

The Quiet Word



**To Let: Quaker Cottage, Quakers Lane,
Rawdon see page 5 for full details.**

Dates and Events

Sunday Meeting for Worship 10:45 at all Leeds Meetings except Ilkley which is at 10:30am nb see info for new Otley Meetings at Otley Courthouse.

4th Sunday Breakfast Meeting – shared breakfast 9am, MforW 9:30am at Carlton Hill

All welcome to Leeds Area Quaker Meeting at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, LS2 9DX on **Sunday 8th February** at 1.15pm.

Programme

10.45 worship with Carlton Hill Friends and 12.30pm shared lunch

1.15 Worship

1.30 Workshop : Leeds Quakers and World War One Centenary

2.45pm Break

3.00 Business

4.15 Tea with Carlton Hill Friends

January:

Thursday 16th The Power of Good 7.30pm

Holocaust Memorial Day documentary film about Nicholas Winton, 1939, with short introduction at Seven Arts, 31 Harrogate Road LS7 3PD

Friday 17th Holocaust Poetry 12.30pm

Lunchtime talk in Leeds Town Hall by Emily Timms, exploring Holocaust poetry using material from the archives by British poets working or studying at Leeds University.

Friday 17th Words of Life & Death 7pm

Ellie Harrison performing her playful and provocative show 'Etiquette of Grief'. Admission free but by ticket only. Leeds Church Institute, 20 New Market Street, LS1 6DG 0113 245 4700 general@leedschurchinstitute.org

Sat 18th Quakers in Yorkshire at Oxford Place, Leeds 10.30 to 4pm

Monday 20th A Bible for Bosnian Muslims 7pm

James Dannenberg, a Bible translation consultant, was approached by a group of Bosnian Muslim professors who wanted to translate the Bible into their language and felt the need of help from a Christian Biblical scholar. All welcome to **Concord's** open meeting at the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane LS2 9DX to hear about the 12 year relationship which was an "eye-opener" both for them and James.

Thursday 23rd Religion & Sexuality in Contemporary Africa 11am –

5pm Old Mining SR Building, room G19, University of Leeds. Please confirm by e-mail to a.vanKlinken@leeds.ac.uk

Saturday 25th Karen's Way 7.30pm

The Leeds Jewish-Quaker Dialogue Group presents Yellow Leaf Theatre at Seven Arts with the real life of a Kindertransport survivor and poet, Karen Gershon. Featuring Vanessa Rosenthal & Francesca Larkin with music from Marion Raper & David Riley. Tickets £10 & £8 concessions from box office 0113 262 2777 and on the door 31a Harrogate Road LS7 3PD.

Sunday 26th Holocaust Memorial Day 2pm

The Lord Mayor of Leeds and hundreds of local people commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day with drama, music, speeches, candle-lighting and the traditional Hebrew memorial prayer in Leeds Town Hall. An exhibition on the theme of **Journeys** by pupils of Carr Manor School and contributions from the Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association.

Sunday 9th Feb Leeds Area Quaker Meeting 1.15pm Carlton Hill

Tuesday February 18th Christian Ethics in Contemporary Life 7.30pm

The second in **Concord's** series on ***Ethics and Morals***, given by Dr Albert Jewell in the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane LS2 9DX

Thursday Feb. 27th Feb 6pm to 7.30pm Leeds Citizens (see page 6 article)

Thursday March 13th Baha'i Rites of Passage 7pm

The last in **Concord's** series on ***Rites of Passage*** given by Dr Hamed Pakrooh in the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane LS2 9DX

Leeds Area Quaker Meetings 2014:

Sunday 9 February at Carlton Hill — Topic: World War 1 Centenary

Saturday 29 March at 10:30am at Gildersome with business as led, then 1.15pm afternoon topic: Leeds Quaker Concerns including *Leeds Citizens*

Sunday 11 May at Roundhay —Topic: 'What it means to be Jewish in Leeds Today'

Sunday 13 July at Ilkley —Topic: 'What it means to be a Quaker today'

Sunday 12 October at Rawdon — Topic: LAQM Review

Sunday 14 December at Adel with business as led.

Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014: University of Bath from the 2nd to 9th August 2014. Bookings at <http://quaker.org.uk/>



Otley Quaker Meeting is one of the smaller meetings in Leeds Area Meeting. Since the early 19th century we haven't had a meeting house and the meeting has flourished and faded in waves. For the last few years we have met twice a month in Friends' houses. Now we are in a period of change: our frailer elderly members are less able to carry responsibility, and we are not able to meet the needs of younger newcomers. But instead of closing down we are branching out.

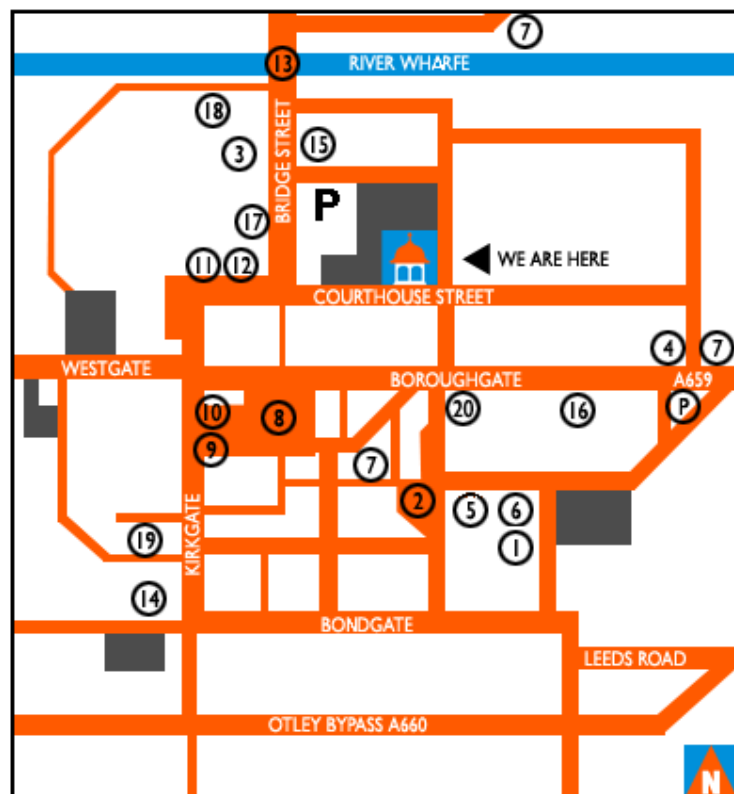
We have had two trial meetings in Otley Courthouse, and are now going to use that space for half our meetings. In 2014 on the first Sunday in the month we shall meet as before in private houses (details always on www.leedsquakers.org.uk/meetings/otley). **On each 3rd Sunday we will meet in the Robing Room at Otley Courthouse at 10.45am.** This is a small room, with good access and facilities for people with disabilities. Our worship will follow our usual form, and we would welcome continuing support from visiting Friends.

Once each term we will have an all-age meeting in the larger Courthouse which will adapt to include activities for younger people, so may be a bit different from usual. But again we would welcome support.

Dates for the Courthouse for the first half of 2014 are January 19, February 16, all age meeting on March 16 , April 20, May 18, June 13.

The Otley Courthouse Map

- 1 Tourist Information
- 2 Bus Station
- 3 Police Station
- 4 Civic Centre/Museum
- 5 Post Office
- 6 Library
- 7 Toilets
- 8 Market Place
- 9 Jubilee Clock
- 10 Buttercross
- 11 Chippendale Statue
- 12 Manor House
- 13 Otley Bridge
- 14 Parish Church
- 15 Bridge Street Church
- 16 Methodist Church
- 17 Catholic Church
- 18 Site of Archbishop's Palace
- 19 Bramhope Tunnel Memorial
- 20 Argos
- Car Parks



To Let: Quaker Cottage, Quakers Lane, Rawdon



TO LET: from Easter 2014 a very attractive, well-maintained C18 stone-built cottage situated in the pleasant area to the north west of the city of Leeds and within the boundary of the Meeting House grounds.

