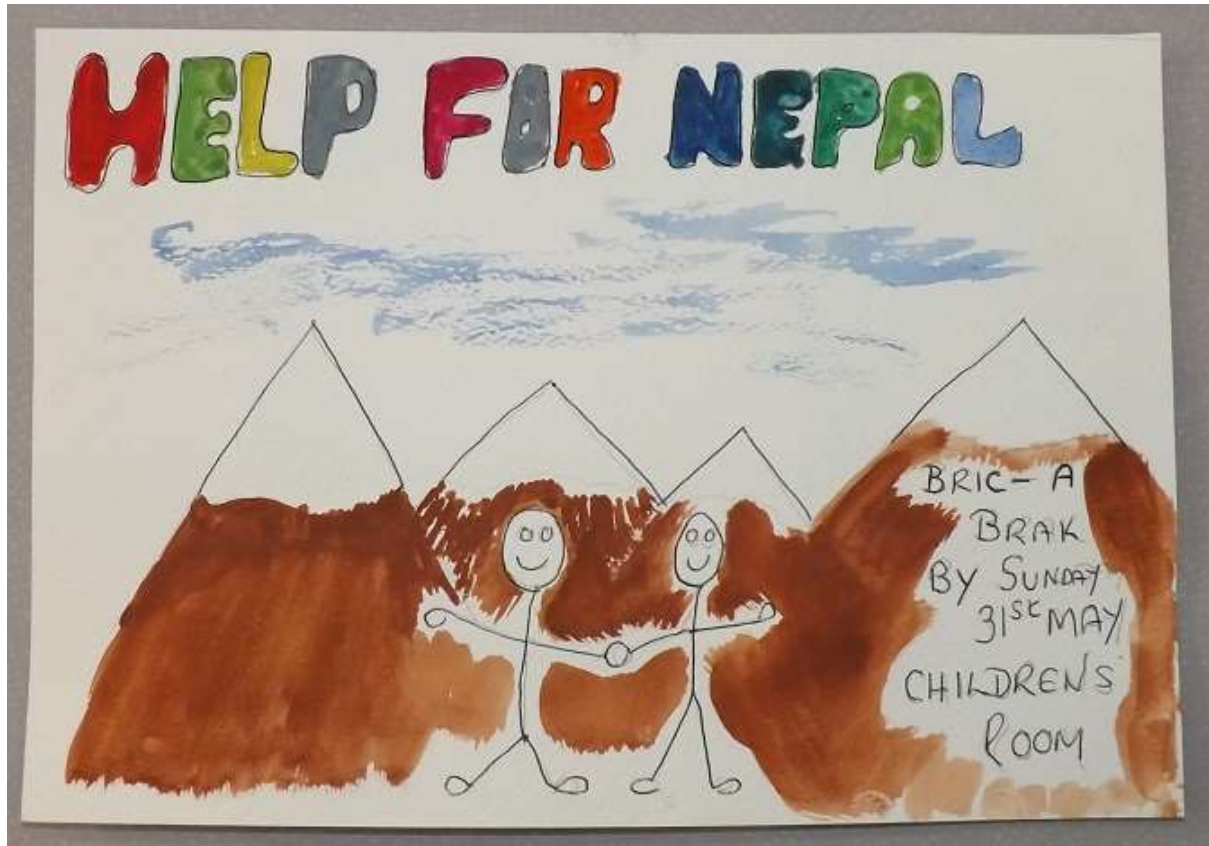


THE QUIET WORD

May 2015 issue no.3



Children at Ilkley QMH are raising funds for Nepal via a car boot sale.....

May contents includes:

Diary, BYM, first Quaker MP's, Quaker Life, WW1 exhibition, Trident visits Ilkley, Yorkshire Adult School, a fond farewell, Winifred Douglas remembered, Gildersome rediscovery, going green, Ackworth School, Quaker Quest

Please send submissions for the next 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

Events: @ denotes Quaker only events

May

Saturday 16th 10am to 1pm - Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group seminar WHY PRISONS at QMH
188 Woodhouse Lane

Sunday 17th 10.45am [Otley Quaker Meeting](#)

Sunday 17th 2pm Leeds Quaker peace witness against Trident planning meeting at QMH, 188 Woodhouse Lane.

