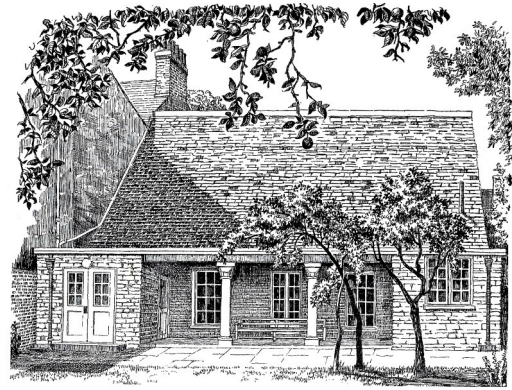


Forty-Three newsletter

Number 509
September 2021



Oxford Friends Meeting
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW

Emergency!

Charles Worth

Here's an extremely short poem about climate change:

C ice melting
O dear
2 late

How did you feel when you heard that the world's top climate scientists had published the latest IPCC report for the UN? They concluded (cautious scientists to a man and woman) that humans have 'unequivocally' caused 'unprecedented' and 'irreversible' changes to the climate. 'Code Red for Humanity!' the headlines screamed, lit up with terrifying photos of forests blazing in Greece.

I don't know about you, but I find it hard to shake off a sense of dread and even despair that is physical – somewhere in the pit of my stomach. This extraordinary and endlessly beautiful natural world that I love and have enjoyed for my seventy plus years is at risk.

Does this really mean that my own children and grandchildren won't be able to have what I have always taken for granted? Not just the coming generations but countless people *now* are losing

Earth is dying



What are we doing?

Please don't give in to 'Climate Gloom'.

1-in-3 kids have climate nightmares.

Spend time in nature & with friends.

Please stop electing climate-deniers!

Cut down on meat, flying & shopping.

Join or help a Climate Action group.

Help us work for CLIMATE JUSTICE!



Climate Quakers

Poster designed by Stig

their lands, their homes, their livelihoods. All this on my watch?

So the big question – what can I do? We each have to respond to this emergency in our own way, and

Please send newsletter contributions well in advance of the intended publication date.

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.

we will have many different responses. But I am wondering how our Quaker testimonies speak to this challenge.

- Surely we need to speak **Truth** – to power and to each other? If we are to do that, we have to seek out the truths in this emergency. What are the causes of the climate and ecological crisis? Where does responsibility lie? What needs to be done now? By whom?
- Isn't this, of all times, a time for **Simplicity**? Don't we have to renounce the false doctrine of 'growth', of greater accumulation of more and more stuff, of exploiting people and nature unsustainably? Mustn't we instead create different ways to meet our real needs and nurture our one precious earth?
- And how can we expect to solve this without greater **Equality** and **Justice**? Aren't those suffering most in this crisis those least responsible for causing it?
- In the months and years to come will our commitment to **Peace** and peace-making become ever more vital as people and planet are put under more and more pressure?

I am struggling with my responses. There are actions I can take as an individual. But I am also blessed to belong to a Society where I can meet with Friends to share my concerns, my questions, my ideas, my feelings and work together on how best to respond.

It is in this spirit that the SEE Justice group (the Social, Economic & Environmental Justice Group of Oxford Quaker Meeting) and Young Adult Friends warmly invite you to join us at **19:00 on Monday 6 September** in the Meeting House to watch a recent film called ***Breaking Boundaries – the Science of our Planet***, narrated by David Attenborough and featuring the Swedish environmental scientist Johan Rockstrom. (See more information in notice in next column.)

We know that even this crisis can be an opportunity. So much needs reshaping. Where might the Spirit be leading us? Can we live adventurously?



SEE Justice & Young Adult Friends Monday 6 September, 19:00 Film: **Breaking Boundaries**

The Social, Economic & Environmental Justice Group of Oxford Quaker Meeting (SEE Justice) and Young Adult Friends warmly invite you to join us at **19:00 on Monday 6 September** in the Meeting House to watch a recent film called ***Breaking Boundaries – the Science of our Planet***, narrated by David Attenborough and featuring the Swedish environmental scientist Johan Rockstrom.

