

THE QUIET WORD



Meeting for worship

January 2016 issue no.1

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



See article on page 3

Is this the future?

Robert and Brian with the City Car Club Nissan Leaf.

Check out City Car Club, the modern answer to car journeys:

www.citycarclub.co.uk/Leeds

Check out the Nissan website: <http://tinyurl.com/gshr2gr>

Many of the major manufacturers now have an all-electric model on offer.

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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

QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

January Meeting

16 January 2016,

Oxford Place Methodist Centre,

Leeds LS1 3AX Tel. 0113 2453502

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

10.00 Coffee or Tea on arrival

10.30 Meeting for Worship

11.00 "Reaching Out" Reports from: Under 19s Co-ordinating Group, Junior Holidays, Holiday School, Easter Settlement and Outreach Projects Committee

12.45 Lunch (bring your own, drinks provided) There will be a bookstall for you to browse and buy

13.45 Peace Witness arranged by Leeds Friends to take place outside Oxford Place.

14.00 Breckenbrough School. A portrait of this inspirational

Quaker school for boys with learning difficulties from Graham Ralph, trustee governor of the school and a member of Friargate Meeting.

15.00 Circles of Support and Accountability. Denise Cann, a Trustee of Circles of Support and Accountability and an experienced volunteer with the Yorkshire and Humberside branch, will update us on this initiative, whose volunteers support sex offenders in their attempts to avoid re-offending. Friends are invited to think about whether they would like to train as volunteers in this valuable work.

16.00 Tea and departures.

Quakers in Yorkshire events:

Easter Settlement 2016

25-28 March 2016

"Building the confident Quaker voice" with Arthur Pritchard

Easter Settlement is a gathering for Friends of all ages at Cober Hill Guest House, Cloughton, Scarborough, over the Easter weekend (with the option of staying on until Tuesday 29 March). For further information contact:

Chris Petrie (01729 822 677)

chpetrie@btinternet.com

Joyce Latimer_ (01904 611 489)

joycelatimer@yahoo.com

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School (13-18 yrs)

21-28 August 2016 at Bootham School, York.

YFHS is an annual, week-long residential gathering for around a hundred 13-18 year olds. The aim is to build a vibrant, respectful Quaker community and organise a mixture of activities, both fun and thought-provoking. For further information see **yfhs.org.uk**, also accessible through **www.quaker.org.uk/other-quaker-groups**, or contact Mark

Rymer at **yfhssecretary@gmail.com**

Junior Holidays (7-12 yrs)

A holiday is planned for 24-26 June 2016 at Barmoor, near Hutton-le-Hole, in the North Yorkshire Moors National Park. Another holiday (venue to be confirmed) is planned for 21-28 August 2016, to run at the same time as the annual YFHS. Temporary contact for further

information: Tasha Heny

n.heny42@gmail.com

QiY meetings for 2016:

Saturday 16 April 2016 at Huddersfield. A consideration of militarisation in schools, featuring a performance of Over the Top by Journeymen Theatre www.journeymentheatre.com

Saturday 16 July 2016 at Ilkley. Report from Young Friends General Meeting (to be confirmed) and an afternoon of leisure activities.

Saturday 15 October the Mount School, York. Presentations from the York Quaker schools; other topics to be announced.

Going all electric.....

Its electrifying at Gildersome.....



Each month friends at Carlton Hill like to visit the historic, light and tranquil Gildersome Quaker Meeting House which is located just a few miles to the south of Leeds. This has long been a tradition of friends from Carlton Hill, the origins of which can be traced back to the 1820's when friends would have walked or travelled by horse and carriage. Those wishing to visit Gildersome now are encouraged to also attend the Breakfast Meeting at Carlton Hill which is held every forth Sunday of the month and consist of a 9am breakfast followed by worship from 9.30am to 10am. Transport to Gildersome meeting is then provided so that the visiting friends arrive in good

time for the 10.45am Meeting for Worship. I like to think of it as the Quaker equivalent of 'BOGOF' ie Buy One get One Free!

On December 27th, three of the expected friends five friends were prevented which just left Brian and myself . By prior arrangement, I provided the transport, namely a new all-electric Nissan LEAF car. Going to meeting proved to be an exciting adventure for Brian who had never been in an all-electric car before and was very impressed. The car belonged to the 'City Car' scheme which hires vehicles by the hour and is a fantastic way of accessing a car if you need one. They are easily booked online, but can also be booked by phone. To access the car you simply swipe your membership card on the screen reader and then enter your pin number on the small on-board computer. The car was very nice, it was fast to accelerate, easy to drive and extremely quiet. Thankfully, the traffic chaos caused by overnight flooding on Kirkstall Road near the centre of Leeds did not cause a problem on the way to Gildersome, though we could see some of the flooding as we zoomed across the inner city flyover. Meeting was well attended and it was good to see so many friends and to enjoy the refreshments and conversation at the end of meeting. After our final farewell and a photo to mark the occasion, we headed back to the charging base at Leeds University. There was a very short 'flood delay' during the journey, but thankfully we got back just before the required 1pm return time. Brian was then shown how it all worked – connecting the charge cable from the car to the charger was easy, as was using the 'on board computer' to record the end of the hire. The final step was to lock the car with a swipe from my City Car card and then we took the short two minute walk back to Carlton Hill Meeting House.

