

THE QUIET WORD



Meeting for worship

December 2015 issue no.12

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting

House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,
Leeds, LS27 7HX

tel: 0113 2564944 or 07973 450368

Sundays, 10.45 am

ILKLEY Friends Meeting House

Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds, LS29 9QJ

tel: 01943 600 806 or 01943 601181

Sundays, 10.30 am

ADEL Friends Meeting House

New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ

tel: 0113 2676293

Sundays, 10.45 am

CARLTON HILL Central Leeds

Friends Meeting House

188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds,

LS2 9DX

tel: 0113 2422208

Meetings for worship:

Sundays, 10.45 am

ROUNDHAY Friends Meeting House

136 Street Lane, Leeds, LS8 2BW

tel: 0113 2933684

Sundays, 10.45 am

OTLEY Friends Meeting

1st and 3rd Sundays each month at 10.45

in The Court House, Courthouse Street, Otley

usually in The Robing Room

Enquiries: 0113 318 8084, dmr@cooptel.net

RAWDON Friends Meeting House

Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,

LS19 6HU

tel: 07582 960092

Sundays, 10.45 am

LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Tuesdays, 1.05pm

In Claire Chapel, The Emmanuel Centre which

is alongside the main entrance to the University

of Leeds Campus opposite the Parkinson

Building (with the white clock tower).

Organised by the Leeds Universities Chaplaincy

Bedford Court

First and third Wednesdays,

10.30 am



The original Carlton Hill Meeting House. It was sold to the BBC and became known as Broadcasting House and was the base for "Look North" for many years. In 2005 it became part of Leeds Beckett University. The "rusty" building behind is Broadcasting Tower, student accommodation. It was awarded the accolade "Best Tall Building in the World" in 2010 by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat!

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Please send any submissions for Next month's issue of the Quiet Word to
quietword@leedsquakers.org.uk.

The Quiet Word is available online from www.leedsquakers.org.uk/activities/a-quiet-word

In common with many Quaker publications, this magazine is produced using Open Source software – software that is not controlled by major companies for profit or gain and is customisable for users own use. Software used – Scribus desktop publisher, LibreOffice word processor, Gimp photo editor, and Inkscape graphic design, all operating on Linux. For more details on Open Source software see <http://opensource.org/>. For alternatives to Windows see <http://tinyurl.com/kfhcbuj>.

LEEDS AREA MEETING EVENTS DIARY

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

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

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

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

December

Tuesday 1st 7.30pm

Leeds Quaker Bible Discussion Group - Carlton Hill QHM

Thursday 3rd 6pm to 7pm

Meeting for Worship at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 5th 2-4pm

Workshop 7pm Concert at Carlton Hill QMH with Frank Perry 'The Bowl Man' , Frank is a leading expert in Tibetan singing bowls. Tickets available on 075406115 priced £7 for the Workshop and £10 for the concert or £15 for both events.

Tuesday 8th 6.15pm for 7pm start

'Quaker Worship and Ministry' study group at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 12th 2pm

A memorial to remember the people who touched our lives but lost theirs to suicide. All welcome, irrespective of who you wish to remember, or when they died. Children and family groups welcome. To book your place please e-mail bereavedbysuicide@leedsmind.org.uk or ring 07596 723749. venue: Carlton Hill QMH

@Sunday 13th 1pm to 4.15pm

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting to be held at Adel QMH Topic: Supporting refugees in Leeds

Tuesday 15th 7.30pm

Leeds Quaker Bible Discussion Group - Carlton Hill QHM

Saturday 19th 10.30am

Quaker Peace Witness 11am Peace Carols with a no to Trident theme (written by Paul Priest). Meet outside Debenhams on Briggate, Central Leeds and to be followed by a hot drink together!

Sunday 20th 10.45am

All Aged Quaker Worship at Carlton Hill QMH

Sunday 20th 7.30pm

Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH

Friday 25th 9am to 10am

shared breakfast and 10am Meeting for Worship

January

Sunday 3rd 1pm

'Trident what next' planning meeting

Sunday 10th 1pm

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

Quakers in Britain: 24 November 2015 News Release Responding to terrorism: a statement from Quakers in Britain

As Parliament prepares to debate next steps in Syria, Quakers in Britain have made this statement.

The attacks in Paris on 13 November were deeply shocking and our hearts continue to go out to those killed, injured, bereaved and traumatised.

It is human nature that the closer suffering comes to us, the more acutely we feel the pain and grief. But that experience should sensitise us to the suffering caused repeatedly by acts of war and violent crime in more distant places, including Beirut, Sinai, Bamako and Aleppo. It should strengthen our determination to build a safer world together.

Terrorism is a deliberate attempt to provoke fear, hatred, division and a state of war. War – especially war with the West - is what ISIS/Daesh wants. It confirms the image they project of the West as a colonialist 'crusader' power, which acts with impunity to impose its will overseas and especially against Muslims.

The military actions of Western nations recruit more people to the cause than they kill. Every bomb dropped is a recruitment poster for ISIS, a rallying point for the young, vulnerable and alienated. And every bomb dropped on Syrian cities drives yet more people to flee and seek refuge in safer countries.

