

THE QUIET WORD



Meeting for worship

August 2015 issue no.6

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting
House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,
Leeds, LS27 7HX
tel: 0113 2564944 or 07973 450368
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
1st Sunday of month 10:45 at various
houses.
3rd Sunday every month in The Court
House - usually in the Robing room .
Enquiries :0113 318 8084 dmr@cooptel.net

RAWDON
Friends Meeting House-
Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,
LS19 6HU
tel: 07582 960092
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,
10.30 am



Something from NASA? No, it's the rooftop skyline of the University of Leeds Parkinson building as seen from Carlton Hill MH.



IN THIS ISSUE

Remember Hiroshima

Militarisation of Schools

Trident

Gildersome

and much, much more

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

August

Sunday 9th 10.30am Nagasaki & Hiroshima Memorial Service, Park Square, Leeds

Sunday 9th 3pm 'Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki say NO to TRIDENT' gather outside Leeds Art Gallery and take the Leeds 'Trident' banner to the memorial at Park Square.

Sunday 16th 10.45am **Otley Quaker Meeting**

Monday 24th 7.30pm **Introducing Leeds City of Sanctuary** - arranged by Leeds interfaith group, Concord and hosted at QMH 188 Woodhouse Lane, LS2 9DX

September

Thursday 3rd 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship at Carlton Hill

Saturday 5th Annual Outing - destination: Farfield Quaker Meeting House and Bolton Abbey - see page 11 for details

Sunday 6th 2pm Trident - what next planning meeting at QMH 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds

Saturday 12th 1pm to 4pm Heritage Open Day at Rawdon QMH

Sunday 13th 12noon to 4pm Heritage Open Day at Gildersome QMH

Monday 14th 7.30pm **Death and Beyond in Christianity & Baha'i faiths** - arranged by Leeds interfaith group, Concord and hosted at QMH 188 Woodhouse Lane, LS2 9DX

Sunday 20th 10.45am Otley Quaker Meeting

Sunday 27th 7.30pm **Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH**

October

Friday 9th 'For Conscience Sake' a play about opposition to conscription in World War One. Ilkley QMH.

@Sunday 11th 1pm to 4.15pm **Leeds Area Quaker Meeting Topic 'Spirituality'** to be held at Rawdon QMH

Sunday 11th 7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH

Saturday 17th 10am to 4pm **Quakers in Yorkshire** at Bootham School, York.

Sunday 18th 10.45am **Otley Quaker Meeting**

Saturday 31st 10am to 1pm Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group seminar - all welcome

Sunday 9th August
3pm

**Remember Hiroshima and
Nagasaki – say no
to TRIDENT**



Gather outside Leeds Art
Gallery to remember those who
died in the Atomic bomb attacks
on Japan 70 years ago,
then proceeding with the Leeds
Quaker 'Trident' banner to the Park Square
Hiroshima Peace Memorial



The Unseen March

Militarism is ever-present in British society. Soldiers have always marched at state events; cadet forces are part of state and private schools; armed forces recruiting offices can be found in many town centres. Successive governments have been under constant pressure from arms manufacturers to buy more weapons.

But there is a new and different tide of militarisation that has developed over the last five years. The general public do not seem to be aware of it, and it is not being discussed or scrutinised. There is a coherent government strategy behind this tide, which is aimed at increasing support for the military.

The main reason the government is seeking to increase support for the military is to raise the willingness of the public to pay for the military, to make recruitment easier, and stifle opposition to unpopular wars.

The former Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has said that "Every child can benefit from the values of a military ethos." His enthusiasm for military involvement has resulted in a 'Military Ethos Programme', designed to "foster confidence, self-discipline and self-esteem whilst developing teamwork and leadership skills."

This involves the Department for Education working in partnership with the Ministry of Defence to fund a range of projects across many aspects of education. These include a £10.85m expansion of the cadet forces so that 100 more state schools will be able to develop cadet forces by 2015; 'Troops to Teachers', to fast-track graduate and non-graduate ex-military personnel into teaching; and £8m for 'alternative provision with a military ethos' – educational programmes for young people permanently excluded from school, staffed by ex-military personnel, and some of which involve doing activities in military uniforms. In addition to hundreds of thousands of visits to schools, the military provide an increasingly wide range of free resources and lesson plans to primary and secondary schools, offer trips to bases, run activity days, support schools to get involved with Armed Forces Day and play an active part in careers events.

