

THE YOUNG QUAKER

For Young Friends Everywhere

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WE ARE CONCERNED – NOW WHAT?

YFGM made some Quaker history when it adopted two Concerns last year; TYQ catches up with progress.

It seems that Concerns for us are like buses - our last Concern was laid down in 2006. Now, two have come along at once!

The first of these is the UK's nuclear weapons programme. Hannah Brock, all-round campaigner for peace in the world, brought this Concern to YFGM and is keen to gather momentum and campaign against Trident particularly ahead of the General Election in May. Hannah says: "If the government renews Trident in 2016, the British state could use nuclear weapons through and beyond our lifetimes. We need to link it to cuts in the public service - the government could spend billions of pounds renewing Trident whilst decimating the NHS."

Becky Riddell is the small-but-mighty dynamo who is bringing mental health to the fore in YFGM. Becky says: 'In adopting this Concern, we say that we, as young Quakers, can experience mental health problems'. Early results from the YFGM Mental Wellbeing survey indicate a will to focus on both mental health in society at large and within YFGM. There is less enthusiasm to focus on the wider Quaker context.

So, what next for our Concerns? 'The next step is to form the working groups and get some hard work done' (anonymous, dynamo).



Anti-Trident working group meets at the Peace Hub, Birmingham, to plan.

Hannah, unconventionally going under the radar of Noms committee, already has a working group of six members. They are organising a YFGM-free in Reading (27-29 March) to plan our Anti-Trident action further.

Becky looks forward to the appointment of the Mental Health working group in this YFGM.

'The working group will not be coming up with all the ideas. Rather, we, as the working group, will be finding out what YFGM wants, making sure that what we want actually happens. Some things we'll be doing as an entire group, other things will take the form of mini projects for individual members to champion.' (Not had your say yet? - do the Mental Wellbeing survey, jump to it! - Ed).

What is clear is, unlike our recent Appeals (2004 and 2003) on both these issues, our Concerns this time are not about raising money but about action.

I want to get involved in one of these working groups!

Get in touch with Hannah and Becky through YFGM's coordinator, Tim Rouse, by emailing yfgm@quaker.org.uk

Umm, ... what is a Concern again?

Did you forget what a Concern with a capital C is? Co-clerk explains on p7

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Zero hours at Friends House... p2

Election feverp3

Who's living adventurously?... p10

new QF&P p11

♥?

Caring matters most.

QF&P 21.20

ZERO HOURS AT FRIENDS HOUSE

BEATRICE SHELLEY reports on an employment dispute and highlights the wider issues this raises.

A dispute over certain employment practices is playing out at Friends House. Five years after the introduction of zero hours contracts, Friends House decided to remove the contentious employment terms. The move aligned Friends House management with Unite's concern to remove these contracts. However, there remains outrage about the way in which contracts were terminated and the nature of the subsequent work offers.

The dispute is complicated by the details surrounding the specific cases of employees in the cafe, and by a change in Unite officers. A Unite officer (at the time) says: "although management had not acted perfectly, they had made a series of offers of new work, which in some cases we had been able to influence in our members' favour, that we were encouraging the ex-staff members to take up." However, and significantly, Friends House's decision to end the zero-hour contracts came before the conclusion of a process that Unite was working to establish that would have given some workers on zero-hour contracts, the time they needed to adjust and make decisions. BYM declines to comment on the details of specific negotiations.

Management of the transition of workers off zero-hour contracts has been far from ideal. Now, there is strong feeling amongst some employees of Friends House that the ex-zero hour contract workers have been treated unfairly. People have lost their jobs. A current Unite representative claims that the physical and mental health of the three cafe employees has suffered as a result of the Quaker management of the process.

In the latest Extraordinary General Meeting, Unite voted to continue to campaign for justice for the zero-hours three. BYM states an intention to 'continue to work actively to find an employment model that works well'. The case raises some interesting issues for our community:

A Friends House employee writes ...

In November 2014 three Friends House café workers, two of whom were union representatives, lost their jobs. Martin Nickolay-Blake and Georgia Coles-Riley expected – from an agreement with managers – to be given work at the Quakers headquarters after the quiet summer period, but they were not. Three months without work meant that the company was able to terminate their employment. Before that however, two new part-time posts were created and all staff on zero-hours were invited to apply. Only one employee did so, the rest stood in solidarity refusing to compete with each other. Those employees have always been vocal about their unhappiness with employment practices at Friends House. As well as seeking the support of Unite, the recognised union at Friends House, Anna and Martin are also members of Industrial Workers of the World. The IWW's presence at recent protests outside the building has caused consternation among senior managers and drawn hostile reactions, while Paul Parker,

Recording Clerk of Quakers in Britain, is 'saddened' by their involvement.