Our political leaders seem determined that Britain should look strong on the world stage. Quakers in Britain believe our country should act with wisdom and far-sighted courage. A wisdom that rises above the temptation to respond to every problem with military might. A wisdom that looks back at our failures in Libya and Iraq and Afghanistan and learns from experience. The courage – and strength – to think through the likely consequences of actions to find a long term, lasting solution.

The courageous response of ordinary people who refuse to give up their way of life and refuse to be driven by fear is one that politicians could learn from.

Although there are no quick or easy answers, there are things we can do, all of us together, which will defeat the terrorists more assuredly than military action. Quakers in Britain commit to playing our part in these actions.

We can quieten ourselves and listen to the truth from deep within us that speaks of love, mutual respect, humanity and peace.

We can and will refuse to be divided. By bridge-building among faiths and within our local communities we can challenge and rise above the ideologies of hate and actively love our neighbour.

By welcoming refugees, we can not only meet the acute needs of those individuals but also undercut the narrative of those who seek to create fear and mistrust.

And we can ask our political leaders to:

- * Treat terrorist acts as crimes, not acts of war
- * Stop arming any of the parties fighting in Syria
- * Observe international law and apply it equally to all parties
- * Build cooperation among nations, strengthening those international institutions which contribute to peace
- * Export peace rather than war, so that we can create the conditions the world needs to address its most serious problems, including climate change.

The statement concludes with this extract from a statement made by Quakers in Britain in 1943 (Quaker Faith and Practice 24.09):

“True peace cannot be dictated, it can only be built in co-operation between all peoples. None of us, no nation, no citizen, is free from some responsibility for this.”

West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Seekers Network

Night Shelter Scheme.

A number of churches and synagogues will be opening their premises for a week to provide accommodation for asylum seekers. They will provide an evening meal, fellowship, sleeping accommodation and breakfast. Due to start in January 2016, the scheme currently involves nine premises so accommodation can be provided for nine weeks during the coldest time of the year.

Those requiring accommodation will be referred by agencies and will have been vetted. The individual churches will be responsible for organising their week but there will be a need for volunteers from outside their ranks to help with the running of the Scheme.

If you feel you can contribute: by helping cook an evening meal, preparing breakfast, or simply being available to engage with people, your time and talents will be put to good use. There will also be a need for male volunteers who are prepared to stay the night. Men only will be accommodated during this trial period. If successful it is hoped to expand the scheme in future years.

Anyone wishing to be involved can contact WYDAN direct or Keith Mollison on 0113 345 8907.

Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Leeds

A number of organisations based in Leeds offer help and support for asylum seekers and refugees and need your support.

Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers – PAFRAS - <http://www.pafras.org.uk> offers a drop-in centre every Thursday at St Aidans Community Hall, off Roundhay Road, Leeds every Thursday where refugees can obtain help, advice and a meal – 6,700 meals a year plus food parcels. They always require volunteers – see the Volunteer pages on the website. Carlton Hill Meeting has a collection bin for tinned and non-perishable food, children's toys, and good quality useable clothing.

Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network – LASSN – <http://lassn.org.uk/> provides befrienders, English at Home and Grace Hosting. They are currently looking for a limited number of people with space to act as hosts to asylum seekers, to commence sometime in the New Year.

Other ways to help. Look at <https://leedsmultiagency.wordpress.com/help/>

If you wish to keep abreast of the national situation and how you can support national organisations join **Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network** – QARN - <http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage>

Poetry from Pupils at Bankside Primary School. Leeds

Working in groups, 10-11 year olds were asked to write a poem on what it means to be a refugee. Many were able to write from a personal experience.

I am a Refugee

I hear bombs exploding
I feel the walls vibrate
I see life changing before me
I smell smoke – going up my nostrils
I taste blood in my mouth – I am in
danger, danger, it's not safe – who will save
me?
I feel my heart hammering in my chest
I feel my heart breaking into small pieces
I see boats sailing away
I hear screams of people drowning – am I
going to drown too?
I see people dying – no food- no
water...nothing
I see the shores of United Kingdom – will I
be safe? Will they welcome me?
I have been dehumanised – no rights,
no respect...nothing

By

Eshba, Ibrahim, Bilal, Sheuli, & Radeyah

I am a Refugee

I see the smoke coming towards me –
blooded faces in the fog
I feel the echoes of the shooting
Bombs explode, helicopters whirring,
gunfire popping- crying, screaming and
wailing
I taste thick dust in my mouth- bitter,
The fear rises in me – how can this be?
why such devastation and senseless
deaths?
The blood feels warm – dripping, I feel
pain
I eat the rotten food – who will help us?

By

Hafsa, Zoya, Shakeel, Zuher & Calvin

REFUGEE

R is for Refugee and respect
E is for ending the war which seems as
though it has been eternal
F is for the ferocious fear
U is for understanding, that is all we want
G is for giving generously
E is for equality that we should share
E is for the education that is a right for all
By Aisha, Mahnam, Maryam, Amen

REFUGEE

R efugees are welcome here
E very Refugee has rights
F ighting for survival
U nderstanding and compassion – is that
too much to ask?
G oing country to country and being
humiliated
E very life matters so doesn't every life
count?
E very one is equal, every should unite in
saying

REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE!

