

# Forty-Three newsletter

Number 457  
May 2017



Oxford Friends Meeting  
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW

## Quaker Peace and Social Witness Spring Conference

I never know how many people who come to our Meeting know about Quaker Peace and Social Witness, which is, if you like, the part of Quakers in Britain that puts our faith in peace into the world. At least, that's the way I like to think of it, and that's what excited me about Quakers, and keeps me a member. I have the good fortune to be a member of the **Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) Central Committee**, which oversees and supports its work on peace, justice, and sustainability. In that capacity I was asked to be a co-clerk at the QPSW Spring Gathering,

I'm sure, like me, you've read reports of Quaker gatherings and meetings before, that don't really tell you very much about what happened. It's all hidden behind Quakerspeak, and I'm going to try very hard not to use that in this brief piece about the Gathering, and why I found it so inspirational.

First things first – it was organized by those brilliant staff people, who really know how to set up and run a participative and engaging event. It was attended by over 100 people from Area Meetings all over the country, many of whom had not been to a Quaker event before. They all found

it as amazing as I did, judging from ministry in the final worship. I don't think it's usual Quaker practice to make notes in a Meeting for Worship, but if I had been running the evaluation of the weekend, I would have been trying, as there were so many positive comments made about the weekend!

In addition to leading some of the sessions (which was surprisingly un-scary, as the staff were so good), I went to workshops about the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme on Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). The EAPPI trains and sends people to



The bookstall at QPSW Spring Conference

**Deadline for contributions to the June 2017 issue: noon, Wednesday 24 May**

*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)*

the West Bank as human rights observers, as part of a World Council of Churches initiative. Also I heard about QPSW supported peaceworkers. This is an excellent scheme, in which QPSW pays for a worker in a peace-related organisation such as Campaign against the Arms Trade for a whole year. I am so proud of Quakers doing both of these things. The main event was a conversation between two people (Jane Pearn and Chris Venables) who absolutely hit the right note about what being a Quaker and an activist means, in human terms, now and for the future. We also had a session called 'Open Space' in which everyone had the space to pose a burning question for them, find others who were interested, and then go off in small groups to make a start on 'solving' the question. Great solidarity-building.

As a Meeting, we already do some of the things that QPSW ask for. We have a representative. We raise money in the monthly collections. And I am making it a resolution for myself, to do some sort of talk or workshop about QPSW work by the end of this year — so you heard me say it! My recent discovery is the Q-witness podcasts, in which the Programme Managers talk about their work, like on a radio programme. They are such good communicators. There is an update every fortnight, and the most recent one is about money, banking, and the new economy. Listen online via [www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/podcast](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/podcast)

If you want to know more, here are a few things you can do, and some news updates about what's going on that you can sign up to. If you don't have time to read them, just press delete!

Educate & Disarm newsletter

[www.quaker.org.uk/educate-disarm](http://www.quaker.org.uk/educate-disarm)

Earth & Economy newsletter:

[www.quaker.org.uk/earth-economy](http://www.quaker.org.uk/earth-economy)

Making Waves (Turning the Tide):

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters/making-waves>

EAPPI blog and action alerts:

<https://eappi.org/en> and

<https://eyewitnessblogs.com/>

If you want to be more involved, think about serving on a QPSW sub-committee to help guide its work on, for example, peacebuilding, the economy, or sustainability. For a few years I was

on the Turning the Tide group (which runs training in nonviolent action and campaigning, and it is enormous fun and hugely rewarding to work with the most interesting Quakers from all over the place. Fill in a Quaker Service Information Form <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/qsif/>.

Sue Smith

## Getting Ahead

Spring and new life are in the air, but that shouldn't make us forget the comfort of making plans to help ourselves and our families as we age.

Here's a handy checklist:

**MAKE A WILL:** This ensures that what happens to your money and possessions is in accordance with your wishes. You can employ a solicitor or write the will yourself. It must be signed and dated by two non-beneficiaries.

**CHOOSE ONE OR MORE EXECUTORS:** These may be friends, family, or a solicitor. They ensure that the terms of your will are fulfilled.

**MAKE AN ADVANCE DECISION:** This used to be called 'A Living Will'. It sets out the treatments to which you do or do not consent. It should be signed in the presence of at least one witness. Discuss your ideas with your doctor and family. It's helpful to make copies for the doctor, family, and



yourself. Advance Decision forms, advice, and information are available from Dignity in Dying, 181 Oxford Street, London W1D 2JT.

<https://www.dignityindying.org.uk>

Email: [info@dignityindying.org.uk](mailto:info@dignityindying.org.uk)

Telephone: 0207 479 7730

**HAVE A POWER OF ATTORNEY SCHEME:** This enables your 'attorney(s)' to make decisions on your behalf if you cannot. The attorney(s) are appointed by you, and can be friends, relatives, your spouse, or professionals. The current system is known as 'Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)' and has two forms, one covering health and welfare and the other property and financial affairs. These have to be registered with the Office of Public Guardian, for which there is a charge. The Health and Welfare LPA can only be put into effect if you become unable to make your own decisions. The Property and Financial Affairs LPA can be used as soon as it's registered, if you give your permission. Information and guidelines are available on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/overview>

**TAKE OUT A FUNERAL PLAN:** This enables your wishes to be known and the costs covered now. Make the plan in conjunction with a funeral director.

