



STAFFORDSHIRE QUAKER



WINTER ISSUE, FEBRUARY 2026

GEORGE FOX AND ME

John Calvin would likely say my attendance at the meeting house was pre-ordained.

My first meeting was a surreal experience. I knew what to expect, George Fox was a role model in history, my flavour of anarchism with a flurry of non conformity, perfect for my ADHD.

I was welcomed warmly and offered a briefing on what to expect. Silence awaits you as you join others for the search for God within. He is not hard to find but as a great Hindu scholar wrote, if I was God I would hide myself in man as it is the only place he is unwilling to explore.

The welcome had enveloped me, seen with no expectations, but after a quick chat and directions a word of guidance was offered: keep it cool with the questions. A shared smile and that internal knowing, I will go gently and respectfully.

Now I'm three meetings in

and loving the time to sit and spend time in the presence of the light. I could use many words to describe that which is beyond description. May the source be with you is one I chuckle to. Or Paul Tillich's God is not a being but being itself. Or the light, as George Fox so wisely put it, or energy as some of the early church fathers described it, much to the orthodox churches' fury.

So, three meetings in and every meeting I have felt the presence. The words spoken by Friends have struck a cord, often with what I have been meditating on or have been contemplating alone or at home. Surreal if you have not been shown synchronicity is sometimes a dance the divine steps to and whispers through. Don't expect long sermons and the demand you adhere to dogmatic beliefs; for many like myself it brings a sigh of relief. The focus on social justice is key, love your neighbour and diligently seek out God for yourself. The simple yet difficult tight rope this draws you on is one the

Quakers for me have held since the quietest movement began; the golden rule is the guiding hand to lead to the light within.

I almost don't want to speak to my neighbours and friends of the sacred space I have found held by others who call themselves Friends.

I don't want to tell them that a sacred hour can be found in silence with others who believe you can hear from the source of all life for yourself.

A cave of hope, found in silence, a shared collective of seekers who treasure what they have found.

That secret golden thread that runs through history, many find it and many fight to be right in how they define it. Wise are the humble who learn to enjoy it, hold it and honour it. A fine pearl of great value is them, it's you, it's the Divine.

Guy Miller
Wolverhampton Meeting

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THE GROUND OF OUR QUAKER BEING

- *Fox's legacy*
- *Evolving to thrive*
- *A Society of Friends*
- *Stillness, silence beyond words*
- *Peace, love, justice*
- *Earth*
- *Radical hearts, open minds*

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BUILDING THE SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY: HOW QUAKERS EVOLVED TO THRIVE



Andrew Fincham

I had been attending Stone Meeting for quite a long time before learning anything significant about the origins of Quakers. I knew the name George Fox, but waited until his 400th anniversary to dig into his life and his writings.

So it was a revelation to learn more about the political and religious upheaval of the mid-17th century at a Meeting for Learning in Bull Street in January. Central England AQM had invited Andy Fincham to give us a morning's tour of that time. Andy has a Ph.D. on the origins of Quakerism and a specialism in Quakers in business.

The thing that stood out the most was that such great change had taken place in the space of a few years, with previous certainties being overthrown, that people

were asking if they were at "the end of time". I jotted down, at this point, "look busy in case Christ turns up"!

Besides chopping the King's head off, there was an explosion of debate, and after 1641 a battle for ideas in the Pamphlet Wars. Bear in mind that dissenters then were by no means pacifists. The New Model Army attracted independent thinkers. Education was at the core of early Quakerism.

In the 17th century many Quakers were makers of things. The availability of apprenticeships was a standing item in monthly meetings. As they became better off, an increasing number moved into finance and commerce in the 18th century. But these were practical people, for whom building heaven on Earth was both an obligation and a reality.

Interesting stuff indeed. But is any of this helpful to us now? Several at the meeting in January raised the thought that we are now also in a time of change and uncertainty. When Mark Carney, the Canadian Prime Minister, can say at Davos that the Rules Based Order has come to an end, does he imply that from now on we are on our own in the global jungle?

So now the question to pose to Friends is that knowing our Society was founded in a past period of conflict and change, out of which Quakers evolved to thrive, will our Society of Friends be able to flourish in this century? Or fail? After all, whatever happened to the Hetheringtonians?

