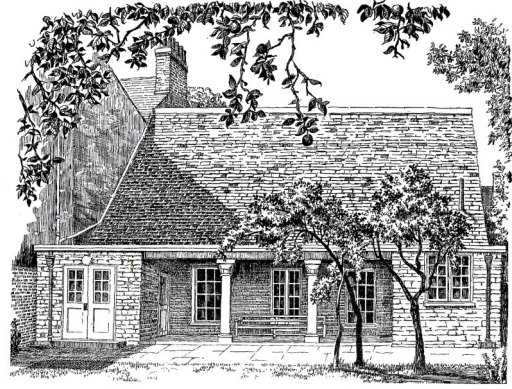


Forty-Three newsletter

Number 517
May 2022



Oxford Friends Meeting

43 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW
+44 (0)1865 557373
office@oxfordquakers.org

Reflections During a Zoom Meeting 3 April

Roy Bateman

Faces are beginning to appear.
We are here to connect and to grow in that connection.
We are here to feel the certainty of love
In an uncertain, frightening world.
Sometimes we feel cramped, withdrawn and defensive –
But not here, upheld by the love of Friends
And by a greater love we try to understand.

Meeting for Worship 24 April

Roy Bateman

For just a while may rattling words give way,
Make room for silent prayer, awareness
Of unceasing grace.
May we find hope
Where darkness seems to reign
And joy in our capacity for love.
Let us make courage from the stillness of a prayer.
Enlarge our expectations, Lord.
Strengthen our fragile faith
And bless our baffled wonderment.

SL Granum

Please send newsletter contributions well in advance of the intended publication date.

Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, can be emailed to newsletter@oxfordquakers.org or a paper copy can be left in the pigeonhole of any editor. Items for the calendar or community noticeboard can be emailed to office@oxfordquakers.org. For information: tel. +44 (0)1865 557373 or visit www.oxfordquakers.org

The Politics of Place and Some Local Witnessing

Juliet Henderson

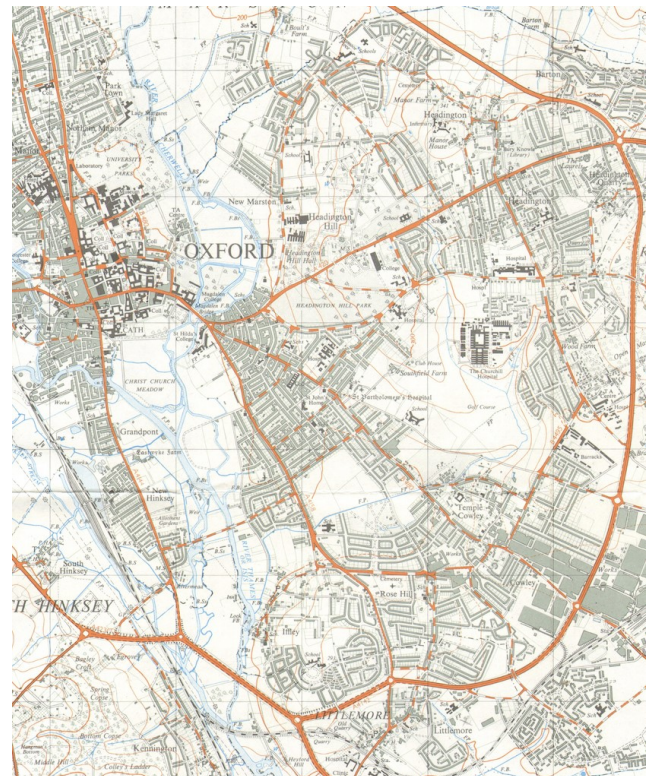
I have always been interested in the politics of place. From my childhood family kitchen to the round portable Mongolian yurts I stayed in when travelling in the Gobi Desert; to the layout of Anglican churches contrasted with that of Quaker Meeting Houses; to tower blocks with faulty insulation, cladding, and lifts. All these tell stories of how physical environment reflects social structures and shapes human behaviour, for good and for bad.

Recently, like many, I have become more alert to the politics of public monuments, particularly in relation to our historical consciousness of colonialism, racism, and slavery. Simple questions arise. Why are certain people (mainly men) cast as suitable symbols to commemorate place or nation whilst others are forgotten? What does this suggest in terms of the social, historical, and moral justice views of the institutions that sanction and support such ideologically constructed public places? How might we address the collective norms that perpetuate old stories of a glorified past and ignore the injustices that enabled that 'glory'?

