

# Forty-Three newsletter

Number 448

August 2016



## Oxford Friends Meeting

43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW

### Bees in the garden at 43?

Would we like to have a hive of bees in the back garden at 43? We already have some solitary bees who have made a home in one of our stone walls. And we have a good relationship with an interfaith project supporting pollinators in faith communities' gardens in Oxford.

Could we now go further? A member of Oxfordshire Natural Beekeeping Group (OxNatBees) has offered to partner us, offering to build a hive (see picture below) and help us collect a colony, not primarily for honey-farming purposes but to be kept in a natural way, with the minimum of human intervention. There might be a need for no more than two direct 'maintenance' interventions per year (Spring and Autumn). We would be helping sustainable and much-threatened pollination; watching over and learning about bee culture, essential to human culture; and further developing our garden as a Quakerly resource.



The best location for the hive would probably be between the garden shed and the path to the car park. If the hive entrance was pointed mainly towards the yew

hedge we would avoid flight-path issues (i.e. bees encountering humans on their way from hive to nectar). Easy access to the back and sides of the specially-constructed hive would be good for people to see what's going on. If a ground level hive was thought not to be advisable, we could try a roof-based one, although this would make regular and enjoyable observation by people without ladder-skills more difficult. Children and young Friends might be interested in helping to keep a shared log going, learning about bees and sustainability projects of this kind in general. We have experienced experts to work with us, who would be willing to show our bee support group (if we can assemble one) what they are already doing in Summertown; what bee-keepers of this kind need as clothing and equipment; and the pleasure as well as the work involved.

What do Friends think? Do we have let's say half a dozen people interested enough to learn more about the idea, and to champion it within the Meeting? Should we take this to a Meeting for *(Continued on page 2 column 1)*

### From Quaker Faith and Practice

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.

**QF&P** Advices and Queries, 1.02

**Deadline for contributions to the September 2016 issue: noon, Wednesday 17 August**

*Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, would be appreciated to [newsletter@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@oxfordquakers.org), and items for the calendar on page 6 can be emailed to [office@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:office@oxfordquakers.org). Paper copy can be left in the pigeonhole of any Editor.*

*For information: tel. 01865 557373 or visit [www.oxfordquakers.org](http://www.oxfordquakers.org)*

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

Worship for Business, to Premises and Finance Committee, and/ or to a Friday with Friends in the first instance? Please let me know where the energies are, for and against, during August and September and I will report back. Realistically, we probably could not open a hive till next Spring. But it would be good to know what Friends feel as soon as possible.

**Stephen Yeo**

stephen.yeo@phonecoop.coop

---

## Parliamentary vote on Trident renewal

On Monday 18 July Parliament voted on the renewal of the Trident nuclear submarine weapons system. Eleven members of Trident Ploughshares went to the Central Lobby in the Houses of Parliament. Revealing our messages, we sang peace and anti-Trident songs lustily for six hours. I managed two and a half. The police were very helpful and fetched us water. I asked a sergeant and he said he had enjoyed the singing which he thought much better than chanting. Considering the loud echo, I was surprised they did not turf us out. The vote was a disaster but we were not surprised; except by the large number of Labour MPs who it seems were fighting their leadership. We are certainly not dismayed as there is plenty happening on the international front (<http://www.icanw.org/>) and we will continue to bring the truth to people by non-violent direct action.

Statistically, there is overwhelming opposition in Scotland, where the UK's nuclear missiles are actually stored and deployed. Opinion polls in the rest of the UK show strong support for getting rid of the hugely expensive nuclear weapons programme through a multilaterally negotiated process.

By only mentioning the cost of the submarines, Theresa May gave a false figure. She said the submarines would cost £31-£41 billion. But this is far from the £205 billion, which is the most recently released full cost of Trident replacement over its 25 year life and what we will be paying for as tax payers.