**CONSIDER ORGAN DONATION:** This should be logged on the NHS Organ Donation Register. See <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk> The National Institute for Care Excellent (NICE) has produced guidelines on obtaining family consent.

**Peggy Heeks**



The Progressive Alliance Meeting

## Oxford Compass / Progressive Alliance and the Election in Oxford

Following concern expressed at Local Business Meeting in September, some Quakers have been involved in efforts in Oxford to advance the concept of the Good Society. Tina Leonard was instrumental in arranging a public meeting in association with Compass ("the home for everyone who wants to be part of a much more equal, democratic and sustainable future") in February. When the General Election was announced just after Easter, another public meeting was called for Friday 21 April, and 100 people turned up at the Meeting House at just three days' notice!

There was an amazing amount of energy in the room. Those present were from all political parties (maybe not the Conservatives) and none. Everyone felt a sense of crisis in British politics and the need to do something different. It was agreed fairly easily to endorse tactical voting in Oxford for the General Election on 8 June, supporting the Liberal Democrat candidate in Oxford West & Abingdon and the Labour candidate in Oxford East. Support for the Liberal Democrat candidate in Witney was also agreed if efforts can stretch that far.

A start was made towards practical organising, encouraging voter registration, planning meetings between local political parties, getting out publicity. The group refers to itself as Oxford Compass/ Progressive Alliance, contact email [oxfordprogressivealliance@gmail.com](mailto:oxfordprogressivealliance@gmail.com). A Twitter account has been launched: look up [https://twitter.com/compass\\_OX](https://twitter.com/compass_OX) for regular updates. A formal affiliation with Compass is in the offing. There was not time at Friday's meeting to discuss further the common values that people held, but a start had been made in February, and the urgency of the present situation led to an unusual willingness by different parties to trust each other in pursuing the goal of opposing the direction of travel of the current government.

**Jeanne Warren**

## Peace History Conference 2017

**Protest, Power & Change** is the theme of the 2017 Peace History Conference. Organised by Movement for the Abolition of War in partnership with Imperial War Museums, it will take place on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 June 2017 in London.

Frank Cottrell Boyce, children's novelist and screen-writer, will open the conference. Among topics on the programme will be:

- 'Fewer Bombs, More Jobs: The Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards' Alternative Plan 1976'
- 'Lysistrata in the Rainforest: the women's nonviolent campaign which ended the civil war in Liberia'.

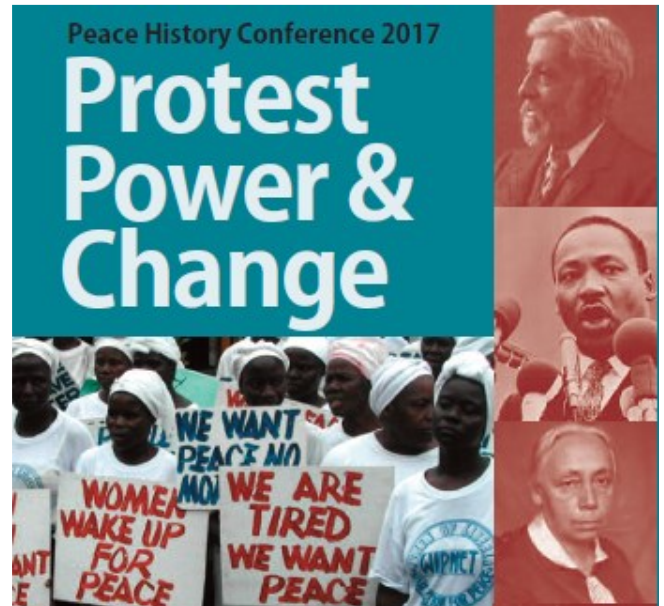
Other sessions pick up on the anniversaries of 2017. It is 50 years since Martin Luther King's momentous denunciation of the Vietnam War, 60 years since activists started coalescing into the movement that became CND, 150 years since the births of anti-war artist Käthe Kollwitz and feminist peace campaigner Emily Greene Balch, and 500 years since Erasmus published his 'Complaint of Peace'.

PHC 2017 is timed to coincide with the exhibition 'People Power: Fighting for Peace' at the Imperial War Museum, London, making a visit doubly worthwhile. (Exhibition ends 28 August.) The Museum is the venue for the Saturday conference., Additional events on Friday 9 June include:

- An afternoon walk along the London Peace Trail (starts 3.30 pm from Tavistock Square WC1) and at 7.30pm
- The acclaimed play 'This Evil Thing', which tells the story of First World War Conscientious Objectors. Written and performed by Michael Mears, the play is at Oasis Hub Waterloo, 1a Kennington Road, SE1 7QP.