By Yusuf D, Yusuf H, Fahad, Mutasim,
Nyasha, Summayiah



Photos courtesy UNHCR

Leeds First Palestinian Film Festival

Divine Intervention:

Friday 4th December, 7pm, HEART Centre, Bennett Street, Headingley, LS6 3HN

This film, by the Palestinian director Elia Suleiman, is a surreal black comedy. The film records a day in the life of a Palestinian living in Nazareth, whose girlfriend lives several checkpoints away in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

One lyrical section features a beautiful sunglasses-clad Palestinian woman (played by Manal Khader) whose passing by not only distracts all eyes, but whose gaze causes Israeli military checkpoint towers to crumble. The director features prominently as the film's silent, expressionless protagonist in an iconic and powerfully moving performance. Tickets £5 / £3.50 concessions.

Open Bethlehem:

Tuesday 15th December, 6.30pm, Hyde Park Picture House, 73, Brudenell Road, Hyde Park. When film-maker Leila Sansour returned to Bethlehem in 2005, she planned to make a documentary about the Palestinian city she couldn't wait to leave as a teenager. However, her cousin Carol convinces her to stay and build upon the legacy of her father, who founded the local university in 1973. Realising that the "Separation" wall erected by the Israelis is isolating a once-thriving destination for pilgrims and tourists, Leila and Carol devise a campaign to encourage visitors to return to the birthplace of Jesus Christ and apply for passports giving them honorary citizenship.

Distilled from 700 hours of footage shot over several years and with rare archive material, the film is potent and poignant. Tickets £5.50 / £4.50 concessions / £6 balcony / Friends of HPPH £4
Organised by Leeds Palestinian Film Festival Committee. <http://www.leedspsc.org.uk/filmfestival>

FRANK PERRY 'The Bowl Man'



Lorraine of Carlton Hill Meeting writes 'we are getting in touch to invite you to a special event on Saturday 5th December at the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House. This is a concert and workshop by Frank Perry 'The Bowl man'. (<http://www.frankperry.co.uk>) Frank is a highly gifted musician and sound healer, and the evening promises to be a profound experience. We would love to see you there.... Lorraine and Jesse'

The workshop runs from 2pm to 4pm and costs £7 and is followed by the concert at 8pm which costs £10. To attend both events, the cost is £15. Ring 07540 706115 for tickets.

Inequality – a need for action

“We are angered that the United Kingdom now has a greater disparity in income than at any time since the Second World War and are compelled to speak out against government policy that makes cuts in spending that promote inequality. We challenge the culture and ethos that enable the leaders of finance and industry to take salaries and bonuses that are many hundreds of times larger than those of their employees.”

Britain Yearly Meeting statement on equality, March 2012

Since 2012 the situation has become considerably worse. The UK now has the one of the highest rates of poor health and social problems in Europe. It also has the highest rates of income inequality. Of the world's 23 most developed economies, the UK is rivalled only by the USA in terms economic inequality and poor health and social problems. It has the fourth lowest life expectancy and one of the highest rates of infant mortality, this despite spending more on health care than any other country in Europe. Obesity now affects 20% of the UK population, compared to just 9% in the Netherlands. The incidence of diabetes follows a similar pattern. Recent surveys show that life expectancy is seriously affected by inequality. Middlesbrough is the worst affected town in the county where life expectancy is shown to be a little over 59 years for a male compared to Chelsea in London where male expectancy is 82 years!

According to the Child Poverty Action Group, in 2014 there were 3.7 million children in the UK considered to be living in poverty. That's 28% of the UK population of under 12's! Food banks last year provided meals for 1,084,604 people, 396,997 of which were children.

Why is the UK so far behind other countries? We are frequently told that the UK has one of the richest economies in Europe. So what is going wrong? Punitive government policies which favour the rich and make the poor even poorer. Industry being allowed too much power to influence government policy. Globalisation. A seriously flawed economic system based on continual economic growth. The causes are multiple but mainly economic.

The huge gulf between company executives and their staff is a major cause of

resentment. Last year the Chief Executive of Barclays Bank received a salary of £1.3 million. On top of this he was awarded £3.8million of shares as a bonus! He is just one of some 2,000 top executives in the UK earning obscene salaries. According to official figures, the average award to the top 100 CEO's in the UK for 2014 was £4.7 million. The boss of Burberry, the clothing company, was reported to have grossed over £6 million last year. Compare this to our Prime Minister who receives a salary of just £142,500! Tom O'Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council was awarded £176,464 for 2014. Such figures skew calculations of “average” wages which the government estimates at £26,500. In fact more than 20% of those in work take home less than £13,000 a year. Even John Lewis, joint developer of the new flagship store in Leeds, refuses to pay more than the barest minimum allowed by law to its staff, yet its CEO, Charlie Mayfield, saw his basic salary rise a further 9.7% last year to £1.52 million plus bonuses.

