



THE QUIET WORD

Spring 2015 issue no.1



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

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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

Dates for your diary

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

February

@Saturday 28th - 10am to 5pm Northern Friends Peace Board day conference on peace - QMH 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX nb all Leeds Quakers are invited to this meeting which will include a Trident peace witness event.

March

Friday 13th 1pm to 2pm Janet Douglas, retired University of Leeds historian who knows a considerable amount about Quakers, is giving a talk on Leeds Conscientious Objectors at Leeds city Library. No charge or booking required.

Saturday 14th 9.30am refreshments then 10am to 1pm Saturday Seminar of the Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Meeting, Carlton Hill Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds.

The Seminar will on BEING EFFECTIVE in ways in which we can influence our MPs and our MEPs. This is an opportunity for Friends to learn how to change the system by using their democratic authority. All welcome

Sunday 15th 10.45am Otley Quaker Meeting (all ages)

Friday 20th 4pm memorial meeting for worship for Whinifred Douglas at QMH 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds

@Saturday 28th 10am to 1pm Leeds Area Quaker Meeting Topic 'Families, children and Young People' to be held at Roundhay QMH and followed by an optional afternoon at Tropical World.

April

Friday 3rd to Monday 6th Centenary Easter Settlement - Cober Hill, Scarborough - Topic; Food for Change. Speaker: Geoff Tansley. See brochure and use optional on-line booking form.

Saturday 18th 10am to 4pm Quakers in Yorkshire at The Retreat, York. Topic: Mental Health

Sunday 19th 10.45am Otley Quaker Meeting

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.



Guest Editor

This Spring edition of The Quiet Word may appear a little different. Our regular editor Mark Wells is currently snowed under with work. Pete Redwood has stepped in as Guest Editor for this edition.. If some submissions have been missed please re-submit them so that they can appear in the next edition.

Going Green – we are a power station!

Just over three years ago, Leeds Area Quaker Meeting invested nearly £15,000 on installing 16 solar panels on the roof of the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House. All the Leeds meetings were considered, but Carlton Hill was the only one that had a southerly facing roof and it was chosen for this reason. These panels are now generating about 3,000KWh of electricity every year and a total of 10,000KWh was reached on 15th January 2015. Money received from generating this electricity is now approaching £5000, so provided that the system continues to work for the next seven years or so, the initial outlay should be covered. There are a few

points to make, firstly, the system did stop working in October following a power cut, but thankfully I was able to reset it. The other point is that if you factor in the lost income from the £15,000, then the system actually has to continue to perform for much longer than 10 years to be considered a financial success.

Quakers nationally and regionally have been disinvesting from companies connected to the fossil fuel industry. It is good that we have chosen to invest in Solar Power in a very public way - the solar

panels are easily seen by all those who use Woodhouse Lane as they are on the front of the building. What people will not know is that the panels have been one part of numerous changes that have been introduced to reduce energy use at Carlton Hill – these changes included a new heating system, time switches, lower energy bulbs,

cavity wall insulation and roof insulation. All these measures have helped in reducing energy use (both gas and electricity) by over 50% over a five year period (although it is true that a 'mild winter' has also helped). In 2014, the Meeting House generated 3009KWh and consumed 2319 KWh from the national grid ie

we generated a surplus of nearly 700KWh!

Other recent changes has been the installation of a new bike rack for upto eight bikes – we still have the old four-bike rack so now can accommodate a total of twelve bikes. We have also been making our garden more productive with new vegetable beds. Up to now it has been 'easy' but the challenge before us now is to continue to become an ever more sustainable Meeting – the big unanswered question is 'what next'?



Carlton Hill Oversight



Friends at Carlton Hill had an interesting session after the Quaker Meeting on Sunday 18th January. A large map of Leeds was created on the meeting room floor and then friends were invited to work out where they lived and to link up with those nearest to them.

Five groups 'organically' established themselves – one based on the Meeting House/Headingley, one in the Armley/Burley area, a South Leeds group and a Meanwood/Chapel Allerton group. It was left for the friends in each group to decide how that would support each other and what social activities they might plan.

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting (LAQM) was held on 14/12/14 at Adel Quaker Meeting House and was very well attended with 34 present. As is our custom, during our opening worship we heard the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Eric Hulland (22 May 1924 to 6 July 2014). You can read more about Eric's life in the December 2014 Quiet Word. The full testimony is on the new Leeds Quaker Website.

Membership We welcome Tracey Martin who has moved from North-West London Area Meeting. And we welcomed Yael Arbel and Sandra Cleaver into membership.

Quota: LAQM Trustees reported that a general feeling was expressed in views gathered that there is value in having a quota, viewed as 'collective guidance' rather than as a compulsory demand...We agree that we will continue with the modified quota arrangements. LAQM supported this decision.

Trustees are presently drafting a Risk Assessment document. Friends are encouraged to look at the draft document which is available on the new LAQM password-protected website. Any comments should be sent via any of our LAQM Trustees or direct to Judith Acton. LAQM Trustee Minutes are now available on our LAQM password-protected website. Peace Link Martin Schweiger informed us of the reduced support being given to Leeds Peace Link by Leeds City Council and the departmental name changes within the Council that have now removed all reference to Peace.

