

THE QUIET WORD

May 2017 issue no 5



Meeting for worship

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting

House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,
Leeds, LS27 7HX

tel: 0113 2852466

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

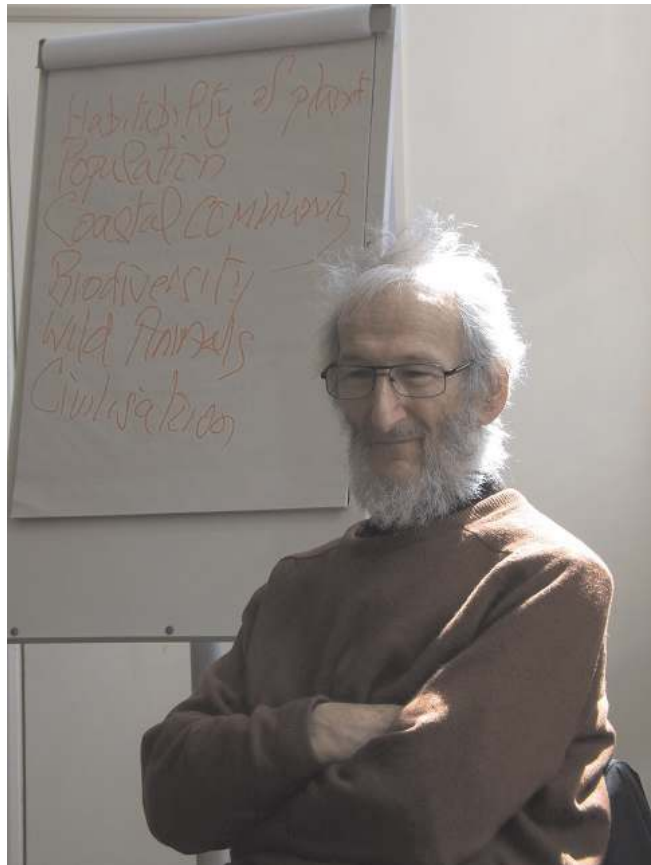
In Claire Chapel, The Emmanuel Centre
which is alongside the main entrance to
the University of Leeds Campus opposite
the Parkinson Building (with the white
clock tower).

Organised by the Leeds Universities

Chaplaincy

Bedford Court

First and third Wednesdays,



Jonathan Dale addresses Quakers in Yorkshire

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**Deadline for June issue
Monday 29th May**

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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Diary

May

Tuesday 2nd 7.30pm Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 4th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Wednesday 3rd 6pm refreshments 7pm start Quaker Quest at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 6th 10am to 12noon Leeds Light Group at Carlton Hill QMH

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

Wednesday 10th 6pm refreshments 7pm start Quaker Quest at Otley Courthouse

Tuesday 16th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

Wednesday 17th 6pm refreshments 7pm start Quaker Quest at Otley Courthouse

Thursday 18th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 20th 10am to 4pm Kindlers Workshop at Carlton Hill QMH - Let your life speak Using your gifts in the service of God and the community

@ **Sunday 21st at 1pm** Leeds Area Quaker Meeting at Adel QMH; topic: 'Division and Fear in Society'

Wednesday 24th 6pm refreshments 7pm start Quaker Quest at Gildersome QMH

Friday 26 - 29 Bamford Quaker Retreat: **Meditation**

June

Thursday 1st 10am meet at Carlton Hill QMH for 10.30am visit to Veola Recycling, Leeds (book you place with Robert Keeble (0113 2422208))

