

THE QUIET WORD

September 2017 issue no 9



Meeting for worship

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting
House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,
Leeds, LS27 7HX

tel: 0113 285 2466
Sundays, 10.45 am

ILKLEY Friends Meeting House
Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds, LS29 9QJ
tel: 01943 600 806 or 01943 601 181
Sundays, 10.30 am

ADEL Friends Meeting House
New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ
tel: 0113 267 6293
Sundays, 10.45 am

CARLTON HILL Central Leeds
Friends Meeting House
188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds,
LS2 9DX

tel: 0113 242 2208
Meetings for worship:
Sundays, 10.45 am

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6.00pm
ROUNDHAY Friends Meeting House
136 Street Lane, Leeds, LS8 2BW
tel: 0113 293 3684
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: 01943 463 351,
dmr@cooptel.net

RAWDON Friends Meeting House
Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,
LS19 6HU
tel: 0113 250 4904
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,

STOP THE ARMS FAIR



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Deadline for October issue Sunday 24th September

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

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Diary

September

Friday 1st 4pm to 6pm the Alternative Arms Fair, Dortmund Square, Leeds

Saturday 2nd 10am to 12noon Leeds Light Group at Carlton Hill QMH

Monday 4th to Saturday 8th week of protest re. London Arms Fair

Monday 4th Stop arming Israel day [London Arms Fair](#)

Tuesday 5th Faith day [London Arms Fair](#) Transport from Leeds available

Wednesday 6th No Nuclear Day [London Arms Fair](#) Transport from Leeds available

Thursday 7th Solidarity without borders day [London Arms Fair](#)

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

Friday 8th Academics day [London Arms Fair](#)

Friday 8th 7pm to 9pm Photo Exhibition Launch 'Life in Leeds' and Heritage Open Day Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House - see the Heritage Open Day website for full details. www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Saturday 9th Big day of Action [London Arms Fair](#) Transport from Leeds available

Saturday 9th 2pm to 4pm Heritage Open Day and Photo Exhibition Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House - see the Heritage Open Day website for full details. www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Saturday 9th 1pm to 4pm Heritage Open Day Rawdon Quaker Meeting House - see the Heritage Open Day website for full details. www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Sunday 10th 12 noon to 4pm Heritage Open Day at Gildersome QMH, with history talk at 2.30pm www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Sunday 10th 12:30 to 4pm Heritage Open Day at Adel QMH www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Sunday 10th 7.30pm Rawdon QMH Amnesty Concert

Sunday 17th All Aged Meeting for Worship at Carlton Hill QMH followed by celebration lunch to mark the first 30 years of the 'new Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House'

Thursday 21st 6pm to 7pm Midweek Worship at Carlton Hill QMH followed by refreshments

Sunday 24th 7.30pm Rawdon QMH Amnesty Concert

Sunday 24th 7pm Longing Belonging & Balfour, Musical theatre piece, Carlton Hill Meeting House. A performance based on the Balfour Declaration followed by discussion of its lasting implications for peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Monday 25th 7.30pm 'What do faiths teach us about Gender' a public meeting organised by the Leed Interfaith group, Concord at the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House

October

Saturday 7th Green Fair +++ a community event to mark the first 30 years of the 'new' Meeting House. To include Peace and Sustainability Stalls, talks and the official unveiling of the Leeds Peace Pole.



The Quiet Word gets around!

Not infrequently your editor gets emails from people (not only Friends) in other parts of the country commenting on various articles they have read in Quiet Word. The latest was from a Friend in Darlington reminding us that his local football club, Darlington F.C., is nicknamed "The Quakers"



The Quaker families of both Pease and Backhouse were influential in the development of Darlington over nearly three centuries. When the football club was founded in 1883 they decided to honour this connection in their official badge, showing as does the traditional Quaker hat, and Locomotion No 1, the first steam locomotive to run on Edward Pease's new Stockton & Darlington railway. The success of the railway is, of course, recognised as the inspiration to build railways throughout the world to a "standard" track width (gauge) of 4ft 8 ½ in.

Here's another one from a Friend in Harrogate.

She writes - Harrogate Spa Water have never had it so good! They are hitting the highest sales on record and feel the need to double the size of their factory. Their trade is considered so important to the local economy that permission has been granted, despite almost unanimous opposition, because they plan to fell a 1.65 acre wood which was planted just 10 years ago by the local Rotary Club from local donations, as a carbon offsetting exercise! She urges - Don't buy bottled water. It is bad for your health and bad for the environment.

Editor's explanation: Bad for your health because some of the chemicals used to make the plastic bottle have been proved to leach into the contents and, in their original state, are carcinogenic.