Jon Heal
Stone Meeting

ALTRUISTIC SOLIDARITY

Solitude and stillness, but not alone.
Our combined presence in focused thought, taking
Comfort from collective reflection. For
In quiet time our minds are free to roam,
Embracing the light. Rejoicing in friendship,
Together we affirm to one commitment.
Young and old united to appreciate
Our solemn covenant to peace, composed in
Fellowship against harm and violence.
Faithfully we nurture ourselves and others.
Revering and respecting living beings
Is our affirmation of their worth; our
Expression of the love and truth in our hearts,
Never to support hatred, injustice,
Discrimination, oppression and war.
Selflessly we share these aims in friendship.

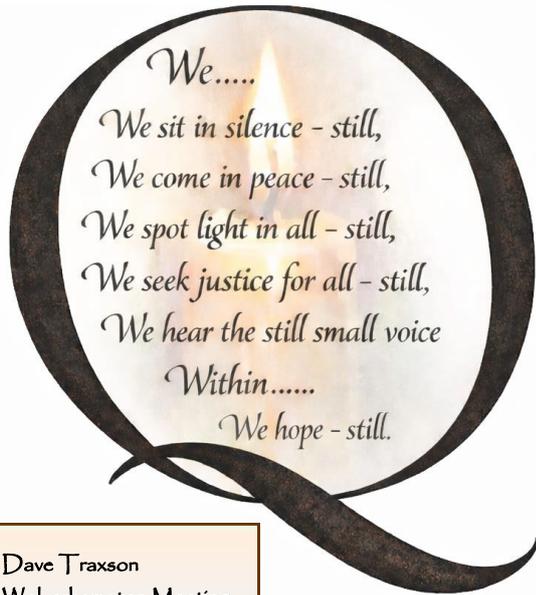
PRISON MEETINGS

Robbie: God is where peace and love is.
Raymond: Brings reality into an unreal world.
Billy: Meeting provides a sanctuary, I welcome the peace.
Shaun: A route to relaxation and trust, where you can be yourself.
Scotty: A contemplative base for confidential discussion.
Bernard: Good to be where no one is pushing an agenda, it retains your humanity.

'Altruistic Solidarity' is an acrostic by Blair and Gavin, prisoners in HMP Kingston, Portsmouth, where Maggie Hunt (see pp 4-5) was Quaker Chaplain.

'Prison Meetings' consists of inmates' thoughts on Quaker Prison Minister meetings which Maggie collected whilst at HMP Kingston.

STILL



Dave Traxson
Wolverhampton Meeting

THE MEETING

Hands are shaken at the door,
In silence Friends file in and sit down.
The clock ticks out its measured pulse,
The silence gathers.
Stand up 'The sun is shining and the Spirit too'
Sit down
Stand up 'I saw a bird its breast was blue'
Sit down
Stand up 'Look out of the window, there's a Jay'
Sit down
Stand up 'My mother's ninety and is here today'
Sit down
Stand up 'Praise the Lord, hip hip hooray'
Sit down
Stand up
Keep moving
Sit down
Stand up 'I saw a daffodil, it must be spring'
Sit down
Stand up 'But only yesterday it was snowing'
Sit down
Stand up 'The peace of God passeth all understanding'
Sit down
Stand up 'It certainly does'
Sit down

STAY DOWN

Written at Woodbrooke, 2016
Nigel Peckett
Stafford Meeting

A QUAKER SONNET

Listening to George Fox, some thought his speech
Came from the Bible, when it is not so.
Some thought his words his own when he would reach
Inside, to find a verse they didn't know.
The King James version (though described by some
As stiff and formal, beside Tyndale's wit),
Has words enough and space for everyone;
For generations it was holy writ.
I love the modern versions of the Book
And poetry (worth the name) of centuries.
Though ours, our words can still be enemies
To what lives in a tone, a pause, a look.
Like sky that swarms between two tall sunflowers,
The God that lives *between* the lines, is ours.