Unite members are also voicing their disappointment with the behaviour of management, and questioning how a for-profit company, with no Quaker senior staff, operates in a Quaker workplace. The contrast is brought home by the treatment of Anna Jemiolek, who had been put on "a garden leave" with pay - which management consider a privilege, not a right – and after the investigation was closed pending Anna's coming back to work, another investigation was conceived. It was concluded, without her presence, in a way that she will now never be considered for employment at Friends House. Her contract was terminated before the second investigation even started.

Martin and Georgia feel they were being asked to abandon their Quaker principles when they were encouraged to first compete against their colleagues for jobs, and then accept employment while Anna was being kept from working. The union within Friends House is supporting their campaign, which calls for reinstatement of three of them, on fair terms.

Deputy Recording Clerk writes ...

As we understand it, the protest is about the fact that three people feel they have been treated unfairly. We have tried extremely hard throughout to act fairly and in accordance with our commitment to being an ethical employer. We remain sure that the decisions taken were the right ones. The process which led to the decisions and the current situation took some time and there were complexities; it was thoughtful, careful, underpinned by Quaker discernment, and our recognised union, Unite, was involved throughout. Throughout, we felt

that we were communicating with all parties in an appropriate way; however, I'm sure we'll want to look back on the experience in case there are things we can do better.

Unfortunately, the three people concerned and their supporters are circulating inaccurate information, often anonymously, which of course is causing concern. Paul and I are saddened, partly that the decisions are being judged as bad decisions; partly that the mis-information is causing concern; and perhaps mostly because a group not connected with Britain Yearly Meeting is undertaking and encouraging action based on inaccurate information and interpretation of Quaker processes.

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| How could BYM have handled the termination of these contracts better? | What duty does BYM have to its ex-zero hour contract workers? | How should Quaker principles benefit for-profit contexts such as this? |
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HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

JESS METHERINGHAM,

Parliamentary Officer for

Britain Yearly Meeting,

encourages us to prepare for
the General Election.

The general election is a time when normal political processes are brushed aside. Political parties set out their views and make new promises. For campaigners, it can be an opportunity to get their issues discussed and debated. Politicians are willing to listen, and if you can make candidates talk about your issue, you may be able to raise awareness among the public. The election is a time to talk about our concerns, to ask questions, and to consider how we might cast our own votes.

One way of doing this is to go to a hustings - a meeting in which the election candidates debate policies and answer questions from an audience. You can ask candidates about issues that are important to you (think Question Time!) Going to a hustings is a great way of getting involved in local politics.

Any community groups or campaigners can hold a hustings. You could organise one in your meeting house. Check out the Quaker election guide and <http://election.quaker.org.uk/what-meetings-can-do/hustings/> for more information.

Britain Yearly Meeting has put aside three dates on which to hold hustings in the Large Meeting House at Friends House: 31 March, 9 April and 21 April. Representatives from the Conservatives, the Green Party, Labour, the Liberal Democrats and UKIP are invited. More details will be announced at <http://election.quaker.org.uk/>

If you've never been to a hustings before why not try something new and go to one this time round? And if you have been before, this time, you could organise one!



After 'The Quaker Election Guide

The Quaker Election guide has some great advice for holding a hustings.

Hold a hustings

A hustings is when all the candidates are invited to answer questions from the audience. All candidates must be invited unless there are so many candidates that the event would be impracticable - in which case those least likely to win may be excluded. Please see the hustings briefing in the election pack for detailed information. Hustings are a valuable chance for everyone in the community to hear the candidates' views, so plan in advance and advertise widely. If you decide to hold a hustings, please let us know by emailing quakervote@quaker.org.uk.

When to hold it: between 30 March and 6 May

Who to involve: all the candidates, someone to chair the hustings, a large audience.

Credit: The Quaker Election Guide,

A copy of the Quaker Election Guide has been sent to every meeting in the country, with extra copies available through the Quaker bookshop.

It is also available to download from www.quaker.org.uk/quakervote.

If you are interested in finding out more about a specific issue, this website links to more detailed briefings too.

We've got no excuse not to know about the issues. We've been encouraged to go to a hustings. But what if we're still not sure who to vote for? If you are 'not very political' or you don't have time to go to a hustings near you, take a look at

www.voteforpolicies.org.uk

The online survey there can help you make an informed, unbiased decision about who to vote for, and it comes recommended by more than a just a few YFGMers.

What would you like to see in **The Young Quaker**?

