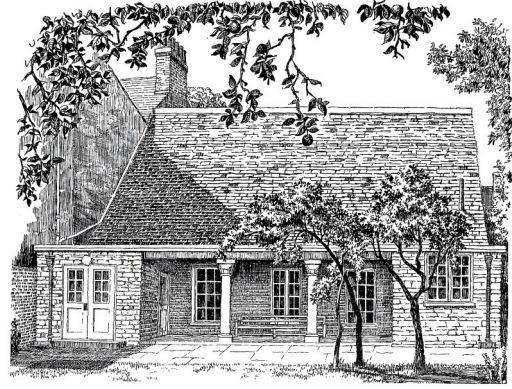


# Forty-Three newsletter

Number 518  
June 2022



## Oxford Friends Meeting

43 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW  
+44 (0)1865 557373  
office@oxfordquakers.org

### What Can We Learn from *The Trap Grounds?*

Glen Williams

Book Review: *The Trap Grounds Nature Reserve*, by Alan Allport

The Trap Grounds is a 10-acre nature reserve in North Oxford, sandwiched between the Oxford Canal and the railway line. Twenty-five years ago this small pocket of land was the site of an abandoned rubbish dump, overgrown with virtually impenetrable thickets of hawthorn and brambles.

Today, the Trap Grounds is home to a rich and ever-growing variety of wildlife including swans, blackbirds, buzzards, robins, wrens, mallards, moorhens, herons, sparrowhawks, water voles and woodpeckers, as well as foxes and many different species of invertebrates. Six ponds have been created and a network of paths plus a boardwalk have replaced the muddy tracks. The meadows have been cleared of fallen trees and scrub, and thousands of brambles have been uprooted and replaced by swathes of wildflowers and daffodils.

Alan Allport has just published a 113-page book, *The Trap Grounds Nature Reserve*, beautifully illustrated by 29 of Alan's own line drawings. The book starts with "A Brief History" of the Trap Grounds by Catherine Robinson, who in 1996 began mobilising volunteers to clear paths and glades in the



Alan in the 'Dingle'

Photo provided by Alan Allport

woodlands and to dig up invading willows from the reed bed. She also led a five-year campaign to protect the Trap Grounds from a proposed housing development. Her efforts were ultimately successful,

*Continued next page ...*

**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](mailto:newsletter@oxfordquakers.org) or a paper copy can be left in the pigeonhole of any editor. Items for the calendar or community noticeboard can be emailed to [office@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:office@oxfordquakers.org). For information: tel. +44 (0)1865 557373 or visit [www.oxfordquakers.org](http://www.oxfordquakers.org)

and the whole site is now managed by the Friends of the Trap Grounds, in partnership with Oxford City Council.

Alan's book takes the form of a year-long diary in which he records, month by month, the seasonal changes in the living world in the Trap Grounds: encounters with its wildlife, the plants and animals living there, and the work done throughout the year by the Friends of the Trap Grounds – and many other volunteers – to conserve and enhance this precious natural resource. But the Trap Grounds' long history as a rubbish dump still keeps cropping up. Alan writes:

*“Wherever we dig – even to plant primroses – up come broken bricks and other debris, dumped on the Trap Grounds through most of the twentieth century. The twisted metal, broken glass and suchlike we generally carry off site, to be loaded eventually into a skip and taken to landfill. The dumped bricks are a different matter. We have hundreds, maybe thousands of tons of them....”*

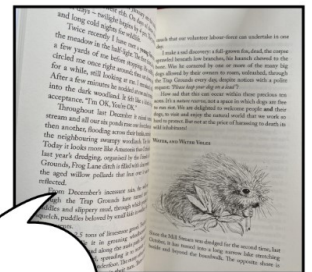
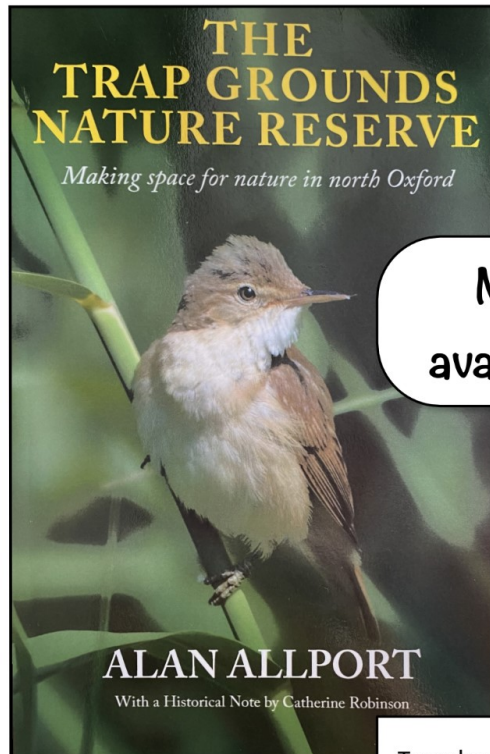
But for every problem they devise a solution:

