



STAFFORDSHIRE QUAKER



AUTUMN ISSUE, OCTOBER 2025

RESPONDING TO ECOLOGICAL CRISIS IN OUR AREA MEETING



When Area Meeting was held in Uttoxeter in July it was on yet another of this century's over hot days. During the afternoon session, however, when Friends grappled with ways of responding to the enormity of the ecological crisis, it was amid a kind of alternative future: the cool, green biodiversity of the beautiful garden gave some indication of the kind of New Creation Friends were seeking.

The leadings which might inspire us to further action were explored using readings from the booklet *Responding to Ecological Crisis: Quaker Spiritual Insights* by Stuart Masters.

Query

Are you aware of the impact of your way of living on the well-being of other humans, other animals and the rest of the natural world? Are you willing to join with others in attending to the Spirit, which has the power to liberate us from our dependence on systems of violence, injustice and destruction? What do you and your community feel led to do at this time?

From '*Responding to Ecological Crisis*', Part 5: *Transformation*.

There was agreement on the idea of focusing Area Meeting's thinking and efforts on the concept of 'Earth Testimony'.

Back in a formal session the two minutes below were recorded. It is hoped that future Area Meetings will decide on further ways in which we can pursue our embryonic 'Earth Testimony' together.

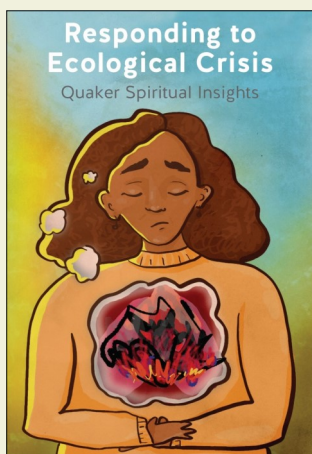
Minutes

1. The Sustainability and Deep Adaptation item should remain high on the Agenda of Area Meeting and be renamed Earth Testimony.
2. Staffordshire Area Meeting encourages each Local Meeting to investigate the Eco Church scheme and take it forward.

OUR EMBRYONIC EARTH TESTIMONY

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ALISON JANET SAMUELS, 1947 – 2023

Friends, it is just over two years since Alison died and I am just getting round to writing this, rather belatedly. It is amazing how quickly time has gone but it does mean I can reflect on that time and how I am feeling.

Alison first attended Friends Meeting at the Woodlands Quaker Home in Wolverhampton in early 1996 and then later went to Friends Meeting at Wolverhampton Meeting House. She was accepted into membership in 2001 and always tried to maintain the values and ethos of Friends.

SHE ... ALWAYS
TRIED TO
MAINTAIN THE
VALUES AND
ETHOS OF
FRIENDS.

She was born in Margate to Hugh and Gwenneth Edgington, who later moved to Hook Norton in Oxfordshire. Alison attended Banbury Grammar School and went on to Secretarial College in Bristol. She came to Wolverhampton in 1970, where she later met me. We were married at Hook Norton parish church in March 1973.

She had a number of secretarial posts here. After the birth of Hilary in 1975 she worked for the Vicar of Penn, George Frost, and worked for him subsequently at Tong when he became Archdeacon of Salop. Victoria was born in 1977, and Alison juggled motherhood and this part-time work – as indeed many mothers do today, and often full-time.



In 1993 a stroke set her back somewhat, but she was able to continue at Tong for a number of years before giving this post up in 1996. A blood condition was diagnosed too. Afterwards she studied with the Open University for a maths degree, which she passed. In her early days of marriage she assisted with the Parosi project, helping newly-arrived people to learn English. She was also local coordinator for Action Aid for a number of years.

At Wolverhampton Meeting she held many of the roles at one time or another and was Treasurer at the time of her death. She was also collation Treasurer for Staffordshire Area Meeting. She felt it was important to attend Staffordshire Area Meeting and did so where possible. A wise counsellor, Alison was

considerate and helpful to many people, including myself.

Reflecting on the last two years? The second year has been hard and adjusting takes time. Our two daughters – Hilary who lives in Kent with two children and Victoria who lives in South Wales with three children – are very supportive.