Booking for the film is through Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/breaking-boundaries-tickets-167705665159>

The film identifies the causes of Earth's biodiversity collapse and how this crisis can still be averted. It's a tough watch but not without hope – it's clear about what we need to do to stay safely within the nine planetary boundaries. After the film there will be a time for reflection and discussion about action.

Following the recent publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on the current state of the climate, and the concerns expressed at Britain Yearly Meeting, this will be a valuable opportunity for Oxford Friends to meet together to discuss the issues the film outlines and share ideas for how best, in our varied ways, we can respond to this unprecedented emergency.



Photo by SL Granum

Where Next for the Garden Room Project?

Judith Atkinson, Lis Burch, Val Ferguson,
Laurie Michaelis, Sue Smith

We will be holding **threshing sessions about the future of the Garden Room at a Friday with Friends at 19:00 on 3 September and 14:00-16:00 on Saturday 4 September.** *Both meetings will be blended (on Zoom and in person).* Threshing is a Quaker process for hearing out and discussing different perspectives on a matter, in preparation for a business meeting to discern the way forward.

Details will follow later but put these meetings in your diary. Please come. We need you all.

We expect to have more threshing sessions later in September, and hope to be ready to consider next steps at the Local Business Meeting in October.

Here is a reminder of what has happened so far, and the issues for us now.

Background

Oxford Meeting's Garden Room project represents a long-standing commitment to our future. Its history goes back at least a decade, when we promised ourselves we would open up our buildings 'from front to back' to the Oxford community.

The arrival of COVID

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit us all. The future needs from our buildings have become very uncertain, both for us, and for the community we serve.

Room hire by community groups has plummeted, seriously reducing our income. Our staff are on part-time furlough. Our Meetings, and some of the community groups that use our premises, have resumed some in-person meetings but many gatherings are likely to stay online for at least the next several months.

Each of our expectations of future Quaker worship and community life are different. Some of us feel able to worship again in person, some cannot contemplate it as it feels too unsafe. Some are able to worship online, some feel unable or unwilling to do so. Is there such a thing as returning to 'normal'? What does the 'new normal' look like?

What you said in summer 2020

A few months into the pandemic, Lis Burch as Clerk of the Premises and Finance Committee encouraged Friends to send in their thoughts about the Garden Room. Friends expressed great appreciation, thanks, love, and support to the Garden Room Steering Group for their efforts and dedication on behalf of the Meeting. Many recognised that things had changed so significantly since the Garden Room development was first proposed, that it was in 'right ordering' to take time for a rethink. There was recognition that with the fall-off in room hire, we would be unable to (and should not) apply for a mortgage. Several Friends expressed the view that our priority should be making our buildings more sustainable, rather than larger. There was recognition of the enormous work our Managers do in building community with local groups and networks, and a feeling that 'if money is short, I would rather pay for staff than for buildings'.

The current plans

The architects had presented the plans in two phases. Phase 1 covered kitchen and toilet refurbishments and a rebuild on a slightly larger footprint of the garden room. Phase 2 covered the additional pavilion room to be built in the garden. The original plan included moving the kitchen to where the toilets currently are, and moving the toilets into the pavilion area. It's already been

decided this is too expensive and the kitchen will stay where it is but will be refurbished to make it more versatile as a meeting space as well as a kitchen, and to meet environmental health regulations.

Refitting the existing kitchen and toilets is currently being costed but no decisions have been made. We don't currently have plans that will clearly show Friends exactly what is now proposed; the plans we have should suffice but will need some explanation.