Let us know:
theyoungquaker@gmail.com

The Young Quaker
c/o Young Friends General Meeting
173-177 Euston Road
London NW1 2BJ

WHO WILL YOU BE VOTING FOR?

I'm voting Labour

My relationship with Labour is love-hate, definitely. But this election I'll be voting Labour very happily, all because of the constituency I now live in. My MP is Lynne Featherstone, a Lib Dem who has supported the terrible policies of the ConDem coalition on everything from tripling undergraduate tuition fees to denying benefits to disabled people.

The Labour candidate meanwhile, is Catherine West, a local Quaker who was leader of Islington Council when it became the joint first local authority to adopt the Living Wage for all employees - and who has expressed a principled and strong stance against British intervention in the most recent war in Iraq.

I'm definitely voting Labour because of the candidate rather than the party.

Tim Rouse, Labour Party Member

TYQ has been hounding you, hassling you and bribing you to get you to spill your beans on who you'll be voting for this May

I'm voting Green

There is a saying that the Church of England is the Conservative Party at prayer, and the Green Party is the Quakers at work. It is a sweeping generalisation of course, but it contains many truths.

Our meetings start with attunement - a minute of silent reflection. Our internal structure is as non-hierarchical as possible, with a very familiar propensity for committees and representatives. Alas we do not use Quaker Business Method, although I definitely heard a rebellious/forgetful "Hope so!" from an elderly Quaker member in a consensus decision-making meeting last month. And it is full of people spending every spare moment of

their time trying to make the world a fairer place.

Greens and Quakers are equally misunderstood - Greens are no more "just about the environment" than Quakers are "just about peace".

In fact, precisely what unites them both is a rare understanding of the inter-connectedness of the issues the world faces. I'll blow my word limit if I start listing policies, so I'll just direct you to: www.reasonstovotegreen.org.uk

Of course, they might not get elected in your constituency this May, but there's one way to ensure they don't, and that's to keep saying so.

Carla Denyer

YFGMer and Green Party Member and activist, both since 2011.

REVIEW: QUAKER ELECTION GUIDE

The election is less than 4 months away. To help us prepare, Quakers in Britain has produced the Quaker Election Guide. The booklet introduces the key concerns, suggests questions to ask candidates, and contains ideas for activism during the general election.

SAM BARNETT-CORMACK takes a look at it.

upcoming general election. Any general election is an important event with far-reaching implications, and many current political issues speak to Quaker concerns. It's important that Friends pay attention and live our convictions in the lead-up to the election, as well as making informed decisions about our own votes.

Following a brief explanation of democracy in the UK, the bulk of the guide explores current political issues of interest to Quakers. Under headings like Community and Economic Justice, each issue is summarised, including its relevance to Quakers. Of particular value are the examples of questions you might ask candidates to help tease out their, or their party's, position. I'm happy to see coverage of areas in which I've been involved in activism, and I expect that any of you involved

in activism will see areas that you care about. Friends may disagree in places, but that's unavoidable when dealing concisely with political issues. On the whole, the guide maintains a reasonable balance: it gives a general idea of the issues, and lets you know where to find more information.

Practical ideas form the final part of the guide, and it is this part that Meetings are able to act most directly on. Hosting hustings or panel discussions, ideas for encouraging political discussion and participation, and raising awareness of issues that matter to us are steps that Friends and Meetings can take, and can have a wider impact. I encourage Friends to read this guide, and to consider what ideas and suggestions they may wish to raise at Local or Area Meetings.

I am very pleased to see that Friends House is producing a guide to help Meetings and individual Friends prepare for the

WHO WILL YOU BE VOTING FOR?

Are you LibDem?
UKIP? Plaid Cymru?
TYQ tried very hard ...
but couldn't find you!

I'm voting Conservative

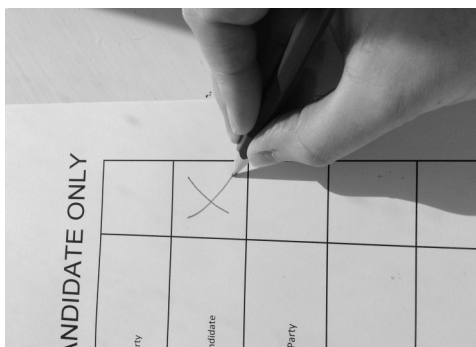
I live in deepest West Sussex, and it is a very right-wing area. There are only two parties with a realistic chance of winning the seat in my constituency - The Conservatives and UKIP. Therefore, I am planning to vote Conservative as the more moderate reasonable choice (even if they are allowing themselves to be bullied into holding an EU referendum, which I don't think they really want to offer).