From Simon Webb's *The Quaker Sonnets*,
read by Jim Sorby in Stafford Meeting

SIMON WEBB

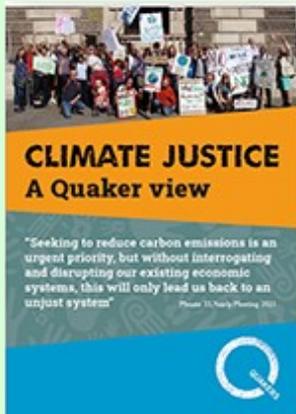
Simon Webb, published *The Quaker Sonnets* in 2017. In the introduction he says that he had written the poems about 20 years earlier, at the time that he first became interested in Quakers. He decided to take *Advices and Queries* as the framework for a set of sonnets.

He had trained himself to write sonnets in the 1980s, when he should have been studying harder for his English degree in Birmingham.

He has written widely, including several books on Quaker history.

Our Earth Testimony

CLIMATE & JUSTICE: QUAKER RESOURCES



4-page leaflet

‘PHASING OUT
FOSSIL FUELS IS
THE BARE
MINIMUM OUR
HUMANITY
DEMANDS’

TANYA JONES,
CLIMATE JUSTICE
LEAD FOR QUAKERS
IN BRITAIN



Postcard

How can we explore and promote our Earth Testimony more fully?

Anthony Wilson points us to the latest issue of ‘Quake!’, particularly the information it contains about resources on climate justice.

He asks: ‘Might these be ordered ... to display at Area Meeting, suggesting that all meetings should hold them?’

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

The resources include:

Leaflets

- Climate justice: a Quaker view
- Taking action on climate justice

Postcards

- Insure our future
- Make polluters pay

Workbooks for the six modules of the ‘Exploring faith and climate justice’ course.

Also

- Green advices & queries, 2002
- Canterbury Commitment to becoming a low-carbon community, 2011

All the resources can be downloaded at <https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/justice/climate-justice-1>

ROOTED IN REVERENCE: A PAGAN PERSPECTIVE ON NATURE AND CONSERVATION

A number of speakers from other faiths have given talks at Stafford Meeting. When Christina Jebb spoke about Paganism, Friends were struck by the parallels between some Pagan ideas about nature and our own Earth Testimony. This article by Sarah Kerr, President of the Pagan Federation, comes from a blog on the website of the Wildlife Trusts.

For Pagans, nature is not just beautiful or useful – it is sacred. We don’t see ourselves as separate from the natural world, but as part of an interconnected web of life, where every tree, stream, bird, and beetle is not only vital to the whole, but also imbued with spirit. This worldview shapes not only how we relate to the land, but also how and why we protect it.

Many modern Pagan paths, whether Druidic, Wiccan, Heathen, or eclectic, draw their inspiration from pre-Christian traditions that honoured the cycles of nature. Our festivals often mark the turning points of the seasons – the solstices and equinoxes, the times of planting and harvest. These are not just dates in a calendar but moments of deep connection with the living world. At

Beltane, we celebrate fertility and the bursting forth of life. At Samhain, we honour decay, death, and the turning inward of winter. In all of this, there is an understanding that life and death are part of the same great cycle – and that the earth sustains and receives us all.

Because of this deep spiritual connection, conservation becomes more than a duty or a good cause. It becomes an act of devotion. To protect a wetland is to honour the spirits of water and reed. To rewild a field is to invite the return of ancestral relationships between humans and the wild. To plant trees is not only a gift to future generations but an offering to the land spirits we walk among today. Our rituals might include prayers, songs, or silent presence in natural places, but they’re often also accompanied by very practical work. We give our time to clear litter from a river, join a tree-planting group, create pollinator-friendly spaces in our gardens or communities and think about possible consequences of our actions on the environment that sustains us.

(continued on page 10)

I OPPOSE GENOCIDE. I SUPPORT PALESTINE ACTION

For years I have intermittently attended protests at the Elbit UAV Systems factory in Shenstone. It is an Israeli company which manufactures military equipment, including 85% of the drones Israel markets as “battle proven”.

Protests at the company culminated in August 2014 when nine members of London Palestine Action climbed on the roof and were arrested. Before this it was easy to avoid being served with an injunction. A polite ‘No, thanks’ served.

When I decided it was high time I protested again, I arrived too early. There was no sign of any demonstrators, just few police standing idly around. I adjourned to The Plough!