*“We decide it is time to cover some of the biggest of these brick-piles with topsoil. We can then plant on top, and if we are successful, these ugly reminders of the Trap Grounds' past – as an unregulated fly-tip – will be transformed into flowering green hillocks.”* (Note: it worked!)

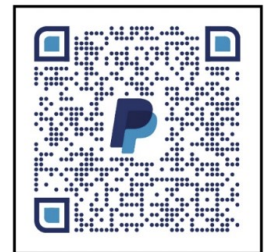
As I read Alan's beautifully written account of how a small group of volunteers has transformed a rubbish dump into a hugely appreciated community resource, I could not help thinking about the possible wider relevance of this experience. The Trap Grounds, it seems to me, is a kind of microcosm of the way we human beings have trashed, polluted, and

degraded the natural world, bringing many plant and animal species to the brink of extinction and threatening to make large parts of the world uninhabitable.

Alan's book demonstrates how a small group of well informed, determined and resourceful people can reverse the degradation of a small part of their natural environment. His book should be widely read, not only as an inspirational story, but also for its wider relevance. Is it too much to hope that the story of the Trap Grounds can inspire other initiatives – not only small but also on a much wider scale – to reverse our planet's headlong rush towards the extinction of life as we know it?



Now available!



To join Friends of the Trap Grounds, visit <https://trap-grounds.org.uk/about/the-friends/> to download a membership form and post to 12 Hayfield Road, OX2 6TT

To order your copy(ies) via PayPal @ £5 each (Plus £2 p&p if not near the Trap Grounds)

**Payments via PayPal to**  
**alan.allport@st-annes.ox.ac.uk**

Or scan QR code above

NB Please include your NAME and postal ADDRESS in PayPal message

## Monthly Appeal – June 2022

### Peace Works Zimbabwe (Friends of Hlekweni)

Anne Watson

Friends of Hlekweni, the Milton Keynes Quaker charity that Oxford has supported for years, has closed most of its activities but continues to fund two projects with Peace Works Zimbabwe:

- **Alternatives to Violence Zimbabwe (AVPZ)** runs community-focused and school-focused training in conflict resolution.
- **Peace Clubs in Schools** supplies a core Peace Education textbook to each school and free-of-charge AVP training to teachers who, in turn, train volunteer students in conflict resolution and non-violent communication.

Corporal punishment in schools has recently been banned so these projects are now vital to replace it with peacefully-ordered communities. Learn more at: [www.peaceworkszimbabwe.net](http://www.peaceworkszimbabwe.net).

Contributions can be made —

#### By bank transfer or standing order:

Co-op Bank  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester M60 1GP  
Account name: Milton Keynes Quaker Meeting  
R/C 1134541

Sort code: 08 90 28

Account no: 50528862

Please use reference 'zimpeace'

Please contact us at [peaceworkszim@gmail.com](mailto:peaceworkszim@gmail.com) to confirm the donation and, ideally, request a Gift Aid form.

**By cheque:** Please make cheques payable to —  
Milton Keynes Quaker Meeting, R/C 1134541

and send to —

Peace Works Zimbabwe  
c/o The Quaker Centre  
1 Oakley Gardens  
Milton Keynes MK15 9BH.



Flag of Zimbabwe

**Please include a note with your name, address, and email, making it clear that the donation is for Peace Works Zimbabwe.**



## Getting Older When You Live Alone

### Pastoral Care Group

If you live on your own, how do you feel about the process of getting older and its difficulties?

Would you like to have a chance to meet with others in a similar situation, to share joys and anxieties, and to support each other?

Why not come along to 43 St Giles on Tuesday 28 June at about 11:00 in the morning? Coffee/tea

and cake will be provided by the Kindness Café, and we can have a friendly get-together sharing some of these issues and maybe thinking about how we can mutually support one another.

