

THE QUIET WORD

February 2017 issue no 2



Meeting for worship

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting
House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,
Leeds, LS27 7HX
tel: 0113 2564944 or 07973 450368
Sundays, 10.45 am

ILKLEY Friends Meeting House
Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds, LS29 9QJ
tel: 01943 600 806 or 01943 601181
Sundays, 10.30 am

ADEL Friends Meeting House
New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ
tel: 0113 2676293
Sundays, 10.45 am

CARLTON HILL Central Leeds
Friends Meeting House
188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds,
LS2 9DX
tel: 0113 2422208

Meetings for worship:
Sundays, 10.45 am

ROUNDHAY Friends Meeting House
136 Street Lane, Leeds, LS8 2BW
tel: 0113 2933684
Sundays, 10.45 am

OTLEY Friends Meeting
Gildersome 260th birthday celebrations
See inside - p13
1st and 3rd Sundays each month at 10.45
in The Court House, Courthouse Street,
Otley

usually in The Robing Room
Enquiries: 0113 318 8084,
dmr@cooptel.net

RAWDON Friends Meeting House
Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,
LS19 6HU
tel: 0113 250 4904
Sundays, 10.45 am

LEEDS UNIVERSITY
Tuesdays, 1.05pm
In Claire Chapel, The Emmanuel Centre
which is alongside the main entrance to
the University of Leeds Campus opposite
the Parkinson Building (with the white
clock tower).

Organised by the Leeds Universities
Chaplaincy

Bedford Court
First and third Wednesdays,



'From Where have you travelled Friend?' Edward Starkie (Adel QM) and Brian Senior (Carlton Hill QM) at the QiY gathering displaying the 1773 silk scarf map which Edward has discovered. Showing the Northern Meetings, this maybe a unique object from the past.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Quakers in Yorkshire	page 3
Easter Settlement	page 4
Leeds Citizens	page 5
Carbon Copy	page 6
How Sustainable is Your Lifestyle	page 7
Artist Retreats in the South of France	page 10
Arms Fairs	page 11
Experiment with Light	page 12
Forced Migration - How can Quakers respond?	page 13
Quaker Faith & Practice	page 14
The Big Garden Bird Watch	page 15

Deadline for submissions to March issue - Monday February 27th

Please send any submissions for Next month's issue of the Quiet Word to quietword@leedsquakers.org.uk. The Quiet Word is available online from www.leedsquakers.org.uk/activities/a-quiet-word

This magazine is produced using Open Source software – software that is not controlled by major companies for profit or gain and is customisable for users own use. For more details on Open Source software see <http://opensource.org/>. For alternatives to Windows see <http://tinyurl.com/kfhcbuj>.

'Life Begins Beyond your Comfort Zone'



I read these words on the wall of a delightful little coffee shop recently. It reminded me of the Quaker advice to live adventurously. Am I following this wise counsel by taking on the role of Area Meeting Co-clerk? I wonder if I should come along to the first few meetings wearing an 'L' plate. I hope you will bear with me as I stumble through the initial stages.

I am aware that Robert Keeble is a very hard act to follow and I'd like to pay tribute to the tremendous work he has done, along with Veronica O'Mara. Robert introduced the monthly newsletter sent out to all Friends in the Area Meeting and I hope to continue this, so remember to send me your news and calendar events so that I can disseminate them at the beginning of each month. I look forward to working with Veronica and to seeing many of you at our LAQM meetings.

Do you take part as often as you can in meetings for church affairs? Are you familiar enough with our church government to contribute to its disciplined processes?.... If you cannot attend, uphold the meeting prayerfully. (from Advices & Queries 15)

Pat Gerwat

A reminder of the Trustees Grant funds

Support Fund: this is specifically for Quakers, members or attenders, in need. Examples of donations are money for a Friend to attend a Woodbrooke course, and another to a Friend who was in need to help with transport costs because of a disability. It is usually Overseers that would apply for this on behalf of a Friend.

Friends Action on Poverty - this is for anyone, living in the Leeds area, who is in need. Donations have included a request for a pair of trainers for a young person who is cared for by his Grandmother who is living on benefits. Others include: a contribution to enable children to visit from the area of Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster and money to help build a kitchen for a project that cooks food for older people in Leeds.

General fund - this is available for larger funds that have helped pay for costs for the running of organisations.