Returning to Elbit, a crowd had gathered. Stalls were being set up, a hedge festooned with posters, and Palestinian flags. I settled on the grass verge. By now I had



had friendly chats with several policemen.

Two hours later and nothing much had happened. The sun shone. There was Arabic music. People meandered about, met old friends, and made new ones. Time passed. Then the police closed the road at both ends. It soon became apparent why.

A large contingent from Greater Manchester PSC arrived with drums, flags, symbolic babies wrapped in swaddling clothes, and a coffin symbolising dead Palestinians.

West Midlands PSC reported a protest on 12 October which unusually took place on a Sunday. Around two hundred people attended, including Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Jews, marching silently to protest the Gaza genocide.

It took Barclays Bank over 20 years of anti-apartheid protest before it disinvested in South Africa. Elbit, Israel’s largest arms firm, is reportedly losing money. Never give up. Protest, protest, protest. Not because you are on the side of Israel or Palestine but because you know that the land must be shared. There must be social justice for Israelis and Palestinians within one democratic state. Palestinians and Israelis have been meeting together for some years to hammer out a common language to support this aspiration. Gradually their voices are being heard. By our actions we can support them. Amen

NEVER GIVE UP.
PROTEST,
PROTEST,
PROTEST



Angela Glendenning,
Stoke Meeting

PHEW! JOB DONE

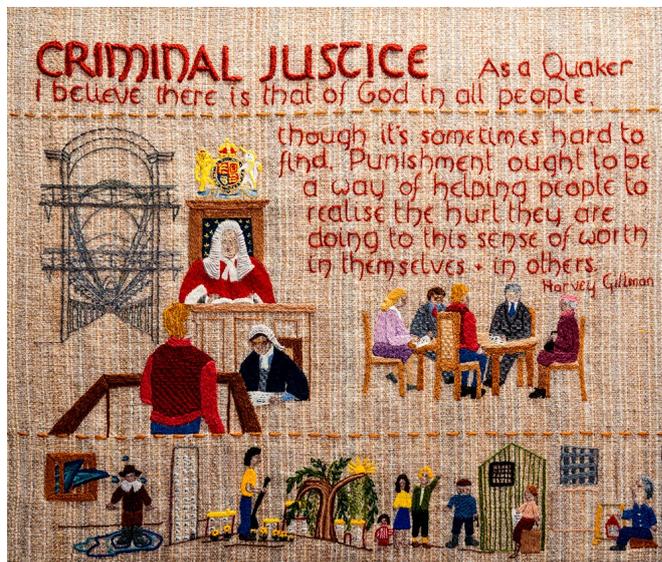
23 YEARS IN THE PRISON AND JUSTICE SYSTEM

Wednesday, October 8th. A normal workday for most people but greatly significant for me. After 23 years my active involvement with the prison and justice systems came to an end. At 84 years old the spirit is still greatly willing but the body is not! Hey-Ho!

It all began when I was a Samaritan volunteer in Winchester, Hampshire. I'd just retired from a career in education and was asked to help train men in the large local prison (over 700 people, including a women's wing) to become Listeners - in-house Samaritans whose role is to confidentially support other inmates. The statistics at the time showed that those who became Listeners very rarely went on to reoffend.

This led to Hampshire Area Meeting asking me to take on a Quaker chaplaincy role, also in Winchester, where my first meeting was with Jamie. He was a young man who had embarked on a long journey, as a Lifer, to come to terms with his offence and his hideously adverse childhood experiences, which can be seen as an underlying reason for his bad choices but not as an excuse. I came to discover that this was almost invariably the experience of others.

I moved on in 2004 as a Vol-



untary Quaker Chaplain in HMP Kingston, Portsmouth, which closed in 2013, and that was the year we moved to Staffordshire. This (Kingston) was a much smaller prison, only 250, all of whom were Lifers. Because of the seriousness of their offences they tended to be a regular group. As a consequence, with weekly sessions plus a Meeting for Worship in the evening, when Friends from both Alton and Portsmouth joined us, the group became established. What we did do on those afternoons allowed me to get to know, at a deep level, many of the best people, but also, admittedly, one or two of the worst. We sat quietly, chatted, had refreshments, explored a whole raft of issues, had some fun, looked at photos of the outside world - which led to some powerful poems (one, by Peter, is on the

next page). The young Chaplaincy Orderly, G., who provided the tea, had a fit of giggles when confronting, on the sidelines, his first silent meeting. I'm still in touch with him all these years later - quite against the rules, but when did Quakers always keep those?!