To inform the general public of this worrying trend QPSW have produced a short film called The Unseen March. They are now asking Quakers to:

intensify the debate of militarised education.

- **Right Now:** Contact your Member of Parliament. Ask him/her to watch "The Unseen March"
- **In September:** Question schools about military involvement for the new term.

The Unseen March has received over 10,000 views in its first month. Although it was discussed on national and local BBC radio, Friends' efforts on and offline have been essential to the film's spread.

The debate raised by The Unseen March is also being carried into communities by Quakers across Britain in Nailsworth, Castle Douglas, Yorkshire, Wilmslow, Hexham, Godalming, Banbury and Evesham, Liverpool and Warwick.

DVD copies are available for Quaker Meetings, email the Quaker Centre at quakercentre@quaker.org.uk or call 020 7663 1030

The above text taken from the QPSW Briefing Sheet, available for download
<http://www.quaker.org.uk/sites/default/files/Militarisation-briefing-web-190515.pdf>

Over the Top - Military influence in our schools and society

We're Journeymen Theatre Company and last year we were approached by Central England Peace Committee to devise and produce a theatre-based response to WWI. What we were led to do was to make a play which combined elements from WWI and 21st century conflicts but which also highlighted the insidious and inexorable march of military influence in schools. Our resulting project is entitled Over the Top; a 50 minute play exploring the dilemma created when two contrasting points of view over the role of the military in our schools and society clash and reach a head-on confrontation.

SW-Central-England-AM-Peace-over-the-top.jpg One of the two characters who appear in the play is a lifelong Quaker and peace activist. She also happens to be a war widow, having lost her army chaplain husband in the Iraq war eleven years previously. 'Kathy' has had her Quaker ideals and beliefs both stretched and strengthened in some ways by this tragedy but it can also make her seem intractable to her young son in particular. Matters come to a head when she has to act as a matter of conscience to try to prevent a full military training option being offered at her son's school as part of a Creative Challenge programme. Here she meets the full force of the head teacher, Dr Roberts, who sees nothing but positive advantages for his school through engaging closely with the military on as many occasions as possible.



We have already had eight performances of the show in Birmingham, Stourbridge and Coventry schools and colleges to groups of very engaged and sometimes very informed young people. RE teachers are particularly enthusiastic about Over the Top as it brings certain key features of Quaker faith to life and shows elements of Quakerism in practice. It also allows them to examine and discuss what may be happening in their own schools and, at the very least, raises the issue of white poppies for Remembrance Day and why are these not offered as an alternative or adjunct to traditional red ones. Teachers have frequently approached us afterwards to quietly express appreciation and to confide that the play says things that they would like to say in their lessons but feel it would be unsafe to do so.

The play is now developing another life as it is being booked by concerned Quakers countrywide to be used as a springboard to begin the discussion about military creep in our schools and society with public groups. This play is our faith in action; we regard it a kind of travelling ministry, outreach and as a way of demonstrating that we don't just sit quietly and attempt to lead a peaceful life but that we're also a radical and pro-active Society with a powerful vision for a different world.

Lynn and David Morris

**Stourbridge Meeting
May 2015**

Quaker Press Release

– the following press release was mentioned in
the Yorkshire Evening Post and Morley Observer

38 foot Trident Submarine visits Gildersome

On Sunday 12th July, Quakers at Gildersome unveiled a 38 foot long 'Trident Submarine' at the Quaker Meeting House on Street Lane, Gildersome.

Leeds Quakers have been part of an ongoing peace protest against Trident Nuclear Weapons and believe that nuclear weapons, like all weapons of mass destruction, are immoral. Quakers have a long history of working for peace and were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947.

There have been Quakers worshipping at Gildersome from 1705. The present Meeting House on Street Lane was built in 1757 and remains substantially unchanged. The Meeting House is open every Sunday morning when Quaker Worship is held from 10.45am to 11.45am. Visitors are welcome.

