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there's only one thing missing

Quaker worship can move you
on a life-changing inward journey.

www.quaker.org.uk/you



Events during Quaker Week

Saturday 3rd – Sunday 11th October 2009

for updates see www.leedsquakers.org.uk

Sunday 4th October

Public Space Meeting for Worship

Briggate, from 2.30pm to 4pm,
with the actual meeting taking place in the first half-hour.
**Leeds Meetings are being asked if they can each
send a representative.** This will also serve as a
witness to climate change.

“On Human Folly”

Leeds University Studio

Friday October 2nd

starting at 7.30pm

...

Children's party

Carlton Hill

Thursday October 8th

from 4pm to 6pm

all Area Meeting children are welcome to attend.
Organiser Judith Acton.

...

Talk by Dr. Philip Lewis

of Bradford University Peace Studies

Friday Oct 9th

7.30pm at **Ilkley**

...

Quiz evening

with refreshments

Saturday 10th October

from 6pm at **Roundhay**.



Living Witness Project

workshop at **Carlton Hill**

Saturday October 10th

starting at 2.30pm.

Open to the public, this workshop will
also focus on Climate Change.

Those wishing to attend need to book.
Organiser Betsy Randolph-Horn.

Ilkley will also hold an extra **Open Meeting** on **Sunday Oct.11th**.

Adel and Rawdon are not holding any events, but are willing to help other Meetings.

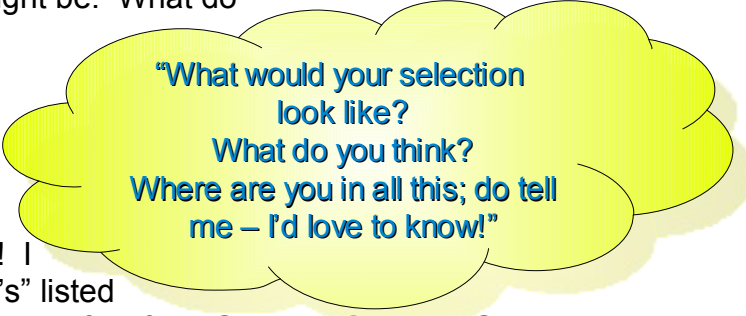
Odds and Sodamints

1 ■ **Desert Island Discs** Have you ever played “Desert Island Discs” with a group of close friends? It can be quite fun, working out which eight records to take with you to a desert island. For myself, I might well start with pieces by Mozart and Bach, then add some Copland and Bernstein, possibly. This could be followed by a dash of jazz, and then some poetry too – yes “Under Milk Wood” would do nicely. Now I’ll need a slice of humour as well – maybe a Hoffnung recording, or if it’s allowed, a tape of “I’m sorry I haven’t a Clue”. Nearly there!

2 ■ **Desert Island Quotes** Now this is a Quaker variation on the above. This time there is a weight restriction, so you aren’t able to take “Quaker Faith and Practice” with you. So which eight quotes from the red book would you wish to keep by you, as your memory faded? I’ve just selected a number to display at Adel for our Heritage Open Day. I’ve picked out three by Penn (**19.28**, **21.17** and **20.11**); one by Fox (**19.32**, highlighting the last sentence); three poems (**2.65**, **20.01** and **21.53**); and two I particularly like: “The power of stillness” (**2.53**) and “Magnificent opportunities” (**21.43**). What would your selection look like?

3 ■ **What appears if you Google “Quakers”?** Well, go on try it and see! Actually, you get a different selection if you Google “Quaker” (less Darlington F.C. and more porridge oats!). Under “Quaker”, “Quaker Tapestry” appears in 13th place, “Quaker Quest” in 17th, and Woodbrooke at 20th. Using “Quakers” there are more local entries. I’m pleased to report that Leeds comes highest in 9th place, with Cheltenham in 14th and Kingston in 16th places respectively. In 10th place you’ll find you can select two videos, “An Introduction to Quakers” and “Quaker Testimonies”. Web-sites are there to attract a variety of enquirers of course. However the question arises whether the Friends House site, which occupies the number one slot for both words, is as attractive to those wanting to learn about Friends as it might be. What do you think?

4 ■ **Who is Your God?** Well, I didn’t get much in the way of response to the question I posed for readers of the last issue, even though I offered a valuable prize! I asked, in effect, which of the ten “God’s” listed I rejected, and which I warmed to. Well the first five (**God the Creator, God Almighty, God our Moral Compass, the God of Forgiveness, and the Personal God**) I find difficult to accept, whereas the second five (**God, the Ground of our Being, God as in “That of God in Everyone”, God is Love, The Word was God, and God, the Light of the World**) do make much more sense to me. I guess the distinction for me is between God “out there” and God “inside”. Where are you in all this; do tell me – I’d love to know!



“What would your selection look like?
What do you think?
Where are you in all this; do tell me – I’d love to know!”



Quentin Fowler

Building Peace - Tackling Racism



Philip Lewis
Peace Studies, Bradford University

Are you alert to practises here and throughout the world which discriminate against people on the basis of who or what they are or because of their beliefs?

