



Forty-Three newsletter

Number 472
August 2018



Oxford Friends Meeting
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW



Family Gathering at 43

This year's Family Gathering, which we have called 'Charney Barney' in past years, took place on Sunday 8 July. Over 40 people including 15 children and 4 babies joined us for a wonderful, fun-filled afternoon in the sunshine in the Meeting House and garden, at 43 St Giles. Following a delicious bring & share picnic lunch, Katherine Gee organised a game where everyone was given a flash card with an animal on and we had to get into height order by animal but only by making the noise and movement of that animal! Gradually a line formed going from microbe (well done Aiden on acting that one!) to elephant. An egg & spoon race and then a sack race followed, bringing out a friendly competitive spirit. The older children then enjoyed a comedy mime workshop with professional clown Chris Michael whilst the younger ones painted their feet in order to "walk

cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone" (a world map which Alan Allport had so beautifully drawn). This included all the babies, awake or asleep, being bounced across the picture by their parents, without getting paint all over themselves!

Chris performed a comedy show that had both children and adults laughing in delight. We then headed out into the sunshine for a treasure hunt that involved exploring indoor spaces as well as the garden to find all the clues. The treasure, namely fresh strawberries & cream, was enjoyed by all! The activities came to a close with a mix of quiet reflection and singing. The afternoon provided a wonderful opportunity for children and adults to get to know each other better whilst having a lot of fun. Thank you to all our volunteer helpers, parents, and children for making it such an enjoyable event. We look forward to next year's gathering!

Anita Ghosh



Deadline for contributions to the September 2018 issue: noon, Monday 27 August

Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, would be appreciated to newsletter@oxfordquakers.org, and items for the calendar on the back page 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

The New Garden Room Project: Update

A big *Thank-You* to everyone who came to our consultation meetings in the last week of June: 'Meet the architects' on 25 June and the 'Friday with Friends' on 29 June. The Minute from that Friday with Friends meeting included the following: "We should not underestimate the importance of lovely, and accessible public spaces. We want to make a difference to our world and to develop a beautiful, safe, neutral space for ourselves and our local community. We want both to develop our premises *and* to support social action. The 'and' is vital."

At the Business Meeting on 1 July, Oxford Quaker Meeting united with this Minute and agreed to go ahead with the Garden Room redevelopment.

At those two consultation meetings, and in a number of other informal discussions throughout the month of June, we gathered many very helpful comments and questions from Friends, which have been fed back to the architects. As a result, they are currently working on several revised design details, including facilities for young children; disability access; low energy heating, and temperature controls including in the old building of 43; lighting; size of kitchen(s); flexible seating arrangements; shutters, or no shutters, on the new Garden Room.

We invite Friends to continue to offer comments, queries, or suggestions about the building designs from now until 8 September. Please direct them to Alan Allport, convener of the Garden Room steering group: alan.allport@st-annes.ox.ac.uk



tel. 01865 515984. It would be helpful to have your ideas in writing; but if you'd like to discuss them informally with Alan first, you are very welcome to do so. (Alan will be away until 9 August.)

We also invite everyone in our Meeting to consider contributing to the funding of this major new building project. Deb Arrowsmith, our Meeting House manager, is preparing a Donation page on the Oxford Quaker Meeting website. We hope to give you more details in the September issue of our '43' Newsletter.

The Garden Room Project steering group: **Alan Allport, Tany Alexander, Deb Arrowsmith, Ursula Howard, Richard Stamper, Glen Williams.**

The New Garden Room Project: Minute from Friday with Friends, 29 June 2018 (Appended to Local Business Meeting Minutes of 1 July)

30 Friends present

We have met this evening to continue our consideration of the replacement of the Garden Room with a new structure. Draft plans have been available for Friends to consult during this month, culminating in an opportunity to meet the architects and look at the plans in more detail earlier this week.

