

Meeting for worship

August 2016 issue no.8

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 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: 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



Gildersome 260th birthday celebrations

See inside - p13

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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

@ denotes an event that is only open to those who attend Leeds Quaker meetings.

Quaker Meeting for Worship at **all Leeds Meetings at 10.45am on Sundays**

Quaker Meeting for Worship at **Otley Court House held on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10.45am**

Quaker Meeting for Worship at **Ilkley is held 10.30am on Sundays.**

August

Courage, Conscience and Creativity at Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square - an exhibition that looks at Quaker war resistance in WW1 and peace activities then and now. (exhibition runs to the end of 2016)

Thursday 4th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 6th 10.30am to 11am Quaker Peace witness to remember Hiroshima - meet outside Leeds Museum, Millennium Square, Leeds. Followed by optional visit to the 12noon Hiroshima Peace Service at Bradford and afternoon events at the Peace Museum.

Sunday 7th 1pm onwards - support the Leeds Quaker stall at Leeds Pride

Tuesday 9th 11am Nagasaki Peace Service, Park Square, Leeds

Thursday 11th 6pm Leeds Concord 40th Anniversary Lunch

Saturday 13th 10am Light Group at Adel QMH - this is a guided meditation and all are welcome to attend

Thursday 18th 2.30pm Meeting for Worship at Farfield Friends Meeting House - organised by Skipton Quakers

September

Courage, Conscience and Creativity at Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square - an exhibition that looks at Quaker war resistance in WW1 and peace activities then and now. (exhibition runs to the end of 2016)

Thursday 1st 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

@ Thursday 1st 7.30pm special Leeds Area Quaker Meeting to look at the Leeds Quaker / Jewish dialogue statement.

Sunday 4th 1pm to 4pm Mindfulness in the Garden at Rawdon Quaker Meeting House - all welcome

Tuesday 6th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Study Group at Carlton Hill QMH looking at Samuel 1:16

Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th Heritage Open days 2016 - watch this space for special events at Quaker Meetings in Leeds.

Saturday 10th 12 noon to 4pm Heritage Open Day at Rawdon QMH

Sunday 11th 7.30 Rawdon QMH Amnesty Concert The Cafe Band

Sunday 11th 12 noon to 4pm Heritage Open Day at Gildersome QMH - built 1756

Sunday 11th 12 noon to 4pm Heritage Open Day at Adel QMH

Tuesday 13th 6.15pm refreshments **7pm to 8.30pm** discussion Quaker Faith & Practice at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 15th 2.30pm Meeting for Worship at Farfield Friends Meeting House - organised by Skipton Quakers

Tuesday 20th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Study Group at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 24th LAQM Outing - provisionally to Kendal

Concord Interfaith Fellowship Walk of Friendship



On Saturday 9th July, members of the Concord Interfaith Fellowship and friends braved the rain for their Annual Walk of Friendship, around the Burley/Hyde Park Area of Leeds.



The walk started out from the Friends Meeting House, passed through St George's Field cemetery, on to St Augustine's Church, the Leeds Makkah Masjid Mosque and the Hindu Mandir Temple where lunch was served. A short presentation was given in each of the places of worship.



Marriage

The very first Quaker same-sex marriage in Leeds Area Meeting was held between Iona Lyons and Emma Roberts at Rawdon Quaker Meeting House on Saturday 16th July 2016. We wish them every happiness.



Barbara Parry signs the certificate

Quakers in Yorkshire, Ilkley, 16th July 2016



This was held at Christchurch in Ilkley, an impressive building built in 1868 but much modified in 1980's. Use was made of the original steel construction to create a second floor. The downstairs is a reception area, and cafeteria. The upstairs is a very modern worship area which was the venue for our meeting. After a few moments getting to grips with the technology (sound system) we heard reports from QiY trustees and from Glenthorne.

Glenthorne has had a very successful year, hosting a total of 13 Quaker groups, 22 other charitable organisations, and 19 successful special interest weekends plus some individual bookings.

The main focus of the morning was a session led by Rici Marshall, Ellie Fuller, Joseph Fuller and Toni Carmichael Harris of Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM). This is a group within Britain Yearly Meeting specifically for younger people aged 18-30(ish). It forms an important contact point for those who can feel isolated in local meetings where the majority of Friends are in an older age group. Their two main focus points are Trident and Mental Health and they hold a number of awareness raising events.

Part of their presentation was a workshop to illustrate how, at every Meeting for Business, they spend little time explaining how Meeting for Business actually works. This is to initiate newcomers and remind more established Friends. We were divided into small groups and each group given a "job" - door-keeper, clerk, assistant clerk, elder etc. We were asked to define the role of that job within a Quaker Meeting for Business and some of the results were quite enlightening. An exercise that could well be incorporated into our regular Local Meetings for Business now and again – just to remind ourselves!