John Barber-Bacon

I'm voting for the candidate's principles (then the party's)

I'm voting for someone's values that best represent the people in my constituency. I think that a person's views and values are often more nuanced than the 'party line'. I find that this the best way to vote within the limits of our voting system. What do you think?

Stephen Clement



I'm voting SNP

Poll after poll suggests the SNP is on course to win the UK General election in Scotland - for the first time ever! Given the potential for a hung parliament imagine what could be delivered if the SNP were kingmakers in such a scenario: could the renewal of Trident be, at least, postponed? Could austerity be mitigated? Could more meaningful power be devolved to Holyrood? Could there be reform to the unelected House of Lords? Could more ambitious climate change targets be set?

A strong group of SNP MPs at Westminster will mean that all of this could be possible and that Scotland cannot again be side-lined. Those who were empowered and enfranchised by the referendum process are not going to meekly return to the political shadows. The change afoot in Scotland can be best translated into real power by electing SNP MPs whose loyalties lie with the communities of Scotland, not with the party whip in London.

Conor Watt, SNP Member

Think that Quakers are a
whole load of Lefties only?
We're not! ANTHONY RIDGE-
NEWMAN explains why
Quakers should consider
voting Conservative.

British Conservatism and British Quakerism have more in common than one might think initially. Both are historic organisations that have continuously evolved over hundreds of years in order to advance in line with new times. Quakers campaigned for marriage equality and it was under a Conservative Prime Minister that Same-Sex Marriage was enacted into law (2013).

Both groups are pragmatic in nature and take a practical approach to putting their values into action. Both Conservatives and Quakers tend to actively engage in charity work and

develop networks and interest groups, which, in turn, encourage the practical advancement of notable causes. Quakers and Conservatives tend to be committed to getting off their backsides and doing something to help, rather than expecting the state to fill every void in the social fabric of the country.

Both are inclined to encourage a culture in which the personal freedom of the individual is valued and balanced against a collective responsibility to one another. The freedom of the individual to freely choose the manner in which they contribute to their community is often a significant characteristic of both Conservatism and Quakerism.

The Conservatives and Quakers have had historically prominent relationships with capitalism. A combination of business and philanthropy has been the signature of British capitalism and is a tradition to which Quakers and Conservatives have contributed significantly.

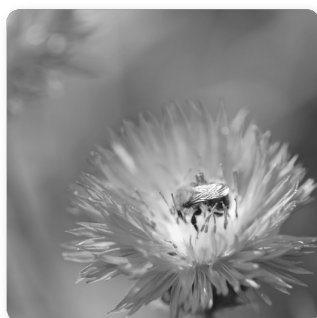
I'm voting Labour

I follow current affairs, and would most readily align myself with Labour. However, I am relatively torn as I think that a general election once every five years is not frequent enough. In a changing world where people expect to be able to express their opinion (think how many people vote on X factor each week), the idea that we get to put a cross against one name - who themselves may have little to no power against a strong party whip, is hardly inspiring.

Added to this, I live in a safe Lib Dem seat and so I wonder how useful my vote is. I may agree with one party on one matter and another on another matter. I can only vote for one however and this will be the party I see as representing most of my views.

Anon.

Young Adult Leadership Programme



A 12-month
programme for
19 to 28-year-olds
that will...

teach you about quaker history,
testimony, concerns and processes

reflect on what it means to be
a quaker today

consider leadership within quakerism
and the wider world



Young Adults at Woodbrooke



@YAFsWoodbrooke

For more information visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk/youngadults

Young Friends Discount

Anyone aged 18-30 can book a 2015 short course for half the advertised price. Just download a booking form www.bit.ly/wbform1 and tick 'Young Friends 50% Discount'

With the 'Young Friends Discount' our testimony and engagement courses are as little as **£48 Non-residential / £66 Residential**.

Courses to look out for:

Quaker Concern: more than just a good idea. - February

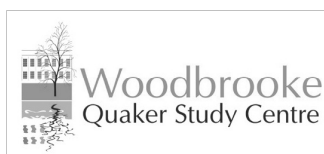
Truth: testimony, relationship, creed or..? - March

Activism: a beginners guide. - April

Walk humbly, serve boldly. - May

Testimony: Fruit of the Spirit. - May

Resilience in ourselves and our communities. - June



HOW I FOUND QUAKERISM

By IWONA LUSZOWICZ

Hello, I'm Iwona. I'm 25 years old, from Reading, and have been involved with Quakerism for about three years.