Robert Keeble

The Broken Bowl

Our new cleaner was mortified when she broke a beautiful porcelain tea-light holder on her first visit to us. It was delicate, translucent and shell-like, so when a picture frame fell over and landed on it, the little pot simply shattered.

Phil and I were both quite upset. It was a thank-you gift from friends and we were very fond of it. But it was in so many pieces, it was clearly

irreparable. We swept them up and put them in a bag, so that we could ask the friends who had given it to us where we could get a replacement.

One large piece had remained

intact, so it would be identifiable from that.

Next morning I picked up the bag containing the bits of porcelain and emptied it out. I began idly piecing them back together, just to see if I could figure out where they all fitted. Then I thought of the Japanese art of Kintsugi, mending a broken bowl with lacquer mixed with gold dust. The method emphasizes the breaks in the pottery, rather than trying to hide them. I don't have anything like the skills needed for that, and in any case the porcelain was so thin that glue probably wouldn't have held it, but I had an idea.

I sellotaped the fragments together on the outside. I couldn't make it a perfect fit (this technique was completely new to me, and I found the pieces kept moving around) but I managed to get it looking okay. "This almost certainly won't work", I told Phil, "but I'm going to give it a try." Next, I took some craft paper and papier-mâché'd the inside using PVA glue. When it was dry, I removed the sellotape and the bits still held together! After I'd papered the outside too, it was looking like a pot again and felt quite strong.

I'm pleased with how it has turned out. It's not the same bowl as before – the craft paper makes it look noticeably different – but it's beautiful in its own way. It has been damaged and, as with the Kintsugi technique, doesn't hide its scars.

Mending this pot was a parable for me. Sometimes I've felt that things were just too broken to fix: a relationship, my heart or even

the world. But there is a surprising resilience and ability to heal, especially in our emotional life.

Everything comes to an end, and it's important to know when to give up and let go of what is broken. But it's worth giving it time

before making that decision. The thing we believe is beyond repair, with love, persistence and imagination, might yet prove us wrong.

Rose Anderson Carlton Hill

Kintsugi (or kintsukuroi) is a Japanese method for repairing broken ceramics with a special lacquer mixed with gold, silver, or platinum. The philosophy behind the technique is to recognize the history of the object and to visibly incorporate the repair into the new piece instead of disguising it. The process usually results in something more beautiful than the original.



Do Quakers practice Permaculture?

Carlton Hill Meeting House is host to the Leeds Permaculture Group every month, but Friends might be forgiven for not understanding what Permaculture is!



Bill Mollison

It was originally devised back in 1978 by Australian design student David Holmgren and his tutor Bill Mollison. It is described as “a system of agricultural and social design simulating or utilising patterns and features found in natural ecosystems”. The name is a combination of “permanent” and “agriculture” - or more recently “permanent” and “culture”, since the social aspect is an essential ingredient. It is a philosophy working with, rather than against, nature and the natural order of things and involves thoughtful and prolonged observation and a full appreciation of all aspects and effects of a design, project or idea.

- * Work with nature rather than against it.
- * See the problem as part of the solution.
- * Everything changes its environment.



Laurie Michaelis

At the International Permaculture Conference, in London, in September last year, Laurie Michaelis (environment correspondent for The Friend) and Ed Tyler presented a session entitled “Quakers as a self-designing community.”

1) Quakers are listening inwardly and to each other, open to transformation – as a worshipping community.

2) We are sitting together in stillness, listening inwardly and to each other, open to transformation:

‘stand still in the Light and let it show you...’

‘take heed to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, trust them as the leadings of God whose light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life’

‘think it possible that you might be mistaken’

3) Nobody leads, anyone may speak –

We Answer that of God in every one and reach for the meaning deep within others’ words

We are respecting others’ journeys, having a sense of all conditions

Sometimes a meeting reaches a profound sense of unity, being ‘gathered’.

4) In our Business Method we are:

Seeking unity, not debating or trying to win, but looking for a way forward together, ready to set aside our own positions as the ‘sense of the meeting’ emerges.

Engaged in the world, with our testimonies, setting patterns and examples.



