

THE QUIET WORD

June 2015 issue no 4



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



Paul Priest of Carlton Hill looking after the Quaker Book Stall on a recent Sunday after meeting.

The Quaker bookshop at Friends House stocks a wide range of books on Quakerism, Christianity, world religions, peace sustainability and other related topics including a sizeable children's section.

<http://quaker.org.uk/shop>

In this issue:

The Trident Campaign

*An urgent request for
action from QPSW*

Wardenship then and now

*The Burundi Crisis
....plus much, much more*

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

Calendar

Items marked @ are Quaker only events

June

Thursday 4th 6.30 to 9pm Quaker Quest - Quakers and Worship - an introduction to Quakers - all welcome at Adel QMH (6.30 refreshments and 7pm start)

Sunday 7th 2pm Quaker Peace Witness against Trident Nuclear Weapons -meet outside Quaker meeting House at 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds. Event preceded by a Peace Lunch at 1pm.

Sunday 7th Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH. More chamber music from a flute, bassoon and piano trio playing Beethoven, Weber and Poulenc.

Thursday 11th 2.30pm memorial Meeting for Worship for Martin Rowntree at Adel Quaker meeting House

Thursday 11th 6.30 to 9pm Quaker Quest - Quakers and God - an introduction to Quakers - all welcome at Adel QMH (6.30 refreshments and 7pm start)

Tuesday 16th 7.30 Olof palme memorial Peace Lecture at Leeds Civic Hall given by Prof. Alastair Hay

@ Wednesday 17th 7.30pm to 9.30pm Leeds Area Quaker Elders and Overseers meeting at Roundhay QMH

Thursday 18th 6.30 to 9pm Quaker Quest - Quakers and Faith in Action - an introduction to Quakers - all welcome at Adel QMH (6.30 refreshments and 7pm start)

Sunday 21st 10.45am Otley Quaker Meeting (all ages)

Sunday 21st 12 noon to 4pm Gildersome Scarecrow trail visit the 'Quaker' scarecrows at Gildersome Quaker meeting House'

Thursday 25th 6.30 to 9pm Quaker Quest - Quakers and Decision Making - an introduction to Quakers - all welcome at Adel QMH (6.30 refreshments and 7pm start)

July

Saturday 4th 10am to 1pm - Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group seminar

Saturday 4th 5pm to 10pm 'Independence from America' Menwith Hill - see Campaign for Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) website and June Quiet Word for full details

Tuesday 7th 7.30 to 9.30pm Leeds Citizens Founding Assembly The Centenary Pavilion, Leeds United Football Club, Elland Road, LS11 0ES RSVP by 30th June: tom.chigbo@leedscitizens.org.uk; 07908055606

@Wednesady 8th 7.30pm LAQM Elders and Overseers Meeting at Roundhay QMH

Sat. 11th 2.30pm to 5pm Charity Fun day to raise to raise money for the Leeds section of the Children of Chernobyl Project that brings children to Leeds from Belaraus for a one month therapeutic holiday. Away from radiation and all the problems that has inflicted on their communities. Venue: 12 Montagu Place, Leeds, LS8 2RG

Saturday 11th 7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH. Sonnet Lumiere: Light on Shakespear, man of Mystery, a performance by Trio Literati (jane Oakshott and Richard Rastall, withy singer helen Atkinson)

The TRIDENT CAMPAIGN

What do YOU think of it so far?

Many Friends were prevented by the Leeds marathon from attending Area meeting and the Peace Workshop on May 17th. There

were two workshop groups, including a group with Margaret Nunnally on "Defining Peaceful Protest" and a group considering "The Trident campaign", the latter of which are detailed below which was facilitated by myself.

The Quaker campaign against renewal of the Trident nuclear weapon programme to commission 4 new submarines at a cost of £100 billion was adopted by Leeds Area meeting last November.

There were 2 proposals from the working group – first:

To raise the Trident issue before the general election in all possible situations.

The working group decided on the production of our own Trident submarine which was produced by Robert Keeble to be used in demonstrations together with a banners saying "Quakers Say no to Trident" and "£100,000,000,000 Trident Kills" backed up with a pamphlet handout giving the specification of Trident and offering alternatives for the £100 billion pounds of expenditure on health, education and



housing.

The submarine has made appearances at Carlton Hill, Leeds

University, Ilkley moor and Briggate. It would be optimistic to say that our Trident made a significant impact on the passing throng, although the pamphlet was taken by many shoppers on Briggate.