Friday 2 - 4 Bamford Quaker Retreat: **Singing in Nature**

Saturday 3rd 10am to 12noon Leeds Light Group at Carlton Hill QMH

Friday 23rd to 25th - Junior Holiday weekend at Barmoor for those aged 7 to 12

Editor's Comment

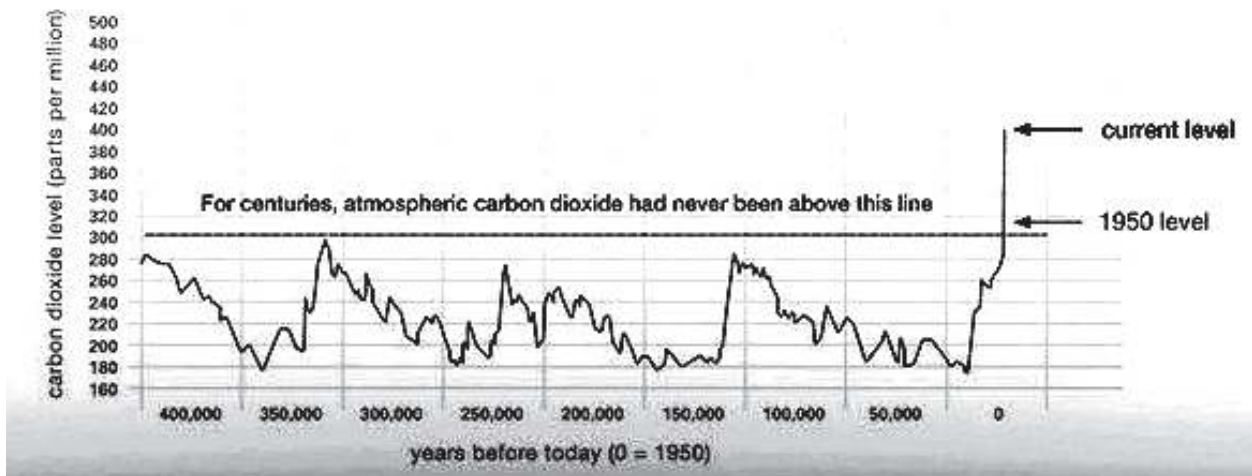


I make no apologies for focussing on climate change and our carbon footprint this month. It follows on from our very successful Sustainability day in Harrogate. It is also the focus of the current Friend's Quarterly and will feature in the Yearly

Meeting Gathering.

As we heard at Quakers in Yorkshire at Harrogate the time is passed when we can

mean for the whole history of this planet - and continues to rise at an alarming rate. Latest data from the Met Office shows that 2016 was the largest rise on record and that levels are continuing to rise at an average of between 2.5 and 3 parts per million per year and will continue to rise unless we do everything possible to reduce our carbon output. And it can only come from us as individuals. We are the ones that can force change. From the bottom up. It will never happen from the top



just merely think about a change in lifestyle. The time has come to physically make that change and as each month goes by it is becoming more urgent.

If all the world's leading scientists are right, within at least some of our lifetimes we will actually witness the dire effects of our years of folly. Certainly our children and our children's children will suffer the effects unless we all act now. The graph in the middle of the page, from NASA, highlights the seriousness of the problem. By compressing the last 400,000 years into a small space we can see clearly that almost since the beginning of time carbon dioxide levels in the upper atmosphere have been below 300 parts per million. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the early 1800's the graph has started rising, and since the Second World War it has run completely out of control and is now approaching twice as high as the average

down.

Rachel Berger of The Living Witness Project has carried out a survey of Quakers and non-Quakers in an attempt to find out how we are responding to this urgent task. From the 344 people who responded to her survey she concluded that on the whole Quakers were about the same as the non-Quakers, but in some spheres slightly better. For instance when it came to home improvements like solar panels, extra insulation etc Quakers were decidedly better than non-Quakers but when it came altering food choices or getting out and actively campaigning against the worst offending companies Quakers lagged behind.

On the subject of food choice I was quite surprised. We learned at Harrogate that our food choice makes up a significant part of our carbon footprint and is possibly one of the easiest to change since it is totally within our own control. (See other articles in this edition)

Quakers in Yorkshire 22nd April at Harrogate Meeting House.

I have been asked by Area Meeting to submit a report on the day's events. This is quite a challenge since I was one of the organisers and one of the presenters but I will attempt to give an un-biassed report.

The theme was sustainability: "Doing what love requires of us – sustainability, action and witness." Co-clerk Arthur Pritchard set the scene by reading a quotation from John Woolman:

"The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support our own greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age." published 1772 (QfP25.01).

The morning session was conducted by Jonathan Dale, a former Swarthmore lecturer. He asked "How have individual Friends embraced the 2011 Canterbury Commitment signed by Britain Yearly Meeting?" He posed the question "Is our faith really deep enough?" He reminded us that we had to do more than just do the "easy" things to change our life style. It is essential that we use our Quaker faith "to be patterns and examples in all countries and places, to preach among all sorts of people and to them, so that we may walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone" (based on George Fox 1656).

He quoted from an article in *The Friend* of July 7th 1972 from Dorothy Lovett:

"How many of us can truly say that we use up only as much of the earth's resources as we absolutely must? Is it our concern at all times to obtain the last ounce of usefulness out of everything entrusted to our care? Do we, for the sake of comfort and convenience, make use of products and facilities which would be better left alone? Are we, in other words, a people of simplicity and reverence for life who willingly, and even fiercely, uphold the principle that the things of this world are God-given and to be shared by all?"

A second quote from the Quaker MP Richard Body (various terms, between 1955-2001) and

published in *The Friend* in 1972:

... "Both the main parties, the Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry regard growth as the yardstick of a nation's economic success. We deny this, and hope fervently that all Friends will share with us the concern we feel about this. If growth is defined as an expansion of the gross domestic product, there is a twofold price to be paid for it. One is pollution, and the other the exhaustion of the world's resources." Plus of course, what was not thought about at that time, Climate Change and Global Warming. As he pointed out, these were printed 45 years ago. How far have we progressed since then?