This fits perfectly with the whole concept of Permaculture. To find out more <https://www.permaculture.org.uk/> and in particular the page on principles <https://knowledgebase.permaculture.org.uk/principles>

The eyes have it

My left eye has sadly been removed, but for more than 77 years it has seen some interesting, fascinating and wonderful things. It has seen the majestic Matterhorn, the 'thunder that smokes' of Victoria Falls, the stupendous Grand Canyon and the superb Yosemite valley as well as thousands of lesser but no less wonderful sites in this country and abroad. It has seen prehistoric remains, ancient buildings superb views in Australia, Malaysia, Panama and Canada as well as in Europe and nearer home the island of Skye, Malham Cove, Dartmoor and the Lake District. It has seen numerous Quaker Meeting houses in Britain, but also in California and Queensland and one which we knew very well in Ghana with pillars instead of walls supporting the thatched roof. It observed a Quaker Meeting in a wooded Nature Reserve in the Tatra mountains of Poland, and both here and in the Ghana Meeting house the surrounding wildlife was a joy: in Ghana it saw a 2 metre boomslang snake in a Bougainvillea being mobbed by local birds while another time brilliantly coloured bee-eaters hawked for insects just in front of us as we sat in silence.

It has seen grizzly bears, lions, emus and elephants as well as howler monkeys with deafening territorial roars, Madagascar's largest lemur, the indri, with its haunting call and Malaysia's black ape, the siamang with its maniacal cackle. It has seen little auks and great northern divers in Plymouth Sound, a wryneck held in my left hand while I sketched it at Dungeness, and the strange bare-headed rock-fowl in its nesting cave in Ghana. Plenty of fascinating lesser lights too: the tropical spider *Dinopis* which holds a square of sticky web between four of its legs and dabs it on to passing insects, lifting them clear of the ground; red Spanish dancer sea-slugs, camouflaged on the reef but graceful when swimming; hoverflies that are almost perfect mimics of bumblebees; eyed hawkmoths that suddenly expose huge dummy eyes when attacked to frighten predatory birds; and the large yellow and

brown flowers of the lady's slipper orchid, once reduced by collectors to a single plant in Britain, but now thriving at several sites on the northern limestones. Indeed seeing even everyday insects in the garden is a real pleasure.

It saw King George and Queen Elizabeth at the Essex Show just after the war, with me perched on the fence of a pig enclosure. Later it looked down on a Warsaw street with a cheering crowd as U.S. vice-president Richard Nixon drove past, and a couple of years later it witnessed a superb speech from Kenneth Kaunda at the Trusteeship Committee of the United Nations petitioning on behalf of Northern Rhodesia. In the office of the secretary to the President in Dar-es-Salaam it saw the door open and the man who peeped round had his portrait just above the door as he spoke briefly to his secretary: it was Julius Nyerere, the finest leader in independent Africa at the time who reduced the salaries of himself and of his chief ministers and spent a week every year in remote villages listening to the problems of his people. But more important than any of these are my family: my wife Janet, children and grandchildren, cousins and grandparents – one grandparent who lost the sight in both of his eyes a few years before he died. And the thousands of ordinary folk it has seen over the years: friends and Friends, people one meets in shops and total strangers, because eye to eye contact together with friendly words helps to build up a positive relationship.

However, I still have my right eye which has seen much the same as the left, yet neither eye has any long term record of what it has seen. The memory of all these wonderful sights is lodged a few centimetres away in my brain, and although time can alter details of my memory, most of these will stay with me until I die. So, thank you, left eye, you have served me very well indeed.

Malcolm Edmunds, Ilkley Meeting

The Winteringham Vase

On the Sunday before Christmas, Carlton Hill meeting held an all aged worship, during which everyone was invited to make a wish for the future and place it on the 'wishing tree' which consisted of small branches placed in the 'Winteringham vase'. Many friends of long standing will remember, with much fondness, Dennis and Winifred Winteringham, who have now sadly passed away and are buried at Rawdon QMH burial ground. Shortly before his death, Denis, who attended the United Nations Association Meetings and the Adult School Meetings that were at that time held at Carlton Hill QMH, donated the large and very impressive vase that he had made.



Advices and queries

Leeds local meetings have been asked to consider how our Advices and Queries are used. A&Q have been with us in one form or another from the time of the earliest Friends. Indeed, the postscript to an epistle to 'the brethren of the north' which was issued by a meeting of elders at Balby (near Doncaster) in 1656 states:

Dearly beloved friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of the light which is pure and holy, may be guided; and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.'

A&Q are not a call to increased activity by each individual friend, but a reminder of the insights of the Society. Within our community there is a diversity of gifts. We are all asked to consider how far A&Q affect us personally and where our own service lies.