Quaker Faith & Practice 22.81 has resonated with me as I work through bereavement two years on from 50 years of marriage:

Loneliness after loss is a bitter and unproductive fruit that generally has to be eaten, skin, stone and all. Meanwhile the table bearing the accustomed spiritual refreshment has vanished, as though it never existed.

ALISON SAMUELS (CONTINUED)

In the immediate shock of loss there is help. Friends rally, nature supplies an anaesthetic, the doctor offers Valium. The crux comes later, just when you supposed the worst was past: companions consider the crisis over and return to their own affairs; the first sharp sting has worn off, and you will have decided to give up drugs. You have no idea what is lying in wait.

But now the real battle begins, the formidable adjustment has to be made. The caring and the sharing will never come back, at least in their past form, and a cold, apparently comfortless, independence has to be shaped to create a life of value. The temptation is to look round for a substitute for the one lost – but people grieving are not their normal selves, they are off balance and their judgment is impaired. A new companionship, if

it is to be, is like happiness: no good searching for it, if it arrives it will be as a by-product.

The other temptation is to shirk experiencing the loss to the full when the time has come. A readiness and an openness to the approach of that dark night are necessary. Easy to fill the conscious mind with work, or a contrived ‘pleasure-seeking’, or do-gooding. The unconscious is preparing the pit, and down into it you will eventually be driven. Better go willingly, with all your armour on. For this is in fact the training ground of your spirit, where you will learn how much, through your own pain, you have to offer to others. And so the first and greatest step out of the dark place becomes recognisable: self-absorption begins to give way to empathy with a world of suffering you previously didn’t know existed. People in

the first shock of grief will be drawn to you, and you, no longer a newcomer to that world, will have found your listening skills.

As to that delicious and sustaining food you were accustomed in happier times to peck at, why, there it is again, and you haven’t recognised it. The former sustenance was only fit for children, and has been replaced by helpings of insight appropriate to your increased maturity.

Margery Still, 1990

Alison was buried at the Natural Burial Ground in Penn.

Damian Samuels,
Wolverhampton Meeting

AS TO THAT
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FOOD YOU
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NEW GATES AT LEEK MEETING HOUSE



The new gates at Leek Meeting House have transformed the entrance
- see Linda Skellam’s article on page 4.

Photos: Peter Kent–Baguley and William Weston of Leek Meeting.

LEEK HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: 86 VISITORS



Leek Meeting took part in the Heritage Open Days this year, holding events on both Saturdays during that week.

The Meeting House was open from 12.00 to 4.00 on both days, with guided tours available for those who wished to know more about the history of the building, Leek Quakers, and the Quaker movement. Copies of the history of the building and Leek Meeting (put together in the 1990s) were in the room to browse. A selection of Quaker leaflets was also dotted around the room for people to read and take away. Three enquirers' packs were handed out over the two days, so we are hopeful that our Meeting may grow in the next few weeks or months! Donations were taken for refreshments, which featured home-made cakes and drinks.

There was certainly a lot of interest on both days, with many taking the opportunity to view the building. In addition, there was interest in the connection with the Wil-

liam Morris Labour Church, and the remains of the Walter Crane mural in the hallway. The Meeting House was taken over by the William Morris Labour Church between 1896 and 1939, and during this time the main room would have been decorated with Walter Crane murals, which were painted over when it reverted back to being a Meeting House.

We recorded a total of 48 visitors on the first day, and 38 on the second, which was remarkable as the weather was awful that day. On questioning, it seemed quite a few were 'doing the rounds' of the buildings that were taking part in the heritage open days, which must have helped.

We have recently installed reproductions of two of the Quaker Tapestry panels in the main Meeting House room, which also created a lot of interest.

There was one couple who visited whose relatives had had their wedding reception at the Meeting House, sometime in the 1930s. They brought a couple of telegrams that had been sent to them that day. The address on them was 'Labour Church, Leek', so the wedding presumably took place while it was still in the hands of the Labour Church.

On the second day we had invited all those involved in the creation and installation of the new gates, which were installed earlier this year, to see them in situ. (A

few, sadly not all, were able to join us.) The gates, which are wrought iron and painted in black, have opened up the view of the entrance and made it more visible to people walking past. Both have a cut out circular area, with an outline of a dove of peace in the centre (photos p3).