Decisions on Grants are made quarterly - the next meeting date is 23 March 2017. Grants of under £100 can be made more quickly.

If you think you would like to apply for funds on behalf of someone or an organisation please contact, Iona Lyons, for more details and an application form. The people below listed are those that you can talk to about your application.

Iona Lyons - ionaclare@gmail.com

Phil O'Hare- philomena.ohare@virginmedia.com

Ruth Woodhead - ruth.woodhead@gmail.com

Martin Schweiger - germ.buster@phonecoop.coop

Springtime in the Lake District

Adel Meeting is going to Glenthorne in Grasmere on 3-5 March this year. A few Friends have been obliged to withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances, so here is an opportunity for you to join us if you are free. We can promise you a lively time. The cost will be around £145 for the weekend, from Friday supper through to Sunday lunch. If you are interested please contact Pat Gerwat 0113 28899626, patricia.gerwat@virginmedia.com.

Quakers in Yorkshire

Saturday 21st Jan 2017

“We are all, yes, I believe, all a mixture of good and bad, and we are not always good at recognising in this magpie mixture what is bad and what is good. Our need is to accept ourselves as a whole, and offer that whole to God, leaving it to God ‘unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid’ to evaluate the good and bad in us. The glorious miracle is that, if we can do this, God can still use us, with all our faults and weaknesses, if we are willing to be used.”

QfP 21.8

Friends gathered for the quarterly meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire at Oxford Place Methodist Centre in Leeds. We were offered a full agenda which, in the morning covered various activities with children and young people.

We heard from Kate Marks, the under 19's co-ordinator, who gave a brief outline of the work carried out by her committee.

We then heard about Junior Holidays from Rosemary Daley, who deputised for Rachel Muers, who was unable to be present. Junior Holidays are for youngsters aged between 7 and 12 and uses two main centres – The Old School House at Robin Hoods Bay, and Barmoor (the former Harvey family home) at Hutton-le-Hole on the North Yorks Moors. Events have been hugely successful but the committee is finding a slight problem recruiting enough helpers with the necessary time and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate. Because of this they are also finding a problem with the administration (all the necessary paper incurred by legislation) and have asked Quakers in Yorkshire to provide an administrator. This has been agreed in principle.

Next came a very entertaining and enlightening report from Guy Milner about Yorkshire Friends Holiday School. This is open to young people between the ages of 13 and 18, both Quaker and non-Quaker and even welcomes participants from other countries – anybody in fact as long as they fit the age-range and there is space. The event is now in its 83rd year and caters for around 60 youngsters. In recent years they have taken over Bootham School in York. We were shown an entertaining slide show which highlighted just how much the youngsters

enjoyed it.

Next up was a “double act” from Chris Petri and Pauline Leonard about Easter Settlement - a well established Yorkshire Quaker event, going back over 100 years, which gathers Friends for a weekend of talk, food, fun and spiritual enrichment. As the name implies it occurs over the Easter weekend (14-18 April 2017). The Theme for this year is “Towards a Quaker View of Education”. Bookings are now open. See separate article.

During the lunch break various demonstrations took place which Friends were encouraged to join, including a march in support of the 1000 Women in Washington, opposed to the inauguration of Donald Trump, and a demonstration highlighting the Defence & Security Equipment International (DESI) Arms Fair soon to take place in London.



After lunch Diana Sandy, a long-standing Friend from Beverley outlined her long-time concern that Friends have “lost the plot”. She is concerned that we have lost the radical force that drove early Quakers and persisted to a lesser extent until, she felt, the 1960's. She is also concerned that Friends House and Central work has become too dominant.

She then went on to highlight some of the facts. Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting, the decision taking body for Yorkshire Friends, was established by George Fox in 1666. It was laid down in 1966 with very little consultation with Yorkshire Friends. The spiritual aspect was not considered. The whole decision

making process of Quakers in Britain changed from that date and the Society, it would appear, was not in unity about the decision. In order to “pacify” Friends, General Meetings were set up to replace the Quarterly Meetings but they had no official function and these too were laid down in 2007. Quakers in Yorkshire is an independent charity that was set up in 2008 and is not recognised in the hierarchy of Britain Yearly Meeting.

A vital part of George Fox's organisation was Friends who “Travelled in the Ministry”; Friends who went from Meeting to Meeting to help with the spiritual growth of the Meeting. The practice of appointing Friends to do this ceased many years ago.

Diana left us with the thought “What canst thou say?”

