

# *The Quiet Word*



How easily can you find your nearest Meeting House?

## Dates and Events

**Sunday Meeting for Worship** 10:45 at all Meetings except Ilkley which is at 10:30am .

**Leeds Area Quaker Meeting** is open to all who attend Quaker Meetings in Leeds

LAQM will be on **Sunday 13th July** at Ilkley QMH, Queens Road, Ilkley LS29 9QJ

### **Programme:**

10.30 Worship

12.30pm shared lunch

1.15 Worship

1.30 Workshop session: **What it means to be a Quaker Today**

2.45 break

3pm business as led

4.15 Tea

# WANTED!

## YOUR VIEWS ON THE "QUIET WORD"

see overleaf for details.

## Put it in your diary

### June

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** Adel Quaker Meeting House 'Caring for and supporting dying or recently bereaved friends'

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm** Carlton Hill QMH 'tea with Ishia Menuchin', chairman of the board of Amnesty Israel

**Monday 24 7.30pm** Carlton Hill 'Leeds Quaker Meeting and Trident'

### July

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 6pm** Carlton Hill QMH Meeting for Worship

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup>** Independence from America Event, by the main gates at Menwith Hill.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30** Carlton Hill 'Becoming Friends: silence and waiting'

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 11am to 2pm** Wool Not weapons – outside Leeds Art Gallery

**Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> 1.15pm** LAQM at Ilkley QMH – what it means to be a Quaker today.

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am to 4pm** Quaker in Yorkshire at Settle

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> 10am Carlton Hill** – Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group seminar

# WANTED!

## YOUR VIEWS ON THE "QUIET WORD"

Mark Wells is the new editor (ok new copy/paster) of the "Quiet Word". This is probably an ideal time to review its content. It will be GREATLY appreciated if you could spend a few minutes (promise it won't take long) to fill out an online questionnaire.

In your web browser simply visit:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/h7CKLF>

Fill in the survey and press "**SUBMIT**" As this survey is set up using a free tool after submitting a page will be displayed that includes an invitation to create your own survey. This window can just be ignored/closed. *Note. The survey is anonymous.*

**Welcome to the June/July Quiet Word** Contributions for the next edition should be sent by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July to [markwellsy@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:markwellsy@tiscali.co.uk)  
Please note that the Quiet Word is available to anyone as it is displayed on our public website at [www.leedsquakers.org.uk](http://www.leedsquakers.org.uk)

## Open meeting for AM Friends, Elders and Overseers

**‘Caring for and supporting dying or recently bereaved Friends’. - June 18<sup>th</sup> at Adel FMH at 7.30pm**

This will be an open meeting for anyone in the AM so please let Friends in your meetings know. If they were able to email me to let me know they are coming that would be very helpful [s.coltman@o2.co.uk](mailto:s.coltman@o2.co.uk)

Our speaker will be Di Stubbs:

*Di Stubbs works for the Childhood Bereavement Network and has been involved with organisations supporting bereaved adults and children - and those facing the expected death of someone important - for many years. This has included direct work with families and producing publications and resources.*

*The session will provide an opportunity to consider some of feelings and practical tasks associated with supporting those who are dying and those who have been bereaved. We will talk about the feelings of those who are dying and those who are supporting them; what practical tasks are necessary and who can help; some theories about grieving; and how best to support those who have been bereaved. Di will mix up some theory with activities, group discussion (and maybe the odd poem) and try to make discussion of this tough subject comfortable. The intention is not to delve too deeply into our own griefs and fears on this occasion but do come prepared for the possibility that a few bruises may be pressed.*

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting

# ANTI-TRIDENT ACTION



**To discuss our response to the  
government's proposed  
replacement of Trident**

**Possible action includes:**

- **Writing to MPs, newspapers etc.**
- **Wool against Weapons**
- **Display and/or demonstration in Leeds**

**Carlton Hill, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 7.30 pm**



**Outside Leeds Art Gallery**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July from 11am to 2pm**

**Leeds Quaker Peace Vigil 1pm**



**See: [www.woolagainstweapons.co.uk](http://www.woolagainstweapons.co.uk)**

## **QPSW Conference 28-30 March 2014 by Una Parker (Carlton Hill Meeting)**

We were kept very busy at this Conference. It seemed as if every moment was filled, beginning with tables assigned to home groups for the first meal, and questions for us to answer and help us get to know each other. It was very enjoyable and inspiring, too.