Advertising for both days was done through the Heritage Open Days website and the local Leek Magazine, which included a short article alongside it. This was also included in a publication called 'The Link', which is local to Cloudside (between Leek and Congleton), and in one of the Stoke newspapers. In addition, there were several posters in the town (kindly designed and put together by the daughter of one of our members) and posts on Facebook.

We were all very pleased by the attendance and interest shown, and found the day to be quite uplifting. As a result, we are planning further events to continue the momentum. One possibility is that we could time the event to coincide with the local Arts Festival in May. This would, again, provide us with the necessary advertising (something I have found quite challenging when organising events in the past).

All in all, it was well worth doing.

Linda Skellam,
Leek Meeting



Exploring our embryonic Earth Testimony

How can we take forward the discussions at Area Meeting in July (page 1) and the decisions which followed? *In these four pages Friends share thoughts and feelings on matters we are now referring to as our 'Earth Testimony'.*

WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN? ECOLOGY THEN AND NOW

Peter Holland (Stone Meeting) has sent this poem by Adam Curle, the first Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, published in 1987.

Topping the last hill,
even the camels weary and athirst,
we saw, quavering in the heat and biscuit dry,
the once great city,

The roof still on some houses,
pitch in the broken stubs
of terracotta torches;
who would have thought a thousand years
had passed since they were lived in
and the flares were lit.

Along the arid valley floor
the fossil stumps of trees
showed how it must have been.
But no life now.

The Romans hadn't done much better
(ably abetted by the goats)
than ourselves.
But here's the difference:
while now we know precisely
what we're doing
and never give a damn except
about quick profits,
Presumably they'd never heard
about ecology.

PRESENTING THE EARTH'S PRIORITIES

Increasingly an Earth Testimony is emerging. Staffordshire Area Meeting tried to assemble some ideas at a study day in Stafford in October 2023. But very often our suggestions are anthropocentric, with a focus on human global issues. For example, Net Zero is an attempt to have our cake and eat it! Another focus could be on the rights of other organisms in Creation.

I believe that the first question is what demands we can place on the natural world, and still leave a natural world for the future. Some activities are valuable but not enough - such as recycling. We obviously put things into recycling rather than landfill, but using a glass bottle once and then to crush it and re-make another one is a waste of resources.

Decades ago systems of reuse were obvious. I have been often amazed more recently, when in Wales or wherever, with sheep and cows in green fields, to find that the village shop or supermarket only offers milk in plastic containers brought from a dairy miles away.

My problem is how to present the Earth's priorities to the public.

1. Establish that priorities are not just human ones. (Net

Zero policies make this mistake).

2. Establish the choices. This is easier at local level. A supermarket built on a greenfield site gains us an extra shopping experience, but degrades biodiversity.

3. Establish biodiversity isn't just a chance to see nice plants and animals, but is an essential to all of our survival (Think : honeybees and their importance)

But the difference to me from 50 years ago is that 'Saving Planet Earth' was then seen as an honourable effort. In the West a culture has arisen since then which sees 'the Environment' as something standing apart from human activity. Politicians have relegated it to a minor role, to leave for now, and only return to it when the other matters are sorted. (Think: new Reform County Councils which may deny that humans have any responsibility for any environmental crisis.)

I hope we can regain some focus on the matter in coming Area Meetings and that Friends are willing to share their feelings more often in Staffordshire Quaker.

Jon Heal,
Stone Local Meeting

Exploring Earth Testimony

BECOMING AN ECO CHURCH



During discussion about Earth Testimony at July Area Meeting (see p1) Cath Hayes told us how Uttoxeter Meeting achieved an Eco Church Silver Award in 2019.

As well as enabling a place of worship to gain a bronze, silver or gold award, this free scheme involves filling in a questionnaire, which can

be added to at any time. You do not have to register for the award until you are ready and so you can see how your Meeting is being successful in each area without commitment. This makes you realise how much you are doing and inspires you to do a little more, to get more points. The five sections are Worship and Teaching, Buildings and En-

ergy, Land and Nature, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle. It is not necessary to own your building or have a garden, as allowances are made.