Leah Elcock
Diversity Officer,
Bolton Racial Equality Council

Roundhay Quakers will be showing
the NFPB video Building Peace Tackling Racism

Andy Sykes
Former BNP member

Monday 21st September 2009 at 7:30 pm
Roundhay Friends Meeting House
136 Street Lane, Leeds 8

John Baraza
Kenyan Quaker and refugee worker

Marian Liebmann
Mediator

Saarah Ambreem
Huddersfield Interfaith Council

Everyone welcome

Free admission and refreshments

This movie was made during a conference organised by Northern Friends Peace Board held in March last year at Huddersfield Quaker Meeting House. Carlton Hill showed it earlier in this year. Now it's Roundhay's turn!

The film, which is purposefully being shown on the UN International Day of Peace, will be followed by a discussion on how we might work together to build peace in our diverse communities. Please come along and join in!

Two Flats for sale in Quaker House

There is currently a one bedroomed flat as well as a two bedroomed flat for sale.

Quaker House is located next to Carlton Hill Meeting House, less than a mile from the City Centre, close to local shops and on a main bus route.

The building contains twelve flats for active over 60's which means that at least one person in a couple sharing flat must be over sixty.

Carlton Hill Meeting, with its resident wardens, Robert and Lea Keeble, holds a Friday coffee morning as well as social activities including community lunches and breakfasts. In addition to the meeting, the site is also served by Age Concern, with meals, classes and activities throughout the week.

If interested please contact Una Parker on 0113 244 5454

Dear Friends my wife Ruth recently started work in a Children's Hospice, which at one and the same time is a most rewarding and yet heart breaking environment to work in.

In any circumstances the death of a child is one of the most difficult bereavements anyone ever has to deal with. The following poem called "The Passing" attempts to bring comfort to all those in that situation.

The Passing

*So whisper their name
Softly to the wind
As they reach
For heavens light
Cradle them gently
In loving arms
At the passing
Of their life*

*Your eyes
They fill with tears
As your heart
Remembers still
The child
You loved and lost
Your mind
The memories fill*

*In letting go
You feel so lost
As your heart
It breaks in two
Now angel's hearts
Will love the child
You loved so much
For you*

*Then exhausted
Sleep awhile
Emptied in
Nature's way
You try to find
The strength
To face
The pain
Of the dawning day*

*Of that
Irreplaceable love
That one
In a million smile
That one and only
Once and forever
My precious precious
Child*

*Can anything ever
Heal this pain
Or sooth the way
It stings
Not now nor ever
Except to know
My child sleeps
In angels wings*

Paul Martin Emery

Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Adel Meeting will host a talk about the work of PAFRAS
(Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) on

**Sunday 25th October
at 1pm**

During 2008 PAFRAS received 6112 visits from destitute asylum seekers at its drop-in centre, and provided 1292 one-to-one support sessions with specialised staff. PAFRAS has also provided 5610 hot meals, 2840 food parcels. PAFRAS currently receives more than 500 visits each month. PAFRAS provides vital services in constrained circumstances with limited funding.

The talk will be preceded by a shared lunch

Creating Harmony and Deepening Relationships

This is the title of a **Woodbrooke-on-the-Road workshop to be held at Carlton Hill Meeting on Saturday 28 November 2009** from 9.30 to 4.30. It will be paid for by Leeds Area Meeting, is open to all members and attenders, and promises to be a stimulating day with a lot of valuable suggestions about tools and techniques we can use to improve interpersonal relationships and to deflect and deal with potential conflict. It will focus on harmony within our meetings, but the basic techniques will be eminently transferable and widely applicable.

Some of the topics to be included will be *styles and structures of interaction, listening and building trust, improving understanding and Quaker processes and resources*.

The event has been arranged in response to a request from Elders and Overseers, and its format will be a condensed version of a weekend workshop I attended last year at Woodbrooke and found immensely helpful. We are fortunate to be able to have the same tutors who made that course so inspiring, and who have been working together since the 1990s.

Marion Wells-Bruges is a member of Bristol Area Meeting. She is a mediator and tutors courses on eldership and oversight and also on conflict and building relationships. She is a member of Quaker Life Central Committee and the Network Co-ordinating Group.

Sue Bowers is a member of a new Local Meeting in Witney. As convenor of shared eldership and oversight she is involved in developing a system that meets the needs of both seasoned and new Friends. In community mediation, her main interest was in peer mediation among young people. As a member of the Quaker Network she helps Meetings who are experiencing difficulties.

I hope that Friends will find this event an attractive one. It is intended to deepen the spiritual life of our meetings, and it would be good if every one of our local meetings could be represented. I very much hope that Clerks, Elders and Overseers will encourage members and attenders to attend.

The tutors have asked that those wishing to attend should book a place in advance, and publicity and booking information will be circulated to meetings in due course. In the meantime please feel free to contact me for further information.

Barbara Parry
Convenor of LAQM Elders and Overseers

0113 2503867
barbaraparry@waitrose.com

KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE



Stop the Militarisation of Space!