The Kindlers is an experimental group 'working to rekindle the power of Quaker worship by renewing and deepening our spiritual practices'.

Arrangements Committee: What are we for? We are a church — a community. We come together to put our faith into action. The LAQM's planned for 2015 are:

Sunday, 8 Feb at Carlton Hill; topic is Sustainability
Saturday, 28 March (10am to 1pm) at Roundhay; topic is Families, Children and Young People
Sunday, 10 May at Ilkley; topic is Peace
Sunday, 12 July at Gildersome; topic left open
Sunday, 11 October at Rawdon; topic is Spirituality
Sunday, 13 December at Adel; topic left open

Changes to LAQM: Food to share during the lunch, a 1pm start, a break at 2.30pm with access to drinks, a

close by 4.15pm with a small selection of cakes and biscuits being provided.

Provision for children and encouraging greater attendance. Friends are also invited to make practical suggestions regarding the use of I.T. at LAQM. We will also aim to work in partnership with other Area Meetings in Yorkshire.

National City of Sanctuary's Birmingham Declaration we agreed to support the 'Birmingham Declaration'

Meeting for Sufferings John Arnison, our representative informed us about the progress of our LAQM Minute on End of Life Care. The relevant Sufferings Minute is as follows: QLCC assistant clerk designate, has introduced Quaker Life Central Committee's consideration of end of life issues. We have heard of Friends' experiences of dealing with end of life issues in their Meetings and at work. It is a huge subject and it is important that Friends talk more about a range of end of life issues, including aging, preparing for death, and medically-assisted dying. We see today's consideration very much as a starting point. We support QLCC in their suggestion for Friends to share their stories.

Meeting for Sufferings also asked Area Meetings to consider the topics of Tax Justice and Islamophobia

LAQM held 8th Feb. 2015 – a summary

Thirty friends including 2 children were present and we started with our 'Sustainability' workshop.

Sustainability The session began with a reading of Advices and Queries, 42 which tells us that 'we do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will'. Friends were then asked to write on a post-it note one change (big or small) that they had made in their lives to render them more sustainable. These notes were then gathered up and put on a board for Friends to discuss over the afternoon tea-break.

We were then introduced to our three 'champions' who spoke about issues they were passionate about. Pauline Leonard spoke about the pollution

caused by plastics and packaging. Plastics 1, 2, and 4 are now recycled in Leeds but the question is what happens the others. Pat Gerwat, who commented on the fact that she did not feel like a 'champion', was concerned about the adverse impact of air travel in terms of tourism, import of vegetables, and so on. Bridget Robson quoted the opening of the Joyce Kilmer poem on 'Trees': 'I think that I shall never see / A poem lovely as a tree', before speaking about the value of trees in our eco system, and suggested that the more broad leaf trees that can be planted the better. There are many opportunities to plant trees and Bridget wondered about the possibility of planting a Quaker Wood.

Friends then divided into small groups to discuss these three issues and a full account of this sharing will be made available soon. . We were reminded of the comment heard in our opening worship: 'the commonwealth of people and the commonwealth of the earth have become inseparably interrelated and interdependent — have become in fact one new commonwealth of life' (Rex Ambler, 1990). It is our duty to sustain this commonwealth. 2015/4

Children's Meeting Following the session on Sustainability, the children and accompanying adults came back into Meeting. The children had considered the three pledges on the Avaaz website: (1) being kind; (2) being thankful; and (3) learning new things. The children had drawn thankful hands which they shared with the Meeting. We were all encouraged to sign up to these three principles (described on www.avaaz.org/en/three_principles_ as Show Kindness and Respect: We will show kindness and respect towards ourselves and others whenever possible. And it's always possible, because everyone we meet is fighting a battle we may know nothing about; Strive for Wisdom: We will seek to be wise in our decisions, listening deeply to ourselves and others, and balancing our heads, hearts and intuitions in a harmony that feels right; Cultivate Gratitude: We will regularly reflect on what we're grateful for, because it brings perspective, dissolves negativity, and grounds us in what's most important).

Deaths We record the deaths of Winifred Douglas, Jan Brumfitt, Elizabeth Sestini and Roland Baulk – with four deaths in six weeks, this has not been a good

winter for Leeds friends and we hope that no more will occur in the year (in the whole of 2013, there were only three deaths recorded). We also recorded that Alistair Milner, a former Member of Leeds Area Meeting, died on 29 November 2014. A memorial Meeting for Worship is to be held on Saturday 25 April at Rawdon Meeting House at 2pm. This will be followed by the interment of his ashes in the burial ground at Rawdon.

Tabular Statement for 2014

- At the end of 2014 Leeds AQM had two hundred and thirty Members, four more than last year's total.
- It recorded one hundred and forty-three Attenders and children not in membership, thirty-seven less than last year, with children decreased by seven.
- Fourteen people have been welcomed into membership in the Area Meeting, seven by personal application, seven by transfer in from other AMs in the UK.
- Ten people have left the AM, one ended their membership at their own request, three by death and six by transfer out to other AMs.

