

THE QUIET WORD

January 2017 issue no 1



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: 07582 960092

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,



The original Carlton Hill Meeting House
dwarfed by its "award winning" companion.

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**Deadline for submissions for
February issue -
Monday 30th Jan**

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

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Calendar

January

Thursday 5th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

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

Tuesday 10th 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm discussion Quaker Faith & Practice chp.14 & 25 at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 19th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Friday 20 - 23 Bamford Quaker Retreat: Exploring Community

Saturday 21st 10am to 4pm - Quakers in Yorkshire at Oxford Place, Leeds

Sunday 22nd 10.45am - Otley Meeting for Worship at Otley Courthouse

Sat 28th Jan - 10am to 4pm Kindlers Workshop at Carlton Hill QMH - Turning Points – Change, Challenge and Letting go A workshop based around Advices & Queries 28.

February

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

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

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

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

@ 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 at Carlton Hill QMH

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

@ Saturday, 18th at 10am Leeds Area Quaker Meeting at Roundhay; QMH topic: 'Does the Spirit prosper? (State of the Meeting Reports)'

Tuesday 21st 7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Study Group at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 25th 10am to 4pm Kindlers Workshop at Carlton Hill QMH - Understanding Love and Power Changing the world one step at a time.

Editor's Comments

It seems everybody has been racing to get their newsletters out before Christmas so my mailbox has been inundated. Throughout these pages I have attempted to give a very brief digest of the points that caught my eye. Apologies if I missed anything.

I too have been racing to get this edition finished before I disappear for a few days retreat and quiet meditation to wind down after quite an eventful year, and be ready to face 2017 anew.

Wishing all Friends a peaceful – and sustainable – New Year.

Pete Redwood

Wedding

On 12th November 2016, Rici Marshall and Daniel Cross were married at Carlton Hill Meeting House.



David Robson (registrar) with the happy couple



The official document



Melanie and Su George (2nd & 3rd right- front row) married at Rawdon Meeting House on 14th December 2016

WARGAMES

I used to have an army -
men of one-seventy-two
Airfix, Revell, Zvezda, Strelets -
soldiers born of sprue.

Digging my finger into the tub,
I'd close my fist and feel
Luftwaffe, Ghurkhas, Medieval knights -
Plastic, and yet so real.

The Germans would seize the rockery,
And GIs would save the day,
Firing the matchstick howitzer
And blowing them all away.

But on some days, there'd be invaders -
Giants, of one-seventy-two.
Cowboys, towering over the rest,
Romans versus the Zulu.

I'd copy what I saw acted on T.V.
On Dad's Army and Where Eagles Dare
And green and grey would fight it out
On land, sea, and air.

Though I understood quite plainly
That to win in war you kill
It never quite occurred to me
That war was really...real.

That these plastic men had no lives,
No dream,s no hopes, no joys
They were merely dots on a map
Entertainment for me - toys.

And generals today can look at their boards
With markers, blue and red
But the only dots that matter now
Are ones 'alive' or 'dead.'

Though I grew out of my military phase
With a tremendous change of conscience
We still think war to be a game
A performance - mighty, but monstrous.

*Catherine Warr
Carlton Hill*

BYM Yearly Meeting Gathering 29th July - 5th August

Every third year Yearly Meeting takes the form of a residential gathering. In 2017 it will be held at Warwick University, and, like previous years, promises to be an experience not to be missed. Booking opens on January 4th 2017. Watch this space for further details but mark the place in your diaries.



Warwick Castle

Leeds Area Meeting held at Adel Meeting House Sunday 11th December 2017.

The main topic was "Testimonies – to the Grace of God" led by Michael Hutchinson from Glasgow Meeting and former BYM Recording Clerk.

Michael noted that Quakers are anarchists who try to form a group, which leads to tensions, but on the other hand if we were not in a tension between rule and anarchy we would not be Quakers. Because of this tension we examine and change.

Testimonies, as we know them, did not start until the eighteenth century. Some of the earliest in 1710 were described as the "weighty testimonies of dying Friends." By the 1800's they had become "the remarkable dying sayings of ministers." From 1861 Friends who were not ministers were also included.

Michael suggested that sometimes what is written as a testimony does not really qualify and is more of a biography. My dictionary defines "testimony" as "*a writing bearing witness to ones character.*"

QfP 4.29 gives detailed advice on writing a testimony. It should not be a biography but a record of how the Friend testified to the Grace of God in their life - how one has lived spiritually.