The 40 foot long model requires a crew of crew at least 8 to handle, sailors have been difficult to recruit, to the extent that on the last voyage three children under 8 volunteered for duty Adult Quakers appear to be landlubbers!.

William McNeilly

submariner is the latest technician to report problems with Trident in his 18 page report. The lax security systems for access to the submarines in harbour , the engineering faults at sea, together with poor supervision of weapons control crew is a cause for real concern . No doubt this whistleblower will receive dire punishment for alerting the world to the defects in harbour security, operational maintenance and control of these terrible weapons.

In the run up to the election Friends House issued a pamphlet urging Friends to write to their MPs, and attend hustings to raise the issue with candidates. In reply most MPs and many candidates (except the Green Party) followed the party line of Conservative and Labour Parties which is to maintain Trident as "essential to UK security in an increasingly dangerous and unstable world." Since the election, it is now fairly certain that the new Government and many Labour members will sustain their support for renewal of Trident.

Further, any hope of a proportional representation voting system changing

Command and Control

A recent book "Command and Control" by Eric Schlosser published by Penguin covers the history of nuclear weapons accidents from the 1960s onwards, and is a frightening read detailing accidents with nuclear armed aircraft such as the Palomares bomber crash with the loss of 4 nuclear bombs over Spain, and the accidental launch of an armed Titan missile from its Arkansas bunker in 1980. More worrying still are the misreadings of early warning systems which showed meteorological events on 26 September, 1984 as an imminent 5 missile attack on Russia, only the cool head of Russian Colonel Petrov (and his delay in contacting the Kremlin which would have commenced all out retaliation) saved the planet.

He was rewarded with demotion and a pension reduced to \$100 a month.

support for Trident looks remote as parties opposed to renewal could achieve a maximum 120 seats versus the main parties 530.

The second proposal of the Trident protest working group was to continue protest into 2016 when the decision is to be made whether or not to spend £100 billion on the construction and servicing of 4 new submarines which will not be ready till 2028.

The working group has made plans to continue with our Protests, possibilities are:

- * To continue with our submarine + pamphlet events
- * To revise the yellow umbrella show "Quakers say No to Trident" which was highly visible when deployed on the steps

of Leeds Art gallery,

- * To encourage other Local Meetings to display our Submarine after Meeting
- * To export the submarine design to other Quaker meetings via Friends House.
- * To join with CND protests.
- * To keep up with the current Trident Ploughshares website which continues the campaign against nuclear weapons and which ran the campaign Faslane 365 (2006- 2007).

This was successful in raising public awareness and must have assisted the SNP adoption of policy to remove nuclear weapons from Scotland.

Memorable Protest Events

It is instructive to consider the protests which have made raised public awareness before considering our continued efforts.

The early CND marches in the 1960, attracted well known figures such as Bertrand Russell and politicians together with many young people.

The 1980s END - European Nuclear Disarmament campaign of the 1980s involved many other countries.

The Greenham Common Womens year long camp was successful in raising concern about the American weapons Polaris and Pershing missiles based in England.

The 2006-7 Faslane 365 campaign included blockades and trespass on the submarine base to show the vulnerability to sabotage.

The ANTI IRAQ war protest by 1.5 million people which did not affect Tony Blair's decision or delay hostilities.

What can we learn from the past?

- We need high profile supporters,
- We need young people to be engaged
- We need to consider blockade and trespass as Faslane 365
- Even massive public protest is not successful

What current steps can we take?

- Check your Meeting Notices for coming protest events
- Volunteer for submarine service including a planned visit to Menwith Hill on Saturday 4th July and to Gildersome Quaker Meeting House on Sunday 12th July.
- Take part in CND protests
- Follow the Trident Ploughshares website for their protest events
- To use campaigns such as flashmob to raise awareness.
- To take part in the 3 day Fast commemorating the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be held over the August 6-9 2015 in London
- To use graphic art such as the posters of Peter Kennard and the skills of graffiti artists such as Banksy.
- Add picture poster Kennard?

Friends are invited to attend the next 'Trident what now' planning meeting on Sunday 19th July at 2pm at Carlton Hill or to contact Working party members, Robert Keeble or myself, Brian Sayer, for more details.



