



Adel Meeting

Open Day

*The official launch of
the new Adel extension*

Saturday 25th April

11.00 till 3.00

We invite you to see our new extension. There will be light refreshments, information about Quakerism nationally and locally, and an exhibition including photos of Adel Grange and its 19th century Quaker occupants.

All Welcome

Pat Gerwat

Quaker Quest is ...

- ✓ *a search for the sacredness of each person*
- ✓ *an encounter with the divine through the power of silence*
- ✓ *a journey together in mutual responsibility*
- ✓ *a commitment to the ways of equality and non-violence*
- ✓ *an engagement with social inclusion*
- ✓ *a celebration of life in all its diversity and wholeness*

***Quaker Quest is at Adel
on every Wednesday in June***

3rd June:	Quakers and Worship
10 June:	Quakers and God
17 June:	Quakers and Christianity
24 June:	Quakers and Faith in action

6.30 - 7pm : Refreshments

7 – 8pm: Session with speakers and small groups

8 – 9pm: Worship for 30 minutes with intro and reflections at end

9 – 9.30: Notices, time for chat, bookstall, tea, coffee, biscuits.

Spread the word!

www.leedsquakers.org.uk

Turning over the soil

The Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group met together in February for a 'brain storming' session. We recognized how in the past five years we had planted lots of little seeds, some of which had flourished; others had fallen on stony ground.

Hence the need to turn over the soil before we started to plan(t) anew. This proved to be an exhilarating exercise as we individually considered what we would like to see changed in the Criminal Justice System. Ideas abounded – everything from 'Shall we ask the Chief Inspector of Prisons to come and talk to us?' to 'How do we disseminate information more effectively?' And a good deal more.

The Group will meet again on April 6th 2009 ... Anyone who is interested in furthering the cause of improving the criminal justice system would be extremely welcome to come along and participate.

Once we faced the pragmatism of what we could do in reality, it was decided that we would find out how we could work in partnership with existing organisations such as the West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project (WYCCP) which helps resettled men coming out of Armley Jail. Additionally, each of us undertook to find out as much as possible about existing resources, and various subgroups will look into a number of issues which concern us.

The Group will meet again on April 6th 2009 at 7.30pm at Carlton Hill Meeting House. Anyone who is interested in furthering the cause of improving the criminal justice system would be extremely welcome to come along and participate. Sowing seeds can be fun and the biscuits are excellent!

Phil O'Hare
Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group

Singing for God

Harry Gration, the popular newsreader and anchorman from BBC TV's 'Look North' will join the Leeds Guild of Singers for a concert celebrating the rich tradition of English church music through the ages.

Harry will provide the narration for 'Singing for God' - an entertaining illustrated journey through the history of English church music, performed by the choir, director Graham Coatman, with guest organist Nick Seddon. The programme will feature music by some of the most noted names in the choral repertoire, including Byrd, Gibbons, Purcell, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Howells, Taverner and Leighton.

St Matthew's Church, Chapel Allerton, Leeds LS7 3QF
Saturday 21 March 2009 at 7.30pm.

Tickets: £12, £10 (concessions), £5 (under 16), £25 family (2 adults, 2 children)
For more information call 0113 268 0600 or visit www.leedsquildofsingers.org.uk

Jane Brearley

The Convention on Modern Liberty

It is a crime to photograph a policeman.

A teenager was fined £50 when he threw a chip to a seagull.

Our government is complicit in torture.

Currently, there is a bill before parliament which would allow for some inquests to be held in secret

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On February 28th, the Convention on Modern Liberty was held in London. Fifteen hundred people heard an impressive line-up of speakers ranging from Shami Chakrabarti to Lord Bingham and the proceedings were relayed to eight centres round Britain. What was it for?

It has become a truism that, in the last decade, our civil liberties have been eroded. Many people are unaware of this or do not feel any impact on their lives. But the evidence is there.