Thursday 21st 6.30pm to 8.30pm Quaker Quest leafleting in -ring 0113 24222208

Thursday 28th 6.30pm to 8.30pm Quaker Quest leafleting in Adel -ring 0113 24222208

Sunday 24th 7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH the young Cortona Quartet with Martin Pickard from Opera North in a concert of chamber music by Mozart and Beethoven

Saturday 30th 11am to 3pm Quaker Quaker at the Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane
Session 1 11am to 12.30 then LUNCH is provided. Session 2 is 1.30pm to 3pm. Please come to either or both sessions.

June

Thursday 4th 6.30 to 9pm Quaker Quest at Adel QMH (6.30 refreshments and 7pm start)

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

Thursday 11th 6.30 to 9pm Quaker Quest at Adel QMH (6.30 tea and 7pm start)

@ 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 at Adel QMH (6.30 tea and 7pm start)

Sunday 21st 10.45am [Otley Quaker Meeting \(all ages\)](#)

Thursday 25th 6.30 to 9pm Quaker Quest at Adel QMH (6.30 tea and 7pm start)

July

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

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

Saturday 11th 7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH. Theatre of the Dales present Shakespear on the lawn (King Lear)

@Sunday 12th 1pm to 4.15pm Leeds Area Quaker Meeting to be held at Gildersome

Saturday 18th 10am to 4pm Quakers in Yorkshire at Scarbrough QMH. Topic: Peace

Sunday 19th 10.45am [Otley Quaker Meeting](#)

Britain Yearly Meeting 1 – 4 May 2015

Around one thousand Quakers attended BYM at Friends House in London. This was the first major gathering of Quakers in the newly refurbished Large Meeting House – a wonderful new space for all to enjoy and recently nominated for a Royal Institute of British Architects award.

Recording Clerk Paul Parker said: “The theme of Yearly Meeting, *Living out our faith in the World*, goes right to the heart of what it means to be a Quaker today. What use is our faith, if we don’t do something with it? “At Yearly Meeting, we may ask what commitment can we make to heal the world? Are we prepared, *am I prepared*, to follow our guide wherever it may lead us? To do whatever it takes? To live faithfully, and to remain faithful? We have the gift of three days together, to work and worship and to prayerfully listen for the will of God for our community.”

Many Leeds Quakers were present when we considered the question “How are we led to live out our faith in a world where we see systemic injustice and increasing inequality?” Voicing anger and despair against current injustices, Friends spoke out strongly against the proposal to extend the ‘right to buy’ legislation to housing associations.

The commitment to act on social injustice came at the end of the four-day meeting. The final minute on the topic – minute 36 read “We are all activists and we are all worshippers. Our worship and action spring from the same spiritual source.”... “Can we transform the way the world is going and recognise that everyone and everything on the planet matters and can be thought of as a divine commonwealth, or kin-dom? Quakerism is all about putting our faith in a power which transforms us.”

The full minutes are available on the BYM website at <http://www.quaker.org.uk/>

First Quaker MPs elected in a decade

Two Quakers have today been elected as members of parliament in the UK Government general election. Nineteen Quakers had stood as candidates.



Catherine West took the seat of Hornsey & Wood Green while Ruth Cadbury (pictured right) took Brentford & Isleworth.

They are the first serving Quaker MPs to be elected for 10 years and follow in a long line of Quakers who put their faith into action by working for social and legislative change.

The first Quaker to be elected MP was John Archdale, elected in 1698 in the constituency of Chipping Wycombe. However, as a Quaker he would not swear the oath of office, and therefore he did not take his seat.

The first Quaker to take a seat in Parliament was Joseph Pease, elected in the constituency of South Durham in 1832. Although he refused to take the oath of office, a specially appointed committee decided that he would be able to affirm rather than swear. He was followed by John Bright, elected in the neighbouring seat of Durham in 1843.

