

THE QUIET WORD

June 2017 issue no 6



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,



A Quaker Meeting by Dennis Winteringham

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**Deadline for July issue
Monday 26th June**

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

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)

Thursday 1st 7.30pm Leeds Area Sustainability Group

Friday 2 - 4 Bamford Quaker Retreat: Singing in Nature

Sunday 4th 7.30pm Rawdon QMH Amnesty Concert

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

Sunday 11th Leeds Triathlon – Disruption to travel across Leeds

Thursday 15h 8am to 10am 'Walk, cycle and enjoy' protest outside Carlton Hill QMH in support of National Clean Air Day

Thursday 15th 7.30pm Leeds Area Sustainability Group

Sunday 18th - 10am to 4pm - see the Quaker Scarecrows at Gildersome QMH - part of Gildersomes 'scarecrow day'

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

Thursday 29th 7.15pm - Leeds Concord Interfaith Fellowship talk 'Bahais Ethics' All welcome

July

Saturday 1st 10am to 12noon Leeds Light Group at Carlton Hill QMH

@ **Sunday 9th at 1pm** Leeds Area Quaker Meeting at Gildersome QMH; possible topic: BYM

Saturday 15th 10am to 4pm - Quakers in Yorkshire at Malton QMH

Saturday 29th to 5th August Yearly Meeting Gathering to be held at the University of Warwick, Coventry



Welcome to the June edition of Quiet Word. June usually means that summer is in the air. Let's hope!!! We've had a very dry season so far, when we have really needed rain!

I promised last month to look a little further into lifestyles with respect to our carbon footprint – the impact we are having on our planet, our weather and our lives by the amount of carbon we create and release into the atmosphere as a result of the way we live and what we do.

I've picked on two things this month – air travel, and packaging.



Do you know a young Quaker aged 11–14?

Tell them about Junior Gathering!

19th - 26th August 2017 Leighton Park School, near Reading

MAKE FRIENDS HAVE FUN BE QUAKERLY

“I really enjoyed the acceptance of the whole group”

“EVERYTHING WAS AMAZING!”

“Worship was a really special time for me. The silence is beautiful”

VISIT

www.fsse.org.uk to find out more

Senior Conference Ages 15-18

Date: 19-26th August 2017

Theme: Diversity and Unity

Venue: Sibford School

Senior Conference 2016 epistle

Application forms and info

VISIT

www.fsse.org.uk to find out more

GRIEVING

Prince Harry has recently drawn attention to the length of time grieving can last. It is now two years since my son, Stuart, died and yet I became unbearably upset recently by a friend inadvertently saying the wrong thing. Coincidentally the Guardian ran an article on the various ways of supporting someone who is grieving and I thought it would be helpful to share a few of the suggestions.

1. Never avoid someone who has been bereaved. Grief can make you feel scared and alone; just saying “I’m sorry” can be enough. Even better is sharing memories of the person who has died as there will be no new memories.

2. Don’t stop someone crying; silence with a reassuring gentle touch will let them know you’re there.

3. Offer to help with formalities or with chores.

4. Don’t make it about religion. Saying “They’re in a better place now” or “They were a good age” is rarely helpful. It’s always too young to lose someone you love,

Philomena O’Hare Carlton Hill

May 2107

A Belief in God

There are many different views amongst Quakers on who or what “God” is. George Fox was a very firm believer in God and the teachings of Jesus but was very much against anything that was imposed by the Romans. Thus he would not celebrate Christmas or Easter, which were both Roman festivals given a “christian” meaning by the Emperor Constantine when he decreed that the Roman Empire was to become Christian some 300 years after the death of Jesus. He also took the underlying meaning of the Book of Revelations as a critique of the Roman Empire. In a number of his writings he refers to “the Great Whore” (Revelations, Chapter 16) when talking about the Roman Empire and its adverse influence.

In her book “And man created God”, Selina O’Grady explores how, throughout history, humans have sought to bestow super-human powers on certain people and then revered them as “gods” after their death.