Chapter 18 of QfP "Faithful Lives" gives many examples of testimonies.

Business Meeting

In the Trustees Report mention was made of a new ruling by the Charity Commissioners concerning the making of donations by Local Meetings to other than Quaker bodies. If it is over £250 in amount, a detailed minute must be made to show that the Meeting fully endorses the donation and how it fits in with our registered Charitable aims. This minute must then be sent to Area Meeting and forwarded on to BYM.

A worrying report from Meeting for Sufferings was that only 18% of BYM income comes from Friends voluntary donations. The total cost of maintaining the work and administration of BYM is now £10,549,000 per annum whereas voluntary contributions only amount to £2,100,000. The rest of our income relies on legacies, gifts and grants, investments and any income generated by charitable activity. BYM treasurers suggest that contributions from Meetings should be increased by 50% which means all Friends considering increasing their donations to Quaker work.

Pete Redwood

Testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of our Friend Anna Needham

ANNA (formerly Ann) NEEDHAM (5 January 1938 - 27 May 2016)

Anna was an inspiring and supportive figure in Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting. Immediately she transferred from Ackworth (2005) there was no resting, she set to living her Quaker values with steadfast energy and enthusiasm.

Born in Bradford, followed by sisters Christine and Elizabeth, they all lived over the family's bakery and shop in Five-Lane Ends. She gained an entrance to the prestigious Bradford Girl's Grammar School at eleven. In 1952, her father moved the family to Frinton-on-Sea, where they established a continental bakery and patisserie with a cafe attached. This was galling for Anna, who had to transfer to a co-educational high school in Clacton-on -Sea for her sixth form years. The children worked summer holidays in the bakery, shop, cafe or doing the business accounts over the next eight years.

Perhaps it was from her dad that Anna inherited the adventurous gene. After earning a general degree in English Literature, Drama and Philosophy at Bristol University, she gained a diploma in Social Administration at the London School of Economics to become a social worker. She took a position in a psychiatric hospital in Denbigh, N. Wales and moved to "New Town" Harlow, where she found her first community of Friends. Anna returned to LSE for her Psychiatric Social Work diploma and joined the Quaker community of Toynbee Hall, East London (residency required a give-back of service to the community) where she lived for 7 years and met her husband-to-be, Grenville, a Unitarian. They had a Quaker wedding in 1968,

where all attending signed the wedding certificate. Grenville was probably responsible for the Unitarian touch of a quartet playing classical music in the courtyard. Anna's have-a-go spirit resulted in the sewing of her own, 60s fashion, wedding dress the resultant hemline being rather shockingly shorter than intended.

In 1969 Anna and Grenville moved to Rothwell and from there Anna accompanied Grenville to a VSO teaching post in Malaysia with her children Rosie aged 3 and Tom 6 months. On return to the UK four years later, Grenville started a teaching post at Ackworth Friends School and Anna recommenced social work at Pinderfields Hospital. Whilst living at Ackworth Anna put into practice Advice Number 26 to the full: make your home a place of loving friendship and enjoyment. New Year Curry Days live in friends' memories. Her generous and open spirit helped to bring Ackworth Friends School and Meeting together by holding Open Evenings for 6th formers to meet with Friends at her home. Anna's proof of living the testimony is warmly remembered by a friend who with her son was given shelter and space at a traumatic period of her life. Anna later reconfigured the house structure to provide more space for the friend and for her own counselling practice. As a social worker at Pinderfields hospital, she was very involved with the Head Injuries Unit and was instrumental in the founding of the head injury support charity 'Second Chance' raising funds for it using recipes she had learned in Malaysia. Her time in Malaysia gave her experience of other faiths which was carried into her ministry.

She also brought practices from Maine to Ackworth Meeting, introducing them to the Friendly Eights programme which continued for many years. Anna was confident in speaking and living her truth. She spoke clearly and calmly to the presiding magistrate before being fined at Barnsley for the



Anna giving out Fairtrade bananas in 2009

withholding of taxes as part of the Peace Tax Campaign. When in her later years the Meeting took on 'Living Simply' Anna tenaciously set about a carless life even

cycling across London to Kilburn to attend her counselling course.