The first contact I had with Quakerism, and also what drew me to my first Meeting for Worship, was hearing a friend describe a Quaker funeral she had attended. I had already been to a number of funerals where the person doing most of the talking had never met the person who had died, and a whole life had been summarised in a few sentences.

The funeral my friend had attended sounded very different. It was simply people coming together to sit and to share their memories and thoughts, with everybody able to contribute. To me, this seemed to get straight to the heart of what was important, and I became curious about the people behind it. Soon afterwards, I went along to my local meeting.

My first experiences with Quakerism

were quite varied. I remember feeling a sense of freedom at not being asked to profess certain beliefs, have certain feelings, or sit a certain way during Meeting. However, at times I would also worry that I wasn't focusing on the 'right' sorts of thing during the silence, or that I wasn't really spiritual enough to be a Quaker.

My reactions to hearing others' Ministry were quite mixed, too. Sometimes I would feel a connection to a piece of Ministry and would be moved by it, while at other times I would become frustrated or bored and just want the person ministering to sit back down.

There are various aspects of Quakerism that I now value. First of all, the friends I have made. Secondly, the opportunity to sit and reflect in silence while still surrounded by other people. Thirdly, the values present in Quakerism, and the invitation to try to live out those values.

YFGM has made me much more aware of how the business side of



Quakerism is carried out. For example, prior to attending YFGM, I had never heard of a Concern, didn't really understand the different Quaker roles, and had never been to a Meeting for Business. YFGM has made this side of Quakerism far more transparent and accessible to me, encouraging me to play an active part myself. This has given me a new sense of belonging to the Quaker community as a whole.

So what's with all the Capitalised Nouns? I've

been away from YFGM too

long and forgot all me

Quaker jargon! Co-clerk,

PETER DOUBTFIRE explains.

What is an Appeal?

Adopting an **Appeal** is a way for YFGM to raise money for a cause that we feel called to support. Potential appeals go to threshing, and are then discerned by YFGM. An Appeal group will organise activities to raise money for a relevant organisation. They may suggest other ways in which YFGMers can get more involved in that cause, but fundraising is the focus.

What is a Concern?

A Concern is a deep calling from the spirit to take action on something. We may feel the Concern arising (welling up inside us) as an individual or as a group. We may not know yet what action to take, but it should be clear that we feel compelled to do something.

To be sure, we must test the Concern by, for example: speaking to Quinty; taking the Concern to threshing; or holding a meeting for clearness. Once the potential Concern has been thoroughly tested, and it is clear that the calling is genuine, it can be brought to YFGM. YFGM might discern that it should support the individual or group to act on the Concern; or that YFGM should adopt the Concern, and take action collectively.

Concerns: the Latest

The Mental Wellbeing Email List shares relevant information that might be happening locally or nationally, articles that are of interest, groups that are meeting, conferences that are happening or activities to volunteer with. If you would like your email address to be added to this growing list, then please contact Becky Riddell at bexriddell@gmail.com indicating that you would like to receive these emails. (You won't be bombarded with spam - PROMISE! - Ed, assured from Becky)

Register for the Anti-Trident YFGM-free in Reading, 27-29th March on the YFGM website, www.yfgm.org.uk