Meeting for Sufferings held on 7 February 2015 at Friends House. Martin Ford of Ilkley was our representative for this occasion. Martin gave a thoughtful and careful report of the meeting which focused in the morning on education, membership, and the work of trustees; in the afternoon the focus was on the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations, and the revision of chapter 16 (on marriage) in Quaker Faith and Practice. Nb you can see the full Meeting for Sufferings minutes on the BYM website.

Other LAQM items of business included Junior Yearly Meeting, Election Hustings, Kindlers, Quaker Equality Week, Asylum and Refugee Network statement, Tax Justice, Trident, LAQM Trustees and a Risk Assessment policy. Full details are on the new LAQM website. Finally Climate Change: Exeter Meeting has produced leaflets requesting that Friends support them at 9pm every evening for one minute by holding world leaders in the Light so they may tackle climate change more effectively.

Detention, Destitution and Deportation: Gathering Quaker energy to speak truth to power

Introduction

Around 50 Quakers and non-Quakers from all parts of Britain gathered at Woodbrooke over the weekend of 6th-8th February 2015 for a conference organised by the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN). QARN formed 2006 as a result of Quaker concern about the treatment of Refugees following the publication of the revised Immigration Act.

The first session was all about getting to know about each other and how we are all involved in some way. I discovered that there is a lot of expertise and experience within the group and that I had a lot to learn.

The major concern is how some of the UK laws are flouting the 1953 European Convention on Human Rights and how the system has been privatised and how the law is being abused by such operators. The three main contractors are G4S, Serco, and Mitie.

Presentations

"That which is morally wrong cannot be politically correct." QfP 23.26

QARN has sent a copy of the Statement on Destitution to all Meetings and is asking for comments so that this can be taken forward to Meeting for Sufferings.

The media, and in particular the popular press, has created a feeling of fear prejudice and antagonism towards asylum seekers and migrants. This extends across all faith groups and social groups. It has also been discovered that many ethnic groups are antagonistic towards asylum seekers. This is mainly due to exaggeration and mis-information. Last year there were 23,000 asylum seekers in the UK 0.2% of the population, a figure far smaller than most other European countries. Of those only 18% gained refugee status. 25% of all refused claims go to appeal but very few succeed.

Jerome Phelps from Detention Action gave us a more detailed description. He explained that the system had changed over the last few years. Many cases are now assessed for a quick decision under the Detained Fast Track System. The case is assessed in detention centre, which are mainly category B prisons, and the claimant is given two days to gather evidence in support of their claim. Since they are in detention this is an impossible task. They are not allowed representation and interpreters that are provided leave a lot to be desired. The

system can only be described as designed to refuse people. It is both immoral and unlawful. There is no time limit to the length of time they can be detained which is contrary to ERU immigration law. The maximum in any other European is 42 days. The Detention Forum, of which QARN is a member is campaigning for a time limit of 24 days and early access to legal advice.

Mike Kaye from Still Human Still Here painted a vivid picture of how the majority of asylum seekers are suffering destitution.

An asylum seeker in the UK is not allowed to work and is denied any recourse to public funds. They are allowed £5.20 a day for food and all their personal needs. Minimal housing is provided for them in the form of property that nobody else is willing to occupy and they have no choice of where in the country that will be. They are allowed basic healthcare only, although few find it possible to register with a doctor due to misunderstandings in the rules. They are expected to pay for language tuition and transport. Those newly granted refugee status frequently have this minimal support cut off before other systems can be put in place. A refused claim results in immediate cutting of all support. The result is an estimated 6,000 street homeless asylum seekers and refugee in the UK. This system is intended to be disempowering.

Both speakers urged that we contact our MP's but do not rely on emails. Instead go to see them personally, and if possible take an asylum seeker with you so that they can face reality.

We also had presentations from three asylum seekers who are being helped and empowered by RAPAR, a volunteer organisation in Manchester.

One quote that has stuck with me is from an Australian aboriginal saying:

"If you have come to help me, go away.

If your liberation is the same as mine. Welcome."

Everybody was encouraged to try the Guardian Refugee Challenge <http://tinyurl.com/m7xj6hd> an interactive educational game.

For more information about QARN and asylum seekers www.qarn.org.uk

I thank the Meeting for making it possible for me to attend this inspiring conference.

Pete Redwood
Carlton Hill

Adel Party – every year Adel friends have a party in January – this year all Leeds Quakers were invited to the event and a good time was had by all that went on Saturday 10th January. Highlights (apart from the good food and good company) was the traditional ‘balloon game’ and a new game for Adel friends of make a Quaker Costume in just 10 minutes and with just newspaper, scissors and cello tape – amazing results were achieved by the four different groups. If you want to know what the balloon game consists of, you will need to come next year!



