

Forty-Three newsletter

Number 482
June 2019



Oxford Friends Meeting
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW

***A Cradle of the Revolution – Voices from Inyathi School: Matabeleland, Zimbabwe 1914-1980* Edited by Marieke Clarke and Pathisa Nyathi.**

Marieke's latest book is partly autobiographical, describing how as a motherless Dutch undergraduate with a Christian pacifist background she read history at Somerville College, and after completing an Education Diploma, applied to the London Missionary Society to teach in southern Africa, and was sent by them to Inyathi School in Matabeleland, at that time part of colonial Southern Rhodesia. There she taught history, English, and some Latin from 1963 until deported by the Smith regime in late 1964.

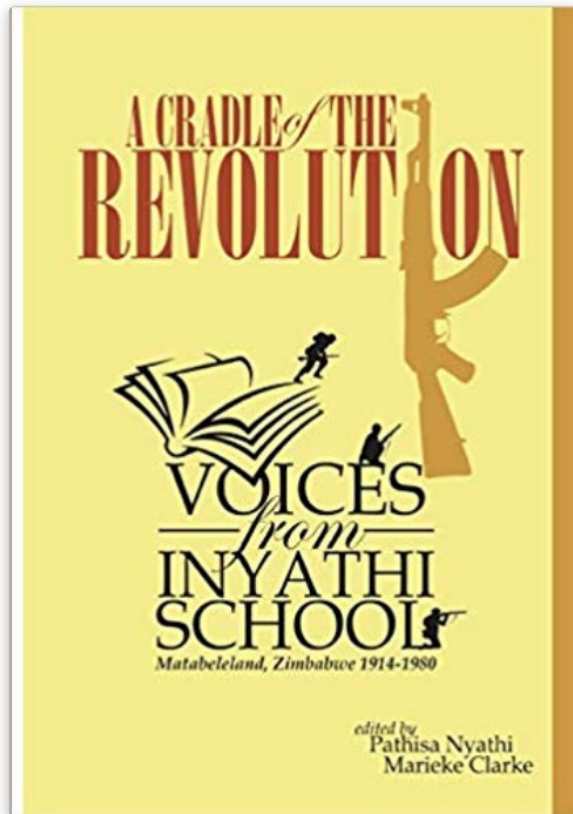
What later became clear is how far many pupils of Inyathi School played significant roles in the struggle for the independence of Zimbabwe

up to 1980, and how they then contributed to the development of the country as they gradually took over many of the political and economic roles previously reserved for white Rhodesians.

Kenneth Maltus Smith, a charismatic previous head of the school, died in 2015, and Marieke attended his memorial service at Inyathi. In meeting many

old pupils, she realised that their reminiscences of life under white supremacy rule and the transition to the present day would make a telling first-hand account of the inequalities and indignities under colonial rule. The major part of the book records some 23 interviews Marieke conducted or edited. They paint vivid, often personal, pictures of a life that still needs to be remembered and learnt from in many parts of the world today.

Marieke has kindly donated a copy of her book to the Meeting House library.



Tony Joyce

Deadline for contributions to the July 2019 issue: noon, Friday 21 June

Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, can be emailed to newsletter@oxfordquakers.org, or a paper copy can be left in the pigeonhole of any editor. Items for the calendar (on the last page) can be emailed to office@oxfordquakers.org.



Oxfordshire Credit Union

The Oxfordshire Credit Union (OCU) offers a practical route out of debt problems, and helps people out of domestic crises – for instance when the cooker or the washing machine breaks down – without the exorbitant charges (up to 1294%!) of some quick-fix firms. OCU started life in the Short Room at 43, offering low-cost loans and savings plans to people whose income was too small for them to have a bank account, or who paid higher charges and got less interest for being small. Capital to provide loans is provided by savers who are willing to receive a lower rate of interest in return for knowing that they provide an essential service and that their capital is protected under the Financial Conduct Authority – a form of ethical investment in fact!

Although OCU's membership increased at the end of September 2018 from 800 to 854, and its total assets are now over £1m, the AGM date had to be reset because too few members were present; thankfully the eventual AGM on 16 May was well attended. When I mention OCU to f/Friends, they often say they keep meaning to join and/or contribute to OCU. It's easy enough! Just visit <http://oxfordshirecreditunion.co.uk/> or ring 01865 777757, or write to OCU at The Bungalow, Pinkwell Lane, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1PE. I saw one other Friend at this year's AGM – I hope to see more next year!