Focus on Menwith Hill

Every Tuesday, 6-8 pm, Menwith Hill main gate protest. Menwith Hill is crucial to the conflict in the Middle East - the base is on our door step - there has been a weekly demonstration at MH organised by CAAB for ten years. In these particularly dark times it's REALLY important that it continues and that each week there is someone there to focus the protest at people who work on the base. The Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases can be contacted at mail@caab.corner.org.uk or percy@phonecoop.coop?

Anyone wanting a lift to Menwith from Leeds on a Tuesday evening can contact Martin Schweiger at germ.buster@phonecoop.coop.



Menwith Hill is officially a Royal Air Force (RAF) base near Harrogate in North Yorkshire, which has been run by the US National Security Agency (NSA) since 1966 and used as a ground station for a number of satellites. The largest secret intelligence-gathering system outside the United States (US), it operates outside US law and is not accountable under British law.

Description and photo courtesy Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Independence from America Day

At Menwith Hill NSA Base Saturday 4th July 2015 5pm-9pm Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB)

This is a great out of doors event for all concerned with the promotion of peace. Great speakers and delightful music, freshly cooked food and even a portaloo what else could you possibly ask for?

This year we are inviting other peace organisations who wish to people about their work to have a stall. No charge but please bring your own table, chair and ideally some tent or gazebo in case we get wet weather. It would help the organisers to know if you plan to do this.

Main thing today is to mark the date and plan to bring others with you.

Martin Schweiger on behalf of CAAB germ.buster@phonecoop.coop



The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – the death of democracy

By David Malone, from Scarborough Local Meeting

For the last two years, up and down the country, I have been giving a talk called 'The Death of Democracy' about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a free trade agreement currently being negotiated (mostly in secret) between the United States and the European Union.

The talks always go the same way. People start out embarrassed because the title seems so exaggerated. Gradually embarrassment gives way to a creeping sense of horror and finally people become flushed, angry and determined to do something. What people become incensed by is that the TTIP gives to corporations a new 'right' to sue

entire nations using what is known as the Investor State Dispute Settlement clause (ISDS). The ISDS gives corporations the right to sue if they feel any government action – any regulation, any standard, any change in any law which affects them – has reduced or ‘expropriated’ their future profits. The ISDS allows corporations to do this not through the nation’s courts and legal system, like the rest of society, but through an exclusive, corporations-only system of privately-run arbitration. Unlike our courts, in this arbitration there is no judge, there is no jury, and civil society has no rights whatsoever.

Arbitration is presided over by three private individuals drawn from a small group of highly-paid lawyers, nearly all of whom work for the same top 20 global law firms. Worse, it turns out the top 15 arbitrators have, to the present date, decided 55 per cent of all known cases and 75 per cent of all known cases in which the corporation claimed compensation of more than \$4 billion. Fifteen private individuals, over which you and I have no democratic control or even

oversight, and no right to appeal their decisions. These fifteen people have a greater power than any judge or minister to review and make binding decisions and can and do award vast sums that the tax payer is forced to pay. What is advocated as a necessary ‘protection’ for corporations is, in my opinion, a direct assault on our democratic and sovereign right to govern as we see fit, and a direct assault on the fundamental notion that there is one body of law and one set of courts before which we are all equal. The culture of secrecy is something that Quakers have been led to question for many years.

We have been led to the conviction that, despite a culture of state secrecy, we must strive to bring about openness in our country. Secrecy bolsters power and leads to deceit and the abuse of power. At times a sensitive reticence is required but, in working in the spirit of love and trust rather than fear, we seek to discern the boundary between that reticence and secrecy.

Quaker faith & practice 23.91

A request for urgent action from QPSW

Take action on TTIP



Many Friends are concerned about the ongoing negotiations regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a free trade deal between the EU and the US.

On **10 June** the European Parliament will be considering a set of recommendations to the European Commission regarding TTIP, including on the controversial investor-state dispute settlement mechanism (ISDS). Both QPSW and QCEA are concerned about the implications of ISDS, which could give large corporations access to an exclusive form of justice, through which they could sue governments for billions of Euros for loss of profit due to implementation of legislation.

Despite a vigorous civil society campaign, and five European Parliament committees calling for ISDS to be excluded from TTIP, the resolution that the European Parliament will be voting on calls for a revised version of ISDS rather than its exclusion altogether. This is unlikely to solve the problems.

The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) are encouraging Friends to write to their Members of European Parliament (MEPs), to raise concerns about ISDS. They have provided background information for Friends wishing to write to MEPs. Find this here www.qcea.org/2015/05/noisds/ or email office@qcea.org.