In the afternoon Friends were able to choose between one of four workshops.



The presenters concentrated on climate change and on our carbon footprint, being the easiest way to assess our individual impact on the planet. We have known about what we now refer to as "Global Warming" as far back 1919 when a group of Australian scientists realised the damage that the sudden growth in coal fired power stations was causing to the climate. Since that time the world's coal and oil industries have done everything possible to suppress information and indeed continue to apply considerable pressure to governments to avoid any legislation that is likely to affect their huge profits. It is therefore up to individuals to do whatever they can to avoid fossil fuels and to reduce their carbon footprint.

Chayley Collis from Huddersfield Meeting leads a divestment campaign (persuading councils and individuals to remove their investments in companies

supporting the use of fossil fuels) in West Yorkshire and gave an account of her work. She is also passionate about the anti-fracking movement and supports various groups who are campaigning.

Ian Bray, also from Huddersfield Meeting, gave an account of his involvement with the direct action group Rise Up which has been responsible for a number of actions concerning the building of the third runway at Heathrow Airport.

Peter Land made a special trip up from the West Country to demonstrate his Personal Carbon Tracker, a piece of software he has developed to track one's carbon footprint and to demonstrate the effect changes in lifestyle can have. It is available for download at <http://personalcarbontracker.weebly.com>

My speciality is food, having spent a lot of my working life in the food industry. I outlined the effect that our food choices have on our carbon footprint and also how so much of our food, and consequently the countryside around it, is now contaminated with chemicals due to industrial farming practices, and how our wildlife is being destroyed as a direct result with many species facing extinction. I emphasised the need to avoid such industrial "food", for the sake of the planet, for the sake of our own health and in order to reduce our carbon footprint.



Each of the workshop leaders led very active discussion sessions.

The day came to an end all too quickly and ended in the customary tea, provided by Harrogate Friends.

A number of documents that were either used or referred to are available on the Quakers in Yorkshire website

<http://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/>

Pete Redwood

Don't buy bottled water.

Instead use your own refillable bottle.

Extensive research by University of Nottingham Water Resources Department reveals that the bottled water industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. A quick calculation will show that the retail price is up to 500 times the cost of tap water.

They have also unearthed the following facts:

- The claimed health benefits of bottled are generally unproven and can be considered as advertising hype.
- Over 13bn plastic bottles of water sold in the UK per year of which only 20% were recycled. The 80% that finish up in landfill take more than 700 years to even start composting.
- To make on 1 litre plastic bottle takes 162g of oil and 7 litres of water and results in the release of 100g of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- The UK bottle water industry alone accounts for the release 350,000 tones CO₂ per year.
- 4% of world oil is used to make all plastic. 37% of UK produced plastic is used in packaging and just 1.2% of all UK produced plastic packaging is used to make PET drinks bottles. The majority of all plastic produced is not recycled.



Easter Settlement 2017



Friends from all over Yorkshire gathered for a very enjoyable weekend at Cober Hill Guesthouse in Scarborough over the Easter weekend.

Refugees and asylum seekers are badly treated



Much has been published recently about conditions for refugees at the various Refugee Detention Centres around the UK, and in particular conditions at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre, in Bedfordshire, with its 400 predominately female and child population.

The Home Office has stated "*The UK has a long history of offering sanctuary to those who genuinely need it and each claim is carefully considered. But when someone is found not to need our protection, we expect them to leave the country voluntarily. Where they do not, we will seek to enforce their deportation.*" But these centres are not run by the Home Office or the UK Border Agency. They have all been contracted out to private companies, whose sole aim is to make money! Every single one of these companies has a long history of protests and legal action against them for poor working conditions, poor pay, poor hygiene conditions, and abuse – sexual, physical and verbal.

Yarl's Wood is run by Serco and is the most secretive of all the UK Detention Centres. Any attempts at Freedom of Information enquiries concerning Yarl's Wood result in a blank refusal, quoting section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which allows for anonymity. Even enquiries from United Nations officials have resulted in refusal according to a Channel 4 News investigation. A page on their website blatantly states: "*Serco is an international service company that improves the quality and efficiency of essential services to millions of people around the world in the most important areas of public service, including health, education, transport, science and defence. Our role is to provide a caring, yet safe and secure environment*

for all our residents at Yarl's Wood IRC".

The 11 Detention Centres in the UK are in fact managed by just four multi-national companies, according to Corporate Watch.