Patricia Wright



'Simply the best'

An afternoon of creativity and fun
for babies, children and teenagers,
and their families,
exploring simplicity

Food
Games
Messy play
Treasure
hunt

14th July
12:15 to 5:00

Comedy
workshop
Dinosaur story
Singing
Crafts

Family Day 2019



Photos from last year's Family Day

Reflections on Extinction Rebellion

Here are my reflections on the massive Extinction Rebellion (XR) protests in Central London. The blockades stopping cars and buses from Marble Arch to Waterloo bridge lasted for 10 days, with people sleeping in tents mostly around Marble Arch. More than 10,000 people blocked four key spaces – including Oxford Circus with a pink boat. Amazingly, the people of London seemed to adapt to the travel issues created.

I was carrying an XR flag and giving out leaflets. No one I met was in anyway cross or unpleasant, and many were in full agreement with our aims. Very good liaisons were established between the police and XR, resulting in the police being anxious to assist our nonviolent protest. This went on until Sajid Javid instructed them to remove the blockades. Even then only two officers became violent, and XR is taking this up with the police. If you did not wish to be arrested it was possible to avoid it. Some people chose to be arrested for the experience, as it would embolden them for the future.

Managing such a large number of ‘rebels’ and doing it in an open, consensual, and transparent manner is a big task in itself for XR. It is certainly possible to achieve a great deal by strength in numbers. We are finding this in Oxford as more people join. We have also been strengthened by school students' strikes. They have had a very significant impact on the public!

As you will know, Oxford City Council has agreed to our request that a Citizens' Assembly be set up and that Oxford becomes a Climate Emergency City. Now we have the job of holding the Council to both these promises. They have agreed to hold a Citizens' Assembly in September. This will help the Council take decisions about Climate Change. We shall be watching as they must take appropriate action to reduce our carbon footprint locally.

Sarah Lasenby



War School

The film *War School* (about the increasing military presence in UK schools and civilian life generally) will be screened on Friday 21 June at 19:00, at Swindon Meeting House, 79 Eastcott Hill, Swindon SN1 3JF. Tickets free on Eventbrite. For more information email clerk@swindonquakers.org.uk)

Swindon Meeting



Peggy's Birthday

A very happy birthday to our valued friend,
Peggy Heeks, who was 96 on 25 May.

Wishing her health and contentment,
congratulations from us all.

Carol Saker
on behalf of Pastoral Care Group



Oxford Living Wage Award

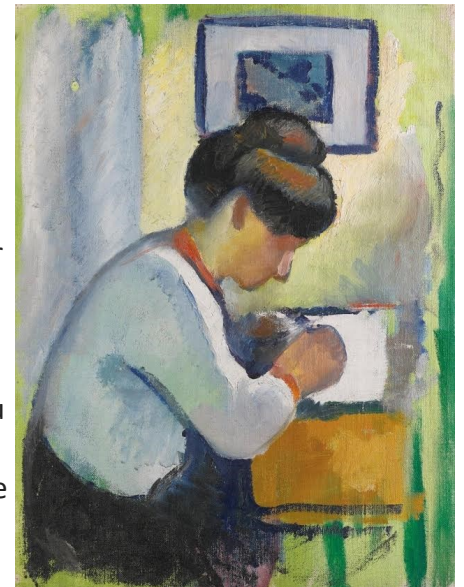


Richard Stamper (our Treasurer) receiving the
Oxford Living Wage award on behalf of
Oxford Quaker Meeting

The Brush and the Pen

On behalf of Save the Children we would like to say
a big thank you to Oxford Meeting for enabling us
to hold *The Brush and the Pen* event in the Meeting
House last month. The way in which the performers
brought together poetry and art was both
entertaining and
hugely

informative. The
evening was well
attended, and we
welcomed many
from outside of
the Meeting. Over
£800 was raised
for Save the
Children's work in
Yemen. Thank you
to all who
attended and gave
so generously.
Thanks also for
the wonderful
support we received from the office team. We look
forward to welcoming the performers back next
year for an evening of Schubert and Keats.



Elizabeth Johnston, Anita Ghosh



Festival of Nature

Flower pressing now happening on Thursday
30 May and 6 June at 11:00 and 14:00
In the Meeting House Garden
All welcome.

Website and Garden room update

We're delighted that our new look website is up and running! Please take a look and offer some suggestions. The aim is to make it easier to find us and what we do. We will be uploading new content, events and activities throughout the year. Many thanks to Ruth Mason for all her hard work.