Bad for the environment because the manufacture of bottled water uses a lot of energy in the production of the bottle, in the bottling process and in transportation. Every scrap of energy used releases carbon into the atmosphere. Transportation causes the release of diesel fumes which are contaminating our air.

So - **Don't buy bottled water.** Use a refillable metal drinking bottle. (which will keep water cool. Plastic won't. Avoid plastic)

A blatant message from Transdev (Harrogate Bus Company and Keighley Bus Company), seen painted on the side of some of their buses:

"If tha'still drivin' t' town, tha' must be thick in't 'ead."

Maybe we need it on Leeds buses as well!



Do you shop online? Then raise funds for Britain Yearly Meeting with every transaction.

Over 4,000 top line sites will donate between 1% and 5% of the purchase price to Quakers for each purchase.

Simply sign up at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/quakers. No joining or payment fees and no extra charge for shopping. No commitment or pressure. The easy way to raise funds. Take the option to install the app. on your web browser, then every time you access a site that will take part, you have the option to contribute. No hassle. Join today.



Celebrating thirty years at the present Carlton Hill Meeting House

.....continuing our story



Building work still in progress

On 2nd June 1987 the Meeting was invited to inspect the premises and on 9th June, 1987 Age Concern staff were able to see their accommodation. Chairs have been chosen for the Meeting House and are to be made at Gildersome. Forms from the old Carlton Hill Meeting House are being stripped and treated for the new Meeting House, arrangements being made by Edward Starkie. Russell and Jean Mortimer have written an article on the history of Quakerism in Leeds. This is to be made into a pamphlet to celebrate the opening of the new Meeting House.

An advertisement was placed in The Friend in April 1978 and several very suitable applicants applied for the post of Wardens for the new Meeting House. On 5th July, 1987, interviews took place for the important post of Warden. A short list of 3 sets of applicants was drawn up but in the end only two couples were interviewed. The post was offered to Robert and Jean Bates, members of Roundhay Meeting, though Jean and her family have a long-standing connection with Carlton Hill (Jean's father was treasurer of the Meeting for many years). Robert (Bob) is to be the warden with support from Jean, who will keep her part-time job for the present.

Throughout 1987 building, decorating, landscaping etc. continued and was very much in line with the time schedule, stipulated from the start. The weather throughout the summer caused very little delay. A Premises Committee was set up and met for the first time on 5th August, 1987. It is envisaged that this will replace the original Building Committee, which has met



Lots of willing volunteers

throughout the building period, to make the necessary decisions about the building and its furnishings.

Bob Bates started his new task at the Meeting House on 2nd August, 1987 and he has the good wishes of the entire Monthly Meeting in this daunting task. The landscaping was largely completed during this week, with grass seed sown, but the planting of agreed shrubs is to be delayed until later.

The first Meeting for Worship has been fixed for Saturday 22nd Aug. 1987 to enable members of the Monthly Meeting to attend. A limited number of invitations have been extended to people particularly interested, like the foreman and builders and Age Concern staff.

On Saturday 22nd Aug. 1987 the first Meeting for Worship took place. It was estimated that about 100 Friends from the Monthly Meeting would attend, but many more than 100 came straining the seating capacity and catering to the limits. But it was an uplifting occasion when early Friends were remembered, alongside the expression of hope for the extension of the present Meeting. Jan Mortimer gave a short talk at the end of the Meeting for Worship on the History of Friends in Leeds and a booklet was compiled giving a concise history of early Friends in Leeds. Six Friends attended in Quaker costume from the early period and this caused some amusement on what was a memorable and happy occasion. The afternoon ended in a violent thunderstorm.

Age Concern and its activities moved from 229 Woodhouse Lane in the early days of September 1987. This coincided with the

enrolments for the classes as well as the ongoing activities which took place in the Leisure Centre, like the choir, lunches, Stroke Club etc.

Some of the plants had arrived and the new lawn was growing extremely well, but there was still much work to be done in the garden. A garden shed had proved necessary to take the necessary tools and this was to be erected at the side of the car park. Most of the equipment from the first Carlton Hill Meeting House had been unpacked and installed in the kitchen and elsewhere but there was still much to be done. Originally it was planned for the children of the meeting to be in the downstairs room but now it was the intention for them to meet in the upstairs room, next to the Wardens flat, leaving the downstairs room to be used for refreshments after Meeting for Worship.

