

THE QUIET WORD



Meeting for worship

March 2016 issue no.3

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting

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

tel: 0113 2564944 or 07973 450368

Sundays, 10.45 am

ILKLEY Friends Meeting House

Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds, LS29 9QJ

tel: 01943 600 806 or 01943 601181

Sundays, 10.30 am

ADEL Friends Meeting House

New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ

tel: 0113 2676293

Sundays, 10.45 am

CARLTON HILL Central Leeds

Friends Meeting House

188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds,
LS2 9DX

tel: 0113 2422208

Meetings for worship:

Sundays, 10.45 am

ROUNDHAY Friends Meeting House

136 Street Lane, Leeds, LS8 2BW

tel: 0113 2933684

Sundays, 10.45 am

OTLEY Friends Meeting

1st and 3rd Sundays each month at 10.45

in The Court House, Courthouse Street, Otley

usually in The Robing Room

Enquiries: 0113 318 8084, dmr@cooptel.net

RAWDON Friends Meeting House

Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,

LS19 6HU

tel: 07582 960092

Sundays, 10.45 am

LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Tuesdays, 1.05pm

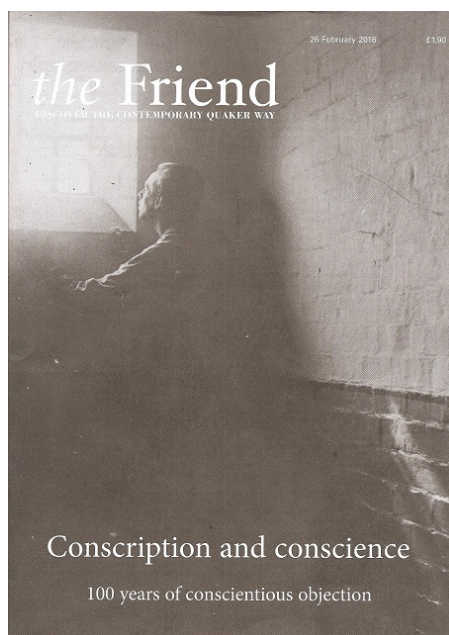
In Claire Chapel, The Emmanuel Centre which
is alongside the main entrance to the University
of Leeds Campus opposite the Parkinson
Building (with the white clock tower).

Organised by the Leeds Universities Chaplaincy

Bedford Court

First and third Wednesdays,

10.30 am



The cover of The Friend
26th February 2016

A conscientious objector (CO) is an "individual who has claimed the right to refuse to perform military service on the grounds of freedom of thought, conscience, disability, and/or religion."

This was enshrined in the Military Service Act of 2nd March 1916. Despite the act, many people, including the military, still saw CO's as "traitors" and many suffered horrendous persecution. However, that act set the foundation for later Human Rights legislation. On 8th March 1995 the United Nations officially recognised conscientious objection with the following statement: "persons performing military service should not be excluded from the right to have conscientious objections to military service."

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Please send any submissions for Next month's issue of the Quiet Word to quietword@leedsquakers.org.uk. The Quiet Word is available online from www.leedsquakers.org.uk/activities/a-quiet-word

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

Diary of Events

March

Peace Museum Exhibition to March 2016 Basque Children in Yorkshire in 1937 - see poster

On Conscientious grounds: objection and resistance to the First World War is an exhibition running to 30th July at the Leeds University 'Treasurers of the Brotherton Gallery' in the Parkinson Building and features many Quaker artifacts.

Tuesday 1st 7.30pm Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH **Topic: the Easter Journey - a trilogy**

Wednesday 5th 5pm to 6pm public **Meeting for Worship at Dortmund Square, Leeds to mark the centenary of conscription** being introduced on 2/3/1916. We will also be supporting the Taxes for Peace Bill which is to be presented to the House of Commons on 2/3/2016.

Thursday 3rd 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 5th 10.45am to 4.15pm **Northern Friends Peace Board meeting** at Nottingham QMH - all Northern Quakers are invited - speakers include Robert Keeble who will be looking at how the experience of WW1 CO's connects to our 21st century Peace Witness

Tuesday 8th 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm **discussion Quaker Faith & Practice** at Carlton Hill QMH

Friday 11th 8am to 10am 'the **big banana breakfast**' outside Carlton Hill QM in support of Fairtrade Fortnight from 29th Feb. to 13th March (see the Quiet Word newsletter for details)

Saturday 12th March 10am to 5pm a day of **Nonviolent Direct Action Training** arranged by Tridentploughshares . venue: Carlton Hill QMH. See <http://tridentploughshares.org/trident-ploughshares>

Tuesday 15th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH **Topic: the Easter Journey - a trilogy**

Sunday 20th 1.30pm Leeds **Quaker Peace Witness against Trident** followed by 'Trident what next' planning meeting at 2pm.

