



STAFFORDSHIRE QUAKER

AUTUMN EDITION, OCTOBER 2019

JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION HOW DOES OUR CONCERN 'GROW FROM OUR FAITH'?

Our adoption of the [World Council of Churches'] concern for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation grows from our faith and cannot be separated from it. It challenges us to look again at our lifestyles and reassess our priorities and makes us realise the truth of Gandhi's words: 'Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion means.' The earth's resources must be conserved and shared more equitably and, as we are an integral part of creation, this is our responsibility.

This passage from London Yearly Meeting in 1989 (*Faith and Practice* 25.10) was read at Area Meeting Elders and Overseers in September.

The Area Meeting Strategy Group reported to the Meeting on its thinking so far, including its ideas about the right ordering of Area Meeting. How can this Meeting be held in an explicitly spiritual context? The appointed elder has an important role in ensuring that business is conducted in the spirit of Quaker worship.



Can we think about *Staffordshire Quaker* in the same way? Its pages do often reflect Friends' concern for justice, peace and the in-

tegrity of creation. How does this 'grow from our faith'? Is it something which inspires you to want to write for a future issue?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SHIRLEY PITMAN	2
LOCAL MEETING NEWS	3-5
IMAGINE: FREEDOM FROM INSTANT COMMUNICATION	6
SUSTAINABILITY AND DEEP ADAPTATION	6-8
FRANCIS OF ASSISI	9
CHALLENGING THE ARMS TRADE	10-11
LIMERICKS FOR TRUTH	12

JUSTICE

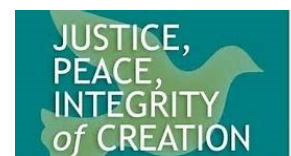
In June Peter Kent-Baguley (Leek Meeting) advertised a talk by Palestinian activist Mazin Qumsiyeh. Angela Glendenning (Stoke Meeting) reports via Sumud Palestine that on the day 110 crowded into Trinity Church in Leek to hear him.

PEACE

Peace Pole in Stone (p 3)
Civil disobedience and a candlelight vigil at the London arms fair (pp 10-11)
Staffordshire support for the Stop Fuelling War movement in France (pp 10-11)

INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Quakers in Lichfield are involved in a new Extinction Rebellion group.
Members of Stafford Meeting have supported young demonstrators on the streets during Strike4Climate events (picture above).



SHIRLEY PITMAN 1942-2019

Shirley Pitman of Uttoxeter and Burton Meeting died in June. Jo Corby (former member of Uttoxeter and Burton Meeting) gave this address at Shirley's funeral.

Shirley was born in Lancashire but spent her childhood in Stretton. She described herself as a rebellious child who early in life demonstrated her independent spirit. After passing the 11+ she attended the Girls' High School in Uttoxeter where she particularly enjoyed sporting activities.

took renovations of their various homes. She was a talented interior designer but also did much of the practical work as well. One year she requested a cement

However we knew Shirley we recognised the special qualities which she brought to the world:

- her lively personality and innate sense of style (Shirley was always beautifully dressed whatever the occasion!)
- her generous friendship,
- her kindness to people and animals;
- and above all, her devotion to looking after the needs of her family especially at times of difficulty but also in happy times.



SHIRLEY'S COMPASSION AND DETERMINATION

In her early adult life Shirley lived in Burton where she brought up her three children - Nicky, Mark and Ian. Sadly Ian passed away as a young adult in 1992.

During this time in Burton Shirley worked as a civil servant in the War Department, a visiting officer for Social Security and later in various temporary jobs including fitting out the interiors of newly built show houses - a role for which she had a natural flair.

Forty years ago, in 1979, she met and soon married Allan and moved to Overseal, Marchington, Loxley and latterly to Denstone. Working with Allan, she under-

took mixer for her birthday and a nail gun for Christmas and no doubt made full use of them!

Allan describes her as living life at breakneck speed (and he wasn't just talking about a recent speeding fine on the A50 !)

Everyone who knew Shirley will have their own recollections of her, be it as a wife, a parent, a friend, a colleague. She has been involved with several organisations through the years including the WI and the Needwood and District Fine Arts Association. She was a member of Uttoxeter and Burton Quaker Meeting.