The cottage is fully centrally heated and comprises two bedrooms, a bathroom and toilet with shower, living room and kitchen/dining room with walk in pantry. There is a small garden with workshop to the front of the cottage and access to the Quaker Meeting House grounds through the pantry. On street parking is available opposite the cottage.

The property is suitable for an individual, a couple or a family with one or two children. It is close to local shops, bus stops and very good primary and secondary schools. The rent will be £550 pcm. Postcode LS19 6HU

The deadline for applications is: **Friday 28 February 2014**

Enquiries and Applications to: Diane Exley (Rawdon Meeting) at 156 High Street, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7AB or edianex@btinternet.com

Leeds Citizens – where are Leeds Quakers ?

Friends at Carlton Hill Meeting have requested that Leeds Quakers consider joining the new proposed *Leeds Citizens* which would join *Citizens UK*, a powerful alliance of local Community Organising groups in London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Milton Keynes and Nottingham see www.citizensuk.org.



brings together churches, mosques and synagogues; schools, colleges and universities; unions, think-tanks and housing associations; GP surgeries, charities and migrant groups to work together for the common good. ***‘ We develop the capacity of our members to build power locally so they can hold politicians and other decision makers to account. We work on a range of issues, from small local campaigns to large national campaigns. Community Organising is about building power and participating in democracy: being realistic in what we demand and winning key victories to improve the lives of communities across the country.’***

An Advisory Group in Leeds has been tasked with bringing in member groups and raising money to employ a Community Organiser for the next two years. Some start up group members are also involved during the handover period to the Advisory Group, these include John Battle (Co-Chair)

The Advisory Group consists of a representative from: Moortown Baptist Church, Leeds Unison, David Young Community Academy/LEAF Trust, Notre Dame 6th Form, Carr Manor Community School, Sikh Sport/Ramgharia Board, Makkah Masjid (Mosque), Sinai Synagogue, Anglican Diocese Leeds, Catholic Diocese Leeds, and Leeds University Union

A 'Pre-Founding Meeting' is planned for March 31st, when representatives of all the groups ready to sign up and prepared to make a go of Leeds Citizens will come together to vote to get started and to decide to collectively employ an Organiser. By that date, the aim is to have at least 35 groups represented and £50,000/year for two years pledged.

A community event to find out more about Leeds Citizens is planned for Thursday February 27th 6pm-7.30pm (to book a place please e-mail office@leedscitizens.org.uk nb venue not yet confirmed). Carlton Hill Quakers will also be arranging an information session for Leeds Quakers. We hope to consider becoming a founding member of Leeds Citizens at our Leeds Area Quaker Meeting to be held on Saturday 29th March at Gildersome Quaker Meeting House.

CHALLENGING ASSUMPTIONS

In order to have an informed and participating democracy, there are things we need to know. But as Donald Rumsfeld has said “There are known knowns, known unknowns and unknown unknowns.” This was the basis of the talk given by Martin Schweiger the first speaker at the seminar on challenging Assumptions held on 23rd November 2013 at Carlton Hill Meeting House.

Martin, whose work in Public Health brings him in close contact with statistics, happily conceded that any process of gathering data is complex and our perception of the result will be determined by a variety of factors. For instance crime statistics will necessarily depend on “what is a crime”, something which, like drug classification, can alter over time, making comparisons very difficult. He used a Rubic cube to illustrate his point that what we see looking at a cube is only one surface. By analogy statistics might only show us one side of a complex story. This story, these statistics may have been gathered by someone with a wish to garner more resources – by showing the statistics in a way which supports his case. Additionally he may chose to show them in a graphic form, be it pie chart, graph or bar chart, which enhances their effect or even to write underneath “This chart shows.....” which can alter our perceptions.