Donations and costs

Premises and Finance Committee minuted in June that we currently have in the region of £200,000 available for the Garden Room project. Some of this would be needed for the kitchen and toilets if we want to refurbish them. This is money allocated from the Meeting's general fund or given specifically for the redevelopment. Some Friends have pledged money towards the project but we are not clear how much of this would now be available for a revised plan. Other possible funding sources are a grant from OSAM Trustees or the income from letting 42 St Giles. A bank loan or mortgage is currently out of the question as it would be calculated on our ability to repay, which is dependent on lettings income.

A new element: planning as an Area Meeting

A new element in our considerations is the re-visioning of what Local Meetings might do together (Abingdon, Charlbury, Faringdon, Headington, Oxford, and Swindon). There are open discussions going on about where next for the Snapshot survey on our future, written by Deb Arrowsmith with input from 80 Friends in our Area Meeting.



Photo by SL Granum

How to Post Comments on Articles in *Forty-Three*

Michael Hughey

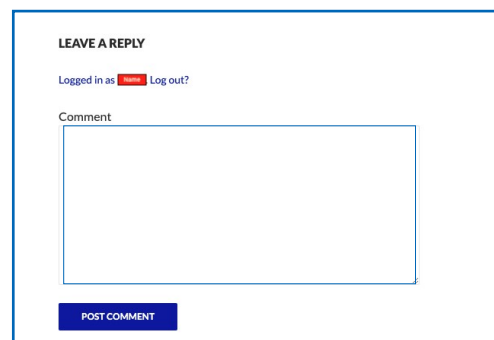
A nice feature of the [new online version of Forty-Three](#) is the opportunity for readers to post comments. The comments are found at the bottom of each article and are freely available for anyone to *read*. No registration is necessary. But anyone wishing to *write* a comment, or comment on a comment, must be registered and logged in. This is a simple process.

Step 1 – Locate the [LOGIN/REGISTER link](#) at the top of the page.



Step 2 – Follow the link to 'Sign Up'. Then fill out the requested information and click the blue 'Submit' button.

After filling in the information and clicking the blue 'Register' button, there will be a pause of up to 10 minutes, while a confirmation email is sent to you. When you open the email, there will be a clickable link, confirming that this your email address. Then there will be another brief delay before you receive confirmation that you are registered. Once registered, you will still need to log-in before you can comment on the articles.



Step 3 – When logged in, you will see a comments box at the bottom of each article. Write your thoughts in the box. When you are done, click the blue 'Post Comment' button to share them with other Friends.

My Seaside Ritual

Trio Watson

I was tempted at the end of a long day just to remind myself that it had been a Wednesday, and set my alarm for the following day. But the day had been a real treat – a day by the sea, a day of communion with the sea with a quality of resetting. Being raised a Quaker offers me relatively little in terms of ritual, but I do sometimes hunger for it. I was travelling with companions with a diverse understanding of Christian and Pagan practice, and a taste for real ale, who gave me a bit of space to be sensory and immersive. What is lacking, we are free to invent. As Quakers, all moments are sacramental.

I was seeking out something elemental and wild. I have cast flowers, sticks, and pebbles into river or sea water at various times to release something into the divine realm and 'offer it up'. It seemed time for the sea to answer back with its pebbles, shells, light on water, and epic skylines. A wave hit me behind the knees, and I sat down unexpectedly into thigh-deep water, reminded of how small I was in the face of the power of the tides. I think the sea has to be the holiest water I know. I had showered before I went in – I wanted my paddling and swimming to embody something intentional, a wordless conversation. It was also a welcome break from the relentless focus on COVID biosecurity that competes for mental space with my spiritual practice. I came to receive, plastic tubs and camera at the ready. I brought home all the bits I could. And I feel

different, now, to how I was before the sea appreciation ritual.

As friends, we swam and potted about, our chat and beer and playfulness and quiet reflection all combining deliciously. The tides connect us directly to the gravitational pull of the moon, greater and stronger than our own swimming rigour. I noted that in life we are all pulled beyond our own willingness by various gravities – somehow the sea empathises with all of those and exceeds them. I enjoy looking at some of the unique and diverse fragments I collected, hoping these creative decisions could capture the thing of Sea-ness I cherish and miss during inland Oxford life. The sea can hold the emotional space of bereavement and loss, and it can still inspire wonder and 'flow' as well. That evening I was too energised to go to bed straightaway – somehow an untamed wave had got inside me, and I wanted to keep feeling that. This is my favourite photo from that day.