Thinking particularly of Staffordshire Quaker Jo has added some examples of Shirley's compassion and determination: she sent money to the widow of her ex-husband in the Philippines, hosted Chernobyl children, stayed with upturned stranded sheep until a farmer arrived on a Quaker walk at Mooney's, challenged DWP benefits decisions to tribunal level to reinstate benefits for vulnerable family member... (speaking truth to power) She also made donations to Street Vet.

Jo says 'I always remember the big china bowl of strawberries she used to bring for July MM at Uttoxeter. Added a touch of style to the shared lunches.'

STONE: AN INVITATION TO FIND PEACE AT THE POLE

It is about three years since Quakers in Stone put up the Peace Pole on Crown Meadow, near the Star Inn. The Pole has been used as a place for remembrance, for people of different nationalities to come together and for occasions of joy, grief and forgiveness.

The Pole is available for all to use. You may wish to lay flowers in memory of a dear relative or friend. You may wish, for example, to commemorate the Holocaust or

International Day of Peace. You may want to stand for a time of quiet reflection by yourself or with a group. You may want to show support for victims of violence. There are many reasons for visiting the Pole.

The Pole is a gift to the town and Quakers would like anyone to feel able to use it in the ways suggested.

Helen Lockwood
Stone Meeting



STAFFORD: WILDLIFE, SANCTUARY AND WALKS

Stafford Meeting House has updated its heating and lighting to use less electricity and be more environmentally friendly. Re-roofing the back of the premises has prevented further leaks and improved the heat efficiency.

We have been pleased to welcome some new attendees recently. They have contributed to the improvement of our back garden. This garden will attract more wildlife and become a more pleasant place to sit. New seating and a water-feature

are next and we are considering how to open the space to local people as a form of outreach.

Building on the support that we undertake with refugees and asylum seekers, we have recently taken steps to obtain sanctuary meeting status. This has provoked interesting discussions.

We are also now a dry food collection point for the charity House of Bread, which supports local people who are in difficulties.

Socially, the Meeting has plenty going on not least of which are Alf's famous monthly walks on Cannock Chase. Even a collie needs a rest sometimes so Alf has just appointed a deputy dog. All are welcome on the fourth Sunday of the month (please contact us first to confirm arrangements).

David Morgan
Stafford Meeting

TAKEN STEPS TO
OBTAIN
SANCTUARY
MEETING STATUS



Members of
Stafford Meeting
supported
Strike4Climate

STONE QUAKERS AT THE GREENBELT FESTIVAL

On a hot August Bank Holiday Saturday a group of Quakers from Stone Local Meeting spent the day in the beautiful Northamptonshire countryside, discovering what goes on at the Greenbelt Festival.

Greenbelt describes itself as a festival of 'artistry, activism and belief' where people of all faiths and none gather to share in a celebration of ideas, music, art, literature and comedy. 10,000 people from all over the UK and beyond enjoyed this year's festival in the grounds of Boughton House near Kettering. The theme this year was 'Wit and Wisdom'.

The choice of talks was huge and ranged from Russell Brand to the Archbishop of Canterbury!

Extinction Rebellion were in residence as were Nanas Against Fracking and plenty more environmental scientists and activists. We enjoyed hearing the poet Tony Walsh, artist Michael Leunig, economist Kate Blakely and chef Jack Munro, among others. With the temperature hitting 30 degrees, it was also good to find a shady spot just to sit and watch the festival go by.



A highlight for all of us was to participate in a Quaker Meeting for Worship in a tented venue across the water from the main site, where maybe 150 people gathered, shared their ministry and reflected on the day.

Greenbelt takes place every August Bank Holiday weekend over four days. Some of

us will be back next year. Anyone who is interested in finding out more can visit the Greenbelt 2020 website or contact me.