Serco is the government's main contractor and is officially described as a "public outsourcing company". It is valued at £3,011.0 million and, among its varied contracts with the government, it runs a cycle rental scheme in London for Transport for London, Merseyrail in Liverpool, the Docklands Light Railway, and, until March last year ran Northern Rail trains throughout our area. It provides the electronic tagging system for prisoners and asylum seekers in detention, it runs a number of prisons and two detention centres. It also runs a number of RAF bases, three naval bases, the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston, two airports, a number of hospitals, and Bradford City Council's local education service, until it ran into so many problems that the City Council were forced to take it back in house. Serco also provide regional inspection services for Ofsted, as well as other contracts in the education sector. The CEO is Rupert Soammes, grandson of Winston Churchill. Could this be the reason for such huge government involvement by his company? His salary is not in the public domain.

Mitie –a UK company worth £2,231.9 million. Described as an outsourcing and energy services company providing Facilities Management, Property Management, Energy solutions and Healthcare. The Energy Solutions division includes nuclear facilities. It is the largest of the UK facilities management companies in terms of financial turnover and has a guaranteed eight year contract for immigration detention centres with the Home Office started in 2014 and said to be worth several million pounds. There has been a huge catalogue of complaints of underpaid staff, dirty facilities and poor management, and, in the case of the four immigration detention centres that it runs, bullying and violence towards inmates. CEO Philip Bentley is on a salary well in excess of £2.5 million.

G4S was formed by a merger of the Danish company Group 4, a security and night guarding company, and Securicor plc, a British company mainly involved with the transportation of money for the banking industry. It now operates in 124 countries world-wide and is rated as the world's largest security company and the world's third largest private employer, valued at £7,590 million. Since 2006 they have been the target of many demonstrations world-wide over poor working conditions. They were awarded the security contract for the London Olympics in 2012, but failed to recruit sufficient staff and had to be bailed out by British troops. In 2013 they were awarded the title of Worst Company of the Year Worldwide by the magazine Public Eye. CEO Ashley Almanza is paid a salary of £2.5million.

GEO Inc. is an American organisation specialising in the running of prisons and detention centres. It has been the subject of a number of lawsuits in USA. In the UK it manages just one detention centre at Dungavel, Strathclyde. Its closure was announced for September 2016 but this has now been delayed indefinitely. Chairman and CEO George Zoley claims a salary of \$4,316,797 (£3.3 million)



The main Immigration Compliance and Enforcement Centre for Yorkshire and Humberside is at Waterside Court, Kirkstall Road, Leeds. Asylum seekers and refugees from the area are expected to make their own way here to report at regular intervals. All security here is outsourced and attendees are expected to wait outside in all weathers if the very small waiting area inside is full.

The question is asked continuously: Why are these people treated so inhumanely when they have been through such untold horrors and all they require is help - and love.

What is a carbon footprint?



A carbon footprint is defined as:

The total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

For example, when you burn 1 litre of petrol, 2.3kg of CO₂ are released. For diesel fuel the amount is 2.7kg. For just 1kg of CO₂ you can travel around 7 miles by bus or train (slightly less if you travel on a Northern or Cross Country diesel train. Slightly more if you use one of the all electric trains.) or fly for just 1.5 miles! 1 glass of milk (250ml) will add 27g.

Back in 2011 the world's scientists, at the World Summit in Paris, agreed that in order to keep to a safe limit of average global temperature rise of below 2 degrees centigrade there was a global maximum of 1000 billion tonnes of CO₂ that could be released. Above that and we become increasingly in trouble. In the last six years alone the world has already released 200 billion tonnes – one fifth of the total available. On that basis we have less than 24 years left before this planet starts to become un-inhabitable.

Lets break that down to more meaningful figures. We are left with 800 billion tonnes. If we share it equally between the 7.3 billion people on this planet we each get 110 tonnes of CO₂ – EVER. It can't be renewed. We can't buy more. No amount of technology can change that. We have to work towards absolute zero emissions.

The average individual in the UK currently uses about 10 tonnes. So at that rate, by 2028 we will have exhausted our share.

Take those figures one stage further and you will realise that you really need to limit yourself to 193kg per week or 28kg per day.

Scary figures!!!! So what are you doing right now to reduce your own carbon footprint? We all need help with this and need to support each other, which is the main purpose of the Leeds Area Sustainability Group which meets on first and third Thursday of each month, after Meeting for Worship and a shared supper at Carlton Hill.

To get some idea of your own current carbon footprint download the Personal Carbon Tracker from <http://personalcarbontracker.weebly.com>

Many thanks to Peter Land and Anne Marie Byrne for producing these figures and the Personal Carbon Tracker

The Carbon Footprint of the Modern Food Chain

Our recent workshop at Quakers in Yorkshire at Harrogate Meeting House on sustainability raised many questions and has caused me to examine in a little more detail some of my own ideas and beliefs.

Over the coming months I shall attempt to expand a little on that. This month I'm going right back to the beginning of the food chain and the effect our shopping habits are having on the environment.