- A member of parliament was arrested for accessing information from a civil servant which enabled him to call the government to account about aspects of their performance.
- Two people were arrested for standing on the Cenotaph steps and reading out the names of the dead from the Iraq war – there is a law which prevents demonstrations within a mile of the Houses of Parliament.
- It is a crime to photograph a policeman.
- Our government is complicit in torture. MI5 officials have known that torture is taking place and have asked for questions to be put to the prisoner during and after the process - contravening the international convention on torture. Our government refuses to allow documents relating to this to be revealed to the public. A British lawyer has seen these documents in the USA; if he revealed the contents here, he could be put in jail.
- Our government imprisons people without trial. There are a number of people currently under house arrest - they cannot move from their house without permission - who have never been brought to trial. When somebody applies for asylum, (s)he may be detained, i.e. imprisoned, immediately. This detention has sometimes lasted for years. In this process, children are imprisoned.
- Currently, there is a bill before parliament which would allow for some inquests to be held in secret (for reasons of security, it is said) contravening the basic premise that justice needs to be seen to be done. This same bill would allow data about anybody to be shared around government departments at the will of ministers. This contravenes the Data Protection Act.

Perhaps these issues seem far removed from our everyday lives, so here are a few more:

- A teenager was fined £50 by litter enforcement officers, when he threw a chip that he didn't want from a packet he was eating to a seagull.
- A community nurse was suspended for six weeks because she offered to pray for a 79 year old patient. She had been accused of not showing 'personal and professional commitment to equality and diversity'.
- Police sent two officers to the home of an 11 year old boy and two to his primary school to investigate after he sent an email calling one of his friends 'gay.'
- A man was issued a £75 fine when he (legally) flicked ash from his car window. He challenged the fine, was prosecuted and convicted and forced to pay a fine of £600.
- Poole Borough Council used RIPA surveillance laws to follow a family for 2 weeks who were (wrongly) accused of lying on a school application form.

As David Davies said in one of the keynote speeches, none of this makes us a police state. But, he said, we must ask ourselves how far the process has to go before we become one. Suppose five MPs had been arrested? Suppose demonstrations were banned in the whole of Westminster? Suppose we were asked to accept that some trials should be held in secret? If this seems apocalyptic, Philip Pullman in another excellent speech sketched out the kind of country that he would like Britain to be – and we realised how far the reality is from his ideal.

Henry Porter, writing in the Guardian the following Tuesday said, ' This was not simply an event about the attack on liberty but something far more moving – an assertion of a culture. After years of watching the slow extinction of parliamentary debate and the triumph of irony and cynicism in the media, it was sheer delight to hear people talk so earnestly.

If you would like to know more, look at <http://www.modernliberty.net>

Peter Coltman

Meeting for Sufferings

Meeting for Sufferings at Friends House in London on 7/2/09 was not something to look forward to – a freezing 5:20am walk to the train station and something much worse, the prospect of friends falling out with one another.....

At the back end of 2008, Sufferings was presented with a document prepared by the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR). This document was in response to World Council of Churches regarding the 'nature and purpose of the church'. When this document was presented, there was no unity at Sufferings and no clear way forward other than to request that QCCIR look again at the document and make considerable amendments prior to bringing the document back to our February 09 meeting. The point about this document is that it is not intended for our own benefit, but for the benefit of World Council of Churches - for Christian Churches to better understand Quaker belief. Throughout the document, the language used may no longer be familiar to friends, but it is the language that is used by most Christians and topics covered included apostolic faith, baptism, Eucharist, Biblical Insight, sin, ordained ministry etc.