Photo by Trio Watson

Friday With Friends, 8 October **A Discussion About the 2021 Swarthmore Lecture,** ***Kinder Ground: Creating Space for Truth***

On 8 October from 19:30 to 21:00 there will be a Friday with Friends hosted by Oxford Meeting, for Oxford and Swindon Area Meeting to talk about the Swarthmore lecture. This will be blended. Look out for more details but it will be assumed that people have watched and listened to the Swarthmore Lecture "*Kinder Ground: Creating Space for Truth*" given by Thomas Penny at Yearly Meeting 2021. A recording of the lecture is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lei27xKLG9k>

'Stitches for Survival' Update

Caroline Worth, Mena Remedios,
Ursula Kneisel, Anthea Clarke,
Gwithian Doswell, Judith Atkinson

From the epistle of Britain Yearly Meeting 2021:

".....We know those who have contributed least to climate and ecological breakdown are the most affected: the poor, the global majority, and vulnerable communities everywhere. We recognise and abhor the legion of violent, deadly impacts of economic and exploitative systems on both the people, other species and lifeforms, and the body of our Earth. The climate crisis is fuelled by a system based on growth, consumption and systemic inequalities. If life on earth is to survive, we must push for a more democratic, compassionate and equitable world...."

As readers of the *Forty-Three* newsletter may know, there is a nationwide network of knitters, crocheters, weavers, quilters, and crafters who have been very busy during the past few months creating panels for a 1.5 km long blue and green scarf of eco-messages for the COP26 climate change talks taking place in Glasgow in November.

Some Quaker 'Stitches for Survival' gathered one Wednesday lunch-time in the garden of 43 to share

a few of our finished green and blue panels. Here they are mingling with some other wonderful pieces made by the East Oxford weavers.

The following Saturday our Oxford Stitches for Survival Group (including Friends) shared the messages with the people of Oxford with a display in Bonn Square. The group enjoyed talking with passers-by about the messages we hope to send.

We need:

- To put the Earth first
- To keep fossil fuels in the ground
- Legal protection for the Earth and oceans
- Fair and sustainable economic systems that place the thriving and wellbeing of all life at the centre.

It isn't too late to join us. Knit, crochet, or quilt a panel 100cm x 60cm before the middle of September in earth colours (i.e. mostly green or blue). If you prefer, you can knit or crochet smaller pieces, say 25cm x 20cm or 15cm x 10cm, which can make up a patchwork panel. Leave a message with Gwithian Doswell on 01865-513077 or email gwithian@btinternet.com for more information.

We will be meeting again in September to sew our work together.

NB The 1.5 km represents the 1.5 degree global warming target agreed by world leaders in Paris in 2016. Urgent action is needed if we are to meet this target.



Photo by Gwithian Doswell

Poems in the Meeting House, on Zoom, and 'Blended'. In Other Words, in Both.

Stephen Yeo

Such have been the changes in all our lives during COVID-time, as well as among Oxford and Swindon Area Meetings and Friends, that it is time to re-introduce our 'Poems in the Library' to attenders, Friends, friends, and readers of *Forty-Three Newsletter*. Poems in the Library will now take place in person in the Meeting House, on Zoom, and sometimes both at once.

There are perhaps readers of the *Newsletter* not familiar with these monthly poetry sessions who would like to know how to take part in them, or how to get regular, direct information about them. Participants have been enjoying these sessions for at least ten years now. All are welcome. Email stephen.yeo@phonecoop.coop and your name will be added to the circulation list.