There was to be an official opening of the Age Concern part of the building on Friday, 2nd Oct. 1987. The plaque in the entrance was unveiled by Thelma Barlow, from Coronation Street and a buffet lunch followed. The celebrations were somewhat marred by the news that the Chief Officer of Age Concern, Leeds, Mrs Barbara Nightingale was to move to Hong Kong on 23rd Oct. 1987. Mrs Nightingale had done so much planning to ensure the move to the new premises took place reasonably smoothly and her departure caused sadness to the remaining staff. Her place was taken by John Hammond who commenced his duties in Nov. 1987.

Editor's note: After their time at Carlton Hill, wardens Bob and Jean Bates then became wardens at the editor's former Meeting at Scarborough.

A Welcoming Meeting?

How welcoming are Leeds Meetings? Do we really welcome absolutely everybody or are we seen elitist, as was suggested in one session at Yearly Meeting Gathering. We certainly do not reflect the society amongst which we find ourselves. Look amongst any gathering of people at which Quakers are present and it is often possible to pick out the Quakers by their manner of dress and their demeanour.



We have a large number of refugees and asylum seekers in Leeds. People with little hope and almost negative assistance from the present government. As of June this year, according to latest government figures, there were 2,994 held in detention (prison) whilst the Home Office lumbers through the paperwork. Of these 49 were children. When (if) they are released, what sort of life do they face? Anybody who has been through “the process” of seeking asylum has been through a horrendous experience.

Apart from making donations and the occasional help at events, what actual assistance and “sanctuary” do we offer? A couple of Meetings around the country (Llangollen and Litchfield) are recognised by Friends House as Sanctuary Meetings. Could we do the same?

To help us get to grips with some of this, come along to a workshop with Cat Waithaka on the topic “How Welcoming Are We?” at Carlton Hill on Friday 6th October at 7pm.

Marriage Workshop

Young Friends who married at our Meeting House recently challenged us to think about what support we offer those undertaking a life-long committed relationship. And some of us who've been together for many years may welcome a chance to reflect on how our Quaker values work out in our day-to-day lives.

A workshop will be held on Sunday 19th November at 1.30 at Carlton Hill QMH

The Arms Trade

The arms trade is a deadly business. It supports conflict and human rights abusing regimes while squandering valuable resources. The arms trade is dominated by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council: China, France, Russia, UK and the US, along with Germany and, increasingly, Israel. The permanent members alone account for around three quarters of exported arms.

While relatively few countries sell large volumes of weaponry, the buyers are spread across the world. Some of the largest purchasers are in the Middle East and South and East Asia. The sales range from fighter aircraft, helicopters and warships with guided missiles, tanks and armoured vehicles to machine guns and rifles. They also include components and surveillance equipment.



HMS Queen Elizabeth.

The latest £3.5 bn addition to the UK armoury

There is often confusion about the legality of the arms trade, with the impression given that it is the illegal trade that is damaging while the legal trade is tightly controlled and acceptable. However, the vast majority of arms sold around the world, including those to human rights abusing governments or into conflict areas, are legal and actively supported by governments.

Selling arms to a country in conflict - whether internal or external - makes the conflict more deadly and last longer. If there is tension between countries or within a country, arms purchases are likely to increase this tension and make actual conflict more likely.

It is often difficult to establish where the arms used in conflicts have originated. However, the use of UK arms in conflict zones include the use:

- by Libya against “rebels” in 2011
- by Israel in attacks on Gaza
- by the Indonesian military in East Timor, Aceh and West Papua
- by the US in the invasion of Iraq
- by Zimbabwe in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- by Argentina in the Falklands War

The casualties of conflict are now overwhelmingly civilian. Even when a conflict has ended, arms, especially small arms, may remain in large numbers, fuelling further conflicts or criminal activity.

Influential arms companies



Another £3.5 bn spend in recent UK Defence spending

The arms industry is dominated by a small number of major corporations that have their headquarters in one country, but produce weaponry internationally. They include Lockheed Martin (US), BAE Systems (UK), Boeing (US), Raytheon (US), Airbus (Europe) and Finmeccanica (Italy).

Although arms companies are not particularly large by international business standards, they are incredibly powerful due to their political connections. A complex web of relationships between arms companies and government means that policy-making is distorted in favour of arms company interests.

One of the more tangible manifestations of this is the 'revolving door'. A steady stream of government ministers and officials moves to companies, where their contacts and influence can then be tapped. A particularly shocking example occurred in 2011 when Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, former UK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, moved to BAE Systems. As Ambassador, he had pressured the Serious Fraud Office to drop its investigation into BAE-Saudi arms deals.

Aside from ensuring support for arms exports, this political influence has led to the UK being committed to heavy expenditure on large items of military equipment, includingThe arms trade is a deadly business. It supports conflict and human rights abusing regimes while squandering valuable resources. The arms trade is dominated by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council: China, France, Russia, UK and the US, along with Germany and, increasingly, Israel. The permanent members alone account for around three quarters of exported arms.

