



Meeting for worship

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting
House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,
Leeds, LS27 7HX
tel: 0113 2564944 or 07973 450368
Sundays, 10.45 am

ILKLEY Friends Meeting House
Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds, LS29 9QJ
tel: 01943 600 806 or 01943 601181
Sundays, 10.30 am

ADEL Friends Meeting House
New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ
tel: 0113 2676293
Sundays, 10.45 am

CARLTON HILL Central Leeds
Friends Meeting House
188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds,
LS2 9DX
tel: 0113 2422208
Meetings for worship:
Sundays, 10.45 am

ROUNDHAY
Friends Meeting House
136 Street Lane, Leeds, LS8 2BW
tel: 0113 2933684
Sundays, 10.45 am

OTLEY
Friends Meeting
1st Sunday of month 10:45 at various
houses.
3rd Sunday every month in The Court
House - usually in the Robing room .
Enquiries :0113 318 8084 dmr@cooptel.net

RAWDON
Friends Meeting House-
Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,
LS19 6HU
tel: 07582 960092
Sundays, 10.45 am

LEEDS UNIVERSITY
Tuesdays, 1.05pm
In Claire Chapel, The Emmanuel
Centre which is alongside the main
entrance to the University of Leeds
Campus opposite the Parkinson
Building (with the white clock tower).
Organised by the Leeds Universities
Chaplaincy

Bedford Court
First and third Wednesdays,
10.30 am

THE QUIET WORD

April 2015 issue no.2



Left: Tree pruning at
Carlton Hill

Right: Robert Keeble's
banana picture -
Fairtrade Fortnight



Contents

Dates for your Diary	2
Say No to Grident	3
Quakers in Yorkshire - at The Retreat	4
The Retreat in York	5
Report of Leeds Area Quaker Meeting - March	6
End of Life Working Group	7
Quaker Camp - Tywyn, Gwynedd, Wales 2015	8
QPSW Spring Conference - Report	9
Young Peoples Work in Yorkshire	10
Yorkshire Friends Holiday School	11
Leeds Universities Quaker Chaplaincy Report	12
Northern Friends Peace Board	14
Picture Gallery	15
News from Friends House	16

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

April

Saturday 18th 10am to 4pm

Quakers in Yorkshire at The Retreat, York. Topic: Mental Health

Sunday 19th 10.45am

Otley Quaker Meeting

Saturday 25th April 12 noon

Trident vigil. Meet near Debenhams on Briggate and say no to Trident before the election

Saturday 25th 2pm

Alistair Milner's memorial meeting is to be held at Rawdon QMH ie his former meeting. His ashes will then be interred at Rawdon burial ground.

May

Friday 1st to Monday 4th

BYM (Britain Yearly Meeting) - the national gathering of Quakers, Friends House, **London**

@Sunday 10th 1pm to 4.15pm

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting - Topic 'Peace' - to be held at Ilkley QMH

Saturday 16th

Introduction to Children's and Young People's Work, Carlton Hill QMH. See page ...?

Sunday 17th 10.45am

Otley Quaker Meeting

Sunday 17th 2pm

Leeds 'Quakers say no to Trident' planning Meeting, Carlton Hill QMH

June

Sunday 21st 10.45am

Otley Quaker Meeting (all ages)

Say no to Trident



Leeds Quaker Peace Witness against Trident:

12noon on Saturday 25th April

Meet near Debenhams on Briggate
and say no to Trident before the
election.....

10.45am Sunday 10th May

Trident Visits Ilkley Moor – photo
outside the Quaker Meeting House and on
Ilkley Moor.....

2pm Sunday 17th May

Leeds 'Quakers say no to Trident'
planning Meeting, QMH 188 Woodhouse
Lane.

QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE
Saturday 18th April, 2015 at THE RETREAT,
Heslington Road, York YO10 5BN

Friends (all members and attenders) are welcome to come to all or part of this meeting, which will provide an opportunity to have a look at The Retreat and to learn about its history and work from people who are involved with its governance and its day-to-day proceedings.

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY:

10am tea/coffee then after meeting for worship at 10.30 am, the morning session, beginning at 11, will offer the following presentations:

_ **The Retreat past and present**, including its governance (led by John Miles, Clerk of the Retreat Members and a Trustee Director, and Rob Griffiths, Trustee Director).