I trained as a volunteer for Circles of Support and Accountability: a very effective programme of long-term weekly support (1-2 years) for released offenders to safely ease them back into society. Once again, early statistics showed that those supported rarely reoffended sexually. During my time I worked with 4 'Core' members, whose ages ranged from 22 - 74! This would be a very positive experience for released Lifers but ... sadly ...!

(continued on page 7)

THOSE WHO
BECAME
LISTENERS VERY
RARELY WENT
ON TO
REOFFEND

PHEW! JOB DONE (CONTINUED)

My last role was in HMP Stafford, another large prison housing sentenced sex offenders. As an Official Prison Volunteer (OPV) it was a mixed experience, not least with other OPVs, trying to establish trust with some of the employed chaplains - challenging and frustrating, although greatly improved with the latest Lead Chaplain who is a Roman Catholic woman. There were regular fortnightly visits working with 4 people on a one-to-one basis for 30 minutes each. Phew!

That was the easy part. There was also getting there and back from Leek (2 hours) and getting in and out of the prison (30 minutes), but, my goodness, how rewarding it has been. I've seen one intelligent man regularly for over 3 years. It has been a joy and a privilege to see him working so hard to find a different way forward and he has now just become a trained Listener! Full circle.

What an experience: frustrating at times but always enriching, a great privilege and joyful.

All done: that feels better, and did you get to the end? If so, thank you!

Maggie Hunt
Leek Meeting
(see also page 2)

IN THE BEGINNING OF MY TIME

I believed
But found the time for doubting
I made no sound
I hear the devil shouting
—
I wanted the glory
I walked in the hell
And now I tell my story
I sing sad songs
I did not write the music
I find sad words
Waiting - just inside my mind
—
I played my part
But seldom did I choose it
I held a gun, call it fate
Or destiny
I did not use it
And if you should look into my eyes
By chance, you might just see a sad,
Sad soul, that shed its tears
Yet let the heart go free
And yet between them, if you should look
And read my mind, you know the soul
Still sheds its tears
For deeds left far behind
But if you see the eagle there
Then don't ignore the dove
For now that all the killing's done
There's nothing
BUT LOVE

Peter, HMP Stafford

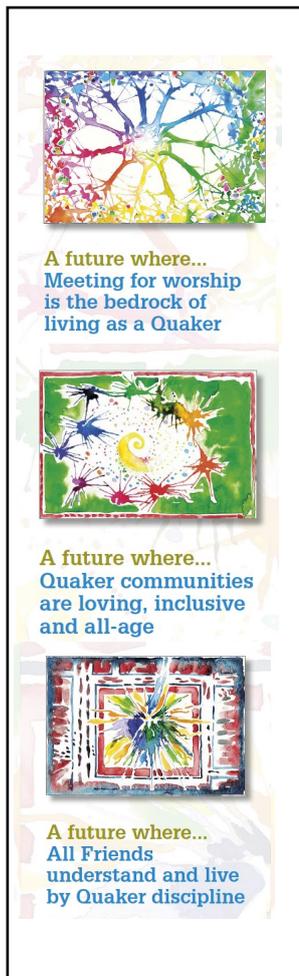
AND NOW I
WRITE MY
STORY,
I SING SAD
SONGS



RADICAL HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



In November Helen Buckroyd and Marion Stansfield attended a 'Radical Hearts, Open Minds' event at Bull Street Meeting. The aim was to consider 'Our Faith in the Future', published in 2016, which was based on contributions from Quakers throughout Britain. The publication's 6 themes - 'a future where ...' - are shown in the illustrations on these 2 pages.



SESSION 1

TO EXPLORE HOW OUR QUAKER COMMUNITIES COULD LOOK IN THE 2030S & BEYOND IF WE ENACT OUR VISION IN 'OUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE'.