Martin concluded his talk by encouraging everyone **to be critical** to ask **what was the motive** behind them, **what am I not being told**. Remember even statisticians make assumptions.

Our second speaker, Jenny Westaway, formerly a journalist and currently a manager with the Health and Social Care Information Centre providing statistics to the media, gave us an exposé of what it’s like for journalists to come up with a constant stream of stories. As she rightly said newspapers can’t go out with empty spaces. Journalists are under great pressure to find material which has to be **new, unexpected and relevant to the reader’s agenda**. Consequently it leaves little time for reflection and analysis. The news media may therefore readily pick up a story about a homeless middle class person but not homeless ex-servicemen.

There are, Jenny said, many ways to tell a story but the media will chose the aspect of the story which will sell their papers; that is often one which involves **fear and anger**. Her example was that of the headline implying that the current A and E crisis is due to the change in GP contracts - resulting in them not working nights or weekends. In fact the majority of visits to A and E are between 9.00am and 5.00pm, something which hasn’t changed for ten years. What has changed is the increase in the numbers. The Daily Mail feeds on these fears yet it is the second best selling paper in the country; the Guardian is the eighth.

Thankfully the increasing use of social media is having an influence; some really obnoxious articles are being criticised on Twitter and this is having an effect on the journalists – perhaps because it is public.

Peter Richardson, our third and final speaker, has a long history of working with refugees and asylum seekers and has recently become a freelance journalist in the hope of counteracting the negative views of asylum seekers and refugees which appear in the media. This is often done by **selective use of certain words** and phrases. He gave the examples of such words as 'disaster', 'threat', 'swamped', 'floods'; this distorts the public's view of asylum seekers and refugees. Currently this negativity is being applied to all immigrants by the use words such 'benefit scroungers' or 'criminals', 'millions', 'thousands'. The term illegal immigrant is used in 70% of articles on refugees – a phrase the Advertising Standards Authority found to be "racist, offensive and misleading." Even the BBC can use visual negative symbols such as fences and guards.

Peter showed several headlines, one which stated "Brussels: UK's 600,000 Benefit Tourists are no problem". It was eventually corrected in the newspaper with "There is no evidence of 600,000 'benefit tourists' in the UK. Neither has the European Commission said this would be no problem." A piece in the Telegraph read "Only one in every 100 reports of illegal immigration results in deportation" what it failed to tell its readers is that 96 out of every 100 reports of illegal immigration are wrong! The Express led with "1-in-5 migrants heads to Britain: 566,000 end up in UK in just a YEAR" whereas in reality net migration is 40% higher in Italy than in the UK and 20% higher in Germany than UK.

What is the impact of all this? Generally that public anxieties increase, that politicians are fearful of a media backlash but most of all that the terms refugee and asylum seeker become generic terms for bad behavior by any immigrant or minority. Asylum seekers stories are not believed and they are left traumatized, leading often to mental health problems and sadly to too many suicides.

We were urged by all our speakers to do all we could to challenge and contradict these negative views.

Philomena O'Hare

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting held 8th December at Roundhay Quaker Meeting House

'A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.'



In our opening worship we heard the short extract above from the final chapter of *Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela* (who died on 5 December 2013).

It was agreed that the clerks would sign the book of remembrance for Nelson Mandela in Leeds Civic Hall on behalf of LAQM. When we did this we wrote 'As co-clerks of Leeds Area Quaker Meeting we offer thanks on behalf of our Meeting for the grace of God in the life of Nelson Mandela, a light that is shining' and followed this with the 1656 quotation from George Fox, 'Be patterns

The first session of our Area Meeting consisted of a heart-rending account of the current situation in Gaza by our Friend Hilary Browne from Bradford Meeting. Hilary tells us that she is very willing to give this talk again to interested groups, no matter how large or small. Given the dreadful situation in Gaza, it is incumbent upon us to try to do what we can to help, even if this is only in terms of learning more about what is happening there at present and letting other people know.

We then had a demonstration of the new password protected website, which is due to go live in the New Year. This was followed by the other items of business, including various nominations to forthcoming conferences and reports from various other interesting occasions including a recent conference in Brussels.