Menwith Hill Saturday 3rd October, 12 - 3pm Kettlesing lay by, A59

With Diana Wallis - Yorkshire MEP
Rukya Dhadywala - Municiple Public Affairs Committee
A speaker from the anti UAV Campaign - CND Cymru
Music from Daftasadrum, Samba bands and a briefing on Menwith Hill's activities

Contact CAAB mail@caab.corner.org.uk www.caab.org.uk
Yorkshire CND 01274 730795 info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk



Have you attended a Woodbrooke course recently?

Have you something to say about a course you have been on at Woodbrooke (The Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham) in the past few years?

I am putting together a feature about courses there for the Quiet Word and wanted to include feedback from people who have been there. Please include what you studied, what you learnt about it, and anything else you want to say to help to encourage others to take up courses there. Please email all submission to me at c.wigzell@ocnyhr.org.uk

Clare Wigzell

Independence, Independence, Independence....

This, Alan Stanley, Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) at HM Prison Leeds, told an audience of Friends, is the essence of the work of the members of the Board. It used to be known as The Board of Visitors and had a semi-judicial role. The Strangeways riots and the subsequent Report by Lord Justice Wolf changed all that.

Every Board member now has complete and unrestricted access to the prison at all times (including during the night). They can arrive unannounced and with no forewarning. Every aspect of the life of the prison is under scrutiny, any prisoner can speak to them and there must be no prison staff within hearing. The IMB members are there to monitor the reality of prison life against the theory and have to ensure that every aspect of that life is monitored e.g. the food, health care, disability access, segregation, suicides, visits and adjudications.

Prisoners can also request a visit by a member of the IMB if they have a particular problem. One example he gave was of a prisoner who did not receive a pair of trainers sent in by recorded delivery and no matter how hard he tried he couldn't find out what had happened. The Board member discovered that although all recorded delivery items had to be opened in the presence of the prisoner, this had not been happening. The matter was sent up the chain of command and henceforth this was done properly. This particular prisoner was recompensed for his lost trainers.

Most importantly the Governor of the Prison must meet monthly with the IMB. They can ask questions of him off the cuff or, in some instances, with notice. If they think the problem isn't dealt with appropriately then the IMB can take the matter to a higher level of management, finally, if necessary, as far as the Minister for Justice.

Currently there are vacancies on the Board. If you are interested in this work and would like to know more there are booklets and leaflets explaining various aspects of the work available from Alan Stanley on alan.stanley@btclick.com

Phil O'Hare
for Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group

Quakers in Yorkshire **Saturday 17th October**

at Hull Friends Meeting House

Topics: Quaker work in Prisons
Outreach and Inreach led by QOY

Glenthorne

"Tongues on Fire"

The Relationship between
Spirituality & Language

20-22 Nov 2009

Conference led by Harvey Gillman

Cost £104

bookings: Grasmere, 01539-435389

“Marriage is the Lord's work, and we are but witnesses”

Yearly Meeting 2009, from Minute 23: *Committed Relationships*



... a session was held on Tuesday afternoon at which speakers shared personal experiences of the celebration and recognition of their committed relationships. These Friends had felt upheld by their meetings in these relationships but regretted that whereas there was a clear, visible path to celebration and recognition for opposite sex couples, the options available for couples of the same sex were not clear and could vary widely between meetings. Friends who feel theirs to be an ordinary and private rather than an exotic and public

relationship have had to be visible pioneers to get their relationship acknowledged and recorded.

This open sharing of personal experience has moved us and added to our clear sense that, 22 years after the prospect was first raised at Meeting for Sufferings, we are being led to treat same sex committed relationships in the same way as opposite sex marriages, reaffirming our central insight that marriage is the Lord's work and we are but witnesses. The question of legal recognition by the state is secondary.

We therefore ask Meeting for Sufferings to take steps to put this leading into practice and to arrange for a draft revision of the relevant sections of Quaker faith and practice, so that same sex marriages can be prepared, celebrated, witnessed, recorded and reported to the state, as opposite sex marriages are. We also ask Meeting for Sufferings to engage with our governments to seek a change in the relevant laws so that same sex marriages notified in this way can be recognised as legally valid, without further process, in the same way as opposite sex marriages celebrated in our meetings.

We will not at this time require our registering officers to act contrary to the law, but understand that the law does not preclude them from playing a central role in the celebration and recording of same sex marriages.

We have heard dissenting voices during the threshing process which has led to this decision, and we have been reminded of the need for tenderness to those who are not with us who will find this change difficult. We also need to remember, including in our revision of *Quaker faith and practice*, those Friends who live singly, whether or not by choice.

We will need to explain our decision to other Christian bodies, other faith communities, and, indeed to other Yearly Meetings, and pray for a continuing loving dialogue, even with those who might disagree strongly with what we affirm as our discernment of God's will for us at this time.

“Quakers make the right decision” says Rosemary Hartill in the Guardian at www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2009/aug/03/quaker-gay-marriage