See <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Cath Hayes,
Uttoxeter Meeting

THE NEW WOODLAND: 35 YEARS AFTER PLANTING

This is 'Heritage Conserved'. It is at Commins, Waterfall Road, Llanrhaedrym-Mochnant, SY10 0BZ, 20 miles west of Oswestry. Visitors are always welcome.



Around 1990, 2000 saplings were planted on 5 acres of steep pasture. These were deciduous - oak, ash, rowan, birch, beech and wild cherry.

Unfortunately the founders of Heritage Conserved, Paul Leverett, the landowner, and Graham Stroud, the company secretary, are no longer with us.

The saplings were planted 2 yards apart. 35 years on, a quarter are well on their way to becoming mature. The remainder, being sheltered and overgrown, are part of

the undergrowth. Alders have proliferated spontaneously around a stream.

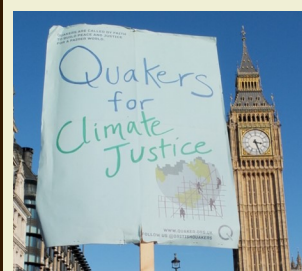
Early this year there was a little storm damage. A dozens birches were uprooted. Growing faster and taller than other trees they were more vulnerable.

In the southeast corner across the slope of the hillside I have built a dry stone wall. This is a retaining wall. It holds in place compost, which is turning into richer soil than nature provided. In recent years I have placed 300kg of leaves as compost. This November I intend to increase this by a similar amount.

John Nicholls,
Wolverhampton Meeting

DEMAND NET ZERO

With Staffordshire County Council now controlled by Reform UK, Carol Hyatt, herself a Wolverhampton City Councillor, makes this appeal to us all:



Fight for Net Zero, fight for it to be kept. Councillors will want your vote. Let them know they need to keep Net Zero to keep their votes. Send lots of emails, each and everyone, fight for Net Zero, fight for it to be kept.

Carol Hyatt,
Wolverhampton Meeting

Exploring Earth Testimony

A PEOPLE'S PADI PROJECT: RICE PRODUCTION IN BORNEO

An article in *The Friend* (1 August) on precision fermentation technology and John Nicholls' visionary feature on human life after the Desolation recently circulated to local meetings (see bottom of page 8) both look to a future dominated by the growing climate crisis: one features technology coming to our aid, and the other visualises our successors learning to live simply at one with nature. Together, these stimulated me to write the following piece on what is happening in the here and now on our doorstep in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, where Anne and I are living with our son Ken and daughter in law Cynthia Ong. The original slightly edited version appeared in *The Friend* of 4 September.

Rice production and consumption in South East Asia has come to depend on industrial-level output in the Mekong river (Vietnam) paddy fields: these are threatened by the growing saline content of the lower river (rising sea level) and reduced flow from major dams upstream. When the 2020 COVID epidemic led to major lockdowns throughout Malaysia which cut rural wage earners off from their employment earnings, one official response was to stimulate local rice cultivation as an alterna-



The padi fields where the Wilson family get their rice.

tive source of income. Under the impact of cheap imported polished rice, local production had fallen to less than 25% of Sabah's consumption. Rather than work their family plots, young people had moved to paid employment: not only were agricultural production experience and skills being lost, but the social cohesion which is needed to manage shared irrigation from limited water sources was not surviving as the fields lay fallow. (John draws attention to cooperative water management in his article.) Incentives to individuals to grow a cash crop could not

alone generate fresh production. At this point, the voluntary agency Forever Sabah (its Chief Executive Facilitator is Cynthia Ong, our daughter in law) stepped in, with its experience of working with local communities on protecting forest water supplies (payment for ecological services) and developing communal sustainable energy: it was engaged to stimulate the co-operation necessary for shared irrigation to be reactivated by people who for maybe a generation had not been practising it, and to synchronise planting and harvesting to counter predation by birds and pests.