Trident Peace Witness:

In January, Quakers from across Yorkshire gathered at the Oxford Place Methodist centre next to Leeds Town Hall. During the lunch break a short Trident Peace Witness was held outside, this consisted of a 45 foot long 'Trident' submarine with the message 'Quakers say no to Trident'. The wind proved too much for the light weight cut out and it was not as effective as was hoped. A much more robust second version – our V2 was deployed for our Leeds Quaker Peace witness that was held on Saturday 14th Feb. in Leeds. We met outside Debenhams on Briggate and proceeded to 'walk' the submarine to the top of the street and then back again. Fortunately, it was not a windy day, but the main problem was that our display was simply too big and hard to capture with an ordinary camera, though there is some very good wide angled video shots. Even so, at about 15m long our version was a fraction of the real thing which is 150m long and would dwarf Yorkshires biggest skyscraper, Bridgewater Place in Leeds which stands a lofty 110m! The leaflet that we gave out included the following information;

£100,000,000,000 Trident replacement would fund one of:

- * **All A&E departments for 40 years**
- * **150,000 new nurses, for 30 years**
- * **30,000 new primary schools**
- * **Scrap tuition fees for 30 years**
- * **Insulate 15 million homes**

Full report '**People Not Trident: The Economic Case Against Trident Replacement**' available at www.cnduk.org

What is Trident? It is the UK's Nuclear Weapon system, presently consisting of four 150m long submarines, each carrying eight Trident missiles with up to five nuclear warheads on each missile. One submarine could destroy 40 cities. In 2016 the government will decide if the existing system is to be replaced.

The leaflet we handed

Quaker News 19 December 2014

Quakers call for international treaty to ban nuclear weapons

Quakers in Britain are calling on politicians to find the moral courage and political leadership to work for a nuclear ban treaty. They are encouraging the UK government to meet all those who are actively working towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

The full text of the Open letter follows:

Open Letter to Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Philip Hammond, MP

Dear Philip Hammond,

Quakers in Britain condemn unreservedly the UK's possession of nuclear weapons and the policy of nuclear deterrence which relies on the threat to use them. We add our voice to growing demands for a new international treaty to ban nuclear weapons, echoing the interfaith statement issued on 9 December in Vienna, calling for "the commencement of negotiations on a new legal instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons without further delay and in a forum open to all states and blockable by none."

The UK government is obligated by Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to pursue multilateral negotiations in good faith. Yet we are witnessing a string of decisions which commit the UK to possessing nuclear weapons for another 50 years.

Quakers are aware that the UK government is pursuing what it calls a "step by step" approach to nuclear disarmament. We would welcome information about what those steps are, and what the timetable is for such disarmament.

Quakers note but reject the position taken by the UK towards a treaty to ban nuclear weapons as stated by the UK Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque, at the Third International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Vienna 8-9 December. She stated that it "jeopardises the stability and security which

nuclear weapons can help to ensure". It is our view that the current deployment and potential immediate use of nuclear weapons puts humanity at enormous risk. For us stability and security must come from other sources than the permanent threat of nuclear destruction.

The Austrian government created an "Austrian Pledge" calling for "states to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons". This is an opportunity for Britain to demonstrate moral courage and political leadership. Quakers in Britain call on the UK government to respond positively to this pledge.

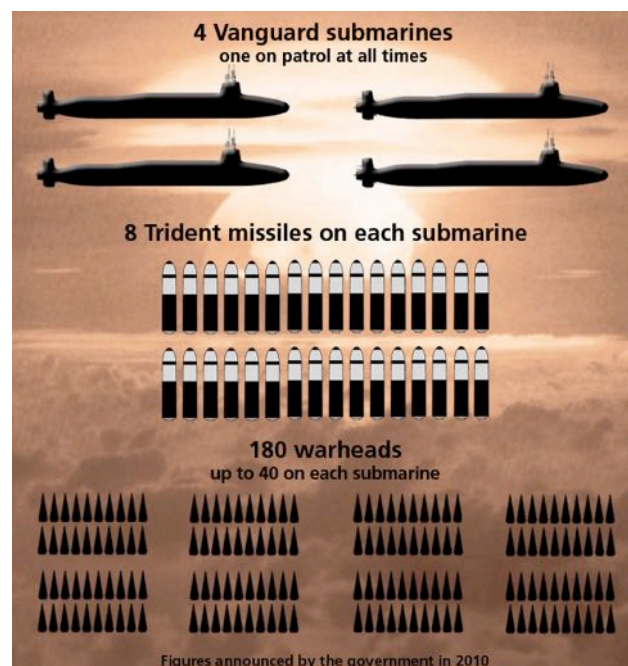
Quakers in Britain, strongly encourage you to engage with all those who are actively working towards a world free of nuclear weapons and would welcome a meeting to discuss ways in which we can work together towards this end.

Signed

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain



Trident demonstration outside City Hall, Leeds with a mock-up 1/10th scale Trident submarine



Eric Hulland – the better half

Continued from part 1 in the December Quiet Word which detailed Eric's experiences in the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU).

I had heard that there was a helter skelter scramble for university places since thousands of servicemen were being demobbed each month. I soon learned that postal applications seldom attracted replies. I therefore spent my last two UK leaves knocking on various college doors in the hope that there would be someone there who would be authorised and willing to give me a place.



Eventually I knocked on the door of Bede College Durham, a high church college whose Principal was Rev. Canon Brayley. The odds were against me at a high church college because I was a non-conformist without a war record. I was fortunate. Canon Brayley asked me in, gave me a rigorous interview and offered me a place. I shall always be deeply grateful to canon Brayley for this and since it gave me my chance.