Tuesday 22nd 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm **discussion on Easter** at Carlton Hill QMH **Topic: the Easter Journey - a trilogy**

Saturday 19th 11am to 5pm '**Conscientious Objection and resistance to the First World War** - a day conference organised by Leeds University and to be held at Leeds City Museum. Booking essential. See http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/homepage/523/conference_resistance_to_war_1914-1924

Friday 25th 10.00am **Meeting for Worship** followed by 'Hot Cross Bun' Coffee Morning at 11am at Carlton Hill QMH (stc)

Friday 25th to Monday 28th Easter Settlement 2016 at Cober Hill Guest House, Scarborough. This is a gathering of friends of all ages the theme is 'Building a confident Quaker voice' with the weekend being led by Arthur Pritchard. Contact Chris Petrie (01729 822677) or **chpetrie@btinternet.com**

Saturday 26th 10am Light Group at Adel QMH - this is a guided meditation and all are welcome to attend

April

Saturday 2nd 2pm Leeds **Quaker Peace Witness** against Trident - meet outside Debenhams

Centenary of Conscription: Peace Focus then and now

Conscription Centenary

Leeds Quakers will be marking the **centenary of conscription** being introduced by holding a public Meeting for Worship from 5pm to 6pm at Dortmund Square, Leeds on Wednesday 2nd March, 2016. We will also be supporting the Taxes for Peace which is to be presented to the House of Commons on 2/3/16.

Special C.O. edition of *The Friend*

A special edition of the weekly Quaker magazine is available from March and marks 100 years of conscientious objection. It has been guest edited by David Boulton and among its pages include a picture of the Leeds Quaker MP, Ted Harvey. Leeds played an important part in the 1916 CO story, to find out more you need to get **The Friend** and start reading...Copies will be made available at all our Leeds meetings to be purchased at £1 each which is nearly half the normal price.

Tridentploughshares : One day Nonviolent Direct Action training workshop 12th March

Our focus will be on taking action to disrupt the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system wherever it is. The issues raised and skills learnt are transferable to other non-violent campaigns and it's fun! The training is from 10am to 5pm with a lunch and tea breaks and you need to be there for the whole day. There is a £3 booking fee and donations will be gratefully received at the training venue to cover our costs. Venue: Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House. For more information and booking. See

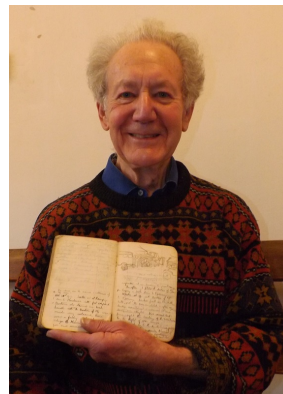
<http://tridentploughshares.org/trident-ploughshares>

'Conscientious Objection and Resistance to the First World War' to be held at Leeds City Museum on Saturday 19th March from 11am to 5pm and include a Leeds Quakers stall detailing the 'Rawdon CO hotspot'. Part of a three conference organised by Leeds University. Saturday attendance is £10 or £5 concessions and must be pre-booked. For more details: <http://tinyurl.com/hlgdwb7>

The Leeds Quaker Exhibition:

Leeds Museum will be venue for an exhibition, opening in June 2016 and looking at the Leeds Quaker experience in World War 1, especially that of CO's and our present day Peace Witness. It is hoped to display hats from the WW1 period with the heading 'What hat would you have worn?' Do you have a WW1 army hat or helmet, a nurses hat, an Edwardian women's hat, a prison issue CO's hat that can be borrowed for the exhibition or have **any suggestions** about where these can be sourced, please contact Susan Robson, Pat Gerwat, Diane Exley, Veronica O'Mara or Robert Keeble.

Countdown to Leeds Quaker Peace Witness exhibition, then and now:



The Donald Wood's diaries give a fascinating insight into the life of a Leeds Quaker who volunteered for work with the Friends Ambulance Unit during the First World War. Donald belonged to Carlton Hill Meeting, and his is one of many stories that will be on display at the Leeds

museum exhibition. Not only did Donald write about his experiences, but he also sketched and painted when he was in France with the FAU. Donald is related to Edward Starkie of Adel Meeting who is seen holding his sketch book.

On Conscientious Grounds: Objection and Resistance in the First World War is an exhibition running from 1/2/16 to 30/7/16 at the new Leeds University 'Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery' in the Parkinson building – it features many Quaker artefacts

Watch the QPSW film "The Unseen March" - <http://tinyurl.com/hw5ta7h>

From The Tribunal, 8th March 1916

This is the first in a series of extracts from the No Conscription Fellowship's journal, published in the UK between March 1916 and November 1918

Extract from The Tribunal 1st Issue – March 8th 1916 Edited by
W J Chamberlain

OUR OBJECT

The object of the "Tribunal" will be to acquaint our members and the general public with those facts concerning the Military Service Act which receive scant attention from the daily press just because they provide the gravest indictment of that Act. The mass of evidence of scandalous maladministration of the Act, which we shall publish will, we hope, be of some assistance to all who are fighting with us for its repeal....

WJC

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The administration of the Military Service Act must be at once challenged. The Act recognises conscience, and calls upon the conscientious objector to lay his case before Tribunals. Accordingly, some 10,000 members of the No-Conscription Fellowship and other bodies have sent in claims for exemption. The Tribunals, however, notwithstanding that Parliament has recognised conscience, seems to take the view that a conscientious objector, whatever his statement of belief, is a person to be rebuked, bullied, and condemned.