We had an overview, on Friday evening, of the work of QPSW from Helen Drewery, with useful diagrams to show the structures of Britain Yearly Meeting.

The Saturday morning session was about housing, its importance as a way of alleviating poverty, and the particular work done by the Quaker Housing Trust in grant making to small, usually new, housing projects. It made me think that all meetings could consider giving a regular donation to the Trust.

After that the Conference became a whirl of activity, with many opportunities in smaller groups to find out about aspects of Peacebuilding work around the world. One meeting was about the Exhibition: "This Light that Pushes Me" which tells the stories of African Quaker Peacebuilders, through beautiful photographs of individual Africans from different countries and quotations of things they have said. (See recent Quaker News).

The Quaker peacemaker scheme which recruits people who want an opportunity to apply their commitment to peace and funds a placement for each of them with an organisation working on an aspect of peace in Britain or overseas. (In effect donating an extra, carefully chosen worker to that organisation for a year). The Sustainability and Peace programme helps BYM to become a low carbon, sustainable community and explores the connections between sustainability, economics and peace, aiming to influence governments and others to help transform Britain into a more sustainable society.

There are many resources available so that we can join in this work as individuals, small groups on particular issues, or as Meetings at Local or Area levels.

These include regular publications such as Earth and Economy and Educate and Disarm, and briefings on Trident and The new tide of militarisation. Another resource is a website: [www.yourfaithyourfinance.org](http://www.yourfaithyourfinance.org)

Swanwick Conference Centre is set in pleasant grounds so some groups met outside to take advantage of the sunshine,- and the food was good, varied and fresh with provision for special dietary needs.

## **Leeds SACRE( Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education) is currently revising the Leeds Agreed Syllabus which is used in our schools to teach R E.**

SACRE representatives have been asked to suggest what input can be made by their respective Faith Communities to support "The Leeds Agreed Syllabus for the teaching of World Religions and Non-Religious World Views"

**i.e. What, from a Quaker perspective, would you like to see included?** (For example, I see the Quaker Testimonies as making a very positive contribution.)

I give the following as a brief over-view:-

The syllabus will be based on six Strands:

Strand One: Learning to be (Exploring what makes us human)

Strand Two: Learning to know (Who is my neighbour?)

Strand Three : Learning to identify (Religions in local context)

Strand Four : Learning to live together (Human rights education)

Strand Five : Learning to listen: (Non-religious world views)

Strand Six: Learning to do (Contemporary issues)

It is intended that the syllabus will include an On-line resource bank to assist teaching staff to access relevant and up-to-date information so that they can deliver the curriculum appropriately.

I would appreciate assistance from Friends to help me make a **list of Quaker-related websites**, and any other related resource material.

If Friends have any comments or thoughts to offer about syllabus content, I can be contacted at [barby5witt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barby5witt@hotmail.co.uk) or details as listed in the Roundhay Meeting section of the List of Members and Attenders Directory. With many thanks for your assistance

Barbara Witt (Leeds Area Quaker Meeting representative on SACRE)

### **LAQM Minute 01/05/14: End-of-Life Care**

For the past three and a half years Leeds Area Quaker Meeting (LAQM) has been considering various aspects of the topic that is broadly covered by the term 'End-of-Life Care'. This arose out of the concern of an individual Leeds Friend about Assisted Dying.

Leeds Area Meeting considered this concern, and set up a working party to examine the issue further. In the intervening period the working party has reported regularly to the Area Meeting on its activities. These activities have, amongst others, included:

- The holding of a conference in Leeds in May 2012 entitled 'Dying and Death: the last Taboo', this was attended by around a hundred people interested in the topic;
- The running of a 'Special Interest Session' at Britain Yearly Meeting in May 2013;
- The holding of a series of 'Focus Groups' at the various Leeds Local Meetings looking at the question of Assisted Dying; and
- The devising and analysing of a questionnaire on 'End-of-Life Care' which was completed by around a hundred Leeds Friends.

Three related areas of concern have been identified by LAQM.