<div>My favourite QF&P is ...</div> <div>To find religion itself you must look inside people and inside yourself. And there, if you find even the tiniest grain of true love, you may be on the right scent. Millions of people have it and don't know what it is that they have. God is their guest, but they haven't the faintest idea that he is in the house. So you mustn't only look where God is confessed and acknowledged. You must look everywhere.</div> <div>Bernard Canter 1962, QF&P 26.37</div> <div>Chosen by HOLLY ALCOCK</div> <div>Do you like reading what Young Quakers write about? Have you got free time? (HA! what's that?! <edit mag like maniac>)</div> <div>Take a look at Quaker blogs, such as www.nayler.org, written by ex-TYQ editor Jez Smith</div> <div>Do you have a blog? (there's great advertising space here. Just fyi ...)</div> <div>Why not ...</div> <div>write your own so that other people can read you! ... (although once you start blogging, it might get addictive...)</div> <div>Are you into cooking? Are you a poet (and TYQ doesn't know it?) Do you hide your green fingers under a bush(el)? Do you have stuff to say about fashion? Do like drawing? (cartoons maybe? insert winky face here?) Do you read interesting stuff that you can recommend to others? Do you have an uber-obscure passion/ hobby that you can tell YFGM about?</div> <div>See below Friends!</div>	<div>Meeting for Sufferings</div> <div>YFGM's rep to Meeting for Sufferings, IWONA</div> <div>LUSZOWICZ, reports two issues of interest from the December meeting in Friends House</div> <div>I attend Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) - December's was my first one. The day's business was divided into two parts: first to receive Minutes that are sent to Meeting for Sufferings by various Area Meetings (and one Minute sent by the Quaker Life Central Committee) and second, to receive - and, in some cases, reach a decision on - reports from different Quaker bodies and affiliations.</div> <div>TAX JUSTICE</div> <div>The Minute noted the 'injustice inherent in the current [tax] system that allows companies and rich individuals to avoid paying tax at the right level, or at all', and asked for clarity on the tax practices of companies in which Britain Yearly Meeting has investments. For me, one of the most memorable moments of the day took place during the subsequent discussion. Many Friends voiced their support in calling to account companies that play the tax system; the discussion was moving along very smoothly. Then, just when it seemed we had reached a consensus, a woman stood up and declared that she was 'sick' of all this 'holier-than-thou' business, and that she herself knew many Friends who engaged in questionable tax practices, such as squirreling away money to avoid paying Inheritance Tax. As well as being a powerful reminder to challenge our own</div>	<div>Meeting for Sufferings is the standing representative body entrusted with the care of the business of Britain Yearly Meeting throughout the year. It is made up of representatives from Area Meetings and groups such as YFGM. It plays a vital role in reviewing and testing concerns referred to it by these meetings.</div> <div>END OF LIFE ISSUES</div> <div>The Quaker Life Central Committee raised the possibility of Britain Yearly Meeting adopting a position on this issue. What emerged in the discussion was a consensus that there is a need to focus on a wider range of issues than medically-assisted dying alone, and that much more consideration and conversation is needed before Quakers can adopt a unified stance on these issues. It was suggested that we invite Friends to share stories charting their own personal experiences of End of Life issues, a proposal which Meeting for Sufferings supports. I wonder whether, in light of YFGM's adoption of Mental Wellbeing as a Concern, this idea of sharing stories about one's own personal experiences is something that Young Friends might like to consider, although with a focus on mental wellbeing.</div> <div>We heard several other Minutes and reports that are of possible interest to YFGMers, including a report on The Retreat and a Minute from the Trustees concerning the Transparency of Lobbying Act. If you are interested in finding out more, please feel free to come and ask me at the next YFGM!</div>
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Andrew flies Peace flag at Trident demo.

Quakers join Wrap-Up Trident Protest outside Ministry of Defence



Young Quakers join national protest against Trident



Protesters demonstrate against renewal of the UK's nuclear weapon by wrapping MoD in seven miles of pink wool.



GET ACTIVE THROUGH THE ARTS - INTRODUCING THE LEAVENERS!

Leaveners is a Birmingham based arts charity, that delivers a wide range of arts projects, inspired by Quaker values.

Are you interested in advocating peace through theatre, putting Human Rights activism into practice through filmmaking, or re-connecting with your spiritual values through music? If so, then getting involved with the work the Leaveners has on offer might be for you!

Our mission is to inspire and transform lives. We do this by developing exciting arts projects across a range of disciplines from the visual arts and theatre, through to music and story-telling, but we also facilitate bespoke workshops upon request, for Meetings or for groups of likeminded friends! We aim to create opportunities for people of any faith, and none, to discover the power to create positive change.

We have many projects coming up over the next twelve months that you can get involved with:

...develop your graffiti skills during the 'Social Architects' project with Aerosol Ali, celebrating Birmingham's struggle for social equality. (Date TBC)

...become a member of a travelling theatre troupe, and write and direct a production exploring the theme 'Perspectives of Death', breaking taboos surrounding death and mental health. (A project in collaboration with the University of Finland, launching late 2015.)

...showcase your musical talent during our Open Mic day in June 2015!

...learn how to explore and express your ideas during our Film and Animation Weekend in August 2015.

...become one of our first young artists-in-residence, creating an artwork in response to Quaker values

We welcome everyone to participate in our projects, so if you've any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. Next to this, we are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to facilitate or support our projects! We provide various opportunities for young people to get work experience and develop their artistic and/or organisational skills!

If you would like to stay informed about our projects and future opportunities, you can follow us on facebook.com/theleaveners, Twitter @Leaveners, or email us to join our mailing list via enquiries@leaveners.org.

I LIVE ADVENTUROUSLY ...

At the end of February I am going to Cambodia for six months to undertake a volunteering assignment with a small education charity, Khmer New Generation Organisation (KNGO, www.kngocambodia.org). KNGO's mission is to provide free education, without restriction, to children in Bospo Village, Cambodia.