AFTER PARIS

After months of speculation the Climate Talks have finished and everybody has gone back home, some to lick their wounds, others to pat themselves on the back. It has been a fantastic achievement to get the representatives of so many countries to come to such an historic agreement. Now the hard work really starts, getting the individual governments to pass the necessary laws and make them work.

Already, in the UK alone, the car industry has been lobbying hard to get exemption from any possible new emission levels that might affect their profits.

The UK government has recently destroyed years of lobbying and education work to create a substantial move away from fossil fuels, by removing all the “green initiative” subsidies that were put in place by previous governments. It seems determined that nuclear power is the ONLY answer, despite the fact that no viable solution has been found for the waste material created, and despite that fact that uranium, the raw material, is a mineral that has to be mined, and is therefore finite, and also causes huge carbon pollution in its production and transport! Despite the claims, it is NOT carbon free.

Transport is one of the major producers of CO2 pollution yet there are major cities like Leeds that still do not have a viable park and ride – although plans of a sort are in the pipeline. York has nine park and ride sites, each with its own dedicated bus service. Parking in York is difficult and costly – deliberately. Leeds on the other hand, is still building more car parking sites in the City centre (Victoria Gate – the elaborate steel structure at the bus station end will give space for another 800 cars)! Every new office development seems to have its own large car park. Warehouse style shops are being encouraged, each with its own huge car park. The limited number of dedicated bus lanes are not enforced as tightly as they should be, nor are bus bays, and much more could be

done to improve bus travel in Leeds by giving it more priority. I remember some thirty years ago going into Oxford and noticing that, unless you happened to know Oxford very well, you automatically finished up in a park and ride site simply by following the sign posts for “city centre”. Other cities can do it. Why can't Leeds?

Still on a negative note: First Bus – the main public transport provider in Leeds – runs a number of Wright Eclipse Dynamo hybrid buses. These are electrically assisted and use far less fuel than conventional buses. However, the batteries are still prohibitively expensive to replace and First Bus have announced that once the batteries are out of warranty (two years) it will be cheaper for them to replace the engines with conventional diesel engines than to replace the batteries. Something is radically wrong with a system that creates this sort of situation!

Many, many problems have to be tackled at a local level, even in Leeds, before the deals at the Climate Talks can have any effect.

The negotiators have done their bit! It is now up to us, as individuals and as communities, to ensure that our government, and in its turn the local government, does its bit – and more.

Pete Redwood Carlton Hill



An existing diesel engined bus retro fitted with a fully electric system. It can be done - given the will!

Photo courtesy <http://ebus.com>

Off with their tops.....

Each year friends at Carlton Hill trim the tops off the conifer trees next to their Meeting House; this action was advised in 2008 as a measure to reduce the risk of subsidence to the building. The trimming takes place about one week before Christmas and the tops have been found to make excellent Christmas Trees. For some friends, it has now become traditional to have a 'Quaker Christmas Tree'. Thankfully, as with any Quaker Meeting, diversity is welcomed, which is just as well, because many of the tops are of an unusual shapes and sizes – but each is unique in its own way and thus extra special to the recipient



and thus, the story of the 'Quaker Christmas Tree' is one that is expected to continue well into the future. The Treasure at Carlton Hill is particularly fond of the newly established 'Christmas Tree tradition' because it has helped raise much needed funds with £550 donated so far by those taking a tree top home. Most manage to squeeze a tree top into the back of a car, or carry them home, but on more than one occasion, they have been taken home on the bus!

Safeguarding

Leeds Area Meeting is committed to providing safe and stimulating care and education to children and young people as a core aspect of its faith and ministry. It recognises that children and young people are vulnerable to abuse and ensures that its practice is regulated and provided for in adherence to our Safeguarding Policy.

Leeds Area Meeting also provides care to adults who may be vulnerable to abuse and is committed to providing a safe place of worship to all.

The full 'Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy' is displayed on the LAQM website and all friends are encouraged to be aware of it – if we follow the guidance given, we can reduce the risk of harm to those who might be most vulnerable in our meetings.

If any member, attender or visitor has any concerns about the wellbeing of any vulnerable adult, child or young person we urge them to make contact with one of the three safeguarding coordinators so that appropriate support can be provided.

Our Safeguarding Coordinators are:

Peter Holmes 0113 279 3958
Liz Schweiger 0113 440 0736
Lois Gilling 0113 250 2858



graphic courtesy

<http://www.picturesof.net>

Supporting Refugees in Leeds

From the clerks

At the December Leeds Area Meeting we have heard from Anne Burghgraef of Solace (which helps refugees overcome some of the mental trauma associated with their situation). Anne began with a joyful account of a trip to Glenthorne with people from Solace. She provided us with an overview of the present refugee situation, looking first at the global and then the European and UK levels.

