

# Quaker news

A quarterly update on Quaker work in the care of Britain Yearly Meeting

N° 56 Autumn 2005



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# editorial

I sometimes wonder if it is because we fear seeming smug that we hide various lights beneath bushels. It is probably for other reasons too and many of these may be good ones. But much of what Quakers choose to do in the world continues to be useful, careful, creative.

Quaker News sets out to tell you about some of the work being done in your name. Not, I hope, in a bragging way but plainly, sharing dilemmas and asking for help as well as offering resources and support.

This issue we welcome our newly-formed team working for children and young people (pages 8/9), based at Friends House but roving widely. We also ask you to help them in their work with our autumn appeal.

You may not know that Quakers continue to support

the efforts of local communities to achieve peace and reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia (pages 6/7) or about our team of young peace workers (page 4), this month embarked on a year's work in small organisations around the world.

This year's was my first Yearly Meeting. I still dream of becoming a Recastaway. But there was much to enjoy and to celebrate (pages 10 and 11). We can be pretty proud of our young people's contributions over the week, and for the way they were so well provided for. Jane Dawson sums it up for me when she says "Quakers have always led the way in giving responsibility to young people". This, surely, is a light too bright to hide.

**Rachel Rees**  
Head of Communications  
and Fundraising

## Quaker News

Quaker News, ©MMV The Religious Society of Friends, publishes news of the centrally-managed work of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. This work is one outward expression of the Society's religious beliefs. Central to Quaker work and life is the quiet meeting for worship, which takes place in almost 500 centres in England, Scotland and Wales every week.

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## Virtual Outreach Network

Quaker Life Outreach Committee has established an internet group for Friends concerned about outreach. The site will be a space for sharing resources, ideas and encouragement, with a diary and links to outreach sites beyond our shores. If you are interested in joining, e-mail: [carmelk@quaker.org.uk](mailto:carmelk@quaker.org.uk)

## New Peace Panels

A new display of eight A1-size panels exploring peace from an ecumenical Christian perspective is now available to borrow for the cost of carriage and insurance. Contact Kat Barton in Quaker Peace & Social Witness on 020 7663 1067 or email: [katb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:katb@quaker.org.uk)

## Wardenship advice line

For advice and support please call 020 7663 1140 or Email [wardenship@quaker.org.uk](mailto:wardenship@quaker.org.uk) The wardenship administrator will pass your enquiry to the most relevant person. The answer may not be available immediately, so we appreciate your patience.

**All change at [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)** Quaker Communications (QCD) has worked with the award-winning web designers Poptel Technology to create an attractive, usable and accessible new website for BYM. Nik Dadson [nikolasd@quaker.org.uk](mailto:nikolasd@quaker.org.uk), Tel: 020 7663 1116 is keen to hear your comments and feedback.

# Early Day Motion on Quaker-managed project

An Early Day Motion (EDM 596) calling for human rights observers to be sent to Israel – Palestine by intergovernmental organizations was tabled in the British parliament on 14 July. The EDM endorsed the work of the Quaker-managed Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI).

EDM 596 came out of a meeting that Michael Bartlet, Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) parliamentary liaison secretary and Floresca Karanàsou, QPSW Middle East programme manager, had with Menzies Campbell MP, LibDem spokesman for foreign

affairs, on 16 June. Menzies Campbell was very enthusiastic about the programme and suggested that he would prepare the EDM.

An Early Day Motion (EDM) is a statement which MPs sign in order to demonstrate their support for a particular position. This EDM allows us an opportunity to see the support there is cross-party for the programme. If the EDM becomes more successful, it might achieve a small shift on policy on Israel – Palestine.

The EAPPI sends volunteers to Israel – Palestine. Their mission is 'to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their nonviolent actions and concerted

advocacy efforts to end the occupation.'

QPSW implements the EAPPI in Britain and Ireland, in partnership with members of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Pax Christi UK, Trócaire and the United Reform Church.

You can help support Early Day Motion (EDM 596) by writing to your MP and encouraging them to sign it.

More information:

[www.eappi.org](http://www.eappi.org)

Or contact Michael Bartlet, Parliamentary Liaison Secretary

Tel: 020 7663 1107

Email:

[michaelb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:michaelb@quaker.org.uk)

# New team start in Children and Young People's Section

The past several months have seen new staff joining the Children & Young People's Staff Team. Chris Nickolay, the Children's Officer for the last nine years, was joined in May by Bevelie Shember as the Administrator, a qualified teacher with a background in training and volunteer management.

In June, Cat Burgess arrived as the Assistant Youth and Children's Work Officer. She is a qualified youth worker who has worked with young people in a variety of settings. Finally, in September, Howard Nurden joined as head of the staff team and Youth



The new team working for children and young people

Officer, a qualified youth worker with a background in both church and local authority work – together they are the new Children and Young People's Staff Team.