I will help both the accountant and director develop their skills in managing the finances of KNGO. This is likely to include giving support in developing systems for financial reporting and budgeting. It will put them in a better position to apply for further funding, as well as better communicate their activities to current donors.

So, why am I doing this? I want to find work as an accountant which might contribute to bringing about social change in a community with acute needs. I welcome this opportunity to explore a different way of using my skills to the service of others by supporting and training staff at KNGO so that they may be able to continue this work themselves.

I also look forward to living and working in a different culture, to being open to new sources of the Light from the people I encounter in Cambodia. This country has a particularly troubled recent past. I hope that my work will contribute, even if only in a small way, to improving the lives of others.

... BY SOPHIE

Whilst I feel excited and extremely fortunate to have this opportunity, I naturally also have a huge mix of feelings, including trepidation and apprehension, about this big step. However, being a part of the wonderfully supportive and spiritually nurturing community of YFGM is a large part of what makes it possible for me to live adventurously in this way. So Thank You to every person who is or has been part of my YFGM. I look forward to sharing something of my experiences with you all when I return.

My assignment is facilitated by Accounting for International Development. See www.afid.org.uk for more information.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING CORNER

Sometimes we can feel the pressure (from without and within) to achieve. Often we seek to do well at University or get good feedback from employers, which is no bad thing: achievement is an important element of a life lived in balance. But sometimes it's easy to push ourselves too far, to lose sight of the journey, of the simple pleasures life has to offer.

Recently, I've been looking for

achievement in more unexpected places: doing the hoovering when I really can't be bothered, cooking a nice meal for a friend, or calling someone who I know is going through a tough time even though I'm tired myself. All these things can bring me a sense of achievement, too, and connect me to the more fundamental aspects of living, which I sometimes miss out on when I'm striving for lofty heights.

INTRODUCING ... THE QUAKER PERSONALS COLUMN!

Yes I know we're in C21, yes I know there are a million and one dating websites, yes I know nobody under 60 writes a newspaper personal ad anymore... BUT a relation of mine has found new love through Sunday Times Encounters at age 75, and, where he has taken the lead and found success, I am following suit: I write to spread the love by the sole way and means I know: TYQ and some blank space on page 10 ;)

Yes, I am introducing you all to the Quaker Personals column. One of my favourite things to do in life is to bring people together; and yesterday it came to me (some might say in the manner of a 'Leading' ?...) - I must take my love of organising parties to its logical next step - an official dating platform! Yes - a personal ad is old fashioned, but why reinvent the wheel?! Get reading, get dating folks!



Brigit Jones, since birth it feels like, WLTM tall dark handsome M. Likes straight-talking, is food snob, fancies herself as European. Just got new job as editor of community magazine, low paid. WLTM frugal individual with similar penchant for hats. WNLTM any more lesbians much as adores all lesbian friends ;)



Never been kissed, 26 year old bookseller WLTM a well shorn M with with GSOH who's up for cycling adventures, vegetarian feasts and deep and meaningful about life. Must be the sort who smiles at strangers and remembers to feed the animals. Must live in south - unless long distance cycling is your thing. Smoking carnivores need not respond.



Please send all emails of interest to theyoungquaker@gmail.com and they will be duly forwarded on.

NEW QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE *NEW*

Have you heard? There's gonna be a *new* Quaker Faith & Practice in town... it's for the Quaker youth, it's facilitated by the children and young people (CYP) team at Friends House, and they're looking for volunteers to sit on their editorial board.

The creation of "An Alternative Quaker Faith and Practice" will be guided by the editorial board of young Friends aged between 14-30 years old (but there's probably an 'ish' in there too ;) - Ed). The Editorial Board will recommend writing and art for inclusion in the book, give feedback on the content of the book as well as commenting on the design and layout of the resource. In addition they will assist with the promotion of the project at Young Friends General Meeting, Junior Yearly Meeting or Young People's Programme as well as in their local area.

The Editorial Board will meet on two Saturdays - 13th June and 5th September. Editorial Board members will be expected to attend both meetings. Board members will need to prepare for each meeting by reading through the content and offers that they will be making decisions about. Anyone interested in putting themselves forward for this group should contact Cat Waithaka at catw@quaker.org.uk in the first instance. The application deadline is 31 March.

Quaker faith & practice is the book of religious discipline of Quakers in Britain. Largely composed of extracts from Quaker writings, it is an anthology of experience and theology. It was first printed in 1783 and has been revised by successive generations. It is available in print and e-book formats, and can be read online at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/>.

