



Forty-Three newsletter

Number 467
March 2018



Oxford Friends Meeting
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW

Oxford Friends Action on Poverty: Appeal Given by Hannah of the Gatehouse

The Gatehouse is a free café with a clothing store and signposting support. It is based in the parish rooms of St Giles. It is open for two hours in the evening, six nights of the week and, typically, 60-90 people use the project each evening. We work with some of the hardest to reach, most entrenched rough sleepers; about half of our guests are rough sleepers.

A year ago, the guests requested a support worker and my one-to-one role began. The role I hold is signposting and referring, network advocating, and informing. I take a guest-centred and holistic approach, keeping guest choice at the centre and helping them to discern the best path forward. I signpost and refer under topics that include housing, health, financial, and aspirational. I see complex situations and need to work in creative ways to support these; OXFAP have been receptive to this.

A large part of my role is facilitating the guests to engage with services. That's all well and good but when opportunities come up, such as a bed space in a hostel, the network needs to be able to inform them. A few times, OXFAP have supported a

mobile phone for rough sleepers, allowing services to contact them and thus facilitate progression. One of the people helped recently emailed their thanks to me to say that he is now housed (outside of Oxford) and made a point of saying that he is still using the phone.

OXFAP has had a massive impact on these desperate people and we are very grateful for their help.

Hannah

Hannah1gatehouse@gmail.com

Note: this is an edited version of a longer talk, which for reasons of space we are unable to print in full. Please contact Sue Smith or Anne Watson if you would like to receive the full version.



GATEHOUSE

Deadline for contributions to the April 2018 issue: noon, Wednesday 21 March

*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*

Welcome the Return of the Light!

On the afternoon of Saturday, 3 February the Meeting House resounded to the sound of 50-60 people's dancing feet, whoops of joy, and the music of the Greensmith Ceilidh Band.

The dream was to do two things: to encourage children, from toddlers to teenagers, to feel that dancing is a normal, everyday, fun thing rather than something only adults do, and to raise money for our Meeting's poverty fund.

Indeed, the Meeting House and the garden were full of children, occupying the big space in the way children know how to do, playing, and dancing with each other and the adults.

We heard an appeal from Hannah at the Gatehouse (a free café with a clothing store and signposting support). She told us about her role as support worker and why the contributions of Friends Action on Poverty (OxFAP) and the Meeting's efforts were so important to them.

The event raised £1800, including two very substantial donations – a fantastic total! OxFAP is currently distributing around £1,000 a month, and demand continues to soar. The rollout of Universal Credit has now reached this city, and more and more people who cannot afford to make ends meet have to wait six weeks for any benefit money at all.

So please continue to give generously. And let's keep on dancing!

Sue Smith



Update on Hadija

I wrote in the November issue about Hadija, a six-year-old Tanzanian girl who attends the Tabora League for Children (TLC) day centre in Tabora, Tanzania. She is unable to walk and TLC has now raised the funds to provide her and her Mum with an interpreter, and send the three of them to the Cure Hospital in Addis Ababa. Donald Thomas in Nairobi greatly helped them in getting visas.

Hadija had her first operation a week ago, and yesterday had her plaster casts changed; her wounds are all fine. It will be a long haul to straighten her legs, but she is in the best possible place and we can only hope and hold her in the light.



Adrian, her 20 year old interpreter, and himself a TLC child who has just finished secondary national exams, is proving to be a wonderful asset. He needs a room to stay in Addis for six months while Hadija's treatment is ongoing. The hostels only allow a two-week stay. He is essential and we have sufficient money to keep him there modestly. If you know anything about this type of accommodation or a nice landlady in Addis Ababa, please let me know.

**Margaret Paton, Tabora League for Children
Coordinator**

margpaton@gmail.com

Raising our Fair Trade Game

Friday with Friends

9 March 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Meeting House

Organised by Quaker Meeting representatives
on Oxford Coalition for Fair Trade
Anthea Richards and Patricia Wright

Speaker: Sabita Banerji – Coalition's new Chair



Meeting for Worship at HMP Grendon

As Quaker chaplain I hold a weekly meeting for worship in Grendon Prison, between Bicester and Aylesbury. I bring in a group of volunteers each week and several members of Oxford Meeting have been involved over the years. It is a very rewarding experience. I could do with one or two more volunteers who could ideally offer one Wednesday evening a month (the Meeting is from 5:30-7:00 pm), but even once every 5-6 weeks would be a help. If this is of interest, do get in touch on 01869 242311 or alldixons@yahoo.co.uk

Yvonne Dixon

Poems in the Library

The next session will be 4:00 – 6:00 pm at 43 St Giles on **MONDAY, 19 MARCH** where the theme (as always, voluntary – ALL poems welcome!) will be GRASS. We have the themes to focus our searches, but underlying themes always surface anyway... so no worries!

Stephen Yeo 3

First Tuesday Study Group

First Tuesday Study Group meets on 6 March at 7:00 pm at 43 St Giles. We have started studying *God, Words and Us*, which is a record of a lively discussion among several Quakers with a variety of beliefs and experiences. They identify similarities and individual differences in their beliefs, and talk about the use of words to describe them. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not, which is available from the Quaker bookshop: bookshop.quaker.org.uk.

Anne Watson

Updating Funeral Wishes Forms

Advice and Query no. 29:

'Approach old age with courage and hope. As far as possible, make arrangements for your care in good time, so that an undue burden does not fall on others.'

A gentle reminder that Funeral Wishes Forms are held in the Office, for Friends to complete in order to indicate what arrangements they would like to be made on their death.