Book online for the conference and the add-on options (play and peace trail) at

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk>



### Poems in the Library

Early summer meetings, 4 till 6 pm in the Library at 43 St Giles:

22 May: theme is 'eye' and 'sight'

19 June: theme is 'ear' and 'sound'

24 July: theme is 'touch'

There will also be a Festival of Nature poems session on 'Nature' in the garden on 12 June, and a Garden Retreat session on 24 June. So June will be full of poems!

**Stephen Yeo**

### The Real Work

It may be that when we no longer know what to do  
we have come to our real work,  
and that when we no longer know which way to go  
we have come to our real journey.  
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.  
The impeded stream is the one that sings.

**by Wendell Berry** [from Yvonne Dixon]

## Different Conversations

“If we went by different ways we might in the end meet, where there will be no partition walls, no different ways but all love, joy, peace and union of view and of conduct”

Elizabeth Fry

You'll all know that interesting conversations can start up over coffee after Meeting. Something that you never knew, quite by chance discovered, opens your eyes afresh to the person right beside you. It all helps to bind us together as Friends. We may have started out in different traditions but we have arrived at the same place, at least for now, so we can share our journey so far. Coming up shortly are several new ways in which we can discover each other in the “things that are eternal”. We, and - let's face it - the wider community, need more ways of listening without judgement: of accepting that we may hold different beliefs but that we are all enriched by the expression and exploration of these. My spiritual sat-nav definitely takes me by some strange ways not known to others and I frequently hear “turn around when possible” - not that I always take the advice!

On 7 May we are holding one Combined Meeting for Worship at 10am. No 9.30am or 11am division that day - this is where we all come to Sunday worship together. It's been done before and for many proved a refreshing change, offering fresh faces and a chance for new conversations afterwards. On the same day (after coffee, naturally), our Meeting for Worship for Business begins at 11.30 and runs until 1pm. Many of you may never have attended a business meeting before - why not give it a go? Held in the same worshipful spirit, it reminds us how important it is for all to be heard when decisions are made, not just in running our community but in dealing with outside concerns. Some may find it an acquired taste but participating is part of community life - isn't it part of our commitment to each other?

At the May business meeting we are also trying something a little different. Beginning with some short conversation - one to one with a neighbour - we will try what we are calling “**Our faith exchange**”. This is just a short 2-3 minute chat, perhaps about what your faith means to you. As

ever, all are welcome, whether or not you want to join the conversation. It may have the power to surprise you - why not give it a go? Perhaps you'll learn a little more about someone's journey too!

Now it wouldn't do if we were all the same! I love the fact that in Meeting I am sitting next to someone who has a different personal perspective and has made a different journey to mine. I can appreciate ‘that of God’ in most people (not all yet, but most). I seek the ‘gathered stillness’ to feel “the power of God's love drawing us near and leading us” (Advice and Query No. 8) But if you don't believe in God, then why turn up? You may have the answer to that, and this is *another* fruitful conversation that we will have at **Friday with Friends on 9 June**. Hoonie Feltham - who certainly does **not**

believe in God - and I will be leading an evening called “**Can we talk about God?**” Let's find out - we may hear some surprising and enlightening things. Come along and join us: listen, be heard, and see where the journey takes us..!

**Deb Arrowsmith**



### MEET in Oxford

MEET is a low-cost trauma-focused therapy Service for people who lives are seriously affected now by difficult experiences in the past.

Come to the AGM to find out more about what MEET offers, and how we work.

26 June, 7.00-9.00pm at 43 St Giles, Oxford.

AGM at 7pm followed by 8pm Q&A about MEET

8pm Guest Speaker: **Judith Anderson**

Judith Anderson is a Jungian Psychotherapist with a background in mental health as a Consultant Psychiatrist. She teaches on the Energy Psychotherapy Network Converging Streams course, has chaired Psychotherapists and Counsellors for Social Responsibility for a number of years, and is on the executive Committee of Climate Psychology Alliance.

**Sandra Figgess**

# CALENDAR FOR MAY 2017

*All 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated*

Thurs 4 May	10.00am	Pastoral care group	Wed 17 May	1.45pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing
Sun 7 May	10.00am	Combined Meeting for Worship	Friday 26 May	7.00pm	Elders
Sun 7 May	12.30pm	Local Business Meeting	Sun 28 May	12.15pm	Shared lunch
Mon 15 May	4.00-6.00pm	Poems in the Library			

## From Quaker Faith and Practice

Remember your responsibility as citizens for the government of your town and country, and do not shirk the effort and time this may demand. Do not be content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert and questioning mind. Seek to discover the causes of social unrest, injustice and fear; try to discern the new growing-points in social and economic life. Work for an order of society which will allow men and women to develop their capacities and will foster their desire to serve.

*Advices*, 1964

**QF&P 23.01**



The Meeting House Garden in Springtime

## 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

*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.

*Editorial Team: SHERRY GRANUM, CATHERINE REDFORD, SUE SMITH, KEITH WILSON (Joint Editing and Production);  
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