**Turn to pages 8 and 9 for more about how the new team will be growing the work in the coming months and years.**

# Seven organisations get new workers

This year, Quakers are supporting seven small social justice and peace organisations by funding them with an extra staff member for one year. A placement isn't just about giving a social change organisation a member of staff, it also means a year of real change and learning for a young worker. Quaker Peace & Social Witness Placements Group has selected host organisations, in South Africa, Serbia, the UK and at Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva. The placements group has also managed selection of the candidates and their preparation.

The workers are now starting their year with their host organisations. In the UK, Aolani (Lani)

Parker is at Peace Brigades International, Babette Whittaker is with Peace Direct and Jeremy (Jez) Smith is with VERTIC, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre.

Rosie Aubrey and Rhiannon Jones are in South Africa, working for Paphama and ACTION respectively. Katarina Putnick is with Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Serbia. Sophie Buxton is the QPSW placement at QUNO Geneva. Laurel Townhead and Nico Tyabji are also at QUNO Geneva for one year thanks to external funding raised by QUNO directly.



Photo: John Fitzgerald/QCD

The one-year workers during training at Friends House

## Quaker Life Resources now available online

Every book, teaching pack, pamphlet and a growing collection of audio visual materials in the Quaker Life Resources Room now has its own unique reference in a new catalogue. This means that the resources can be easily explored, both here on the shelves and now via the internet.

A recent Showcase for Meeting for Sufferings showed how user-friendly the system is. Using the link given below, you can explore the stock using broad topics or identify a single item that meets your criteria and check its availability.

Ordering from the Resources Room is equally easy. A phone call, letter or email will result in your selection being posted to you, initially for one month's loan which can be



Browsing the huge range of books and resources on offer in the Resources Room

renewed. All we ask is that you pay the return postage.

The Resources Room depends on volunteers who come in weekly to catalogue, lend materials and advise and guide users. We would like to find more helpers to work with them. If you think you

might like to join this special team, we would love to hear from you. All you need is a love of books and some time to share this.

**Catalogue:** <http://www.quaker.org.uk/cat>  
**Contact:** Bevelie Shember, Administrator, CYPS  
**Email:** [resourcesroom@quaker.org.uk](mailto:resourcesroom@quaker.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 020 7663 1013

# A year in Johannesburg

*As Quaker Peace & Social Witness expands its work in South Africa (see opposite), Hannah Pennock reflects on her experiences this year with Phaphama in Johannesburg.*

I'll focus on what I feel I've gained and what I feel I've given, because essentially placements are set up as a way of both offering a young person committed to working for peace the opportunity to develop key skills, whilst the host organization (typically small and under funded) gets valuable support for a year.

I arrived in South Africa at the start of September 2004 to begin a one year placement at Phaphama Initiatives. Throughout the year I have undoubtedly gained new skills, have been challenged and have grown. I have had the opportunity to become an Alternatives to Violence facilitator and delivered workshops in prisons, schools and with community groups. I have designed web pages, managed projects, trained staff in mediation skills and received funding to start



In the Phaphama office with Lindi

mediation projects, to name a few things, all the time gently supported and encouraged by staff. Yes, undoubtedly I have gained. Phaphama Initiatives feels I have given too.

Colin Glen, a director of Phaphama, said: "Hannah has been



Young people from the USA visit Soweto on a Phaphama cultural tour

an absolute joy to us all and will be sorely missed both as a friend and colleague. Personally she has been a reliable, fun and loyal friend, and as a colleague has proved to be creative, effective, honest, productive and responsible - one of those rare beings who just gets the job done whilst making friends all along the way! Indeed she has proved to be everything and more than we could possibly have wanted."

Somehow that work-focused explanation of my year doesn't seem sufficient. When I think about what I have truly gained it's more profound - it is a strength and resilience of character I didn't know I had when with trepidation I

**"It's building relationships with people who I find truly inspirational..."**

boarded the plane to live abroad for the first time in my life. It's through Phaphama enabling me to gain such a deep insight into South Africa's beauty, challenges and diversity.

It's building relationships with people who I find truly inspirational. In many ways the thing I've loved most about the year is how my relationship with Lindi (the office manager I work with every day) has grown into one of mutual support and encouragement.

When starting to write this and asking across the office, "what does Phaphama gain from me as a one year peace worker?"; she replies without hesitation, "a family and a friend"; that's the beauty of it and it's the deep connections I've got with people here that I'll treasure more than anything else.

Phaphama Initiatives is a not-for-profit organisation in Johannesburg that offers alternatives to violence workshops, cross-cultural workshops, visits and home stays in rural and urban areas, community based tourism initiatives and courses in African language and culture.