If you want to know more, contact:

Jane Mactaggart (01865) 558555,  
Caroline Worth (01865) 433219, or  
Jacqui Ferguson (01865) 557960.



## John Gould Memorial

The Memorial Meeting for John Gould  
will be held in the Meeting house  
on **Saturday 18 June at 14:00**  
with tea served afterwards.

All are welcome.

We would appreciate offers from Friends  
to provide cakes, sandwiches, etc.

– and for help on the day.

Let the office team know please.

SL Granum

## In Support of *The Friend*

**Forty-Three Editors**

Britain's weekly Quaker magazine, *The Friend*, has asked for financial help — either in donations, or preferably in new subscriptions. The magazine has been in publication since 1843 and is a valuable forum for philosophical religious debate, for commentary on Quakerism worldwide, and for communication between Friends House and Local or Area meetings.

Many different subscription packages are available, offering any combination of *The Friend* (paper), *The Friend* (online), *The Friends Quarterly*, and *The Friend Digital 1914-1918 Archive*. For example, a 'full package' (all four items) annual subscription for an individual is £126 (UK) or £186 (international). *The Friend* magazine only is £98 per annum (paper) or £77 per annum (online).



SL Granum

Subscription enquiries:

The subscriptions assistant

The Friend

173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 7663 1178

General information:

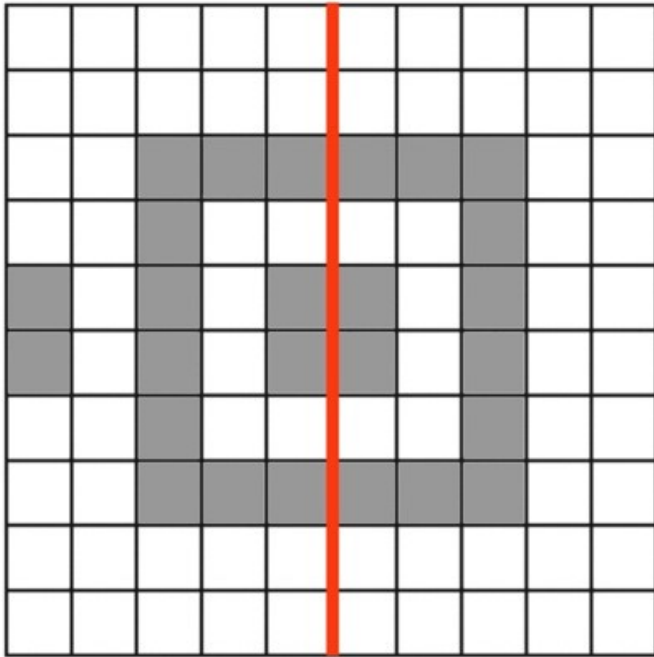
<https://thefriend.org>

Wikipedia article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Friend\\_\(Quaker\\_magazine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Friend_(Quaker_magazine))

## Think Less!

Keith Wilson

It's been a while since we last had a puzzle page in *Forty-Three*, but you might like to try this little challenge. It's not too taxing and you could be surprised at the outcome. Please don't cheat; try the puzzle before you read on. Simply look at the diagram and work out what you need to change to make it symmetrical around the vertical red centre line. There are no hidden tricks. Squares can be grey or white. That's all there is to it!



Puzzle provided by Keith Wilson

What was your solution? Did you (mentally) colour in the two middle squares in the far-right column? If so, you're in excellent company. When a similar test was posed as part of a study in the USA, 80% of people did exactly that. Only 20% saw the alternative: remove the two grey squares in the far-left column. The study was an investigation into whether people systematically overlook solutions that involve removing things, preferring to favour solutions that add things – and it found that they do.

How is this relevant to Quakers? Hmm. Well, the authors of the study (full reference below) say, "Defaulting to additive changes may be one reason that people struggle to mitigate ... damaging effects on the planet." Personally, I think that's reasonably relevant!

And there's more! I was introduced to this study by my good friend Bodo Winter, an exceptionally talented linguist working at University of

Birmingham. Based on the study's findings, he carried out research to see whether the preference for additive solutions was reflected in language. In short, his results (as yet unpublished) confirm that it is. He found that words related to addition are more frequent and slightly more positive than those related to subtraction. He also found that verbs like 'change' and 'improve' are more closely related to 'add' and 'addition' than to 'subtract' and 'subtraction'.