When I went to Bede College in October 1947 I opted to read for an ex-service man's concession war degree. This was probably the wrong choice but it seemed the right thing to do in the circumstances of that time. I read German and English (main) and History and Economics (subsidiary). The shoals of ex-service students at Durham meant that numbers at lecturers could be up to two hundred students. There was therefore no chance of any individual guidance or tutorial type help. Consequently, passing or failing exams was a hit or miss affair. Numbers in the lecturers in the second year were considerably reduced since many had been weeded out through not passing at the end of the first year.

By the way, back at Bede, I learned that the students had made a spoonerism of part of the Lord's Prayer to read 'Give us this day our Brayley dead' Shame!! During this time we had been attending Middlesbrough Friends Meeting. I came home from Durham on most weekends so could go to meeting.

On July 10th 1948, we were married at Middlesbrough Meeting House.

In September 1948 we were admitted into membership of the Society. This was a happy and important event in our lives and one we have never regretted.

I taught in Halifax and Huddersfield. I found myself at a disadvantage in the promotion stakes mainly because of my 'war' degree. I would be in competition with good honours graduates. I therefore applied to do an MA. This was hard work because I was teaching full-time. Elizabeth and I worked together on this effort and this made success possible. In spite of the hard slog it was a happy and rewarding time which we both enjoyed.

The MA (1957) 'topped up' my war degree (BA) and enabled me to be interviewed for jobs which I, Otherwise, would not have been considered. In 1958, after eight years teaching I got my first break-through being appointed as inspector of schools in Darlington. I was fortunate in having a very able and kind Chief from whom I learnt a great deal and shall always be grateful to him.

I started to keep a record of any funny bits and pieces which passed over my desk. You will know that teachers of infants use a lot of apparatus as teaching aids, which is usually supplied by the LEA. This is an excerpt from a report supporting a teacher's application for a job with us, "Miss has done excellent work with absolutely no apparatus at all, and most of she had to make herself!"

I was appointed as a District Inspector in Leeds in 1964 where we spent eleven happy years. We were both active in Adel Meeting where we held various offices.

In 1973 local education authority inspectors were

redesignated 'advisers'. In 1975 I was appointed Chief Adviser in Sheffield.

When I retired we moved back to Leeds and have been happily active in Carlton Hill Meeting. In 2006 we moved to an apartment in Bedford Court which is just right for both of us and we are very happy. We have a lot to be thankful for.

Footnote: Elizabeth passed away in the summer of 2013 and Eric passed away in the summer of 2014. This article is from the Carlton Hill newsletter and was written shortly after their move to Bedford Court. Testimonies to the life of both Eric and Elizabeth can be seen on the new Leeds Area Quaker Meeting website. Eric's Testimony ends:

Solid, reliable, dependable, Eric behaved to all with the enduring benevolence of a kindly father, the fun-loving wittiness of a favourite uncle, and the engaged interest of a true friend. Every interaction with him was a positive one. Usually in the same spot at Meeting with Elizabeth at his side, Eric ministered rarely but with brevity and purpose. His ministry reflected a deep faith that was grounded in the bible and the Christian roots of Quakerism. Some well-remembered words were *'This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left' (Isaiah 30.21)* and *'True silence is the rest of the mind; and is to the spirit, what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment' (William Penn, 1699)*.

Our Friend Eric was truly one who embodied the injunction by George Fox to 'walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one'.

Supporting our centrally managed Quaker Work

At the December Leeds Area Quaker Meeting Liz Schweiger, spoke about her spiritual journeys and how she supports our centrally managed Quaker work.

Liz talked about her journey from an Anglican church upbringing in Ireland, with a Presbyterian mother, and attendance at a Methodist boarding school. She worked abroad with the Catholics, where she met her husband-to-be Martin Schweiger. They worked alongside the Methodists and the Lutherans. When in England, they started a children's meeting in Keighley, before joining LAQM and attending Roundhay LM. Liz became a Member in the early 1990s. Liz then reminded us of Advices and Queries, 27, endorsing us 'to let our lives speak'. Liz said that she had been an Elder, Overseer, Deputy Clerk, on Nominations groups (at LM and AM), and on children's groups. At the beginning of 2013, she was appointed to Britain Yearly Meeting Central Nominations Committee. There are twenty-one people on Central Nominations and they meet ten times per year. In order to enable members of the Nominations Committee to be guided in their decision-making, there are 'Serving with Quakers' forms.

All present were asked to reflect on their own talents and to consider how they might get involved with our centrally managed work. Serving on central committees is a wonderful way of serving the Society. See <http://quaker.org.uk/quaker-service-information-form> for more details or speak to Liz Schweiger from Roundhay Meeting. We do not have to wait for retirement before deciding what to do with the rest of our lives. We must also support those serving on committees and working on our behalf.



Membership Matters 4

- from under the hat of the Assistant Clerk Membership

The completed Tabular Statement for 2015 has been returned to the Recording Clerk's office at Friends House after information has been sent from each of the 7 Leeds local meetings. This is what it said.

At the end of 2014 Leeds AQM had 230 members, four more than last year's total.

There were 143 attenders and children not in membership, 37 less than last year, with children decreased by 7.

Fourteen people were welcomed into membership in the Area Meeting, 7 by personal application, 7 by transfer in from other AMs in the UK.