We meet on (irregular) Mondays once every month between 16:00 and 18:00. The next three meetings are on Monday 20 September, Monday 18 October and Monday 15 November. They will be 'blended' meetings. That is to say they will be actual meetings for people who prefer to come to the Meeting House at 43 St Giles and simultaneously available on Zoom on the Afterword link – which will be sent to everyone who emails Stephen to say they would like to be on the circulation list.

At each meeting we have a (voluntary) theme to help people choose a poem they would like to read out loud and talk about with the group. In September the theme is 'Wit', in October we return to 'Free Form / Free Play'. The November theme will be agreed nearer the time. But any poem we like or want to share (not written by ourselves!) is always welcome. Participants new or old: are all welcome.



Photo by SL Granum

Flight

Carol Macfie Lange

I knew it, too late
As I leaned on the gate,
the guns were upon us
with violence and hate.
The planes were all leaving
to cries of NO, WAIT!
Crowds surging and heaving
running and weaving
to alter the path of their fate,
clinging and begging
kicking and crying,
humanity sighing,
some of them bleeding,
arms aloft, pleading,
and hope swiftly dying.

I kissed the soft skin
of my small frightened girl
And whispered, "I love you
and you're going to fly,
with heaven above you
safe earth down below
And your Mama will follow
wherever you go".
I met the wide eyes of the soldier
who stood on the gate's other side,
just a boy like my son, not much older.
Without any time to decide
I threw her up high, high and over,
he caught her and held her so close,
kissed her sweet head and consoled her
and she looked like the heart of a rose.
He looked down and smiled
at my little girl-child.
"We'll save her," he said, and covered her head.
"Please tell me her name, also yours."
I shouted the names, they were lost in the winds,
winds of fear and of planes flying high.
I gripped the black bars of the shuddering gate
And knew that my child would not die.

Reasons to be Cheerful?

Deb Arrowsmith

Good old John Keble I say. He says “*New every morning is the love our wakening and uprising prove ...*” Now given the depressing state of the nation, the world etc., etc., you may find it hard to be grateful just to find you can open your eyes and move – and so, miraculously, another day of possibilities is yours for the taking? You may feel worn down by it all (whatever *it* is). You may not feel sustained by anyone's love. But then you are still alive – or I hope you are.

September means a fresh start for many, not least our Meeting and the two new apprentices on the Kickstart programme, Lorren Scrivener and Jarrel Dalton, who we will be welcoming to work alongside us for 6 months. I know members of the Meeting will want to welcome them and give them their support. You'll see them around. Welcome them, because they will be welcoming on your behalf too! It's hoped the experience they gain with us covering the variety of tasks it takes to run a small community centre should stand them in good stead as they make their way forward. Open Doors on 11 & 12 September is our big outreach weekend. Lorren and Jarrel will be helping, and we also need your help to show what we are about. PLEASE – yes, I am shouting now – we need you to help!

Our premises at 43 St Giles will be fully opened up again to groups and individuals old and new, and we (thankfully) can get back to playing an active role alongside other charities in trying to make a difference. A fresh start. Unleashing our staff to think and work differently (begun a year ago!) enabled some fresh thinking for the meeting that led to us offering an opportunity to Jarrel and Lorren. The Snapshot Survey of Local meetings, commissioned by our Trustees, offered up some fresh ideas too about becoming more “visible,

viable and visionary” as a Quaker community across the Area. Oxford Meeting have certainly shown a willingness to explore these ideas further through working with other Local Meetings and our Area Meeting. All this may come together at the spiritual nurture session on 18 September at Abingdon. Can you be there? We need your input.

I don't want us to be done with change just yet. Bring it on I mean, and possibly John Keble meant too. Responding to that of God in everyone and everything, however hard to see, *should* be our

game. Across the years that means being imaginative, creative, questioning, but also decisive – prepared to make decisions and stand by them. It might mean turning the other cheek, turning a blind eye or opening our eyes to ordinary miracles, to being mistaken. It's demanding, often frustrating, painful. Did you think the Quaker way was going to be easy, peaceful, and quiet? Sorry mate – you may be on the wrong path.