We have been reminded of the process which has led to this point, including the refurbishment of the Library and the Meeting Room over recent years, and of our vision to open up the premises from front to back. The two main points we have considered this evening are: is this plan the right one for our meeting? And are we satisfied with the general approach of the fundraising strategy?

With regard to the plans, we recognise that the formal planning application has yet to be held, and that alterations may be required by the planning authorities. In that event, the plans will need to be returned to the meeting for approval before the work begins. Friends are encouraged to think more **2** about the detail of the plans over the next few

months, and we look forward to another opportunity to decide together on the details of the designs in September. Tonight we have focused on the more general principles of the design and whether this type of building will meet our needs now and in the future.

We have heard a range of different responses, and have begun with Oxford Meeting's role, and our potential role, in our local community. There is a huge need in the local community, and we should not proceed with our building project at the expense of neglecting our responsibilities to our neighbours. We want to be faithful to our leading to serve, and we have asked whether this project will support or distract from that leading. Historically, Quakers have not been wedded to buildings for sentimental or symbolic reasons, but for the practical service they facilitate. We have been reminded that the proposed development will also improve our existing buildings, giving us an opportunity to have more sustainable heating systems, for example. We value our premises and want to help others to enjoy them, walking alongside all members of our meeting and the local community, and opening ourselves to renewal. We should not underestimate the importance of lovely and accessible public spaces. We want to make a difference to our world and to develop a beautiful, safe, neutral space for ourselves and our local community.

We want both to develop our premises and to support social action. The 'and' is vital. Could we raise a matching sum to support a Quaker action of some sort? We commend this thought to Local Meeting for Business.

We have heard a proposed strategy for fundraising and attach the Fundraising Strategy paper prepared for this meeting, to this minute.

We send this minute to Local Meeting for Worship for Business on Sunday 1 July 2018.

Poems in the Library

August session on 27 August.

Theme: Moons / the moon.

September session on 10 September.

Theme: Trees.

Stephen Yeo



Remembering all Victims of War: White Poppy-Making in the Garden Room, 15 September 10:00 - 4:00 pm

Every year outside 43 St Giles, Oxford Quakers hold a vigil in honour of all victims of war. We sell white poppies in the run-up to Remembrance Sunday. Our vigil is mentioned in the programme of events for the Remembrance Sunday service, and in the last two years we have laid a wreath of white poppies on the war memorial.

This year 11 November is going to be a bigger event than usual in St Giles, as it marks the end of the four-year commemoration of the First World War. I have been inspired by the Collateral Damage project, and booked the Garden Room for a white poppy-making workshop on Saturday 15 September. I have the idea that we could create an artwork for the Meeting which could be used on our vigil outside the Meeting House on Remembrance Sunday, 11 November, or as a focus in the run up to that day.

Why 'collateral damage'? War has continued somewhere in the world since 1918. Since the First World War, a growing number – some figures put it as high as ninety per cent – of the victims of war are civilians. 'Collateral damage' means them – killed accidentally as part of a military operation. Because they are accidental victims they are not counted, or officially remembered. They simply don't matter to the military – which makes it all the more important that they are commemorated.

Collateral Damage honours these victims of war. This is a chance to make your own commemorative white poppies – and then decide what to do with them. People can make and wear them – or give them to someone else. The poppies

could honour victims in particular conflicts, or a particular individual. Tags can be attached to the poppy with names or stories. We could make a wreath with them. This is a project that is really catching on – look at the project’s Facebook page to see where workshops are happening all over the country!

<https://www.facebook.com/whitepoppies2018/>

We are planning to have wool and white material available on the day, so you can make your poppy - sewn, knitted, crocheted, or felted. They need not be pure white. They could be plain or highly decorated, with or without leaves...The project has provided a leaflet with suggestions of how to make them, but you can make up your own designs. I am looking for creative advice on materials, designs, and construction, so please do get in touch. We’ll have plenty of cups of tea to keep us going! Drop in for as long as you can, from 10:00 am till 4:00 pm. For more information or to get involved, contact me at sueandali@gmail.com or 07799 133241

Sue Smith

Kindlers-on-the-Road

Saturday 13 October

Workshop at 43 St Giles Oxford, OX1 3LW

Spoken Ministry in a Meeting for Worship: when is an impulse to speak appropriate ministry? We will consider the varieties of Vocal Ministry against the background of deep silent worship.