The influence of arms companies is felt right at the top of government. Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and David Cameron have all led delegations to promote arms sales, including to some of the world's most repressive regimes. When clinching the deal becomes difficult the help of the Royal Family is enlisted. Prince Charles famously did a sword dance in Saudi Arabia in 2014 to secure a fighter jet deal for BAE.

Complementing the high profile visits, the government has had an arms sales agency since 1966, currently the UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO). With around 130 civil servants, it works behind the scenes, arranging contacts and smaller scale visits. They also manage the UK presence at international arms fairs and the official invitations to those in the UK, such as London's DSEI.

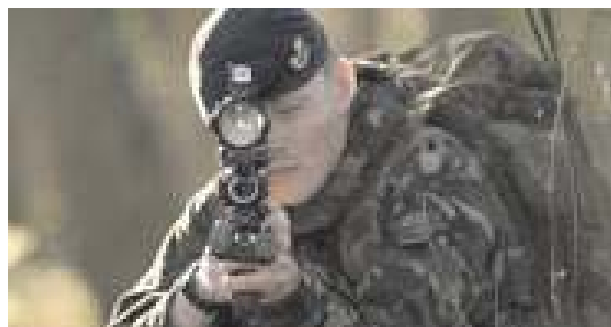
This support for military sales is completely disproportionate. While arms account for less than 1.4% of UK exports, the sectors which cover the remaining 98.6% have just 107 dedicated civil servants promoting their exports aircraft carriers, fighter aircraft and Trident. The utility of these in tackling threats to UK security is questioned even by some of those within the military.

Defence takes the lions share of the UK budget each year. For instance for 2017-18:

Defence	£48 billion
Housing	£36 billion
Social Care	£32 billion
Public Transport	£37 billion

In comparison, health care officials claim that the budget for health care in the UK falls short by some £30 billion.(1)

With acknowledgement to Campaign Against the Arms Trade and (1) The Independent budget analysis.





The arms trade has a devastating impact on peace, human rights and security across the world. Large scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems.

The damage that the arms trade does is a root cause of so many of the world's problems. Many Quaker meetings work to end the arms trade through support of Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), the national NGO working on this issue and a key partner of Quakers in Britain.

We have to take responsibility in our own countries for the trade in weapons, which will continue unless we intensify our actions against it... Let us picture where Jesus Christ would be in this matter...He would be there, he would be working with us, he would be arguing and doing everything in his power to ensure that this trade, which is totally immoral, was stopped as soon as possible.

- Jo Vallentine, *Quaker faith & practice 29.09*

What is DSEi?

Quakers in Britain are a founder member of Stop the Arms Fair: a coalition of groups opposing the Defence and Security Equipment International arms fair (DSEi - pronounced 'dicey') in East London every other year. We are building resistance to the arms fair through protest, lobbying, witness, creativity and prayer. The next DSEi is due to take place September 2017 and Quakers are working to increase the resistance.

DSEI is one of the world's largest arms fairs. It takes place in London's Docklands every two years, and the next one is planned for 12-15 September 2017. It is organised by Clarion Events and the Government department Defence & Security Organisation (DSO). DSO's support is crucial to the success of DSEI and its continued existence.

According to the event organiser, Clarion Events, the UK defence industry represents ten per cent of UK high technology manufacturing and is the number one exporter in Europe, second only to the US globally. DSEI, which is based at ExCeL London, is a crucial part of that industry. The industry employs over 300,000 people and generates over £35 billion per year to the UK economy. The industry also works hand-in-hand with the UK Armed Forces from factory to frontline.

DSEI takes place in secret, behind heavily protected security fences and police lines – designed to allow arms dealers to trade their wares unhindered by transparency or public protest – and is subsidised by the UK taxpayer.

DSEI last took place in September 2015, and featured 1,500 exhibitors from around the world, displaying arms ranging from sniper rifles to tanks to combat aircraft to warships. They were joined by "trade visitors" and military delegations, including those from human rights abusing regimes and countries involved in conflict.

Stopping the Arms Fair

In 2015 the arms fair was challenged by a week of daily blockades and creative protest to try and stop one of the world's biggest arms fairs from taking place in East London. A massive road block by thousands of protesters prevented displays reaching the exhibition on time, with the result that the opening was delayed. A group of eight activists were arrested, and later



acquitted as a judge ruled they took action to prevent a greater crime. The DSO was incensed at the verdict and demanded a re-trial. It took place in June this year and again the judge upheld the original verdict.