The afternoon was designated as "free-time" and a number of activities were provided by Ilkley Friends, including a walk up to Ilkley Moor and a guided town walk led by a local member of the Civic Trust.

The day ended with the traditional tea provided by Ilkley Friends at the Meeting House, followed by a photo call - Quakers Say NO to Trident.

Pete Redwood



Young Friends General Meeting

As mentioned above, members of Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) gave a presentation at the Quakers in Yorkshire Gathering.

YFGM is for people aged 18 - 30ish and comprises both Friends who went to meetings as children, and those who found Quakers at a later stage. Rici, Ellie, Joseph (all from Carlton Hill meeting) and Toni told us their personal histories, meetings, experience and current posts with YFGM,

which is an important feature in their Quaker lives. It is possible for there to be very few children in a local meeting and for a child to be seen merely as 'someone's son or daughter' and to think they have no contemporaries nearby. YFGM enables a young person to be a Friend in their own right and can be a point of contact for those who do not have a consistent local meeting, such as when they go to university. YFGM is also a good experience for those new to Quakers, enabling them to make links to those of a

similar age. A number of Friends present from different meetings had been Young Friends and their contributions confirmed that participation in YFGM is a means of getting a wider view of Quakers in the country beyond one's local meeting.

After some years with no identified concern, Young Friends adopted in 2014 a concern about the renewal of Trident Nuclear Weapons. As there are a large number of politically engaged young people at their meetings, this subject was particularly appropriate. They focused on awareness raising, holding vigils and identifying other groups who were similarly opposed. A significant move for YFGM was the letter opposing Trident which they and other groups sent to the Government, which was read to us. We heard how being part of a group of young people who share similar views can be very powerful and can overcome feelings of loneliness.

In 2014 Young Friends identified a concern for mental health and mental wellbeing which had been 'in the background' for some time. They have focused on awareness raising. They held a weekend free of business which comprised a number of events including making journals and sessions on mindfulness, the objective being to familiarise themselves with the issues. Some young

Friends had contributed from their own experiences.

At every meeting of YFGM some time is spent on meetings for worship for business, as some of those attending may never have attended a business meeting. As a plenary we identified various roles in a meeting for worship for business such as clerk, assistant clerk, co-clerk, treasurer, awkward Friend, doorkeeper, everybody present, a member of the meeting and Elder. In groups of around eight, Friends talked about how the role holder would or should act in that role and we then shared our responses in the full meeting.

YFGM, whose membership numbers between 200 and 300, is an important link to Britain Yearly Meeting and some BYM clerks first learned their skills with Young Friends. They are very keen to nurture or grow these links; their calendar of meetings is on the YFGM website and Young Quaker magazine is issued regularly. Currently receiving some funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, YFGM may soon ask for more contributions from local and area meetings. We hope that all young Friends we know in our meetings will be encouraged to become involved with Young Friends General Meeting.

Young People's Participation Day alongside Meeting for Sufferings

Meeting for Sufferings in April 2014 agreed to an annual opportunity for young people aged 14-18 to participate in considering Yearly Meeting business alongside Meeting for Sufferings.

This year it will take place on Saturday, 3 December 2016. This day will look at young Friends engagement with their Meeting, including looking at the challenges and the opportunities there are for them as members of a Quaker Community.

In 2016 because of the topic, the invitation to the Participation Day is extended to young Adults. Each Area Meeting can book - two young people onto the day; they should be aged 14 – 18 year (born between 1.9.1998 and 31.8.2002).

- two young adults onto the day; they should be aged 18-21 (born between 1.9.1995 and 31.8.1998). These people do not require a responsible adult.

The hope is that Meeting for Sufferings Representatives will connect with the young people and adults who attend the day. The intention is that this provides an opportunity for young people to find out more about MfS & Yearly Meeting's work and that this will strengthen relationships between adults and young people from the same AM.

If you are a young person who would like to attend, or know of a young person who would be interested, please contact one of the LAQM Clerk's, Robert Keeble or Veronica O'Mara, ideally, before the end of September.

Meeting for Sufferings

Meeting for Sufferings took place at Friends House on Saturday, 2 July 2016. One of the most interesting aspects of Meeting for Sufferings was the time that had been allowed to reflect on the EU referendum. Ingrid Greenhow reported on the Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees' report. She told us that one aspect was to look at declining and ageing membership; this affects us all, and I am sure that we can all look at creative ways to halt the decline.

Helen Drewery from Quaker Peace and Social Witness updated Meeting for Sufferings on the ongoing work being done to halt the sale of UK arms to Saudi Arabia. We also heard about Nottingham and Derby's concern about forced migration. There is ongoing work to secure legacy funding to help pay for a full-time worker. There is to be a conference at Woodbrooke in 2017 entitled 'Forced Migration: how can Quakers respond?'