Wardenship....then and now

Edward Starkie (from Adel meeting) has unearthed an interesting document – it is the 1889 employment contract of the caretakers of the old Carlton Hill Meeting House. Meetings now use the title 'warden', can you spot what is the same and what is different to our present employment practice in Leeds?

The following are the Particulars of the Duties of the Caretakers of the Meeting-Houses and School Premises in Woodhouse Lane:-



TWICE in the year, namely, in the 4th and 10th Months, a general Cleaning of the Meeting Houses, Lofts, Committee-Rooms, Cloak Rooms, and other Apartments shall take place, consisting in the 4th Month of Scouring the Floors, washing the Paint and Seats, Cleaning the Windows, gas Brackets, Stoves and Fireplaces, &c., Beating the Cushions and Footmats; and in the 10th Month in like manner, except the paint and Seats may not then require a general Washing, but any partial stains on either are to be removed.

Immediately after the Spring Quarterly Meeting that Mats to be taken up and Beaten, the Meeting-Houses properly Dusted and all Footmarks, &c., Washed off the Floors; the same to be done, if required, after any Public Meeting for Worship.

MONTHLY (or oftener if required). – The Committee-Rooms, Cloak Rooms and the Water Closets to be Scoured, the Mats in the Meeting-Houses taken up and dusted, the Cushions Beaten, and all Footmarks Washed off the Floors.

WEEKLY. – The Meeting-Houses, Committee-Rooms, Cloak Rooms, &c., to be Swept and Dusted, the Stoves Grates and Fireplaces properly Cleaned, the Gas Brackets Dusted, and the Windows always to be kept Clean. In the Winter Months the Stoves to be Lighted and the Fires kept Burning as the Friends who have charge of the Meeting-House Premises may direct.

That the man caretaker to keep all the Ground surrounding the Meeting-Houses and Schools tidy and decent, the Gravel properly rolled,

and the Grass and Flower beds in good order; that the causeway outside the Premises be cleaned whenever necessary; also the Yards, Conveniences, Coach House and the Stable to be kept clear of any litter or untidy accumulation; and that in Winter he has to clear away the Snow, so as to make suitable paths. He is also expected to render suitable service to Friends arriving in cabs and carriages, and it is quite understood that he devote the whole of his time (when required) to the discharge of his duties.

It is also understood that the Woman Caretaker be ready at all times to render Women Friends, either in her own Apartments or in the Cloak Room, every attention in her power; and that she conform to the advice and instructions of such Women Friends as may be appointed by the Women's Preparative Meeting, to see that several duties above described are properly carried out.

SCHOOL-ROOMS. – Twice in the Year, namely, in the 4th and 10th Months, the School-rooms, Class-Rooms, and the Committee-Rooms shall be Cleaned in the manner above described in the case of the Meeting-Houses, and at all times, the School Premises shall be kept in a tidy and respectable state, and the Tables, Forms &c., be cleaned as often as is required. In the Winter the Fires shall be lighted and kept up in the various rooms in use on the First Days, and Week Days whenever required by the teachers, proper notice of such having being given. Whenever required Tea or Coffee shall be provided either on First

Days or on Week days at a reasonable charge approved by the Committee having charge of the Premises, and it shall be part of their duties to wait upon Friends at any of their meetings, it being however, understood that at any Tea Meeting not closely connected with Meeting purposes, extra remunerations be paid to them at the following rates, for providing hot water, setting out tables, table cloths, and tea things, clearing away the same, washing tea things and table cloths, and sweeping out the room or washing the floor, if necessary, namely – For 30 and under 2/-; above 20 and not above 3060, 3/-; above 60 and not above 100, 4/-; above 100 and not above 150, 5/-; above 150 and not above 200, 6/-.

It is also part of the duties of the caretakers at Quarterly and Monthly meetings, under the direction of the Women Friends, to arrange for the Refreshments for friends attending the same.

The Womens's Preparative Meeting are requested yearly in the 1st Month to appoint a Committee of not more than three Friends, to whom the Caretakers can apply as aforesaid, and to whom, along with the Committee of Men Friends having charge of the Premises, shall be committed the care of seeing that the several duties above mentioned are properly discharged. Any neglect of the performance of such duties that may be observed should be communicated to one or other of the aforesaid Committee as may be most suitable.