Presumably the Government intended a conscientious objection to be submitted either by word of mouth, or in writing: so far as we are aware, there is no other method of putting into effect the Government's proposal. Tribunals, however, arrive at their decisions without regard to, or in direct conflict with everything the conscientious objector says or writes. If he argues Christianity he is told that he is a hypocrite; if he argues Socialism he is told that he is a politician; if his replies are consistent, the indignation of the Tribunals is intensified. It is imperative that the Government should realise the serious position that will be created by this conflict between the method of the Tribunals and the intention of Parliament, as expressed in the Act.

The vast majority of conscientious objectors can make no distinction between combatant and non-combatant military service. If the firing

of a rifle is wrong, the carrying of the ammunition is equally wrong. We have emphasised the contention in our recent letter to the President of the Local Government Board, while this belief of the conscientious objector was made abundantly clear to the Prime Minister during the passage of the Bill through Parliament. The Act was so drawn as to provide for the granting of absolute exemption to such applicants. Notwithstanding this, however, and regardless of the point of view of the claimant, non-combatant military service is invariably imposed by the Tribunals. The only possible result is that all conscientious objectors are appealing to the Appeals Tribunals.

It is probable that the Government may give more explicit for uniform and understanding treatment by the Appeals Tribunals. If, however, these higher Tribunals decline to grant absolute exemption and impose non-combatant service, the Government and the public must not for a moment suppose that the objector who claims exemption on grounds of conscience will then waive his conscience and accept a service which he believes to be wrong.

If the local Tribunals refuse even to recognise conscience, and the Appeal Tribunals maintain their decisions, the Government will ultimately have to face the problem of imposing penalties upon the conscientious objector. His belief, absurd and inconsiderate as it may be deemed, is so sincerely held, that he must and will suffer rather than be false to his faith.

It is well that this serious position arising from administration of the Act should at once be clearly understood.

NFPB (Northern Friends Peace Board) is holding its next meeting at Nottingham QMH on Saturday 5th March – this meeting is open to all friends in the North and lifts may be available (please contact Fiona Pacey of Rawdon QMH). Robert Keeble will be one of the speakers and will be looking at how the experience of WW1 CO's connects to our 21st century Peace Witness.

For Conscience Sake



Quaker thespians Arthur Pritchard and Mike Casey – otherwise known as Plain Quakers – presented their most recent play, “For Conscience Sake”, at Friends Meeting House in York on 21st February. As always, their material and the way it was presented was excellent.

The play dealt with two friends, one a Quaker and one not. The non-Quaker was extolling the virtues of his grand-father, whom he believed was a WW1 hero who died fighting. There were serious gaps in his knowledge of events and he asked his friend, a would-be Quaker

historian to find out the truth. When it finally came to light it, materialised that grandfather was in fact a conscientious objector who, due to persecution, was forced to leave this country and start a new life in Australia, where he was unknown. The rest of play was concerned with the first friend attempting to come to terms with the news.

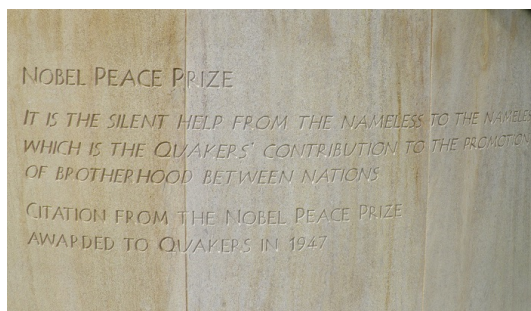
Brilliantly acted and very sensitively done.

Pete Redwood
Carlton Hill

Nominations for 2016 Nobel Peace Prize

In 1947 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Quakers worldwide for the relief work they did between the two world wars and after World War II. As a Nobel laureate, Britain Yearly Meeting is able to make nominations for the prize. Any Friends or meetings wishing to put forward names for the 2016 prize should contact Helen Bradford before 3 May 2016.

Helen Bradford, 020 7663 1071, helenb@quaker.org.uk



Peaceful Schools conference

24 June 2016, Friends House, London



A national conference for primary schools is taking place at Friends House on 24 June. 'Learning Through Peace' is aimed at head teachers, deputy and assistant heads and school staff involved in social and religious education. School governors and others who support or work with schools are also welcome. Please promote the conference.



You can book a place using the enclosed form or email anna@peacefulschools.org.uk for more information.

Briefings from Quaker Life

Being Friends Together

Places available for meeting visitor training

Saturday, 12 March at Friends House

Being Friends Together is an exciting online learning resource, developed by Woodbrooke and Quaker Life to support Quaker meetings in their ongoing development as communities of faithful people. Launched in 2014, the resource is designed for clarity and ease of use. It includes tried and tested activities from previous Quaker learning projects, together with newly written and recorded material.

To help meetings explore and engage with this library of ideas, we offer meeting visits run by a team of trained facilitators. A number of these visits have already taken place and were gratefully received by meetings.

We are seeking expressions of interest from experienced facilitators who are able to work with us on these visits. We would also welcome those who would like to know more about Being Friends Together so that they can help their local and area meetings. No prior knowledge of Being Friends Together is necessary.