The Meeting then discussed the issues in small groups. Many controversial points were put forward. There was no overall feeling of unity but the general impression I had was that Friends generally felt that nothing needed any radical change. We live in a fast changing world and have to adapt.

Easter Settlement

Easter Settlement has been happening in Yorkshire for over 100 years. It is a mix of periods of worship, reflection, sessions considering topics of interest, games, walks and outdoor activities, and maybe sometimes, dancing and music. In other words, something for everyone, including youngsters. The theme this year is “Towards a Quaker View of Education”, with input from Paul Parker, Jeff Beatty, and Lynne and Dave Morris (the Journeyman Theatre company)



Accommodation is at the magnificent Cober Hill guest house in Cloughton, a couple of miles north of Scarborough (and on a regular bus route from Scarborough railway station). It was purchased in 1920 by Arnold Rowntree for groups who wanted more than just a holiday by the seaside, and also as a way of furthering his interest in Adult

One Friend possibly summed it up by reading from QfP 27.3 written by John Lampen in 1985

“Can we settle the question, ‘Is the Society of Friends Christian or not?’ In the historical sense the answer is Yes: but that does not preclude the possibility that we may now be called to a new and wider perception of the Truth. We have the witness of the Society itself, as well as the example of Jesus, against turning yesterday's inspiration into today's dogma. Today's world-wide knowledge of people and their religions does present a challenge which our universalists are right to try to meet – just as our Christians are right to remind us that the insights of the past must not lightly be thrown away. It may be valuable to live for a while in the tension between the universal and the specific; and if so, there may be a special vocation here through which our Society (with its tradition of respect for the divine Seed in everyone) can minister to the church at large. Or it may be that a synthesis is possible, once we can agree on what is essential to being a Christian.”

Pete Redwood Carlton Hill

Education. It is now under the guidance of the Joseph Rowntree Trust and the Cober Hill Trust. There are views overlooking the sea and there are 6 acres of grounds to explore.

Bookings are now open but with a maximum of 90 places, you are advised to book as soon as possible to ensure a place. (bookings close 24th March). Bookings are already coming in fast. 32 of the rooms are doubles, and there is family accommodation and dormitory style accommodation for youngsters. It is requested that if you book as single person please consider sharing since that enables more people to be accommodated.

More information and booking form:
<http://tinyurl.com/gwsxush>

or contact Chris Petrie (01729 822 677)
 chpetrie@btinternet.com

or Pauline Leonard (0113 2786351)
pauline@paulineleonard.plus.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Coberhill>

Carlton Hill has joined Leeds Citizens (part of Citizens UK) and our first meeting was held at the beginning of January.

Leeds Citizens is an affiliation of around 20 community groups plus many of the churches, mosques and synagogues throughout the city. It is led by Tom Chigbo, a professionally trained Community Organiser.

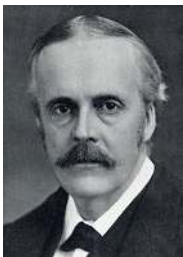
Citizens UK was established in 1989 and it has developed a unique way of community organising. In any political system there are three elements – Civil Society, the State, and the Market. In a fully democratic society these three elements must be separate but in too many cases the State and the Market become one, as is the case with the present UK system. This undermines democracy because Civil Society becomes powerless. Leeds Citizens and Citizens UK work out how to take the power back from the State and the Market by holding them accountable. In a truly democratic society there has to be a genuine public discourse concerning justice and the common good.

Carlton Hill Meeting's initial aim is to build a tighter community amongst ourselves, to get to know each other better, and then to work closely with the other community groups to achieve targeted aims to make Leeds a better city.

You will be hearing more from us.

Centenary of the Balfour Declaration

A hundred years ago this November, Arthur Balfour committed the British government to 'the establishment in of a national home for the Jewish people'. His 'declaration' was welcomed by the still-young Zionist movement.



His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

But why were so many Jews at the time opposed to Balfour, and to Zionism?

And why has Zionism since become so central to Jewish identity that the Chief Rabbi lately called it 'one of the axioms of Jewish belief'?

How should we mark the Balfour Declaration centenary?

A talk by Robert Cohen at the **Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, City Square, Leeds**

on Wednesday 15th February 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Robert Cohen is one of this country's leading dissident Jewish voices. He writes and speaks with great insight into both the history of 's Jewish community and the range of opinions within it today. His blog, Micah's Paradigm Shift, is subtitled 'Rescuing the Hebrew Covenant one blog post at a time'.