Paul Parker and Deborah Rowlands looked for and were granted approval for a Travelling Minute to attend Philadelphia and Baltimore

Yearly Meeting to see how other Yearly Meetings conduct their business. A lot of Friends had expressed concern that Meeting for Sufferings is nearly always held in London and the Arrangements Group has agreed to look at other venues; I suggested York Friargate as a possible venue, and Liverpool was also mentioned.

Leeds Area Meeting was thanked for the work we had done on the issue of End of Life Care.

Mark Lilley gave a very lively report on the work QCCIR (Quaker Council for Christian and Interfaith Relations). He said that personal contact is very important not just for the group but for all of us; this reminded me of George Fox's words, 'Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.'

John Arnison

Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers

A free, online computer course, led by Ben Pink Dandelion

Starts: October 3

Duration: 3 hours per week for 3 weeks.

Through this course, we will be finding out about what lies at the heart of Quaker beginnings, who its main characters were, and how in a few weeks during the summer of 1652 the Quaker movement was formed in the north of England.

Almost from nothing, the Quakers were to become the most successful sect of the 1650s and 1% of the population of England were to become Quakers. It was a radical spirituality which appealed to thousands of people, hungry for new ways of thinking.

The course starts on October 3 but people can enrol at any time. It is easy to register with Futurelearn who look after the course operation. When people complete the course, they can apply for a certificate of completion.

By the end of the course, you will be able understand the beginnings of the Quaker movement and explain its key ideas and radical nature; and be able to reflect on the consequences of Quaker spirituality.

There are no special requirements to take this course, but an interest in religion or history or both, might be beneficial. A certificate will be issued on completion.

View the video trailer, sign up or find out more at: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers/1>

Trident and the Arms Trade

Despite all the lobbying by peace activists Trident has been given the go-ahead. Perhaps it was a foregone conclusion given the following little known, and little published facts.



non-existent.

* The UK spends more on military activity than any other European country - except Greece and Poland, who both spend marginally more of their GDP.

* According to a report on Radio 4s Today programme, the very first appointment our new Prime Minister had, within a few hours of taking office, was a briefing on the importance of Trident and how it works, and how to activate it should an “emergency” occur. And to sign a copy of the sealed orders carried on each submarine, to be enacted in the event of total annihilation of Britain by a nuclear force. The reporter stated that this induction was actually a “statutory requirement for a new Prime Minister”, set in place by the Thatcher government in the 1980's.

* It is a requirement of all EU members (and we are still members) to give priority to the arms industry to maintain military strength. It is also seen as a valuable source of economic prosperity.

* The arms industry maintains its influence over the highest levels of government through lobbyists and well placed contacts.

* In order to continue to contribute to the economy, the EU arms industry needs to export arms to outside the EU. (The EU



the day of the Vote in Parliament on 18/07/16 - Quaker Peace witness at City Square, Leeds

market is not big enough to sustain the industry.) The biggest customers are Saudi Arabia (worth £2.8 billion a year to the UK alone) and the Middle Eastern countries, from where it is easy for criminals and terrorists to obtain supplies. UK produced weapons are regularly in use throughout this troubled territory. Laws concerning traceability of arms are virtually

* Military spending in EU countries is 255 billion euros per year, but less than 1% of this amount is spent on peace-building.

It is widely acknowledged, even by the government, that Trident is far too dangerous to use. It takes 17 years to develop a replacement and work actually started in 2013 and considerable sums of money have already been spent. As recently as June 2016, and before the parliamentary debate, £500 million was allocated to the naval base at Faslane for improvements in readiness. The two key issues are “defence” and giving valuable support to the UK arms industry in the form of contracts and the need for a large workforce. The so-called Department of Defence is staffed by many high-ranking retired military personnel and Trident is seen by the Conservative government as Britain's “ultimate insurance policy”. With this mindset, peace-keeping is only ever seen in militaristic terms.

It is a sad fact that the more that governments arm themselves — and the more that governments go to war — the more profit the industry makes.



*Spot the difference!
Clue: Look at the lettering on the Meeting House*



Being a Quaker – membership

Ben Pink Dandelion, of Woodbrooke and Honorary Professor of Quaker Studies at the University of Birmingham, focused on three main issues when he was the guest speaker at Leeds Area Meeting in July: What it is to be a Quaker; Historic aspects of membership; and Membership today.



What it is to be a Quaker

Four important aspects were stressed:

Direct encounter with the Divine, which is a transformative experience;

Practise of discernment in order to seek the will of God;

Nurture of this experience by coming together in worship;

Outward focus to make the world a better place.