Some ideas we shared:

- * Coffee/tea BEFORE Meeting for Worship
- * Shared meals with multi-faith groups
- * Intergenerational skills swap
- * Talk about the 'spiritual' or people go away
- * Quaker Hub as a safe space especially with climate breakdown. Meeting houses used where people's homes are uninhabitable due to flooding.
- * Quaker posters in Tesco's or a local coffee shop

SESSION 2

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WILL NOURISH GROWTH AND CHANGE?

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR SUPPORTING QUAKER COMMUNITIES OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

HOW CAN THE SUPPORT OFFERED BY QUAKERS IN BRITAIN, WOODBROOKE LEARNING AND OTHER QUAKER GROUPS BE MOST EFFECTIVE OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

Priorities we identified:

1. An all-age group

* "All-age" would be better described as intergenerational. Accommodating "spiritual" ages is as important as chronological ages. This is not just about children's groups. It is not just about age. Support and skills swap should be about needs not simply age. (Children of Quakers may find silence relatively easy; a young adult who arrives at a Quaker meeting for the first time might find it difficult!)

* Are retired people doing all the admin jobs? Can we support people with careers to do admin jobs as well?

* There is a need for a national and local social media platform which is accessible to all and which needs specifically skilled people to set it up and train people to manage it.

* Admin support for Area

and Local Meetings is necessary.

* 'Marketing' training for outreach was suggested.

2. Lego group

Building a Quaker community with Lego – a large campfire for fun and a people scooper to help people attend Meetings. We need more silliness and not only teas and coffees but HOT CHOCOLATE too!!

3. Deepening Spirituality

- * Speak openly
- * Teaching Ministry
- * Travelling Ministry
- * Meetings for Learning
- * Express our spirituality without being 'attacked'
- * Generosity of listening
- * Support the Kindlers financially
- * Twinning Local Meetings with Meetings abroad

'RADICAL HEARTS, OPEN MINDS' WAS A SERIES OF 5 IDENTICAL EVENTS HELD ACROSS BRITAIN IN THE AUTUMN OF 2025. THEY FORMED PART OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS ABOUT SUPPORT FOR QUAKER COMMUNITIES FROM 2026 TO 2030.

RADICAL HEARTS, OPEN MINDS (CONTINUED)

SESSION 3

HOW DOES YOUR ALLOTMENT GROW?

WE'RE GOING TO CREATE A FLOURISHING ALLOTMENT TOGETHER AS AN IMAGE OF OUR QUAKER COMMUNITIES NOW.

WE WILL BE USING CRAFT MATERIALS, MAKING, WRITING AND CHATTING.



OUR ALLOTMENT WILL SHOW ALL THE THINGS WHICH ARE FLOURISHING NOW IN DIFFERENT QUAKER COMMUNITIES.

How do we share joy?

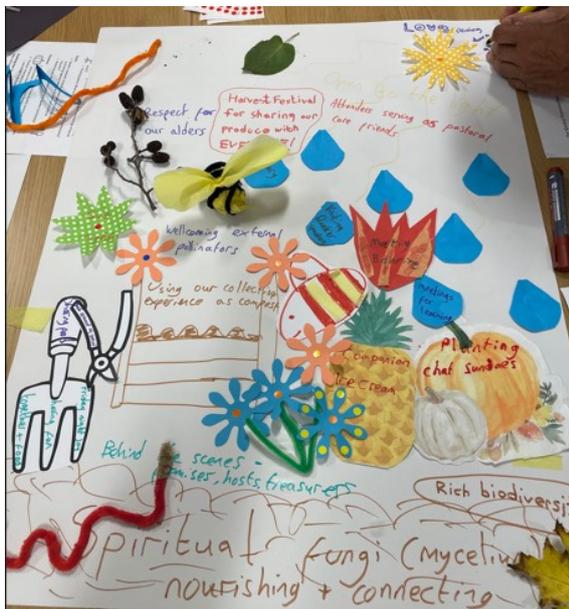
* A cherry tree in a small garden with an abundance of fruit; cherry muffins shared at Meeting for Worship.

* Advices and Queries 42
Rejoice in the splendour of God/Nature/Love's continuing creation.