There are many interesting episodes in the Gildersome Quaker Meetings history. One is story of Robert Walker, who was a clothier at Gildersome and became a prominent Quaker. In 1775 he was visiting North America and was concerned that a bitter hatred of the 'Mother country' was developing. Just before he was to return to England, he learned that the 'same resentful spirit animated the meeting of the newly formed Congress'. He felt a deep concern to pay a religious visit and speak to the Congress. Without entering into a discussion of political matters, he told Congress that he had 'prayed to God on their behalf and that He would guide them in all their proceedings'. He was well received by many of the Congress members, but others were of the view that he was British spy who had assumed the character of Quaker-preacher. This resulted in a military officer and twelve men being ordered to arrest Robert Walker. However, he had already begun his journey home and unknown to him at the time, escaped a rather uncertain fate as the vessel that was sent to capture him lost sight of his ship in fog. Sadly, he was not successful in his endeavours to avoid war between American and Britain and there followed the eight year American War of Independence.

What is Trident? It is the UK's Nuclear Weapon system, presently consisting of four 150m long submarines, each carrying eight Trident missiles with up to five nuclear warheads on each missile. One submarine could destroy 40 cities. In 2016 the government will decide on whether to start constructing new replacement submarines. The cost of the replacement and maintaining the new submarines is estimated at £100, 000, 000, 000 (one hundred **billion**). This is enough money to fund one of the following*:

- * All A&E departments for 40 years
- * 150,000 new nurses, for 30 years
- * 30,000 new primary schools
- * Scrap tuition fees for 30 years
- * Insulate 15 million homes





The Quaker Trident banner at Gildersome. Local Area Quaker Meeting July 2015



Celebrating Three Hundred Years of Quaker Worship at Gildersome

At the July LAQM at Gildersome Meeting House Robert Keeble gave us this fascinating history of the Meeting

This is a short and **personal** history of Gildersome Meeting as experienced by the Arthington and Horsfall family — based mainly on Jean Mortimer's book, *Quakers in Gildersome*, which was printed twenty-five years ago and retold by Robert Keeble at a recent gathering of Leeds Quakers.

Having met George Fox near Wakefield in 1651, William Dewsbury became the first Quaker in Leeds. William convinced many people by his preaching and within a few years Friends were becoming known as a group in Leeds. At that time, they met in the open air or in each other's houses. The restoration of Charles II in 1660 was followed by many years of severe persecution of all dissenters, and many Friends suffered imprisonment and distraint of goods.

Some of the earliest records allude to Quakers in the Gildersome area. There was William Cundall, a clothier of Morley, who in 1666 was accused and fined £4 for being a Quaker — the goods taken from him vastly exceeded the £4 fine and included his cows, all the family beds

and his work loom. In 1683, Robert Arthington, who was a steward on the Farnley estate and perhaps the wealthiest of the Leeds Quakers at that time, was fined £1. 17s. for attending a Quaker Meeting; on another occasion he was fined 40s and committed to prison. He also had tithes taken in kind to the value of £14.

It was not until the Toleration Act of 1689 that Friends were able to worship in freedom. Friends would have walked many miles to attend Meeting for Worship at the new Meeting House in Leeds. In May 1700 it was agreed to hold a general Meeting which was hosted by Robert Arthington at Farnley. At about this time, evening Meetings in the localities around Leeds were held as a convenience for those living and working outside the town, but Friends were expected to attend regular meetings in Leeds and particularly the Preparative or Business Meeting held every month because they were all Members of the Leeds Meeting. Evening worship was held in Morley, usually at William Benson's house, but in 1702 William Benson

was under a cloud *for driving away with his own cows, one that was not his.*

In 1707 Gildersome Friends were given permission to hold a Meeting on the first and third Sundays of the month and in 1709 the first Gildersome Meeting House was built near to Turton Hall at a cost of £59; unfortunately, there was a shortfall as only £54 had been raised including a donation of £7 from Robert Arthington who became one of five trustees.