Marion Stanfield
Stone Meeting

EXTINCTION
REBELLION WERE
IN RESIDENCE AS
WERE NANAS
AGAINST
FRACKING



Rosemary Barnett and Jon Heal of Stone Meeting

NANAS AGAINST FRACKING

"We chose the nan image because we like what the Lancastrian matriarch stands for: rolling her sleeves up, getting things done, but still having time for a nice cup of tea"



EXTINCTION REBELLION



WOLVERHAMPTON: ASYLUM-SEEKER HOLIDAYS 2019

The key aims this year building on previous years providing respite and recreation for those known to the Wolverhampton Quaker Meeting were

- to increase the number of Asylum Seekers given a holiday
- to involve Colton Hills, a School of Sanctuary in the provision
- to raise sufficient funds to cover costs
- to involve more drivers of the minibuses.



The main activities that were undertaken followed the pattern set in previous years

- Communal activity in the provision of meals, menu planning, purchasing, preparing, serving and washing up.
- Trips to beaches, e.g. Black Rock Sands with shared beach activities
- Trips to Caernarfon Castle and Town Fun Centre
- Trip to animal farm
- Barbecue at Gelliwig
- One group visited a Rabbit and Animal Farm.

The people who attended

- There were 3 separate groups of attenders on the trips this year, consisting of 24 Asylum Seekers from 12 – 16 August, 22 from 16 – 18 August and 25 from 19-23 August making a total of 71 asylum seekers/refugees. Each group was “staffed” by 3 volunteers to help with facilitating the holiday. One of the Asylum Seekers Khady Noufe was the co-ordinator of the cooking for the trips. Khady had attended previous Gelliwig trips and is a superb organizer!

- There were families including people from for example Albania, China, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Morocco, Syria and Zimbabwe with very varied cultural backgrounds and life experiences.
- I believe everyone including the volunteers benefited from the holiday and the many different experiences. The communal activities were very positive with great social interaction and sharing of cultural ideas, particularly during meal

times, when cultural dishes were prepared and eaten by all.

Achievements perceived

Everyone got involved in the meal preparation and parents took it in turns to watch over the children whilst they played happily together.

The times on the beach were a real success where everyone enjoyed the experience of a traditional British beach holiday and all it entails. The families enjoyed the simplicity of playing in the sand and sea or just relaxing in the Sun.

The travel in the two minibuses enabled us to bond together as a group with banter and picking out landmarks and sheep and cattle! One game involved every time we saw sheep people had to shout out the name of an animal without repetition.

There were also many other volunteers who helped with fundraising and organisation prior to trips taking place who were pleased that all went well.

Keith Berry
Wolverhampton Meeting

PROVIDING
RESPITE AND
RECREATION
FOR THOSE
KNOWN TO THE
WOLVERHAMPTON
QUAKER
MEETING



City of Sanctuary

IMAGINE: FREEDOM FROM INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS

ATTEND TO
WHAT LOVE
REQUIRES OF
YOU, WHICH
MAY NOT BE
GREAT
BUSYNESS.

Imagine today that a strange solar flare hit the earth's atmosphere and the world's entire network of computers, mobile phones, radio and television stations were permanently disabled. Imagine further, yes, there would be chaos for a while, but humans would eventually go to work again, farms would need to supply food and milk, but everything would be slower.

Do we need to know instantly that a politician on the other side of the world has not been re-elected? No doubt humans would carry on being as silly as before wars, being greedy, and not being kind to each other. What would happen is that we would learn that these bad things had occurred but not instantly. The internet and television are wonderful inventions but seem to bombard us with an infinite variety of bad news which is

extremely depressing.

It all comes down to busyness which is summarised in Advices and Queries 28:

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

With instant communication all the world's bad news is instantly before our eyes and it seems there is more and more trouble in the world. Part of the problem is that there are more people in the world, in 1900 there were 1.6 billion people and now there are over 7 billion. So knowing human beings there is more trouble because there are more of us. If we are bombarded with bad news, we forget good news because for some reason

news channels do not report it.

I was in Manchester in July 2015 the same weekend as the explosions in the tube in London. I went to the Meeting for Worship in large Meeting House in Mount Street. There were lots of us there and there was some ministry about the explosions but one I remember was from a young man who said that bad things happen in the world but he refused to be downhearted and he intended to remember the good things in the world and would keep laughing when he could. If we get depressed, then nothing seems worthwhile and we do nothing. I try to do what one Quaker in Stafford Meeting said some years ago:

'I believe one person can make a difference.'