Globally we are experiencing the biggest refugee challenge since the Second World War. There are forty million displaced people, about 50% of whom are refugees or asylum seekers. About three-quarters live in refugee camps in neighbouring countries. 22% of refugees come to Europe. The UK has fewer than 1% who are accepted as refugees; most of the people who come to the UK do so under their own steam to seek asylum. Human trafficking is now the second largest illegal trade globally. Over the years we have only had about 25,000 people seeking asylum in the UK in an average year. The process for getting asylum is becoming more restricted. People get housed but on a no-choice basis. From 2014 access to health care is becoming more restrictive as is access to legal aid. Solace can help people to navigate the complex system of seeking asylum. At the moment in Leeds there are about six hundred people seeking asylum, with many other refused asylum seekers. Anne gave us details of the organisations that are helping refugees and asylum seekers in Leeds (the list is appended, Appendix 2015/20). She said that people process trauma in different ways and may express this through physical illness. Solace tries to find ways to help people process this trauma.

In the questioning Anne was asked what is most needed. She said that we need to change hearts and minds; to acquire knowledge in order to tell councillors and MPs that we do not like how things are, to sign petitions, and to use social media. The City of Sanctuary is really important in this respect and LASSN has a list of volunteering possibilities. Ruth Woodhead, the Deputy Chair of LASSN, said that at a meeting of Leeds Asylum/Refugee groups it was agreed that what is most urgently required is access to legal aid and citizens advice which are both very under-resourced.

Friends then split into seven groups and considered the following questions: (1) What can we say as Quakers? and (2) What can we do as individuals? In the feedback it was felt that we should: emphasise the positive aspects of refugees; provide refugees with a positive view of the UK; re-set people's fears of asylum seekers and counteract the media; think about our audience when communicating about this issue; avail of opportunities to help (for example, with English teaching); think about cheap housing. We agreed that we should work with other groups rather than trying to do something separately as Quakers; that we need to target constituents as well as MPs and so do more outreach on the matter; that the overnight stay scheme recently set up should be supported (men to sleep overnight are needed).

An alternative viewpoint from Keith Mollison

The theme for the Meeting was Refugees and how we as Quakers could respond locally.

The topic was introduced by Anne Burghgraef from Solace which is a Leeds based charity which Quakers have supported financially. At Solace a team of 4 full time and 17 volunteer psychotherapists support for asylum seekers and refugees, helping them to deal with past traumas and in making their way in their new country.



Anne Burghgraef (nearest camera) talking
with Friends at Area Meeting

The Meeting was told that there were an estimated 40 million displaced people in the world half of whom are refugees most of whom are in camps in neighbouring countries. Both the conditions leading to people being displaced and their numbers are increasing globally. Only recently has Europe experienced the effects of this growing number refugees.

Those coming to the UK, a signatory of the United Nations Refugee Convention are faced with a slow moving and punitive. Along with a hostile press and misunderstanding of their status and intentions. Once asylum is claimed in Britain they are dispersed to accommodation, are unable to work and given a small living allowance. A new act passing through Parliament in December 2015 will further restrict their living allowance and access to health services. They have already lost the right to legal help with the application process.

We were asked to discuss 2 questions in our small groups:

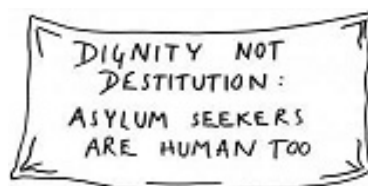
- 1) What can we say as Quakers?
- 2) What can we do as individuals or together?

It was felt that there was a need to speak out against the negative images portrayed in much of the media. We should stress the positive impact these people can have on our country and way of life. We should be welcoming and supportive to the new arrivals.

In response to the second question it was heartening to hear of the number of groups that exist in Leeds who are supporting new arrivals. And the active role many Quakers are playing in these organisations.

In the light of this the clerks were asked to report back next month on whether there was a need for Area Meeting to take a separate initiative on asylum seekers and refugees or whether we could be more effective by supporting existing organisations.