Quaker Life Representative Council April 17-19 2015 at Woodbrooke

This was my first Quaker Life Rep Council since being appointed as your new rep. The theme of the weekend was '**A spirit-led approach to conflict in Quaker meetings**'. Izzy Cartwright, who works in Peace Education for Quakers, inspired us with her experiences of conflict resolution, telling us about an Israeli and Palestinian friendship where two young people really listened to each other's feelings, and how disruptive pupils were transformed by holding regular discussions with a group of pensioners. We saw a short video of Tariq Jahan, who persuaded the Muslim community to avoid further violence during the Birmingham riots in 2011 in which his son was killed. (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMxwrrLFxxo>)

Izzy described five types of response to conflict, ranging from running away to aggression:



Tortoise	Avoiding
Teddy Bear	Accommodating
Fox	
Compromising	
Owl	
	Cooperating
g	
Shark	Competitive

Most of the weekend was spent in home group workshops where we considered the causes of conflict within our Meetings and the feelings they engendered, represented by a tree. We then discussed some

of the ways in which we can deal with conflict. For example we should avoid stereotyping, learn to listen and really hear the other person and then avoid using blaming language, converting 'you' statements to 'I' statements about our feelings and wishes, i.e. using non-violent communication.

In summing up, the Quaker Life Clerks said: "Quakers are wonderful at sorting out other people's conflict – but we may not be very good at sorting out our own. Are we conflict averse? We have a tendency to sweep problems under the carpet, to avoid

unpleasantness and pretend that conflict doesn't exist. How bumpy is the carpet in your Meeting House? Do the bumps affect the spiritual life of your Meeting?"

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this uplifting weekend. I hope we can consider this issue within Area Meeting, or through Elders and Overseers. I can forward more details to anyone who is interested.

Pat Gerwat, 8th May 2015



Photo: Pat Gerwat pointing to her stitching...

In 2016 there will be an exhibition about the Leeds Quaker experience during the first world war. Three cabinets will display the Quaker experience, one focussing on the Friends Ambulance Unit, one on the different experiences of Friends in 1916 – namely, Allan Cox, the 17 year old Leeds Quaker who died whilst serving in the army, the differing experiences of four Leeds Quaker CO's Robert Long, Quaker brother Horrace and Earnest England, Edmund Harvey the MP and the feminist Peace campaigner Isabella Ford nb if you have any stories or memorabilia relating to these Friends, please contact the Area Meeting Clerks. The last cabinet will display details about our present and recent peace Witness in Leeds. The Museum will also commission a short film. The Leeds Friends who are presently involved in the planning of the exhibition are Robert Keeble, Susan Robson, Veronica O'Mara, Pat Gerwat and Diane Exley. The most recent meeting was held at the Peace Museum in Bradford – this was an opportunity to see what resources they also had, one item of interest to Pat was the Mothers for Peace banner that she had helped to make many years ago.

38 foot Trident – the biggest ever boat on Ilkle Moor!

On Sunday 10th May, a 38 foot long 'Trident Submarine' was unveiled at the Ilkley Quaker Meeting House. It was too big for the garden so it was taken up the steep hill to the Ilkley Moor boating lake. This was part of our ongoing peace protest against Trident Nuclear Weapons and reflects our long history of working for peace. Many will know that Quakers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947.

Brian Sayer, from Ilkley meeting, who was the oldest member of the 'crew' said *"It was good to have the children – they made a good crew. I felt happy to be on the tail and was very glad that we stopped half way up the hill for a rest.. It looked very good on the boating lake. It reminded me of a sculpture of a submarine made from 6,000 tyres by David Mach in the 1983 – it was outside the South Bank Centre in London and was unbelievably huge as it was full size Our Trident was much smaller but the message has not changed"*



Leeds Area Quaker Meeting was held at Ilkley QMH on 10th May and the topic was Peace. The workshop session was led by Brian Sayer and Margaret Nunnerley, both from Ilkley Meeting. One of the longer sessions was the shared reflection on Britain Yearly Meeting, which was held the previous weekend. Friends were advised that if they need financial support to help cover some/all of the costs incurred in attending BYM, they should contact the LAQM Treasurer, Peter Rice, before the end of May.