Nigel Peckett
Stafford Meeting

SUSTAINABILITY IN LEEK

Over the last year, Leek meeting has been active in a number of directions.

In the building:

Following the electrical check, all tube lights and bulbs have been replaced by LED versions.

We now have bins to separate different types of waste and recycling, all compostable materials go into the compost bin in the garden.

Re energy conservation, our heating is divided into two sections, allowing the upstairs and downstairs to be heated separately and over timed times, allowing it to be on for the specific times that the building is being used.

In the garden:

The trees have been trimmed to remove any dead branches, the garden has been maintained to encourage plant growth, helping it

to become more bee friendly.

The Ivy on the Meeting House, and any shrubs adjacent, have been cleared, preventing damp penetration into the building.

We are currently hosting two days a year in the garden, for maintenance work, and to prolong plant growth and life.

Linda Skellam
Leek Meeting

SUSTAINABILITY IN UTTOXETER

ECO-CHURCH SILVER AWARD

Uttoxeter Friends registered for the EcoChurch scheme a few months ago and have just been awarded a Silver award. The scheme, run by A Rocha UK, is open to any church in England and Wales. It is a free online survey which you can complete before registering and the scheme aims for churches to demonstrate how they are caring for the world. The survey enables you to record your progress and plan future initiatives.

There are four sections: Worship and Teaching, Buildings and Land, Community and Global, and Lifestyle. When we first looked at the Worship and Teaching section, we thought it would be difficult to complete as our pattern of worship is different to others, but help from the local URC church

leader, whose church also has the Silver award, was a great help. He pointed out that if our worship was explained under Any Other Information they would understand! There are also many Not Applicable questions in each section, some relating to Listed Building matters.

The Buildings section made us look at what we had – did each of our toilets have a double flush? Were all our lightbulbs energy-efficient? As a result of doing our survey, we decided to sponsor a toilet block in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, which gave us more points. Our organic, wildlife -friendly garden gave us enough points to qualify for the Gold award, but you need to qualify in every section to gain Bronze, Silver or Gold so we have more work to do. (Our local URC building doesn't have a garden so

they were exempted from this section.) Community and Global includes things such as Fairtrade and outreach work and the Lifestyle contains items such as walking, cycling, bus, or car sharing to worship and trying to live in a sustainable way.

Since we gained the award, I have discovered that Cotteridge LM in Central England AM has gained the Gold award, but they have a new energy-efficient building. They are one of only a handful in the country with Gold, but all LMs in Central England have registered, so that they can become an Eco Area.

If any LM is interested, the website is eco-church.arocha.org.uk and we would be pleased to discuss with you how we completed our application.



SUSTAINABILITY AT HERITAGE OPEN DAY

One of our exhibits for Heritage Open Days in September was 'Sustainability and the Environment'. The theme this year was 'People Power' and so we tried to show the effect of Quakers on society past and present. We looked at Justice, Equality, Education, Businesses, Sustainability and Peace.

The Sustainability and the Environment display detailed the mass lobby on the climate crisis in London on 26 June and Quaker involvement, amongst other items. However, the ones which caused most interest in visitors were much older.

Coming at the time of Greta Thunberg's speech at the UN, the two arousing most comment were William Penn in the 1680s, laying out

Pennsylvania and requiring settlers to preserve one acre of trees for every five acres cleared and, secondly, John Woolman saying in 1772, "The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age."

Cath Hayes
Uttoxeter & Burton Meeting

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SUSTAINABILITY AND DEEP ADAPTATION: A NEW DIRECTION FOR AREA MEETING?

Area Meeting recently recognised that we (Earth and everything on her) are now in an 'ecological emergency' by adding the term 'Deep Adaptation' to the standing agenda item on 'Sustainability'. The expression 'ecological emergency' includes climate and other life support systems breaking down on an increasingly rapid scale.