In 1710 Gildersome Friends requested that they hold their own Business Meeting, independent of Leeds. Brighouse Monthly Meeting minuted: *"That Friends living at Gildersome, Morley and Farnley who have formerly been of Leeds meeting shall from this time forth for the better conveyiency of their children and familys hold a meeting of themselves every first day at their meeting house newly erected at Gildersome ... Robert Arthington and Joseph Dickinson are ordered to see that representatives from Gildersome meeting be duely sent up to the Monthly Meeting and Thomas Benson and William Dickinson are ordered to see after the necessities of the poor and that Friends behave themselves orderly in meeting and elsewhere."*

Discipline was a challenge for the new Meeting. Some Friends may know that my son is called Eli so I feel some connection to the fact that when in 1710 Eli Watson took up residence with Tryphene Roe, Friends at Gildersome issued a paper of denial against them. Also that year, Mary Rayner had to be cautioned against taking too much strong drink and the same concern was raised with John Horner; Friends laboured with him hoping that he would mend his ways but to no avail and he was disowned. Supporting those in need was equally challenging for the new Meeting. John Wareing of Morley was given financial support in 1711 but died soon after; the Meeting then supported his widow and, when she also died, met the cost of the burials, a cost that they were later able to claim back from the Monthly Meeting. These personal accounts of Gildersome's first few years allude to a vibrant and energetic Meeting facing challenges as demanding as any Meeting today.

Whilst Robert Arthington was one of five named trustees, this is only half of the story, because although all the trustees were men, their wives were a very important part in the life of the

Meeting. Robert's wife, Hellina, was active in the Women's Preparative Meeting and was a representative to Monthly Meeting on some eighty occasions. The Quakers at Gildersome were part of an extensive 'Quaker family' and were well connected to Friends throughout the Monthly Meeting area and beyond. At that time, Brighouse Monthly Meeting covered a huge area and entailed travelling to Monthly Meetings in places such as Brighouse, Bradford and Halifax; clearly, this was no small undertaking. Robert's oldest son, John, followed his father's leading and became a trustee of the new Water Lane Meeting House in Leeds; he had five children including a daughter, Sarah Arthington.

Marriages 'out' were a problem for any Quaker Meeting, with the younger generation not always following the advice of their elders. The consequence of marriage in church 'by a priest' to someone not in the Society was disownment. In 1731 it was rumoured that Sarah Arthington had been married by a priest. She was several times invited to give an account of her conduct to the Meeting but she declined, so two Gildersome Elders travelled to Pontefract to try to see her. When the marriage was confirmed, she was disowned — this news must have been devastating for her family. However, there is a happy ending in that Sarah was later reinstated by Pontefract Monthly Meeting.

Friends came from America, as well as from Ireland and Scotland, in addition to those English Friends who made a practice of travelling in the ministry. This was one of the ways in which Friends kept in touch with each other. Gildersome Meeting recorded many such visits, including visiting Friends from Pennsylvania in 1751. Maybe these Friends inspired Robert Walker, who was a clothier, and was to become Gildersome's best known Quaker minister. His travels took him around the country, to Ireland and to America where he even spoke to the newly formed American Congress attempting to avert war with the Mother Country.

It may be that by 1756 or thereabouts the Meeting House was not large enough to accommodate all who came to Meeting, or possibly, there were other problems with the building and its close proximity to Turton Hall. When the deed of a new Meeting House was drawn up, it was stated that *'the trustees ...*

have been minded to move the said Meeting House to a place more commodious and more to the satisfaction of the Society'. The land for the new Meeting House — our present location — was purchased for £35; the lease was for 6000 years with a yearly rent of one peppercorn, if demanded. The new Meeting House was registered as a place of Worship on 31 March 1758. William Horsfall was one of the new trustees and also one of the first Friends to be buried in the new burial ground.

This was an interesting period for Friends at Gildersome: the Monthly Meeting had identified Gildersome as the site for a new Quaker boarding school to help in the education of children from poorer Quaker families. The school opened in 1772 at Gilead farm near to Gildersome. Children from poorer families were supported by Monthly Meetings, whilst other families had the choice of paying 10 guineas for the year or 8 guineas, **but** if 8 guineas were paid, then the children were required to undertake three or four hours work each day. We can speculate on the nature of the work, but we do have a clue as milk was served at every meal, so hand milking and animal husbandry were almost certainly one of the many jobs undertaken. The opening of the school, which drew children from Yorkshire, London and beyond, helped to boost the Meeting so that by 1791 Gildersome Friends wanted to rebuild the Meeting House so that it might accommodate future Monthly Meetings. The estimate was £513 but to Gildersome Friends' frustration, Monthly Meeting deferred a decision for three years and this led to Gildersome Friends proceeding with their own refurbishment works costing £229.