As remuneration for performing the above duties, and any other that may from time to time be required by the Committee having charge of the Premises, and for a general watchful care of the whole, the Leeds

Preparative Meeting agree to pay the caretakers the sum of £70 per annum, with the Cottage rent free and clear of taxes, with coals, gas and water found for their own use, and they are to be careful to see that they are not wasteful or misapplied. It is agreed that the towels, &c., in use in the building be washed by the caretakers at their own charges, and that all cleaning utensils, such as brooms, &., be paid for by them.

This agreement may be terminated by three months' notice at any time from either party.

The charges for the loan of the various rooms to be as follows, namely:

Large Meeting House (lighted only) 20/- per day and 15/- per evening

Large Meeting House (Lighted and Heated) 40/- per day and 25/- per evening

Small Meeting-House 15/-, 10/-, 30/- and 20/-

Large School-Room 10/- and 15/-

Library 12/6, 10/-, 20/- and 15/-

Library and School Rm 20/-and 25/-

Single Committee Room 2/6, 2/6, 5/- and 2/6

When a meal is given, involving cooking, an extra charge is made. Use of crockery and kitchen for tea, 5/-.

The Committee having charge of the premises to have discretion in remitting the whole or any portion of the above charges to our own members, and for objects in which the Society as a whole can fully unite. The same Committee to fix in each case the remuneration (if any) due to the Caretakers

Signed Robert Wood Clerk of the Preparative Meeting 22/11/1889



Old Carlton Hill Meeting House 1905

TODAY I OPENED THE CURTAINS

"Today I opened the curtains for the first time since I came out of prison" was what Jim (not his real name) told his support circle almost a year after they had joined with him in a Circle of Support and Accountability. Nothing could seem more mundane to you or me but for Jim it was a huge step forward towards normality. Because, you see, he had been too scared to do it before. He was a convicted sex offender who, on being released from Prison, was convinced that the people in the community in which he was living would attack him. So he hid as much as possible, not helping himself or his propensity to offend.

Fortunately for Jim he had opted to join a Circle of Support and Accountability to help him reintegrate into the community, to learn how to conduct normal adult relationships and so NOT to reoffend. And like all the other Circles across the country he was successful.

This is an astonishing one hundred percent success rate because should the 'Core Member', as they are known, show any signs of reoffending behaviour then the volunteers who support him (and occasionally her) will report this to the Police and Probation with whom they are linked and if he/she has broken their licence they will be taken back into prison.

How does this work? Amy Hough, Operations Manager of the Yorkshire and Humberside Circles of Support and Accountability and Denise Cann, an experienced volunteer in Circles, explained this to the Saturday Seminar of the Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice

Group. The idea began almost by chance, in Canada in 1994 when a serious sex offender was released back into his community with no support and with photos of him put up on lampposts explaining how dangerous he was. The local Mennonite Church undertook to support him and reintegrated him into his community so both he and they became safe.

This emphasis on community is very, very important and volunteers are selected to reflect the makeup of the community: by so doing they share the risk with the community. There are generally four to six volunteers per Circle, they receive initial training, plus on-going training together with support and supervision from the permanent staff. They and the Core Member are all equal – hence the term circle. And they meet once a week for approximately a year, focusing on both practical issues and on behaviour. Both Denise and Amy emphasised that there is no magic wand, no prescription, the volunteers help the Core Member to write their own prescription. But it works. It really does and as almost all sex offenders are released from prison sooner or later they will be back in the community and ANYTHING which prevents more victims of sex offenders is to be welcomed.

Volunteers are needed, especially in the Calderdale Area. If you would like to know more please look at the website **www.circles-uk.org.uk**

Philomena O'Hare, Carlton Hill Meeting

LEEDS CITIZENS FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 7th July 2015, 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Please arrive at 7 p.m. for a prompt start.

The Centenary Pavilion, Leeds United Football Club, Elland Road, LS11 0ES

Communities working together for social justice and change in Leeds.

RSVP by 30th June: tom.chigbo@leedscitizens.org.uk; 07908055606

Quaker Meeting Heritage Project – can you help?

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting has been asked to take part in the Quaker Meeting Houses Heritage project, which is a joint initiative between Britain Yearly Meeting and Historic England (formerly English Heritage). Historic England is funding the lion's share of the project with non-Lottery funding and this is enabling BYM to carry out a nationwide survey of all meeting houses. This is being done in stages: a pilot project in East Anglia has already been completed and has provided valuable information at a number of levels. Each Local Meeting receives a document describing the significance of the meeting house, its history, contents, use and setting, its current use and management and the impact of change. Local Meetings in East Anglia have reported that the surveys are both useful and interesting. The data collected from the surveys will also be held at Friends House and will form part of a new property database.