I've recently realised fully what being a good friend means. Sometimes it's hard

but necessary to stand alongside someone in need whose life could be all the better for our efforts. In fact, whose life could simply *be*. Time maybe short but it can still be well-spent. Not so much “What canst thou say”, as the phrase is, but “what canst thou **do**?” Oh, and by the way can you just **get on and do it – like now?**

So let's try something cheerful – a ‘Kindness Café’ once a month – why not? Giving away our premises and gardens for a day to a charity like Archway or Refugee Resource so staff and clients can find new friends, a safe place to enjoy and relax, be imaginative and creative with us. We can build new partnerships. Can we make some changes to make our lives simpler, happier, more connected? What else? You must have an idea? Can we have a party? Can we do Film Night again with popcorn? Can we?...
we?...

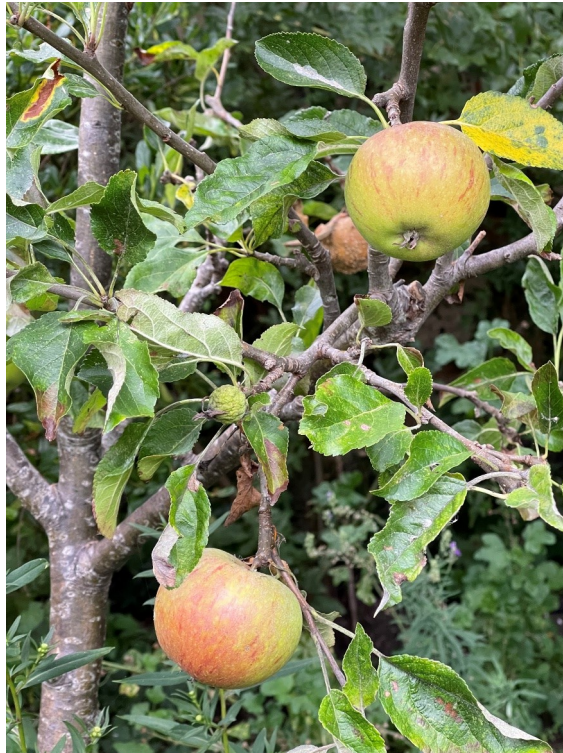


Photo by SL Granum

If we are spirit led there will be a spark that sets us off. Can we fan the spark into a flame and then watch the warmth, energy, and light of that flame transform us and others too? The flowery Victorian language of John Keble may be out of fashion, but the sentiment is still valid. He goes on to say:

*“If, on our daily course, our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.
Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
as more of heaven in each we see...”*

But let’s do it here and now – in case this is all the heaven we have.



Photo by SL Granum

Engaging with Home Educators: A Potential Area for Quaker Contribution to Local Community Dimitrina Spencer

The Oxfordshire Home Educating Community (the permanent one, not the temporary one created during the recent lockdowns) has been growing fast in recent years. Since the start of the pandemic, it has grown significantly. For example, we receive on average one or two joining requests at the main Facebook group of the Oxfordshire Home-educators (I am one of the moderators, so I witness it first-hand) every couple of days from families who are deregistering their kids from school or considering it seriously. During the schools’ lockdowns, parents were able to see what and how their kids learn at school, and many did not like what was offered. Other parents said that their kids thrived when they stopped going to school in person.

Why schools are failing is a long and interesting story, but it is not the subject of this short piece. Here, I am compelled to share only my hope that in the looming crises of education via schools, the Quaker community could one day offer a shelter to an alternative learning experience for these families who were somehow failed by the schooling institutions or who are looking for innovative ways of learning for their kids, namely, for an integrated approach that engages the whole person, including their spirit.

Parents have begun to search for such experiences more so nowadays and this search is driven by a much wider and deeper social transformation. We might have a fruitful opportunity to take an active part in shaping this transformation. It is an opportunity for us to make a meaningful contribution to local families who need us and to open new spaces for kids’ growth in the light, truth, equality and integrity of spirit, mind and heart.