Yorkshire Adult Schools last meeting



The Yorkshire Adult School met at the last time on Saturday 7th March – this was ending over 100 years of association with Leeds Quakers. Huddersfield Quaker, Barbara Derych (seated 2nd from the right) who was the Honorary Secretary of the YAS wrote a letter to Carlton Hill friends and especially the wardens ' *The members of the executive of the YAS have expressed their wish that a donation should be sent to Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting in grateful thanks for the use of the rooms. We have enjoyed our association with you and Lea and the kindness that you have shown.* A donation of £700 was received and a much larger amount has also been sent to Quakers in Yorkshire. Carlton Hill Friends have yet to decide on how to spend the donation. When Lea and myself first arrived at Carlton Hill 25 years' ago there was a thriving Carlton Hill Adult School Class which was attended by many Leeds Quakers – sadly all were elderly and have since passed away, with the last Carlton Hill class being held about ten years ago. Two friends who attended the Adult School at Carlton Hill were Dennis and Winifred Winteringham, both of whom are buried at Rawdon in the plot next to Alistair Milner.

A fond farewell and among friends!

A large gathering of friends attended the memorial Meeting for worship for Alastair Milner who's ashes were interred at the Rawdon Quaker Meeting House burial ground on Saturday 25th April. Leeds Quakers have burial grounds at Rawdon, Adel and Gildersome – if you are interested in a Quaker burial then you should contact the Leeds Area Meeting Clerks team (Veronica O'Mara, Robert Keeble and Susan Robson) for advice. Local friends may also give advice but permission for a burial, internment or scattering of ashes is required and this is presently done by

the clerks team. Friends will note that no fewer than five Leeds Quakers have passed away so far this year. Whilst we welcome friends wishing to take advantage of our burial grounds, it would be good if there was a considerable delay before we need to report any more deaths! When a friend does pass away, local Leeds Meetings are encouraged to write a Testimony in their memory.



Winifred Joyce Douglas 2nd February 1922 – 9th January 2015



Our friend Winifred Douglas was a member of Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting all her life, a well-loved Friend who enriched all our lives with her stories, her music and her sense of humour.

She was born on 2nd February 1922 and she revelled in the symmetry of her Date of Birth - 2.2.'22. Her parents were Quakers by conviction, Colina and Frank Keegan. She was one of five children and very protective of her siblings. On one occasion her sister was upset when taunted about her Guide's hat and Winifred tracked down the bully and took her to task – it never happened again!

She grew up in Woodhouse and attended Quarry Mount School. At this time she also took piano lessons from a local teacher in Woodhouse, becoming a talented pianist playing both from music and by ear. When she left Quarry Mount at 14 she went to work at the CWS Boot and Shoe factory on Meanwood Road. Winifred didn't enjoy factory work and at the beginning of WW2 she trained as a nurse, a job she enjoyed much more.

She worked at Meanwood Park Hospital where she nursed casualties from the war. Although the work was hard Winifred played hard too, enjoying attending organised dances in the area and sometimes returning too late to the Nursing Home and having to climb in through the window because the doors were locked.

She attended Carlton Hill throughout this time, first as a member and later as a teacher at the 'Sunday School' or children's meeting. She also went as a helper to the Quaker Holiday School at Ackworth, relating with pride how everyone at the end of the week was given a beautiful box of chocolates – Rowntrees of course!

In 1950 she met and married Arthur Douglas and she had two children; Bob in 1952 and Jean in 1959. They remember her as a loving and self-sacrificing mother, always putting her children and their welfare first. As well as attending Carlton Hill she also enjoyed Tuesday afternoons at the Methodist church in Woodhouse where she played the piano for the hymns.

Arthur died on New Year's Day 1996 and Winifred was left a widow. Then in 2005 she suffered a heart attack. Thanks to Bob's quick action and Winifred's fighting spirit she recovered despite contracting a super bug in hospital during her rehabilitation. Thereafter she split her time between Bob in Woodhouse, and Jean and her family.