Find out more:  
[www.phaphama.org](http://www.phaphama.org)

# Back to the Future:

## Dealing with the Past in the post-Yugoslav Countries ten years on

*2005 marks the tenth anniversary of the Dayton Settlement and the international intervention which brought to a close five years of bitter conflict over the break-up of Yugoslavia. Ten years on, the region is no longer a priority on the international agenda and it is widely assumed that the three countries at the heart of the struggle – Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH) – are moving towards 'normalisation' and closer ties with the European Union. So why are Quakers still working in the region? Liz Gray explains...*

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This year is also the tenth anniversary of the massacre at Srebrenica. Around 8,000 Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) were killed when the UN 'safe area' of Srebrenica fell to the Bosnian Serb army. While some of the perpetrators have been prosecuted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, leading suspects – former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic – are still at large.

Lack of progress in bringing to account war criminals like these is a significant stumbling block to swifter European integration. It's also just one of many indicators that peace cannot become a reality when so much is left unfinished from the years of conflict.

Throughout the region there are many who do not know the fate of their loved ones and who yearn for the truth to be uncovered. Others remain in denial, refusing to

acknowledge their part in crimes against their neighbours. Bitterness still runs deep between many communities, ranging in degree from lack of cooperation to open hostility.

### Dealing with the Past

There is an enormous need for 'transitional justice' – a process for addressing issues from the past. All official attempts so far to establish an equivalent to South Africa's 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' have failed, hampered by politicised agendas and a deep suspicion throughout the region of international influence.

The Quaker-initiated programme of work, 'Dealing with the Past' (DWP) has emerged out of these challenging circumstances. In consultation with local groups, Quaker Peace & Social Witness has identified a way to recognise and support unofficial truth and reconciliation processes, however small or sporadic. The programme is designed to assist people, gradually and sensitively, to look again at the past – their own and that of the region. Exploring its continuing hold on life can help to loosen its grip.

*"I realised that without looking at what has happened to us, not just in the 1990s but also before that, and without working to change the way we look at the past, there can be no happy future..."*

*My personal perception changed as I faced some things I thought I had forgotten, things that are painful,*

*and I learned how to bear those feelings..."*

**Danijela Beretin, DWP 2004 seminar**

### Making History

The first major regional event of the Quaker DWP programme took place in the summer of 2004 when a group of 23 young people gathered for a five-day seminar in the mountain village of Jahorina. This was in response to an open invitation to regional peace NGOs.

Through group discussions and trust-building games, they were able to create a safe place to uncover and exchange painful memories. Some went on to work together at another session in Vukovar, revisiting their past using drama and improvisation techniques.

These were historic gatherings: many of the 15 women and 8 men from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro were encountering people from other nationalities for the first time.

*"Like everybody else I had my attitudes and prejudices, my views and opinions. But the people I met at Jahorina and Vukovar have become part of my life. Talking openly with them and sharing experiences and tears are something I think about every day now and will remember for the rest of my life."*

**Cedo Glavas, DWP 2004 seminar**

### Spreading the Word

Several of DWP's 2004 participants are now applying the methods and ideas they exchanged at the seminar through their own organisations and networks.

Another gathering has taken place this summer and QPSW hope that the latest group will continue this cascade, spreading the word more widely among local communities.

*"Having the opportunity to participate in this seminar was a lifetime experience for me. I am not the*





Above and left: discussions and laughter during a QPSW DWP seminar in Jahorina, Croatia, June 2004. Both by Munever Salihovic for QPSW

same person as before. It helped me change and think about a greater thing in life, my responsibility to others. I learned how I could channel my positive energy for the benefit of everybody.”

**Marija Teofilovska, DWP 2005 seminar**

There are significant signs that DWP is gathering momentum. After years of painstaking preparation, programme organisers are excited to find themselves working in Croatia at the invitation of war veterans' groups, previously notorious for their intransigence and insularity.

If the peace building message can reach a group such as this one, the future for DWP in the region is looking promising.

**This work is overseen by the Overseas Projects Group. If you want to learn more, your meeting could host a speaker from the QPSW Former Yugoslavia team.**

They will be in the UK from the 3rd to the 11th December. For more information, contact Helen Bradford in QPSW:

**[helenb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:helenb@quaker.org.uk)  
020 7663 1071**

*Quaker News, Autumn 2005*

## The Break-up of Yugoslavia 1991-5

At the start of the 1990s, Yugoslavia on the brink of war was deeply divided both culturally and economically between Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Bosnian Muslims and Albanians, amongst others. The poorest areas were Serbia's province of Kosovo, the majority of its population Albanian Muslims, and next Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Slovenia, with its small Serb population, was the first to secede. Next was Croatia – where the real violence began. Here the Serb minority, about 15% of the population, were bitterly opposed to independence and civil war broke out leaving thousands dead and hundreds of thousands 'ethnically cleansed'.

Civil war in Bosnia followed, its population split precariously between

Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Serbs and Croats. When, in April 1992, its Muslims declared independence, a three-year conflict began in which tens of thousands were killed.