Practically all of our manufacturing has now been diverted to overseas producers in order to cut costs and increase profits, much of it to the far east, where workers are paid a pittance for their labours. This in turn has destroyed jobs in this country and created a low paid service industry controlled by highly paid executives, the majority controlled by companies based in other countries.

Low income and a struggle to pay bills creates low self-esteem. It affects children's learning at school, which is then reflected in job choices later in life. It affects parent's attitudes to life and how they relate to society in general. It creates resentment – a “them and us” mentality. It increases crime, and in particular

violent crime.

"Deepening economic inequality cannot continue indefinitely without a risk of violence and oppression. We are dismayed that the government is giving so little consideration to the long-term impacts of spending cuts on whole communities. Under-investment and short-term accounting are putting the wellbeing of future generations at risk." Britain Yearly Meeting 2012

"...The main question for us who are comfortable is whether we use our positions of comparative power to arrogate to ourselves more than our reasonable share of the resources of the world.....For those who are poor, a different question arises: what is selfish materialism, and what is proper aspiration?.... Poverty leads to powerlessness, and powerlessness leads to poverty." Quaker Faith & Practice 23.22 Martin Wyatt 1988.

"Oppression in the extreme appears terrible: but oppression in more refined appearances remains to be oppression; and where there is the smallest degree of it, it is cherished and grows stronger and more intensive. To labour for a perfect redemption from this spirit of oppression is the great business of the family of Christ Jesus in this world." John Woolman 1763

Friend, what canst thou say? Do you feel incensed at this situation? Are you interested in making a stand and speaking out? If so please contact Pete Redwood – yorksquirrel@me.com or telephone 0113 229 3565. The hope is that we can form an action group in Leeds.

With this in mind Friends are invited to an initial meeting on Thursday 7th Jan 2016 at Carlton Hill Meeting House from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. This will be preceded by a Meeting for Worship from 6.00 -7.00pm followed by a simple soup supper.

I look forward to welcoming you

Pete Redwood

As a background to the above take a look at <http://old.quaker.org.uk/economic-inequality/> where a number of briefing papers are available for download. Also check out The Equality Trust <https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/>. Quaker Richard Wilkinson's book "The Spirit Level" is worth a read. It is available to loan from both Moortown and Moor Allerton Libraries but you may have to reserve it, or order it from any Leeds Library.

Becoming a Dementia friendly worshiping community

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

This is an opportunity for any Friend in the Leeds Area to become dementia-aware.

Phil O'Hare(Carlton Hill)

Quaker Life Representative Council

October 2015

What seemed to capture everyone's attention was an input from 'Rosie' who was just about to complete her many years on the QLC Committee. She said that the best advice she could give us was based on her experience of Worship Sharing at the beginning of every committee meeting. Members just spoke about themselves and where they were in their lives. This, she said, seemed to allow them to be lighter, more constructive and ensured less talking without purpose during the committee meeting. I pass this on! The concluding Minute read:

"We have met in worshipping circles to consider the question: "What is the ground and foundation of a gathered meeting?"

We are clear that what most of all holds our diverse and colourful Quaker communities together is Meeting for Worship. It is the rock on which our communities are founded, a pearl of great price. In truly gathered loving worship we let go, trusting in one another and in the Divine. We are open for transformation and our differences melt away. The Quaker community becomes our family.

We have trusted in quiet processes and small circles, leaving space for the Spirit to get in. We have played in the Presence, weaving community through dance, song, laughter, poetry and tears.

We have learnt of the quiet, assiduous, worshipful work of Quaker Life Central Committee, working with Friends House staff to support and nurture the worshipping community that is Britain Yearly Meeting. Through a 'World Café' we have experienced effective communication with Quaker Life staff, and had opportunities to ask questions and express the needs of our Meetings. In the weaving back and fore of effective communication, in listening and receiving 'them' and 'us' disappears. Communication also happens in the silence, although sometimes a simple 'thank you' can speak volumes.

We share a rich and unique Quaker history and heritage. One of the ways we can share this is through our Book of Discipline. We are excited to hear about the 'Reading Quaker Faith and Practice' programme, and are looking forward to sharing experiences and insights from it over the next 18 months, strengthening and deepening our spiritual communities.

We leave the autumnal splendour of Woodbrooke and carry with us a vision of what Quaker community – locally and nationally - is and can be. As vibrant creative Friends, we continue to explore together how we can best share what we have learnt and experienced with our local and area Meetings."

Phil O'Hare (Carlton Hill)



FREE RANGE is looking for MEN WHO SING

FREE RANGE is a contemporary choir with a distinctive repertoire. We have a few vacancies for men to join in January – musicality more important than ability to read music – no auditions. FREE RANGE meets at the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and rehearsals are friendly, fun and hard-working.

Interested? Find out more on the website <http://www.freerangechoir.org.uk>

Christmas - Bah Humbug!

Many Quakers do not celebrate Christmas. Why not?

George Fox, founder of Quakers, reminded his flock, in various epistles, that "the time called Christmas" was an invention of the "the church of Rome" - "This false church, this whore, and false woman For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed adultery with her" (quoted from Book of Revelations, 18:3). He used Biblical quotations in almost every sentence of his epistles to illustrate his point. There is no mention of the word Christmas anywhere in the Bible, and there is no evidence that early Christians even celebrated Christ's birth.