In England, much of our biodiversity, (60%), including many of our birds, butterflies and plants, is declining with 1 in 10 facing extinction. United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) has highlighted no less than 116 plant and animal species in serious decline. Among them the hedgehog (56% reduction in the past 50 years), the doormouse, the slow worm, the skylark, the song thrush, tortoiseshell butterfly (77% loss), plus various species of wild flowers. These few listed can attribute most of their demise to modern industrial farming practice.



A recent report by the Soil Association revealed that over 60% of all agricultural land in the UK is biologically unfit for purpose. It is effectively sterile due to repeated doses of pesticides and herbicides. It will only grow anything by being soaked in chemicals (which create a huge carbon footprint in their manufacture, transportation and application). This is bad news for the hedgehog, the slow worm and the song thrush who rely heavily on the wildlife within the soil for their food – earthworms, grubs etc.



When the crops do finally push through they are saturated in pesticides to make sure they don't get any blemish (nibble) marks on them. Kill the insects, what do the birds feed on? And so on, right down the food chain. Kill the "weeds" and only the most aggressive plants survive – nettles, hogweed etc – which suppress all other plants for a wide area.

And of course, we can, each and every one of us be held indirectly responsible, simply by supporting the major supermarkets, who exert considerable pressure on producers to obtain the lowest possible price. This means that farmers have to reduce their operating costs by using bigger, heavier, carbon intensive machinery to reduce manpower. The latest tractors cost well in excess of £1m and weigh over 12.5 tonnes, and have 5 to 6 litre engines burning over 15 gallons of diesel fuel per hour (Figures from John Dere). They then resort to chemicals in an attempt to increase yields. Just 13kg of chemicals per hectare creates a carbon footprint of somewhere around 580kg per hectare due to the methods of manufacture and transportation, half way around the world in some cases, and the methods of application. These figures are taken from research on potatoes which give a yield of around 50 tonnes per hectare. Add transport to this and, for example a 500km road trip will effectively double the carbon footprint. So, on the supermarket shelf, the carbon footprint of 1kg of potatoes could be as much as 25gms. That's how much carbon that part of your meal could be adding to the environment. If you consider that your total carbon budget is around 110kg per per person before we start running into trouble with uncontrollable temperature rise, you will realise that industrial farming, and supermarket shopping are gobbling it up very, very fast. See <http://personalcarbontracker.weebly.com/> for a fuller explanation of this theory.



Sorry if all that is a little technical but it is to demonstrate the fact that by buying organic from a local grower you avoid most of the chemicals and most of the transport, and therefore a lot of the carbon output. And you help to look after the countryside and help protect some of our endangered wildlife.

Some people argue that they cannot afford organic because it is too expensive. I would

turn the argument the other way and say that much of our supermarket food is too cheap and that someone or something is having to pay the price. Also most of the major supermarkets view organic as a niche market, order in smaller quantities so do not get the huge discounts, and then commit the products to a higher shelf so that you have to search for them. In a sense, deliberately making it more expensive and less popular.

One of the best ways to buy local organic produce is to get a box delivered to your door. Within our area:

The Organic Pantry (<http://www.theorganicpantry.co.uk/>) at Newton Kyme near Tadcaster offers a weekly delivery service of local products, mainly grown on their own farm.

Riverford Organic Farmers (<https://www.riverford.co.uk/>) are a much larger organisation based in Devon but with their own farms in various parts of the country. For this area they operate from a farm near Northallerton and offer a wide choice of different boxes, in different sizes and mixes, including fresh fruit and meat, at intervals to suit you. They can also supply a number of dairy and store cupboard items.

For fresh milk delivered to your door –

Riverford can supply organic milk from Acorn Dairy (Organic Dales) with your order.

TD Goodall of Scarcroft (<http://www.tdgoodall.co.uk/Deliveries.html>) deliver to most areas in returnable glass bottles. They don't offer organic but all their milk is from their own cows at Scarcroft and they are all grass fed.

McQueens Dairies (<http://www.mcqueensdairies.co.uk>) are a large company but seem to cover most of our area and can deliver organic milk in plastic bottles.

Quaker Life Representative Council April 2017

Over 90 Quakers from all over Britain gathered at Woodbrooke on Friday 21st April for the bi-annual Quaker Life Representative Council.

Quaker Life is a part of the Friend's House structure, whose specific aim is supporting and enriching the inner life of local meetings, enabling us to reach out in kindness and be involved in our local communities.

We heard from Alistair Fuller an interesting and stimulating report on the numbers of Quakers recorded in Britain; from 19,300 in 1935, rising to 21,343 in 1955 (baby-boom ?) down to 13,763 in 2013. What is of concern is that the number of children in Meetings has decreased significantly since 2000. Staff at Quaker Life are available to give advice and ideas on ways to involve more families and young people in our Meetings.