Winnie had a simple and direct spirituality, occasionally ministering in the words of a well-loved poem or her favourite hymn by John Greenleaf Whittier, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind. Yet she also had a real zest for life and enjoyed all Carlton Hill's social activities, from Christmas parties to weekends at Glenthorne. Throughout her life Winifred had a way of engaging with all those she met, young and old. Always beautifully turned-out, she will be remembered for her cheery and positive approach to life.

Discover Gildersome!



Gildersome meeting is much reduced in numbers due to recent deaths and friends moving away from the area. Gildersome friends have requested support and are planning to take part in the 'Gildersome Scarecrow Trail' on Sunday 21st June and to open the Meeting House on Heritage Open Day on Saturday 12th September. We are all encouraged to support Gildersome Meeting on these dates and to attend our next Area Meeting on Sunday 12th July which will be at Gildersome. You are also most welcome to visit Gildersome on any Sunday at 10.45am – it is a hidden gem with a long Quaker history and offers a deeply spiritual and peaceful meeting for worship.





Going Green at Carlton Hill

A new raised bed and improved cycle storage are the latest developments at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting. Robert, the warden, can be seen transferring 'home made' soil to the large new raised bed that replaces a 28 year old fence that had fallen down. Carlton Hill also now has cycle parking for 12 bikes so why not cycle to meeting in future!



Earlier in the year a Leeds Quaker Sustainability Workshop was held at Carlton Hill Meeting House – these were the responses to the question **What Have We done?** There were also three special interest groups looking at packaging, air travel and trees.

Using public transport more	Install solar PV and hot water systems on our roof	Avoid air travel.
More effective double glazing all round	I've tried all my life not to buy anything I don't really need.	Changing to Hybrid car driver.
Campaigning against nuclear power as unsustainable.	Share my car with other.	Reduced number of holiday flights to about one trip every five years
Growing and sharing veg.	Use bus or train instead of car when possible.	LOCO = Renewable electricity supply.
Recycling	Install new PVC windows.	Gave up car.
Compost veg peelings.	Recycle everything possible.	Replaced boiler.
Donate unwanted goods to charity.	Unpick old jumpers and reknit.	Installed secondary glazing inside my windows.
Buy organic.	Join: Friends of the Earth, PlantLife, Woodland Trust and Soil Association.	Became a vegetarian.
Use low energy light bulbs.	Got rid of my car. Appreciate helpful people who give lifts.	Got large recycling bin for Quaker House after 7 years applying.
Arrange for better insulation in Quaker House.	Still pressing for solar panels.	Switch off computer and TV.
Part of the developing of batteries for electric vehicles.	Developing storage for renewables.	Having a housemate.
No Tax / ecofriendly car	Meat once per week only.	A new small kettle – Less water.
Moved to using hybrid vehicle (electric / petrol)	Switched to greener car and electricity.	Initiated compost system at our development.
Bought energy efficient fridge, freezer and cooker when replacing.	Higher proportion of journeys by public transport.	Switched over to LED light bulbs.
I've almost given up meat –except when someone offers me something they've taken time and care to make.	Recycling – taking plastic bags to the shops with you.	Use water butt.
	Long life electric light bulbs.	Smaller car.

PACKAGING

Why Use Plastic?

A Dilemma?

- Plastic is made from oil - an un-renewable resource we have in limited supply.
- Transporting materials and liquids in plastic bottles uses less fuel than glass bottles.

Coding on plastic bottles was introduced by the producers. The codes used are to do with the way the plastic is made. Leeds City Council recycles code numbers 1, 2 and 4 because they can sell these. All plastic can be recycled but some codes cost more to process.

Packaging Guidelines Directive 1992

**This law governs the safe and hygienic use of plastic packaging.
It says packaging should permit reuse or recycling to minimise waste.**

If you think that packaging used is excessive you can contact Trading Standards and they can prosecute the firm.

- ❖ What could we do? Buy goods with minimum packaging.