Keith Mollison Carlton Hill



Asylum and Refugee Network - QARN

Local and National Refugee Organizations & Resources

Solace Surviving Exile and Persecution providing individual, family and group counselling and psychotherapy to refugees and asylum seekers working in partnership with other refugee agencies

www.solace-uk.org.uk

City of Sanctuary encouraging a culture of hospitality with various streams including schools of sanctuary, a health and maternity stream, faith & art <https://cityofsanctuary.org/>

Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN) includes Befriending, Grace hosting, ESOL at home, list of volunteer opportunities, regular updates lassn.org.uk

Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS) support destitute asylum seekers, provides casework, www.pafras.org.uk/

Red Cross many destitution projects, casework, Tracing & Messaging Service and family Reunion. www.redcross.org.uk

Refugee Education Training Advisory Service (RETAS) ESOL, advocacy retasleeds.wix.com/

Meeting Point Armley Drop In Mondays, casework support, ESOL, Women's Group <https://meetingpointleeds.wordpress.com/>

Manuel Bravo a charity that provides free legal representation to asylum seekers by helping with asylum appeals and fresh asylum claims (works with volunteer solicitors & researchers) www.manuelbravo.org.uk/

Migration Yorkshire provides information and coordinates activity relating to migration in the Yorkshire region <http://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/>

Freedom From Torture provides a range of therapeutic and services to torture survivors including Medical Legal Reports (MLR) as well as research and campaigning www.freedomfromtorture.org

Refugee Council provides a range of services directly to asylum seekers in UK. In Leeds they have a therapeutic caseworker and work with resettled Afghanis and Syrians. Do campaigning. <http://tinyurl.com/qbw827f>

Asylum Aid - an explanation of the asylum process <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/the-asylum-process-made-simple/>

The official government website covering asylum support <https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support>

Say No to TRIDENT - national demonstration - Saturday 27th Feb

Be part of the Leeds, Yorkshire and National Quaker Peace Witness on 27th February. Help carry the Leeds TRIDENT banner through the streets of London to the rally at Trafalgar Square..... Some twenty peace organisations, including Quakers, are supporting the CND call for a national demonstration to protest against Britain's nuclear weapons system: Trident, to say No to government plans to buy a new system at a cost of over £100 billion. Parliament will be voting on this in 2016. So this is urgent – we can't delay. The majority of the British people, including the Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and other parliamentary party leaders, oppose nuclear weapons. They are weapons of mass destruction that can kill millions. They don't keep us safe and they divert resources from essential spending.

Let's get message out loud and clear: we don't want Trident and we don't want a new Trident.

Leeds Coach pick up 7.15am, Yorkshire Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UP Book online at www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk £25.00 or low waged £15.00 and unwaged £5.00

Trident is NOT a deterrent so let's get rid of it. This is a view held by many, but not often associated with Britain's military 'top brass', however, that was what was advocated by Major-General Patrick Cordingley, commander of the Desert Rats in the 1991 invasion of Iraq, in an article written for The Times newspaper on 11/11/2015 when he states:

'....we need to face up to the folly of our multibillion-pound investment in nuclear weapons we are told the nuclear deterrent is a vital part of this country's defence and therefore we need to replace the Trident system. But is this true? It might have been during the 1960s but who are we deterring now? Not groups of terrorists who will happily die for their cause..... We are bound into having a deterrent by our mutual defence agreement with the US, first signed in 1958 and renewed every ten years. This is an exchange of nuclear know-how but in the end our system relies heavily on American expertise. Our Trident submarines are effectively part of the US fleet. We could not fire a single missile without the Pentagon's approval. This costs £4 billion a year and the replacement figure could be as high as £100 billion over the next 30 years The agreement also guarantees the exchange of vital intelligence with the US.....'

The General then goes on to state that rather than spending money on Trident, it *'should be spent on creating armed forces that could be really effective – with the best equipment and armaments possible – to protect British interests around the world and for conflict resolution. At the same time we could show the United Nations that we have done everything in our power to make the world a safer place (by) getting rid of nuclear missiles. This would be a small gesture but made in the hope that in time others will follow the lead'*



Becoming a Dementia friendly worshipping community

As we are all aware elderly Friends may develop dementia; this can bring a variety of problems which impact on our Meetings. It seems apposite to seek advice on how to recognise dementia amongst Friends and how to deal with it with care and consideration. Consequently Carlton Hill Meeting has organised for Gwen Oates from the Alzheimer's Society to come and speak on Sunday 10th January 2016 at 1.00pm. She says she will **'take the group through some exercises to challenge their thinking and then we could do questions and answers afterwards'** .

This is an opportunity for any Friend in the Leeds Area to become dementia-aware. No need to book – a light lunch is provided before the meeting.

Junior Yearly Meeting 2016

is from Saturday, 2 April to Wednesday, 6 April at the Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire.

Normally one or two young people would be able to attend from Leeds, but at the December Area Meeting, it was announced that no Young Friends (aged fifteen to eighteen) have asked to attend which was very disappointing. Area Meeting agreed that if there are any late requests to attend, then this could be still arranged if the young friends concerned contact the convenor of the Area Meeting Nominations Committee.

If you are between 15-18 or know anyone who is, How about it? This is a wonderful opportunity to make lots of new friends. Ed.