The meeting will be a half-day workshop framed in worship, exploring individually and in small groups. It will be led by Val Bone and Steve Tilley from the Kindlers team. 1:30 pm refreshments; 2:00 pm start; 4:30 pm finish with tea.

To reserve a place contact the Office (Office@oxfordquakers.org; 01865 557373).

There is no fee, but places are limited.

The Kindlers: a Quaker Recognised Body grant-aided by The Pollard and Dickson Trust, and Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting.

All Welcome: Friends, Attenders, Newcomers.

John Mason on behalf of Elders



Criteria for Success?

Some Friends may remember the story of the Success Academy in Zimbabwe as the meeting and children’s meeting have raised funds for the Academy in the past, and collections will again be taken for it in August.

The Academy is still going strong and still offering school places to the most marginalised children in areas on the edge of Harare. In Zimbabwe school fees have to be paid at every level, resulting in the poorest children often being unable to attend school. Success Academy does not turn children away and therefore is bursting at the seams with students who cannot access education elsewhere.

At the request of the local community, they have now opened up a new school in one of the squatter camps, an area where people find themselves when they have nowhere else to go. With Zimbabwean colleagues, I worked with 30 of the children there last year, and heard how some of them were trying to help feed their families, searching for saleable items on the city rubbish dump and collecting firewood illegally for sale to others, both of which activities carry serious risks. This year when I am there we will be working with a group of girls and young women who have been lured into the sex trade and who need help to find a different way of surviving.

'Success' might not be the word that would spring immediately to mind if you were to visit one of the school sites. The schools are overcrowded; teachers are mostly young volunteers, educated but unable to find paid employment; books are in short supply. But this is an entirely local initiative, run by local people who are working hard to keep hope alive for the children and for themselves. They cannot access funding from major donors because they are a small initiative and would struggle to meet funding requirements. But they do seem to make maximum use of any funds they receive. Previous donations have been used to provide more toilets, to buy a solar panel so that young people can have light to study in the evening and classes can be offered after dark, and to open a small store to generate income for the schools.

In the ongoing depressed economic and political context of Zimbabwe, keeping hope alive is crucial and the 'success' of Success Academy is that local people are taking the lead and offering education and support to some of the most vulnerable children in their neighbourhoods.

Jane Fisher

Friday with Friends

Friday with Friends is held on the second Friday of each month except August. This is the programme for the next months.

14 September, Fair Trade, Hoonie Feltham
12 October, Energy Therapies, Sandra Figgess
9 November, Oxford Credit Union, Patricia Wright
14 December, Spiritual Accompaniment, Anne Watson
11 January, Hope, David Gee
8 February, Early Quakers, Maddy Ward
8 March, Quakers and Education, Anne Watson

If you have an idea for a Friday with Friends and would like to discuss the possibility of presenting it, please contact Elisabeth Salisbury.

Part-time Post Available

7.5 hours per week (worked flexibly) for up to 1 year. The overall aim of the post is to support MEET Trustees and therapists to articulate a clear vision of organic growth for the future which can attract funding for longer-term development. We are looking for a psychotherapist / counsellor with an interest in EMDR and/or Energy Psychotherapy, very good administrative skills and a capacity for strategic thinking. Closing date for applications is Monday 20 August.

Sandra Figgess (meetinoxford@gmail.com)

What Matters to Me and Why

As Quakers we are known for our concern and work for social justice. Some of this work is done in the Quaker name – locally we have established Oxford Friends Action on Poverty (OxFAP) and are represented as Quakers in ecumenical or interfaith projects like the Oxford Winter Night Shelter. But many Friends also participate in other groups and organisations that work for a more just, equal and peaceful world. Some are supporting organisations well known to our Meeting, like Asylum Welcome, while others are initiating or supporting a great variety of other projects. As a Meeting we may hear of some of these during the collection appeals but we hope also to use the medium of the 43 Newsletter to share more of what we are doing individually.