The historical facts are that by 325 AD, the Roman Emperor Constantine became "Christian" and decreed that the Roman Empire should also adopt Christianity. In order to make this acceptable to the Romans, all the pagan feast days were given a "Christian" meaning. December 25th was the feast day of Saturnalia – a celebration of the Unconquered Sun God of Rome, in other words the Winter Solstice, bringing sun and light into the long winter. By making it into a celebration of the "birth" of Christ instead, it became acceptable to the populace.

Astrologers widely accept that the probable birthdate for Jesus is most likely sometime in March or April – at a time when shepherds were tending their flocks of new-born lambs. Certainly not December.

Even Fox himself would be horrified at how Christmas is "celebrated" today. Most of what we associate with the season – greetings cards, Christmas decorations, Christmas trees, the association with snow, Christmas carols - came from Germany and Scandinavia in the late 1700's and embellished by Victorian imagination. The obsession with presents is a product of the post-war years.



According to Leeds City Council each family generates approximately 30% more waste over the Christmas week than any other week of the year – as a nation, enough to fill the Albert Hall 24 times a day!!! Or 400,000 double decker buses – to use DEFRA's analogy. In excess of 1,350 tonnes of food is wasted each Christmas!!!!

According to official figures, last Christmas the UK:

- * threw away 6,000,000 trees
- * discarded 100,000,000 Christmas cards
- * used 8,000 tons, or 83 sq kilometers, of wrapping paper
- * disposed of 125,000 tons of plastic
- * binned 4,200 tons of tin-foil
- * consumed 61,500,000 kWh of energy (gas and electricity)
- * junked 41% of all Christmas toys within 2 months.
- * threw away over half a million mobile phones.

Most of this could be recycled but in fact, most of it finishes up in landfill.

Despite all this obscene extravagance, 13 million people in this country will find it hard to put a meal on the table on Christmas Day. For them Christmas is a time of even more misery, more resentment for those who have more than their fair share.

All of this is very far removed from what many believe to be the "birthday of the Lord Jesus". Much of Jesus' ministry was concerned with the extravagances of the rich having too much and the poor not having enough.

One has to ask the question – just what is it that we are celebrating on 25th December in the 21st century? It certainly bears no relation to the teachings of Jesus or to the early Christians.

For a full and very comprehension treatise on the entire works of George Fox and the early Quakers check out The Missing Cross of Purity <http://www.hallvworthington.com>

PAUL PRIEST



Many friends were able to attend the memorial Service for Paul Priest which was held at Wrangthorne Church, Hyde Park on 14th November. Paul identified four stages to his rather eventful spiritual life – his early life as a Christian Scientist, then midlife ‘Jesus Freak’ before becoming a Liberal Anglican and in his final years, a ‘Quanglican’ (Quaker and Anglican).

The church was full and the service took us on a journey through Paul's life – looking at his youth, his family life, his literary and professional life at Trinity and All Saints College, his Anglican experiences and finally, his ‘Quanglican’ experiences with readings from Elizabeth Bertolla and Una Parker of Carlton Hill Meeting. Robin Fishwick, also of Carlton Hill, led us in song with ‘Walk Cheerfully Over the World’ sung as a round with the words of George Fox put to music by Paul. Paul also spoke to us – quite literally – as we heard excerpts of him being interviewed on the Radio.

During the afternoon we enjoyed Paul's poetry, stories, music, happy memories and more. One of the poems read was ‘Fairy Lights’ and it also shared by Paul at the Carlton Hill Coffee Morning.

Fairy Lights

A winter's night in New Hampshire,
Walking along a snowy road.
In the snow, little lights flicker,
Red, gold, green, very pale.
They flash, vanish, run along, leap, dance.
They seem to be playing, like impish children.
Chase me! Where am I? Here! Vanished!
I plod after them. Merrily they laugh.



QUAKER HOUSE, LEEDS



In 1988, Leeds Quakers facilitated the building of Quaker House in Leeds. Quaker House is a block of twelve flats for the 'active elderly' and was originally run by Leeds Quaker Housing Association Ltd which was set up to run Quaker House. When the building work was completed many of the new residents attended Carlton Hill meeting – just a one minute stroll away. The site has proved to be well placed, close to the local shops, the nearby Woodhouse Moor park and close to the bus stops with direct services every few minutes to Leeds City centre, or for the more adventurous, the X84 to Golden Acre Park, Otley, Ilkley and Skipton.... Nearly thirty years later, Quaker House still offers a fantastic home for those over 60's (55 if you share with a partner over 60). There are three rented flats that are now managed by Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust and the other nine flats are available on Leasehold. One of the Leasehold flats is due to become available in the near future and Quakers who have their name on the waiting list can have priority. If you would like to be on the waiting list, please contact Una Parker on 0113 2445454 for more details.