Inequality - a need for action

Following on from the article in last month's Quiet Word there will be a meeting at Carlton Hill on Thursday 7th January at 7.30. We will look at the acute financial and social inequality in Leeds and, hopefully, develop some ideas that we can put into action. It is timed to follow the Thursday Meeting for Worship and the regular soup supper. Everybody is welcome. Hope to see you there.

Leeds Area Meetings in 2016

Sunday 14 February: Ilkley: Israel/Palestine

Saturday 9 April: Roundhay: Book Launch for End-of-Life Care Booklet

Sunday 8 May: Gildersome: World War I

Sunday 10 July: Carlton Hill: Membership

Sunday 9 October: Rawdon

Sunday 11 December: Adel

Castle or Community?

Quakers' role in Building the new Europe



Over the weekend of 4-6 December 2015, LAQM appointed me to attend the joint QCEA/QPSW conference held at the Chant d'Oiseau Conference Centre on the outskirts of Brussels.

This was my first experience of meeting with Friends from across Europe and I found it exciting and thought provoking. 140 Friends from 24 different European/non-European countries met together to talk about a wide range of issues and concerns to develop a vision for Europe together, through a strengthened Quaker community.

An exercise at the start of the event identified that virtually all those present were currently living or had lived and worked in a country which wasn't that of their birth. I was in a tiny minority who had only lived and worked in the UK – made me feel that much less European, but maybe more rooted?

We are all aware of some of the significant challenges and opportunities faced by much of Europe at the current time. Europe and the European Union have been particularly susceptible to a certain self-interested insularity which can be compared to a castle pulling up its drawbridge to the outside world. Even as many European citizens have enthusiastically proclaimed the message “refugees welcome”, governments have built fences, introduced legal measures to turn refugees away and established militaristic responses to the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. Although the European Council eventually reached a decision on a quota system to spread refugees across the EU, the agreement concerned only a small proportion of refugees already in Europe and was itself hugely divisive. The dreadful attacks in Paris and the hunt for terrorists, particularly in Brussels led directly to the Parliamentary vote for the UK to join those countries already bombing so called Islamic State targets inside of Syria. The powerful statement from BYM opposing the action and pointing to more effective alternative ways of responding to ISIS served the underline Quaker testimony to peace and non-violence. The Climate Change conference in Paris, now drawing to a close, frames the

environmental context which could lead to further migration of populations and competition for dwindling and unfairly distributed resources.

There was a sense of weighty concern from Friends as to what Quakers as a community and we as individuals hoped for from the conference faced with this landscape. I shared my hopes to learn more about the EU and the opportunities for influence by Friends; to meet Friends from other European countries and to join a dialogue which would build understanding, share common approaches and establish a network of truthful witness to challenge injustice and celebrate successful humanitarian responses. Moreover to seek to identify ways in which I was called to act by the Spirit. Other Friends talked about the need for better corporate governance; the learning of languages as an aid to breaking down barriers; the impact of different histories on current perspectives; the differences between EU countries who are net financial beneficiaries compared to those who are net contributors; how governments blame the EU for unpopular national government decisions; the impact of living on an island as opposed to the mainland of Europe; the perceived EU focus on economies rather than society; the xenophobia faced by people from former Eastern European countries such as the Czech Republic and how a sense of connectedness prevents war. And this was all on the first evening!

I hope to write about the activities and workshops which unfolded over the weekend in a forthcoming edition of the Quiet Word, but to leave you with five concrete actions I am taking as a result of the experience:

- * Participating in a group to promote alternative approaches to militarism across Europe building on the work of existing Quaker and non-Quaker structures.
- * Joining QARN – the Quaker Asylum Seekers and Refugees Network.
- * Participating in a group seeking to raise the profile of Quaker responses to Climate Change.
- * Putting greater effort in learning to speak German at my weekly evening class.

* Supporting the work of QCEA in its current strategic review.

I would like that thank Friends very much for the opportunity to attend this Conference.

Martin Ford – Ilkley

Meeting for Sufferings

Over the weekend of 4–6 December 2015, Rici Marshall, who was appointed as the Leeds representative, attend the Meeting for Sufferings which was held at Woodbrooke, the Quaker Study Centre at Selly Oak, Birmingham. Meeting for Sufferings is normally held six times a year on a Saturday at Friends House, London. It is the meeting that is responsible for our national ‘church affairs’ between the annual meetings of Britain Yearly Meeting, to which all friends are invited. BYM Trustees are responsible for financial and legal matters, this means that Meeting for Sufferings can focus on matters that are Spirit led. Rici writes:

Meeting for Sufferings is predominantly a business meeting, but once in a triennium, this is set within the beautiful grounds of Woodbrooke study center. Having a whole weekend has given us ample time for fellowship. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with Friends old and new, whilst feeling that we are doing the important work that keeps the cogs of Britain Yearly Meeting turning. As well as the usual business, we had a varied timetable, with opportunities to meet in home groups and free time to enjoy the beautiful garden.