In 2016 we are offering two training events, for new facilitators and people with experience who would like to build on previous training, and those would like to share their experience of visiting meetings, using the website to refresh their knowledge of Being Friends Together. These will take place on:

Saturday, 12 March at Friends House:
and

Thursday, 10 November at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

If you can offer your services and would like to attend one of the training events, or would like more information, please get in touch. Please contact Alistair Fuller:

alistairf@quaker.org.uk. There is no charge for attending these events.

Exploring Worship

An event for 8–12 year olds with a parallel programme for accompanying adults

Friday, 15 July to Sunday, 17 July 2016,
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre,
Birmingham

Over the weekend, children will explore and think about some big questions: What is God? Where is God? What is worship? What is a Quaker? What is a Spiritual Warrior? They will spend time inside and outside, hearing stories and music, playing games, being still, getting creative with arts and crafts, and making worship places for themselves. Children must be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them outside of programme time.

For booking details contact Woodbrooke:
enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk, 0121 472 5171.

To enquire about course details contact Mel Cook, Children's Work Officer:
melaniec@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1014.

White feather day

Wednesday, 2 March 2016

Mark the centenary of the recognition of the right to conscientious objection by participating in White Feather Day. This could involve holding a public meeting for worship at a place associated with conscientious objectors, discussing Conscience's Taxes for Peace Bill in your meeting, or engaging local groups in a discussion around conscientious objection then and now.

Contact Elizabeth Payne for an information pack: elizabethp@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1158.

www.quaker.org.uk/wwi

Principles for a new economy webinar

In January Quaker Peace & Social Witness ran a webinar (web-based seminar) to introduce its New Economy project and visionary Principles for a New Economy document.

The project is one response to BYM's commitment to work for an economic system that works for both people and planet. It will support Friends to explore what a better economic system might look like.

The 'Principles' document draws on input from Quakers across Britain to outline key principles and features of an economic system that would be compatible with Quaker values. Look online for a filmed recording of the Principles of a new economy webinar.

Watch the seminar at <http://tinyurl.com/joccf8r>

Download the document from <http://tinyurl.com/zo7qhk5>

Find out more from Cait Crosse, QPSW's New Economy Project Manager: caitc@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1035.

Quaker Camp 2016 will be held at **Hutton le Hole Caravan Park, North Yorkshire, YO62 6UG** (www.huttonleholecaravanpark.co.uk) **Saturday 23rd to Saturday 30th July 2016**



Quaker Camp is open to all Quakers and welcomes everyone including families as well as single campers young and old, however, anyone under 19 needs to be part of a family group. Each day after breakfast, there is a short open air Meeting for Worship, at the end of which friends share their plans for the day and many link up with each other for an enjoyable day out. At the end of the day there is the opportunity to meet with one another, or simply to have some quiet time of your own – that choice is yours to make. Apart from the tradition of holding a shared 'pudding night' on the penultimate evening, catering is not communal. The Thursday night pudding spectacular is followed by the Business Meeting for Worship which plans the camp for the coming year. There is also a traditional 'talent show' on the last night.

This year the camp site is a family run site with good facilities on the edge of the village of Hutton le Hole which is on the southern edge of the North York Moors National Park. There are lots of opportunities for activities – good walks right from the camp site, museums and stately homes, North York Moors steam railway to mention a few. There is a regular bus service to within 3 miles of the site. The Moors Bus summer service usually passes the site entrance but details for 2016 are not available yet.

If you have any queries or would like to book, contact Chris Edwards at chris.edwards20@gmail.com or 01653-698452.

Remain but be more constructive



The Quaker Council for European Affairs is advocating for the United Kingdom to remain in the European Union, and moreover for it to become a more active and supportive member. QCEA's governing Council met in February to discuss the forthcoming referendum.

Part of the minute reads: **“Recognising that there are different views regarding Europe among individuals and Meetings, the QCEA Council wishes to remind Friends that the EU is an organization founded to promote peace, solidarity, and community in Europe, and as such it needs all countries to work together to make it a better Europe for all,”**

Since 1979 QCEA has offered a Quaker critique of EU policy, and has been increasingly concerned about its trade and military policy. Advocating for policy change, is however, part of our normal engagement with all levels of government. Our supporters are citizens who recognise their responsibility to be involved, not only in local and national affairs, but internationally as well.



at the European institutions. QCEA have often been frustrated by the UK's disengaged or even disruptive approach to common European action on important issues, such as the circular economy or food banks. Similarly, in 2014, the UK government tried to block the candidate for Commission President proposed

by the party that won the most seats in the European Parliament.

Where it is engaged, the UK is often demanding policies that put a just, peaceful and sustainable Europe at risk. For example, by being a strong champion of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and for EU economic support for arms industries.

In advance of the QCEA meeting, members considered a paper by Peter Reid, of QCEA's British Committee. It raised concerns that, **“The ethical and moral dimensions to EU membership are in danger of being overlooked behind all the economics and politics”**.



Quakers have a long history of promoting international cooperation and the nonviolent resolution of conflict. In 1693, William Penn published, 'An Essay Towards the Present and Future Peace of Europe'. He

called for a European Parliament or other body that could represent the territories of Europe to help them to settle disputes without the recourse to war. Unfortunately, millions of people were to die in European wars before his vision could be realised. Penn's essay was republished by QCEA in 1992, with a forward from the then President of the European Parliament, Egon Klepsch.