10 people have left the AM, one ended their membership at their own request, 3 by death and six by transfer out to other AMs.

This information comes near the time of the new issue of the Yorkshire Book of Members. Comparing the AM data with the lists in the new book may remind us what we said last year, that some anomalies and 'ghosts' had been revealed and 'it is hoped that during the next year we can work together to make the records more truthful about our meeting communities.' Meetings have worked hard to obtain consent to data being held for the Yorkshire Book of Members. Where this has not been forthcoming meetings should be asking themselves what they intend to do about these 'ghosts'. They cannot remain hidden in the AM database and card index for ever, or can they? Is your meeting confident that someone in the meeting is in contact with everyone on its list, even if you do not see them?

Susan Robson
Otley Meeting



Susan Robson (left) - LAQM Membership Clerk - welcomes Sandra Cleaver (right) into membership

FOOD BANKS ARE NOT ENOUGH

Conference organised by Central England Peace Committee on 29th November 2014

Friends from all over the country joined together for this conference and we were about 80 people in all in Bull Street Meeting House.

The keynote speaker Suzanne Ismail (QPSW) and there were 4 workshop for friends to participate in and we each choose two.

Income inequality

Banks and big business

Lobbying

Housing & benefits

This was a very interesting and motivating conference and I think we all came away feeling inspired.

Without giving a complete resume of what happened,

I feel that the message I took away from the conference following the two workshops I attended (Housing, and Income Inequality) was –

ASK QUESTIONS –

e.g. Does the company you use pay the living wage to its employees or just the minimum wage?

Is your local council building more affordable homes?

PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL INITIATIVES

The Social Justice Group of Manchester and Warrington Quaker Meeting are co-ordinating Quaker Equality Week – 6th – 15th March 2015

Contact :- elizcol@dialstart.net

And the conference work can be followed on the Quakernomics blog :-

<http://www.quakerweb.org.uk/blog/>

Janet Naudin

Ilkley Meeting

From Book to Facebook

Living with Conflict: a Challenge to a Peace Church

Susan Robson Scarecrow Press 2013

On the display shelf at Carlton Hill library there's a nice shiny new book. It's been sitting there shinily (possibly untouched) for the last couple of months. 'Write something about it for the Quiet Word' said Robert.

So here it is – from book to Facebook. The book *Living with Conflict: a Challenge to a Peace Church* was published at the end of 2013 after 15 years of research and active involvement. It challenges Quakers to live up to their public image as conflict resolvers by handling conflict better in their own meetings, and looks at how other peace churches manage this (or not). People who like reading about research find it interesting, but most people would rather get on with their lives. Or possibly avoid thinking about conflict?

Quaker Studies staff at Woodbrooke had supported me throughout my research and the quest for a publisher, and then offered the prospect of a grant to help get the research off the shelf of the Woodbrooke Library. Perhaps rashly, with the limited experience of the Go Inside to Greet the Light website behind me, I

set up a website to make the ideas in the book better known, and for the discussion to continue. What seemed to be happening in 2005 may have changed in 2015. Quakers, and others, need to continually take the temperature of their communities and assess their health. The website offers some ideas about doing this. Since it started a year ago it has become more like a developing case study of Quaker community and what is happening about conflict within it.

At the end of 2014 I found myself in need of help with all this online stuff and Rhiannon Grant (recently of Leeds) came to join me as another editor of the website, with more hands on skills. Now we're working hard to engage people in the discussion and swopping information, and using a Facebook page to do this. So that's why this piece is called 'From book to Facebook'.

Have a look at the website, sign up for its Newsletter, or visit the Facebook Page and take part in the conversation. Or even talk to me, Rhiannon or each other.

Enough is Enough

"The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now, to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age." John Woolman 1772

Somewhere around 1976 I became interested in the environmental movement. My initial interest was caused by the proposal to build a motorway right through a favourite haunt of mine to the east of Winchester – a nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and an ancient burial ground. Shortly afterwards I joined Friends of the Earth

At around this time John Taylor had just been appointed Bishop of Winchester and was causing a bit of stir locally because of his revolutionary ideas. For a start he was not prepared to wear his "badge of office" - the mitre. He had also just published a book entitled "Enough is Enough" which really opened my eyes to what was going on in the world.

After forty years, I am just re-reading it, and I am almost alarmed to discover that what he wrote all that time ago is totally valid today – nothing has really changed!!!

The book Limits to Growth had been published just a few years previously and it had sparked controversy and debate across the world. It spelled out the cost of unlimited economic growth in no uncertain terms. The rich countries could not afford to continue their high rate growth without seriously jeopardising the whole future of the planet.

Representatives from 112 nations met in Stockholm in 1972 to discuss the implementations. One delegate spoke for many when he said "Looking after the environment for the sake of the grand-children is purely a rich man's preoccupation"!!!!!! Many felt that Western scientists and economists had no right to try to curtail the aspirations of those countries that were struggling to survive. At the United Nations Climate Conference in December 2014, in Lima, when 196 delegates attended, those same voices were heard again. Sadly the demand is for all countries to act the same way. The rich countries are not prepared to do considerably more to even things up.