Carbon Copy

No, not the black paper, but the black stuff that was sequestered from the atmosphere millions of years ago to make this planet habitable for plants, animals and humans. Now, in the past 250 years or so, with increasing voracity, we are reversing the process.

Industrial coal mining started in the mid 1700's as the Industrial Revolution got under way. In a space of less than 100 years coal output increased fifty-fold. Then in the late 1800's oil came on the scene and fuelled motorised transport and an ever increasing demand for energy. Ironically, its discovery, use and demand has also fuelled most of the unrest in the Middle East. Leading scientists across the world are now adamant. In order to stand chance of limiting

Each kilo of fossil fuel that is extracted from the earth and used, is putting a large proportion of carbon back into the upper atmosphere, which is causing a blanket to heat up the planet. Our excessive use of industrial fertilisers causes the emission of large quantities of nitrogen oxide which reacts with the carbon to exacerbate the problem. Our excessive demand for meat results in the emission of huge quantities of methane which has a more blanketing effect than carbon dioxide.

Today we live in the full knowledge of the damage we are causing to our environment, although many are in denial. Our parents and our grandparents created the damage in their ignorance. Tomorrow, it is our children and grandchildren who will bear the brunt of our folly, not us. As an example, scientists believe that within the next thirty years many of the popular parts of Spain could become highly undesirable due to droughts and unbearable temperatures. When that happens we are likely to see migration like we have never seen before, from all the hotter parts of the globe. We think we have problems now!!! Leading scientists across the world are now adamant. In order to stand chance of limiting global warming it is imperative that we leave **all** fossil

fuels in the ground.

Quite a challenge in today's society. What can we do about it? Governments worldwide have proved that we cannot rely on them to come up with an answer, let alone limit the damage. The answer is relatively simple. We each, yes each and every one, of us need to examine our lifestyles very carefully. Every time we switch on the light, every time we turn the key in the ignition of our car, we are creating carbon emissions. The food on our plate, unless chosen with care, might also be contributing to the problem. We can't eliminate such things completely within modern society – but we can do a lot to limit them to what is actually necessary.

The Leeds Sustainability Group has now started at Carlton Hill and is open to anyone within Leeds Area Meeting. (See page 7) The aim is to help us all get to grips with this tricky problem and do what we can to bring our lifestyles into something like a sustainable pattern.

Advices & Queries

12. Be honest with yourself. What unpalatable truths might you be evading? When you recognise your shortcomings, do not let that discourage you. In worship together we can find the assurance of God's love and the strength to go on with renewed courage.



How sustainable is your lifestyle?

The Leeds Area Sustainability Group held its first meeting on Jan 5th under the title "Conversations on Sustainability". The idea was to explore how Friends defined sustainability and what they expected from such meetings.

Eight Friends came together and we had a very useful discussion. Definitions of sustainability included -

- teamwork – keep things going
- not damaging the world around us
- within the rhythms of the planet and living in harmony
- we have too much waste
- treading lightly
- not taking more than your share

So what do we want out of the group?

We all agreed that controlling our carbon emissions are at the heart living a sustainable lifestyle and that we need to examine our own lifestyles to see where we can improve. Our purpose is to support each other on what could be a difficult journey.

We also feel the need to inform ourselves of what is going in Leeds. According the very latest figures, Leeds is the second most polluted city in the UK outside London so we decided to find out what the City Council is doing to reduce those levels.

There was also an interest in seeing if it would be possible to visit the new recycling and energy recovery facility on the Leeds Valley Park industrial estate, run on behalf of the City Council by Veolia on a 25 year contract. A previous incarnation of the group found a visit to the older recycling facility very enlightening.



We next meet on Thursday Feb 2nd and again on Thursday Feb 16th and then on the first and third Thursday of each month, after Meeting for Worship and a soup supper – so around 7:30pm till about 9:00pm. We would welcome input from all Friends across the Area Meeting.

Spirituality and End of Life

York Friargate Meeting is planning a day conference on Spirituality and End of Life on 4th March, exploring the issue of death and dying from an interfaith perspective, with a particular focus on 'how your view of death shapes your view of life'.

Further details from Ben Wood, Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) b.j.wood@hotmail.co.uk

Living a sustainable lifestyle.

Advices 42. We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.