Historic aspects of membership

Amongst early Friends there was no formal membership procedure; people knew they were Quakers and were known as Quakers by their religious and social behaviour. What was deemed important was that people, who could not all be 'perfect', measured up to different versions of the Light. People thought to be spiritually delinquent were brought to account or disowned. 1737 was the first year that membership lists were devised in order to help with poor relief. In the 1860s it was decided that plain dress was to become optional and that Friends could marry out without being disowned. Only in 1906 did membership become a category in the Book of Discipline; this was part of an increasing tendency for Quakers to come from other denominations or none. In 1931 there was the first mention of Visitors; in 1959 automatic birthright membership was abolished; in 2001 Friends were allowed to operate different membership systems in different Area Meetings.

Membership today

From the late nineteenth century onwards Quakers wanted to be of our time and in our

time, to accept our citizenship of the world. In the twentieth century the emphasis became one of encouraging Friends to be open to new Light in their ongoing spiritual journey. Today we are a diverse group, theist and non-theist, and

there is a tension between where we are now and the classic definition of what it means to be a member in Quaker Faith and Practice, 11.01, 'Membership is also a way of saying to the meeting, and to the world, that you accept at least the fundamental elements of being a Quaker: the understanding of divine guidance, the manner of corporate worship and the ordering of the meeting's business, the practical expression of inward convictions and the equality of all before God'.

From having been a Young Friend who saw no reason for membership, Ben now favours membership for two reasons:

- (1) It marks our commitment;
- (2) It is useful for the organisation to know who is a member.

Membership means that we are taking active responsibility for our affairs. However, we have become tangled up about membership because we are tangled up about what it means to be a Quaker. The list in Quaker Faith and Practice, 11.01, becomes more significant the more diverse we become. Membership creates a community that is really important for us as Quakers. We discern and witness much better together and membership binds the community. The opposite of this is individualism which can have woeful results if taken to extremes. We struggle with our desire to help everyone. There may be a tension between the role of elders who need to nurture worship and the role of overseers who wish to tend to people's welfare. When problems arise, it is essential to involve the Area Meeting rather than to try to resolve matters solely at Local Meeting level. We need to be clearer about what membership means.

Report from Carlton Hill Outreach Committee

July 2016

1. General report on the committee

The Outreach Committee currently has seven members, including Pete Redwood who was co-opted because of his QPSW correspondent role, and Robert Keeble who attends ex officio in his role as Warden. We have a very wide “brief”, including responsibility for the library and (as of earlier this year) for Meeting involvement in peace and social witness activities. There was a significant turnover of membership at the beginning of 2016 and we would particularly like to thank Pauline Leonard for her very long and dedicated service on the committee.

Carlton Hill is the only local Meeting in Leeds with an outreach committee, and we have been keen to involve Friends from other Meetings in our activities. We have correspondents in some other Leeds Meetings, who are invited to attend our committee meetings, and we send information about forthcoming events and requests for volunteers to other Leeds Meetings. Many outreach, peace and social witness activities are organised under the auspices of the Area Meeting.

2. Major activities over the last 12 months

Two major focus points of our outreach activities are festivals and similar events in the summer, and Quaker Week in the autumn. In 2015 we had stalls at Kirkstall Festival, Hyde Park Unity Day and Pride; the stall at Pride was shared with the Leeds Church Institute and All Hallows church, a successful collaboration that we are repeating this year. On the festival stalls we have found it works well if we have something for sale (in aid of PAFRAS) to encourage people to stop at the stall; we also need to ensure that there are plenty of volunteers to enable Friends to take a break! Most Friends who staffed stalls reported enjoying the experience, although we felt that three stalls in very quick succession was too much and have decided to cut down for this year.

Quaker Week activities included an open-air Meeting for Worship in the city centre followed by an anti-Trident peace vigil. The Meeting for Worship was very well supported; Friends distributed leaflets with a simple explanation of Quaker worship and information about the Leeds Meetings.

Activities so far in 2016 have included another successful “banana giveaway” and a stall at “Summat New” in April.

We have also thoroughly reviewed, reorganised, and started to replenish our library stocks! Friends are reminded that further suggestions – for books or topics – are always welcome.

3. Plans for the rest of 2016

Our stalls at the Kirkstall Festival and at Pride are forthcoming. As a committee we have not been directly involved in the outreach activities around the display at the City Museum but have received reports and offered help.

We have booked the photographic exhibition “This Light That Pushes Me”, on Quaker peacebuilders in East Africa, for 13th-19th October. We hope to be able to use this as a major opportunity for outreach and are currently investigating possible venues.

We have been aware throughout the year of Friends’ commitment to supporting refugees and people seeking sanctuary, and have tried to ensure that Friends are kept aware of opportunities to join with others in practical action.

We see our role as enabling and supporting the Meeting’s outreach and witness, rather than doing the work.

We would welcome any further guidance from the Meeting on how best to direct our energies as a committee in the future.

Report prepared by Rachel Muers, convenor

Fracking - North York Moors

A threat to everybody across the North of England?