It seems that not only are we predisposed to prefer solutions that involve addition, it's possible that we also talk – and maybe even think – about these solutions more easily and more positively. I wouldn't like to speculate about why this might be. Are we born favouring additive solutions, or have we been conditioned by the consumer society in which we live? Answering that question is, I'm afraid, going to be left as an exercise for the reader!

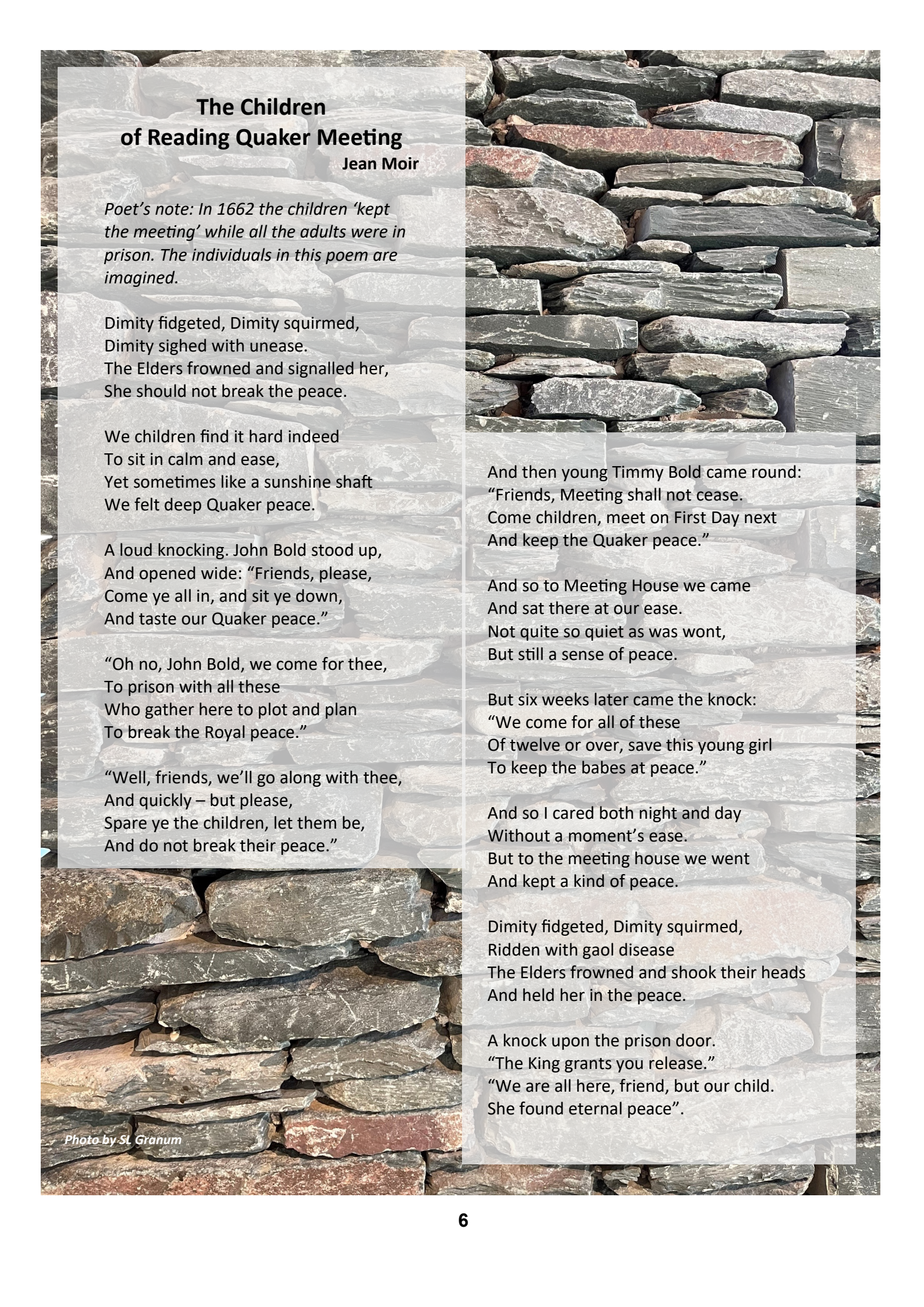
Those of you who know me well will know that I struggle with the Quaker testimony to simplicity; my home is more of a testimony to clutter! It's unlikely that the findings I've reported here are going to change that any time soon. They have, however, made me realise that in deciding between adding and subtracting, I have an in-built bias for which I need to compensate, and I need keep in mind that it's easier and more comfortable to think and talk about adding than subtracting.