_ **The work of the Tuke Centre**, The Retreat's community resource (led by Kim Bevan, Manager of the Tuke Centre)

_ **An update on national developments towards a Quaker View of mental Health** (from Bronwen Gray, Quaker Chaplain at The Retreat)

We will break for lunch at 1 pm (please bring your own), followed by an opportunity to join two of the following options:

_ **Understanding dementia**

_ **History of The Retreat** in more detail

_ **Visit to the Quaker Burial Ground on site** and walk around the grounds

_ **Quakers and mental health discussion**

_ **Spirituality at The Retreat**

_ **Compassion-focused therapy**

_ **Practice of mindfulness** (to be confirmed)

Tea and coffee will be provided, plus cakes at the end of the day.

We regret that there will be no special provision for children and young people at this meeting, but they are welcome as always to attend under supervision of parents or guardians.

Car parking at The Retreat is limited; buses no. 4 and 44 from the railway station stop just across the road (stop just after St Lawrence's School).

The Retreat



The Retreat in 1860's

The Retreat occupies a central place in the history of psychiatry. Every textbook on the subject mentions the unique part played by The Retreat in the reshaping of attitudes towards people who are mentally ill.

Opened in 1796 by William Tuke, a retired tea merchant, the original Retreat was intended to be a place where members of The Society of Friends (Quakers) who were experiencing mental distress could come and recover in an environment that would be both familiar and sympathetic to their needs. Some years earlier, a Leeds Quaker, Hannah Mills, had died in the squalid and inhumane conditions that then prevailed in the York Asylum, and appalled at this Tuke and his family vowed that never again should any Quaker be forced to endure such treatment.

The Retreat is now a charitable, not-for-profit provider of specialist mental health care. It works closely with the NHS to provide services for people with complex and challenging needs in an open, calming environment designed to enable recovery and independence.

The Retreat believes that successful therapeutic relationships are based on respect, dignity and tolerance and ensures the voice of the people who use its services along with their friends, families and carers are given every opportunity to be heard.



The Tuke Centre

If you are not able to attend QiY on 18/04/15, why not watch:

The Retreat video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=53&v=hTDT0Z1ATrw>

Or visit the website: <http://www.theretreatyork.org.uk/>

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting

Saturday 28th March 2015



Roundhay Quaker Meeting House

Given that gales were forecast and that we had an earlier than normal start of 10am, our Area Meeting

that was held at Roundhay Quaker Meeting House on Saturday 28th March, was well attended with 28 present. Our business included welcoming Tricia Griffin and Tom Scott into membership. We learnt that it has taken Tom sixty years before he felt that it was right for him to seek membership. For those that are not familiar with the term, this is simply the formal recognition of what for many has already become a fact, namely, that you have become an important part of our worshipping community and seek to live by the values of our testimonies to peace, truth, equality, justice and simplicity. Many appointments were made, but rather detail every item in the rather long agenda, the following are some of the highlights. **The theme was Children and Young People** and it was a joy to welcome four younger Friends to the Meeting, including Alex, our youngest ever 'representative', from a local meeting who represented Adel Quaker Meeting with his mother, Gill. We learned about the **Leeds Syllabus for Religious Education 2015-2020** which has been prepared by SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education). Barbara Witt, who is our Leeds Quaker representative on SACRE informed us of the official launch, to which we agreed to send four representatives.

Four friends have so far agreed to become **Kindler Trainers** for our meetings in Leeds - The Kindlers is an experimental group 'working to rekindle the power of Quaker worship by renewing and deepening our spiritual practices'. If you would also like to

become a Kindler Trainer, please contact myself with further delay.

Meeting for Sufferings, which is the standing representative body entrusted with the care of the business of Britain Yearly Meeting through the year, has written to all Area Meetings urging Friends locally, regionally and nationally to strengthen the bonds of friendship with the **Muslim community** through the values we share. To enable this to start happening in Leeds, we agreed that we would like to arrange a Leeds Quaker visit to a Mosque - watch this space! Nb Our Leeds Representatives on Meeting for Sufferings are John Arnison and Charlotte Allen

After a much enjoyed extended tea break, we reconvened for our second session where we heard about the experiences of David Robson at Holiday School in 1948 and then Alex told us about his experiences of Junior Holidays in 2014. We were been reminded of the importance of supporting the work of our Quakers in Yorkshire Under 19's Coordinating Committee. This includes Holiday School, Yorkshire Junior Holidays and Children's' activities at Easter Settlement. **Friends are encouraged to give service**, to encourage those gifted in nurturing children to consider giving service and to ensure that all Young People are made aware of the activities that are taking place. We are informed that if volunteers are not found, some of our activities offered to those under 19 may not take place in the future.