Jenny Buffery

Becky is Cycling Again!

OBSERVATORY MEDICAL PRACTICE

SATURDAY 9th JUNE 2018 SEASCALE TO WHITBY

COAST TO COAST IN A DAY

150 MILES 4000 METRES OF ASCENT

WE ARE RAISING MONEY FOR
PROSTATE CANCER UK

PLEASE SPONSOR US

Online - visit our Just Giving Page: <https://tinyurl.com/y7rw04pg>
OR please hand in any donations to the Office Team
marked BECKY RIDDELL SPONSORSHIP

PROSTATE CANCER UK PROSTATE CANCER UK

Rainbow

Now white dazzles with halo of blue,
violet and magenta have their own spectra of hue.
Black reflects a fine indigo sheen,
red's long-lost subtleties are all plainly seen.

At first, green appears much as before;
then I note jewels of grass on the earth's floor.
And forest conifers tamed in the park
have a deeper, more Expressionist dark.

Orange and yellow blow fiery at a faster pace.
So there's more depth-of-field in every place,
complemented with blue of water and air,
creating lucent infinity from here to out there.

I ask Doctor Tovareč 'how' and 'why'.
He talks of the yellow aging of the eye.
Then I recall I'd merely aimed for accuracy –
yet have been given rainbow-lit ecstasy!

Karima Brooke, January 2018



J. M. W. Turner, 'The Rainbow'

Save the Date

Saturday, 29 September 2018
Oxford Meeting Discovery Day

Getting to know your Meeting House, feeling part
of it, and getting to know each other, too!

Further details to follow soon.

Asra Hawariat School – Ethiopia



Forty-six years ago, my mum volunteered at a school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for orphans and street children, established by a remarkable Ethiopian, Asfaw Yemiru. Asfaw threw himself in front of Emperor Haile Selassie's car in the hope of gaining an audience (and not being run down). He was granted the land adjacent to a church on whose grounds Asfaw had been feeding street children from the leftovers from his next-door school kitchen.

Started in 1961, the Asra Hawariat School has educated over 120,000 children who might otherwise have not had an education. It continues today as a non-fee-paying school and its students have achieved amongst the best results in Ethiopia.

Thirty-two years after my mum first went out there, I volunteered for several weeks with Asfaw in 2004. Last year a state-of-the-art science building was opened with the help of contributions made to the school fund.

Please consider supporting the school. This can be a one-off donation or a monthly contribution.

Donations can be made at:

www.asrahawariatschool.org/donate.html or by writing and sending a cheque to Asra Hawariat School Fund, 2 Woodland Avenue, Helen's Bay, County Down, Northern Ireland, BT19 1TX. Thank you.

Becky Riddell

Garden News

You may have noticed that, despite the cold, the garden is beginning to spring into life.

After a break in February, the gardening team is starting to meet again each Thursday morning.

In April and May, when it is warmer, we will be asking for extra hands to help prepare for Summer. Meanwhile, if you are planting seeds at home please pop a few extras ones in – we can use all the plants we can get later in the year! Contact Stephen Yeo (garden manager) or the office if you feel you might enjoy doing some Thursday morning gardening.

The Gardening Team



Soup Tuesdays

Our Tuesday Soup Lunches are going from strength to strength! We have recently partnered with the Oxford Food Bank (<http://oxfordfoodbank.org>) who will start supplying us with surplus fruit and vegetables which would otherwise have to go into landfill. Instead they will be transformed into delicious Tuesday soup! If you would like to come along or volunteer to make a big pot of soup you are most welcome. Soup lunches are every Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the kitchen— just turn up.

Office

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Quaker Contributions to the Hatched 2018 Exhibition at the Jam Factory

Showing work by local and global artists on the theme of female experiences from 8 March to 23 April

From 8 March until 23 April, my new 3-D interactive installation 'The Male Gaze' will be on show at the Jam Factory. This piece, which will be part of the feminist show Hatched 2018, examines the pervasive and destructive objectification of the female body in art and culture through 10,000 years of patriarchy.

In this work I am referencing not only my own experience as a 'recovering sexist', but also the work that I currently do in London schools, encouraging the next generation of young men to challenge the warped, traditional version of masculinity that they have inherited.

I should be very happy for Friends to visit the Jam Factory and experience the piece, hopefully also contributing to the feedback process. This is intended to be not only an expression of my own feelings, but an interactive stimulus to debate, in which each viewer's own experience of the Male Gaze, whatever that means to them, becomes part of the work itself.

Hugh Palmer



'Raptor' by Anthea Richards; currently on display as part of the 'Hatched 2018' exhibition

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2018

All at 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 4	12.30pm	Meeting for Worship for Business	Monday 19	4-6pm	Poems in the Library – Grass
Monday 6	4-6pm	Pastoral Care Group (3.30pm today only)	Tuesday 20	7.15pm-	Nominations Group
Monday 6	6-8pm	Data Protection Group meeting	Wednesday 21	1.45-3pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing
Tuesday 7	7-9pm	First Tuesday Group	Wednesday 21	7-9pm	SEE Justice Group
Friday 9	7-9pm	Friday with Friends – Fairtrade	Thursday 22	7-9pm	Elders Group
Wednesday 14	6-8pm	Enquirers Meeting – Quaker Action in the World	Sunday 25	12.30-2pm	Shared Lunch – All Welcome
Wednesday 14	7-9pm	Premises and Finance group			

From Quaker Faith and Practice

Try to live simply. A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford. Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?

Advice and Queries, 41

Don't forget...



12:30 pm in the kitchen every week!

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)