Anna's lively, generous and supportive interest in others continued even when her brain health was deteriorating. She was resolute that parents encountered no financial discouragement from attending Quaker trips/weekends away and was a vital cheerleader in the early days of Carlton Hill Teenage Meeting. Also halfway through BYM 2011 (Canterbury University campus) she invited Carlton Hill friends to her room for a discussion forum to share their thoughts of BYM so far and that autumn troubled to make the bus journey to see a newly house-moved friend, bringing half of her newly baked Christmas cake as a moving in gift.

After nursing Grenville through the cancer which ended his life in 1999, Anna returned to Maine, to the cottage they had built so that she and Grenville could be close to Rosie, their grandchildren and their beloved Maine countryside. She embarked on several weeks' solo journey camping with her canoe, along the Appalachian Way. Around this time, after a lifetime of helping to others to develop, Anna made further quests for meaning and made changes in her life. She joined a Women's Group in Bradford where she met Jill who was to become her next partner and changed her given name of Ann to Anna. With her characteristic gift for outreach she also set about learning Spanish to be able to converse with daughter-in-law Llanos and her family when she visited them in Spain.

Anna met head-on the fact of her memory deterioration and pursued medical professionals for appropriate assessment, diagnosis and whatever treatment was available. In right ordering, Anna made courageous adjustments to her changed circumstances: moving out of her down-sized house in Leeds to a Quaker run sheltered housing complex in Philips Court, Horsforth, then into the main house, Olive Lodge, and finally to Kingston nursing home in Roundhay.

Anna embodied her Quaker values in her daily life which was generous and fulfilled. She had a gift for helping others to fulfil theirs.

Prepared by Maggie Rice and Una Parker with Jill Page, Tom Needham and Joyce Hughes

Quaker Activist Gathering

On 3rd December I attended the Quaker Activist Gathering at York Friargate Meeting House. The event was attended by about 50 people from all over the country – from Edinburgh to Bognor. I think this showed that York was a good choice, with good transport links – it is not necessary, or even desirable, for such national events to be held in the remote wilds of South East England. There were four of us there from our meeting – Pete Redwood, Una Parker, Tracey Martin and myself. (Tracey was involved with the organisation of the event)

In a session in the morning we were encouraged to sort ourselves into groups focusing on our particular interests. I managed (somehow) to find a few other people interested in health issues, especially mental health issues. We had an interesting discussion – I found it interesting listening to someone from Hull meeting talking about his involvement in Mad Pride, a group that challenges conventional, medical understandings of mental health issues. Other groups also seemed to have some good discussions; I was particularly intrigued by one group on the theme of revolution – maybe I should have joined that one, but I have not yet developed the skill of being in two places at once.

Later in the day we had workshop sessions on cross-cutting themes – that is, themes such as using the arts in campaigning, and working effectively in diverse groups. I chose to attend the one on working effectively in diverse groups, having been attracted to this one by the word ‘effectively’ – I have seen a lot of ineffective activism. Again, a lively discussion which was interesting and helpful and left me feeling that some of the huge issues raised, issues of partnership working, power, assessing the effectiveness of our activity and so on, needed more time to go into these things in depth – plenty of possibilities here for the next Quaker Activist Gathering, I think. In general the idea of having these cross-cutting themes for the workshops sessions worked well, in my experience, and I hope that this pattern will be used again at the next Gathering.

I came away feeling tired but also feeling inspired and challenged. I hope that I will be able to attend the next Activist Gathering.

Mark Woodhead

Carlton Hill

Una Parker added:

When we went looking for others (among over 50 people there) who shared our interest I was wearing my name badge with 'Mental Health' as my interest, but had not seen anyone else with that among the crowd so joined one on Revolution that attracted 10 people who then made two groups of 5 so that we could work more effectively, saying why we had joined that group, and how it was relevant to the areas in which we were activists. I joined it because I think we need a revolution in the ways we do many things in our society and internationally, and particularly in mental health. An idea I particularly liked was expressed by Geoff, around whom we had gathered, and finally displayed on a 'washing line'. His summary said: 'Building a new story of a peaceful world and a peaceful past that we can return to'. Perhaps 20 small groups had formed and hung up an A4 sheet with a 'main idea'. We then went along and looked at the sheets; and I found one that proclaimed 'Mad Pride'. During the full group discussion time it was clear how many people had been delighted to find that there was a very wide range of Quaker activism. I was able to see which group had been Mad Pride and spoke to one of them at the lunch break, recalling a past Mad Pride event we had been to in London, though we had not met before York and making sure he had my email address as I had turned up on the day and was therefore not on the list.