CLIMATE AND
LIFE SUPPORT
SYSTEMS ARE
BREAKING
DOWN

The term 'Deep Adaptation' is being used increasingly widely in the Extinction Rebellion movement and beyond. The concept derives from the work of Jem Bendell, Professor of Sustainability Leadership and Founding Director of the Institute for Leadership and Sustainability at the University of Cumbria. He argues that we need to reassess our work and life in the face of an inevitable near-term social collapse due to climate change. The key aspects of the Deep Adaptation agenda are what he calls 'resilience, relinquishment and restorations'.

'Relinquishment' speaks of giving up any notion that the emergency can be fixed by making a few tweaks and may indeed mean giving up many things or the way we do them. 'Resilience' speaks of developing our inner resources, spiritual connections and communal support to give us strength to face the ecological emergency

through making necessary deep changes ourselves and working for radical change. 'Restorations' speaks of restoring local community and culture and of restoring spoiled habitats, large and small, and the part we can play.

How might we give our treatment of this newly-renamed regular agenda item – 'Sustainability and Deep Adaptation' – a real sense of urgency and deepen our response to it? Here are some suggestions:

1. Change the position on the agenda. It is difficult to engage fully with this issue when it comes at the very end of the agenda and we are tired/hungry/ready to go home. What we are addressing is our Earth Testimony and it can be argued that all our testimonies are now subsumed within any definition of an Earth Testimony which is appropriate to our times. This cannot be a last agenda item.

2. Prepare for the item in advance

3. Cover a wide range of issues:

- Reports on developments in Local Meetings
- Reviews of the impact of the meetings and activities of Area Meeting itself.

- Inputs from those with specific expertise or concerns, eg what Deep Adaptation, 'resilience, relinquishment and restorations' mean in practice, though sessions might be better held at Local Meetings.

- Themed discussions e.g. earth spirituality, appropriate ministry, micro-generation, though Local Meetings could hold these instead of Area Meeting.

- Planning of Area Meeting actions e.g. support for Fridays for the Future, participation in Extinction Rebellion events, though the emphasis will be on action by Local Meetings in order to reduce travelling.

- Encouraging and supporting the Quaker community and beyond in efforts to make 'Deep Adaptations' in our lives. Doing this will help us live our Earth Testimony in these tempestuous times.

The five of us meet weekly with others to discuss these issues.

Damon Hoppe
Rob Horton
Stephen McGonigle
Roger Oldfield
Chris Seal
(all of Stafford Meeting)

ST FRANCIS AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Do you work gladly with other religious groups in the pursuit of common goals? While remaining faithful to Quaker insights, try to enter imaginatively into the life and witness of other communities of faith, creating together the bonds of friendship.

Advices and Queries 6

Maggie Jeays (Stafford Meeting) receives the daily meditations of Richard Rohr, an American author, spiritual writer and Franciscan friar. He is based at the Center for Action and Contemplation. Maggie has sent his most recent posting, very relevant to our theme.

God gave St. Francis to history in a pivotal period when Western civilization began to move into rationality, functionality, consumerism, and perpetual war. Francis was himself a soldier, and his father was a tradesman in cloth. Francis came from the very world he was then able to critique, but he offered a positive critique of these very systems at the beginning of their now eight centuries of world dominance. Rather than fighting the systems directly and in so doing becoming a mirror image of them, Francis just did things differently. *The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better.*

As Adolf Holl put it, Francis emerged precisely when we started “putting clocks into church towers.” When Christian leaders started counting, Francis stopped counting. He moved from the common economy of merit to the scary and won-

drous economy of grace, where God does not do any counting, but only gives unreservedly.

As Europe began to centralize and organize everything at high levels of control and fashion, Francis, like a divine trickster, said, “Who cares!” When Roman Catholicism under Pope Innocent III reached the height of papal and worldly power, he said in effect, “There is another way that is much better!” Exactly when we began a style of production and consumption that would eventually ravage planet earth, he decided to love the earth and live simply and barefoot upon it. Francis of Assisi is a Prime Attractor to what we really want, what we definitely need, and who we finally are. And, apparently, he did it all with a “perfect joy” that comes from letting go of the ego!