The first session of the day started in our home groups, with each of the home groups consisting of about a dozen friends, so it was far easier for us to look at and discuss the changes to the document. The preamble to the document now included "our consultation within the Yearly Meeting has shown that there are among our members those who are uncomfortable with expressing our faith in traditional Christian language. We believe that faith cannot be adequately expressed in words: it is for this reason that we resist using creeds or even

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subscribing to a basis of belief. Nevertheless, we have to try to explain ourselves whilst recognising that whatever is written will be partial and inadequate.' The Quaker position was also expressed quite clearly in the passage that now read 'we emphasise that it is not adherence to doctrine that makes us disciples, but faithfulness to the will of God. As such, the Religious Society of Friends has differed from other churches in regarding positively those who doubt the historic statements of faith. However important doctrine may be, faith is not words but lived experience. While the Quaker avoidance of credal statements can lead us into difficulties when we try to explain what we believe, it is our experience that the practice of Quaker worship can bring together very diverse people who, in obedience to the inward teacher, are led to share, if sometimes inarticulate, understanding.'

In my home group, it was very clear that there was a range of views varying from friends both passionately supporting and opposing the document. We had a mini threshing meeting and it was good to get rid of some of the 'hot air'. For my own part, I did confess to my own failings at being unable to fully understand some of the Christocentric language, but I was happy to trust the friends who had done so much work on QCCIR on our behalf - I was also able to remind friends that we must discern the way forward in the plenary

session, and be open to the ministry given. My advice appeared to have fallen of deaf ears, because when we gathered for the main session there was much disunity, with some 'weighty Quakers' being very critical of the report. There was no clear way forward and the clerk was unable to prepare a minute reflecting the will of the meeting. With time running out, we broke for lunch - a more than welcome treat followed in the Friends House restaurant. Progress was slow in the afternoon session, the clerk was able to observe, quite correctly, that the mood of the meeting was changing from one view point to another and this was making it virtually impossible to draft a unifying minute. We had to stop for the afternoon tea break, during which some the clerk did some truly inspirational minute drafting, which we were able to support on our return. In short, we supported the work done by QCCIR in drafting the document, whilst still making it very clear that the document did not represent the views of all friends.

Robert Keeble

Humanity

When, as human beings, we find ourselves in such mortal danger, as I did recently, following a car crash, you see the best and the worst of humanity. My life was saved by the quick thinking of some passers by, as I was helped to escape from my car in which I was trapped and which was teetering half and half above a 30 foot drop. Whilst some one helped me to escape the car, as others helped to stop the car going down the drop below, by sitting, literally, on the back of my car to balance it, others, I understand, were standing around, whilst I was still trapped inside the car, taking photos with their mobile phones. This shocks and hurts me, as I would certainly have been killed had the car gone down the drop, and the sudden death, of an unknown driver, would no doubt have been the latest sensational phone video on U Tube.

Humanity

We are the children of creation
Born of the fire of stars
And the depth of our love and humanity
Is the measure of the people we are
Our home.... this precious.... blue island Earth
One life times journey
Through time and space
In our care the flagships of the universe
Love.... hope.....charity.....and grace.

Paul Martin Emery

So we see that all of life and humanity, in all its vulnerability, its most selfish and uncaring, and its most heroic and selfless, is suddenly on display in the disturbed quiet of a weekday afternoon. I am told that this week (unsolicited) I am front page news, but as unwelcome as that is, next week (thank the Lord) I will be the wrapping for fish and chip suppers.....I am though, truly grateful to all those who helped me to survive, and it still shows, that in the main, despite all the cynicism in life sometimes, that fellow human beings, still care for fellow human beings they find in such danger, and that is truly humbling.

My following concentrates on the better side of this precious and precarious condition we call life and our humanity. My Poem is called humanity.....

Paul Emery

Free Food Fair

**Saturday 21st March
11am - 2pm**

at

Carlton Hill Meeting House

meat-free and dairy-free food samples

Vegan café

Info stalls by

Leeds Veggie & Vegan Society
Leeds Animal Protection & Animal Aid

This event has been arranged via
Ali Joy of Adel Meeting as part of the
Quaker Living Witness Project concern.