I will now provide a brief account of my experience with home education (this is not what home education is for everyone), and afterwards, I will share some ideas about possible Quaker contributions.



Photo by Didi Spencer

Just like schools, the home education community sometimes has its own limitations alongside the amazing opportunities it offers to families. For two years, due to certain failings in the existing provision (at the time) of learning groups and activities for home educated kids locally (mainly to do with some groups often simply reproducing what schools do while wanting to do things differently), I have had to

design and run a sort of distributed learning space for small groups of 5-20 kids between the ages of 5-11 and their siblings. I did this to deliver the sort of learning and social environment that my son was hoping for and we felt he would thrive in. It was purely driven by what he wanted, what we believed in, and what we could make happen.

Since the start of the pandemic, all our home-ed workshops have taken place outdoors, in nature. On three days of the week, our groups congregated around a central learning activity (usually a sport: football, karate, and tennis) and spent on average 3-5 hours outdoors with hours of deep free play (which is well-recognised scientifically as a very important method of learning and is rather absent in schools).

In collaboration with other mothers, I also built a small Learning Circle where learning was facilitated by us mums – and entwined with free play in the wild – children moved naturally between structured learning activities and playing, we sang with the guitar together too.

On a different occasion, I collaborated with scientists from the University and an actor and playwright who came to engage the kids in learning about microbes through creative activities and making a theatrical play about them. (We ended up quite well-prepared to meet the pandemic even though it prevented us from staging our play in the end.) We introduced a weekly poetry-making workshop, a drama class with end of term performances, and a weekly storytelling workshop (alongside learning two musical instruments, attending choir and singing lessons).

I am listing all this not to boast but to illustrate what home educators do and that families are hungry for other forms of learning, which correspond better than the school offerings (however generous or well-meaning) to what a good future might require of humans (for example, collaboration versus competition, working interdisciplinary, being able to experience, direct, and hold a creative flow, innovative way of thinking outside the box, and most of all, experiential, felt and habitual connection with nature and people's love, care or

suffering, and capacity for moral reflection on these).

The underpinning philosophy for the learning in our groups was inspired by a variety of ideas from project-based home education to unschooling and democratic education, as well as the quest for links between spiritual and intellectual development in learning. Here opens the space for potential Quaker contributions. In fact, we experienced some of it already through the Children's Meeting in Oxford.

The Oxford Children's Meeting was an important part of our home-ed family's learning journey. Children's meeting truly answered our need to learn through empathic and moral engagement. It was the best form of learning for this age group we had come across and the facilitators of the Children's Meeting modelled respect, listening, collaboration, empathy, love, care, and friendship.

The values explored invited kids to search for themselves and arrive at experiencing what it means

to be equal, truthful, peaceful, to care for peace, for refugees, and for the Earth. No wonder our son is always very sad when he cannot make a meeting – he feels present, engaged, seen, and empowered, and in contact with his own light. He glows for hours after his meetings.

So because schools have problems, more and more

families choose to home-educate, and home-educating families really need spaces just like what we found in our children's meeting.

So here is the idea. What if the Quaker community in the UK somehow opened for creating Learning Circles (not schools and not Children's Meetings) to engage the families who are already looking for this type of learning through spiritual, moral, and emotional growth entwined with intellectual development? Literacy and maths can easily be learnt at home, facts too, but certain values, which only make sense if felt, can only be learned experientially in a community led lovingly by the light. It is very hard work organising such new ways of learning, but I am still certain that there is a space for Quakers in the UK to inspire or even open alternative learning spaces led by the light.



Photo by Didi Spencer

Quaker Videos in this Month's Forty-Three

Michael Hughey

This month's videos explore the meaning of Quaker beliefs. The first provides the thoughts of 26 different Quakers, each with their own perspective. The second looks to the future of Quaker Advocacy.