Each Area Meeting is asked to find a AM coordinator who will be the point of contact both for the project group and for the Architectural History Practice (AHP) who are carrying out the work on behalf of BYM and

EH. Further to this, each LM will be asked to appoint one or two LM volunteers. The role of the LM volunteers is twofold: firstly to complete a simple survey form and collect any relevant and easily-available information such as plans, photographs, guidebooks, date of last quinquennial etc., and secondly to be able to let the consultants from AHP into the meeting house to carry out their survey and look at the information available.

Please note that this is not a maintenance survey and does not replace the quinquennial survey but its purpose is to assess architectural and historical value, provide a tool for strategic planning in the Area Meeting and assist with planning and grant funding applications. It is hoped the AM coordinator will oversee the LM volunteers work and coordinate the visits from AHP.

There will be an information and training day at Friargate Meeting House, York, on Saturday 12 December for AM coordinators, LM volunteers and any AM Trustees who wish to attend, to explain how all this works in greater detail.

Discover Gildersome (continued from the May edition of Quiet Word.....)

Gildersome Quaker Meeting House is steeped in history and there will be an opportunity to hear about some of this past, as well as be part of a celebration of over 300 years of continuous Quaker worship at Gildersome. The celebration will form part of the next Leeds Area Quaker Meeting which is to be held at Gildersome on Sunday 12th July. Friends are invited to the 10.45am morning worship in the historic, light and tranquil meeting House, there will be a shared lunch at 12.30, then the afternoon session starts at 1pm with worship, followed at 1.15pm by the Celebration Workshop which will include looking at Gildersome's Quaker past, the present and into the future. It is hoped that the afternoon will offer both all aged activities and craft activities. There is much to discover at Gildersome – what do you know about the small portrait that hangs next to the door into the kitchen? Why not turn it over and read the 'story behind the picture' – one of many untold stories that are awaiting your discovery!



Gildersome

Sunday 21st June 12noon - 4pm



Explore **Gildersome's Scarecrow Trail** including 'Quaker Scarecrows' at the historic Gildersome Quaker Meeting House, 75 Street Lane, LS27 7HX

All welcome

Burundi crisis: Quakers stand for peace and reconciliation

At this time of political turmoil in Burundi, nine Quaker organisations urge support for a political resolution by Burundians that avoids deadly conflict and leads to lasting peace and justice for all.

A sector of Quakers in Britain, Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW), are among the signatories. QPSW is engaged with Quakers and others in locally driven, long term work, building peace and reconciliation in Burundi and in the region. The full statement, issued on 22 May, follows:

Standing for Peace and Reconciliation -
Statement on Burundi, May 2015

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world."
-George Fox, 1660

As organisations that are part of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) we are deeply concerned by the situation in Burundi. We grieve the loss of life and injuries that are taking place, as well as the fact that over 100,000 people have fled the country in the last few weeks. Our faith teaches us to respect all humanity and that peace is possible despite even the darkest moments of unrest. Our work in the world leads us to believe in the power of people to come together across lines of conflict.

Throughout the last four centuries Quakers have worked for peace in this world. The Evangelical Friends Church of Burundi, founded over 80 years ago, has engaged in efforts to build a future where all God's children are able to heal together and live in harmony. Work in health and education were the early contributions of this faith community in Burundi. Over the last twenty years, trauma healing, reconciliation, and violence prevention have been a hallmark of Friends' work in Burundi.

We know that a path out of the crisis in Burundi is still possible and stand in support of all those who work for a peaceful and just path forward. We hope that you will join us in holding Burundi in the Light and take a moment to prayerfully consider some of the

ideas that Burundian friends have told us are important. The following thoughts have particularly resonated with us:

First, it is important for everyone to reject violence and work toward a political resolution to this crisis – a resolution that ensures all Burundians share in the shaping of their country and brings forth a process of deep reconciliation.

Second, we lift up the importance of dialogue. It is vital for people with different views to come together for discussion and seek shared solutions.

Third, in recognition that many Burundians are suffering, we encourage those on all sides of the political divide to be led by a spirit of concern for the well-being of the country, rather than individual ambitions.

Finally, our work has led us to believe that responding to individual moments of crisis is important but true peacebuilding is a long-term endeavour. Thus, we urge everyone to look at ways to support prevention of violence now, as well as ways to support peacebuilding in the months and years ahead.