I wonder if awareness of these factors could also be helpful in our Quaker decision-making processes. In short, might we benefit from putting in the extra effort it takes to think less?

*The article referenced is:* Adams, G.S. *et al.* (2021) 'People systematically overlook subtractive changes', *Nature*, 592(7853), pp. 258–261. doi:10.1038/s41586-021-03380-y.

During the final stages of proofreading this newsletter, Anne Watson sent this merry response to Keith's article. Watch for her full explanation in *Forty-Three's* July issue!





## The Children of Reading Quaker Meeting

Jean Moir

*Poet's note: In 1662 the children 'kept the meeting' while all the adults were in prison. The individuals in this poem are imagined.*

Dimity fidgeted, Dimity squirmed,  
Dimity sighed with unease.  
The Elders frowned and signalled her,  
She should not break the peace.

We children find it hard indeed  
To sit in calm and ease,  
Yet sometimes like a sunshine shaft  
We felt deep Quaker peace.

A loud knocking. John Bold stood up,  
And opened wide: "Friends, please,  
Come ye all in, and sit ye down,  
And taste our Quaker peace."

"Oh no, John Bold, we come for thee,  
To prison with all these  
Who gather here to plot and plan  
To break the Royal peace."

"Well, friends, we'll go along with thee,  
And quickly – but please,  
Spare ye the children, let them be,  
And do not break their peace."

And then young Timmy Bold came round:  
"Friends, Meeting shall not cease.  
Come children, meet on First Day next  
And keep the Quaker peace."

And so to Meeting House we came  
And sat there at our ease.  
Not quite so quiet as was wont,  
But still a sense of peace.

But six weeks later came the knock:  
"We come for all of these  
Of twelve or over, save this young girl  
To keep the babes at peace."

And so I cared both night and day  
Without a moment's ease.  
But to the meeting house we went  
And kept a kind of peace.

Dimity fidgeted, Dimity squirmed,  
Ridden with gaol disease  
The Elders frowned and shook their heads  
And held her in the peace.

A knock upon the prison door.  
"The King grants you release."  
"We are all here, friend, but our child.  
She found eternal peace".

Photo by SL Granum



## Poems Poems Poems

Now in the Meeting House and on Zoom  
(formerly in the Library)  
All welcome!

Stephen Yeo

Starting at least a dozen years ago, there have been monthly sessions at 43 St Giles (also known as 'Poems I like and why I like them'), in which Friends and friends of Friends meet to read and talk about poems (not written by us). The sessions are always on Mondays from 16:00 till 18:00, and the precise Mondays are agreed two or three months in advance, as are the (entirely voluntary) themes, which help us choose a poem to share. There are usually between ten and fifteen of us. If you would like to be added to Stephen Yeo's circulation list please email him at the address below. All welcome! The next three Monday sessions are on: 27 June (theme: Summer), 25 July (theme: Laughter), and 22 August (theme: Travel). Themes are just to help us choose a poem to share; ANY poem we like is always welcome.

Among people already on the circulation list as well as among Young Friends, there has recently been an interest in the possibility of starting a new and different group while continuing the old one in its well-tried format. This new group could be called something like "Friends who write and would like to share". It would be an autonomous group, preferably meeting in person but also on Zoom, and/or it might occupy a (monthly?) slot in Friday with Friends. It would need a new convenor while Stephen continues with the existing group and shares his list. Each time it met, perhaps one writer or would-be writer could introduce their work for, say, half an hour, then open it up for discussion for the rest of the time. The work-in-progress could be of any kind: prose or poetry, towards an academic thesis or not, fictional or familial or something else altogether. If you would like to take part in, shape, or (better still) convene this new group please email Stephen at: [stephen.yeo@phonecoop.coop](mailto:stephen.yeo@phonecoop.coop)

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## Area Meeting Reminder

Matthew Gee

**Date for your diary: 9 July Area Meeting with a focus on Youth, Children, & Families.** There will be picnics, games and outdoor activities at the next Oxford & Swindon Area Meeting on 9 July, at Faringdon Friends Meeting House. This will be a special Area Meeting with a focus on including our meetings' children, young people, and families.