Jesus and his small band of followers were virtually unknown outside of Palestine. It was not until two years after the death of Jesus that Paul became converted as he was on his way to Damascus to arrest members of the Jesus cult on orders of the High Priest. He had never met Jesus but, became totally

convinced by his message, then set about establishing what eventually became Christianity throughout the area that we now call the Middle East. It is rightly said that it was Paul that really created Christianity as we know it today. His friend Luke, a Greek, set about writing the life story of Jesus nearly twenty years later and created the myth of a mystical birth in accordance with all Greek legends and so to “prove” that Jesus was descended from King David and was therefore the true Messiah sent from the Jewish god to save the Jews. Other writers followed. John’s account was written over thirty years after the death of Jesus.

The current book that we call the Bible did not come into existence until the Council of Nicene around 325AD when a group of clerics decided which of the hundreds of writings about Christianity could be included. Eventually they selected the 27 that we know today, to form the New Testament, and these were added to existing books of the Jewish Bible.

It is true to say that the development of Christianity from its earliest days was inspired by a firm belief in God. As Quakers we question everything rather than accept things at their face value, then form our own

opinions. As George Fox said “The bible saith this and the bible saith that – but Friend, what canst thou say.” And as the Gospel writer John said “The Word giveth life, but the letter killeth.”

A New Economy?

“How will the world be better off if, in developing your spiritual life, you make the material life of others much more burdensome, and if, like the movement of scales, as you rise yourself towards the eternal, you make other people descend by the same degree? You have only introduced or confirmed an inequality and an injustice.....”

QfP 23.15

Over the last thirty to forty years the global economy has moved more and more towards favouring the most powerful, the global corporations, whilst making the rest of the world substantially poorer. It has also created a rape of the world’s resources in pursuit of ever more profit. For the benefit of the whole of humanity this situation has to change.

In “Brexit” we have a golden opportunity to bring about this change – to free ourselves from the straightjacket of globalisation. Instead, our politicians of all persuasions are concentrating on how to maximise profits and entrap us further in the power of the global corporations. Do we really want to be controlled by China or by USA? I think not, but this is exactly what our politicians are visualising by wishing to negotiate “trade” deals with these countries. And of course the movement of goods between us and these countries will create a huge carbon footprint which the world cannot afford – unless of course we wish to commit global suicide!

“What is needed above all else to put people first, before the pursuit of ever more riches, which are nothing more than a dream anyway. We need more growth like a hole in the head. Instead we need degrowth. Satish Kumar calls it “Glocalism” - think globally but act locally. Fritz (E.F) Schumacher believed that Small is Beautiful, that in order for a society to function efficiently everything must

be done at a local level and kept small and manageable. Economy is defined in my dictionary as “the efficient use of resources for the benefit of the community it serves”. Our present system serves the 1% and ignores everybody else.

“1. The Fatherhood of God, as revealed by Jesus Christ, should lead us toward a brotherhood which knows no restriction of race, sex or social class.

2. This brotherhood should express itself in a social order which is directed, beyond all material ends, to the growth of personality truly related to God and man.

3. The opportunity of full development, physical, moral and spiritual, should be assured to every member of the community, man, woman and child. The development of man’s full personality should not be hampered by unjust conditions nor crushed by economic pressure.

4. We should seek for a way of living that will free us from the bondage of material things and mere conventions, that will raise no barrier between man and man, and will put no excessive burden of labour upon any by reason of our superfluous demands.

5. The spiritual force of righteousness, loving-kindness and trust is mighty because of the appeal it makes to the best in every man, and when applied to industrial relations achieves great things.

6. Our rejection of the methods of outward domination, and of the appeal to force, applies not only to international affairs, but to the whole problem of industrial control. Not through antagonism but through co-operation and goodwill can the best be obtained for each and all.

7. Mutual service should be the principle upon which life is organised. Service, not

private gain, should be the motive of all work.

8. The ownership of material things, such as land and capital, should be so regulated as best to minister to the need and development of man."

QfP 23.16

"The global economic system is posited on continued expansion and growth, and in its 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

QPSW has been tasked with developing a system that can put this into practice. The result is Principles for a New Economy. The leaflet outlining this be downloaded here <http://tinyurl.com/mfraln9>.

Four booklets have also been produced –

1. What's the economy for?
2. Good work in the New economy,
3. Energy in the New economy, and
4. Money, banks and finance in the New economy.

All four can be downloaded here <http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/new-economy>.