1. Attitudes towards death and dying We wish to see more openness when the topic of death and dying arises. We are conscious that it is often a taboo subject, and we would wish to encourage Friends to talk sensitively about the issues involved.
2. Assisted Dying We are keen to promote discussion amongst Friends on the subject of Assisted Dying. We recognise that there are differing views within the Society on this topic. We would hope that, in the course of time, as a Society we are able to come to some degree of discernment about the way forward.
3. Preparation for one's own death We are keen to ensure that Friends are fully aware of the steps they can take in preparation for their own death. We see our task to include the preparation of information sheets, and the holding of focus groups. In particular we would wish to help Friends to complete Advance Decisions, and to talk about the issues involved.

Throughout our deliberations what has been apparent is our sense of great compassion for those suffering at the end of their lives and the need for palliative care. We reflected on why the state of End-of-Life Care in Britain today leads some to consider the issue of Assisted Dying as the preferred option.

Leeds Area Quaker meeting feels that it has tested the End-of-Life Care concern, including the matter of Assisted Dying. LAQM agrees that this Minute should be sent to Meeting for Sufferings requesting that Sufferings consider adopting this concern with the possibility of establishing the Quaker view on Assisted Dying within the context of End-of-Life Care.

## **Assisted Dying – Towards a Quaker View?**

***Barbara and Paul Henderson***

When we joined Leeds Area Meeting's End of Life Care working party just over a year ago, little did we think that the work of the group would coincide with such an increase of public interest in the issue of assisted dying. It is true that Charles Falconer's Bill is due to have its second reading in the House of Lords before the summer recess. Furthermore, there have been a number of high profile cases and announcements in the media: the most recent being the pact of chat show hosts Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan to assist each other to die if needs be – regardless of any legal consequences.

### **End of Life Care**

In October 2010 Leeds Area Meeting received a minute from one of its Local Meetings, Adel, supporting the concern of an individual Friend about assisted dying. This Friend, Quentin Fowler, continues to be an inspiration for the work. An Assisted Dying working party was formed and it has undertaken a range of activities. Some of these have been reported in *The Friend* ('The last taboo' conference, Ben Francis, 10 August 2012; 'A good death', Caroline Humphries, 5 July 2013). The report by Ben Francis refers to the position on assisted dying in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. In this article we focus on the activities of the working party over the last year and on the way forward.

In May 2013 the name of the working party was changed to End of Life Care. This reflected the wider context in which the working party was moving, notably the context in which the issue of dying needs to be considered – palliative care, hospitals, nursing homes, preparation for one's own death and consideration of attitudes towards death and dying. The working party continued corresponding with the national Quaker Concern about Dying and Death group, which meets at Woodbrooke and runs courses there. The ongoing dialogue between the two groups is important. At Britain Yearly Meeting in May 2013 both groups ran special interest meetings. There was much interest in the topic and many Friends were supportive of the suggestion that BYM should consider it further.

### **Focus groups**

The working party has been fortunate in being able to draw upon the time and expertise of Judy Kessler, an attender at Carlton Hill Meeting in Leeds. She is studying for a MA at Leeds University and has undertaken research for the working party for her dissertation. There were two components of the research.

Firstly, all Leeds Quakers were given the opportunity to discuss assisted dying and related matters in focus groups. There were six of these, held at five different Meeting Houses. A total



of 55 people participated. The discussions were recorded and transcribed. The insights and ideas were powerful and often full of emotion.

On assisted dying, very few people were against it. Some said their minds were not made up: 'I see the benefits but have some reservations.' Most of the discussions were concerned that a change in the law needs to include safeguards to prevent abuse of the system. There was recognition that a change in the law in favour of assisted dying would need to happen in parallel with an increase in the availability of palliative care. The most distressing comments were those relating to the suffering witnessed because assisted dying was not available and treatment for pain was inadequate:

'I know she was in terrible pain. Between these bouts of morphine she used to get very agitated before it was time for her to have it. And that made her death and everything about it really hard.'

### **Accepting responsibility**

A theme running through the discussions was that of allowing individuals to accept responsibility before God for any choice they make, knowing that they would be supported in their choice by the community of Quakers around them. Analysis of the large amount of data collected from the focus groups has not been completed yet. The experiences, perspectives and ideas are insightful and moving. People spoke with openness and feeling.

Secondly, all Leeds Quakers were invited to complete a questionnaire on issues surrounding end of life care. The questionnaire was returned by 97 people, of whom 60 were female and 37 men. The size of the Quaker community in Leeds is in the region of 200 active members and attenders.