Easter Settlement There are still places at Easter Settlement which is to be held at the Cober Hill Guest House near Scarborough and is on the theme “Building the Confident Quaker Voice”. Please contact Chris Petrie by phone: 01729 822677 or by email: chpetrie@btinternet.com There are big discounts for those aged 22 and under. See full details at: <http://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/activities/easter-settlement/>

BYM Britain Yearly Meeting is to be held from 27th to 30th May at Friends House, London. To plan the support needed and make Yearly Meeting more sustainable, if you intend to be at BYM, you are asked to register at www.quaker.org.uk/ym Leeds Area Meeting agreed to provide **bursary support** as appropriate for Leeds friends who wish to attend. Letters requesting support should be sent to the Treasurer, Peter Rice and such requests should be supported by an Elder/Overseer from your meeting.



Important: if you are an attender and wish to be at BYM, please see Quaker Faith and Practice 6.15.

Dear Leeds M.P.'s....

At the Leeds Area Meeting in February, the clerks were asked to write the following letter to all Leeds MP's on behalf of Leeds Quakers, this was sent on 26th February:

To: Leeds MPs

We, the co-clerks of Leeds Area Quaker Meeting, Robert Keeble and Veronica O'Mara, are writing to you on behalf of Leeds Quakers regarding the Early Day Motion 1036 and the proposed renewal of Trident. This EDM commemorating the centenary of the 1916 Military Service Act, which enshrined the first inclusive legal right of conscientious objection, represents conscientious objection in the 21st century where the primary form of conscription is financial. When Stanley Keeble (Robert Keeble's grandfather) set up the Peace Tax Campaign, the fore-runner of Conscience: Taxes for Peace not War, in 1977, it was with the recognition that the right of conscientious objection needs to be extended to accommodate those who morally object to funding state violence, and paying for others to kill on their behalf. We therefore ask you to sign this EDM.

With regard to Trident, you may be aware that Quakers in Britain have long campaigned against nuclear weapons, an issue about which we care passionately. While we see this as a moral issue, there is particular urgency at this time for Britain to reconsider its relationship to these weapons. We know that you support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and that support is vital to our national security, as well as for global stability. However, the like-for-like renewal of our own so-called independent deterrents sends extremely damaging messages to the rest of the international community. We ask you seriously to consider opposing the renewal of Trident.

We should like to invite you to come and discuss these issues with Leeds Quakers at a mutually convenient time. Depending on your preference, we can either arrange an open meeting at one of our local Quaker Meeting Houses or a small group of Friends can visit you in your constituency office.

In peace,

Veronica O'Mara and Robert Keeble

Leeds Area Meeting Clerks

How did our Leeds meeting prosper in 2015 ?

An in depth review of each meeting is undertaken at the end of every year – this long held tradition in Leeds is referred to as the ‘State of Meeting reports’ and for the meeting clerks, just called SOM’s! The origins of this reflection can be traced back to the Yearly Meeting of 1682 which decided to ask the representatives from each quarterly meeting to reply to three questions orally. These three questions were intended to produce factual information from Friends with local knowledge, so that the progress of the Society throughout the country could be seen. Overtime, our Leeds SOM’s have become one of the evolutionary branches. The three questions asked in 1682 were:

What Friends in the ministry, in their respective counties, departed this life since the last yearly meeting?

What friends imprisoned for their testimony have died in prison since the last yearly meeting?

How the Truth has prospered amongst them since the last yearly meeting, and how friends are in peace and unity?

Another evolutionary branch of these three questions is our present day ‘Advices and Queries’. Whilst there is no longer a requirement laid upon all Quaker Meeting nationally to produce State of Meeting Reports, our Leeds SOM’s are much valued by many Friends and create an opportunity for us to be fully informed about how ‘the Truth prospers’ in all our Leeds meetings.

ILKLEY QUAKER MEETING in 2015



An overview of the reports from the committee convenors of Ilkley LM in 2015 has shown that we have maintained a programme of activities, of study and worship as well as the practical aspects of running and maintaining our Meeting House. The reports also remind Friends of underlying issues relating to the size and age profile of the Meeting, problems that we are beginning to address. Our Nominations Committee in particular is aware that many older Friends may wish to step back from major commitment after many years of service. Many Friends are at a stage in their lives when they face the dual commitment of caring for their own parents as well as helping their children and grandchildren, often living at a distance. The committee has to consider that too much may be asked of younger Friends and they note that some committees (particularly Premises and Lettings, and the Children’s Committee) have fewer members than their responsibilities require.

The Social and Outreach Committee has been active in organising events this year. In addition to the usual and warmly appreciated annual events of a New Year party, a weekend at Glenthorne, the garden party and the annual outing this year to the Japanese garden, there was a happy celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Brian and Margaret Meara. In Quaker Outreach week the play ‘For Conscience Sake’ was enacted by ‘Plain Quakers’ in the Meeting House. Attended by 24 people this impressive drama of issues of conscience in time of war was followed by one Friend’s account of the experiences of her grandfather during WW1 as described in his diary.