QPSW is asking all Friends to get involved and local meetings to set up reading groups to study and discuss these texts. It is important that our voice is heard and that our politicians are asked to consider the damage they are doing, to the community, to the world and to the environment by continuing on the present course.

To date over twenty groups have engaged with this process. Would you be interested in joining such a group within Leeds Area Meeting? If so please contact me.

Pete Redwood



Repair and Re-Use

Refugee Week Friends House June 19th - 25th 2017

Monday 19 June 11:00–15:00 Library

Sanctuary through history: Library open day

Quakers have been part of movements to welcome newcomers to Britain for many years. Explore artefacts and stories from past initiatives to assist people seeking sanctuary, from the Kindertransport to the present day.

18:30–20:30 Bookshop

Sanctuary in the media Co-authors of *The Good Immigrant*, Coco Khan, Darren Chetty and Vera Chok, discuss how an anti-racist media might look. Chaired by Dalia Gebrial (Undoing Borders campaign / People & Planet).

Tuesday 20 June 12:30 Worship space

World Refugee Day, meeting for worship (semi-programmed) Quiet contemplation on the situation faced by people seeking sanctuary.

18:30–20:30

Sanctuary in writing Contributors to the new-writing Bookshop anthologies *Refugee Stories*, *A Country of Refuge*, and *Over Land Over Sea* discuss their first-hand experiences of seeking sanctuary. Chaired by Lucy Popescu.

Wednesday 21 June 18:30–20:30

Sanctuary in the arts Actor and playwright Gaël Le Cornec, author Gulwali Passarlay (*The Lightless Sky*) and filmmaker Sue Clayton (Goldsmiths College) discuss how the arts can help people think differently about people seeking sanctuary.

Thursday 22 June 18:30–20:30

Sanctuary in fiction Novelists Sita Brahmachari (*Red Bookshop Leaves*), Jason Donald (*Dalila*), Tim Finch (*House of Journalists*) and Roma Tearne (*The Swimmer*) discuss the representation of immigration in fiction.

Sunday 25 June 11:00–12:00 George Fox room

Meeting for worship Based in stillness and silent waiting, a Quaker meeting gives space and time to listen and reflect.

13:00–15:00 George Fox room

Challenging immigration detention A panel of experts discuss the immigration detention system and what can be done to challenge it.

14:30–17:00 RefuTEA Courtyard

Newcomers to Britain and longstanding residents drink a cup of tea together. Hosted in partnership with the Refugee Council.



Have you booked yet for Quakers in Yorkshire Junior Holidays?

- Yorkshire Junior Holidays are enjoyable, relaxing and above all fun events for children aged between 7-12.

- The holidays have been running for many years and have always been enjoyed by the children and adults alike.

- The holidays are often so much fun that many of the children return year after year, as do some of the adults!

- They are rarely in the same place twice. In the past we have stayed in Robin Hood's Bay, Buckden in the Yorkshire Dales, Hebden Bridge and Snowball Lodge near York among many other places.

- As we move around each year we are able to offer a wide range of activities. In the past these have included: beach-combing, caving, climbing, swimming, exploring the area and visiting local attractions (such as the chocolate museum in York), craft activities and, of course, relaxing with friends.

- The holidays all have a Quaker ethos and are a place of safety and friendship for all. Many friendships started at Junior Holidays have lasted well into adulthood for some of our previous attenders.

"The best place to reflect, relax, contemplate, discuss, and sort yourself at the end of the summer so you can cope with being thrown headlong back into the real world"

2017 Junior Holidays:

- 23 – 25 June 2017 – weekend at Barmoor. [Here is the Barmoor 2017 booking form](#)

- 27 – 29 October 2017 weekend at Fanwood Activity Centre in the Spenn Valley.

Volunteers urgently needed

The Quakers in Yorkshire Junior Holiday committee is seeking adult volunteers to help make this year's holidays happen! We need volunteer helpers with lots of enthusiasm to help create welcoming, exciting and enjoyable holidays. We're particularly keen to find Friends who'd be prepared to do the catering (with help from the young people and the team). We're also interested in hearing from Friends who can't help this year but would like to be added to our list of possible future volunteers.