Of the respondents, 69% had written a will, suggesting that over 30% had not. Only 18.6% had prepared an advance decision with regard to wishes for their future. It surprised us that only 35.1% of respondents had spoken with their families about their wishes and only 12.5% had spoken with their doctor.

One question asked where people would prefer to die, if given a choice. When the answers are ranked, 96.4% would choose to die at home as either their first or second choice while 70.9% would choose a hospice. In 2012 the Office of National Statistics gave a figure of 71% of people wanting to die at home but, sadly, only 21% had this wish fulfilled; 53% died in hospital, 20% in care homes and only 6% died in a hospice.

### **Dignitas**

When asked whether, under any circumstances, they would go to Dignitas in Switzerland to end their own life, 36.1% replied yes, 27.9% no, 34% stated they did not know and 2% did not answer. However, in answer to the question whether the law on assisted dying should be

changed to allow a doctor or friend to assist another who is in extreme pain, is terminally ill and has requested help to die on more than one occasion and is thought to be within six months of death, the responses were as follows: yes (plus qualified yes) 81.9%, no (plus qualified no) 8.5% and don't know 9.6 %.

Respondents were asked to consider if the question of assisted dying is related to the Peace Testimony or other testimonies and beliefs. 53.9% (plus qualified yes) said yes, 27% no and 19.1% don't know. The comments received in answers to this question were strong and challenging, for example:

'We make no war, not even a just war. We eschew violence. Killing or colluding in killing is a form of violence.'

'Issues of dignity and respect – of seeing that of God in everyone – are key to finding a way forward on this issue.'

### **A minute**

The two research projects which we have summarised were central to helping the working party to ask Leeds Area Meeting to consider sending a minute to Meeting for Sufferings. At this point it became clear that the issue which concerned Friends most was that of assisted dying. A special Area Meeting was held. Twenty one Friends were present. Great care was taken to explain the origins and activities of the working party and this was followed by a sustained period of worship sharing. After a lengthy period of discernment a minute was agreed. The penultimate paragraph reads:

'Throughout our deliberations what has been apparent is our sense of great compassion for those suffering at the end of their lives and the need for palliative care. We reflected on why the state of end of life care in Britain today leads some to consider the issue of assisted dying as the preferred option.'

Quakers will, we are certain, bring a crucially important perspective to the national debate on assisted dying.

There can be little doubt that the Society of Friends needs to give itself time and opportunities to examine the matter in great depth. It is a difficult, complex and controversial issue.

*Barbara and Paul are members of Ilkley Meeting.*

All of findings of the questionnaire are available at: [www.leedsquakers.org.uk](http://www.leedsquakers.org.uk)

## Who are the LAQM Trustees and What Do They Do?

Trustees are Friends appointed by Area Meeting for periods of three years (can be extended to a maximum of nine years) to look after what you might call the 'nuts and bolts' of the Area Meeting. This includes supporting Area Meeting and Local Meetings in:

- the care of our properties and land
- proper use of our resources (i.e. consistent with our Governing Document)
- compliance with applicable legal requirements (e.g. Health & Safety, Employment, Data Protection)
- reporting to the Charity Commission, required now that LAQM is a Registered Charity
- management and use of our Trust Funds, again in accordance with their charitable objects.

Trustees generally meet five times a year, following traditional Quaker business practice and act collectively for the Area Meeting. They are drawn from all our Local Meetings (except for Otley and Gildersome, at the moment), in order to provide local knowledge and foster communication with Local Meetings.

Currently, LAQM Trustees are:

- Robert Gibson, Martin Ford (Ilkley)
- Audrey Acton, David Griffiths (Rawdon)
- David Owen, John Murdoch (Adel)
- Alison England, Christine Middleton (Roundhay)
- Judith Acton, Richard Hawkins (Carlton Hill)

The role of Trusteeship is relatively new for Quakers, only being introduced as a consequence of our moving to registered charity status, although the need to strengthen governance aspects of the Society was acknowledged before then. Working relationships between Trustees, AM and LMs will evolve, as we gain more experience. Today, there is growing recognition, nationally, of the value of having Trustees in the structure of the Society of Friends. Trustees are part of a wider community of Area Meeting Trustees across the country, and are supported by Quaker Stewardship Committee at Friends House.

If you have a particular issue you would like to raise, are interested in seeing the Minutes of Trustees meetings, or would like to know more about the work of Trustees generally, please do get in touch with the Trustees of your Local Meeting, or contact the Clerk to Trustees.