The work within local meetings e.g. treasurer, safeguarding children, role of trustees have all expanded in recent times. Do we need to look at our structures and find new

ways of working?

Kevin Redpath shared enthusiastically ideas and experiences from Street in Mid-Somerset Area Meeting. These included:

- An all age social event during which they created a huge mandala
- A Dreaming workshop – Where do we want to be in 10 years time?
- Working on common tasks – gardening and spring cleaning their Meeting House – to build community
- A Bach, Buddha and Beatles social evening where the entrance fee was a bag of food for the local food bank.
- Links with the local Muslims who have no mosque resulted in them using the Meeting House for their Friday prayers
- In an area of far flung meetings communication is through a Newsletter, a Google Group and a responsive website.

He challenged us to look at the needs of our immediate community and respond to

them.

A talk by Joannie Harrison touched us all as she described her work as a hospital chaplain in a Peterborough hospital. She used the image of a 'thin place' where the line between heaven and earth is thinner and God is nearer.

During a workshop on "Becoming Friends – Going Deeper" we were reminded about the Becoming Friends pack but also "A Day With Friends" issued two years ago which supports a local event for enquirers mainly aimed at involving families and young people.

Finally I attended a workshop led by Cat Waithaka entitled 'Hospitality'. She is the Assistant Head of the Children's and Young

people's Team and she challenged us to consider how welcoming we were in our Meetings. Was it "You are welcome – you are like us" or "You are welcome being different alongside us"

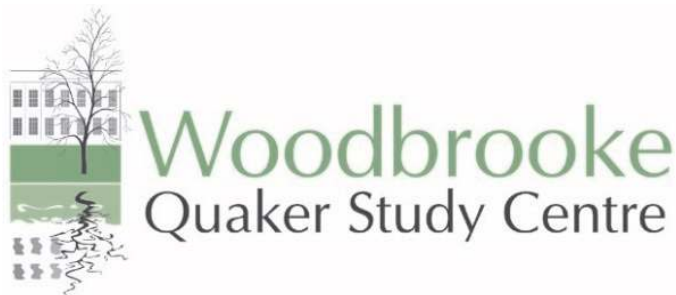
Can we say 'We welcome you and now we will change because you are part of us' ?

Perhaps as an Area Meeting we can look at how our Meetings have changed to offer hospitality to those outside the Meeting? Are we willing to offer Radical Hospitality?

Pauline Leonard -

Replacement Representative -

April 2017



Train as a peace educator

Peace education in schools: learning from existing Quaker programmes

25 - 27 October | £238

Peace education is needed more than ever. This course aims to encourage and enable groups to offer peace education modules to schools (with a main focus on primary), looking at what's happening already and how we can extend that. We will learn from people's experience of existing programmes discovering the skills and resources that we need as well as how we can build our confidence to deliver them. The course will include 'class-room' sessions and lots of circle time exchange.

Online course: introduction to peace education

4 September - 15 October | £36

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; and 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.

A New Economy?

“Our lived testimony to equality, truth, integrity, simplicity, sustainability and peace leads us to a fundamental critique of the present economic system. We are led to seek an economy which recognises the value of all people alive now and of all living things, and of future generations.” (Introduction to Principles for a New Economy, Friends House 2015).

“The global economic system is posited on continued expansion and growth, and in pursuit of growth it is often unjust, violent and destructive.....We need to ask the question whether this system is so broken that we must urgently work with others of faith and good will to put in its place a different system in which our testimonies can flourish.”(Minute 23 Britain Yearly Meeting 2011)



Quakers demonstrating in Lancaster

The current economic system is based on a year on year growth which is causing catastrophic damage to our planet, and all its people, financially benefiting only those at the top of the system, whose individual tenure is, to say the least, precarious. We desperately need a change to this unfair system and members of QPSW have been working to establish the framework for what a New Economy might look like.

They have produced a series of booklets to prompt discussion on the subject and are encouraging local and area meetings to set up reading groups to work through and help refine the ideas. Since the New Economy Reading Groups launched in autumn 2016, 35 local meetings have used the free and Quaker-specific New Economy booklets as prompts for group discussion. QPSW are launching the latest edition, looking at the role of markets in society, in May so get in touch with Suki Ferguson at sukif@quaker.org.uk to put a copy on order, or to order any, or all, of the other five booklets in the series.