Altogether nearly 2 million people were displaced and around a quarter of a million lost their lives in Yugoslavia before international pressure from the UN and NATO, with American military intervention, forced an end to the fighting.

The Dayton Settlement redrew the map, imposing compromises which ultimately isolated populations even further by consolidating territory into ethnically defined political units. By failing to address deep-rooted issues at the heart of the territorial claims, the Settlement brought peace only in name.

# Growing our work with children

*What is the point of being part of a Quaker Meeting if you are 7? How would you feel about a 10 year old talking about her realisation, that people in her life will die and that she might die? What would be your response if an 8 year old in your Meeting asked to become a member of the Religious Society of Friends? How could you share and explore with a 15 year old about the nature and being of God? Chris Nickolay tells how work with children and young people is growing in new directions.*

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Like many involved in supporting a huge range of work with young Quakers, we are passionate about our advocacy of the spiritual and religious needs of young people and children.

Work with children and young people in the Yearly Meeting is at an exciting time. This year the work of the Children and Young People's Staff Team (CYP Staff Team) has been through examination and deep, sometimes disconcerting discernment. We now have a full staff team for the first time in several years, the consultation that began in September 2004 is complete and we have several powerful themes for our work.

What is going to underpin our work in the coming years?

- **The core of our work has to be around the spirituality and spiritual development of young people and children**

This is not an item on the curriculum - it is the curriculum; everything else is content. In the recent consultation some Monthly Meetings said exploring deeper spiritual areas with children and young people needs courage. When Jesus rebuked the disciples for keeping children away from him and said "let them come..." he was, perhaps, saying that children have as much need and right to be acknowledged and included in the religious community as 'grown ups'.

The blessings, however they come, are available to all and we block access at our peril. In the CYP Staff Team we will work closely with Quaker Life colleagues and

with Friends and Attenders experienced in this work to explore how we make this core work practicable. We will all need help and upholding.

None of us are experts. There can be an expectation that people 'doing' children's work and youth

Attenders with this but many are not aware of what is available. Our Travelling Team has built an expertise in working with Meetings on their children's work but we need a more coherent structure of training for children's work volunteers. We have a wealth of training and resource knowledge and experience - we have to plan to share the treasure.

- **Networks, resources and training- we can't do the job without tools**

As a small faith community



Photo: John Fitzgerald/QCCD

work will just know what to do. This is not right. There are often substantial needs which need to be identified and met.

There is a field of expertise called 'youth work' and we have resources to assist Friends and

Friends have great reserves of talent and experience yet we often fail to link up and exchange them. In the CYP Staff Team we are going to work closely with Friends to reinvigorate the network of 100 or so

# Children & young people



Photo: John Fitzgerald/QCD

Photos, above and left: children and young people of all ages played a full part in Yearly Meeting this year. Training and support from Children & Young People's staff team helped a team of volunteers run this programme. See pages 10 and 11 for more.

Children and Young People's Resource Co-ordinators. The network needs a stronger and clearer identity in Monthly Meetings. It also needs closer regional links and working connections with members of the Travelling Team and other groups and individuals in the Quaker community.

We have already booked Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in autumn 2006 for a conference to work with Co-ordinators on redefining and relaunching the network. We want to move away from a sharply focussed, centrally driven style to a partnership based on mutual exchange, equipping and upholding.

**Friends have great reserves of talent and experience yet we often fail to link up and exchange them**

We have heard heartfelt pleas for planning and resources material. We are planning an 'Ages and Stages' resource. This is a big step for us and will need close consulting with Friends involved in children and young people's work, education and theology. This has been a missing piece in the jigsaw of our provision for Friends.

How we do this work will reflect

our intention to work collaboratively across the Yearly Meeting - it must be seen as everybody's resource. Whatever we do it will 'join up' with all our existing resources, the online ideas database <http://u19s.quaker.org.uk> and the Quaker Life Resources Room [www.quaker.org.uk/cat](http://www.quaker.org.uk/cat)

## ● Quaker identity, participation and gathering

Growing this piece of work is going to be like working on an allotment that is already growing some crops, has plenty of well prepared ground and some interesting, undiscovered corners.

This is both simple and profoundly challenging for every layer of the Yearly Meeting. For all of the spiritual underpinning and the learning, resourcing and training to make sense children and young people must feel an effective, valued and full part of our faith community.

Working on this is a long project and will require the best of Quaker discernment, change and careful risk taking. We are beginning with Junior Yearly Meeting in 2006. Children and Young People's Committee met in September to envision the next steps for their

part in the process. We invite you to begin yours. I wonder if there could be a better place to start than the different segments of Advice 1:19?

*"Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring.*

*Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care.*

*Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God's gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours.*

*How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them?*

*Do you invite them to share their insights with you?*

*Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?"*

## Appeal for work with Children & Young People

Children and young people of all ages have a sense of the spirit within them. We work with you to recognise this and help to develop it.

Will you support us?