John Murdoch

Clerk, LAQM Trustees



### **News updates from Friends House:**

Every month, staff at Friends House, London, inform Area and Local Meeting Clerks about news and events that may be of interest to local Quakers

### **Friends House mailing;**

**Easter Tall Ship Event for children** see the blog, photos and video at:

[www.quaker.org.uk/tall-ship-event-2014](http://www.quaker.org.uk/tall-ship-event-2014)

**A day for re-imagining children and young people's work** 29 November 2014, Friends House see :[www.quaker.org.uk/Relmagine](http://www.quaker.org.uk/Relmagine)

**The Young Quaker** The Young Quaker (TYQ) is a magazine produced by Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM), and it's full of news, comment and opinion written by young Friends. See [theyoungquaker.org.uk](http://theyoungquaker.org.uk)

**Handling conflict in our meetings** Friday 27 – Sunday 29 June, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham See [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

**Do you want to speak out?** Saturday 12 July 2014, Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House Does your meeting want to speak out more effectively? A one-day workshop on 12 July in Edinburgh about advocacy and the media. Anne van Staveren, Media Relations Officer 020 7663 1048, [annev@quaker.org.uk](mailto:annev@quaker.org.uk)

**Support and resources for outreach and ministry: Let your life speak** Resources for Quaker Week (4–12 October 2014) including peace packs for schools, exhibitions, support for children and young people, and ways in which we can witness for peace on the centenary of World War I. [www.quaker.org.uk/outreach](http://www.quaker.org.uk/outreach)

### **New online catalogue for the Library of the Society of Friends**

Friends House Library has launched a new online archive and library catalogue. For the first time, records of archival and manuscript collections can be searched alongside the growing catalogue of printed materials. Archives and manuscripts catalogued include archives of BYM going back to the 17th century, London & Middlesex meetings, organisations like Friends Ambulance Unit, and over 1,000 manuscript collections (e.g. Elizabeth Fry's diaries).

You can use the new catalogue to find out more about what the Library holds, search in new ways, and get the information you need to plan your research before visiting.

Visit : [www.quaker.org.uk/cat](http://www.quaker.org.uk/cat) 020 7663 1135, [library@quaker.org.uk](mailto:library@quaker.org.uk)

**Head of Learning** A rare opportunity to become the new Head of Learning at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham. Details: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

***Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI) provides protection by presence, monitors human rights abuses, supports Israeli and Palestinian peace activists and advocates for an end to the occupation.***

# Ecumenical Accompaniers



Working as Human Rights Monitors

Based in the West Bank and Israel in 2015:

*18 vacancies for 3 months' service*

*2 vacancies for 4.5 months' service*

**living allowance + benefits**

Deadline for applications: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014

For more information and to download an application pack please check our website: [www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi](http://www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi)

(Please note that we will not be sending hard copies of the application pack and we can only receive electronic forms)

## ONCE UPON A CONFLICT (book review)



This little book is back by popular demand. A fairy-tale manual of conflict resolution for all ages, this book uses familiar stories to help readers realise that conflict is not always a bad thing. *Conflict can release creative energy, lead to the birth of new ideas. It can bring people together in a joint enterprise to find a solution, even if they were on opposing sides. It can also be very destructive and violent.* Tom Leimdorfer is a former head teacher of Sidcot Quaker School. Tom also worked for the Quakers as a pioneer of peace education, and on issues of conflict and peacebuilding in regions such as Croatia, his native Hungary, and the former Soviet Union. Once upon a conflict is inspired by Tom's belief that while we can't individually put an end to continued persecution, we can all be agents of change.

## Quaker House Flat for Sale

Quaker House, LEEDS: for sale NOW to active, retired, over 60s, a two bedroom, upstairs flat situated behind Carlton Hill Meeting House, on bus routes; quiet, communal garden. Contact Una Parker: Tel: 0113 244 5454 Email: unaparker@aol.com

Quaker House is a good place to live, with Woodhouse Moor and Park close by, small shops near, and banks and a Tesco Express a few minutes walk further. There are concerts and other activities available in the University, within easy walking distance. City centre shops, theatres, cinemas, Town Hall (concerts) are a few stops away on the frequent buses. Our pleasant garden offers opportunities for some gardening, though this is not a required activity.