In 1796 sixteen new trustees were appointed including Joseph Horsfall, who was a clothier. Joseph had recently married Mary Wilson from Bradford who became an Overseer at Gildersome. Mary had been part of an extended Quaker family that went back four generations; however, her family had fallen on hard times following the death of her father when she was only eight. Her father, William Wilson, is my great-great-great-great-great-grandfather and suffered ruinous financial losses in America which were due to the War of Independence. Mary's younger brother, Edward Wilson, my great-great-great-great-grandfather, travelled to Philadelphia, succeeded in recovering the family property, paying off all his father's debts and making his own fortune in banks and railways.

However, misfortune followed Mary when her husband, Joseph Horsfall, went bankrupt in 1820, following losses on sales abroad. A Monthly Meeting committee was appointed to look into Joseph's affairs and it was found that there was nothing to suggest that his intentions were not strictly honest and they felt for him in the calamitous and unexpected circumstances in which he found himself. For this reason, he was not disowned. This was good news because whilst a new cottage had been added to the Meeting House to accommodate a resident caretaker in about 1810, the Meeting was in decline and by 1827 only seven men and nine women members were listed at Gildersome. The 'low state of Gildersome Meeting' was considered at the Monthly Meeting at Halifax on 18 April 1828 and Joseph, who was the Gildersome representative, reported that a committee had been appointed consisting of twelve weighty Friends 'to sit with friends of Gildersome from time to time as may appear to them most suitable'. The committee, working with Gildersome Friends, arranged for the Men and Womens' Preparative Meeting to be held together, for the PM to be held at a time when committee members could also attend and for Brighouse Monthly Meeting to take responsibility for the property. New trustees were appointed including Joseph's son, Wilson Horsfall, who was a draper in Leeds. None of the new trustees lived in Gildersome.

Unfortunately, Joseph Horsfall continued trading whilst in a precarious financial position and became insolvent for a second time — he was disowned in 1830 and although he appealed to Quarterly Meeting against his disownment, he was not successful. He died in 1833 aged fifty-eight; nevertheless, he must have been well liked as he was buried at the Gildersome Meeting House burial ground. Joseph's misfortune is mirrored by that of Gildersome Meeting which continued to decline so that by 1835 there were only **five** Friends belonging to Gildersome Meeting, so the Meeting became part of Leeds Preparative meeting again.

In 1842 it was agreed to hold Meeting for Worship on Sundays at 3pm so that Friends could visit more easily. In order to accommodate the visiting Friends, the stable,

carriage house and waiting room were erected in 1849 at a cost of £216. In 1853 some thirty-three Friends were appointed to visit Gildersome Meeting from time to time. With this support, the numbers attending the Meetings for Worship grew so that by 1881 there was a membership of sixteen and eleven Attenders. In 1882 the summer Meetings were held at 6pm and from 1889 all Sunday Meetings were held at 6pm. At some point in the twentieth century, the present practice of holding worship at 10.45am on Sundays was adopted.

The most recent change to take place was the transfer of the responsibility for Gildersome Meeting House from Brighouse, Leeds and Settle Trust Funds to Leeds Area Quaker Meeting —this transfer took place this year.

I have focussed on the Arthington and Horsfall family but there are many other families connected to Gildersome including the Armistead, Atkinson, Benson, Dickinson, Ford, Gerlder, Hopkin, Jowitt,

Robinson, Scott, Thackrah, Ventress, Walker and others. I have discovered that my great-great-great-great-uncle, Joseph Horsfall, is buried at Gildersome; statistically, many readers will also have relatives buried there as well.

When considering our future at Gildersome, it is interesting to note that our Quaker forbearers took a 6000 year lease on the land — by my calculation, this gives us another 5741 years of potential Quaker witness at Gildersome!

In addition to Jean's wonderful book on Gildersome history, I have been able to draw on my own family archive and it was by chance that I spotted the Gildersome connection. The 'Wilson' history was researched by my great-great-grandfather in the 1890s!

Robert Keeble

A copy of Jean Mortimer's book, "Quakers in Gildersome", is in the library at Carlton Hill MH.



Friends from all Meetings are asked to support Gildersome Friends and attend Meetings whenever possible.