On 21 July I went with Anthea Richard and Steward Jefferies for our regular Quaker Vigil at Aldermaston. We held up the Quakers for Peace



banner. We got a number of positive acknowledgements despite the vote. So we continue to raise the issue of these internationally illegal and seriously dangerous, even if they are never used, weapons. In peace.

I am the chin behind the lead singer in green.

**Sarah Lasenby**

---

## Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) and Quaker Council for European Affairs survey (QCEA)

The Meeting for Worship for Business held in Oxford on Sunday 3 July produced the following minute.

“We have been asked to respond to a survey on work with refugees and asylum seekers in Oxford (by individuals, or groups we are part of, in Oxford Meeting). We encourage Friends to make individual responses to the survey before it closes on **Friday 12 August**. We think it would encourage the Meeting to learn about all the many and various activities that Friends are involved in in relation to refugees. We invite Friends to contact the Newsletter Committee with contributions for an article which would not name the Friends involved but would describe their activities.”

Please send any other contributions to Becky Riddell, Keith Wilson, and Sue Smith at [newsletter@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@oxfordquakers.org) or via the pigeonholes. We have had a few contributions but hope for more.

## Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers

Learn about the beginnings of this radical religious group as it emerged in seventeenth-century England, with this free online course starting on **Monday 3 October**.

When you think of the Quakers, it might bring to mind porridge oats, or pacifism, or perhaps prison reform. But there is much much more to the Quakers than any of these things. Through this course, we will be finding out about what lies at the heart of Quaker beginnings, who its main characters were, and how in a few weeks during the summer of 1652 the Quaker movement was formed in the north of England.

Almost from nothing, the Quakers were to become the most successful sect of the 1650s and 1% of the population of England were to become Quakers. It was a radical spirituality which appealed to thousands of people, hungry for new ways of thinking.

In this three week course, we will see how the events of 1652 unfolded and visit the key sites of Pendle Hill, Firbank Fell, and Swarthmoor Hall in the northwest of England. Each of these places marks a critical piece of the dramatic story of May and June 1652.

On Pendle Hill, George Fox, who will come to lead the movement, has a vision of a 'great people to be gathered'. He finds and recruits hundreds while preaching on Firbank Fell a few weeks later. And in Ulverston he meets Margaret Fell – who, convinced of the Quaker message, becomes a co-leader of the group and allows her home, Swarthmoor Hall, to become the headquarters of the new Quaker movement. Through this course you'll meet and get to know the major figures who contributed to the Quaker movement.

Each week contains films, some accompanying readings of George Fox's journal, a focus on a key text from the period to help us better understand the experience and message of early Quakerism, and some reflection exercises and quizzes.

Together, we will explore the beginnings of Quakerism and this critical piece of religious history of a group who gathered around a radical

and outspoken spiritual message that was to change the face of 1650s England, and has since remained a distinctive part of the religious landscape.

By the end of the course, you will be able to understand the beginnings of the Quaker movement and explain its key ideas and radical nature; and be able to reflect on the consequences of Quaker spirituality. There are no special requirements to take this course, but an interest in religion or history or both, might be beneficial.

Course tutor: Ben Pink Dandelion. More details and to sign up, go to [www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers/1](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers/1)

---

### Calling all OX1 Friends

We are holding a tea party on Saturday 27 August in the Cloisters Lounge, Pegasus Grange, Whitehouse Road, from 3:00 until 5:30 pm. It is always good to meet, but we have a special reason this time. This is to say goodbye to Marigold and Geoffrey Best who are leaving Oxford in September to move to Letcombe Regis.

Cloisters Lounge is next to the swimming pool, and we will be looking out for you. If you have any queries, do get in touch with Peggy Heeks, a resident of Pegasus Grange. The tea party is being hosted by the OX1 members of Oxford meeting's Pastoral Care Group - Peggy Heeks, Anthea Richards, and Carol Saker. Do please come and help make this a celebratory occasion.