Please help us to raise £100,000 towards this important work. See the enclosed leaflet for more details, or visit [www.quaker.org/appeal](http://www.quaker.org/appeal) or call 020 7663 1114

# Yearly Meeting 2005 – building c

*This year, at York University, almost 1,800 Quakers, including the largest ever group of under 19s, from meetings up and down the country came together for eight days of worship, business sessions, interest groups, and social activities. John Fitzgerald reports.*

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Alongside the main business, a wide range of interest groups, workshops and displays enabled Friends and Meetings from around the country to share what they're doing. Having so many Friends together for a week builds community at many levels.

For relatively new Quakers, Yearly Meeting is a great chance to encounter the wide range of Quaker experiences and projects throughout the country. It can be a turning point in their individual spiritual journey. It's often a turning point for the Quaker community too, as we discern new policies, structures and ways of carrying out our shared work.

For many Friends, Yearly Meeting can be a great chance to catch up with old friends from all over the country.

At Yearly Meeting, we also come together in worship to consider big and sometimes difficult decisions. The Quaker way of doing business is risky, in that everyone has to trust the process and each other. This can be challenging in a small committee, never mind a meeting of hundreds of people. This year, sessions on RECAST\* really tested our ability to make major decisions in Yearly Meeting.

**\*(Representation Communication and Accountability in our Structures; a major project looking at the structure of the Society and how it might be effectively changed. Many of its proposals were considered at Yearly Meeting this year. See [www.recast.quaker.org.uk](http://www.recast.quaker.org.uk) for more information).**

In the main sessions, some



Photo: Trish Carn

**Sharing a joke with Helen Stevens, this year's Swarthmore Lecturer**

Friends don't feel we did very well: Sarah Fox, of Wandsworth PM, said, "I found the RECAST sessions exasperating, saddening, I don't think people were listening."

Others felt that Yearly Meeting made a great deal of progress. Although many decisions were deferred until 2006 or 2007, it often takes Yearly Meeting two 'bites' before a major change of this kind can be agreed.

It was clearly a difficult road to

**"I heard ministry about the Yearly Meeting as 'a huge river of prayer' - I felt this morning that we tapped into that..."**

reach any kind of agreement. However, some Friends felt we were getting somewhere- Jenny Moy, Bradford upon Avon PM and a member of the RECAST committee said, "I heard ministry about the Yearly Meeting as 'a huge river of prayer' - I felt this morning that we tapped into that. The meeting this morning helped to generate an

atmosphere of trust which helped us work together. Even if Quakers fail at decisions sometimes they can succeed at really difficult things."

Although RECAST played a large part in the agenda for the week, many other topics were explored, often in smaller groups. Sarah Fox said, "I really enjoyed the second testimonies session in small groups.



**John Durston and Suze Lidbury hard at work in 1**

# community and facing our future

It'd be fair to say I'm not the greenest of Quakers, and I expect my behaviour will change because of it. The ideas that people were coming with challenged me. It was spiritual. It felt gathered, I felt people were listening to each other and what I'd describe as God. It was a very powerful and gathered session and you don't get those a lot."

**"It gave me the space to be moved by the spirit."**

Sarah's daughter was on the under 19s programme. She felt this was really good: "This week, I've seen her grow up. The support from other parents, the space and structure, has been fantastic. It's not only about supporting your child, but also finding ways of supporting yourself. It gave me the space to be moved by the spirit."

The under 19s programme this year tackled all the topics considered by their older Friends, and made minutes on many subjects, including RECAST. They also led a public witness to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima. Jane Dawson, who co-ordinated the Under 19s programme, felt the witness was very successful.

"The Hiroshima witness was a



Photo: John Fitzgerald/QCD

**'This is quite the most frivolous thing I've ever done with Friends!' Alan Clark**

microcosm of how we want to do other events in the Yearly Meeting-cross-age but organised by young Friends. Not just 17-18 year-olds, 13 and 14 year-olds were doing it. When you think about what a difficult age that can be, it was great to see them engaging so deeply with such a big thing."

**'Quakers have always led the way in giving responsibility to young people.'**

Jane talked about how time-intensive it can be to give young people a fuller role in planning and running events. However, she is clear that this is time well spent:

"We're radicalising youth work by giving responsibility to young people. Of course, the responsibility has to be within safe boundaries- this is very time intensive, but it works- the young people own the event themselves."

Karl Gibbs, who led the staff team backing up the local Planning Group for Yearly Meeting, spoke of the challenges involved in planning such a large gathering. As well as the challenge of sheer numbers, he explained that Yearly Meetings are becoming more complex:

"There's much more activity outside sessions. This makes planning

much more complex, but it's worthwhile. For many Friends, what gave value to their experience was events outside the main sessions. The 'wholeness of experience' was greatly appreciated."

Karl was inspired by Friends who helped, both by serving on committees and informally offering help during the week: "Friends realise it's their Yearly Meeting- we're helping to put it together, but they lead and own it."