In a group statement released on the day the judgment was handed down, the activists said: “We remain wholeheartedly unrepentant for seeking to shut down the DSEI arms fair. In circumstances where the state cannot be relied upon to prevent war crimes – and particularly where it is fully complicit in them – it is up to each of us as individuals to act.

“We cannot rely on the Theresa Mays and Donald Trumps of this world, whose idea of keeping us safe and promoting human rights abroad is to arm despotic terroristic head-chopping regimes such as Saudi to the teeth. It is unsurprising that the state should seek to criminalise resistance to the arms fair. History shows us we cannot rely upon the state to prevent oppression.



“The most abhorrent episodes in history were protected and enforced by their relevant domestic legal frameworks at the time – slavery, apartheid, holocaust and the mass slaughter of indigenous peoples across the globe. In each case the perpetrators and profiteers hid behind the full force of the law to defend their atrocities, including police, armies and weapons.

“And even now, when states and arms companies are in clear breach of international laws on arms exports and human rights, its money and power that talk. It is up to each of us to stop the killing where it starts – at corporate HQs, in the arms factories, and at events such as the DSEI arms fair.”

Andrew Smith of Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) said: “We need to mobilise the biggest possible opposition when it returns to London later this year. DSEI brings the world’s biggest arms companies together with some of the world’s most oppressive regimes. It needs to be closed down for good.”



“On the 9th of September, The Big Day of Action will be our biggest event of the week, the culmination of the week of action leading up to the arms fair at the Excel centre in London.”

“We will gather to show the British Government that the weapons being sold to human rights abusers and dictators, in our beautiful city of London, is not being done in our name. We will represent an alternate voice, to sing loud, shout and demand that the government invest in peace and sustainable security. The millions of pounds being poured

into this event and to the arms industry in general could be used for developing renewable energy sources, limiting the risk of future resource conflicts.”

“We want our singing and dancing to get in the way of the military equipment and vehicles being rolled into the arms fair and to stop it from going ahead.”

Transport from Leeds is available for those wishing to join in.

<https://www.caat.org.uk>



Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

held in Coventry, at the University of Warwick, 29 July – 5 August 2017



To Friends everywhere

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” [James 2:26]

We send loving greetings from Britain Yearly Meeting gathered in community.

This is the third year in which we have explored our theme of Living out our faith in the world; this time we have considered how we work with others to make a difference and build a better world. We have been delighted by the presence of Friends from other yearly meetings and visitors from other churches and faith groups. They have helped us to recognise the way bonds form between different communities for the common good, and to value the richness which comes to us when we welcome diversity in our meetings.

Since our last Yearly Meeting our nations have experienced increasing uncertainty and insecurity. Inequality has become vividly apparent. We are distressed by the trashing of our planet, and angry at the greed, ruthlessness, violence and lies which blight the lives of so many. *“What do you mean, says God, that you grind the faces of my poor?” [Isaiah 3:15]* In this fractured world, how can we respond? What does Love require of us?

We ourselves are part of the problem. Many are too rich. We damage the land, the sea, and all living creatures. We are stealing the future. Change is urgent. We need to recognize our own selfishness and privilege: to be changed ourselves, to live as if the Kingdom of God were already fulfilled.

Throughout our gathering we have heard examples of Friends' work and involvement in the world as Meetings and as individuals. We are reminded that we all find different ways of being faithful. Inspired by the Fox Cubs (3–5-year-olds) we have worn the ribbons which they gave us to share their concern for hungry and homeless people.

When we engage with the brokenness of the world, one of our tools can be our willingness to listen: to the vulnerable, to each other, to those with whom we disagree, and to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. This will enable us to work alongside others powerfully, telling the truth of what is wrong in the world. Sometimes listening will lead us to stillness, at other times to practical action. In all things the Spirit will direct us.

Working with others gives us strength. Their insights may lead us to see our own shortcomings. We can also hold conversations with those in positions of authority and influence.

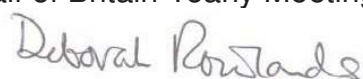
Ours may be a supporting role. We may be called to comfort and uphold, to practise small kindnesses, to admit our own weakness, and to undertake practical tasks which enable others to act. Sometimes being there is enough.

Action may demand courage. This may mean taking part in public protests or acts of disobedience. We may be led to challenge rooted injustices and to use our energy to bring about radical change. Jesus overturned the tables of the money-changers in the temple. He taught that the blessed community was formed of the poor, the hungry and those suffering loss or persecution. *[Luke 6:20-22]*

When our call is clear, we need discipline to test it, and faithfulness to carry it through without counting the cost. May God give us strength and grace to be instruments of change.