The Children’s Committee report that in 2015 they changed from weekly meetings with 5 to 7 children to fortnightly meetings of 3 to 4 children. This has an impact on the ability of the parents to attend Meeting for Worship. However the children continue to delight us with their reports, after Meeting for Worship, of their activity in Children’s Meeting, and with their contribution to All Age Meeting for Worship. We have been glad to share their enthusiastic participation in projects such as a

car boot sale for Nepal and collecting shoe boxes with supplies from our Meeting for refugees.

The premises committee has faced the usual range of day to day issues in the running of a Victorian Meeting House and in the management of lettings. The Ilkley Pre- School Play Group remains our main user, with a new contract renegotiated in 2015. Cleaning and maintenance of building and garden remain satisfactory. The Report of the Finance Committee indicates that, at least for the next few years, our finances remain steady. Our reserves comply with the recommendations of BYM, and income and expenditure in 2015 were broadly in line with expectations. This means that at the year's end we are able to provisionally agree a donation of £1000 to the Mount School, York for the maintenance of two refugees at the school. The Beryl Meakin Fund enables us to purchase books and journals and to finance Friends wanting to attend courses and conferences for spiritual development.

The Library Committee continues with its main task of transforming the upstairs room into a well arranged and comfortable space for the storage of surplus and older important books, and for the accessible location of past periodicals, journals and pamphlets. This is a work in progress as is the development of a system for displaying, ordering and clearing the volume of written material that arrives weekly from Friends House and a large number of bodies both national and local. They continue to review selected additions to the library. These reviews are then placed on our website.

Finally, Elders and Overseers have continued to have joint meetings. They have fulfilled a number of responsibilities, including Friends on our minds. They have provided an essential contribution to maintaining and strengthening the spiritual and caring basis of our Meeting.

We are thankful for the loving commitment from Friends in our Meeting which has enabled all this. We are aware that this is sometimes precariously maintained and that Friends facing demands in their personal and family lives can sometimes struggle to maintain a

balance in their commitment to our Meeting. We are also aware that the balance between 'too much busyness' and the creation of space for spiritual exploration and support may be a difficult one. We therefore welcome the decision of Elders and Overseers to help us all to explore these issues, both as individuals and as a Meeting, in 2016.

Margaret Nunnerley

OTLEY QUAKER MEETING in 2015



This year the report from Otley Meeting has been based upon an overview of the meeting linked with a number of exercises requested by Leeds Area Quaker Meeting. The most wide ranging of these has been an

assessment of the risks associated with being a recognised local Quaker Meeting and how Otley Friends have responded.

The model risk assessment for British Quakers has two main themes. Has the local meeting a spiritual vitality and has it the capacity to fulfil the duties of a recognised meeting? What are the practical risks of owning and looking after property? Only the first of these applies to Otley. In the report that follows we have identified six areas of risk and for each of these we report what Otley Meeting has done in 2015.

1. **Clear purposes and objectives**
2. **Properly constituted local meeting**

Our main purposes are to hold a regular meeting for worship twice a month, to be known amongst Churches together in Otley and participate to the extent that our numbers and energy permit. We led two prayer breakfasts during the year including one at the beginning of 'Quaker Week' and hosted one Lent Lunch with Gil Skidmore, from Skipton Meeting – as our invited Quaker speaker. Having decided in 2014 to hold one meeting for worship each month in a public venue, it was agreed to hold every meeting at The Otley Courthouse from June 2015. In addition a monthly meeting for worship has been held since September with some Friends from Ilkley QM, at the home of Eva

Pinthus as she can no longer leave home to attend meeting for worship.

Moving meeting for worship to a public room has not altered the average attendance which remains at 8 over 2015. There have been a number of visitors who have seen the publicity and who have attended once or a couple of times. None so far have become regular Attenders. Our recorded Membership is 8: Elizabeth Sestini died during the year. We continue to welcome a few visiting Members mainly from other Leeds Meetings but occasionally Friends on holiday.

We are conscious of the increasing 'fragility' of some of our Members who are feeling their age and who recognise their health limitations. Eldership and Oversight is a shared responsibility amongst us all with two Friends identified as contact Elder and Overseer. We do know each other well and are able to offer support as necessary. We held a picnic at Norwood Retreat Centre in June. We have looked at the use of Advices & Queries in our meetings for worship and have encouraged their greater use with a beneficial effect. All have been encouraged to share in the BYM exercise of reading a chapter of Quaker Faith & Practice each month. We were pleased that our one teenager responded to our encouragement and attended the participation day with Meeting for Sufferings as one of two Leeds AQM representatives.

With this mixture of strength and vulnerability how might Otley Meeting change? Very few additional Members or regular Attenders would make a great difference. Children's meetings once a term have ended during the year. If adult attendance also reduced could there be an answer other than closure? Within Leeds area there is a twice monthly meeting for worship at Bedford Court. This is a valued worshipping group but without meetings for business and with a minimum of administration. If linked with one of the other Leeds Recognised Meetings would there be a place for a 'satellite'? Otley Friends are thinking about the need for such a pattern.

