etc but in addition he includes some extracts from the spiritual journals of, for example, Woolman and Fox.

This book is a cornucopia of goodies! Open it at random and you can find something to inspire, comfort or inform but, very often, to astonish. There are pieces here from, not only, British Quakers but also American, Australian and New Zealanders as well as from writers from a range of varieties of witness and belief.

The following quotes are from a random “dip” I made the day I was writing this and said something to me.

I wish I might emphasise how a life becomes simplified when dominated by faithfulness to a few concerns. Too many of us have too many irons in the fire!

Thos Kelly

We have travelled to visit each other (by joining Quakers) knowing that we will find a welcome and a like mind at the end of the journey

Ben Pink Dandelion

Each one must simply carry out..... the thing that is in them to do, developing a poetry of their own, according to the rhythm that is in them.

Pierre Ceresole

It is possible to purchase the book for very little cost through one of the second hand sites and I recommend this manner of recycling. You will not be disappointed with what you receive.

Stella R Sterry