Valerie Brown
Solebury Friends Meeting
New Hope, Pennsylvania

[What do Quakers Believe](#)

What do Quakers believe? As an experiential religion with no creed, there isn't always an easy answer. We asked 26 Quakers about belief, and the resulting conversations were powerful.

—Quaker Speak

19 minutes

<https://brooksidepress.org/quaker/september-2021/what-do-quakers-believe/>



Michael Fuson
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Granville Ohio

[The Future of Quaker Advocacy](#)

For 75 years, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has lobbied the U.S. government to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. We caught up with some members of their General Committee to ask: what do the next 75 years look like?

—Quaker Speak

5 minutes

<https://brooksidepress.org/quaker/september-2021/the-future-of-quaker-advocacy/>



43 St Giles Community Noticeboard online!



Events September



**Area Meeting
Spiritual Nurture Session
Saturday 18 Sept
1.30-3.30pm**

Baptist Church Hall at 35 Ock St,
Abingdon OX14 5AG

C H A N G E

**Faringdon Meeting House
(and garden)
Open Saturdays
September 4th
October 2nd**

Faringdon Friends are hosting their first
Open House and gardening session
Saturday September 4th 11-3 pm.
It's a chance to open the Meeting House and
garden, meet new friends and help out in a
beautiful garden. Soup, tea coffee and cake on
offer to all willing to come along and support
Faringdon Friends.

Tools are provided but you can bring your own
too – the jobs are weeding, tidying up wood piles
and rebuilding the compost beds –
all in a meditative way!




OXFORD OPEN DOORS

SIGN UP AND HELP

Calling all FODs!
Please come back!!!
Can you help welcome and
guide on [Open Doors
September 11th/12th?](#)
Could you assist our new
apprentices who start from
1st September? Get in
touch with Deb or Jacqui .

Fun FOD Training with coffee and cake
Friday 10.30am 10th September

Try something New?



Garden Room Threshing Meetings

**Friday 3rd Sept 7-9pm in MH and on zoom.
Saturday 4th Sept 2-4pm in MH and on zoom**
Zoom is afterword link.



Qi-mindful Qigong
- the art of mindfulness in motion -

Less Stress – More Energy
In person Qigong classes with Jaya Rudgard

Thursday mornings 10am-11am
September 2021 - 9 / 16 / 23 / 30
October 2021 - 14 / 21 / 28

@ Friends Meeting House
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW

£10 per class on the door
(£5 for Qi-mindful monthly subscribers)
All seven-classes pass £60 @ qi-mindful.com

Beginners welcome!
Limited capacity. Book in advance to confirm a place
Drop-ins welcome subject to availability

For more info and booking: www.qi-mindful.com

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

During the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic, many meetings and events are being held via Zoom-Rooms.

Please contact the office for more details.

Email: oxford@oxfordquakers.org

Telephone: +44 (0)1865 557373

From Quaker Faith and Practice

*The right to speak
is a call to the duty of listening.*

Pierre Lacout, 1969
QF&P 2.12



Photo by SL Granum

OXFORD MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings for worship are via Zoom and/or in person.

For more information, contact the Office at
office@oxfordquakers.org +44 (0)1865 557373

First Sunday of each month:

Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30 (in person & Zoom)
MfW for Business 12:15 (in person & Zoom)

All other Sundays:

Meetings for Worship 09:30-10:15 (in person and Zoom)
11:00-12:00 (in person and Zoom)

Monday:

Young Adult Friends 19:00-21:00 (in person and Zoom)

Tuesday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (in person only)

Wednesday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (Zoom only)
Meeting for Worship 11:30-12:15 (in person & Zoom)

Thursday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (in person only)

Friday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (Zoom only)

Forty-Three is available online,
<https://brooksidepress.org/quaker/>
and on the Oxford Quakers website,
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. The same applies to calendar items.

HEADINGTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Headington Meeting meets each Sunday at 10:00
at Old Headington Village Hall,
Dunstan Road, Headington, OX3 9BY

For full details see

<https://headington.quakermeeting.org/>

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

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