

Forty-Three newsletter

Number 446

June 2016



Oxford Friends Meeting

43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW



This is the name taken by a group of Friends who feel intensely that leaving the EU would weaken the impact of Quaker testimonies in public life both at home and abroad. We aren't formally endorsed by Britain Yearly Meeting, given the political nature of the campaign, but the Quaker Council for European Affairs in Brussels has minuted its support. We have been awarded a grant by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust (which is not a charity).

I won't rehearse the case we make in our brochure, which can be seen in the Meeting House. There are two things I wish to say here. (The economic issues are not our concern, though the misinformation about them is a worry.)

The fundamental Brexit issue is the matter of sovereignty, the fear that the EU seeks to be a united states of Europe. The EU itself has given a safe haven to countries emerging from dictatorship. My take is that one only needs to travel within Europe to feel the independent nationalism that citizens of each country hold dear. Furthermore, some member states have right wing parties that continued British membership can help to hold in check.

By the same token, our first-past-the-post electoral system poses the risk of elective dictatorship, when the party controlling our 'sovereign' Parliament can impose irreversible changes that we as Friends may deplore. Brussels compromises (continued on page 2, column 1)

From *Quaker Faith and Practice*

I ask for daily bread, but not for wealth, lest I forget the poor.

I ask for strength, but not for power, lest I despise the meek.

I ask for wisdom, but not for learning, lest I scorn the simple.

I ask for a clean name, but not for fame, lest I contemn the lowly.

I ask for peace of mind, but not for idle hours, lest I fail to hearken to the call of duty.

Inazo Nitobe, 1909

QF&P 20.01

Deadline for contributions to the July 2016 issue: noon, Wednesday 22 June

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

For information: tel. 01865 557373 or visit www.oxfordquakers.org

(continued from page 1, column 2)
can hold this risk in check. The European Parliament, with proportional representation, gives Brits out of office at home a fairer say.

Much more to the point just now is that we should all be registered to vote (with a 7 June deadline) – www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Students can register here as well as at home.

Richard Seebohm

Echo Hall

My debut novel *Echo Hall* began life as a ghost story. At the time, my husband Chris (Cole) and I were living at the Eirene Centre in Clopton, Northamptonshire, a building owned by the Fellowship of Reconciliation (for whom Chris worked). It was a creepy place next door to a graveyard. At night time the boards creaked and I often imagined I heard voices. Which got me thinking, what if those voices were real, whose would they be and what would they be saying?

I didn't intend the book to be about war and peace, but as I worked out the answers to those questions, I realised I was telling a story about family conflict. And that the times in which my characters lived coincided with three wars: World War I, World War II and the 1991 Gulf War. This allowed me to raise questions in the novel that are still relevant today. The current wars in the Middle East all have their roots in the failure of the wars of the past. My novel asks are such conflicts inevitable, or can we find another way?

I hope this novel will be of interest to Oxford Quakers as I am a local pacifist and the book features a number of Quakers (including two Conscientious Objectors). I also hope it will appeal to a mainstream audience and bring issues of war and peace to their attention. Most importantly, I hope I have written a novel that readers will enjoy and will stay with them long after the last page is read.

The novel has been signed by the publisher, Unbound which works on a crowdfunding model. Readers pledge to back books they are interested in, and when a book is 100% funded it is published.

A group of Unbound authors will be hosting an event in Oxford on the **Saturday 4 June** at the

Albion Beatnik Bookshop at 7:30 pm, which we think might be of particular interest to Oxford Quakers, and you are cordially invited to attend. 'Back a Book: women, war, peace, politics' – come, listen and be prepared to pledge. There will be prizes!

The evening will include me and the following authors:

- *Between the Regions of Kindness* by Alice Jolly. A novel about the costs of peace – and whether family or conscience should come first (also featuring Quakers!)
- *News from the Home Front* by Rachael de Moravia. An insider's account of life as a military wife, of life on the home front in the fall-out zone of the modern Royal Air Force.
- *Agrippina, Empress, Exile, Hustler, Whore* by Emma Southon. A biography of the most extraordinary woman in the Roman World.

If you are unable to come and would like to support *Echo Hall*, you can pledge here <https://unbound.co.uk/books/echo-hall>. You can also follow me on twitter ([aroomofmyown1](https://twitter.com/roomofmyown1)) and Facebook (Virginia Moffatt, *Echo Hall*).

Virginia Moffatt is a writer and Chief Operating Officer of the think tank Ekklesia. She is married to Chris Cole, Director of Drone Wars UK. They have three children and live in Oxford.

MEET in Oxford



The AGM of MEET in Oxford will take place on **Monday 13 June** from 5:00pm – 6:00pm in the Long Room.

MEET in Oxford is supported by Oxford Friends and provides a low cost trauma focused therapy service using fully qualified and highly experienced psychotherapists. We offer the trauma therapies known as EMDR and Energy Psychotherapy to people whose lives are seriously affected now by difficult experiences in the past and who are unable to pay the usual fees for private therapy or access it through the NHS.

A copy of our annual report will be available on our website www.counsellingoxford.co.uk. We welcome Friends to come to the AGM.