If the subject interests you, would you be willing to start a reading group within Leeds Area Meeting, or even at your own Meeting. If so please contact QPSW on **020 7663 1035** or, if you prefer, fill in this quick online form: <http://tinyurl.com/mtrf5ys>

Further details can be found at:

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/new-economy>

General Election - Contact your MP

Whether in person, by email or on social media, contact your MP to put peace education firmly on candidates' minds. Below are some questions you may want to ask:

- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has called for more conflict resolution to be taught in UK schools. What will you do to bring conflict resolution education to all our schools?
- The armed forces are playing an increasingly large role in education (e.g. the spread of cadet forces to state schools, involvement in teaching STEM, and University Technical Colleges being sponsored by the military). How will you ensure schools receive guidance regarding military involvement in order to ensure balance and encourage critical thinking?
- Why is Britain the only country in Europe to recruit 16-year-olds into its armed forces? If elected will you add your support to the widespread call for raising the minimum age of enlistment to 18? (A common assumption is that the army is a solution to antisocial behaviour in young people, but enlisting has been shown to increase the risk of violent offending, as well as having many other harmful effects. See Child Soldiers International, and the recent MEDACT report).

General Election 2017 guidance for Friends can be found at election.quaker.org.uk.

Quaker Blue Plaques

If you have visited Armley Industrial Museum and have wandered round the mass of half-rusty old industrial machinery in the various sheds outside you may have come across some equipment made by John Fowler. Born in 1826 the son of a wealthy Quaker merchant in Wiltshire, he started work with a corn merchant to comply with his father's wishes, but when he came of age in 1847 he joined the engineering firm of Gilkes Wilson & Co. of Middlesbrough, who built steam locomotives and colliery winding engines.

On a chance visit to Ireland in 1849 at the time of the Irish potato famine, he noticed that much of the land was uncultivated due to poor drainage. Fowler was convinced that there must be a way of bringing more land into production. He returned to England and developed a horse-powered ploughing engine that would dig drainage channels. He produced two drainage ploughs before applying his knowledge of steam engines. The first steam-powered plough was not successful but he obtained a patent for improving it. If you want to know more about his various ploughs and how they worked there is much detail on Wikipedia.

By 1858 Fowler had forty sets of ploughing tackle in use, and by 1861 he had one hundred sets working. From 1860 the manufacture of the ploughing machinery was carried out by the firm of Kitson and Hewitson in Hunslet. In 1862 Fowler went into partnership with William Hewitson and when Hewitson died the firm became John Fowler and Company. Fowler's ploughing sets were sold all over the world and were responsible for bringing land into production that was previously unable to be cultivated.

John married his third cousin (once removed), Elizabeth Lucy Pease, from the well-known Darlington Quaker family, and they had five children. As so often happened with young men who worked intensively, Fowler became ill and retired to Ackworth to recuperate. He had a fall whilst out hunting (!!), broke his arm and developed tetanus. He died aged only 38. His brothers carried on the business, producing steam equipment in use well into the 20th century until the combustion engine made the tractor possible.



There are two commemorative plaques on a pillar in the Costco Car Park on Pearson Street, Leeds LS10 1BG, one of them erected by Leeds Civic Trust in December 2012.

I know of two other blue plaques commemorating Quakers erected on the houses where they lived: Isabella Ford (Adel Grange Close, Leeds 16, 2009) and T. Edmund Harvey (Grosvenor Terrace, Headingley, 2016). There is also a Quaker plaque on the former Carlton Hill Meeting House (now part of Beckett University) and I believe one on/near the Asda building marking the site of Great Wilson Street Meeting. There must be other Quaker plaques out there?

Pat Gerwat, Adel

Office space to rent

Location, location, location: Dysexia Action who have been the tenants at the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House have gone into receivership and have now closed.



There are now rooms to rent at the Meeting House totalling over 2000 square foot of mixed use space including a light entrance area, six offices, a kitchen, toilet, parking and access to a large hall.





The resource is available to either a single tenant or can be split between two or possibly three tenants.

The Meeting House is south facing, has a front garden and a spectacular view of many of Leeds Universities historic buildings.



For full details please contact **Robert Keeble** on 0113 2422208 robertkeeble@hotmail.com



What is happening ? This relatively new office building located just 500m from Carlton Hill QMH is actually being demolished to make way for a luxury student accommodation!!!!!!!

A Weekend in the Yorkshire Dales



The Beamsley Project is an independent charity providing accessible, self-catering holiday accommodation in the Yorkshire Dales, near Skipton. Fully accessible accommodation for all including individuals with disabilities. It is a former Methodist Chapel located within the Bolton Abbey Estate, and provides accessible walks for all alongside the beautiful River Wharfe.

We would like to invite anyone in the Leeds Area to join Carlton Hill Friends for a weekend break.

- Comfortable rooms.
- Good vegetarian food
- Lots of activities or time to sit and relax away from the bustle of the city.
- An opportunity to meet other Quakers in the Leeds area.

Friday 9th June to Sunday 11th June

Booking form and more information from

Maggie Rice maggie@maggierice.plus.com Telephone 0113 230 4114

Or

Pauline Leonard pauline@paulineleonard.plus.com Telephone 0113 2786 351



Kindlers

The Kindlers are an experimental group working to rekindle the power of Quaker worship by renewing and deepening our spiritual practices.