**Peggy Heeks**



### Post-referendum ideas: where next on Europe?

We have just had an informal evening where Friends could share their feelings about Europe. Several Friends there had ideas for ways forward, although some also wanted to sit with their thoughts for the time being. It was suggested at the meeting that they could send things to the newsletter and there could be a post-referendum section where they would be collected under. Please send items to Becky Riddell, Sue Smith and Keith Wilson, the newsletter editors, at [newsletter@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@oxfordquakers.org)

**Anne Watson**

## Invitation to participate in research

I am currently finishing some postgraduate study in church history at the University of Nottingham. As part of this I have completed a dissertation entitled 'What is the value of congregational studies for contemporary church history and historical theology? A congregational study of a village nonconformist church will provide an exemplar.' This involved interviewing 61 people associated with the church (76 were approached) for an average of one hour. The discussions were open ended and included early church experiences (or not) as well the influence of decades like the 1960s. It was very moving and valuable and allowed the people to express how they came to find themselves in the particular congregation. There was both quantitative and qualitative material.

In the Autumn I am starting some postgraduate study at the University of Lancaster in Quaker Studies (in association with the Woodbrooke Centre). It is very early days but the interviews for the previous study needed planning. I am hoping to use the methodology from the earlier study to focus on a group of people associated with Quaker meetings. I have already started at the Headington meeting where I am an attender. Interviews can take place at our home or the home of the person being interviewed or in a neutral place like a cafe or gardens. All references in the study would be anonymized as in the previous study which any one is welcome to read either on line or in a hard copy. I am happy to provide further details or to be questioned about the proposed study. If anyone reading this would like to be interviewed I would be delighted and have put my contact details below.

**Richard Bainbridge**

rmbainbridge@gmail.com, 01865 872868

### **Forty-Three is available online, at [www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter](http://www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter)**

If you are considering writing an article or notice but would prefer it not to go online, please don't hesitate to contribute it. Just indicate that the piece is not for inclusion in the internet version — no reason will be asked for. Articles and notices are very welcome to appear in the print edition only, and the same applies to calendar items.



## Tany Alexander Meeting for Clearness

With permission from Tany Alexander, we are publishing an excerpt from the minute for the meeting for clearness for membership. This minute was passed to Area Meeting at which it was agreed to welcome her into membership. The minute reminds us of some powerful characteristics of our community at its best.

"Tany has been attending Oxford Meeting on and off since moving to Oxford in 1998. Prior to that, brought up by Scots parents in Canada and then South Africa, Tany had had a difficult relationship with organized religion. She saw the yawning gap between its claims and their implementation (e.g. over apartheid), and wrestled over many years with issues around authority and Church business processes. However after Tany moved to London, she encountered many impressive Quakers in her seventeen years' work as part of an ecumenical group tackling issues around social justice, and attended Quaker Meetings in different parts of the UK and abroad. Tany now strongly wishes to belong to a faith group with whose spirituality, business processes and priorities (e.g. on peace, sustainability and climate change) she feels entirely at home."

---

## Collection appeals for 2017

Please send suggestions for appeals in 2017 to the Collections Committee by **Friday 30 September**. They can be Quaker causes, or causes sponsored by an Oxford Friend or Attender. They can be new proposals or continuations of existing collections. Ask for an electronic proposal form from Ray Fishbourne, Collections Committee Convenor, ([rayfishbourne@hotmail.com](mailto:rayfishbourne@hotmail.com)) or pick up a paper copy from the pigeonhole cupboard. For more information please talk to Ray Fishbourne, Karima Brooke or John Gould.