*"Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring"*  
— Advices & Queries 19

## Garden SOS

At this time of year our garden at 43 is looking particularly wonderful — and additional volunteer help would be especially appreciated! If you can lend a hand please come along on any Thursday between 10:00 and 15:00. Coffee, lunch, and chat all provided.



Photos by SL Granum

## Quaker Videos in this Month's *Forty-Three*

Michael Hughey

In the first video, Chloe Schwenke and other Quakers discuss their relationship to Christianity. In the second, Jessica Kellgren-Fozard reflects on her childhood experiences with Quakerism. In the third video, Carl Wesley Anderson visits Swarthmoore Hall in Ulverston to describe George Fox's early days.



**Chloe Schwenke**  
Quakers in Britain

### [Are Quakers Christian?](#)

*We talked to 11 Quakers from across the United States and asked about their relationship with Christianity.*

**Quakers in Britain**

11 Minutes

[https://youtu.be/CMH3OqFh\\_dM](https://youtu.be/CMH3OqFh_dM)



**Jessica Kellgren-Fozard**

### [My Childhood with Quakerism and God](#)

Jessica Kellgren-Fozard discusses her early childhood experiences with Quakerism.

**Jessica Kellgren-Fozard**

[Jessica Kellgren-Fozard YouTube Channel](#)

21 Minutes

<https://youtu.be/v6DIgM-JaDg>



**Carl Wesley Anderson**  
[Born To Blaze Ministries](#)

### [How to Quake for God!: George Fox's Quakers](#)

*This unique mini-documentary reveals the story of George Fox, founder of the Quakers, who lived in the power of the Holy Spirit in the 1600's! Filmed on-location at Swarthmoore Hall in Ulverston, England: the former base of the Quakers.*

**Carl Wesley Anderson**

[Born To Blaze Ministries](#)

7 Minutes

<https://youtu.be/HTisKQ05ys8>





# 43 St Giles Community Noticeboard online!



## Events June 2022

Poems, poems, poems.....Monday 27 June, 16:00-18:00 for a session with the (voluntary) theme of 'Summer', 43 St Giles, and on Zoom. As always, any poem we like enough to want to share is always welcome.

**14th and 28th Days of the 6th Month**  
This is when our living, spiritual conversations take place on Zoom (afterword link).  
Grab a cuppa and come along for a refreshing chat all about the eternal things.  
**Living in the Spirit**

### in and around 43

Who's in this month – just so you know ...





**Next Café– Hurray!**  
**Tuesday 28 June 10:30-14:30**



MANCHOIR meet on Thursdays – not so scary as they look here!




Housing today, hope for tomorrow

**China Vision**

Memorial Meeting for **John Gould**



Meeting House  
14:00 Saturday  
18 June 2022  
All welcome.

Just a few of the many social, spiritual, support, training, and campaigning groups who use our rooms through the year. We give them a home—they support our work.  
[Oxfordquakers.org/room](http://Oxfordquakers.org/room)



**SILENCE PLEASE!**  
Please let the office know if you'd like to come along to a Retreat led by Barbara Gabrys and Anthea Richards called 'Working with Silence'  
43 St Giles  
Saturday 16 July 10:00-13:30  
Bring Bite Size Food for a 'shared lunch'.

## JUNE 2022

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many meetings and events are being held via Zoom.

Link for all Oxford Meetings for Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87383304611?pwd=Vkkya2ZweVVRZjRmOE1JVDBFdTdwUT09>

Please contact the Office for more details:

Email: [office@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:office@oxfordquakers.org) Telephone: +44 (0)1865 557373

### From Quaker Faith and Practice

Knowing and accepting ourselves

*Trouble of soul can teach us things that raptures never could – not only patience and perseverance, but humility and sympathy with others.*

—Edward Grubb, 1933  
QF&P 21.22



Photo by Deb Arrowsmith

#### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

For more information, contact the Office at [office@oxfordquakers.org](mailto: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)

##### 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](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.

#### HEADINGTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Headington 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.*

Editorial Team:

SHERRY GRANUM, JULIET HENDERSON,  
and MICHAEL HUGHEY  
(Joint Editing and Production);

DEB ARROWSMITH and JACQUI MANSFIELD  
(Calendar and Distribution)

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