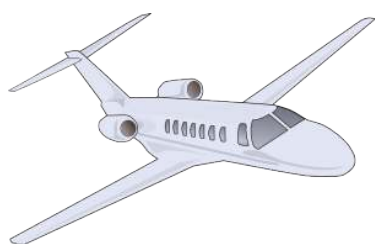
As a Junior Holiday volunteer all your expenses will be paid. You'll need a DBS check (which we can help you to obtain), and references from people who can comment on your suitability to work with children. If you'd like to know more, please contact James Hargreave on jameshargreave@yahoo.co.uk

To Fly Like a Bird - a misguided love affair?

Air travel is the world's fastest growing source of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, which cause climate change. Globally, about 8.3 million people fly daily — a 100% increase over a 20 year period and the world's 16,000 commercial jet aircraft generate more than 600 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the world's major greenhouse gas, per year. Indeed aviation generates nearly as much CO₂ annually as that from all human activities across the entire continent of Africa.



Last year, British airports handled more than 250 million passengers and it is predicted that that number will double over the next 15 years. We have a love affair with visiting far away places and getting there as quickly as possible. But this love affair has an environmental cost. While aviation currently accounts for approximately 5% of all greenhouse gases, scientists believe that figure will rise to over 60% by the year 2050.



Per passenger kilometers are increasing 5.2% per year. And in the EU alone emissions from aviation increased by 87% during the past ten years. Comprehensive research shows that despite anticipated efficiency innovations to airframes, engines, aerodynamics and flight operations, there is no end in sight – even many decades out – to rapid growth in CO₂ emissions from air travel and air freight, due to projected continual growth in air travel.

If you have given up flying, you've doubtless also discovered the costs – and not just financial ones. You can meet uncomprehending attitudes from family and friends, and cut yourself off from activities they enjoy. It can be hard.

But we are not alone. Researchers at the University of the West of England think there are enough of us out there to be undertaking a survey of our experience.

So if you have given up air travel for environmental reasons, take this survey and tell them how you find it. You might find the questions they ask encouraging. And why not share here why you don't fly, and how it's working out for you. Take the short survey - link below.

For me, the choice not to fly is intimately linked with my faith. It's about 'hugging the earth' which is God's world and our common home. It keeps my feet (or at least, wheels) on the ground, which is where every goodness comes from. It opens me up to contact with people, landscapes and towns along the way, and somehow makes the whole experience more 'real' and more relational. In short, it's travel with love. If planned carefully, I have found that in the end it is usually cheaper over all as well!

<https://uwe.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/sustainable-travel-survey>



Fear and Division in Society

The following is the minute from the workshop session at our recent Area Meeting held at Adel Meeting House on 21st May.

Our Friends Owen Claxton-Ingham, Ben Coltman and Melanie Ndzinga have led us in a consideration of Fear and Division in Society. Owen introduced the session by looking at the emotion of fear: it is a vital response to emotional danger, but sometimes we fear without a reason. A perception of fear provokes confrontation or avoidance. We were reminded that fear is a driver for division in society.



We were asked to look at these questions:

- What are the divisions?
- What are the factors that underlie the division/conflict and how do they manifest themselves?
- Who benefits from this division?
- What can we do as individuals or as Quakers collectively?
- How do we recognise our own bubbles?

In the feedback the following comments were made by the four groups:

Age: This group focused on the disconnect between generations. The important point was not to be judgemental. Different formative experiences should be valued.

Politics: This group examined the different sorts of historic divisions and the divisions that current politicians use. The media, pollsters and politicians can benefit from divisions. The group moved on to a discussion of PR. There is a need to understand people; we should read newspapers other than our regular ones; we should be aware of different bubbles.

Economics: This group examined income, assets and power, and homelessness. They noted the factors that underlie division, that is education and upbringing. They noted visible extremes such as gated communities. They commented upon the wide social range of early Quakers. They wondered how dialogue could come about.

Cultural/Racial: This group examined waves of immigration into Leeds: Irish, Jewish, Caribbean and Asian. The differences changed from religion to skin colour. There is a few of the unknown. Division can help forge strength as groups can derive benefit from being in their own bubbles. In the discussion of bubbles Brexit figured heavily.