Alistair Milner

6/61945 – 29/11/2014

Alyson Buchan, Clerk Perth Meeting has sent the following message to friends in Leeds. 'I thought that Leeds Area Meeting might like to have a copy of this testimony as Alistair was a member of Leeds Area Meeting for so many years. It came to our Area Meeting on 7th November and a copy has been kept attached to the minutes, but it has not been forwarded to General Meeting for Scotland as Alistair was not so well known up here'. Alistair was a Leeds friend for many years and was buried at Rawdon earlier in the year.

A birthright Quaker, Alistair spent his early years in Rawdon in Yorkshire. He went on to Leeds University where he studied chemical engineering and where he developed a love of hill-walking and caving. He attended Yorkshire Friends Holiday School, later becoming a student helper, as did his son Guy in later years. It was while at university that he met Beryl his wife. Their shared interests led to a long and close marriage. All these events presaged the activities of his later life and formed the man we came to know and love.

In later years at Rawdon Meeting, Alistair's professional skills and influence were invaluable in many of the structural repairs and maintenance decisions which had to be made at that time. More recently, when serving as Meeting for Sufferings representative on the Swarthmoor Hall Project, Alistair's calm and gentle manner,

clear thinking and steely determination helped the Project Group to discern a way forward for the Hall.

Alistair did not shy away from confrontation and difficult tasks. When he became a trustee of CATH (Perth Churches Action for the Homeless), he never faltered in his belief that difficulties could be overcome. His steadfast resistance to being bullied and threatened gave others the courage to continue. He was not afraid to challenge the status quo, but he sought to do so with the dignity of all at the heart of what he said and did, and did it with a twinkle in his eye and a captivating smile.

Alistair's sense of fun was shared by many who shared his enthusiasms. His love of steam engines he shared with others but few would have had his encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject. His love and knowledge of the natural world, be it mountain or cave became a lifelong passion. After coming to live in

Scotland on retirement, Alistair soon became a member of the Munro Society where he is remembered for his colourful clothing acquired in bazaars throughout the "hilly world"! Modesty, loyalty, diligence and a good companion were qualities experienced by those with whom he walked.

Alistair's passion for the hills was shared by Beryl whom he had introduced to Quakers in their young days, and a large part of his service to Quakerism was in the high-level and high-quality practical and emotional support he gave to enable her Quaker service. Alistair was a listener rather than a talker with the treasured ability to find laughter in every dark corner, and because his faith

was so strong he did not find a need to express it in words. His actions were the expression of his faith. He lived adventurously and allowed his life to speak.

Philip Rack probably summed up the faith by which Alistair lived when he wrote " Please be patient, those of you who have found a rock to stand on, with those of us who haven't and with those of us who are not even looking for one. We live on the wave's edge, where sea, sand and sky are all mixed up together: We are tossed head over heels in the surf, catching only occasional glimpses of any fixed horizon. Some of us stay there from choice because it is exciting and it feels the right place to be" (QFP 20.06)

Alyson Buchan

The Tabular Statement

The Tabular Statement is upon us once again, but this time there is a new choice to be made. This information needs to be spread widely, so that anybody who wants to can use this choice.

In previous years no personal information has been held or returned without a designation of woman/female (yellow card) or man/male (white card). But now BYM is offering us the opportunity to get another colour card, or to make a new box in the electronic database, to record anybody who does not want to be categorised in that way and would prefer to be recorded as 'other'.

Over on the Quaker Renewal Facebook page there is heated discussion about which definitions can be used, with a few stragglers asking what does all this mean? That doesn't matter, except to those having the discussion. In Leeds Area Meeting those Friends 'who do not identify with either 'man' or 'woman' or who prefer not to state their gender' can now ask to be recorded as 'other'. From looking at the form this choice is for both members and attenders.

If there is anybody out there who wants to make this choice please speak to the person in your meeting who deals with the Tabular Statement data. And do it before New Year when the returns will be sent to the Area Meeting.

I expect Local Meetings will make their own arrangements when preparing the information to return. But I'm putting this here just to spread the news of the new choice widely.

Susan Robson

*AM Assistant Clerk Membership
susan.robson@cooptel.net*



QPSW Conference 30th Oct- 1st Nov

– “How is QPSW Changing”

Tracey Martin and Pete Redwood attended

Around 80 QPSW Correspondents. Central and sub-Committee members and staff came together from all over England, Wales and Scotland for a lively and informative weekend.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness. A mouthful! - Somebody even suggested we think of a more “snappy” name for ourselves!

We reflected on our roots – that which anchors us in our faith and nourishes us, as well as historical facts. We were informed about the growth of QPSW, from the very earliest whisperings of environmental concern amongst Friends and Britain Yearly Meeting in the early 1960's up to the present day and the very wide compass that QPSW now embraces – from climate change to the economy, from peace issues to prison reform, from education to immigration.

How is QPSW changing? The offices at Friends House have become much more open plan and all departments are now talking to each other much more than previously. QPSW is now working very closely with Quaker Life – the “spiritual” side of the administration at Friends House. They are establishing much closer links with Local Meetings and would like to know what we are up to. If we hold a successful demonstration in Briggate they would like hear about it, the reactions to it, the effect it had. If we fit any more solar panels on our Meeting Houses they would like to hear about the results and the difference it makes. They can provide speakers on a variety of topics. They are developing ideas to enable Meetings to know what other Meetings are up to.