In the afternoon I went to a workshop on Activism and Art, which began with a very interesting display of various London events and protests by Quakers at the British Museum (which was on the cover of The Friend) Tate Modern, and elsewhere. Our leader talked about what had been effective in the protests; a procession of people dressed

in dark clothes moving slowly in the art gallery, quietly chanting together, unexpected and appearing to be possibly part of an art 'happening', but making a point, causing other people to ask questions. Similarly the 'sit in' at the Museum, when people sat on the floor in a silent circle. After that we heard a poem spoken very effectively and affecting.

Then we split into two groups to listen to ideas about intended actions for 2017: in London about the week before the Arms Exhibition in East London, with actions being planned over a wide area of Greater London {including on the river) to draw attention to what is happening in our name. In Hull there are to be protests against BP's sponsorship of Hull as City of Culture (because of BP's deep sea drilling in the Arctic?)

Pete's comments

I opted for the workshop entitled Speaking Out – finding our voice on issues that matter to us. This involved relating an issue in a story form to a partner, who listened and then commented on how they understood it. The second part was taking a similar issue

and attempting to put it over to a partner who was trying to be deliberately obstructive. This proved extremely difficult for all concerned since in general the partner was totally in sympathy and found it hard to be obstructive but the exercise was well worth while.

The final summing up asked three questions:

1. What am I going to commit to, to further my personal development?

For this we had to write it on a postcard which will be posted back to us in six months time!

2. What can I do, with someone else in the room?

3. What will I take back to my Meeting?

The answer to the last one is :

this report, - plus the new "Conversations on Sustainability" sessions at Carlton Hill. The other two? SSShhh. Time will tell!

Note: "Conversations on Sustainability" - a new series at Carlton Hill, starting on Jan 5th and hopefully continuing on 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month.



Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th February

An event held in partnership with Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network, Quaker Council for European Affairs, and Quaker Peace and Social Witness

Unprecedented numbers of men, women and children have been fleeing war, persecution and environmental catastrophe. Many have risked death, hoping to find safety and a new life in Europe. Why is this happening? What have been the responses? Governments see this as a security issue. We believe that asylum policies are flawed. We will explore how Friends can work, collectively and locally, for justice and compassion for all those seeking refuge in Europe.

Book direct with Woodbrooke www.woodbrooke.org.uk Bursary help is available for all Quaker events. Further information from Bridget Walker b467@btinternet.com

STOP PRESS: As QW went to press it was announced that the course is full to capacity. A popular and emotive subject that many Quakers are actively involved with.

One man cannot do right in one department of life whilst he is occupied in doing wrong in any other department. Life is one indivisible whole.

Mahatma Gandhi

Thinking about membership.

In November we held two meetings for people to come and think about membership. 10 people from three local meetings came to explore the subject, with a handful of already committed members. Perhaps the best way to describe it is as a 'kick about'. You have to have a ball to play football but not to do exercise. Do you have to have membership to play the Quaker way? Of course the exercise of a religious/spiritual life can go on without it.

When I got home I saw a video clip where Judi Dench told Jon Snow that 'yes, she is a Quaker'. What's the evidence? 'It informs her whole life' she says, but adds, for not the first time, 'it's a long time since I've been to a meeting I really ought to go'. I think she is a Quaker, but not a member. (If she reads this and wants to correct me - lovely.)

One of the questions heard at our exploration was 'where does it say in QFP that members have to go to meeting regularly?' Answer came there none at the time, but do you think members should try to go to meeting regularly? If not, why not?

Several people expressed their reservations, hesitation and dislike of the membership process as they understand it. Others didn't mind the prospect of the traditional 'visit' at all. And there were several questions on the spectrum between those points. Fiona kindly drove me home. It was her reluctance to go through the membership mangle, added to what I heard at BYMG at Bath in 2014, which led me to say 'let's talk about all this stuff.' Perhaps we'll do it again next year. Perhaps we'll invent a new system to try out....

Susan Robson

Asst Clerk (membership) Leeds AQM

Who will pay for your funeral?

A pertinent question which we tend not to think about until we have to. According to the National Association of Funeral Directors over 70% of funerals are paid for by the remaining family.

The fact is though that the dying business has become big business in recent years and the cost of a funeral has rocketed by 87% in the past 10 years. Just a very basic funeral now costs nearly £4,000.