It's also good to report that planning permission has been granted on the New Garden Room and Quaker Centre plans submitted earlier in the year. There is still a long way to go but it's encouraging that we now have dedicated pages on the website for both the garden room appeal and for Oxfap where you can donate directly using the wonderful donate button.

www.oxfordquakers.org

Deb Arrowsmith

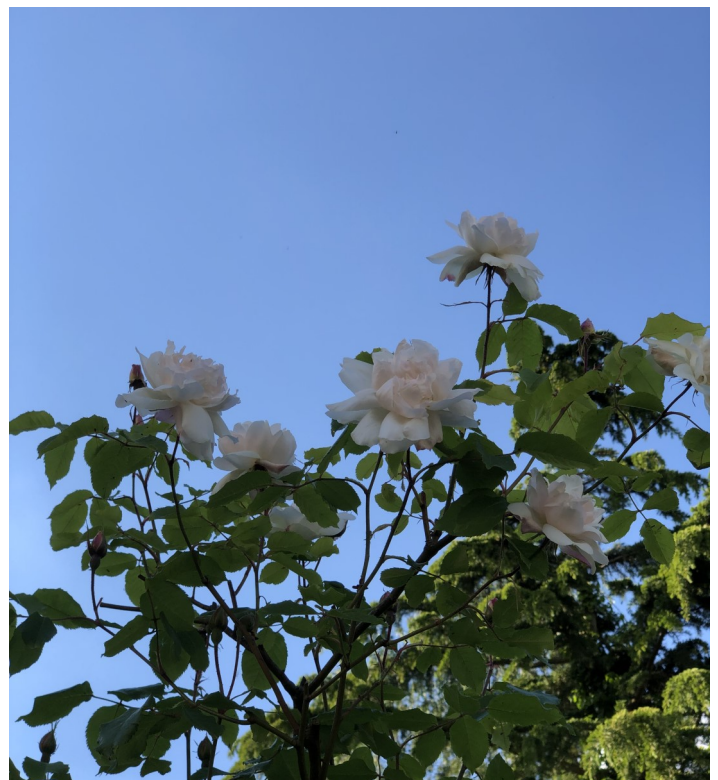
Europe 2020

Tuesday 18 June, 19:45 at the Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon OX14 1NS: "[Europe 2030: Peace, Migration and Climate - an opportunity for a different conversation on the Future of Europe](#)". The speaker is Andrew Lane who grew up in Abingdon but works in Brussels as the Director of the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA). - . We are hoping that many different voices in Abingdon - young people as well as old - will join the conversation. Do come and bring your friends!

Abingdon Quakers

Creating communities of truth, love and right action in a world on the edge

Our civilization has been sleepwalking towards Earth systems collapse. How are we part of the new stirrings of consciousness represented by the School Strikes, Climate Emergency movement, and Extinction Rebellion? What do Quakers bring? Friday With Friends 14 June: a conversation led by Laurie Michaelis



CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2019

All at 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Date	Time	Event
Thu 30 May	10:30 to 16:00	Festival of Nature
Sat 1 June	14:00	Ruth Baker Memorial Meeting
Sun 2 June	12:00	Meeting for Worship for Business
Tue 4 June	19:00 –21:00	First Tuesday Group
Thu 6 June	10:30 to 16:00	Festival of Nature
Mon 10 June	19:00 for 19:30	Enquirers' Evening on Quaker Testimonies
Fri 14 June	19:00 for 19:30	Friday With Friends: Laurie Michaelis
Mon 17 June	16:00 –18:00	Poems in the Library: 'Roses and Thorns'
Tue 18 June	19:45	Andrew Lane: Europe 2030 at The Northcourt Centre Northcourt Road, Abingdon OX14 1NS
Wed 19 June	13:45	Friends Fellowship of Healing
Fri 21 June	19:00	Film: <i>War School</i> at Swindon Meeting House, 79 Eastcott Hill, Swindon SN1 3JF

From Quaker Faith and Practice

It is by our 'imperfections' that we move towards each other, towards wholeness of relationship. It is our oddities, our grittiness, the occasions when we hurt or are hurt, that challenge us to a deeper knowledge of each other. Our sins have been said to be stepping-stones to God.

Kenneth C. Barnes (1985)

Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No. 21.07

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

1st Sunday of each month

10:30am at 43 St Giles
(followed by tea and coffee)

2nd 3rd & 4th Sunday of each month

9:30am & 11:00am at 43 St Giles
(followed by tea and coffee)

Monday

7:00pm Young Adult Friends at 43 St Giles
(followed by baked potato supper)

Tuesday & Thursday

7:30am at 43 St Giles
(followed by breakfast at 8:00am)

Wednesday

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

Headington LM worship on Sunday

10:00am 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.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the editors.

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(Calendar and Distribution)*