Advices 2. Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ.

Advices 27. Live adventurously Let your lives speak.

Advices 38.Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions.

All very sound advice but in 21st century Britain is actually quite difficult to live a truly sustainable lifestyle. The main problem is the amount of carbon that we are emitting into the atmosphere by just about everything we do.

At the Paris summit last year 196 nations put their heads together and agreed to limit carbon emissions to control average global temperature rise to a maximum of 2 degrees. Once signed, nearly every leading scientist admitted that, unless every government was prepared to take drastic action, the target was completely unrealistic. They agreed that in order to stand any chance of success every scrap of fossil fuel had to remain in the ground from that moment on because the use of each tiny gram of fossil fuel contributes something to the accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere – the cause of global warming.

Now stop and think how you might be contributing to the problem; every time you turn on the light switch; every time you turn the key in the ignition of your car; every scrap of food you eat – unless you grow it all yourself; and so the list goes on – endless.

Everybody's lifestyle is different so I can only talk about my own attempts.

Although I drove high mileages for a living, I have never owned my own vehicle. I have never flown in an aeroplane. For well over thirty years I have been vegetarian, although there have been one or two aberrations due to various circumstances. For some of that time I have attempted a vegan diet, but my lifestyle at that time and a lack of commercially available vegan food, persuaded me to abandon it. Now my lifestyle has stabilised I am back on a vegan diet and I feel a lot better for it. And my doctor is happy because I am actually losing weight, nice and

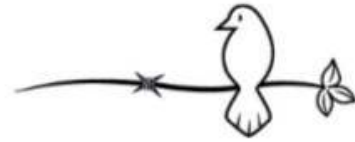
slowly. It is also a lot easier than it was in the past because manufacturers are waking up to the idea and much more choices are available. That said, the more manufactured food you buy the more carbon emissions you are contributing to in the manufacture and distribution of that food. I have made my own yoghurt for many years and it works just as well with soya milk as it does with dairy milk. I also make my own bread. I use a bread maker which is getting past its best and I now feel that it is time to stop burning electricity with it and do it the traditional way! I'm also experimenting with making my own non-dairy cheese from nuts and soya milk. It might be just a step too far for someone living on their own though, because it is not practical to make it in small quantities.

Waste is nightmare. Just about everything you buy has packaging and a lot of it is simply not recyclable. I'm trying my best to avoid packaging by buying all my foodstuffs loose, which means that supermarkets don't sell what I want. I have no serious problem with that since the food trade as it stands now is not the same food trade that I spent over twenty years working in. It has now become too controlled by global organisations whose sole motivation is to make even higher profits. The concept that supermarkets create cheap food is a total myth. We make up the difference in our taxes for the huge subsidies (£3bn a year to just 0.7% of our GDP) that the industrial agricultural market can claim.

I diverse but I hope I've given a flavour of what I am trying to do, how I am trying to live my life simply and how I am trying to live within the Buddhist (and Quaker) philosophy of "do no harm" – to people, creatures or planet.

Pete Redwood, Carlton Hill

Christian Peacemaker Teams



In Harm's Way: Stories from the world's frontline of Peace-making

Speaker:

Sarah Thompson, CPT
Executive Director

Date: 2nd March 2017

Time: 7pm

Venue: All Hallows Church,
Leeds



**Come and hear about CPT's
peace work around the world.**

Sarah will be sharing stories and insights from 30 years of CPT history, and talking about the practicalities of Christian peace work today.

Contact:

CPT UK outreach worker, Ruth on 07794659503 or email: uk@cpt.org www.cpt.org

Centre Quaker de Congénies

Quakers in France



Artist Retreats in the South of France

At Centre Quaker de Congénies,

located in a lovely valley between the Cévennes Mountains & the Mediterranean Sea

Friday 28 April to Monday 8 May

And Friday 22 September to Monday 2 October

- * 6-10 days of creating and camaraderie.
- * Transportation to interesting venues to paint, draw, photograph:
- * but the peaceful garden and surrounding village may be sufficient inspiration.
- * There will be a facilitator from Saturday evening to Friday morning. The other * 4 days are optional for continuing projects or sightseeing.
- * Facilitator: Kate Hale, Quaker, art teacher, advisor and community artist in a broad range of media.
- * Open to artists and non-artists

The Maison Quaker belongs to France Yearly Meeting (l'Assemblée de France) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). It is in the village of Congénies in the Languedoc region of the south of France. You will find there a group of Quakers meeting for worship and other activities, and the Centre also has a programme of other events.