LWP **FREE** **ANIMAL AID**
Food Fair

**Sat 21st
March
Free
entry**  **11am
to
2pm**

Come and try free tasty meat-free and dairy-free food samples.
Plus vegan cafe and free info stalls by Leeds Veggie and
Vegan Society, Leeds Animal Protection and Animal Aid.

Free gorgeous recipes
Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, LS2 9DX
(opp Leeds Uni Mechanical Engineering Dept)
buses 1, 56 and 96 from city centre or on-street parking

Kindly sponsored by Animal Aid
www.animalaid.co.uk

Designed by www.emonkeys.co.uk Printed by www.designgraphic.co.uk



World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour

It's as simple as the flick of a switch

On **Saturday 28 March 2009** at 8.30pm, people, businesses and iconic buildings around the world will switch off their lights for an hour.

WWF want a billion people around the world to sign up and join in.

Sign up to show that you care about people, wildlife and the planet, and that you want the world's leaders to take action to tackle climate change.

Or you can watch our short film to find out more about WWF's Earth Hour.

http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/aboutearthhour/

“Faith in Politics”

19th March 2009

speaker

Greg Mulholland MP,

venue St Edmunds Church, Roundhay

7.30pm, speaker 30-45 minutes,

followed by question time, then light refreshments, and finishing at 9pm

Having time to do the really life enhancing & meaningful things in life

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter,
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your
hair;

A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go (and go you must)
You, yourself, will make more dust.

Rose Milligan

The Funding Network, Leeds

Meet the people and projects you support, rather than simply writing out a cheque?

We would like to invite you to an event on **Wednesday 25th March 2009** that will let you experience a radically new approach to philanthropy. The event will take place from **6.00 – 9.00 pm** at the Yorkshire Bank in Leeds. The evening is completely free of charge and will include light refreshments.

The concept is simple – we invite five charitable projects to present their work to a group of invited guests interested in enterprising charities. There is then an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. If you're inspired to help, you can do so on the spot, either during the lively open session or through an anonymous pledge.

CECOWOR: a project working to provide educational support to Tribal people in villages in rural Tamil Nadu, South India.

"Buster's at Becklin" is an amazing café situated inside the Leeds Partnerships Foundation Trust's adult acute inpatient site for people with mental health issues.

The Theatre in Education Company specialise in running "educational theatre programmes" which start with a play which engages groups in a realistic story, followed by group work that examines difficult and relevant social issues safely.

CROP – Coalition for the Removal of Pimping. Based in Leeds, this small charity works alongside parents to end the exploitation of children and young people by pimps and traffickers.

Schumacher North is looking to create a "virtual college" for sustainability.

More information at...
www.thefundingnetwork.org.uk


"There are some good projects presenting and the style of the evening is really fun. There is no obligation to give.

Graham Prescott who is sponsoring the CECOWOR project is a Quaker from Halifax meeting." **Susan Seymour**

Leeds Quakers

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Carlton Hill (Central Leeds) Room Hire



Rooms available for hire for training events, meetings, staff away days and interest groups

- Day rates include **Fairtrade** teas / coffee and biscuits
- Very **easily accessible** by public transport, some parking also available
- Fully accessible for disabled users / disabled parking space
- Modern, light rooms with pleasant gardens and a **warm welcome** from a team of four wardens
- Equipment** available: OHP, lecturn, TV/Video system, slide projector and flip chart stand

Costs vary from £15 for hire of a small room for the evening only - to £85 for a fully inclusive day package for not for profit organisations (£105 for commercial organisations)

Small room accommodates 25 people, large room accommodates up to 80 people

To book rooms please contact the wardens on 0113 2422208 or e-mail bookings.carltonhill@leedsquakers.org.uk (if no reply to e-mail within 24 hours please ring)

[back to Carlton Hill](#)

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting : Part of Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

SITE MAP SEARCH

The Leeds Quaker website's new makeover.
Go on, take a look! Are your Meeting's details still adequate and up to date?