We are only afraid of death as long as we do not know who we are, but once we know ourselves objectively to be a child of God, we are already home and our inheritance is given to us ahead of time. Then we can begin living and enjoying instead of climbing, proving, or defending. Our false self, as all religions say

in one way or another, must “die before we die.” Only then can we sincerely say with Francis, “Welcome, Sister Death” which he said on this day in 1226. Those who face this first death of dying to self lose nothing that is real. And so, “the second death can do them no harm,” as Francis says in his “Canticle of the Creatures.” Death itself will only “keep opening, and opening, and opening,” which is what resurrection means.

All of this creates a very different form and shape to our spiritual life. It is no longer elitist, separatist, or competitive, but changes our deepest imagination in the direction of simplicity. Our worldview will not normally change until we place ourselves, or *are placed*, in new and different lifestyle situations. Another of the Center’s core principles is: *You do not think yourself into a new way of living, you live yourself into a new way of thinking.* Francis and Clare displaced themselves into different worlds where their hearts could imagine very different things and they had to pay attention to something other than comfort or convenience.



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STAFFORDSHIRE FRIENDS AT THE DSEI ARMS FAIR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE FOR PEACE

On Monday, 2 September, I took the train to Euston and crossed Euston Road to



Friends House. My first priority was to meet up with a London Friend, who had offered to accommodate me for the night. Together Susan and I went into the Light – the huge Meeting Room at the heart of Friends House, to hear the briefing that was to prepare us for the next day's protest.

Roots of Resistance had planned the demonstration meticulously, from finding accommodation for out-of-town Friends, to what to do if you were arrested. It was a long session, including Meeting for Worship, and we left when they started to learn protest songs.

Susan and her partner took me to their house in Hamp-

stead and looked after me well. I was so grateful for their kindness and their knowledge of London, for EXCEL is in Docklands, far from the centre, and travel seemed complicated.

Next day we arrived at the rally in time for Meeting for Worship at 9.00. There were already several hundred people there (about seven hundred were counted before we left). I had expected more people, but the organisers were delighted with the numbers, which were much higher than last time. Some demonstrators were lying in the road, 'locked on'. It took the police four and a half hours to free them, which they did systematically, and respectfully, leading them to waiting police vans afterwards.

Quakers were the largest group, but we were glad to have the support of many others: Anglicans, Catholics, Buddhists among them. We joined in each other's singing, and there was much conversation and sharing with people we may never see again.

It was around 1.00 pm that the first lorries bearing arms began to arrive, and we gath-

ered to block their way. We were warned that those on the road would be arrested. At 2.00 pm we had our second Meeting for Worship – many more people now, silent but with some ministry. A senior police officer interrupted us, threatening us with arrests, but a stalwart Friend stood up and loudly remonstrated with him, telling him that this was an act of worship. As we sat in silence many more police marched in, the senior officer saying, mockingly, that they had come to join our worship.

When our Meeting was over those not prepared to suffer arrest moved to the side of the road, the rest were carried away to waiting police vans. We sang to support them.

I left soon after. I had expected trains to be overcrowded and the journey to Euston long and hard, and I had a ticket booked. It was not like that and I could have stayed longer. I hope that next time I shall go ready to be arrested. It is an issue about which I feel passionate.

Maggie Jeays
Stafford Meeting

I HOPE THAT
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Quakers from
Stop Fuelling
War outside
Eurosatory
2018
(see next page)



STAFFORDSHIRE FRIENDS AT THE DSEI ARMS FAIR CANDLELIT VIGIL FOR PEACE

The 2019 DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) Arms Fair took place at the Excel Centre in London Docklands at the beginning of September. One of the dilemmas that should test our conscience today is the involvement of our country in the arms trade. Protests at the arms fair, now organised by 'Roots of Resistance' have become important. Many feel that we can't be passive about what is being done in our name when our Government is so heavily involved in arms dealing, and the lack of control as to what the arms can be used for once sold. Arms are sold to governments who will use them against their own people or, as in the case of Saudi Arabia, used in a brutal war against a neighbour.