At this time, when a lot of the Meeting's energy is going to be taken up with the inward-facing tasks of planning and fundraising for the proposed rebuilding of the garden room, it seems particularly important to remind ourselves of the very significant contributions that members of this Meeting are faithfully making in our local community and beyond. We are reminded that Tanya Garland, a member of Oxford meeting, facilitated many members and attenders of the Meeting to share their life journeys in the newsletter between 2005 and 2010, so that we might know each other better. These interviews were later published in two booklets, which are still available in the Library.

This time we are proposing a series of articles under the title **What Matters to Me and Why** and invite the MANY, many Friends who work in and for the community, against poverty, and for social justice to “blow their own trumpets” and allow us to know and be inspired by the wealth of experience and passionate commitment in our midst. Please send articles addressing the two questions below:

- 1) How do you live out your passion for a more just, equal, and peaceful world? Tell us about the people and/or cause(s) that you support with your own time and energy; your heart and soul.
- 2) How does Meeting for Worship/our Quaker community support/enable you to do this?

Sandra Figgess

Movies in the Meeting House Series for August

The Movies in the Meeting House series continues on the first and third Sundays in August. The film showings are held in the Garden Room at 43 St Giles beginning at 7:00 pm. Popcorn is provided.

Sunday, 5 August. *If I Had a Hammer*. This short documentary tells the story of a group of women who damaged a warplane as part of the Plowshares campaign in 1996. This wonderfully inspirational film traces the story of the direct-action event itself as well as the trial that followed. Two women from the support team who live in Oxford will be on hand to introduce and discuss both the film and the disarmament movement from which it arose.

Sunday, 19 August. *Wasn't That a Time*. This film follows the history of the Weavers (Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Lee Hays, and Fred Hellerman) from their early years singing labour songs in New York City, through the blacklisting of the McCarthy era, to their triumphant reunion concert in 1980 at Carnegie Hall. Upbeat and joyful, *Wasn't That a Time* offers a heart-warming example of how people can survive difficult political times and emerge even stronger on the other side.

Eric Roberts

Schools Outreach

Every so often we get requests from schools and colleges either to bring a group of students (usually GCSE or A-level) to the Meeting House, or for someone to visit a school. If you would like to make yourself available to respond to such requests, please contact the office. A collection of notes as reminders of things worth saying and doing is being compiled as back-up. It is a really useful challenge to respond to students in these sessions!

John Mason

Spiritual Well-Being in Later Life

Monday 15 to Friday 19 October 2018,
at Glenthorne Quaker Centre & Guest House,
Grasmere, Ambleside LA22 9QH.

Led by Rhonda Riachi.

<http://glenthorne.org/events/events-programme-2018/>

Keeping well in later life is about more than exercise, eating, and entertainment. Things that were once meaningful may no longer inspire us. We may feel lonely or want more time for ourselves. Old friends may drift away, die, or simply not be able to meet us. How can we make living longer feel like the achievement it ought to be?

By exploring philosophy, religion, literature, music, science, art, and film this course will share Inspiration for later life and draw on rich Quaker sources and other works by those who have walked this path before us.

Rhonda Riachi works in education for well-being, older people, and end of life care. She is a Member of Headington Meeting.

Course ends 12:30 pm Friday 19 October.
Full board (Monday dinner to Friday breakfast,
packed lunches).

Book at info@glenthorne.org.uk Tel: 015394 35389
or for more info
contact rhonda.riachi@outlook.com

Rhonda Riachi

Report on the First Year of Oxford Winter Night Shelter

The Oxford Winter Night Shelter (OWNS), like the Gatehouse thirty years ago, was started by Churches Together in Central Oxford (CTCO). The idea arose because the churches, and many in the wider community of Oxford, were concerned about the plight of the increasing number of people sleeping rough in our streets, particularly in the coldest weather.