# Woodbrooke

## Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham



Quality Service

Quaker Values

1046 Bristol Road  
Birmingham B29 6LJ  
United Kingdom

T +44 (0)121 472 5171  
F +44 (0)121 472 5173

enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk  
conferences@woodbrooke.org.uk



## Woodbrooke-on-the-Road

A travelling teaching service, we offer meetings a well-structured day of learning and sharing, aiming to provide new insights into Quaker history, theology, spirituality, testimony and community. What is on offer in 2016? We offer a wide range of courses across four themes: Nurturing Our Quaker Community, Experience of the Spirit, Exploring the living Quaker tradition and Faith in Action. The courses are:

Being a Quaker Community

Discernment

Discovering our Spiritual Gifts

Exploring Clerking

Exploring Nominations

Nurturing our Quaker Community

Exploring Quaker faith & practice:

Exploring Trusteeship Training

Exploring Eldership & Oversight

Inspiring Small Meetings

Introduction to Paxton Accounting

Knowing our Meeting, Knowing Each Other

What Can We Do With What We've Got?

For more information

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/pages/woodbrooke-on-the-road.html>

# CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2016

All 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Tuesday 2	7:00 pm	Reading <i>Quaker Faith and Practice</i>	Monday 15	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Poems in the Library (see below)
Sunday 7	12:30 pm	Local Meeting for Worship for Business	Wednesday 17	1:45 pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing (in members' homes)
Tuesday 9	7:00 pm	Reading <i>Quaker Faith and Practice</i>	Saturday 27	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	'Goodbye' to Marigold and Geoffrey Best (Pegasus Grange, see page 3)
Wednesday 10	11:00 am	Reading <i>Quaker Faith and Practice</i>	Sunday 28	12:30 pm	Bring-and-Share Lunch

## Poems in the Library

The next poems will be on **Monday 15 August**. The theme will be old age or the 'slipperd pantaloons' phase of the Ages of Man. There will also be poems on Monday 12 September (no theme) and Monday 17 October (theme: poverty).

The 'marriage/ union' theme went well, including some 'failed', and sad, 'Death of a Hired Man' poems, and some Shakespearian arias. It was a very enjoyable session.

**Stephen Yeo**

## Reading Quaker Faith and Practice

We are about half way through our joint reading *Quaker Faith and Practice* if you count the chapters read so far, and those still to be read. July's recommended reading was *Chapter 26: Reflections*, so this seems a good time to take stock both individually and as a Meeting, and maybe to remind or alert members and attenders to this shared endeavour.

In our meeting there are several small groups meeting fairly regularly to read together, plus some occasional events announced here in the newsletter to share experience of particular chapters. The next big one of these is all day on **Saturday 24 September** on *Chapters 14 and 25* and will be led by Jenny Buffery and Val Ferguson. Look out for occasional *Fridays with Friends* that also centre on particular chapters.

It is not too late to join us in the process of reading together. It will continue until April 2017. If you want to join in, contact me for information about local house groups, geographical groups, day groups and evening groups.

Further information and support can also be found at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/>

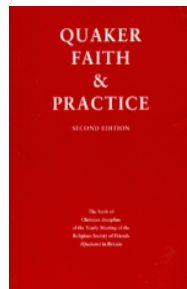
**Anne Watson**

[annewatson1089@gmail.com](mailto:annewatson1089@gmail.com)

All Friends are asked by the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group to join in reading the current *Quaker Faith and Practice*.

Suggested chapter for August:  
Chapter 7: Meeting for Sufferings  
Chapter 15: Trusteeship

Further information and support can be found at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/>



## MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Sundays** at 9:30 and 11 am at 43 St Giles (followed by tea and coffee)

**Mondays** at 7:00 pm Young Adult Friends (followed by baked potato supper)

**Tuesdays and Thursdays** at 7:30 am at 43 St Giles (followed by breakfast at 8 am)

**Wednesdays** at 12:15 pm at 43 St Giles (followed by tea and coffee)

**Headington LM worships on Sundays** at 10 am at The Priory, 85 Old High Street, OX3 9HT

*Editorial Team: BECKY RIDDELL, KEITH WILSON and SUE SMITH (Joint Editing & Production); ANBARA KHALIDI and DEB ARROWSMITH (Distributor and Subscriptions)*