Exploring Earth Testimony

A PEOPLE'S PADI PROJECT (CONTINUED)

Forever Sabah did not stop there. For young people to be attracted back to their villages the project needed to look forward not back to lost tradition, while drawing on the concept of 'gotong royong', the Malay equivalent of 'harambee' in East Africa, signifying active co-operation in shared community projects. One answer was to draw on 'sustainable rice intensification systems' which while needing more initial input than traditional methods, generated higher output with reduced input over time as well as releasing less carbon dioxide. This extends to planting local varieties of rice, with a range of taste and texture, which are saved from extinction in line with preserving biodiversity. Added to this, using organic fertiliser and pest controls puts a marketing premium on the crop produced and enables fish and prawns to breed in the flooded fields, providing supplementary protein to the predominantly vegetable diet already extending to legumes, fruit and sea-

food. The first pioneering families have been joined by whole villages and the project continues to spread, extending to the water buffalo which had been unemployed and now need to be trained and restrained from accessing the juicy new crops.

Only the government agency that provided the initial financial support was not sure what it had got into. Its criterion for success is income generated as a contribution to the state's GDP whilst for the farmers the new crops are for home consumption saving expenditure in local stores, and sharing with family and friends along traditional lines. Of the 28 tons produced under the scheme in 2023, 26 tons were consumed locally and just two tons sold commercially through the new marketing company (consumer demand is growing for organic unpolished rice rich in fibre and nutrients). It is the familiar story of governments the world over being insulated

from the day to day existence of their populations: more effort is needed to educate the rulers than the ruled who are already adapting to the impact of climate change on their livelihoods.

The success of projects which are conceived as top down depends on organisations like Forever Sabah which can convert these into schemes developed at community level: which applies as much to the new precision fermentation technology production described in *The Friend* as to rejuvenated schemes like this paddy project. Both require a measure of external funding, for sensitive training and practical support in the field in the case of the rice scheme. Friends can be open to contributing towards costs like these through voluntary agencies engaged at grass roots level.

Anthony Wilson,
Tenghilan, Sabah,
Malaysian Borneo,
Lichfield Meeting by Zoom

HUMAN LIFE AFTER THE 'DESOLATION'

The essay by John Nicholls of Wolverhampton Meeting entitled 'The People of the Earth' has already been circulated to Local Meetings.

It gives a bold and imaginative account of how survivors might deal with the impact of devastating climate change.

The essay will be discussed after Wolverhampton Meeting on October 19. Meeting is at 10.30 and will be followed by shared lunch and then the discussion. All welcome.

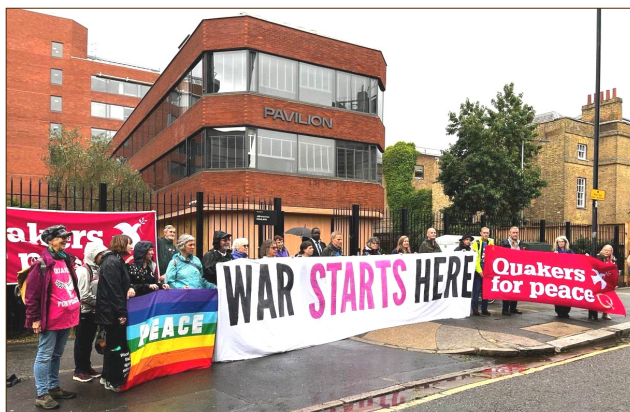
QUAKER WITNESS AGAINST WAR

In September, Quakers gathered to witness to the futility and destruction caused by war. I was spiritually uplifted by being amongst so many Quakers on the streets of London trying to engage with the public, and meeting with others of faith and none, to oppose the biennial Defence, Security and Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair.

8 September. We gathered chaotically at Westminster Meeting House and began a walk of less than two kilometres, centred around Trafalgar Square and the offices where part of the arms trade is facilitated. See details of companies visited and the government department involved in organising DSEI in links 1-3 in column 4.

We handed postcards to the public and held banners proclaiming our presence. I am constantly surprised how arms companies manage to escape scrutiny, especially as they are in view on our walk around the edges of Trafalgar Square. We ended the day at a candlelit vigil organised by Quaker Peace & Social Witness and Pax Christi. We met with the Peace Pilgrims as they finished their walk from Oxford (see link 4 on right).