Our all aged workshop session was much enjoyed by all and started with a reminder of Advices and Queries No 24 which says that Children and young people need love and stability. We heard about the survey conducted by Rounday friends which asked all our Leeds meetings how they feel about children coming to meeting and also asked children about how they feel about coming to meeting. With the help of some simple exercises we found

that we rejoice in having children in our meetings and can make it more likely that they will enjoy being part of the meeting. Two things stick in my mind – the suggestion, made by one of the children present, that we should have a **'bring your pet to meeting day'** and a rekindling of my own memory of why I enjoyed meeting as a child, namely, it was the only time I got to eat chocolate biscuits!

Our session ended on time for lunch which was a very relaxed affair and gave us all a good opportunity to get to know one another better. Then, after many had said the 'fond farewells', eight of us went on to enjoy the

newly reopened Tropical World at Roundhay Park.

Robert Keeble (LAQM Co-Clerk)



"What is the best thing about
Children's Meeting?"
"Biscuits!!!"

End of Life Issues Working Group

Quaker Life Central Committee is setting up a working group to consider how best to engage Friends and meetings with exploring End of Life issues. The group will be exploring how best to compile and share End of Life stories more widely to help Friends engage with the issues and thinking about how meetings can be made aware of relevant resources. We are aware that there are a large number of Friends who have experience or an interest in participating in this work and Quaker Life Nominations committee would be glad to hear from you. We are looking for four Friends and will be seeking a balance of experience and expertise, so not all Friends interested will be able to serve on the group, but we hope that there will be other opportunities to be involved in this work at either a local or national level.

Please respond to

Oliver Waterhouse, 020 7663 1007

giving brief details of why you might like to be involved in this work.

Nb Leeds Area Meetings End of Life Care Working Party is also proposing to publish a 70 page booklet on Assisted Dying.



Are you living in a Peaceable Kingdom and/or Living with Conflict?

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting has agreed to support the Living with Conflict Project by acting as a 'home charity'. A report will be offered to LAQM annually by the Living With Conflict Project.

See livingwithconflict.net for full details.

Quaker Camp 2015

Quaker Camp consists of about fifty Quakers from all parts of Britain who enjoy camping together. This year's camp is at the seaside town of Tywyn in mid Wales from 25 July to 1 August 2015. Booking is essential, but everyone is welcome.

Details from Quaker Campers clerk Yvonne Dickson, yhq100@hotmail.com 01244 300992.

Catering is individual, but there is a large field with room for communal activities such as the short daily Meeting for Worship and the shared pudding evening. This year we hope to be in the field next to the Talyllyn Railway and wake in the morning to the sound of passing steam trains....



Tywyn is in the heart of **Cardigan Bay** and is a picture book Victorian resort town. One compelling reason for its enduring appeal is the long stretch of sandy coastline and sand dunes which give the town its name, Tywyn literally means 'beach' or 'sand-dune'. The coastline is famed for its sunsets which can be enjoyed from the charming Victorian promenade that parallels the beach. Nearby the Tywyn Lagoon and the **Dolgoch Waterfalls** are of incredible natural beauty and have always proved popular with visitors to the area. Those wishing to enjoy the scenic splendour of southern **Snowdonia** are able to take advantage of the myriad walking and cycling paths that criss-cross the countryside



Graphics courtesy Wikipedia and Talyllyn Railway Company

QPSW Spring Conference 2015

Leeds AM representatives Rici Marshall and Pete Redwood attended the QPSW Spring Conference at The Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick in Derbyshire on the weekend of 13-15 March. Over 100 Friends (and some non-Quakers) attended the weekend. The Hayes Centre has expanded considerably over the years and on this weekend hosted three other groups besides ourselves.

The weekend proved to be very intensive but rewarding. We were split into home groups which were allocated by geographical area so we were in the "Orange" group covering the North of England and Scotland. This was useful as it enabled networking and made it easier to discuss the various aspects of the weekend.