Ben then gave us an overview of divisions in society and how they manifest themselves. Divisions can be generational (do young people see the elderly as a different species?), racial (has multiculturalism worked?), political (left/right, interested/apathetic, leavers/remainers) religious (not just different sects but believers/atheists), or economic (wealthy/deprived). Are we more divided now than for many years? What are the drivers for this division? Are these being manipulated by groups that benefit from these divisions?

Melanie looked at how we can deal with division. We all have bubbles we live in. Most of us live in several bubbles: work/professional; social groups; political; and so on. How do we approach people in different bubbles to our own, especially those that challenge our ideas of what is acceptable or decent or 'normal'? How do we build connections and understanding between different groups? What do we do about those groups we can't build connections with?

We then considered these divisions in four groups looking at:

- Generational division - young vs old
- Multiculturalism
- Political division
- Economic division

Summing Up: There is a need to build bridges both personally and within our bubbles. We each have a responsibility to recognise our own prejudices and to see that of God in each person. We must be brave and not rely on other people to overcome division. We finished with a reading of Advices and Queries number 32:

Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

We thank Owen, Ben and Melanie for leading us in this thought-provoking discussion.



We have a piano which we would like to go to an appreciative home.

It is a 50-year-old Rheingold standard upright & was re-strung within the last decade. It needs tuning. We're downsizing! Anyone interested is welcome to get in touch by email with me at andrea.mitchell63@yahoo.com. It might take me a few days to respond.

The person could make a modest offer when they've seen the piano. We are not able to transport it, regrettably.

From Andrea Mitchell - Adel Meeting



Mr.Fox has a snooze watched by the Jay in the burial ground at Adel. (Adel QMH is offering a free 'green burial' to all Leeds Friends).

Photos courtesy
Robert Keeble



The inner light – a circle of chairs in the new ‘Quaker Hall’ at the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House. Leeds Quakers are now making full use of the hall following the departure of the former tenant at Carlton Hill in April. New tenants are now sought and friends should see http://www.leedsquakers.org.uk/room-hire/_office-space for full details.

Refurbishment at Rawdon



The School Room, with the newly refurbished roof beams.



A smart new kitchen



And a sustainable energy supply

It's a wrap!

Having reached the age of 15 I had no choice but to leave school. My GCE results were, whilst no surprise to me, a disappointment to my parents, since both my sisters had achieved good qualifications.

I found myself "apprenticed" to a grocer in a country market town. I am able to go back to a time before supermarkets existed. One or two of the larger multiple companies were experimenting with "self-selection" but mostly you relied on a shop-assistant to help you. The fact was that the bulk of the food available was not pre-packaged because there was no need for it. In fact, the grocer I was sent to work for flatly refused to sell anything pre-packaged. Everything had to be weighed as the customer required it – butter, biscuits, tea, coffee (which was roasted each day and ground as each customer required it), rice, flour, sugar. Everything - even vinegar was sold loose. All empty tins, bottles and glass jars had to be returned to the manufacturer for re-use. I later worked for Sainsbury's but it was 1964 onwards before supermarkets started appearing.

Recently the government debated the idea of putting a 10p deposit on drinks containers, then responded to pressure from manufacturers against it fearing it would damage sales! A few years ago I used to go to women's groups to give talks on food issues. I had a bottle from the 1950's that used to contain a well-known brand of bleach and the label was quite clearly marked "1/- deposit". One shilling, twelve old pence, 1/20th of a pound, at a time when the average working man would earn £10 - £12 per week. Thus in today's money that deposit would be worth around £1.20. In fact on this particular bottle the cost was 9d plus the 1/- deposit. Thus the bottle was worth more than the contents! ---- and a 10p deposit was recently seen as being too much!!!

Today practically everything is packaged and nearly all packaging is seen as "disposable" - in other words "throw away" - except that 95% of it cannot be thrown

"away". Surprising little packaging is made from a single, easily recyclable material. Take the example of a few slices of cooked meat from the supermarket; they are laid out on a plastic tray, sometimes made of polyethylene which can be recycled, but more often polypropylene which is not readily recycled. This is then covered in a polythene film, which can be recycled, to which is attached a paper label. The paper label is backed with a plastic adhesive and often has a plastic coating which can make recycling difficult. In order to be recycled efficiently all the different types of plastic have to be separated and treated differently. And of course the whole process of recycling takes up energy.