“Therefore, dear Friends, wait in the Light, that the Word of the Lord may dwell plentifully in you.” [Qf&p 29.19]

Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting


Deborah Rowlands



Yearly Meeting Gathering

Movement Building – Living out our Faith in the world.

37 Friends from Leeds Area Meeting travelled to Coventry by coach on 29th July. The University complex is huge and the coach driver was uncertain where to drop us off due to parking restrictions imposed by the university. In the event we had quite a long walk with our luggage to find the reception area. Once there, staff could not have been more helpful, and we were soon established in our respective accommodation.

There was a very full agenda and numerous external events as well. For any given time slot during the day there were around a dozen choices and every evening at least three choices to be made. Sometimes it was difficult to discern which was the best choice as often more than one item of interest clashed.

The theme of Living out our Faith ran through all choices. The main Meeting agenda broke it down into four topics –

Heart – your deepest feelings that need putting into action

Head – the planning and working out how to put those feelings into action

Hands – the tools you need to get the action moving

Feet – the people and other groups, some outside Quakers, that you need to work with.

For each session we were treated to a discourse by some very eloquent speakers on the respective topic. For instance, on Sunday George Lakey gave us a very moving personal account that brought many close to tears, but demonstrating that our deepest feelings – from the heart – can prompt us into action.

The annual Swarthmore Lecture was given by Quaker Labour MP Catherine West, who reminded us to *“Stand up, and stand*

where your hands can help most, NOT where your self-satisfaction might be greatest.”

Green MEP and Quaker Socialist, Molly Scott Cato, gave the Salter Lecture under the title “Brexit, Chilcot and the Role of Conscience in the Political Life”. She said *“Contrary to a widely held view, politicians are human beings. Like everybody else we are a mass of contradictory emotions and beliefs, mixed up with evidence and experience.”* She suggested that if we have any concern for our future we should get involved in politics and make our voice heard.

The theme of the week was all about Movement Building and there were several workshops on sustainability, the New Economy, and refugees and asylum seekers. There was also the choice of lighter activities such as circle dancing, tai chi, and singing, as well as led walks into the surrounding countryside, and every night a choice of films in the two cinemas.

Friday night was entertainment night with a sing-along choir in the main concert hall, followed by a admirable scratch orchestra that had only met and rehearsed throughout the week. This was followed by a ceilidh. However, on a personal note, for such a large room and large number of people, the band was lacking amplification and the caller left a lot to be desired. It made it very difficult to hear. Quite apart from the fact that I was really lacking the energy to get up and join in such energetic activity!

The week was a very worthwhile experience, has set me thinking in different ways, and given me some new inspiration. Accommodation was good, food varied and well prepared, and the university staff went out of their way to be helpful.

I’m looking forward to the next YMG.

Pete Redwood

A photo Albumn from Yearly Meeting Gathering



Molly Scott Gato in the Q & A session after her Salter Lecture. A full live text readout was provided for the hard of hearing (right)



Friends were self-catering



Outside the Quaker bookstall with the text of Catherine West's Swarthmore Lecture



Time for a break, to enjoy the sunshine



Some Friends went to visit the magnificent Coventry Cathedral



A buggy park outside the Lecture Hall. These were provided by the University to those in need.



University of Warwick is a very modern complex on the outskirts of Coventry



Time to go home!

Off-day, digital praying? I do protest too much.

We may read that we're called to worship (give worth-while time) with all our hearts and minds and souls and strengths. I have to interpret that as we – you and I – pray, not only in our head, in words with good intentions, but also with our bodies and our feelings and our energies.

Sometimes my mind is blank because I was up too late or my heart is heavy because there will be a conversation I'm now dreading. Sometimes I am struggling to think, or not able to relax.

At those times I may pray more simply, more slowly. With the digits of one hand, I hold the other's thumb, both hands closest to me, unobserved, and I try to name a couple of things that are in my heart - and give those for God to deal with! Then I move on to my pointy finger and hand on a few things that aren't about me, but seem urgent today. Silence! Then I move to the tall finger and can only ask God to bless those decisions and influence that affect millions of human beings. Then the ring finger, which in my case is always bare. For a moment I and God cherish the people I deeply love, without whom my life would be unrecognisable. Then the outside, small finger, where I give up to God anyone/all – the countless ones – who have no hope, no F/friends, no joy, who, chances are, have no-one I know praying for them, who despair as Jesus did in his maturity. Tense and wordless.....

Then I clench the fist of one hand and try to remember things where I've got so impatient, or greedy, or lazy – yes, small-minded – that I have forgotten what is living - that it's not mine to ruin. I open out my fist flat and I drop my indifference and remember what love requires – at least, that am to love my enemies, to do good. I try to accept my part in forgiveness and offer a new start, becoming, I hope, a Christ for others. This is the grain of the world.