The first session was due to be led by Helen Drewery but unfortunately she was prevented through illness. Instead other members of the QPSW team gave an overview of QPSW work. This was followed by a Skype link with Agona Bernard Lisamadi, one of Turning The Tide's partners in Kenya. He gave a very detailed account of how Turning The Tide had helped him and his group to address violence in his area, telling stories about the fantastic results that their work had achieved. We were told that Kenya has the largest concentration of Quakers anywhere in the world! The session was an inspirational example of the results that can be achieved when power is shifted.

Two workshop sessions were available, each with a wide choice of topics covering the work of QPSW. Both Pete and Rici attended a workshop on the rising presence of the military in education, growing out of a recent government strategy to increase public support for the military. We were told how the government is investing a large amount of money in getting schools to indoctrinate children into believing in the military and subtly recruiting young people into the armed forces and young minds into

accepting a military ethos is the norm. Also it emerged that any teacher who criticises this or expresses a view against the armed forces to pupils is in danger of losing their job. We were shown a short film* which has been developed by QPSW which addresses this and we practiced ways of using it as a tool for raising awareness with the wider public. Pete also attended a

session on Meet the Peacemakers, those young people who has been placed with various peace-making NGOs for a year at a time. Rici attended a session on economic equality in which we helped to shape the vision which QPSW is leading in order to identify the building blocks which an economic system which is in keeping with our Quaker values; more equal share of wealth, valuing wellbeing and environment over profits and moving away from measures of economic success solely based on growing GDP.

Pete's reflections on the weekend: "I thought I knew quite a bit about QPSW but learned an awful lot. It was good to meet up with many old Friends and meet new ones."

Rici's reflections on the weekend: "It is clear that QPSW is enabling and achieving a huge amount and there is a huge amount of enthusiasm all over Britain in helping this work to thrive. I think these events are so important in connecting up the grass roots of local and area meetings to the central work being done on our behalf by staff and committees.

Where do we go from here? We felt that Area Meeting and even local meetings needs a QPSW correspondent to keep the Meeting up to date with the valuable work that is taking place, and maybe there was scope to invite Turning The Tide or members of QPSW to lead us in sessions of interest.

We thank Area Meeting for allowing us the opportunity to attend.

Pete Redwood & Rici Marshall

The film is called **'The Unseen March'** and is planned to be launched around Armed forces Day. (27th June) In the mean time, an animation which responds to the Government's policy is called: **The British Armed Forces: Propaganda in the classroom?** (and can be found on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=wB9JD6P1RCM)



Young People's work in Yorkshire – volunteers needed

From Quakers in Yorkshire Under 19s co-ordinating group

For many years Quakers in Yorkshire have run residential holidays for younger children – about 7 – 12 years of age. These have included a weekend at Barmoor in June and a residential week towards the end of August at a different venue each year. They have been really popular, and also create a group of teenagers who want to go to Yorkshire Friends Holiday School, held at Bootham in late August (for 13-18 year olds).

This year there has been a bit of a crisis! Only two people have been found to be on the committee that organises the younger children's residentials so it is not really viable. We think the lack of people wanting to be on the committee is because of fear of being landed with too much work and of not having enough volunteers to help at the holidays themselves.

We have managed to set up an interim group to arrange the Barmoor weekend, and are looking at the summer residential, but this is only a stop gap solution. So this letter is going out to all Friends and Attenders in Yorkshire, asking for volunteers of all sorts. We want to gather together a group of people who are interested in working with young people in any way – driving, outings, residential holidays, cooking, playing games, sport, music, drama, photography, art film, doing first aid, organising holidays, dealing with admin, helping with finance....all skills would be welcome. We would then arrange one or perhaps two events a year for this group of volunteers to get to know each other and to have some training and to share information about what is going on currently and to have ideas on future activities. We also hope that we will find some people who would be happy to be on the committee that actually initiates and organises the residentials.

If you are interested could you please email kate.r.marks@googlemail.com and say what you think you could contribute and would enjoy doing. We are going to ask all those interested to come to an introductory afternoon at Carlton Hill Meeting House Leeds in the afternoon of Saturday May 16th, so we can get to know each other and find out the spread of what the group has to offer. We hope the group will be large enough that it becomes again a pleasure to help with this important work, rather than a burden. Travel expenses will be provided for those who can come.