Taking out a Funeral Plan with a reliable company maybe a worthwhile option but the later in life you leave it, the less options you have, and the more expensive it becomes. In other words the earlier you can start the wider the choice of options with a substantially less outlay.

But what if you are left to foot the bill and you can't afford it? The Government Social Fund Funeral Payments were supposed to help people on low incomes but, like every other benefit, it has been cut and now only covers roughly 37% of the cost of the average funeral. In the past 12 months less than half of those applying have been awarded anything at all, according to figures from Citizens Advice Bureau. As far back as 2012 Citizens Advice Bureau issued a report on the problem which was passed to the government, but since then it has got worse instead of better. It now takes well over three months for the Department to arrive at a decision, before which time the bill has had to be paid, and thousands of families each year are being forced into debt.

To help tackle this problem Quaker Social Fund has set up a charity called Down to Earth which is able to offer help in most cases.

Contact Fiona on 020 8983 5055 or email downtoearth@qsa.org.uk

www.quakersocialaction.org.uk

Easter Settlement 14th - 17th April 2017



For over a hundred years Yorkshire Quakers have come together over the Easter period to spend a few days living in an all age Quaker community. While there have been numerous changes the basic content of the time spent together has remained similar with periods for worship, sessions considering particular topics of interest to Quakers, outdoor walks and social activities. As Local Meetings have tended to reduce in size the Easter Settlement experience has become richer, providing a community dynamic that many individual Quaker Meetings can no longer provide.

Each year there is a different theme, led by one or more invited speakers. The theme usually allows learning, discussion and exploration of something relevant to Quakers living in the world today.

Easter Settlement has for some years been based at Cober Hill, Cloughton near Scarborough. There is accommodation for around 90 people depending on how the rooms are used. There are a number of twin rooms so asking people coming on their own to share makes it possible to accommodate more Settlers.

Bursary help is available.

Contact Pauline Leonard for more details pauline@paulineleonard.plus.com

LIFEBAGS

At the recent Quakers in Yorkshire meeting in York, one of the girls from The Mount school told us about a project they had undertaken through their association with the Peace Jam (an International movement backed by Nobel Peace prize winners). The project was named LIFEBAGS and involved filling rucksacks with essential items (a list was provided) such as socks, woolly hat/scarf, sweets, toothbrush & paste, raincoat, small toy/game, soap etc. and get these bags to The Mount for Dec.2nd. These were to go to unaccompanied young refugees on the shores of Greece, via a school in Thessalonika who were already doing the same thing.

I took the list and suggested to Ilkley Meeting that we might try to do one and my idea was taken up. A member of Ilkley Meeting offered to drive me to York and I was delighted to be able to take them FIVE rucksacks for their project. We all felt it was a very positive way of helping these young isolated children.

Janet Naudin

Ilkley

Otley Meeting

Changes to Meetings in January.

Sunday 8th and Sunday 22nd will both be held at Otley Courthouse. Reverting to the regular 1st and 3rd Sundays thereafter.

Change of Clerk. From Jan 1st the clerk will be:

Joanna Guise, 37 Harecroft Road, Otley LS21 2BG

Friends House Moscow



Friends House Moscow reports that the **яровая** (*yarovaya* - Acts of Spring) laws passed in July by President Putin create an uncertain future for all non-conformist religions in Russia. The new laws prohibit any form of evangelistic activity in public places and restrict the practice of religion to officially designated places of worship only.

As I understand, another thread of the far reaching “Acts of Spring” is to effectively make it illegal “to publish the truth about Russia's past and it's part WWII and more recent wars.” The wording seems to describe it as “the dissemination of deliberately false information, and any accustaion of committing a crime, about the activities of the former USSR, punishable by a fine of 3,000,000 rubles (about £400) and/or imprisonment of up to three years.” Shades of Stalinist style communism still lurking.

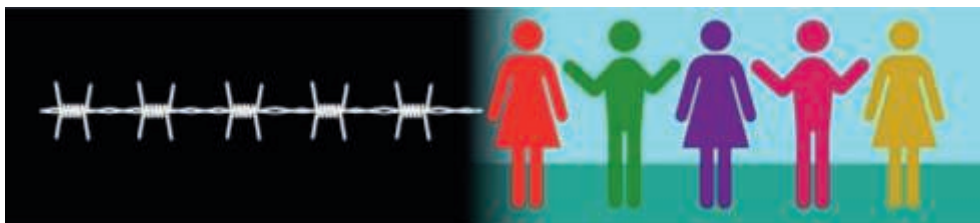
Pete Redwood

Feeding the Darkness.....