This year saw the first use of a bursary system at a residential YM. £12,000 came in, and £11,000 was paid out, so it was very successful. Karl said, "A great many Friends put their hands in their pockets- most donations were around £25, made when people filled in their form to attend YM. We really appreciated Friends' concern to make Yearly Meeting an inclusive community."

**Next time at Yearly Meeting**  
Work is already underway for next year's Yearly Meeting. It will be from the 26th-29th May at Friends House in London. Watch out for details in future issues of *Quaker News*, or visit [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

Photo: Phillip Iddon



the Yearly Meeting office

# Great myths about Outreach No.1 : Those who want to find us will do so

*Ingrid Greenhow, outreach co-ordinator in Quaker Life, shatters the first in a series of myths about outreach.*

*Outreach is one of the buzzwords in the Yearly Meeting at present. The Big Outreach Conference in 2003 brought together 140 Friends with a passion for making Quakerism better known, and, as I write, plans for Big Outreach 2 are already underway.*

Yet it can be hard to translate enthusiasm into action and sometimes to overcome the resistance which some Friends have towards the whole notion of outreach.

Let's get a couple of things straight. Outreach is not evangelising, nor is

## So how do people find out who we are and indeed where we meet?

it proselytising. It is not based on an assumption that everyone ought to be a Quaker. Outreach is based on the fact that so many people have said "Why did it take me so long to find you?" We are a small religious organisation, without a Quaker



Pope and without steeple houses, without quaint dress or bizarre rituals. So how do people find out who we are and indeed where we meet?

Of course, Quaker Life sends out details of Meetings to those who contact us for information, but even with 2000 enquiries a year, we are not meeting all the parts which other faiths cannot reach! What about those who don't know about Quaker Life and don't know where to get that information?

My work takes me to a number of Meetings around the country, and, without wishing to name and shame, I found myself making three circuits of one seaside town before finding the delightful, but totally hidden Meeting House. It was tucked away down a side street away from the town centre with no signpost, no street sign, no banner – nothing until I drew up beside the door.

So let's start outreach

with what we've got: the place where we meet. If your Meeting has its own Meeting House, then take a critical look at it from the point of view of an enquirer. Does it have an up-to-date, bright, tidy notice board, stating the time of Meeting for Worship and that all are welcome, or is it more like Fawlty Towers, bedecked with tired posters which speak

## If you meet in someone's home, would I know where to come? Is there a sign outside?

to Friends and not Enquirers? The new range of posters is a cheap and effective form of outreach. How about a banner? Is there a street sign pointing the way? if not, get onto your local

council and ask for one. If you have to pay, then consider it money well spent.

If you don't have a Meeting House, how do people know that you are meeting in the local community hall? Do you have a sandwich board outside or posters saying that Quakers meet here every Sunday? If you meet in someone's home, would I know where to come? Is there a sign outside? Is there information in your local library or community centre which says that Quakers are alive and well and meeting at wherever?

In short, do not assume that those who want to find us will be able to do so. We may not have steeple houses but we do have a duty to make our physical presence visible!

**Next time: Great myths about outreach no 2: All Enquirers automatically know about Quakerism.**

# The challenge of interfaith and inter church work

*Friends in meetings around the country do an amazing amount of work on inter-church and interfaith issues, some of it through the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR).*

*By Mary Cook and Marigold Bentley*

The depth and breadth of networking, community action and theological exploration there has been among Friends with other churches and other faiths is remarkable.

In order to remind and encourage Friends of the commitment to Christian and interfaith relations, QCCIR set up the Talking Wall at Yearly Meeting. It provided not only a pin-board for Friends across the YM to illustrate their inter-church and interfaith work, but also became a

focus for discussions about range of experiences Friends have had in this work.

QCCIR members at YM said that there was clear indication from Friends that inter-church work was a challenge. Many Friends reported that they were uncomfortable with the increasing evangelical focus of many of the churches in their area.

*"At Churches Together meetings I feel threatened by those who are certain and have an evangelical approach; I feel an outsider."*

Another said: *"Friends have always been on the fringe of the ecumenical movement. They never believed in seeking to amalgamate all denominations into one church. They did believe in doing things together which were better done that way than each church acting separately."*

By contrast, Quaker interfaith work seems to



The QCCIR table at Yearly Meeting

be going from strength to strength. At this special time we are experiencing an opening up, a reaching out of Muslims to 'us' as Christians - deep sympathy felt over the London bombings. It was

pointed out that now is a very good time to break down old barriers and infuse our groups with new friendships.