How to avoid packaging? Avoid anything that is un-necessarily over-packaged; buy "loose" wherever possible; buy in as large a quantity as practical; support local businesses wherever possible. Consider the possibility of setting up a buying group for all those regular items. Many non-perishable items can be purchased wholesale in larger quantities than the normal retail packs. For example, if you use a lot of rice it can be purchased in 3kg bags, yoghurt can be purchased in larger tubs. Suma Wholesale in Halifax supply a number of buying groups.

<http://www.suma.coop/order/food-groups/how-to-start-a-food-group/>. Suma is also a workers cooperative so everybody is a part of the business.

The idea of a supermarket without packaging is a concept that has been around for a few years and various outlets have opened in Poland, Germany, USA and the UK. The most successful in the UK has been Unpackaged which started off as an independent shop but now operates as part of Planet Organic in Muswell Hill, London. It sells a full range of food stuffs. You take in your own bags and containers, fill them yourself and pay just for the contents.

<http://www.beunpackaged.com/>

<http://www.planetorganic.com/>

For non-food items try the Zero Waste Shop

<http://zerowasteshop.uk/>



*Sainsbury's Winchester
where I worked circa 1963*

Adel Friends Local Meeting State of the Meeting Report for 2016

Our average weekly attendance at Meeting for Worship has been at around twenty individuals. It has been good to welcome a small number of newcomers although, sadly, this has been more than offset by those Friends who are no longer able to attend due to ill health. We were happy that Margaret Chester attended our Christmas Party in January but, unfortunately, by the summer she was unable to continue living by herself at home and had to move into Grove Park Care Home. We have been further saddened by the deaths of former Adel members Ralph Clarke, Kathleen Ashcroft and Vera [Vere] Bowen. Kathleen's funeral was held at Lawnswood Crematorium and was followed by a buffet lunch at Adel M.H. while Vera's interment at Adel Quaker Burial Ground was followed by a reception in the Meeting House to which friends of the family were invited. In the cases of both Kathleen and Vera many Friends and associates were able to show sympathy and support to the families of the deceased and to share happy memories of past friendships.

The overall drop in the number of our members and attenders naturally poses a problem for our Nominations Committee who find it difficult to fill the necessary positions of responsibility which are entailed in running our Meeting. Nevertheless, despite this problem, we continue to engage actively in social and spiritual events in other Meetings and some Adel Friends are currently serving at Area Meeting level.

Dwindling numbers has also led to a drop in attendance at monthly Prayer Meeting. Where possible, Friends from Adel endeavour to maintain support for those no longer able to come to Meeting for Worship by holding such Meetings in their own homes or in the institutions in which they now reside. This was done two years previously for Ruth Standeven and early last autumn a small group of Adel Friends met at the home of Trevor Briggs who, unfortunately, has

suffered from Parkinson's Disease for many years. We hope that this gathering helped to affirm spiritual support for Trevor and his family.

A recent innovation, namely early Meeting for Worship followed by breakfast on the second Sunday of the month, continues to be fairly well supported. At our main Meeting for Worship we have seen fit to reintroduce 'Afterword.' Although many Meetings for Worship have passed with little or even no vocal ministry there has been a desire for participants to comment on matters about which they have strong feelings but which are not appropriate for mention during the main Meeting.

Adel Children's Meeting continues to take place on the fourth Sunday of the month and we have at least four regular attenders between the ages of seven and thirteen who, between them, represent Adel and Roundhay Meetings. Supporters of our Children's Meetings have recently attended their counterpart gatherings at Ilkley and Roundhay and this has led to the consideration of children's projects in association with other local Meetings. Adel has been particularly encouraged by the success of our first All Age Meeting during the autumn when our youngsters were welcomed into a full length adult Meeting for Worship. We plan to repeat this a couple of times each year. On the same Sunday as Children's Meeting we hold Shared Lunch which is always well supported.