E.F. Schumacher (Small is Beautiful - 1973) summed it up perfectly "The world cannot afford the USA" he said. It

accounted for just 5.6% of the world's population yet was consuming nearly half the world's output of essential resources. He tarred Western Europe and Japan with the same brush. China was at this time not yet a force to be reckoned with. Today, it can be reckoned that USA, Europe and Japan between them now control 80% of the world's wealth.

Just a few years after John Taylor's book was published Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister. Three years later the actor Ronald Reagan became President of the USA. Between them, they simultaneously adopted policies that were to accelerate the "winner takes all" mentality and irretrievably change the face of the business and financial world. We called it "Thatcherism" the Americans called it "Reaganomics"! They both adopted the theories of revolutionary economist Milton Friedman, theories that had already been condemned by most economists as being unworkable. He declared that economic and commodity markets must be entirely self-regulating with no government interference; that all services expected of government should be provided by private enterprise; that a high level of unemployment was necessary to make the system work efficiently. In fact all the ingredients for the problems the world now faces.

The "self-regulating" oil market caused the price to drop to its lowest level in years in December 2014 due to severe over production. This despite the fact that oil supplies are diminishing rapidly year on year.

Water is no longer free. The world's fresh water supplies are now a commodity to be sold. The southern states of the USA are currently facing a severe water shortage, as are many parts of South America, due to over-extraction. In those areas beer is now being sold with advice on how to save water printed on the labels!!!!

Humanity is now using 60% of the annual freshwater run off, 40% of the annual terrestrial plant growth, and 35% of the oceans' productivity as well as irreplaceable oil, gas, coal and other materials. That is close to and in places beyond

the limits of sustainability and threatens many species and habitats with extinction through the effects of climate change. There is a loss of species with a reduction of diversity, all caused by human activities. Added to that, the level of human activity is producing excessive amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere – a known cause of global warming and climate change, the effects of which are now being felt across the world. Enough is enough.

Friedman's theories have created a culture of spend, spend, spend. The UK National Debt in December 2014 was £1.5 trillion. This equates to £22,843 for each man, woman and child in the UK, or £50,531 for each person in work. If every person in work was asked to pay an extra £20 per week just to pay it off, it would take 48 years to clear. In practice, because of interest, the debt is increasing every year. Because the government is so severely in debt they have to borrow yet more year on year to meet their commitments. A never ending spiral. Enough is enough.

Everybody is encouraged to borrow money to purchase the things they cannot afford. The average debt to each family in the UK is around £1,500. Without a substantial debt burden the world's banking system cannot survive. It relies on debt re-payments and interest to provide the funds it needs in order to operate.

Prof Charles Birch, in an article for the World Council of Churches magazine in 1972 wrote – “Originally a unit of population was simply a human being whose needs were met by eating 2,500 calories a day and 60 grammes of protein. Man's daily need of energy was equivalent to the continuous burning of a 100 watt lightbulb.....Today... his energy needs are equivalent to ten 1,000 watt radiators continuously burning.” By 2014 that 1,000 watts had increased by another 20%. Enough is enough.

Biodiversity across the world has declined by 39% between 1970 and 2010. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) report of 2014 a staggering 93% of all animal species left on this planet are connected with human activity – human beings, animals (and birds) reared as food, animals kept as pets, animals bred as pet food, animals hunted for their salable parts, and of course marine life, tonnes of which is destroyed in order to salvage the most

profitable. Add to that the immense destruction of habitat in pursuit of profit across the world in order to rear those animals and we begin to realise that the world is in crisis. Enough is enough.

We are consuming at an unsustainable rate and converting into litter. The Marine Conservation Society estimates that in every sq metre of beach throughout the world you will find at least four items of plastic litter - an increase of 10% in the past 10 years. Enough is Enough

As a nation, and as individuals, we need to take stock. We need to recognise when Enough is Enough. To put it into practical terms, the following may be helpful:

Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status

Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you

Develop a habit of giving things away - de-accumulate

Refuse to be “sucked in” by the latest gadgetry

Learn to enjoy things without owning them

Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation

Look with a healthy scepticism at all 'buy now, pay later' schemes

Reject anything that will breed the oppression of others

Shun whatever would distract you from your main goal

"Learn the secret of being content in any and every situation whether living in plenty or want."
Phlippians 4.12

Pete Redwood
Carlton Hill Meeting

Quakers don't sing do they?

Carols for Peace...

Twenty Quakers braved the cold, a little rain and a tremendous amount of wind to provide a Peace Witness on Saturday 20th December. We gathered outside Debenhams on Briggate which was the site of the Moot Hall in Leeds, where 50 Leeds Quakers were imprisoned in 1683; their crime was to attend a Quaker meeting for worship!



The purpose of our witness was to oppose the replacement of Trident Nuclear weapons. Our half hour Meeting for Worship, during which we were battered by the wind, was 'supported' by the nearby Salvation Army Band.

When it came to our peace carols, we were able to arrange for the band to play for us – however, the tune they played was different to what we were expecting, but we rose to the challenge and still managed to sing

well, starting with Angels from the Realms of glory, then While submarines patrolled by night followed by Angels we have heard on high and ending with the round Dona nobis pacem Give (as in 'donation') us peace (as in 'pacifist').