On 26th May 2016, North Yorkshire County Council granted planning permission for a fracking licence to Third Energy UK Gas, a complex group of companies, 97% owned by the private equity arm of Barclays Bank. It is also has close links with American owned Cuadrilla Resources which has several fracking licence applications in the UK.



Drilling rig already in place at Kirby Misperton

The licence initially covers a site at Kirby Misperton near Pickering. Fracking (or hydraulic fracturing to give it its full name) is a process by which

water, sand and a mixture of highly toxic chemicals are injected under high pressure deep into the earth in an attempt to release trapped gas within the rock structure. Surveys

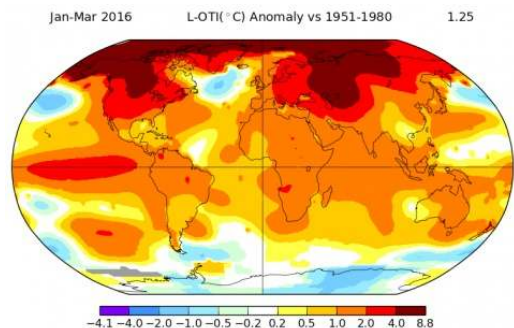


British Geological Survey map showing the extent of potential gas fields in the north of England

reveal that there is a potential gas field covering the whole of the North York Moors and extending westwards almost as far as Leeds. This licence is just the first stage of what could be a huge money spinner for Cuadrilla and its partners. More details here <http://tinyurl.com/7luqm4z>

But there are huge risks. Firstly, it cannot be known how stable the rock formation is when it is disturbed by huge pressures and earthquakes have happened in other locations. Secondly, the water and chemicals

cannot be prevented from contaminating underground water supplies. Areas of Lincolnshire, where fracking has already started, are now suffering problems. Thirdly, a National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty, is set to become an industrial landscape. And fourthly, and most important of all, the pursuit and extraction of carbon fuels goes completely against all attempts to reduce the effects of global warming. The last five years have been the hottest on record as far as records can be traced back and each



Temperatures above average Jan-Mar 2016, courtesy NASA

year has been successively warmer than the previous one. 2016 so far is the hottest ever on a global scale with temperatures in India exceeding 50 degrees C. Much of the southern hemisphere has suffered severe droughts whereas Britain has had the wettest year on record. Alaska has had the warmest summer ever with temperatures 6-7 degrees above average and 2 degrees above the record set last year.

Every single local authority in the area objected to the proposal, as did most of the MP's. Several hundred local residents filed a petition. Leading geologists advised against it. Yet despite that North Yorkshire County Council still signed the go-ahead. Pickering Quaker Meeting has been in the forefront of objections and the clerks sent a Minute to the leader of the County Council stating Pickering and Hull Quaker Meeting's objection to the licence. It read as follows:

continued on page 11

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

Pickering & Hull Area Quaker Meeting

Reg.charity no. 1134538

Clerks Phyllis Wicks, Heather Woolley

Treasurer Colin Webster

Statement by Pickering & Hull Area Quaker Meeting

Following the decision by North Yorkshire County Council to allow fracking at Kirby Misperton we wish to make a statement on behalf of Pickering and Hull Area Quaker Meeting (representing Quakers in Ryedale, the Yorkshire Coast and East Yorkshire), emphasising our objections, on the basis of our spiritual discernment, to fracking on any scale.

Most fossil fuels need to stay in the ground if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change. The impact of climate change globally is understood to be the greatest threat facing our generation, and our children's generation. It is widely recognised that we need to reduce and eventually eliminate our dependence on the use of fossil fuels and that we urgently need to turn to renewable sources of energy which do not contribute to increasing damage caused by human induced climate change.

We believe that the search for new fossil fuels and new methods of extracting fossil fuels is incompatible with the responsible use of the earth's resources. In 2011 Quakers in Britain made a corporate commitment to become a low-carbon, sustainable community. Local Quakers support this commitment through our management of our meeting houses, our choice of suppliers of goods and services, and in our personal, daily lives. For example, we have invested in sustainable energy with solar panels at Scarborough Meeting House and an air-source heat pump at Pickering Meeting House. The refurbishment of our retreat centre, Norfolk cottage, created the first fully 'carbon- neutral' development within the North York Moors National Park

We believe that all people have the right to affordable energy that does not harm the planet. Lack of current technology to support this goal should drive us to greater effort, not endorse technologies which increase the damage confronting us.

We believe in sustaining life before profit. Quakers are not opposed to business, but we are committed to ethical business decision-making and strongly urge companies to adopt best practice in considering the full social impact of their activities.

As Quakers we believe that we do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. We seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world and work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life.