- * Loving is sharing.
- * Someone on the edge. Go outside to meet them. Please help us find the language to reach them?
- * Quakers as chameleons – we need to adapt and change!!
- * There are many different paths to Quakers and within Quakers.

REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY

- * Give everyone the chance to talk about something good that happened this week during Meeting for Worship.
- * Let's have Meetings for Learning, Action and Joy.
- * What about badge making so everyone can have a badge – regulars and newcomers? Don't miss anyone out!
- * When you arrive at Meeting for Worship choose a colour that represents how you feel – someone may then approach you if you want to talk about it.



A future where...
Quakers work collaboratively



A future where...
Quaker values are active in the world



A future where...
Quakers are well known and widely understood

Helen Buckroyd,
Lichfield Meeting,
and
Marion Stanfield,
Stone Meeting.

(see also page 10)

Our Earth Testimony

ROOTED IN REVERENCE: A PAGAN PERSPECTIVE ON NATURE & CONSERVATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

MANY OF US
FEEL THE PAIN
OF ECOLOGICAL
DESTRUCTION
DEEPLY.

Many of us feel the pain of ecological destruction deeply. The loss of species, the degradation of habitats, the warming of the climate – these are not abstract issues. They are wounds in the body of the earth, and many Pagans feel them as grief in our own hearts. In response, we bring what we can: ritual, action, education, art, and presence. We might stand with grassroots campaigns to protect woodlands from development or support organisations like The Wildlife Trust in their tireless work for wild spaces and

species. Paganisms also encourage a slow, attentive way of being in the world.

Conservation doesn't always mean dramatic interventions. Sometimes it means listening to the land, learning its rhythms, and simply being with it. Spending time outside in all weathers, getting to know the plants and animals who share our space, tending the soil, celebrating what is still thriving – these quiet acts of presence help rebuild our relationship with nature, and that relationship is at the heart of long-term

care. At a time when many feel disconnected from the natural world, Paganisms offer a reminder: we are not above or outside nature – we are part of it. When we protect and nurture the wild, we are also tending something deep within ourselves. Conservation is not just something we do; it's a way of being, rooted in reverence, reciprocity, and relationship.

May we all, whatever our path, continue to honour the wild and walk gently upon the earth

RADICAL HEARTS, OPEN MINDS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9) THEME 3: LIVING BY QUAKER DISCIPLINE



A future where...
All Friends
understand and live
by Quaker discipline

All Friends understand and live by Quaker discipline

(Focus: shared spiritual practice, decision-making, ways of living out faith)

- In 2035, what do Quakers know, do, and embody that shows they live by Quaker discipline?
- What changes have happened in relation to governance and organisation (e.g. changes to area meeting groupings and charities; and the move to continuing yearly meeting)? What has this meant for the ongoing life of our Quaker communities?
- How do new generations learn and joyfully embrace Quaker practice?
- What rituals, habits, or shared commitments help us stay faithful in challenging times?
- How have our processes (e.g., decision-making) adapted for a changing world while staying faithful to our tradition?
- What stories or examples do people share about how we live our discipline?

WOODBROOKE

WWW.WOODBROOKE.ORG.UK

OUR AMAZING BALLOON FLIGHT

In late September last year, we went on a balloon trip – finally! Although it had initially been booked three and a half years earlier, the weather up to that point had continually been too wet/windy to allow it to go ahead. Coming to the end of the third year of trying for this, we finally decided to try booking a morning flight, as it seemed there was more of a chance at that time of day. Success! We finally got the call to let us know the flight was on!



In slight trepidation (I really do not like heights, but thought it was an opportunity to challenge myself to “face my fears”) we set off early one morning. As we needed to be at the launch site for 7.00, we set off at 6.15.

What a day we had chosen, the weather was near perfect. An amazingly beautiful sunrise greeted us on the way, deep reds on the horizon, and the day continued with clear blue skies.

We were headed for Hollinsclough, near Longnor, for the launch site. As we got there, others arriving around us, there was a sharp frost turning the grass white.

The crew arrived, with the balloon, shortly afterwards. There were sixteen passengers in total, and we were all recruited to help set up in readiness for take-off. After some time, it was ready, and we all climbed in.