Friends Meeting House, 75 Street Lane, Gildersome, Leeds LS27 7HX. Meeting for Worship 10.45

Rejuvenating our Meetings

At the Leeds Area Quaker Meeting (LAQM), held in July at Gildersome Meeting House, Friends were asked “How can we rejuvenate our Meetings?” and “How can we work together to support one another at different Meetings?” A number of useful suggestions were put forward. In answer to first question:

- * Hold an open-day event to encourage all-age groups;
- * More opportunities to meet, besides Meeting for Worship;
- * Do more outreach; be a presence at parish and council events and the various summer fairs.
- * More social events.

In answer to the second question:

- * Friends to commit to attending LAQM activities.
- * More co-ordination; all Local Meeting events should be publicised across the whole Area Meeting and open to Friends from all Meetings.
- * Friends could visit other Meetings regularly to share good practice.
- * Make other Meetings aware when support is needed.

Our clerks will consider all suggestions.

Area Meeting Annual Outing

Saturday 5th September

Farfield Quaker Meeting House & Bolton Abbey

Itinerary:

Meet in Addingham , 6 Bark Lane, at 12.00 – 12. 15.



No X84 bus runs almost door to door from Carlton Hill (via Adel/Otley/Ilkley) to Addingham - the service leaves the Woodhouse Moor stop at 11am and arrives at 12.08 in Addingham. There is a 7 minute walk to 6 Bark Lane.

Double up in cars and travel to Farfield Meeting House for packed lunch

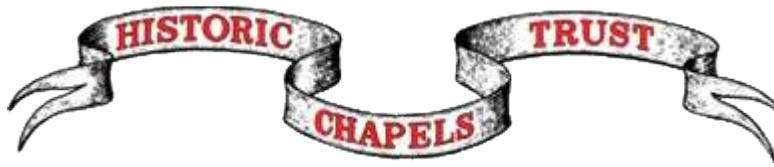
Meeting for Worship 1.15

Travel to Bolton Abbey for guided tour (Friends can park just outside the Priory Church (£2))

Tea at the Cavendish Tearooms for those who wish to go there. (It is a 15 – 20 minute walk or you can go by car (£8 per car to be shared))

Contact Martin Ford 01943 879 398 martin.fordfamily@talktalk.net





Farfield Friends Meeting House

Near Addingham, West Yorkshire | Listed Grade II*

Grid reference: SE076518

History and Architecture

Anthony Myers, of Catgill near Bolton Abbey, provided land for a Quaker burial ground at Farfield in 1666. Three years later he gave an adjoining plot for the meeting house, which was built later that year. It is a simple single cell building with stone walls and mullioned windows. The roof is stone slated and supported by a single king post truss. Its floor is stone flagged. Apart from two loose benches, the only fitting is the oak minister's stand, of an unusual panelled design with turned balusters.

In the burial-ground is a row of five table-tombs commemorating the Myers family. These are rare features in a Quaker burial ground and provide evidence of a commemorative practice that the Quakers subsequently discouraged.

Repair and Regeneration

Historic Chapels Trust (HCT) completed a programme of repair in the mid 1990s. HCT leases a piece of land adjacent to the Meeting House where there is a small picnic and parking area for visitors.

See the short film on Youtube: <http://tinyurl.com/pd49svj>

Heritage Weekend



Rawdon Meeting House was built in 1697 and is a listed building of Special Architectural and Historic Interest. See the websites <http://tinyurl.com/ppu9zyl> and <http://www.guise.plus.com/Rawdon/textile.htm>

Gildersome Meeting House was built 1757 and is a Grade II listed building. See Robert Keeble' article on page 7.



Rawdon Meeting House will be open on **Saturday, 12 September** and Gildersome Meeting House will be open on **Sunday, 13 September** in the afternoon – please support these meetings by attending, acting as a welcome and possibly helping with the washing up. Good company and a welcomed drink are provided.

Get ready for Quaker Week!

Quaker week is to be held from the 3rd to 11th October.

Carlton Hill meeting is planning a cycle ride and looking at holding an open air Meeting for Worship.



Otley meeting is scheduled to host the Churches Together in Otley Prayer Breakfast from 08.00 – 09.00 on 3 October.



Ilkley meeting has invited Plain Quakers, on Friday, 9 October. The play this group will perform, 'For Conscience Sake', is about opposition to conscription in World War One.