We look forward to seeing Friends at Quakers in Yorkshire at Oxford Place on 18 January and again at our next LAQM on 9 February at Carlton Hill.

Robert Keeble and Veronica O'Mara

Quaker Life Representative Council

Considerable cost and oceans of energy contribute to these council meetings – I hope I can give you some flavour of the event, attended by about 100 Representatives and Friends House Staff. I had a wonderful time: after two days my head was bursting with information and ideas from presentations, group work and conversations with Friends from all over the country. We all ate and talked at length!

It is always particularly interesting to hear from the members of staff from Friends' House who work there in our name. What an inspiring group of people! Their energy and commitment leave me breathless. And their Publications ! (see especially the leaflet **Membership: principles and processes** – relevant here).

The theme this Autumn was **Membership**. This involved considering why we have membership, what brings Enquirers or Attenders to ask to be members of the Religious Society of Friends, what challenges and opportunities membership can bring and what is required of us as Members?

We had in front of us the newly published revision of Chapter 11 of Quaker Faith and Practice which, in addition to answering the above questions, discusses the process of becoming a Friend. Jane Muers, who herself worked on this revision, spoke about the need for each Area Meeting to be led by the Spirit, not just by the 'rules,' in their consideration of the process of responding to an attender who wishes to apply for membership.

During this talk a Friend distinguished the difference between Attendance and Membership by an analogy between partners who, after a long and loving relationship, decide to marry, and the position of a long term attender who decides to apply for membership. Why? What difference would such a step make? Why marry? Why become a member?

I found this analogy helpful because, whilst acknowledging the value of the original relationship, it points up the distinction between it and the public commitment with its attendant responsibilities and strengths.

Simon Best spoke of the value of Membership, unchanged since early Quakers:

Belonging to the Faith Community – QFP 10.20,
Convincement

Discipleship (Discipline) the experience of personal transformation & shared experience

Contribution – (QFP 11.06)

Accountability to the community of faith. This gives us a voice as a faith group. It is also about personal accountability – how we each live out our principles.

Judith Sayer, Ilkley Meeting.



Quaker Council for European Affairs



Europe and Economic Justice – Guaranteeing a Fair Share?

Over a hundred European Quakers arrived in misty Brussels for this conference organised jointly by Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) and Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW). On Friday evening, we received a lecture from Trevor Evans, the professor of Economics at the Berlin School of Economics. It dealt with the causes and consequences of the European crisis, and set a precedent for the excellent speeches throughout the weekend. We were given clarifications for where we are in the world of trade and finance, and how we arrived there. There was particular shock at the European Central Bank's history of creating money out of nothing. Youth unemployment was another topic frequently remarked on in questions from Friends. Youth unemployment struck us as particularly difficult situation throughout Europe, even in unexpected places like Sweden.

There is a lot to be done, and Friends were not ashamed in admitting some feelings of despair. Saturday morning's speech from Judith Kirton-Darling helped assuage this. As a trade unionist, Judith reminded us of the importance in talking with groups we might not expect to. Judith was preparing to talk with Polish miners days after the conference, on the difficult topic of transforming Poland's energy to renewable solutions. In this respect we might consider the many people involved fossil fuel power stations in Yorkshire. Judith likened such a situation to the Northern Ireland Peace Process (with the notable differences acknowledged). Disparate and conflicting groups summoned the discipline and patience to begin discussions, and was successful. It seems all too easy to trap oneself in a mentality of 'Us versus Them', which can distort dialogue and harm outcomes.

Judith also shocked Friends by revealing information about EU-US talks called the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). If the agreement goes ahead as planned, power will go to multinationals to sue governments. Such a 'corporate bill of rights' could result in investors taking states to court, with the bill footed by taxpayers. This topic (known as 'expropriation') generated the most tangible sense of disbelief among Friends, in a conference of many other incredible revelations.