A large focus of the weekend was on addressing the state of Area Meetings. We shared thoughts and experiences of our own AMs; what works well in our AMs, what problems we are facing, what underpins these problems and how can we overcome these problems. I reported positively about many aspects of our AM, such as the success of having workshops at our AM business meetings and communications such as the Quiet Word. I also talked about the challenges of supporting a shrinking meeting with strong Quaker heritage. We talked about

different models for holding AM business meetings and the importance that all Friends recognise that they belong to and have responsibility for an AM, not only a LM. The process of sharing has been really positive and this will feed into further work by Quaker Life.

We did of course deal with the usual necessary business that enables the whole YM to flourish. Business included a number of reviews of the ways things are done in the YM, allowing us to continually ensure the energy resources (especially Friends) are used most effectively. We were reminded of the importance of filling in the service forms as a way of the central nomination committee best giving all Friends the opportunity to use their gifts to serve the society.

We have been aware of the timeliness of the meeting with events going on nationally and internationally (COP21 Climate talks in Paris, parliamentary decision for military action in Syria, flooding in the north of Britain, TTIP, housing, Trident, the list goes on). We were asked to consider in what different ways we could respond, and how best to use all our avenues of political campaigning and spirit led action. In our epilogues we were prompted to consider four gateways to realising Heaven on Earth; Relationships, inner life, out in the world, here and now. It was a welcome reminder that despite despite feeling some sense of despair at current events in the world, there is still a lot to be thankful for.

Rici Marshall Carlton Hill



Una Parker & Rici Marshall
at Area Meeting in December



David Robson & Martin Ford
at Area Meeting in December



Adel Party

Adel Meeting extends a warm invitation to its New Year Party on SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY 2016 at 4.30 p.m. 'All we request is that you let us know how many people to expect and that they bring a contribution of food to share. Drinks will be provided. Do come and join in the fun!'

Christabelle Davey, Adel Meeting Tel. 0113 275 2730 (I have an answering machine!)

Quaker Faith and Practice

The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group has asked that we make a habit of reading Quaker Faith & Practice regularly. To help us they have made a recommendation for each month. The recommendation for January is Chapter 2 – Approaches to God – Worship and Prayer. The following is your editor's choice:

2.38 (part) In a gathered meeting there may be few spoken words, but there is rich ministry. An hour passes quickly. Other meetings may be lifeless. They may be full of words, but there is little ministry, little that is of service. Time drags and people feel the needs to fill the silence.

Conference: Exploring the fundamental elements of Quakerism, 1986.

A new Quaker Faith Practice study group will meet every 2nd Tuesday at Carlton Hill QMH with 6.15pm refreshments, 7pm start and 8.30pm finish – all Leeds friends welcome.

LEEDS AREA MEETING EVENTS DIARY

@ 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.

January

Peace Museum Exhibition to March 2016 Basque Children in Yorkshire in 1937 - see poster

Sunday 3rd 1pm 'Trident what next' planning meeting at Carlton Hill QMH

Tuesday 5th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Study Group at Carlton Hill QMH

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

Thursday 7th 7.30pm Discussion looking at Equality - all welcome - Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 9th 4.30pm Adel QMH New Years Party - please contact Christabelle Davey for details

Sunday 10th 1pm Becoming a Dementia Friendly worshipping community - the speaker is Gwen Oates from the Alzheimers Society venue: Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 16 10am to 4pm Quakers in Yorkshire Gathering at Oxford Place, Leeds. Topic; hear about activities for children and young people in Yorkshire, Easter Settlement and Outreach. Presentations about Breckenbough School and Circles of Support. Includes lunch time Peace Witness event. See newsletter

Sunday 17th 12.15pm talk about Quaker Faith and Practice prior to monthly discussions on 2nd Tuesdays at Carlton Hill QMH (see 9th Feb)

Tuesday 19th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Study Group at Carlton Hill QMH

Tuesday 26th 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm discussion on Spirituality at Carlton Hill QMH

February - a selection. For full list see website

Tuesday 2nd 7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Study Group at Carlton Hill QMH

Tuesday 9th 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm discussion Quaker Faith & Practice at Carlton Hill QMH

@Sunday 14th 1pm to 4.15pm Leeds Area Quaker Meeting to be held at Ilkley QMH. Topic Israel and Palestine.

Saturday 27th - say NO TO TRIDENT - national demonstration, Trafalgar Square, London