Shining a Light on.....State Sanctioned Torture...through Story, Song and Poem

Quaker thespians, Lynne and Dave Morris – Journeymen Theatre – have a new presentation. Lasting 65 minutes in total, Feeding the Darkness takes its title from the words of James Naylor and is presented as a series of ‘ministeries’ (monologues, duologues and poems) written from extensive research into state-sanctioned torture-and hopefully challenging our ignorance and avoidance of this disturbing aspect of humanity.

They are currently on tour with the play but nothing so far in the North of England. Could our clerks be persuaded to book them for our area? <http://www.journeymentheatre.com>



Re-thinking Security

Security matters to all of us. Everyone has a stake in the task of building security, both within the UK and in the wider world. But the current approach to national security is failing and the world is becoming more insecure.

The Ammerdown Group believes that a new vision and a fresh strategy for security are required, and that these need to grow out of a conversation among as many different people as possible. The group wishes to encourage anyone who is concerned about these issues to get involved in a new civic conversation to develop alternatives.

As a participant in the Ammerdown Group, QPSW has helped develop some guidelines for Quakers who may wish to take part in this initiative.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of these guidelines, please contact Marigold Bentley (marigoldb@quaker.org.uk; 020 7663 1060).

For more details of the project visit: <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/>

the kindlers

Being a Quaker Today

Rekindle the power of Quaker worship by renewing and deepening our spiritual practices with a series of workshops to be held at Carlton Hill. The first is on:

Sat 28th Jan - Turning Points – Change, Challenge and Letting go

A workshop based around Advices & Queries 28 with facilitators Ann Banks, Val Bone and Zee-Zee Heine

Sat 25th Feb - Prayer – Cherished by God Exploring Advice number 3.

Sat 25th Mar - Understanding Love and Power Changing the world one step at a time.

Sat 22nd Apr - Our life is love and peace and tenderness Nurturing our Meetings.

A workshop based on Advice 18.

Sat 20th May - Let your life speak Using your gifts in the service of God and the community.

ALL ARE WELCOME - NO BOOKING REQUIRED | Cost: min. donation £10 per day | Bring your own lunch.

What does QPSW do? A year end message.

Over the year, QPSW has been supporting area meetings that have decided to sell their investments in fossil fuel extraction and to reinvest in more sustainable alternatives.

Lancaster Friends' Quaker Living Wage campaign helped several area meetings become Living Wage accredited. And Quakers worked with other churches and Jewish groups to secure some small, but significant, changes to the Welfare Reform and Work Act.

In August, in spite of much campaigning by Quakers and others, the UK parliament voted to renew Trident, but the international community has moved closer to a global ban on nuclear weapons and we are refocussing our efforts to help achieve that. QPSW continues to support peace education initiatives across Britain and this year the UN Committee on the

Rights of the Child recognised our call to end the recruitment of under 18s and to teach more conflict resolution in schools.

In December, 45 Friends gathered in York for QPSW's third Quaker Activist Gathering to share experiences, inspiration and ideas relating to all kinds of Quaker activism. Friends connected with each other on issues ranging from fracking to homelessness, and mental health to the arms trade.

Looking ahead, 2017 will bring an ever more pressing need to work together for peace, justice and the environment, and against oppression, violence and racism. Yearly Meeting Gathering in 2017, alongside many other events and campaigns, will continue to build our Quaker community, and to gather the strength and experience we need to play a part in building diverse and peaceful communities around the world.

How can we make our energy system sustainable and just?



'Energy in the new economy' offers a Quaker vision of an alternative energy system. It explores renewable energy, different forms of public ownership and infrastructure upgrades. The booklet is out now.

You can download it at www.quaker.org.uk/neweconomy or order copies from Alison Prout

(neweconomy@quaker.org.uk; 020 7663 1035).