Multinational suing states is not a new phenomenon. 'Philip Morris, the US tobacco multinational, is suing Australia and Uruguay for compulsory health warnings on cigarette packets while Vattenfall of Sweden is suing Germany for €3.7 billion (\$4.8 billion) for deciding to phase out nuclear energy following the Fukushima disaster in Japan.'

One Friend remarked that the conference helped make sense of scatterings of his own reading in economics. Indeed, every Friend arrived with ideas from their own interest in the subject. The high standard of the speeches helped organise and streamline what had occupied many Friends' minds prior to the conference.

Both Trevor and Kirsten endorsed disinvestment, which Friends in Britain are already undertaking. This is a powerful way of encouraging companies to consider more sustainable strategies.

With awareness of youth unemployment, Friends remarked on the many opportunities for young friends to work with QCEA. We need to publicise the following opportunities: Three 12-month positions as programme assistants are available each year, which involves living and working at Quaker House, Brussels. QCEA also host a study tour there, and the next is in spring 2014, eligible for under-30s. The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) also hold Geneva summer school for young Friends and 'those in sympathy' with our values.

The work of QCEA appears to need more recognition within our area meeting. They are our voice in Europe – let's not forget we have intimate links with Europe despite the EU's dwindling popularity in Britain. Alarmingly, QCEA require 25% more funding after changes in Brussels tax and job legislation. How could we best support QCEA, financially or otherwise?

Pascal Ansell and Robert Keeble, Carlton Hill Quaker House

At our October LAQM we agree to the circulation of a questionnaire on End of Life Care and asked that a copy of an 'Advanced Directive' be made available for friends.

Issues surrounding End of Life Care

**We seek opinions and information from
Friends to help us with our work.**



**A questionnaire is available from your local
meeting and at www.leedsquakers.org.uk**

Please return the questionnaire by the end of January 2014.

**Leeds Area Quaker Meeting End of Life Care
Working Party**

Advance Directive for my Healthcare

To my doctors, healthcare team, my family, and all other persons concerned

I (name):

Address:.....

State that after careful consideration and discussion with my medical advisers I have freely and in sound mind decided that it is my express wish that if I should develop:

1. Severe degenerative brain disease (due to Alzheimer's disease, arterial disease, or other agency)
2. Serious brain damage as a result of stroke, accident, or other illness
3. Advanced terminal malignancy
4. Severely incapacitating disease of nerve or muscle or
5. Any other condition of comparable gravity

and as a result suffer mental impairment such that I am unable to participate in decisions regarding my care and two independent physicians conclude that to the best of their knowledge my underlying condition is irreversible, then the following points should be taken into consideration:

- ◆ I prefer to be nursed in my own home
- ◆ In the event of cardiac arrest, regardless of the cause, I should not be given cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- ◆ With the development of any life threatening medical situation I should not be given active treatment such as antibiotics, ventilation, surgery, or blood transfusion
- ◆ Any futile treatment initiated outside the terms of this decision should be withdrawn

If during an advanced illness I should become unable to swallow food, fluid, or medication then these should not be given to me by drip or feeding tube into intestines or vein

- ◆ I wish to have ordinary humane nursing care and the use of medical interventions only to control distressing symptoms and not merely to prolong my existence
- ◆ I consent to the use of analgesics and other measures to control distressing symptoms regardless of the consequences for my physical health.

I have discussed this document with my GP, Dr A copy of this directive is in my record there.

I reserve the right to revoke this decision at any time.

I plan to review this directive every two years, but if I do not do so, this will not cause it to be revoked.

Signed: Date

Witness signature:

I hereby witness the signing of this document by the above named in my presence.

This person is of sound mind, understands the implications of the document, and to the best of my knowledge has been brought under no external pressure to sign it. I do not stand to gain from her death.

Signed: Name in capitals
.....

Date:

Note: You can vary the wording of this directive at will. After filling out this form, please leave copies with your next of kin and in a file at home, and for your GP to have filed in your health record. You may also wish to carry with you a card stating that you have filled out an advance directive for your healthcare, and where copies are to be found.