There were four compartments, with four people in each, so quite a big basket. The Pilot was in a separate area, in the centre; I was amazed at how sophisticated his navigation was, as he was connected to a computer that gave him wind speeds at different heights. It is in this way that the flight can be steered along its course, to get the balloon to pre-arranged fields.

As we started to take off, and the balloon rose, the

feeling was exhilarating. I was expecting to feel fearful, but felt none at all, just an awe of the beauty all around us.

The sky was a beautiful blue, and the weather conditions had caused a mist to form in the lower valleys that looked like rivers and lakes from above. The light on the ground below meant that however high we went, we could see the most minute details below us. Sheep in the fields, houses and cottages were all clearly seen, as was the landscape. Chrome hill, near Hollinsclough/Longnor, was clearly visible, with other hills surrounding, and other landmarks were identified as we went on our way. It was totally breathtaking.

We were particularly lucky that day, as the weather conditions made the flight even more memorable. The chance to see our local countryside from such a viewpoint was amazing, and I felt a deep sense of peacefulness throughout the journey.

Sadly, it was over all too soon, as I would have loved to have stayed there for a much longer time. I would highly recommend it to anyone.

Linda Skellam,
Leek Meeting



A DEEP SENSE OF
PEACEFULNESS

MUSIC, REFUGEES & SANCTUARY IN WOLVERHAMPTON

Dave Traxson reports that 'City of Sanctuary and Wolverhampton Quakers are fully behind this exciting initiative to boost the mental health and wellbeing of young adult refugees in hotels in Wolverhampton'.

People have been very generous with instruments and sound equipment. We do need to meet the participants transport costs and the wages of one paid member of staff who will lead the musical side of the project. We are covered for two months but need to extend it so we can apply for matched funding etc.



Scenes from the Gazebo Theatre for young people at Wolverhampton Arts Centre

Happy New Year, all Friends

Please support this 2026 project I am coordinating on Crowdfunder (go to the link below).

It is an attempt to provide another session a week of creative engagement and enjoyment for young adult refugees accommodated in hotels in Wolverhampton. We hope that it will boost their self-esteem and psychological wellbeing.

Also we want to build their English skills by writing more poetry and songs influenced by their culture which can be accompanied by music they create. This will lead to performances in the longer term.

All in all a very worthwhile project.

Thanks in anticipation for

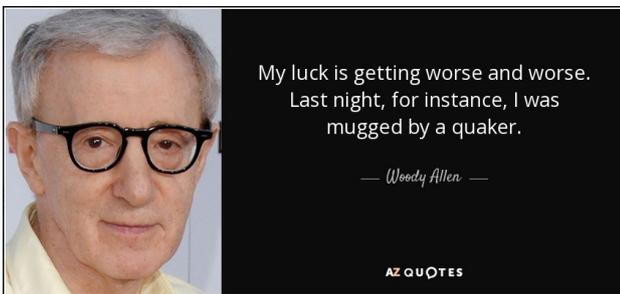
your support.

Please let me know if you have any other ideas, suggestions and funding bodies who might support us.

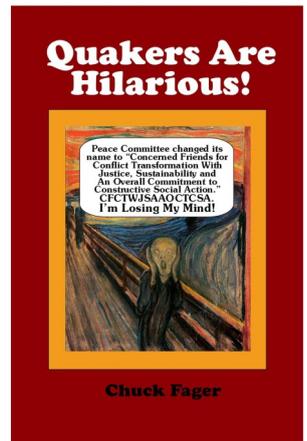
Dave Traxson
Wolverhampton Meeting
07809460521

https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wolves-city-of-sanctuary-gazebo-music-project?utm_campaign=sharemodal&utm_medium=email&utm_source=email

QUAKERS ACROSS THE POND



A Wilburite Friend argued with a Quaker pastor over the merits of programmed versus unprogrammed worship, but to no avail. When both had talked themselves out, the Wilburite concluded in a tolerant tone, "Well, Friend, I guess we are both trying to worship the Lord - thee in thy way, and I in His."



CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: END OF MAY BUT PLEASE START NOW!
ARTICLES ARE USUALLY A MAXIMUM OF ABOUT 620 WORDS LONG — ONE PAGE

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