Refuse

Reduce

Re-use

Recycle

Suggestions to campaign for:

- ❖ Enlarge the size of the recycling number on plastic packaging so we can read it easily.
- ❖ Ask Leeds City Council to recycle ALL PLASTIC and increase landfill taxes.
- ❖ Action Day Protest - encourage customers to leave excess packaging at the supermarket.

If you are interested in campaigning about packaging contact Pauline at Carlton Hill.

Sustainability – Air Travel

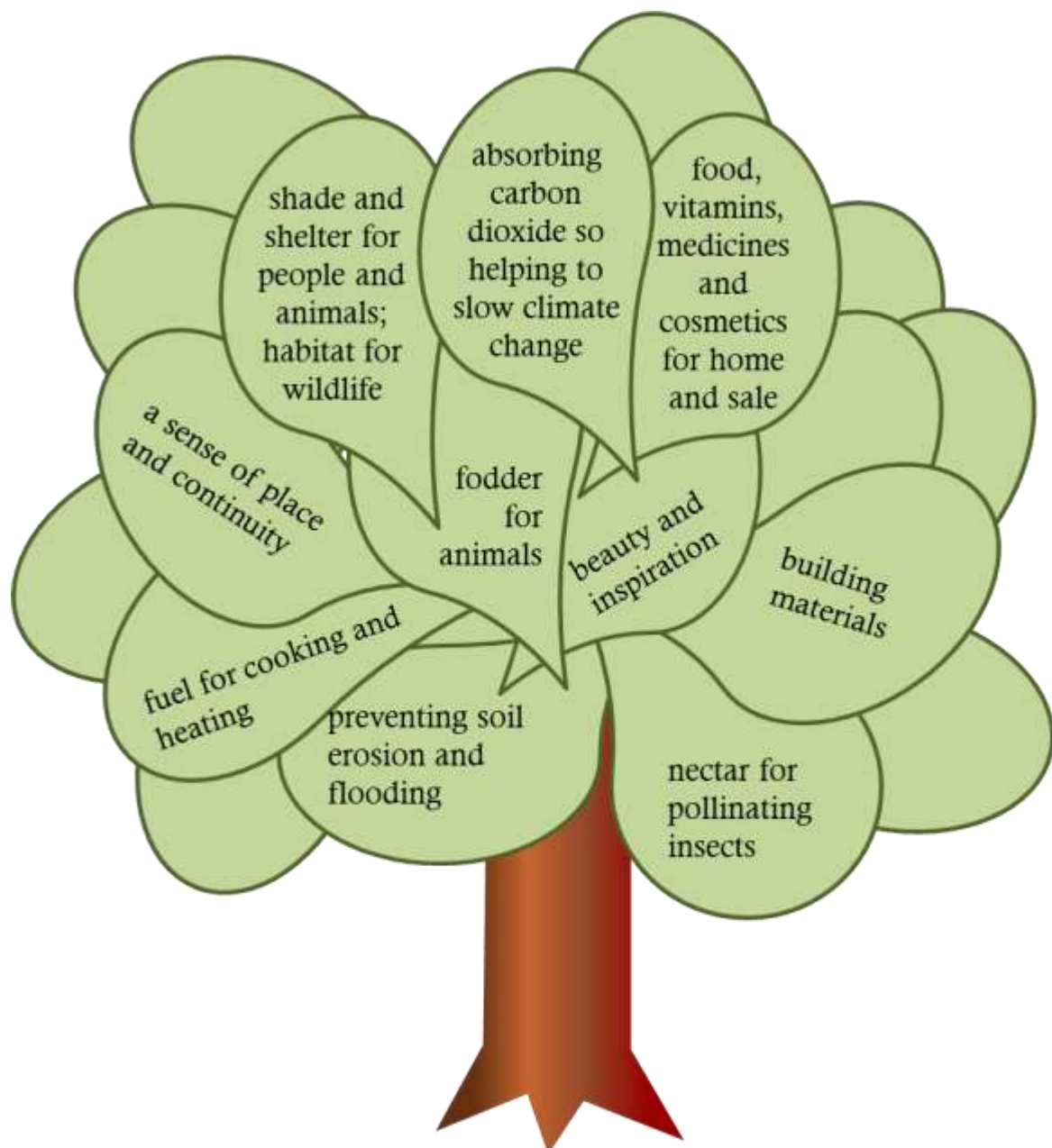
In the light of the decision of Britain Yearly Meeting to live more sustainably, we considered the impact of air travel on the environment. One passenger taking a long-haul return flight from the UK to the USA can produce as much carbon dioxide as a motorist driving in the UK for a whole year. Air traffic has been expanding at nearly two and half times average economic growth rates since 1960. Aviation generates nearly as much CO₂ annually as that from all human activities in Africa.