Signed on behalf of Pickering & Hull Area Quaker Meeting

Phyllis Wicks, Heather Woolley, co-clerks

15 June 2016

A huge demonstration was held in York on Saturday 31st July, with a large contingent from Ryedale and support from many other

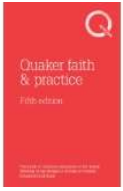


Hundreds of protesters gathering at Cliffords Tower before the march

groups across Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

Fact: For the months of April, May and June this year renewables produced as much energy as fossil fuelled generation in the UK. For four days during this period renewables actually produced nearly double that from fossil fuels. Proof, as if it is needed, that we can live without fossil fuels, especially if energy saving measures are put in place as well.

Reading from Quaker Faith & Practice.



As mentioned in previous issues of Quiet Word, the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group encourage us to read Quaker Faith & Practice regularly. A timetable has been suggested and for the month of August the recommended reading is *Chapter 7 Meeting for Sufferings*. Do we really understand what Meeting for Sufferings is and what it does? Read Chapter 7 and find out.

7.02

Meeting for Sufferings is the standing representative body entrusted with the general care of matters affecting Britain Yearly Meeting and, in the intervals between Yearly Meetings, the making of decisions and the issuing of statements in the name of Britain Yearly Meeting. Within our church government it exercises discernment on priorities and receives regular interim reports for information and consultation on the Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees' work. It has a part to play in developing a visionary and prophetic role for the whole yearly meeting and in fostering communication throughout the yearly meeting.

Supporting our national Quaker work

Our Leeds Area Quaker Meeting Trustees have been considering how we might better support our national Quaker work. Quite simply, should Friends' wish to undertake additional long term witness work this would need additional support. The new suggested contribution to national Quaker work is now £200 each – individual friends must continue to give based on their own circumstances ie some may be able to donate more, others less.

The LAQM Treasurer has calculated that the total additional amount which would be required to raise the LAQM contribution to £200 per member is about £7,130 and in 2016, this 'extra' amount of support is expected to be met from LAQM funds. Clearly, if you are able to increase your own personal contributions sooner rather than later, this would be most welcomed.

Quaker Sustainability and Economy Grants

Have you got an idea for a project that will help to build low-carbon, sustainable communities or a more just kind of economics? You can apply for a QPSW grant of £100– £2000 to help you get started with, or develop, your project.

The deadline for applications is 3 October 2016. Successful applicants will be informed by the end of December 2016, and will receive the money by the end of January 2017.

Further details at <http://tinyurl.com/j9esep6>. Before applying, please contact Jo Hynes at joh@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1056 to discuss your project.



Leeds Pride Sunday 7th August from 1pm - Join the march and help at the Quaker outreach stall at Leeds Pride – celebrate equality and diversity in Leeds. Help is required on the stall.

Gildersome 260th Anniversary



On Sunday, 3 July 2016, we celebrated the 260th 'Birthday' of Gildersome Meeting; in other words, we marked the establishment of the current Meeting House in 1756. Although we did not have the huge numbers who visited Gildersome for the Scarecrow Festival on 19 June (in the region of several hundred), the occasion nevertheless worked well. Gildersome Friends would like to thank all the Friends from the Local Meetings who worked so hard to make the day a success, especially those who contributed to the catering, the children's entertainment and the string quartet made up of Friends from other Local Meetings who were inspired to play Mozart (born in 1756).



Ted Harvey



A plaque commemorating Thomas Edmund (Ted) Harvey has been installed on the wall of his home (1923-1955) by Leeds Civic Trust.

Ted Harvey served as Liberal member of parliament for Leeds West before and during the 1914-1918 war. Along with then member of parliament for York, Arnold S Rowntree (who was also his brother-in-law), Ted was instrumental in persuading the government to include a 'conscience clause' for conscientious objectors in the Military Service Act of 1916. He later served as Independent Progressive member of parliament for Combined English Universities.

Several of Ted's great nieces were there to see the plaque unveiled. Among them was Mary Rowlands.

This item was first published in The Friend 29th July 2016

Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP), Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), Brexit and Quakers

Given that TTIP negotiations have been going on for many years, but that the formal process for the UK's withdrawal from the EU has not yet begun, the biggest question is probably whether the UK will actually ever be part of TTIP? This is very much an open question, the answer to which will not only depend on the timing of both sets of negotiations but also on the shape of the UK's future trading relationship with the rest EU.

Both the EU and US trade negotiators recently reiterated that TTIP negotiations were continuing and that their aim was to complete talks by the end of 2016. However, even before the referendum result, it was widely accepted that TTIP negotiations were very much behind schedule. Brexit, combined with growing public opposition and the forthcoming US presidential elections are likely to complicate things further. As such there is a very real chance that by the time a TTIP deal is ready to be ratified, the UK will have left the EU. This almost certainly means that the opportunities for either the UK government – and by extension UK based trade campaigners – to influence TTIP negotiations are likely to be very limited.