9 September. Arriving at the ExCel Centre in the east of London for the No Faith In War Day, I was amazed to hear the roar of a protest in full swing. Activists from around 100 different groups were already in place by 8



am. Quakers had a prominent spot at the approach to DSEI with a giant banner stating 'War Starts Here'. We held our stillness and silence as other faith groups and activists made a loud wall of sound that could not be ignored by the arms dealers. Attendees at the arms fair were forced to use a different entrance which resulted in more opportunity to leaflet and engage with the arms dealers. Quakers held a well-attended meeting for worship at midday which was preceded by a Jewish mourning ritual held by a Jewish activist group. I had a sense that the police were surprised by the turnout. They dispersed protesters in the early afternoon during which some protesters appear to have been assaulted. For me, it was a day when the energy of a temporary community gathered to oppose an evil was felt spiritually and physically in my soul and body. We did not know each other's faces or names, but we were joined for a few hours to oppose a trade which profits from death.

On 10 September a group of Friends took our opposition to war to the headquarters of

Clarion Events in Putney, which facilitate DSEI at the ExCel Centre. We delivered a letter asking them to stop organising the arms fair. We learnt that a couple of nights earlier protesters had cut a communications cable and sprayed red paint on Clarion Event's office. There was heightened security present and the tube strike and weather conspired to make this event smaller than planned. We had done the best we could to stand in solidarity with all those who are directly harmed by the arms trade.

It was a long journey to DSEI, involving weekend retreats of discernment and spiritual preparation often on Zoom in the weeks leading up to the event. Meeting up with friends and unknown activists shows that the Light is still visible in the darkness.

I am grateful to my local Quaker community for its support given in our meetings for worship and to all those friends who helped make the witness possible.

Debby Flack,
Lichfield Meeting

1. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x_ShLqRNmeqjzsYszQ2ZdNIrs_kibTDm/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107784497784838116402&rtpof=true&sd=true
2. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n6vK8hUMcwWabAmJNyzxQdMk-rTbqIJ2/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107784497784838116402&rtpof=true&sd=true>
3. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oE5S1zn9eHbSui7MKun4t5d_RayzdTye/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107784497784838116402&rtpof=true&sd=true
4. <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/2025/08/26/quaker-witness-at-dsei-arms-fair/>

AWAYDAY AT CLUN



A REFUGEE
FROM THE
GAMBIA ... GAVE
A POWERFUL
TESTIMONY TO
THE PRECIOUS
FRIENDSHIPS HE
HAS MADE BY
COMING TO
CLUN

Clun, Shropshire, a little village with a winding river and a mediaeval ruined castle on a hill. A group of Clun Valley Quakers with the biggest hearts. Every year for ten years they have invited asylum seekers and refugees from Wolverhampton for a day of relaxation and fun in their beautiful countryside.

One morning in late August about 50 of us from Wolverhampton arrived at Clun in two minibuses and four cars. Refugees, asylum seekers, and volunteers. Families and some single young men from countries across the world - Afghanistan, China, India, Iraq, Sudan, Syria.... After refreshments, we were free to choose - football in the field, face painting, arts and crafts in the marquee, music in the music tent, clothing in the donations tent. Or a short walk to the ruined castle on the hill, a heady mix of choices all wrapped up in love, laughter and freedom for a day.

At lunchtime (heaps of beautiful food) a refugee from Syria stood up and gave an impromptu speech describing his perilous journey to the UK over 8 years ago, leaving his wife and 3 children behind, not knowing if he would ever see them again. Two years later in an important moment of pure joy he met them when they finally arrived at Birmingham Airport.

A refugee from The Gambia stood up to offer a second impromptu speech, and gave a powerful testimony to the precious friendships he has made by coming to Clun over the years and the difference it has made to him and his wife who had felt completely alone in a foreign country.

*I saw a stranger yestreen;
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place,
and in the name of the Triune
he blessed myself and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones,
and the lark said in her song
often, often, often, goes
the Christ in the stranger's guise.*

Celtic Rune of Hospitality

AWAYDAY AT CLUN (CONTINUED)

There were presents for the children to choose from, musical instruments to experiment with, dancing to Cath's accordion, and flowers for guests to take away. Before we left, Jan Arriens praised the group for their inspiring courage, bravery and resilience and said what a privilege it had been to meet them all. In these days of growing intolerance and hostility, his words shone like a light in the darkness. Small things with great love make all the difference, this is how the world could be.

Here in this still sanctuary
of silence and reflection
pains can be shared
dreams can be aired
in a communion of care
where there is love to spare.
Here in this still sanctuary ...