We acknowledged the advantages and benefits of air travel: easy access to faraway destinations, visits to families living abroad, international conferences, imports of exotic fruit, speedy journeys. But we are polluting our planet with our insatiable

desire for foreign travel. It is possible to 'offset' the carbon produced by perhaps planting a tree but the carbon is still there, and so offsetting is really 'buying liberty to sin'.

How can we as Friends reduce our carbon footprint in the area of air travel?

- Take longer foreign holidays but less frequently
- Use the train as an alternative to domestic or short hop flights
- Investigate teleconferencing as an alternative to business flights
- Support the domestic tourist industry and plan more holidays in the UK
- Eat local seasonable vegetables rather than imported by air (e.g. beans from Kenya).



Planting trees

What to do?

We can plant trees in our gardens and Meeting Houses; the species of tree needs to be appropriate to the location and our purpose. All trees and shrubs need long term planning and maintenance!

We can also donate to tree planting charities, as individuals, and as groups.

Some charities that plant trees

Tree Aid: planting trees in Africa <treeaid.org.uk>

Trees for Life: working to restore the Caledonian Forest <treesforlife.org.uk>

The Woodland Trust: conserving woods in the UK :< woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Treesresponsibility: education on trees and climate change; local volunteers planting in the South Pennines <treesresponsibility.com >

ACKWORTH SCHOOL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2015

We all gathered at around 10am for coffee and intense chatting until it was time to go to Meeting for Worship and start the day's business.

The gathering included many Friends from all over the country and many Old Scholars, passionate about Ackworth, its well-being and its future.

During the morning session, nominations were heard and accepted for the various committees.

We then heard a very comprehensive and interesting report from the recently appointed Headmaster, Anton Maree, and found that the pupils engaged in such a variety of activities and charitable works that they couldn't possibly have time to be bored ! Success in competitions both sportive and intellectual, showed a huge engagement from the pupils, notably one young man who qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad !

The Head emphasised the role of Quaker Ethics in the school and in particular in the classrooms, citing an example of a physics class where learning about nuclear fission led to a discussion about the use of nuclear bombs during the last world war.

We heard that some 6th formers had joined with the York Quaker schools to go on the 1652 country pilgrimage and appreciated the occasion to encounter the York pupils as well as learning about early Quakers.

At the lunch break we were entertained (either before or after our lunch depending on our group) by the music department who put on a concert for us, demonstrating the very varied aspects of music played in the school.

After lunch there was a question & answer session in which the music pupils responded to questions and were impressive in their confidence in conveying their opinions. Their obvious enjoyment in making music came through and we heard that one young man plans to pursue that at university level.

We were told of various staff leaving either for pastures new or retirement and with , good wishes for him, but sadness for the school, we learnt that Andrew Ward (Head of Science) is retiring after 35 years at Ackworth ! and he being the only Quaker on the staff at present !

The afternoon business continued with clerk of committee and treasurer reports .

We ended our day at Ackworth with a cup of tea and a scone before making our way back to our various homes.

Janet Naudin (Ilkley Meeting)

Introductory talks in 2015



Starts Saturday 30th May 2015 11am and/or 1.30pm to 3pm at Carlton Hill and at Adel Quaker Meeting House every Thursday in June 6.30pm supper and 7pm start.