Roundhay Quaker Meeting have wisely decided to give friends short break and intends to hold a family event on the afternoon of Saturday, 17 October, including a bouncy castle, cooperative games, and refreshments.



Unity Day

Leeds Quakers were present at Unity Day on Woodhouse Moor on Saturday 25th July and as well as answering questions "Who are Quakers" they raised £51.60 for PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers).



They held a similar stall at Kirkstall Festival on Saturday 11th July. This was a much busier event and there they raised £85 for PAFRAS.



Many thanks to those who donated things to sell and to those who helped look after the stall.

Pauline Leonard

Leeds Assylum Seekers Support Network

Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network was set up in 1999 in response to the pressing unmet needs of refugees and asylum seekers living in Leeds.

Most of the people we work with have experienced acute isolation, mental health issues, language difficulties and immense uncertainty over their asylum claim. Our volunteers offer friendship and practical help, and the hope that this confusing new environment will eventually feel like home.

Supporting Growth through partnerships

Over the years, several other key support services for refugees and asylum seekers have grown from work LASSN began, including

- Solace – which provides counselling and psychotherapy for refugees and asylum seekers and
- The Leeds Refugee Forum – which acts as an umbrella group for Refugee Community Organisations, whilst helping their members find a voice and influence in Leeds

- The Hardship Fund – a small pot of money that provides one off cash payments to destitute asylum seekers with no other form of income

In 2013/14 we offered tailored English lessons to 70 people from 15 different countries, who would otherwise be excluded from learning English. We increased the number of volunteer tutors to 74, who in turn provided almost 1,200 hours of teaching. Our 6 month reviews with learners found that in all cases there had been an increase in the level of confidence, with nearly all clients reporting that they now used English much more outside the home.

By building people's confidence, we have supported 8 people to successfully take up college courses and 12 to move on to weekly classes outside the home.

We have recently entered into a partnership with the Northern Refugee Centre and Refugee Education Training Advice Service to support the delivery of English lessons in people's own homes, as part of the EU Funded Active Integration programme.

Volunteers needed for LASSN's English at Home project – no experience necessary

'As I've said and will always say, it was an absolute pleasure being part of this project and meeting such a lovely, fun and hard-working family. I'll miss them a lot. Thank you for all of your help and support.' (George, volunteer).

'Thank you for bringing me my teacher, she helps me so much.' (Sara, student)

Would you like to volunteer with Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network? We have been working with asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds for 15 years now and currently need volunteers for our English at Home project. No experience is needed, just a genuine interest in volunteering with asylum seekers/refugees, an open mind and a friendly manner. You'll receive full training and support to visit a student at home for one hour per week for an informal English lesson, for at least 6 months. Our

students want to improve their English but are currently unable to attend classes, usually because of ill health or childcare. This is a lovely thing to do and the results in terms of language and confidence are often impressive; our volunteers always tell us that they learn from the experience themselves and really enjoy it.

Our next training courses starting in late September. If you're interested, please call the project manager Catherine Tonge on 0113 3731759 / 07927 808375 or take a look at our website: <http://lassn.org.uk/our-impact/english-at-home-stories-and-outcomes/>.

Best Wishes
Catherine



Quaker Activist Gathering

Friends House | 21 November 2015 | 10:00-16:30

For a second year, Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) is organising an activist gathering at Friends House.

An action-focused day for Friends who identify as activists, framed in worship. An opportunity to meet with others, connect, learn, plan and be energised and inspired. Book now, and tell us what you would like from the day - we'll use your feedback to help inform how we shape the agenda.

"A chance to feel connected to others who shared my values and concerns."

The event is no cost to attend. Lunch will be 'bring and share'.

Please register online by 15 October.

"Very heartwarming and helped to contact those well-springs which can sometimes seem low."

The Gathering is also an opportunity to learn from other Quaker activists. We would like to hear from Friends who could contribute a session or activity about their activism. If that's you, please get in contact no later than 1 October.

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Quaker Activist Gathering

Are you a Quaker activist?



Do you want to meet with others, learn, plan, be energised and inspired?

Join the Quaker Activist Gathering!

10:00 – 16:30

21 November 2015

Friends House,
London

For more information and to register visit
www.quaker.org.uk/activist-event

A Quaker presence at the Leeds Gay Pride day