We also talked about what remains the same and what are the gifts we bring as British Yearly Meeting to the work of peace and social change:

- We are radical in our thinking and the way we work
- We are willing to challenge the powerful
- We are not afraid to back unpopular causes

- We are in it for the long haul
- We have a network of people and groups across the country to support and carry out the work

Pete

The message that was reinforced for me was that being a Quaker is not just about coming to Meeting on Sunday. It is about how we live out our faith in our daily lives, about how we relate to the world around us within that faith, and about how we as a Meeting, a worshipping community, react, respond and engage with the wider community around us. Do we tell our stories? Do we get our message out? If not why not?

Tracey

As a member of the Overseas Peacebuilding Sub-Committee as well as representing Leeds Area meeting I came away thinking:

1. There is a group of people who support our committee's idea of investigating how we can best support and be part of a global non-violent peace movement building on our experience as mediators (Nagaland), accompaniers (EAPPI), developers of local expertise (East Africa) and our reputation as a peace church.
2. There is a wealth of experience and materials for Peace Education in schools that we can draw on to talk about peace and challenge militarisation in schools. Contact Ellis Brooks, Peace Education & Engagement Officer.

The Epilogue for the QPSW conference (p14) was a video presentation of the following powerful minute from FWCC in 2012. The text is reprinted here in full.

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-justice

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-justice was approved on 24 April 2012 at the Sixth World Conference Friends, held at Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya. It is the culmination of the FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation) World Consultation on Global Change which was held in 2010 and 2011.

In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates, our growing population consuming more resources than nature can replace. We must change, we must become careful stewards of all life. Earth care unites traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity, and justice. Jesus said, "As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me".

We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

We have heard of the disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come life-giving waters. We have heard appeals from peoples of the Arctic, Asia and Pacific. We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying, of land hunger in Africa, of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine and desperate migrations – this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumours of war, job loss, inequality and violence. We fear our neighbours. We waste our children's heritage

All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems – by greed not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar.

Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbour as ourselves, to aid the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.

We are called to teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?" (Job 38:4)

We are called to do justice to all and walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.

We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and eco-justice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.

We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us – where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to building the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives to the Light to guide us in each small step.

Bwana asifiwe. A pu Dios Awqui. Gracias Jesús. Jubilé. Salaam aleikum. Migwetch. Tikkun olam. Alleluia!

QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

16.01.16 at OXFORD PLACE, Leeds

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

The January 2016 meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire offers a rich array of presentations about Quaker activities and opportunities for recreation and enrichment across Yorkshire.

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

Tea/coffee from 10 a.m. After meeting for worship at 10.30 am, the morning session, beginning at 11, will offer the following:

- An opportunity to hear from the Under-19s Co-ordinating Group. How can we help them to maintain a rewarding programme of events for Quaker children and young people in Yorkshire? What can we do to support Junior Holidays (for 7 to 12-year-olds) and Yorkshire Friends Holiday School (for 13 to 18- year-olds)?

- A report on Easter Settlement 2015 and a foretaste of 2016
- A reminder about the Outreach Projects Committee and how we can use its resources
- QiY appointments and releases

We will break at 1 pm for lunch (please bring your own, drinks provided), and there will be a Quaker book stall for you to browse and buy. After lunch we will be given a portrait of Breckenbrough School by Graham Ralph, a Trustee Governor of the school. Breckenbrough is an inspirational Quaker Foundation Residential Special School in Thirsk for boys with a range of learning and behavioural difficulties. Next we will hear from a representative of Yorkshire and Humberside's branch of Circles of Support and Accountability, whose volunteers support sex offenders in their attempts to avoid re-offending.

At 4 pm Leeds Area Meeting will provide tea and a chance to socialise with Friends from meetings around the region.

Children and young people: Roundhay LM is offering a trip to the Thackray museum and a swim (please bring packed lunch, swimming togs and towel, money for the pool and bus fares). Children under 2 can be cared for at Oxford Place if you notify Liz Schweiger (0113 440 0736, liz.schweiger@phonecoop.coop) in advance. Please let Liz know by 5 January if you want your young people to join in any of the above activities.

Deadline for items for the January QiY Newsletter is Monday 7 December. Chris Love and Barbara Parry, Co-Clerks, Quakers in Yorkshire

Find Quakers in Yorkshire at <http://www.quakersinyorkshire.org.uk>

Easter Settlement



Easter Settlement takes place every year over the Easter Weekend at Cober Hill Guest House, Cloughton, near Scarborough. It provides an opportunity for us to strengthen our spiritual base as part of a wider Quaker family. The weekend programme is a mixture of reflection, discussion, worship and fun. Dancing, crafts, walking and singing together are also ingredients of the gathering. Single people and families, those new to the Society of Friends and established Settlers are all made welcome. If you have never been, you are missing an experience.

Make a note in your diary and keep an eye on these pages for the opening of bookings in the New Year.