Along with Friends in Burundi, we call on all people of faith to continue to pray and know that God can bring healing. We urge you to join us in supporting a political resolution by Burundians that avoids deadly conflict and leads to lasting peace and justice for all. As Hebrews 10:24 directs us, "let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

We will continue to hold all Burundians in the Light and support the work of peacemakers:-

African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams,
American Friends Service Committee
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends United Meeting
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Quaker Peace Network Africa
Quaker Peace and Social Witness
Quaker Service Norway
Quaker United Nations Office, New York

Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN) urgently needs needs volunteers for their English at Home project. No experience necessary. Training given.

'As I've said and will always say, it was an absolute pleasure being part of this project and meeting such a lovely, fun and hard-working family. I'll miss them a lot. Thank you for all of your help and support.' (George, volunteer).

'Thank you for bringing me my teacher, she helps me so much.' (Sara, student)

Would you like to volunteer with Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network? We have been working with asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds for 15 years now and currently need volunteers for our English at Home project. No experience is needed, just a genuine interest in volunteering with asylum seekers/refugees, an open mind and a friendly manner. You'll receive full training and support to visit a student at home for one hour per week for an informal English lesson, for at least 6 months. Our students want to improve their English but are currently unable to attend classes, usually because of ill health or childcare. This is a lovely thing to do and the results in terms of language and confidence are often impressive; our volunteers always tell us that they learn from the experience themselves and really enjoy it.

Our next training course will be on Saturdays July 4th (AM) and 18th (all day), with another course in late September. If you're interested, please call the project manager Catherine Tonge on 0113 3731759 / 07927 808375 or take a look at our website: <http://lassn.org.uk/our-impact/english-at-home-stories-and-outcomes/>.

Catherine Tonge – English at Home Co-ordinator, LASSN

Rawdon Amnesty Concert News:

I'm sorry to say that one of the most popular events of the Rawdon Amnesty Concert Series has had to be cancelled. Theatre of the Dales is unable to bring us their annual Shakespeare on the Lawn, advertised in the programme for Saturday 11 July. Fortunately we have been able to find a Shakespearean alternative for the same evening in Sonnet Lumière: Light on Shakespeare, Man of Mystery, a performance by Trio Literati (Jane Oakshott and Richard Rastall, with singer Helen Atkinson) from Shakespeare's sonnets and other works, with sidelights on his mysterious life, plus favourite songs from the plays. The performance has received good reviews in Leeds and even New Zealand (e.g. "The sonnets and extracts from Shakespeare's plays are given a most dramatic and engaging delivery, drawing the audience into an intimate and vivid experience of each piece"), and it promises to be a worthy replacement – with the added advantage that it will not depend on the weather!

Please plan to come along on 11 July at 7.30 pm, minus your deckchairs and windcheaters (but possibly with cushions to ease the meeting house benches).

Barbara Parry



Imagine the conversation the Creator might have had with St. Francis on the subject of lawns.

God: "St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature, what in the world is going on down there? What happened to all the dandelions, violets, thistles and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees, and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But all I see are these green rectangles."

St. Francis: "It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass."

God: "Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds, and bees, only grubs and sod worms; it's temperamental with temperatures. Do these suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?"

St. Francis: "Apparently so Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn. "

God: "The spring rains and warm weather probably make the grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy."

St. Francis: "Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little they cut it, sometimes twice a week."

God: "They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?"

St. Francis: "Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags."

God: "They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?"

St. Francis: "No sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away."

God: "Now let me get this straight. They fertilize the grass so it will grow, and when it does grow, they cut it off and then pay to throw it away???"

St. Francis: "Yes sir."

God: "These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work!"

St. Francis: "You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so quickly, they pay to have an irrigation system installed, and water the grass so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it."

God: "What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in



the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life."

St. Francis: "You had better sit down Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away."

God: "No way! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?"

St. Francis: "After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in the place of leaves."

God: "And where do they get this mulch?"

St. Francis: "They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch."

God: "Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts, what movie have you scheduled for us tonight?"

St. Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about..."

God: "Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story."

www.nativeplantconsulting.com



Going Green (continued..... from the May issue)

The latest edition in this story is the newly installed 'insect hotel' on the new 'environmental log pile' at Carlton Hill Meeting House

Ever thought you'd like to attend one of the many Quaker conferences but never been nominated? Read on.