Dave Traxson, Wolverhampton Meeting

A few days later the Government announced the suspension of the refugee route for family reunions with imme-

diante effect. This is devastating news for some of our refugees. Supporting and uplifting refugees through personal and global heart-

breaks has never been more important.

Rosemary Fox,
Wolverhampton Meeting

SUPPORTING
AND UPLIFTING
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SANCTUARY EVERYWHERE/FAITH PLACES OF SANCTUARY

*This minute was made by
Lichfield Meeting in August:*

'Nationally the situation concerning housing for refugees, and asylum seekers is changing with Local Authorities making legal challenges about accommodation being used. The attached letter will be sent to local councillors and the Lichfield MP encouraging them to be supportive and welcoming in their approach.'

Here is an extract from the letter.

Dear Dave Robertson,
Claire Pinder-Smith and
Doug Pullen,

... We realise that party politics have come to dominate what we see as a humanitarian situation, and

serve to inhibit a shared national response. To counter this at our local level and build on proven goodwill, can we suggest that as our leading local representatives at City, District and Parliamentary levels, you could consider whether you might issue a cross-party statement which welcomes the acceptance of new neighbours (who may be temporary) whose presence will enhance the richness of our community life and in no way detract from shared enjoyment of local facilities?

As Quakers we seek to recognise and respect the unique value of all individuals, across our differences

and origins – those whom we meet face to face, and those beyond personal contact. We see the present situation as a challenge to put this testimony into effect, and to join with others in doing so. Thank you for your consideration of our suggestion.

In friendship,

Rhoda Wharton
(Clerk of Lichfield Local
Quaker Meeting)
Michele Gerard
(Correspondence clerk for
Lichfield Local Quaker
Meeting)

PRESERVING QUAKER RECORDS!

Now is the time of year for preserving the harvest from our gardens and allotments but it's always time to be preserving our records of Quaker meetings and committees!

Here are a few guidelines, a recipe, for successful preservation of Quaker records!

PREPARATION

Less is more when it comes to long term storage!

- When typing out the minutes do not use double spacing and do not leave large spaces.
- Reduce the size of margins and headers and footers if possible. Use a small font size, 11 will do.
- Add page numbers if you are able to do so.

PRINTING

- Choose a good quality white A4 printing paper. Do not use recycled paper.
- Print using an ink jet printer.
- Do not use a laser printer as the print will fade and become illegible in a few years.
- Print on one side of the paper only.



STORAGE

- Rather than jam jars your records will be most comfortable simply placed in order in a document wallet or a box file.
- Do not pin, staple, clip or glue the pages together.
- Clearly label the wallet or file, eg. Minutes of Business Meetings, ...Quaker Meeting, from ...to...
- Store the file in a moderate temperature out of direct sunlight.

- Do not put in a bin bag, they have a tendency to disappear into the dustbin!
- It's a good idea to add an additional label to the wallet or file asking that the records be returned to Staffordshire Quakers. That's just in case you are not around to deal with them!

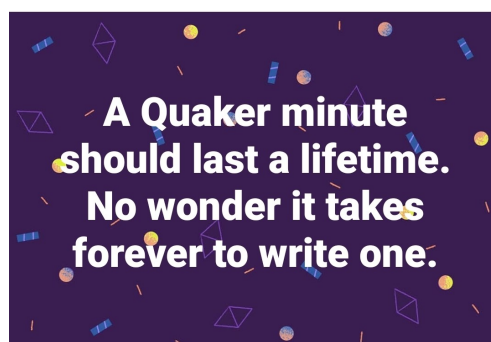
Every so often records will need to be deposited in the Archives for very long term storage. More on that next time. Happy preserving!

Gillian Oakley,
Stafford Meeting,
Custodian of Records,
Staffordshire Area Meeting

Any questions contact me at:
oakleygillian45@gmail.com

LIFETIMES IN MEETINGS

Discovered by
Gayle Yeomans
Stafford Meeting



CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: END OF JANUARY BUT PLEASE START NOW!

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

ROGER OLDFIELD

8 MENDIP AVENUE, STAFFORD, ST17 0PG

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STAFFORDSHIRE QUAKERS
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