However, this doesn't necessarily mean that UK citizens should stop worrying about TTIP. Post Brexit, the EU and US will remain some of our largest trading partners and any deal between the two will inevitably have an impact on our economy. It's likely that we'll still feel pressure to 'align' our standards with whatever is agreed in TTIP. There's even been speculation that the UK might ask to be able to join TTIP as a third party. What this all means for the future of the anti-TTIP campaign in Britain is very unclear.

CETA – UK ratification may go ahead

Whatever happens with TTIP, we shouldn't forget about its sister agreement CETA (the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement), a trade deal between the EU and Canada.

CETA is very similar to TTIP. QPSW is particularly worried that it includes a

controversial mechanism (known as an 'investment court system' – or ICS) which would allow foreign companies to sue governments, if that company believes the government's actions will damage the company's ability to make a profit. Mechanisms like ICS found in other smaller trade deals have been used to challenge a raft of social and environmental regulations – for example Ecuador was recently forced to pay petroleum company Occidental around \$1 billion by under a system very similar to ICS.

CETA negotiations have already ended and the process of ratifying the deal will probably start this autumn so there is a strong chance that the UK will be part of CETA – at least until we formally exit the EU. (Although, again there are suggestions that the UK government might negotiate being part of the deal indefinitely.)

It was recently agreed that CETA would be classified by the EU as a so-called 'mixed deal', meaning that as well as being approved by the European Commission and Parliament, EU member states' national parliament would have to approve the deal. For now at least then, the expectation remains that it will have to be scrutinised by the UK parliament, providing campaigners with further opportunities to take action.

Future UK trade policy

Whilst uncertainties around the UK, TTIP and CETA are likely to continue for some months, the UK government has made very clear that developing strong trading relations outside of the EU is now one of its key objectives. A new Department for International Trade has been set up to realise this ambition and although there are restrictions on what can be agreed while the UK remains a member of the EU, it is clear that the intention is to start talks with potential new trade partners as soon as possible.

This new approach presents both risks and opportunities for those of us who are working to ensure that trade agreements promote

rather than diminish chances for a more equal, just and sustainable world.

The UK government is already very much pro 'free trade' and the risk is that continued economic uncertainty following the referendum result will see it push for further dismantling of environmental and social protections in the attempt to prove that the country is 'open for business as usual'.

On the other hand, as Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW), together with the Quaker Council for European affairs, Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee and Quaker United Nations Office highlighted in our recent statement on TTIP and free trade agreements, any economic growth based on unsustainable or unjust practices is likely to

be short-lived. If the UK is to develop trade relationships that underpin long term economic success, it's vital that these promote high standards of social and environmental protection.

In the post referendum world with so many political uncertainties, this is one small, but very significant opportunity and over the next few weeks QPSW hopes to work with partners to highlight our concerns with ministers and trade officials. To this end, we recently joined with over 20 other members of the Trade Justice Movement in writing to Liam Fox, the new Secretary of State for International Trade to share some of the principles which we hope will underpin the UK's future trade relationships.

Suzanne Ismail, Quaker Peace and Social Witness

Look for the yellow label



Wasted food is a feature of most major supermarkets. In order to maintain a good display most are guilty of over-ordering perishable goods with the consequent need to reduce the price as soon as they approach their sell-by date. . Many bargains can be had by the savvy shopper and if stored correctly, most items are good for a few more days. How do you know which shops have the best bargains though?

A company has been set set up by business students at the University of Leeds called YellowLabel. It is a service aimed at reducing food waste through mobilising local shoppers to find a bargain. Although primarily aimed at university students on a low budget it is accessible by anyone via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/YellowLabelTech>) or Twitter (<https://twitter.com/YellowLabelTech>). If you live in the area of the university give it a try! Grab a bargain! Further information from: team@yellow-label.co.uk



As a tailpiece, the service has highlighted a worrying trend. Many large supermarkets are now using in-store bakeries as loss leaders by deliberately over-producing bread in order to keep the shelves filled and maintain the smell of fresh baked bread. Tesco has admitted that 41% of its bakery goods and 21% of its fruit and vegetables are wasted every week. They, and other supermarkets, have been in the habit of sending the surplus to Real Junk Food outlets such as Armley Junk-tion in Armley and All Hallows' Cafe at All Hallows Church in Headingley where wholesome meals are provided for people on low budgets on a pay-as-you-are-able basis. Real Junk Food outlets have now responded by refusing to accept bread from in-store bakeries.

TESTIMONY TO THE GRACE OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF BETSY RANDOLPH HORN

In her many works in the meeting Betsy was a breath of spiritual fresh air whose presence bore a testimony to her benevolent, profound and warm faith. She radiated a sense of comfort with herself. Her core was Christian which she brought to her practice of Quakerism which as a result was deep and instinctive. Her faith resulted in actions which were carried out with a joyful heart and an open, welcoming, rigorous mind.