Criminal Justice Group

Many of you are perhaps wondering what has happened to the group which had been meeting regularly four times a year since Dec 2012. I'm afraid I ran out of steam ! I have approached Elders to see if someone else is willing to take it on but have not heard of any success. I hope that will soon change. I am happy to assist anyone who volunteers to take over.

The group had, I think, been very successful building on the previous model of meeting in the evenings every other month. We have had some remarkably good speakers and a wide representation of professional and student attenders as well as interested Quakers. I think it has been a very useful outreach activity.

I continue to be a member of the committee of the national Quakers in Criminal Justice and I am fully involved in the arrangements for the annual residential conference which will take place in Leeds at Hinsley Hall over the last weekend of February. The conference title is "Poverty and Power – where is our responsibility ?". We have made special provision to allow attendance by non - residents to the Saturday morning (at a special (student) rate of £5) (this does not include lunch) but also there will be the possibility of attending the whole conference as a non - resident (£110) . Because the space restricts us to 90 people priority will be given to members of the QiCJ group as we have a restricted number of places. Membership is just £20 per year (£10 unwaged) and you receive three newsletters as well as a list of members. I will have application forms available in due course.

This is, therefore advanced notice for the conference – become a member and attend the whole conference for £110 , excellent value as residential costs are £185. The keynote speakers speaker will be Professor David Whyte on "Crimes of the Powerful" and ex MP John Battle on "The injustice of Poverty" (on the Saturday morning). Stuart Price will be speaking on "Principles in Public Life" on Friday evening. On Sunday morning the three speakers who talked about why we did not have riots in Leeds in 2011 (Claude Hendrickson, Lutel James and Police Officer Melanie James) will again give us the chance to hear about their experience of a community taking responsibility for itself. In addition there are, on Saturday afternoon from 4:30 pm, four workshops – attendance is only possible at 2!)

1. Reporting Hate Crimes,
2. Restorative Practices in Leeds,
3. Quaker Asylum and Refugee Work and
4. New ways of treating family problems of addiction.

The full programme will be available, together with details of how to apply for one of the restricted number of places, early in the new year.

In the meantime you can contact me on:

Tel: 0113 262 4711

Email: Judyed.kessler@virginmedia.com (please note this is a new email address)

or at conferenceinleeds@gmail.com

Judy Kessler (Carlton Hill)

QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE

The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group has asked that we make a habit of reading Quaker Faith & Practice regularly. To help us they have made a recommendation for each month. The recommendation for December is Chapter 3 – General Counsel on Church Affairs. The following is your editor's choice.

3.09 (part)

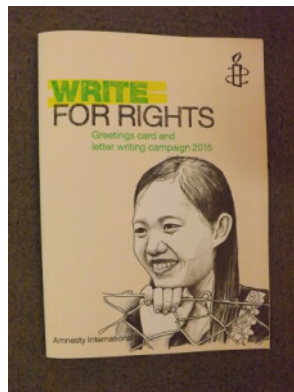
All members are entitled to attend their local, area and general meetings, which are the units of Britain Yearly Meeting's recognised organisation, and Yearly Meeting itself. You are encouraged to do so as regularly as you are able, because our business method depends on the widest possible participation by our members. Friends may be appointed to attend area and general meetings in order to ensure that enough Friends will be present but this does not excuse or prevent others from being there. It is recommended that those appointed be asked to report back to their own meetings.

NB. Non-members are encouraged to attend local, area and general meetings but should notify the clerk of their presence.

AMNESTY GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN

Every year Amnesty International runs a Greetings Card Campaign encouraging people across the UK to send a message of hope and support during the festive season to people facing persecution around the world. These are prisoners of conscience, people under sentence of death, human rights defenders under threat because of their work, and others at risk.

On 29th November, Friends from across Leeds local meetings and others from the local community wrote 122 cards to the twelve 'cases' - individuals or groups identified by Amnesty for this year's campaign - plus those in authority with some connection to their incarceration.



Friends write
their greetings
at Rawdon
Meeting House



QUAKER WEDDING OF THE MONTH

Peter Holmes and Rania Webber were married at Carlton Hill on Saturday 28th November



The happy couple with David Robson, who conducted his first wedding in Leeds - two weddings are so far planned for 2016....



Lea Keeble and Joan Macdermott sign the wedding certificate



Part of the refreshment team at the reception - Iona Lyons, Maggie Rice, and Wendy Clow



Quaker Peace Vigil at Leeds War Memorial on Remeberance Day



The banner and the red and white poppies - in the making



Peace demonstation at Otley

Dec 15 mailing from Friend's House.

Each month our clerks receive a mailing from Friend's House on things that we ought to know about. There is a always a vast amount of information to disseminate and the easiest way to access it is to follow this link: <http://old.quaker.org.uk/mm-dec15> Topics this month include:

Books of the Month Seasonal Edition 2015

Woodbrooke courses and events December 2015

Friends World News 2015 Vol 1 No 182

Among Friends No 134 Winter 2015

The Young Quaker October 2015

Managing Meeting Houses 2016

Conscientious objection 100 years on

Housing and Inequality

Principles for a new economy

Children's Programme YM 2016

Young People's Programme YM 2016

QWRC Factsheet