In Friendship,

Kate Marks (Sheffield Central), Jude Acton (Carlton Hill), and Rosemary Daley (Keighley)

#YFHS2015

Bootham School, York

Sunday 16th to Sunday 23rd August 2015



Yorkshire Friends Holiday School is an annual gathering for around a hundred 13-18 year olds. Each year we build a vibrant, respectful community and organise a mixture of activities – both fun and thought provoking!



For more information or an application form, please contact the clerk of your meeting, visit our website: www.yfhs.org.uk or e-mail: yfhssecretary@gmail.com



YFHS is supported by Quakers in Yorkshire

Leeds Universities' Quaker Chaplaincy Report

"Tell me, have Quakers always punched above their weight in this team?" This question was addressed to me earlier this month by Alan Deacon, the Chair of Leeds Universities'

Chaplaincy Trust. A few hours later, Betsy Randolph-Horn and I were on a train to Woodbrooke for a Quaker Chaplaincy weekend and Alan's words resonated with many of the conversations we had that weekend. The straight answer to Alan's question was "No". When Chris Whichelo and I were appointed as Quaker Chaplains to the University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University (as it then was), it was in his predecessor's time. There had been a period of practically a year when there was no Quaker Chaplain at all, and it took us several years to get to a point where we were making a significant contribution to the Team.

Sure enough, we were present every week at the Tuesday lunchtime Quaker Meeting for Worship at Emmanuel, and got to attend most of the fortnightly Team Meetings, but these Team Meetings only served to demonstrate how many of the activities of the Chaplaincy went on without our input. In the subsequent years it was through finding time to join in these activities and through building up relationships with other Team members that we were able to increase our contribution to the Chaplaincy's work. Some of these activities were well within our comfort zone. Chris was very happy to welcome people to Meeting for Worship and to help staff stalls at outreach events – handing out coffee or other freebies to staff and students. I enjoyed these activities and also hosting an open mic. night in the Emmanuel Centre. Some things I have subsequently become involved in have been a little bit more off the beaten track, like hosting the Carol Service and the International Gospel Concert.

The Team comprises of Chaplains appointed by various denominations of West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council (WYEC) – Anglican, Methodist, URC, Roman Catholic, Baptist

and Quaker – as well as Associate Chaplains from the Chinese Church, a Student Outreach Worker and the Chaplaincy Service Manager. Our main offices are in the Emmanuel Centre, a building which was formerly an Anglican Parish Church which later became the Anglican Chaplaincy as it sat on the edge of the campus.

In the 1990's the building was refurbished as a two storey building, the old nave being divided into University seminar rooms on both floors and the rest of the building being left for the use of the new Ecumenical Chaplaincy Team. Generally speaking, the Chaplaincy offices are downstairs and most of our upstairs space is an L shape which can be separated into three sections by moveable partitions. One section, the Wilson room is a largish meeting room of simple and functional design. Another section is the Claire Chapel, the residual worship space of the building, dominated by the stained glass East Window depicting the Crucifixion and the four Evangelists. Linking these sections is a large foyer space with an area of glass floor in the middle – an interesting architectural feature and one that some find hard to negotiate, choosing to skirt round rather than walk across. The Emmanuel Centre is, therefore, quite a unique building, just as our model of chaplaincy is unique. We do not have a Multifaith Chaplaincy in purpose-built premises, we have an Ecumenical Team in a converted Anglican Church. Even so, we aim to serve all staff and students of all faiths and none, an aspiration enshrined in our Service Level Agreements with our two Universities. The model may not be ideal, but it is the one we have, and it is not impossible to make it work. Indeed, it is an outdated idea of chaplaincy that suggests that the best way to minister to the diversity of the institution is to have a chaplaincy team that reflects the diversity in its own make-up. That actually should be a relief to Quakers – we could hardly justify our presence in the Team on the grounds of the high proportion of Quakers in the

university population. In this respect, we can but punch above our weight – our weight is too low for us to punch under it.