Special event:

Music Week

Saturday 20 to Sunday 28 May 2017

Lift your spirits with 5 - 8 days of musical adventure at Maison Quaker.

Experience or talent not necessary--just a willingness to sing, play, learn or listen.

465€ for shared occupancy (595€ private room) includes 5 nights' accommodation, meals, everything but one lunch

Contact

Judy et Dave Kashoff

amis-residents

Maison Quaker

11, Avenue des Quakers

30111 Congénies, France

Phone +33 (0)4 66 71 46 41

<http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/>

Arms Fairs

The UK government likes to give the impression that the arms trade is vital to the economy of Britain and vital for employment. Hence the readiness to embrace Trident, the eagerness to help Rolls Royce, and our continual involvement in Middle East politics.

Why? According to the government's own figures it contributes to just over 1.4% of our export sales and less than 0.2% of our workforce.



The UK department of Trade and Industry (UKTI) was set up to help companies with their exports, across all sectors, involving 15 teams. In fact it employs more staff handling “defence” contracts than all the other sector teams combined. This specialist section is the Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) set up in 2008. Employing 128 staff (of the total 230 staff at UKTI) its sole purpose is to promote arms sales. By far the largest customer for our weapons is Saudi Arabia. Once these weapons find their way into many of the dubious regimes throughout the area. It has often been reported that some of the so-called “enemies” that our troops have been fighting have been using British made weapons against us.

The British government hosts three major arms fairs every year. The biggest is the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI), bringing together the entire defence and security industry to source the latest equipment and systems. It takes place in London this year 12-15 September at the Excel Centre in London and attracts some 34,000 buyers from across the world, many of whom are personally invited by the DSO. Only pre-registered delegates can attend.

The next in importance is Security & Policing which takes place at Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre, Hampshire from 7-9 March 2017. It is a secretive annual event organised by the Home Office and the arms industry trade body, Areospace Defence Security (ADS). Attendance is strictly by Home Office invitation only. ADS is the Premier Trade Organisation for companies in the UK Aerospace, Defence, Security and Space Sectors. Membership is made up of 1000 UK registered businesses. ADS is the sole owner and promoter of the Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre. One of its major functions is to lobby the UK government in favour of arms manufacturers.

The third major exhibition sponsored and encouraged by the UK government is the Farnborough International Air Show, which takes place next year on 16-22 July. Once again attendance is mainly by invitation from DSO, although the display part of the event is open to the public on the Saturday.



In France, Britain and the USA the armed forces' primary function is to support the arms trade. Without it the arms trade could not exist. In order to survive it requires continuous sales, continuous development and continuous investment. Export sales, whilst essential to the trade's survival, are not sufficient on their own to maintain it. Equally, without substantial exports home sales are insufficient for its survival.

But, the question has to be asked - Why do we need it in the first place?

Shut Down DSEI: This is how we stop it!

CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade)

18th Feb 2017, 1.30pm- 5pm, Friends Meeting House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT

Experiment with Light is a Quaker practice which is based on early Friends' discoveries. It was devised in 1996 by Quaker and theologian Rex Ambler following his study of early Friends' writings. Rex had two motives for wanting to discover what was really behind the profound changes in early Friends' lives.

The first related to early Friends. What was it that made them so sure, so centred, so willing to suffer such privations to keep alive their faith? How did they bear the persecution and pain – their own and their families' and Friends' - and how was it that what they had found was worth dying for?

What was the Light within early Friends consciences? (Such a contrast when we look at the Religious Society of Friends in Britain today.) More pressing on a personal level was a seemingly intractable problem of his own which he had been wrestling with for a long time. These factors, one an intellectual set of questions and the other very much heart driven, led Rex to a thorough search of Fox's Journal and letters and other contemporary source material to discover what information there was about how to access this Light within. During his studies, while he found no written step by step formula, he found many clues to how this might have worked. After much patient sifting of the material, he discovered, and experimented himself, with a definite process by which this light may be accessed. This can be separated into four main steps with an invitation first to BE STILL:

- 1) Mind the Light (pay attention to what's going on inside you, particularly where there's something that makes you feel uncomfortable)
- 2) Open your heart to the truth (don't run away from anything that's difficult or that you don't want to face, but keep a little distance from it: 'be still and cool in thy mind')
- 3) Wait in the Light (be patient, let the Light show you what is really going on, ask questions if what is being offered to you isn't clear or you want to know more, and wait for the answers to come, don't try to explain)
- 4) Submit (accept and welcome the information or images, and the insights, dreams and perceptions that may come later, and allow them to show the truth)

Trying this for himself, Rex found ways to move forward on his own issues and gain the inner peace he was looking for. So, as a personal experiment it definitely worked! Trying it on a group of others there were similar breakthroughs and expressions of wonder and gratitude for this simple tool which can bring such profound change. Since then the Experiment with Light has found ready participants both in the UK and throughout the world.

What is a Light Group?

A Light Group is a gathering of people interested in exploring Experiment with Light. There has been a light group meeting regularly at Adel for several years. Although a group at Carlton Hill has been run on two occasions there is currently no group. To gauge the appetite for another group a workshop has been organised for 11.02.17 which will run from 10am to 4pm. If you are interested please turn up and remember to bring your own lunch.

If you would like further information please contact Richard Hawkins (richard.hawkins@nps.co.uk)

The organisers are hoping the workshop leads to a regular meeting.

Forced Migration – How can Quakers Respond?

As this publication goes to press Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) will be holding its annual conference at Woodbrooke with the theme Forced Migration – How can Quakers Respond? This is being run in partnership with QPSW to formulate input to the new QPSW campaign of the same title.

In connection with this, QARN have made a submission to the Home Affairs Select Committee on an effective immigration policy and urged the Committee to have a wholehearted commitment to the humane and generous treatment of forced migrants coming to Britain. It reminds the government of its commitment to the 1951 Refugee Convention on the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers and comments that this commitment and those of earlier governments 'were at odds with the reality of legislation and its implementation. For example, the convention stipulates that "refugees should not be penalized for their illegal entry or stay". Yet the Immigration Act 2016 means that forced migrants may be imprisoned and have their earnings confiscated if they work before they have refugee status. Their employer and landlord are likewise exposed to prison.

QARN urged the government to pursue a policy that would ensure the 'humane treatment of asylum seekers' and support a fair and consistent policy. It recommended that such a policy would: reinstate a fair and reasonable legal aid system; set clear and understandable criteria for applicants to meet without hidden snares, which makes it

possible for so many to fail at the first hurdle; provide basic housing and income support throughout the application process, including appeals; allow people to work during their period of application; and provide easily accessible healthcare.

A fuller report of this submission can be found in 27th January edition of The Friend.

Please note that Area Meeting, taking place at Ilkley Meeting House on Sunday 12th Feb, will also be discussing "**Immigration – what are we called to do?**"

Kindlers Workshop

"Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life. Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of dependence on God's guidance for each day? Hold yourself and others in the Light, knowing that all are cherished by God." Advices number 3

Come along to Carlton Hill Meeting House on **Saturday 25th - 10am to 4pm** and explore this further in the Kindlers Workshop. Everybody welcome.

Q:Witness - a Quaker podcast

A new service – audio broadcasts from QPSW covering sustainability, equality and peace issues. So far five have been released but many more to follow.

1. Introducing Q:Witness
2. Active non-violence in Kenya
3. New Economy
4. Banning nuclear weapons
5. Educating for peace.



<https://soundcloud.com/qwitness/sets/q-witness>

Also available as an app. from Google or iTunes, or subscribe via

<http://feeds.soundcloud.com/users/soundcloud:users:225078789/sounds.rss>

The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group suggested reading from Quaker Faith & Practice for February is:

Chapter 9: Beyond Britain Yearly Meeting.

9.21 "Relationships beyond the Christian church embrace dialogue with other communities of faith. Individual Friends have long been active in interfaith work. Britain Yearly Meeting has not only pursued this work in the context of community relations, but has also come to appreciate the theological issues implicit in interfaith dialogue, the connections between our work for world peace, our work for understanding between faiths and the potential for mutual enrichment through interfaith sharing. This has come to be reflected in new emphases in the work of its Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations, which is a member of the Inter Faith Network. Britain Yearly Meeting is a member of the Churches Inter-Religious Network of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland.

Friends' experience is that interfaith dialogue can profitably be undertaken locally, where local issues set the agenda of work which can most usefully be done together. Other communities of faith often find our meeting houses acceptable venues for their worship, and meetings are encouraged to make contact with other faith groups to find out whether their own premises could be so used. This approach, however, does not mean that Friends should see themselves as theologically neutral. We need to seek to be part of the dialogue, attesting to our own insights and convictions."