The next workshop at Carlton Hill is on

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

Led by Michael Hennessey and Zee-Zee Heine

Quaker Quest

These weekends are for people who know little or nothing about Quakers, and for those who have been around Quakers a while and want to explore further. Come and find out more about core Quaker beliefs, discover Quaker worship and hear how Quakers live their lives.

You will be guided, without pressure of any kind, by experienced facilitators from the Quaker Quest team. They will encourage you to reflect, ask questions and share your thoughts with others

Wednesday 3rd May	6pm refreshments	7pm start	at Carlton Hill QMH
Wednesday 10th May	6pm refreshments	7pm start	at Otley Courthouse
Wednesday 17th May	6pm refreshments	7pm start	at Otley Courthouse
Wednesday 24th May	6pm refreshments	7pm start	at Gildersome QMH

The Happiest Place in the World

If we are looking for a model to follow we should perhaps take a look at Costa Rica.

According the Happy Planet Index, is the world's happiest country. It was rated on four criteria - Life Expectancy, Inequality, Ecological Footprint and Wellbeing and came out tops across the board.

This small country, about the size of Denmark with a population of four and half million, has abolished its army and all military involvement. It is rated as the most equal society and for the past twenty years has encouraged communities to work together.

On the environmental front it has instituted a harsh tax on any form of pollution. Its rainforests are protected by law, as are many of its animal species and it uses its dozen or so volcanoes to provide it with all the power it needs and claims that it will be a carbon neutral country by 2020.

It's 98% literacy rate puts it above every other Central and South American country. It has an average life expectancy of 79 years with a high percentage of its population living to over 100 years.

And it produces some darned good coffee!

Rawdon Amnesty Concert Series ~ 2017

All events at **Rawdon Quaker Meeting House, Quakers Lane, Rawdon L519 6HU**. Admission Free. Donations to Amnesty International.

PLEASE NOTE VARIATIONS IN DAY (Saturday or Sunday) AND TIMING (Trio Literati 3pm)

Two-sided Story ~ Saturday 20 May at 7.30pm

A moving film about learning to acknowledge the narrative of others through the experience of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis.

Opera North Piano Quintet ~ Sunday 4 June at 7.30pm

Claire Osborne and Cristina Ocana Rosado (violins), Liz Wyly (viola), Andy Fairley (cello) and Martin Pickard (piano) will play Dvorak's intensely romantic piano quintet along with some light classical duos and trios.

Arioso ~ Saturday 17 June at 7.30pm

Surprising contemporaries: works by John Dowland and Claudio Monteverdi (his 450th anniversary) at the cusp of the renaissance and baroque periods performed by Marie Lemaire (soprano), Emma Edgar (alto), Martin Wallace (tenor), Roger Brock (bass), Naomi Meredith (viola da gamba) and Martyn Hodgson (director, lute, theorbo).

Meltemi Ensemble ~ Sunday 23 July at 7.30pm

Beethoven's Trio op. 11 (originally for clarinet, cello and piano) forms the centrepiece for this recital by Joanna Lewis (flute), David Baker (bassoon) and John Truss (piano).

The Fair Devil of Scotland ~ Sunday 10 September at 7.30pm

Leeds Waits brings us the Story of Mary Queen of Scots and the awful Murder of her husband Lord Darnley, told in words, music and puppetry on the 450th anniversary of Darnley's death.

Elizabeth Kenwood and Peter Reasbeck ~ Sunday 24 September at 7.30pm

Virtuoso oboist Elizabeth Kenwood makes a welcome return with Peter Reasbeck, pianist, in a varied programme of solos and duets.

Stepping Out of Line ~ Sunday 22 October at 7.30pm

This script-in-hand production with songs, performed by Sound Company Men's Choir, explores protest movements of the past led by "troublemakers" or "freedom fighters", depending on where you're Standing.

Enclos'd! John Clare, poet ~ Sunday 12 November at 3pm (nb AFTERNOON)

Trio Literati offer a colourful portrait of the 19th-century peasant poet, his luminous poetry, the vanishing rural England which inspired him and his legendary 90-mile walk home from the mental asylum.

Greeting card campaign ~ Sunday 26 November from 1 to 3pm.

An opportunity for you to send messages of Support to prisoners of conscience around the world. Contact information, cards and writing materials provided, along with coffee, tea and cake.

Bradford Music Club ~ Sunday 17 December at 7.30pm

We end the series with our traditional musical contribution from this warm-hearted, multitalented club. The club always welcomes new members, both performing and non-performing.

Further information from Barbara Parry (0113 2503867) barbaraparry@waitrose.com or Diane Exley (0113 2502051) edianex@btinternet.com