The three carols were written especially for the event and were printed on leaflets that were handed out to those passing us. A number of people were interested and stopped to chat to the four friends who were handing out leaflets and explaining what was happening. To ensure that we did not look like a group of shoppers that had lost our way, we wore Hi-Visibility 'Quakers for Peace' tabards. After an hour, we were suffering from the cold and many of us went for a nice hot drink together.



We discussed how we might build on this event in the future – probably arranging for 'our band' to play the right tune was one lesson learned! On reflection I found it very poignant to be standing on the site of the Moot Hall – I felt a deep connection to those early friends who by all accounts, suffered greatly from the extreme cold when they were imprisoned. I am very glad that Leeds is now a multi-cultural, multi-faith and richly diverse city, but we do not yet live in a peaceful and just society, one step along this path will be experienced when we banish all nuclear weapons to the history books.

Our next Trident 'Peace Witness' event will be taking place on Saturday 28th February at the Northern Friends Peace Board meeting at the Quaker Meeting House on Woodhouse Lane. See the poster for further details.

The 'peoples choice' carol was:

While submarines patrolled by night

In waters all unknown,
A letter to the Captain came,
With seal of the royal throne,

'This comes from the Prime Minister,'
The solemn bearer said.
'But at this time we do not know
If he's alive or dead.

'What he is asking you to do
From all has been concealed.
I simply took it from a safe
And brought it to you, sealed.

'Nor do I know if England stands,
As ever, fair and splendid,
Or if she lies a smoking wreck,
Her life obscenely ended.'

He stared upon the envelope
With mounting sickly dread,
Then tore it open manfully,
And this is what he read:

'A thousand nuclear bombs or so,
Or so we understand,
On Leeds and London landed are,
Or are about to land.

We're pretty sure the aggressor is
A Russian-backed jihad.
You therefore are to bomb forthwith
Moscow, Teheran, Baghdad.'

He thought of tired labourers
Sunk in sweet slumber deep;
He thought of mothers singing to
Children who could not sleep.

He thought of happy sweethearts --
And then he thought of what
He was about to unleash on them --
And simply, he could not.

Northern Friends Peace Board



Saturday 28th February Leeds Quakers are invited to the first NFPB meeting of 2015, at the QMH, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX

10am Arrivals

10:45am Meeting for Worship

Welcome to NFPB members / visitors and sharing of news

Mashuda Shaikh: A Muslim member of the NFPB project group 'Building Peace in Diverse Britain' will talk about her work promoting peace, justice and participation in Kirklees

1.00 Lunch and Trident flashmob

2:10pm Afternoon session includes workshops looking at Peace and our response to the upcoming General Election including Trident

4:15pm Close

Photo: Leeds Quakers 45 foot long 'Trident' in central Leeds



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

The Living with Conflict website is a collection of thought-provoking information and activities which anyone can use. It accepts that everyone is sometimes involved in conflict and that we need to live with this positively. It contains ideas about:

- conflict and what it is
- how we handle conflict or avoid it
- how we do conflict better when we face it directly

The website resources feature in Being Friends Together, and other ways of using it are included in the website itself. Explore the ideas on your own, or in a group, and then talk about it in your community.

You can find the main website at livingwithconflict.net

join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/livingwithconflict

or read the blog at conflictingstories.wordpress.com

The current editors are Susan Robson and Rhiannon Grant. The project is supported by a Gerald Hodgett award from the Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and the Friends Adult Higher Education Awards Group.



News updates from Friends House:

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

See <http://www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-monthly-mailings> for full details

1. Young Quakers Calendar 2015 events for young Quakers aged 11+ throughout
2. Live Adventurously event for 8- to 11-year-olds 8–10 April, Essex
3. Children & young people's work training in meetings
4. Christian Aid Week 10–16 May
5. To all BYM Friends from FWCC connecting Friends, crossing cultures.
6. General election pack How can we use the upcoming general election as a opportunity to speak out about the issues which matter to us?
7. 'Why Prison?' The Crime, Community and Justice Subcommittee (CCJS) of Quaker Peace & Social Witness has produced a framework for discussion.
8. Data safety and information security: guidance for meetings
9. Meeting for Sufferings Review Group on the Relationship with Listed Informal Groups The group wants to contact all Quaker-related groups and organisations. The group members include Martin Schweiger of Roundhay LM.
10. Experiment with Light Quaker Life recognises that for some Friends, Experiment with Light can be a powerful way of deepening their spiritual life.
11. Coming soon: Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel 2016 Interested in being an ecumenical accompanier in 2016? The deadline for applications is earlier than normal this year and will be Monday 27 April 2015.
12. Quaker chaplaincy weekend-It's not about me 6–8 March 2015, Woodbrooke.
13. QPSW Spring Conference and Annual Conference of Treasurers
14. Swarthmoor Hall 2015 Programme Guide wide range of courses and retreats.
15. Finding Out About Quakers residential weekend 10–12 April 2015, Charney Manor, OX12 0EJ
For people who know little or nothing about Quakers.
16. Thinking Through Threshing 14 March 2015, Friends House, London
17. Quaker Equality Week 6–15 March 2015
18. Quaker United Nations Summer School 5–17 July 2015, Geneva