Sandra Figgess



Our New Assistant Manager

Hello, my name is Jacqui Mansfield and I have just started working at number 43 as the Assistant Meeting House Manager. I met some members during the interview process earlier this year and I am gradually meeting more – thank you for all your warmth, welcome and support as I find my feet.

I live in east Oxford, a ten-minute bike ride from the Meeting House with my partner Jim, our 10-year-old son Zebedee, a cat called Scruffy and various lodgers from around the world who stay with us while undertaking research at the University. I originally trained and worked in arts management before becoming involved in the local and sustainable food sector. Most recently I have been working as the co-ordinator for Barracks Lane community garden project in East Oxford – a green venue and community resource.

I am so pleased to be working at number 43 and I am looking forward to getting to know more members. I do hope you will come and introduce yourself to me and help me to understand more about the Meeting.

Physiotherapy

I have set up an online petition asking the government to discuss increasing physiotherapy in the NHS. This is not only because of personal experience but also because I believe that it would alleviate patients' suffering and take pressure off GP surgeries and hospitals. An ever increasing number of people struggle to pay for food, let alone private health care. If you agree with the petition, please sign it and forward it to other people who may be interested or mention it in any other newsletters. The petition is at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/124946>.

Jean Moir

Adderbury Gathering

Banbury and Evesham Quakers invite you to the Adderbury Gathering, our free annual public talk, at the Adderbury Quaker Meeting House, at 3:00 pm on **Sunday 19 June**, followed by afternoon tea at 4:00 pm.

Gwithian Doswell, an Oxford Quaker, will give a talk on the work of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. She will speak to us about non-violence, daily life lived under military occupation, the work of the Israeli peace movement and what we can *all* do to promote a just peace in the region.

This Quaker Meeting House is one of the oldest in the country – built in 1675 – and a very special place. It's off Horn Hill Road in West Adderbury – on the path to the Adderbury Parish Cemetery (SatNav OX17 3EW).

We hope you will come and join us for this event. For information call George Mason on 01295 720900.

TTIP, the NHS & Democracy – who holds the power?

Speaker: Deborah Harrington
Q&A chaired by Professor Allyson Pollock
with panel member Cat Hobbs

Unprecedented cuts to social services, an escalating housing crisis – and a massive top-down **NHS** reorganisation, resulting in previously 'creeping' **privatisation** now galloping ahead.

Are we at a crossroads in our democracy?

For the past 30 years, private companies have been taking over and fragmenting public services. Patients and voters have been redefined as clients and consumers.

Who has driven this change? How will it affect our future?

This talk and discussion will focus on global corporations' influence on public policymaking, and their role in the dismantling of the NHS. It will also look at the **Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**, currently being negotiated behind closed doors, which is poised to bring an even greater role for the private sector into our public life, with the potential to challenge the very basis of our democracy.

Whether the EU referendum vote is to remain or leave, these are important issues for our time.

Saturday, 4 June 2016
Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles OX1 3LW
10.30am-12.30pm

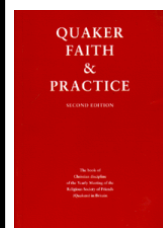
Deborah Harrington is on the campaign team of the National Health Action Party, and also on the board of directors of the Leathermarket Community Benefit Society, a community-based housing organisation in Southwark, London.
Allyson Pollock is professor of public health research and policy at Queen Mary University of London, and is co-author of the NHS Reinstatement Bill.
Cat Hobbs is founder and director of 'We Own It'



CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2016

All 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Saturday 4	7:30 pm	Back a Book Albion Beatnik Bookshop (see page 2)	Sunday 19	3:00 pm	Adderbury Gathering (see page 3)
Sunday 5	12: 30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Business		10:00 am - 12 noon	Fairtrade Open House and Garden
Monday 6	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Poems in the Library the theme is 'birth'		12:30 - 1:30 pm	Bring-and-share Lunch
Tuesday 7	7: 00 pm	Reading <i>Quaker Faith and Practice</i> Group		Saturday 25	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Monday 13	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	AGM of MEET in Oxford (see page 2)	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Young Adult Friends
Wednesday 15	1:45 pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing			



Reading *Quaker Faith & Practice*

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 June:

Chapter 13: Varieties of religious service and Chapter 20: Living faithfully today

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

Many members and attenders of Oxford Local Meeting continue to read *Quaker Faith and Practice* systematically in a range of ways individually and in geographical or friendship groups. If you have not yet joined a group and wish to, contact me, and check out: <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/> for news and ideas.

We also have occasional meetings to consider some chapters in larger groups. The next one is at **Friday with Friends, 1 July at 7:30 pm**, and will be led by Laurie Michaelis, focusing on Chapter 23: Social Responsibility. This is a substantial chapter in which many writers get to the heart of why and how we engage with social action, and how we cope with the challenges and rewards.

Anne Watson, annewatson1089@gmail.com

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

Save the Date

Poems in the Library will be on **Monday 11 July**
from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. The theme will be de-
cided at the June session.

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and SUE SMITH (Joint Editing & Production);
ANBARA KHALIDI and DEB ARROWSMITH
(Distributor and Subscriptions)*