We continue our endeavours to deepen spiritual insight and to understand different approaches to spirituality away from normal Meetings for Worship. Our Light Group continues to meet regularly as it has been doing for several years, and, on average, attendance is between five and ten individuals per session. We now have the added pleasure of welcoming representatives of other local Meetings including Rawdon, Otley, Carlton Hill, York and High Flatts. Our 'Learning and Sharing' cycles continued during the summer on the theme of 'What I Do in Meeting for Worship.' Various people described their approach to Meeting for Worship and the

sharing of ideas prompted positive reaction and discussion. A session was also devoted to a discussion of the Quaker Universalist Conference of 2016. A more recent innovation has been the organisation of informal monthly Tuesday evening meetings which have embraced a wide variety of topics more or less associated with spiritual matters and actions which have been prompted by spiritual points of view. Again, these have resulted in much lively discussion and broadening of knowledge.

Many Adel Friends continue to endeavour to turn their Quaker outlook into practical action for those in our society who are less fortunate. Activities such as assisting Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers [PAFRAS], food banks, and supporting those involved in civil cases at Leeds's law courts have benefited from such input.

Social gatherings outside Meetings for Worship and its related activities continue to play an important part in the life of our Meeting. There have been further visits to the theatre during the past year and, as always, the beginning of 2016 saw the traditional Christmas Party with its good food and games for all ages to enjoy, and the opportunity for us to welcome fellow Friends in a purely informal setting.

Engaging as a Meeting with our local community has brought mixed results. Our room hiring scheme works very successfully and many of our hirers, especially those who practise spiritual activities such as yoga and

meditation are appreciative of the peaceful and calming ambience of our meeting house and its grounds. The money which Adel Meeting derives from hirings enables us to enjoy a healthy financial position which in turn has enabled us to donate £10,000 to deserving causes. In early autumn we organised a 'Meet The Quakers' evening for members of our hirers groups but this drew only one visitor. More encouraging was our involvement with the Leeds heritage Weekend in September when, within the space of two and a half hours during a Sunday afternoon we welcomed twenty visitors who showed considerable interest and appreciation. We hope to be involved in the same project on future occasions.

We have been reminded at various times and from different sources of the substantial changes which have taken place within The Society of Friends during recent years and of the division of opinion which these changes have caused. Adel Meeting has been as susceptible to such changes and divisions as anywhere else and the spectrum of points of view within our Meeting is wide. We believe, however, that it is fair to say that we absorb these different points of view amicably and with mutual respect and toleration and we hope that this is the basis on which we can continue to welcome newcomers to our Meetings for Worship regardless of their spiritual orientation.

Neil Ashcroft

William Hunt

Jan. 2017



Faith into Action – Stop the Arms Fair

DSEI (Defence & Security Equipment International) is one of the world's largest arms fairs. It takes place in London's Docklands every two years, and the next one is planned for 12-15 September 2017.

In 2015 over 1,500 exhibitors displayed arms ranging from sniper rifles to drones to tanks and warships. Military delegations come from around the world, including those involved in human rights abuses and countries involved in conflict. The fair is supported by the Defence Security Organisation, a government department, but it is held in secret.

A coalition of organisations, including Campaign Against the Arms Trade, are planning a week of action in the week before the fair starts (4th to 9th September) to raise awareness and to try and stop the military equipment being delivered. In 2015 they organised a week of very creative protests and this year they'd like it to be even bigger and more effective.

There is something happening every day but, as Quakers, you may be particularly interested in:

Tuesday 5th September No Faith in War - last year Quakers held a meeting for worship partly on one of the roads leading to the Excel Centre, where the fair is held. There will be one this year too.

Saturday 9th September - Big Day of Action – open to anyone and everyone.

We are hoping to have transport available from Leeds/West Yorkshire for people who want to participate on those two days. You could also think about holding an awareness raising event in your local area.

West Yorkshire Campaign Against the Arms Trade is holding two information and training events at Carlton Hill Meeting House for anyone who is interested in being involved.

Saturday 8th July 10am to 4pm

Saturday 12th August 10am to 4pm

They are open to everyone – Quakers, people of other churches and faiths, people of no faith who have a concern about the arms trade or particular concerns about nuclear disarmament.

The day will include more information about the arms fair and exploration of creative and practical ways to be involved.

Any questions, you can contact me at *ttracey@live.com*

If you would like to attend, please let us know at *ttracey@live.com*

More information about the arms fair can be found at:

www.caat.org.uk

www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk

Tracey Martin Carlton Hill Meeting