What is becoming more and more apparent to me in my work in the Chaplaincy Team is that the Quaker approach is highly conducive to chaplaincy work. Whilst Betsy and I were at Woodbrooke, we had a presentation from Ben Ryan of the Theos think tank, who was just about to launch his report on chaplaincy in all its forms – education, prisons, hospitals, work places, streets, retail outlets and others. The conclusion he was drawing is that as attendance and membership of churches declines, the chaplaincy model becomes more relevant – because chaplaincy ministers to people where they are rather than stands at the church door asking them to come in. As a University Chaplain, I have a strong sense of “Church as guest” rather than “Church as host”. Our ministry is dependent upon the willingness of the University to commission, or even tolerate our services. It is vital, therefore that the Chaplaincy can minister within a paradigm that is acceptable to the Institution. My feeling is that the Quaker approach adapts to the paradigm more easily than others. For example, being open to the Light from whatever source it may come leaves us more at ease with the diversity of the Institution and so better placed to minister to staff and students regardless of religious adherence.

For my own part, I find my own role within the staff Team more relevant than ever. A few years ago the Chaplaincy Trust appointed me as Co-ordinating Chaplain – initially along with a full time chaplain but later on my own. When I started at Emmanuel, I financed my work there with my “day job” as a housing support worker. As this role has developed and following changes in my other place of work I now work fewer hours as a housing support worker and more as Co-ordinating chaplain. In this I am very fortunate in that the Chaplaincy Trust pays me an honorarium to compensate for some of this loss in

earnings. I do suspect that the general requirement for Quaker chaplains to finance their own ministry is a major factor in the difficulty in finding Friends willing to take on the role. That the Trust should be prepared to meet this cost is an indication of how central a role a Quaker can play in chaplaincy. I did notice at Woodbrooke that I was one of two Co-ordinating chaplains there and that other Quaker chaplains reported having a supportive or cohesive role within their teams.

I must not, however, leave you thinking that in all this punching above our weight (apologies, Friends, for the persistent use of this of this unQuakerly analogy!) we are neglecting the needs of Quaker staff and students, nor or those who wish to experience Quaker worship or find out more about Quakerism. The Tuesday lunchtime Meeting for Worship, “Breathe” continues and is attended by a fairly steady half dozen or so. We have hosted Quaker Quest and Quaker Week events. We have strengthened links between the University and Carlton Hill. I would like to express my gratitude to Chris Whichelo for his support and assistance in my first years and to Betsy Randolph-Horne for agreeing to take over his role. I hope we continue to play a major part in the work of the chaplaincy and help shape and develop its role in years to come.

Robin Fishwick, Carlton Hill





Quakers and attenders from Wales, Scotland and the northern half of England met at Carlton Hill meeting house on 28th February.

We heard about the work of Mashuda Shaikh in Kirklees as their Community Heritage Team Officer and Muslim member of the NFPB project group *Building Peace in Diverse Britain*. Her current work includes; projects on encouraging young people in political participation; *Holocaust Memorial Day*, including reflection on recent genocides and atrocities; engaging young people in dialogue about extremism; tackling two current challenges, the rise of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, which she identified as two sides of the same coin.

We were challenged to ask how we can change the world in our communities? What can we do to help build bridges, to make a difference, however small?

During the lunch break we took part in a Trident flashmob demonstration on the steps of the University of Leeds. We stood with a 1/10 scale silhouette of the Trident submarine made by Leeds Friends and held "Quakers say no to Trident" banners. There were several encouraging responses from passing bus passengers and people in cars. Photographs are on the NFPB the website and social media. Other members of Carlton Hill meeting joined us for this event.

Ann Bettys spoke about her experience of the FWCC EMES *Peace and Service Consultation* gathering that she attended in November 2014. Concerns were expressed about proposals for Sweden, Finland and Ireland to join NATO. A key question was "If we are a "Peace Church" what does that mean to us today?" There are many challenges and many Quaker groups are small, but individually and inspired by others, Friends can often find something they can do for peace as individuals or with others.

Some time was spent considering how we can use the weeks of the general election

campaign to raise awareness and promote discussion on a range of current peace concerns. Friends who have been candidates suggested helpful ways of approaching candidates, in particular looking for common humanity with them and finding points of rapport, as well as making sure of the facts. Suggestions from the Britain Yearly Meeting Parliamentary Liaison Officer for moving from a concern to a message are:

1. What exactly is your concern deep down?
2. Why is it a concern? Be specific.
3. Where does it come from? What is its history?
4. What is the solution? How does it change things? What can we do about it?
5. What words most unambiguously express this concern in a way that is useful?
6. How do we want the recipient of a message to feel about it? Think about the feelings you will arouse.