**If you are interested in attending a QCCIR Day Conference on "Families and Faith – A Quaker Interfaith Workshop" in Woodbrooke on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2006, please contact Anne Wilkinson of QPSW: [annew@quaker.org.uk](mailto:annew@quaker.org.uk) 020 7663 1062**

## 'Talking day' for wardens at Winchester

*You'd think that wardens spend enough time talking to Friends, visitors and unexpected callers during the week. So why would they want to travel, sometimes great distances, to spend yet another day talking? Olivia Cox has the answer...*

Nineteen Friends attended a recent 'Wardens Talking' event in Winchester, the second in a series of one-day workshops facilitated by Wardenship Committee. *Quaker News, Autumn 2005*

We came from as far afield as Bolton and Brighton, from meetings large and small.

Winchester's wonderful Georgian Meeting House played host to a team of Wardens. We spent the day in small or large,



Wardens singing an aria to 'A Wardens Lot'

formal and informal groups, sharing our experiences and learning that we have a lot to give, to each other and to our Meetings.

In spite of our Quaker communities, support groups and management

committees, many wardens can feel a sense of isolation. A day talking in this way is so much more than group working in the shade of a magnolia tree or composing an aria to 'A Wardens' Lot'.

This was a great day and an opportunity to recharge our batteries with an energy derived from the camaraderie and sharing that these events encourage.

**Next Wardens Talking: Birmingham 22/10/05**

# Diary

**This section gives details of upcoming events and ways that you and your meeting can get involved in Quaker work.**

## Events at Swarthmoor Hall

Two residential events coming up this Autumn: A "Forgiveness Retreat" with Penelope Lowden and "Celebrating Diversity" with Ginnie Shaw and Colin Stuhlfelder.

Two day events end this year's programme. "Advices and Queries" with Elizabeth Roberts and "Wax Wonders" with Sue Tyldesley, an opportunity to be creative and make things such as greetings cards as the festive season draws close.

More information:

**Tel: 01229-583204**

**Email: swarthmrhall@gn.apc.org**

## Directory of Quaker Projects

Quaker Peace & Social Witness and Quaker Voluntary Action are compiling a directory of Quaker projects carried out by meetings and groups throughout Britain Yearly Meeting. For this we need the help of meetings.

We are interested both in action by the meeting itself and action with others. We are not, however, seeking information about partners.

We are not looking to include the 'inward' Quaker work that primarily meets the needs of Quakers and their children.

The directory will be available next year at modest cost to all meetings and Friends wishing to know more about, or make links with, Quaker work in Britain.

Contact Miranda Girdlestone, Information Officer, QPSW for more information on how to be included.

**Tel: 020 7663 1158**

**Email: qpsw@quaker.org.uk**

## Being an Employer: what does this mean for Quaker organisations?

This is not always easy, particularly for small employing organisations. Come to this day course at Woodbrooke for an interactive exploration of the role of Friends as employers.

Thursday 27 October, 10am - 4pm

Course Leaders: John Batt is Human Resources Manager at Friends House, and Richard Summers is Assistant General Secretary of Quaker Life.

To book, please contact Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ

**Tel: 0121 472 5171**

**Or book online:**

**www.woodbrooke.org.uk**

## Wardens Talking

At Bull Street Friends Meeting House, Birmingham Saturday 22nd October.

**For details, Call 020 7663 1140 or Email**

**wardenship@quaker.org.uk**

## Troubled about Trustees?

Quaker Stewardship Committee is working hard thinking further about the questions around Trustees and Trusteeship left to us by Yearly Meeting – a big thank you to the Friends who have been in touch with us with suggestions.

Several possible routes for identifying Friends whom we trust have been suggested – should we ask Friends already on our Finance & Property Committees such as QFaP? Should we gather a committee made up of Clerks of other committees? Or are these people already doing enough for us?

Those of us on QSC think there are ways forward, both locally and for centrally managed work. If you are thinking about this too, it's not too late to send in your ideas to Christine Davis, QSC, via Helen Griffith at Friends House

**Tel: 020 7663 1161**

**Email: heleng@quaker.org.uk**

## QPSW Speakers on tour

Alison Prout, working on a one-year programme exploring the links between economics, militarism and aid, will be available to speak to meetings in November and December.

Michael Bartlet, Parliamentary Liaison Secretary, will also be available to speak to meetings in January 2005.

For more information, contact Helen Bradford in QPSW:

**Tel: 020 7663 1071**

**Email: helenb@quaker.org.uk**

## Serving on Quaker committees

*Are you interested in offering your service on a committee?*

All the work described in Quaker News is discerned by Friends from all over Britain, serving on our central committees.

Such service can be challenging, fun, occasionally frustrating, mostly rewarding and above all valuable to the Society. This is a chance to use your knowledge, understanding and love of the Society, and appreciation of its potential to make the world a better place.

To offer your service, go to [www.quaker.org.uk/noms](http://www.quaker.org.uk/noms) or contact:

QPSW: Anne Wilkinson

**Tel: 020 7663 1062**

**Email: annew@quaker.org.uk**

Quaker Life: Suze Lidbury

**Tel: 020 7663 1140**

**Email: suzel@quaker.org.uk**

Yearly Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings: John Durston

**Tel: 020 7663 1121**

**Email: johnd@quaker.org.uk**

# Fundraising news

Our autumn appeal is for Children and Young People's work. There should be a copy of the leaflet in your copy of *Quaker News*, or you can pick one up from your local meeting.