Then I look at my open palm. I feel gratitude from the blessing of God and the gifts of other creatures. The power of goodwill will come to fruition, I trust.

Finally, I look again at both hands, however lop-sided, weak and un-stretched. I realise my hands can work with others, are of the Spirit so it's time to get to work – and maul the mend.

From Richard Levitt, Carlton Hill, still learning to mend ways of praying. Actions are hard. It is varied. Sometimes I'm surprised. I give gratitude to "News from St Martins in the Fields, WC2 N 4JJ" as an away day tourist on 2nd July 2017.



From this autumn Woodbrooke is starting online courses. Avoid the expense of accommodation and the hassle and expense of travel. Study in your own time in the comfort of your own home. Here are two in September that might be of interest.

Further details at <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/online-learning/>

An Introduction to Peace Education

Online Course 4th Sept - 15th Oct

Introduction to the theory and practice of peace education exploring how we can support the development of children's inner peace, and how we can help them to understand conflict. Online course requires a commitment of 3 hours per week

A sustainable life: Quaker Faith & Practice in the renewal of Creation.

Online course 11th Sept - 26th Oct

Sustainability is something all Friends should be concerned and active about. It is something even the earliest Friends were concerned about. A fresh look at QF&P reveals this and helps us bring it into the 21st century.

Online course requires a commitment of 3-4 hours a week

In Denial

We might be in denial over the failure of the market, anger over the failure of democracy, as we bargain using low energy light-bulbs to offset our guilt over what we have done to our children but boasting about our acceptance of the reality of climate change

In 2015 this government took us to the Paris Climate Summit claiming global leadership while actively promoting climate wrecking policies. This year the Department for Energy and Climate Change no longer exists. Now responsibilities for climate change belong to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. This alone should intimate the priority climate change has for this government.

Oh, the wicked folly of the prophets! Their words are false. Their inspiration comes from themselves; they have seen no vision. Ezekiel 13.

Believe me, this generation will bear the guilt of it all. Matthew 23

Ruth Jarman Christian Climate Action



Fracking Bad News

Let us hold in the Light Quakers in Kirkbymoorside, and indeed all the residents in that area. They are holding their breath because Third Energy plan to start full fracking operations very soon at their nearby site in Kirkby Misperton. The government has decreed that the operation is perfectly legal and any attempt to disrupt their work will be considered illegal.

The same company, Third Energy (owned by Cuadrilla, which is bank-rolled by Barclays Bank) has been carrying out covert surveillance of various sites in our area and have now applied for a number of licences in South Leeds and Wakefield. A second company, Rathlin Energy, has also applied for a number of licences in the same area.

Dart Energy is also seeking permission to explore the extraction of coal gas from disused coal mines in South Leeds.

As if that is not enough to be going on with, a Wetherby company, Augean, which specialises in the disposal of radio-active waste, has applied for a licence to use “underground sites” in South Leeds.



A New Economy

It is now 10 years since a chain of events was set in place that caused the world's economy to collapse. All the signs are that we are heading for another one!

Almost everybody I have talked to recently has agreed that the existing system is not fit for purpose. But what can replace it? What can we do about it?

Since 2011 and the minute on sustainability, from the Yearly Meeting Gathering at Canterbury, members of the QPSW team at Friends House have been working on answers to those questions.

In mid 2015 they published the following minute:

“We recognise that we need to speak out for a rightly ordered economic system that works for the common good, supporting appropriate elements already in place and promoting relevant reforms. Through local action and participation in the democratic process, we will seek to move towards an economy that reflects our fundamental beliefs regarding the value of humanity and the natural world.”

Various Meetings around the country began to show an interest and from the beginning of this year QPSW have published, at regular intervals, a series of booklets to help Meetings set up discussion groups with the idea that they feed through to the central team. Out of a total of seven booklets, five have so far been published, the remainder due before the end of the year. All of them can be accessed online, together a full description of the thinking so far:
<http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/new-economy>

Leeds is one of the few major cities that does not have a New Economy study group and the QPSW team would really like to see one set up here. If you have any thoughts at all about the economy, the present system, and what a future could look like and would be happy to join in a study group across the area meeting, please get in touch with me.

Pete Redwood predwood@phonecoop.coop



c/o Polyp.org.uk

Circle Dancing at Adel

Dancing in a circle is an ancient tradition common to many cultures for marking special occasions, strengthening community and encouraging togetherness. The circle is probably the oldest known dance formation. It is still found today in the community dances of many cultures, including Greek, African, Eastern European, Israeli, Serbian, Irish Celtic, South American and North American Indian.