In small groups we explored the following concerns and what message we might want to convey to election candidates:

- Trident
- Peace and Prejudice
- Sustainable Security
- Militarism
- Policing and surveillance.

The NFPB is working on all these issues, including producing straightforward materials and running events to support Friends in speaking out on Sustainable Security, supporting Friends in speaking out against militarism and on alternative responses to terrorism and extremism, and working on *Building Peace in Diverse Britain* in an event for young people.

Fiona Pacey, Rawdon Meeting

Nb The next meeting is in Glasgow on 13th JUNE – all are welcome.

Picture Gallery



The Great Banana Giveaway,
Carlton Hill,
Fairtrade Fortnight

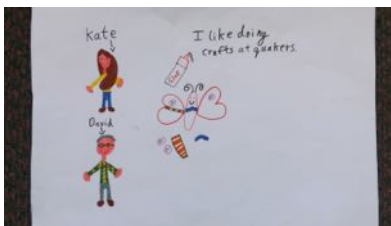


Northern Friends Peace Board
members with the Trident
"submarine"

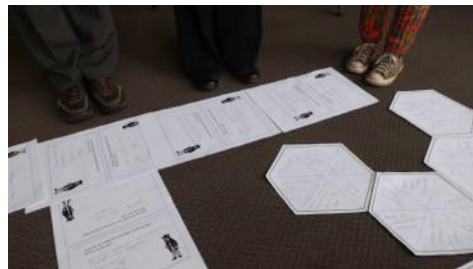


Artichokes - Carlton Hill- "the only
thing left in the garden to enjoy"
says Robert.

Children and Young People at LAQM at Roundhay QMH



"What do I like doing at
Children's Meeting?"



A game of dominoes and hexagons. Matching like-minded
ideas



Jane Fox, Jonathan Fox, Martin Schweiger and Susan Robson enjoying lunch and a chat
after Meeting



Dare I have another
one of those?



News updates from Friends House:

Every month, staff at Friends House in London inform Area and Local Meetings about news and events that may be of interest to local Quakers.

See www.quaker.org.uk/mailings for full details.

Young Quakers Participation Day *Saturday 5 September 2015, Friends House, London*
www.quaker.org.uk/Facilitation-and-leadership

Pilgrimage in 1652 country for 12- to 15-year-olds *23–26 October 2015, Great Tower, Newby Bridge, Cumbria* www.quaker.org.uk/12-15s-events

Young Adult Leadership Programme at Woodbrooke *Woodbrooke, Birmingham*
Woodbrooke's year-long Leadership Programme for Young Adult Friends (YAFs) closing date for applications is 31 May.

Creating events for enquirers *19–21 June, Woodbrooke, Birmingham* A weekend to explore how meetings can support and encourage enquirers and new attenders. To book a place go to <http://bit.ly/WBenq15>

The Word Made Fresh: reinterpreting traditional Christian language *Friday 8 May, Woodbrooke, Birmingham* www.woodbrooke.org.uk

Activism: a beginners guide *Friday 24 April, Swarthmoor Hall* www.woodbrooke.org.uk

Interfaith Peacebuilding *26 September 2015 – Day Conference at Friends House, London* www.quaker.org.uk/qccir for online bookings and information

Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) *22–25 May 2015, Leicester Meeting House*
More information and registration at www.yfgm.quaker.org.uk

Help shape the future format of our membership and related statistics We are now looking at how the tabular statement might be changed to meet current and future needs. What information do you use? What would you find helpful?

Climate Lobby *12–5pm 17 June, Palace of Westminster, London SW1A 2PW* Join QPSW talk to our newly-elected before crucial international climate negotiations in December 2015. www.quaker.org.uk/day-climate-action

Global Day of Action on Military Spending *Monday 13 April, Around the World* The UK's military spending in 2014 was £38 billion – the sixth highest in the world.

Quaker Equality week – what happened? what's next? at Manchester Mount Street Meeting on Saturday 20 June.

Keep up-to-date with our own Area Meeting web-site -

<http://www.laqm.leedsquakers.org.uk/>

Ask for a password robertkeeble@hotmail.com