The next Leeds Area Quaker Meeting will be at Gildersome on 12th July 2015. The Meeting is asked for nominations to attend the events below. If you are interested, please contact your Local Meeting Clerk so that your name can be considered and if appropriate, forwarded to LAQM. Where LAQM receives more nominations than there are places allocated, then LAQM Nominations Committee will be asked to make the appointment. To enable LAQM nominations committee to do this, nominated friends should provide a supporting paragraph detailing why they would wish to attend a conference/event. Any Friend appointed is expected minimise any costs claimed (eg by booking train tickets well in advance) and to share their experience by means of a report offered to the Quiet Word and to LAQM.

Young Quakers Participation Day

Saturday 5 September 2015, Friends House, London

Each Area Meeting can book two young people onto the day; they should be aged 14–18 years (born between 1.9.1995 and 31.8.2001). Please note that for practical safeguarding reasons, parents may need to be responsible for travel arrangements to/from Friends House, London. Travel costs will be paid. The day is for young Quakers interested in a day held alongside Meeting for Sufferings that seeks their views on issues of concern to them and also to Quakers in Britain. This day will include an exploration of ways to engage in peace activism. There will also be an update on the progress with the new resource for young people, based on Quaker faith and practice, which participants at the 2014 day had an opportunity to contribute to.

Interfaith peacebuilding conference

Saturday 26 September, 2015, Friends House, London

Area Quaker Meetings are invited to appoint a Friend to represent them at the forthcoming conference on interfaith peacebuilding, which is jointly hosted by the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations and Quaker Peace & Social Witness. It will take place on 26th September 2015 in the Large Meeting House. Formal presentations from experts in the field of interfaith relations will be given in the morning, with participative workshops in the afternoon followed by a summing up.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) autumn conference 'A changing world: changing the way we work'

30 October – 1 November at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

QPSW invites Area Meetings to appoint and pay for people from your Area Meeting to attend this event. Most AM's aim to send two Friends.

Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) Castle or community? Quakers' role in building the new Europe.

4-6 December 2015 Chant d'Oiseau (Birdsong) Conference Centre, Brussels, Belgium.

This is a joint QCEA-QPSW conference. QCEA and QPSW invite Area Meetings to appoint and pay for one person. This conference aims to provide the opportunity for Friends to share their vision for Europe and to begin to build links with Friends from all over Europe.

NEWS



Adel

On 21/05/15 Rob and Owen Claxton-Ingham finally became grandparents when Charlie Bruce was born in Bradford Royal Infirmary, about 3pm – see one of the first pictures below! Mum, Rebecca is doing fine. 'I have just become a granddad so will be skiving off Quaker Quest leafleting tonight' was felt to be a good reason for Owen missing the Meanwood Quaker Quest leafleting session.

York Quaker Schools

Jonathan Taylor, Head of Bootham, will be succeeded on 1 September 2016 by Chris Jeffery, currently Head of the Grange School, Hartford, Cheshire.

Adrienne Richmond, currently Deputy Head of Durham High School for Girls, is appointed as Principal of The Mount School with effect from 1 January 2016, replacing Julie Lodrick.

Quaker Quest

About 3000 Quaker Quest leaflets were delivered by hand in the Headingley, Meanwood and Adel parts of Leeds in preparation of our 2015 Quaker Quest series which was launched at Carlton Hill on Saturday 30th May, with speakers including Sylvia Boyes from Keighley meeting. Sylvia, who became a Peace Activist after she became a Quaker, spoke of her long involvement in the peace movement. She also made it clear that even though there are many Quakers who find that activism is not for them, she has always felt supported by those friends. The Quaker Quest series will continue on every Thursdays at Adel Quaker Meeting House with refreshments at 6.30pm and a 7pm start. Topics will be in the order of: Worship, God, Faith in Action and Quaker Decision Making



Seminar

The **sexual exploitation** of young people has come to the fore of late yet we don't seem to have a model of how to disrupt, prevent or deal with it or its the aftermath. In the next Saturday Seminar on **4th July 2015** we will hear from Nicola who helps to run 'Just Whistle: Safe and Sound' in Derby. They work with children and young people at risk of being sexually exploited and with parents, carers and professionals. Our second speaker is Ruth, a paediatrician with special responsibility for the abuse of children: she will concentrate on how the problem is being dealt with.

The Seminar will be held at the Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX from 10.00am till 1.00pm. There is no charge. Further details are on the attached flyer. It would be wise to book in advance.