3. Right holding of meetings for business

Correctly minuted business meetings have been held 8 times during the year and we have

been represented at Leeds Area Meeting, some meetings of Quakers in Yorkshire and at Britain Yearly Meeting. In November Elders and Overseers from Leeds met in Otley, some joining us for meeting for worship and holding a lively afternoon session reflecting on 'Funerals and Friends'.

We are unable to nominate people to serve in every post requested. Currently we are unable to offer someone to be an AM trustee or to serve on the Nominations Committee. We have offered different ways in which Otley meeting can keep in touch with these aspects of Quaker business.

4. Finances

5. Public Accountability

Our treasurer collaborates with the other treasurers in the Area Meeting and creates an annual budget covering our expected local and area meeting expenses, contributions to Northern Friends Peace Board and Britain Yearly Meeting: all of which we have met. In addition we have selected four local charities mainly supporting asylum seekers, refugees and homeless people to receive year end donations – mainly from a surplus of donation income. Our accounts were produced on time and examined independently before being consolidated within Leeds AQM. Cheque payments are used for all expenditure, duly signed by two people.

Our procedures enable compliance with Charity Commission financial requirements. The financial and state of the meeting reports to Leeds Area Meeting become part of the wider public accountability of Leeds AQM as a registered charity. We receive, consider and respond to matters raised either by Leeds AQM or its trustees.

6. Awareness of Leeds AQM Governing Document

Apart from observing minutes distributed by Leeds AQM and the meeting of trustees, the relationship between Otley Local Meeting and Leeds Area Meeting is described in a Memorandum of Understanding.

This was agreed by Otley Friends in July and adopted by Leeds AQM in October 2012. We have agreed but not yet completed a review of this document. This will be an

opportunity to consider whether the right holding of Otley Meeting can continue as in recent years or whether there should be changes in its relationship with other local meetings and Leeds AQM.

Otley Meeting with other Friends within Leeds AQM should consider a strategy for the future within the thoughts contained in 1 and 2 above.

David M Robson

RAWDON meeting in 2015:



Rawdon Meeting has enjoyed a year of actual as well as spiritual

growth. It has been heartening to see a gradual increase in the numbers of people regularly attending Sunday worship. The fact that we remain a small meeting provides a space where visitors can be made welcome without feeling lost amongst a large number of new faces.

We rejoice in the fact that we have ample opportunity to share joys and sorrows, and to deepen our Friendships and support for each other at difficult times. In April, we hosted a moving and memorable Memorial Meeting to give thanks to the grace of God as shown in the life of Alistair Milner. It was a special opportunity to welcome Beryl and Guy once more after Beryl and Alistair's move to Scotland, following their long association as members of this meeting.

The Wednesday evening Meeting continues to provide a welcome to those who enjoy a chance for mid-week worship and reflection in a less formal setting. The Tuesday evening Bible Class, which met in Rawdon for a number of years and has attracted members from other meetings, has now transferred to Carlton Hill, which is a more central meeting place.

Throughout the year, we have met every other month with the aim of furthering our spiritual development by reflecting on and discussing a wide variety of topics; at the same time, we

have enjoyed sharing a meal together, enabled by the hospitality provided by Friends in their homes. An additional evening meeting was held so that attenders might have an opportunity to air any questions or concerns they might feel about applying for membership. It was enriching to hear members tell of their individual spiritual journeys.

In one of our sharing-and-learning evenings we focussed on the importance of charitable giving, after which we invited a committee of Friends to establish general principles, examine the requests made by various charities and invite Friends to nominate charities of their choice. In this way, we have increased our financial support for deserving local and Quaker causes.

We have continued to support PAFRAS and individual Friends undertake voluntary work according to their interests and enthusiasms. Some support Bedford Court Residential Home, by visiting individual residents, helping with activities, serving on the Bedford Court Committee and attending the twice-monthly meetings for worship.

We enjoyed hosting a further series of concerts in support of Amnesty International. It is heartening that the energy and skill required to plan, publicise, administer and welcome both audiences and performers still prevails as we are about to enter our twenty-fifth year. In November, we invited visitors from other meetings, along with members of our Amnesty audiences to join us for an afternoon of card-writing to prisoners of conscience.

We see our premises not only as an oasis of Quaker worship solely for the use of its members and attenders, but as a building which is accessible to the local and wider community in which it physically resides. Its outreach welcomes and supports many organisations and charities such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Overeaters, Al Anon, Bradford Music Club, Rawdon Bowling Club, the Hope Theatre Group and the National Guitar Examination organisation, all of whom have hired the premises for their regular and annual use. The welcome given to visitors on Heritage Open Day further demonstrates our policy of encouraging an 'open house' feel to both our community activities and our buildings.

It has been a busy and challenging year for members of the Premises Committee, who have been arranging the repairs and restoration work demanded by the 2015 Quinquennial Report. Under the excellent oversight and practical expertise of Peter Rice, virtually all the recommended work has been completed. The repairs to the roof, new insulation inside the loft and the re-pointing and restoration of sections of the exterior walls have been a visible, inspiring testimony to the progress of this essential work, and it has given heart to the Meeting, which has waited patiently to see its completion.