The appeal got off to a great start with a large pledge from an anonymous donor. We were delighted when we received their pledge of £10,000 per year for three years. The donor explains the background to their gift below.

"The main reason was my experience as a child. My mother began taking me to Quaker meetings when I was nine. There were a large number of children at the meeting, and I remember being made very welcome. I recall vividly a quite elderly lady who organised the activities for young people in the meeting. Shortly afterwards, my mother went into hospital to have a baby and because it was wartime and my father was working away a lot, my younger sister and I were taken in and cared for by a neighbour. I remember that the lady from the meeting came to visit me, took me for a walk and asked if I was being looked after properly. I was impressed by the way in which there was a real concern for the welfare of children even for those who were relatively new attenders. I felt that as children we were so well cared for by Friends.

When I came to bring my own children to meeting, I became involved in the children's meeting and became convinced of the importance of this work. I felt that my children also were nurtured in the meeting. More recently at Yearly Meeting I was impressed with how much my grandchildren enjoyed the activities and felt part of the Yearly Meeting.

The more I've thought about it since I made the offer, the more I feel that it was a real leading to give this money and I was surprised by the strength of that leading."

*Quaker News*, Autumn 2005



## Latest on legacies

**Legacies are the largest source of unrestricted income for Quaker work. During the period April to June this year, we received the following legacies:**

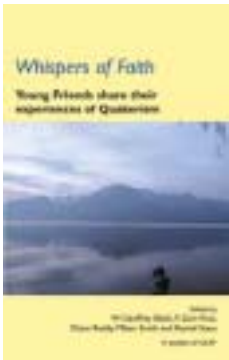
*(please note that many legacies come in several segments)*

Alton PM	£1,066	QL General
Bakewell PM	£140	BYM General
Bath	£20,000	BYM General
Beccles PM	£66	QPSW Peace
Bristol	£64,468	QPSW Peace
Burford PM	£4	BYM General
Cambridge	£137,997	Needy Children
Cockermouth PM	£10,000	BYM General
Cotteridge PM	£1,000	BYM General
Disley PM	£1,000	QPSW Peace
Falmouth PM	£800	BYM General
Falmouth PM	£600	QPSW General
Friends House PM	£150,000	BYM General
Lymington PM	£5,000	BYM General
Manchester Mount St PM	£16,000	BYM General
Morecambe PM	£40,000	BYM General
Nottingham	£50,000	QPSW Peace
Oxford PM	£1,000	BYM General
Richmond, N Yorks	£1,000	QPSW Peace
Ruthin PM	£2,500	BYM General
Sheffield	£5,000	BYM General
Swanage PM	£1,000	BYM General
Wolverhampton	£300	BYM General
York (Friargate) PM	£1,040	QPSW General

# New publications from Quaker Books



**2006 Quaker work calendar**  
£5 + £1 p&p from the Quaker Bookshop



**Whispers of Faith: Young Friends share their experience of Quakerism**

An international collection for young and old: "Full of acute reflections, observations and memories ... a fine account of what Quaker living is really like."  
-John Punshon.

158pp  
ISBN 1 888 305 37 1  
£6.00 + £1.00p p&p



**Checkpoints and Chances: eyewitness accounts from an observer in Israel-Palestine**  
Katharine von Schubert

Luminous reports that show how much different communities face increasing separation, and need understanding and communication as a basis for peace.

128pp  
ISBN 0 85245 366 3  
£9.00 +£1.00 p&p



**Wider Visions: Photographs by Mike Hoyle, words from Quaker experience**

Mike Hoyle's ministry in astonishing photographs of London and Yorkshire with Quaker extracts: a book of contemplation and surprises.

48pp full colour  
ISBN 0 85245 387 6  
£10.00 + £1.00 p&p

## For more information

### How to support Quaker work

Contact us to make a donation, or for more details

Kate Cargin  
Quaker Communications  
Friends House  
173 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2BJ

Tel: 020 7663 1112  
Email: [katec@quaker.org.uk](mailto:katec@quaker.org.uk)  
[www.quaker.org.uk/donate](http://www.quaker.org.uk/donate)

Also, see our diary section on page 14 for ways to get involved in Quaker work- forthcoming events, publications and conferences.

You can find more information on [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

### Just who are Quakers?

Fill in this form for a free information pack:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Email: .....

**Send completed form to:**  
Quaker Life Outreach Section (QN)  
Friends House  
173 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BJ

Tel: 020 7663 1017  
Answerphone: 020 7663 1025  
Email: [carmelk@quaker.org.uk](mailto:carmelk@quaker.org.uk)  
[www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)