QfP Discussion Group meets at Carlton Hill on Tuesday 14th Feb 7.00pm

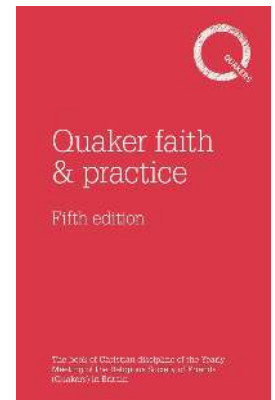
Can War Ever Be Justified?

A talk and discussion at University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane. LS2 9JT
on 8th February at 19:00.

Join Leeds Coalition Against War (LCAW), in conjunction with Leeds Tidal, for a philosophical discussion on the justifications of war and the responsibilities of states towards refugees. The talk will be taken by two University of Leeds lecturers, Dr. Mollie Gerver and Dr. James Souter. For this discussion, Dr. Gerver will propose some philosophical debates surrounding the justifications of war. Can war ever be justified? Who is justified in going to war? Is there 'moral conduct' within war.

We hope the talk will challenge your assumptions and opinions on the morals of warfare, which will lead to an interactive discussion on the topic afterwards. In addition, Dr. Souter is going to discuss his work about the responsibilities of states to protect refugees, especially towards granting asylum as reparation for past injustices. This will be followed by a Q and A session.

More information at <http://www.leedstidal.org/can-war-ever-be-justified/>



Peace Education

QPSW is teaming up with Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre to offer an online course in peace education.

Introduction to peace education 4 September - 15 October – approx. 3 hours per week

This introduction to the theory and practice of peace education draws upon the experience of Quaker Peace & Social Witness to explore how we can:

- * support the development of children's inner peace;
- * help children to understand conflict and their relationship with it;
- * engage children with wider peace issues, from the ethics of armed drones to conscientious objection and human rights.

We will endeavour to establish a supportive learning community and encourage reflective practice and peer-learning and assessment.

Cost £36 Book online - <http://tinyurl.com/z6fvmgb>

The RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2017

The last weekend in January saw the national 'big bird watch' - when people are encouraged to count the maximum number of birds of each species, seen at any one time in their garden during one hour. The 'bird count' at Carlton Hill Meeting House was very impressive and revealed a maximum of 9 Sparrows, 8 Goldfinches, 6 Starlings, 4 Blue Tits, 3 Blackbirds, 2 each of Great Tit, Pigeon and Robin; and one each of Chaffinch, Crow, Dunnock and a very special sighting, a Nuthatch – the Nuthatch is the nearest known sighting to the City Centre.



The nuthatch (right), a rare visitor to Leeds City centre gardens, "sharing" a meal with a goldfinch



Goldfinches eagerly attacking the bird feeder at Carlton Hill Meeting House, whilst a collared dove (right picture) looks on.



Calendar

February

Thursday 2nd 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 2nd 7.30pm Leeds Sustainability Group

Saturday 11th 10am to 4pm Leeds Light Group workshop at Carlton Hill QMH

@ Sunday, 12th at 1pm Leeds Area Quaker Meeting at Ilkley QMH; topic: 'Immigration – what are we called to do?'

Tuesday 14th 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm **discussion Quaker Faith & Practice 9&18** at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 16th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 16th 7.30pm Leeds Sustainability Group

Friday 24-26 Bamford Quaker Retreat: **When my time is up**

Saturday 25th - 10am to 4pm Kindlers Workshop at Carlton Hill QMH - Prayer – Cherished by God Exploring Advice no. 3.

March

Thursday 2nd 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 2nd 7.30pm Leeds Sustainability Group

Saturday 4th 10am to 12noon Leeds Light Group at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 4th 10am to 4pm **Spirituality and End of Life** - a day conference organised by QICCR at York Friargate QMH [Details](#)

Tuesday 7th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

Sunday 8th 10.45am - Otley Meeting for Worship at Otley Courthouse

@ **Saturday 11th 10am to 4pm** Leeds Quaker Workshop - Ministry and Resources - at Carlton Hill QMH

Tuesday 14th 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm **discussion Quaker Faith & Practice 19&29** at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 16th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 16th 7.30pm Leeds Sustainability Group