Internship opportunity at Friends House

SALARY:	£20,520 per annum
HOURS:	Full time, 35 hours per week
CONTRACT:	5 - 11 months fixed term
LOCATION:	Friends House, Euston Road, London

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic candidate who is in sympathy with the values of the Quakers and who wishes to develop their skills through an internship opportunity. This new role has been created to support the Recording Clerk's Office in fulfilling its long-term strategic goals.

This is a unique opportunity for the post holder to work with a dynamic team and gain experience in Quaker project and committee co-ordination, event management, group facilitation, research, and be in direct contact with Quaker meetings.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible, able to prioritise and manage diverse tasks, and have good people, communications, IT and database skills. They will need a high level of attention to detail and the ability to work quickly, creatively and accurately under pressure.

Occasional weekend or evening work will be required.

CLOSING DATE - Sunday 1 March, 2015
INTERVIEWS - Wednesday 11 March, 2015

For further information and details on how to apply visit www.quaker.org.uk/jobs

For your diary ...

20-22 March - Planning Weekend, Swansea
31 March - National General Election hustings, Friends House, London:
4-11 April - EMEYF, Ureki, Georgia
9 April - National general election hustings, Friends House
10 - 12 April - 'Towards a Quaker view of mental health', Woodbrooke course
23 April - National General Election hustings, Friends House
24-26 April - 'Activism: a beginners guide', Woodbrooke course
1-4 May - Britain Yearly Meeting, Friends House, London
7 May - General Election, UK
12 - 15 May - 'Quaker Studies Social Research Summer School' Woodbrooke course

Don't miss out! The next YFGM is:

22nd - 25th May 2015 at Leicester Meeting House

www.yfgm.quaker.org.uk

yfgm@quaker.org.uk

Who Said THAT?

Mm <chomps cornish pasty> yes after YFGM you do need good bit of fat and protein don't you? <chomp>

Who IS that?



WHAT IS THE YOUNG QUAKER?

The Young Quaker is a magazine for young Friends everywhere, produced in print and online. Published by YFGM, TYQ comes out three times a year, to coincide with YFGM weekends – meaning that you can expect a new issue in February, May, and October, full of news, comment, and more.

We're always looking for new material. If you've got an idea for an article you'd like to see in *The Young Quaker*, get in touch with us at the email address below. If you're able to write it, even better!

WHAT IS YFGM?

Young Friends General Meeting is a community for young adult Quakers aged 18-30ish, in Britain. Our main events are the three General Meetings which take place at Quaker meeting houses around the country in February, May, and October each year.

If you'd like to get involved in YFGM, to come along to a YFGM event, or simply find out more, then visit the YFGM website at yfgm.quaker.org.uk or email yfgm@quaker.org.uk. You can also find the YFGM group on Facebook.

WHAT ARE QUAKERS?

Quakers, or the Religious Society of Friends, are a religious group with Christian origins. Quaker worship is mostly silent, with people speaking when called to do so by the 'Inner Light', sometimes called 'that of God within everyone'.

Central to Quakerism are the Testimonies of Peace, Equality, Truth and Simplicity. A commitment to these principles has put Quakers at the forefront of political and social issues; campaigning for the abolition of slavery and more recently for the legalisation of same-sex marriage.

Quaker United Nations Summer School

5th July – 17th July 2015, Geneva

For people with an active interest in international affairs

Would you like to study the UN at first hand?
Do you want to meet people from all over the world?
Are you aged 20 to 26?



The Summer School aims to provide an introduction to the work of the United Nations.

QUNO

Quaker United Nations Office

Application packs available from www.quaker.org.uk
Email: helenb@quaker.org.uk; Tel: 020 7663 1071

Deadline for applications – Monday 16th March 2015



Scan this QR code with your phone to experience the digital edition of TYQ

The Editors would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of *The Young Quaker*. It would be impossible to produce the magazine without the ideas, articles and photographs that you send in.

Please get in touch if you would like to contribute to the next issue, due out in time for the next YFGM in May 2015. We would welcome any submissions for this edition no later than 4th April 2015.

Editor for this Issue:
BEATRICE SHELLEY

Special thanks to TIM ROUSE and RACHAEL SWANCOTT for much support and advice in the production of this issue.

The Young Quaker can be found online at
www.theyoungquaker.org.uk

For all enquiries, including advertising enquiries, please contact TYQ by emailing
theyoungquaker@gmail.com

The Young Quaker is produced by Young Friends General Meeting
www.yfgm.quaker.org.uk

MEET THE YFGMERS: THOMAS



"Hi I'm Thomas. I love football, walking down the beach and epilogues"