Episcopalian diocese of South Virginia and helped set up a Battered Wives Refuge and a Diocesan Lay Training Programme. She was also part of the Martin Luther King movement.

She raised her three sons, more or less alone, in the meantime continuing her work both paid and as a volunteer. Whilst she was organising a thirty-two

Betsy lived adventurously, trusting the goodness of others. We recall her and a friend travelling to see the Olympics in London. Others could not help but be inspired by the fun and joy had by two elderly, adventurous ladies having a marvellous time. She etched herself into the mind of others by her living in the moment and her joyful pioneering spirit.

Betsy grew up in Virginia, USA. Family lineage was important to her and her family could be traced back to the Jamestown settlers. Amongst her ancestors was Pocahontas and Jane Randolph who became Thomas Jefferson's mother.

The relative who was her greatest spiritual influence was her Aunt Jinny who helped raise her as a Baptist. Later Betsy became involved in The Church of the Saviour in WashingtonDC. In order to belong to this particular church you had to join one of the missions led by that church, for example finding homes for all 380 children in a Home, helping the homeless or finding housing, education and jobs for people in need when discharged from hospital. Betsy joined the church and this had a transformative effect on her.

Having worked with young people in the church she became a Youth Development worker and pioneered many innovative activities. She continued working within the

congregation Interfaith conference she met David Horn, an Anglican Priest from England and her future husband. She made the decision to emigrate and crossed the Atlantic to join the Royal Foundation of St. Catherine in London where she helped explore ideas of community. She and David were then married, the family growing to include children from both of their previous marriages. They set up home in Yorkshire where David gained a post in Heptonstall. It was at this time that Betsy began to attend Hebden Bridge Quaker Meeting.

Their desire to live in a more socially diverse area led them to move to Chapelton in Leeds where she attended Carlton Hill Meeting, later becoming a Member of Leeds Area Meeting.

Betsy brought her many talents to the Meeting and served on several committees and was also greatly involved with the Swarthmore adult education centre. Towards the end of her life she served as a Quaker Chaplin at Leeds University.

Typically, many Friends knew little of her struggle with cancer which was borne with an elegance and endurance which seemed to be made possible by a deep faith. Although in considerable pain, to see her in the hospice in her last days was to be humbled into a realisation of the sheer joy that can be part of life.

Mindfulness in the Garden

Date: Sunday 4th September 2016

Time: 1 – 4pm

Place: Rawdon Quaker Meeting,
Quakers Lane LS19 6HU



Come and join us in the beautiful meeting house garden for an afternoon of quiet contemplation.

Enjoy the sights, sounds, textures and abundance of this sacred space as you like. You may even want to take your shoes off!

Feel free to bring a book, knitting, painting – something to do mindfully – or just decide to ‘be’. You can stay for as long or as briefly as you like.

If it should rain, there will be shelter. Or bring an umbrella and relish the feel and smell of wet grass.

Refreshments will be available in the School Room for you to help yourselves to.

Nagasaki Day Tuesday 9th August 11am - 12noon Remembering the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at a short ceremony in Park Square, Leeds, by the Mayors for Peace plaque. Representatives from Leeds City Council Peacelink Group will read poems from survivors and the 2016 statement by the Mayor of Nagasaki

The Friends Ambulance Unit Ambulance Trains – the National Rail Museum at York have opened a new interactive exhibition including a full size carriage replica. Ambulance trains carried millions of sick and injured soldiers to safety throughout the 1914-1918 conflict. Discover this untold story, by moving through the carriage and exploring a ward, a pharmacy and a nurses’ mess room. The exhibition brings this little-known story to life through digital projection, film and sound. Delve into moving stories of staff and passengers told in their own words, through rarely seen wartime letters, diaries, photographs and drawings.



Leeds Quaker Jewish Dialogue Group

At Leeds Area Meeting in February, we received a report from the Leeds Quaker-Jewish Dialogue Group. Thanks were expressed to those Friends who have taken part in the Leeds Quaker-Jewish Dialogue Group, but some friends felt a deep unease about the omission of the Palestinian viewpoint and it was agreed that we would like to support Israeli activists who are striving to counteract injustice. We agreed to ‘let this report sit with us’. At our July LAQM, we agreed that we will be hold a special LAQM to consider the report in detail, this is to be held on Thursday 1st September at 7.30pm at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House and preceded by a Meeting for Worship from 6pm to 7pm with refreshments from 7pm to 7.30pm. The full report can be found in the February 2016 Quiet Word.



OUR WONDERFUL WORLD

AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM IT

Malcolm Edmunds



A new book from Malcolm Edmunds, Quaker, naturalist, zoologist, from Ilkley Meeting.
Available from local bookshops £8.99