The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group encourages all Friends to read Quaker Faith & Practice regularly. Throughout the year the editor has chosen selected readings based on the recommendations of the Revision group. Their recommendation for January is **Chapter 14 Stewardship of our Material Resources** and **Chapter 25 Unity of Creation**

25.04 *All species and the Earth itself have interdependent roles within Creation. Humankind is not the species, to whom all others are subservient, but one among many. All parts, all issues, are inextricably intertwined. Indeed the web of creation could be described as of three-ply thread: wherever we touch it we affect justice and peace and the health of all everywhere. So all our testimonies, all our Quaker work, all our Quaker lives are part of one process, of striving towards a flourishing, just and peaceful Creation – the Kingdom of God.*

Audrey Urry, 1994

A note for the diary: Tuesday 10th January, a discussion of Chapters 14 and 25 at Carlton Hill 7.00 pm, preceded by refreshments. Then the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

A Green Advices & Queries from Iowa Yearly Meeting

All of creation is divine and interdependent; air, water, soil, and all that lives and grows. Since human beings are part of this fragile and mysterious web, whenever we pollute or neglect the earth, we pollute and neglect our own well-springs. Developing a keen awareness of our role in the universe is essential if we are to live peacefully within creation.

The way we choose to live each day as we purchase and recycle goods, use resources, use and dispose of water, design homes, plan families, and travel, affects the present and future life of the planet. The thought and effort we give to replenishing what we receive from the earth, to keeping informed, and promoting beneficial legislation on issues which affect the earth, to envisioning community with environmental conscience, are ways in which we can contribute to the ongoing health of the planet we inhabit.

Preserving the quality of life on Earth calls forth all of our spiritual resources. Listening to and heeding the leadings of the Holy Spirit can help us develop qualities which enable us to become more sensitive to all life.

QUERIES

1. What are we doing about our disproportionate use of the world's resources?
2. Do we see unreasonable exploitation in our relationship with the rest of creation?
3. How can we nurture reverence and respect for life? How can we become more fully aware of our inter-dependent relationship with the rest of creation?
4. To what extent are we aware of all life, and the role we play? What can we do in our own lives and communities to address environmental concern?

From Iowa Yearly Meeting 2010

Advices and Queries 10 – Environmental Responsibility

<http://iymc.org/documents/Queries/Advices.and.Queries.14pages.pdf>

Ministry and Resources

A Leeds Area Meeting workshop is to be held on the topic of 'Ministry and Resources' on Saturday, 11 March, from 10am to 4pm, at Carlton Hill Meeting House. All Leeds Quakers are encouraged to attend, to shape our thinking about the way we work together to be Quaker.

Quakers in Yorkshire meeting in Leeds this January

Quakers in Yorkshire will take place on **21 January 2017** at Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Leeds. Tea and coffee is available from 10am and the opening worship starts at 10.30am. In addition to hearing about various Quaker activities across Yorkshire, there will also be a session looking at 'The Future of Quakers in Yorkshire'. **All are welcome** to attend the day which ends at 4pm with tea and social time. **All ages are catered for**, including children. If you would like to book your children onto the children's programme, please contact Robert Keeble on 0113 242 2208.

Light Group Launch

The new Leeds Light Group will start with an all day workshop on Saturday 11th February from 10am to 4pm at Carlton Hill QMH. The Light Group will then be held on Saturday mornings on the first Saturday of the month at Carlton Hill QMH from 10am to 12noon. All Leeds Quakers are welcome.

Leeds Area Meeting Schedule for 2017

February – Sunday 12th – Ilkley Quaker Meeting House

– topic - "Immigration – What are we called to do?"

March – Saturday 18th afternoon – Roundhay Quaker Meeting House

- topic - "Does the Spirit Prosper?" - State of Meeting Reports

May – Sunday 21st – Adel Meeting House

- topic "Division and Fear in Society"

July – Sunday 9th – Gildersome Quaker Meeting House

- possible topic - "Preparation for Britain Yearly Meeting

October – Sunday 8th – Rawdon Quaker Meeting House

- topic "Sustainability and Spirituality"

December – Sunday 10th – Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House

- topic to be decided.

It is expected that each host Meeting will take responsibility for organising the topic session. Expertise in the topics concerned would doubtless be welcomed. Contact the relevant Local Meeting clerks.

Quakers in Yorkshire

Quarterly Meeting Schedule for 2017

January – Saturday 21st – Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Leeds LS1 3AX

Topic: "The Future of Quakers in Yorkshire"

April – Saturday 22nd – Harrogate Quaker Meeting House, Queens Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5PP

Topic - "Sustainability"

July – Saturday 15th – Malton Quaker Meeting House, Greengate, Malton YO17 7EN

Topic - to be announced

October – Saturday 21st – Bootham School, Bootham, York YO30 7BU

Topic – Reports from Bootham School and The Mount School