Circle dancing was revived in the UK by Bernard Wosien, a German professor and dancer who collected traditional folk dances from around Europe, in particular Greece and the former Yugoslavia. In 1976 he was invited to teach the dances at the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland, a spiritual community established in the 1960s. From here the dances spread throughout the UK.



Dancing in a circle is also used, in its more meditative form, in worship within various religious traditions, including, for example, the Church of England and other Anglican Churches and the Islamic Hadra dances.

Circle dance today includes traditional folk dances, mainly from European or Near-Eastern sources but there is a growing repertoire of new dances to classical music and contemporary songs. Circle dances can be energetic and lively or gentle and reflective. The style and mood reflects the group and the interests of the teacher. The aim always is to experience the joy of dancing with others and to create a sense of well-being and community.

A group of us have been dancing at Adel Meeting House for several years now and we would welcome new dancers. You don't have to be an expert and you don't need a partner. We meet fortnightly on **Thursday** afternoons and we'd love to see you at our first session this Autumn on **21 September 3.00 till 4.30 p.m.**

Volunteer Wanted



The Leeds Fairtrade Group is a small group of volunteers. We are now looking for a voluntary co-ordinator to help us. The role involves helping to initiate and organise events, help with running meetings – we meet six times a year, on a weekday morning - and if possible, help with keeping our Twitter and Facebook pages up to date. Assistance with keeping our website up to date would also be helpful. Ideally our volunteer would have experience in “small event” management. You will get a unique experience to network with passionate and knowledgeable volunteers across the city who want to make the world a fairer place! You will gain experience in managing websites, running (small scale) events and making maximum impact on a shoestring!:)

Please contact Joan on joan.machin@ntlworld.com and we can arrange to meet.

Longing, Belonging & Balfour

Chai for All, the Bristol based jazz-tinged klezmer and Middle Eastern music ensemble will be bringing their new work, Longing, Belonging & Balfour to Leeds on the 24th September for a 7:00 pm performance at the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, LS2 9DX.

This performance piece, part of a ten gig tour of the UK, is Chai for All's latest project a musical re-telling of the Balfour Declaration story of 1917 in its centenary year. Chai for All will be joined by virtuoso clarinetist and kaval (Bulgarian flute) player Katie Stevens, renowned storyteller Michael Loader, British-Israeli platinum record producer Mark Smulian and the voice of Palestinian poet Alissar Amali – melding klezmer Arabic and other idioms together in music composed and arranged by German-born Knud Stuwe.

There will be a pre-show workshop, at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House from 4 until 6pm, on the 24th September, open to all to explore the four perspectives on the Balfour Declaration. Also an opportunity after the show for audience members to share their personal stories evoked by the performance. The workshop is free.

There will also be an opportunity to share personal stories relevant to the performance after the show.

Entry at the door £10, £5 students, low wage and unemployed.

Other show dates in the York area :-

Sheffield, Library Theatre – Saturday 23rd September

York, Central Methodist Church – Friday 22nd September



Exhibition at Rawdon

An exhibition commemorating Quaker service will be on display at Rawdon Meeting House as part of the **Heritage Open Day** on **Saturday 9th September** from **1pm to 4pm**.. Although it is available for showing nationally this will be the first chance to see the exhibition in this area.

Quaker Housing Services for Older People

Financial Support

Are you over retirement age, and a Member or regular Attender?

Are you having difficulty meeting the costs of your housing, repairs, care or Nursing Home fees, or the cost of alterations to your home to suit your disability?

Then speak to an Elder or Overseer at your Meeting to discuss applying for a grant or quarterly bursary from the Friends Housing Bursary Trust.

From Robert Keeble's photo album



The wedding of Rebecca Howard and Luke Tilley at Carlton Hill on 5th August saw a record of 101 people in the Meeting room – also a record number of bikes on the bike stands!



Robert enjoys some refreshment at the newly refurbished Piece Hall in Halifax



On the Gay Pride march



Friday 8h Sept 7pm to 9pm at Carlton Hill for the launch of an exhibition by Andrew Medcalf – featuring photos of the Woodhouse area taken at the time of the building of the Meeting House, as well as more recent photos.



Nagasaki Day Service in Leeds, Park Square



UNIBUS visits Leeds – some 18 young people ages 19 to 29 visited Carlton Hill QMH as part of a tour across the country visiting people and places of inspiration

From the archives

see article on page 4



One of the first Sunday Meetings at Carlton Hill



Bertram Merryweather, Bob Bates (warden) and Ruth Shutt



Period dress for the opening ceremony