Protests took place the first week in September, when the arms fair was being set up. You may have read in the Friend about the meeting for worship held in the road and the many arrests. On the 9th September, the day before the fair opened, QPSW, Pax Christi and CAAT organised for a candlelit vigil to take

place. 3 Friends and a dog from Wolverhampton LM decided to join about 150 others taking part. We gathered at a local station and to the accompaniment of drumming by Buddhist monks, walked to the Excel Centre. We were allowed into the grounds and an hour long Quaker meeting for worship took place. We formed a large circle and as it grew dark the candles many of us were holding grew brighter. There was an impressive silence, though many non-Quakers were present.

The Excel Centre is located in an area of extreme contrasts. Spanking-new office blocks, hotels, restaurants, gyms used by the wealthy business people and bankers for whom this area is a modern Mecca. But set amongst this are run down factory buildings (just like the Black Country) and old style housing. Passenger planes flew low over us every few minutes.

As we stood in our vigil, many people walked past, on their way in and out of the

exhibition centre. Some ignored us whilst others stood and stared. What would they



have made of us standing silently, just a few banners telling them who we were?

For myself there was something deeply moving about it all and I felt a strong sense of unity with the others taking part. It was hard not to feel a bit alienated from the modern world with the noise of the planes and the impersonal buildings. But we were glad to have taken part in this peace witness and not even long queues on the motorway on the way home could spoil an excellent, worthwhile trip.

John Babb
Wolverhampton Meeting

ONE OF THE
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STOP FUELLING WAR: THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Eurosatory, held in Paris every two years, is the largest land and air-land arms trade fair in the world.

Stop Fuelling War is a French association set up in 2017 by Quakers in Belgium, France and beyond to

raise awareness about, and campaign against, the arms trade in France, particularly Eurosatory and to present peace-building alternatives to military responses. They are supported by a network of French and European peace or anti-militarist

groups. You are invited to join in the protest at next year's fair on 8-12 June at the Villepinte Exhibition Centre. To join see www.stopfuellingwar.org/en/. Some Staffordshire Friends are already members.



QUAKER TESTIMONIES: THE TRUTH

JUSTICE

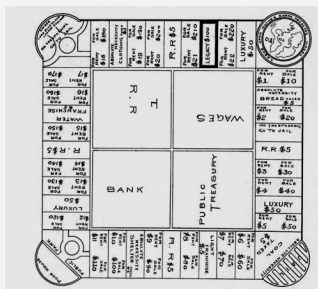
John Woolman demanded with bravery
The full abolition of slavery
We're all sad to say
It's not gone away
I bet he must turn in his gravity

When 'Comrade Hughes' stopped being rich
She lived with the poor near Shoreditch
Sometimes verminous'
Her name's co-terminous
With 'Let your lives speak - with an itch'

Landowners watch for your property
A Quaker thought up Monopoly!
Her game's real intent
Was slating your rents
Waddingtons played it improperly



The American Quaker Lizzie J. Magie, (1866–1948), patented 'The Landlord's Game', the precursor of 'Monopoly' later marketed by Waddingtons.



PEACE

When World War I came some Friends chose
To 'let their lives speak' as COs
Each stuck out his chin
And dug his heels in
But got up Lord Kitchener's nose

Munitions gave Albert Nobel,
A fortune and prizes as well,
An odd alliance
Of peace and science,
I'd rather have Jocelyn Burnell.

THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

A BYM minute says 'Please
Less carbon, less rise in degrees'
It's still to be seen
If Friends are Deep Green
Though sure they're all 'Quakers for Peas'

The scientists all keep repeating
Our planet is now overheating
Yet many a Friend
Has met a sad end
By freezing to death during Meeting

Roger Oldfield
Stafford Meeting



The Quaker Mary Hughes (1860-1941) was born into a rich family (her father was the author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*) but came to work for and live with the poor of London. She was described by the novelist Howard Spring as 'shabby and sometimes verminous' and nicknamed 'Comrade'.

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: MONDAY 27 JANUARY BUT PLEASE START NOW!

ARTICLES ARE USUALLY A MAXIMUM OF ABOUT 620 WORDS LONG — ONE PAGE

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