The churches opening their doors for one night a week from January to March 2018 were St Columba's United Reform Church, Wesley Memorial, St Michael at the Northgate, St Ebbe's, St Clements, and St Aldate's. Other churches, the synagogue, and some colleges were twinned with the open churches to offer financial assistance, practical help (e.g. laundry), and moral support. More than 250 volunteers from many different backgrounds were recruited and trained. They gained real insight into the plight of rough sleepers and were pleased to be involved.

In all, over the 89 days of the project, 33 different guests accessed the shelters, staying between one and 88 nights. The guests were referred to OWNS by St Mungo's, the Oxford City Council's outreach team.

At the end of the project, 14 of the 33 guests had been supported back to some form of housing including hostel, private rental, or a housing charity. Those who returned to rough sleeping benefited from the respite, in what turned out to be a long, hard winter. At least six guests were working and found the night shelter helped them to continue working.

It is most unlikely that the number of rough sleepers on our streets will decrease, so with the help of many generous donors we shall continue the project in 2019, but increased from 10 to 20 beds each night.

We Quakers twinned with St Michael at the North Gate, the city church in Cornmarket. We provided 20 pillows and 40 pillowslips at the start of the project and for the first five weeks laundered the

pillowslips each Tuesday. Jesus College then offered to put the laundry in with their own. Additionally we recently received this message from the Church Administrator of St Michael's: "We have just had the St Michael's OWNS sleeping bags and blankets professionally cleaned so they are ready for next season. We were able to get this done using the very generous financial donations from the Quakers. We are very grateful."

In January I shall be making the appeals for OWNS at our Sunday collection. And if you would like to volunteer for the project, contact April Hall, Church Administrator at St Michael in the Northgate, Tel. 240940 or email Church.Administrator@smng.onmicrosoft.com

Elisabeth Salisbury

Meat-Free Mondays

I would like to suggest that Oxford Quakers join others by taking a small step and making their Mondays meat free. This is much easier than it used to be now that there are Quorn and soya alternatives, but there are also so many vegetables that you can eat instead of meat.

Even this small start, if masses of people leave ruminant meat off their menu on Mondays, will significantly reduce the greenhouse gas methane into the atmosphere.

This suggestion fits well with Quakers' commitment to the environment.

Sarah Lasenby



CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2018

All at 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

5 August	12:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Business	19 August	7:00 pm	Movies in the Meeting House
5 August	7:00 pm	Movies in the Meeting House	20 August	7:00 pm	Young Adult Friends
6 August	7:00 pm	Young Adult Friends Bring and Share Supper—all ages welcome	26 August	12:30 pm	Shared Lunch
13 August	7:00 pm	Young Adult Friends	27 August	4:00 pm	Poems in the Library (Theme: moon/moons)
15 August	12:30 pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing—in own homes			

From *Quaker Faith and Practice*

Whilst the work of area meetings may vary, our assets are used for:

- a. strengthening the life and witness of our local meetings
- b. spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Religious Society of Friends
- c. undertaking our service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad
- d. funding the concerns of Friends that our meetings have adopted or agreed to support
- e. providing for the pastoral care of individual Friends, including assistance to those in need and for education
- f. maintaining and developing our meeting houses as places in which to worship and from which to carry our witness into the world
- g. administering and maintaining the organisation of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Quaker Faith and Practice 14.04

Tanya Garland has Moved

Our long-standing Friend, Tanya Garland, has moved to a flat in Swanage, Dorset, where she has settled very happily. Her phone number is 01929 425861.

Glen Williams

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

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, and SUE SMITH (Joint Editing and Production);

DEB ARROWSMITH, JACQUI MANSFIELD and MAX HOWELLS (Calendar and Distribution)