The stewardship of our Grade 2 Listed Buildings continues to demand patient but productive discussions with all the authorities involved. This year has finally seen the central panel in the meeting house re-sited, enabling us to make it a more versatile space, both for ourselves and for would-be hirers. By removing the physical barrier, designed to separate the sexes and ages in Victorian times, that sense of equality, which is so

precious to our Quaker practice, has been restored.

Soon, we will have a newly decorated, heated, more traditional 'in the round' arrangement for worship in the meeting house. We thank both the Meeting and the Area Meeting Trustees for their enthusiastic and financial support and management of the work done so far. Plans are now in progress to proceed with 'Rawdon Renovate' regarding the re-design of the schoolroom.

Our lawns and gravestone area and the cleaning of the interior of the premises continue to be professionally and cheerfully maintained and our clerk's enthusiasm, skill and real work on the borders and paths is unobtrusively undertaken and a delight to behold throughout the year. Over the wall, our tenants in Quaker Cottage have produced a lovingly-tended garden of fruit, vegetables and flowers, adding another element of smiling welcome to our corner of Quakers' Lane.

Jean Williams David Griffiths

Sit down for breakfast. Stand up for farmers.



Fairtrade Fortnight ...will run from 29 FEBRUARY –13 MARCH 2016 and highlight the severe lack of food security for farmers around the world, bringing together shoppers, campaigners and businesses to take action.

Fairtrade works with 1.5 million farmers and workers in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin and Central America enabling them to earn a sustainable income and the Fairtrade Premium that they can invest in vital community, business and environmental projects.

Research shows that some smallholder farmers who are part of Fairtrade earn about a third more than they did before joining Fairtrade, which means they can now afford more of the important things, like food, medical bills or sending their children to school.

Fairtrade Fortnight is the highlight of the year for shoppers, campaigners and businesses in the UK.

For more information, visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/breakfast.

The Big Banana breakfast?

Friends at Carlton Hill Meeting will be giving a fairtrade banana to all those who walk past the Meeting House from 8am to 10am on Friday 11th March – up to 1000 bananas have been given away in previous years, but this can only be done if there are enough helpers. All Leeds friends are invited to help!



Peace Movements in Israel

In the first part of the Leeds Area Meeting held at Ilkley Quaker Meeting House on 14th February a number of Leeds friends gave accounts of the various peace groups working in Israel. We were told that in Israel at the moment the main task of the Peace Movement is resisting the occupation. Recently the Israeli Prime Minister answered in the affirmative to the question of whether Israel will always live by the sword. Twenty years ago there were road maps for peace but these are not now possible. We learned of two groups that are under particular pressure: 'Breaking the Silence' (that is, ex-soldiers who tell of quite horrific experiences in the army) about whom the Israeli public is not happy and so this group is being presented as foreign agents and facing various challenges; and 'Taayush' (meaning 'Partnership' in Arabic), a group who works with Palestinians in the West Bank (for example, by protecting children going to school). Another group is 'Family Forum', for bereaved people from both sides who tell their stories; 'Windows for Peace', a dialogue circle for young people made up of Jewish Israelis, Palestinian Israelis, and Palestinians, where getting together is difficult because of restrictions on Palestinian movement; and 'Anarchists against the Wall', a non-violent resistance group, working with Palestinians in Bilin and other places.

Military Service is required for all Jewish Israelis and sometimes for non-Jewish Israelis, but not for Palestinian Israelis. The route of alternative national service over two years is open to some but there are limitations to boys choosing this option, consequently, the number of Conscientious Objectors in Israel is increasing. To many in the Peace Movement, it feels like there is a McCarthyesque drive to persecute them, but ironically most of those targeted so far have been well liked artists and writers such as Amos Oz, even so, the settler movement is becoming stronger and the peace groups are shrinking. There is also an Israeli crack-down on the leadership of non-violent resistance in Palestine. It was felt that it will always be difficult for Palestinians because there is no justice and there will be no justice until occupation has ended. It would seem that the Israeli public is not aware of Jewish criticism from abroad. Moreover, when a speaker from 'Rabbis for Human Rights' (rabbis from Israel who help Palestinians) recently came to Manchester to speak, there were only about five Jewish people there because the Jewish community in Manchester had been warned against attending. We ended by considering the growing interest in America in divestment; in Israel there is a worry that divestment would only affect the poor.

Scenes from Area Meeting, Ilkley, February 14th 2016



Enjoying Tea



Donald Purves, Martin Schweiger,
David Robson



Brian Meara, Malcom Edmunds,
David Robson

The next Leeds Area Meeting will be on Saturday 9th April at Roundhay QMH at 10.00am. The topic will be "End of Life Care"

A Taste of Palestine

Celebrating International Women's Day



Come and join us for:

- a cookery demonstration of two simple Palestinian recipes
- a slide show illustrating the lives of Palestinian women in the West Bank
- a cup of tea, delicious Palestinian snacks and talk to women who have visited the West Bank
- Fairtrade Palestinian craft and produce stalls

**Sunday 6 March: 3.30 -
5.30 pm Cardigan Centre
145-153 Cardigan Road, LS6 1LJ**

No charge but donations welcome
For more information, contact us at info@leedspsc.org.uk