In Oxford we don't have to look far for examples of such monuments and places: Rhodes' statue on Oriel College, and the Codrington Library in All Souls constructed with money from the slaver Christopher Codrington, to name but two. The tour guide organization Uncomfortable Oxford (<https://www.uncomfortableoxford.co.uk>) offers a range of interesting walking tours and online resources exploring some of the less obvious links between Oxford University and the British Empire. These certainly chip away at normative representations of the university. As for my own form of witness towards injustice and racism, I and three others set up a [Decolonising Florence Park](#) street-names project two years ago. Here is our mission statement:

The streets of Florence Park, such as Clive Road, Campbell Road and Lytton Road, are named after key players in the East India Company, which was responsible for stripping India of its assets and trading in opium. It was instrumental in the British

rule which led to 25 million deaths in India from war and famine. The men and the Company have absolutely no connection to the estate, which was constructed in the mid 1930s primarily for workers at the Morris car plant. Our aim is to create conversations, events and resources to promote discussion amongst today's residents about colonialism and how it relates to our community. At the same time, we want to explore our real and fascinating local history and how this intersects with wider social forces and historical events. We aim to involve as many local residents as possible in our activities and to keep the discussion going.



Wikimedia Commons: Ordnance Survey SP50—Oxford East 1960

Next in our calendar of events is a talk by Dr Sebastian Pender, from Balliol College, on Friday 27 May at 19:00 in Florence Park Community Centre. Pursuing our central theme of inquiry – 'What's in a name?' – the talk will explore issues of class, race, (de)colonisation, and the politics of commemoration, with a more particular focus on Major General Henry Havelock, Lieutenant General Sir James Outram, and Field Marshal Colin Campbell 1st Baron Clyde, after whom three local streets are named. Free tickets to the event and further details can be found [here](#). (If that link doesn't work, enter <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/542555/>) Friends are most welcome.

Monthly Appeal - May 2022 Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)

Richard Seebohm



Poster provided by Richard Seebohm

Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) had a chequered time in the past year, with staffing controversies. However, the appointment of a communications/fundraising officer is now in hand. More importantly, the process of appointing a new Director by the end of the summer is now underway, drawing on lessons learned and involving the services of a human-resources professional. Thus QCEA is still 'our Quaker voice in Europe'. And as you can see in the latest issue of its ***Around Europe*** newsletter, QCEA still offers a window on post-Brexit Europe for us at home. It is still a respected partner among the rather few Brussels NGOs witnessing to humane and principled policies for people, economics, and public life – in a world of massive business lobbying, especially the arms trade and big pharma. It also keeps the faith-based voice alive – alongside the perhaps more inward-looking bodies such as the Conference of European Churches and the Catholic Bishops.

Our money will help it to come back to full functioning:

Cheques to:

British Friends of the Quaker Council for European Affairs,
33 Shaw Lane Gardens,
Guiseley, Leeds,
West Yorkshire, LS20 9JQ

Bank transfers to:

CAF Bank
British Friends of the Quaker Council for European Affairs
account 00004748
sort code 40-52-40

Direct debit via:

www.qcea.org/donate

Copies of ***Around Europe*** are in the Meeting House. You can see a screen-readable version at www.qcea.org – scroll down to **WAR IS A CHOICE**.

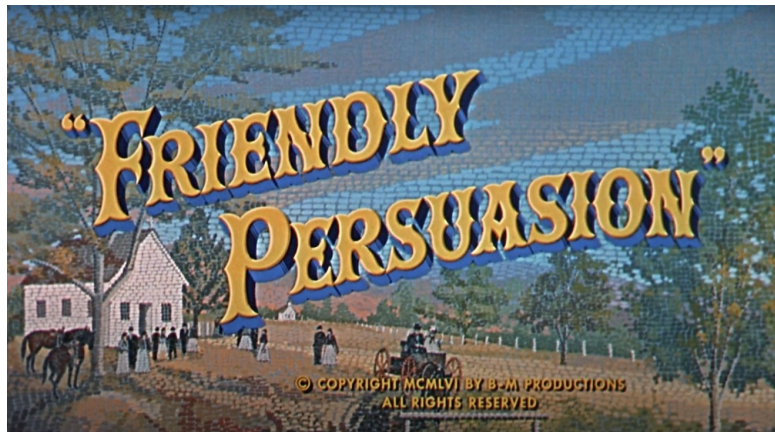
(There is a link to Richard Seebohm's writing on page 2.)

'Friendly Persuasion'

Juliet Henderson

Many of us present at 9:30 Meeting for Worship on Sunday 24 April in the Meeting House were moved and engaged by the ministries offered on the peace testimony by different Friends – all connected to the issue of the war in Ukraine.

Mention was made of the 1956 film *Friendly Persuasion*, a film that recounts how the pacifist beliefs of a Quaker family were tested during the American Civil War. For those wishing to watch it, it can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAaoTMAy9aY>.



Title screen, 1956 William Wyler Production

Mutual Support Group – 'Getting Older'

Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group has been asked whether it would be possible to set up a mutual support group for members of our Quaker community who live on their own and are concerned about the problems of getting older.

To find out whether this would be of interest to Oxford Friends, there will be a friendly get-together adjacent to the Kindness Café (in a corner of the garden, or a room in 43, depending on the weather), on Tuesday 28 June in the morning, to explore this further with Friends.

Please come along if you are interested. If you cannot attend the Kindness Café but are interested in such a group, you can contact

Jane Mactaggart (01865) 558555,
Jacqui Ferguson (01865) 557960, or
Caroline Worth (01865) 433219).



Four Delusions and a Plea

Keith Wilson

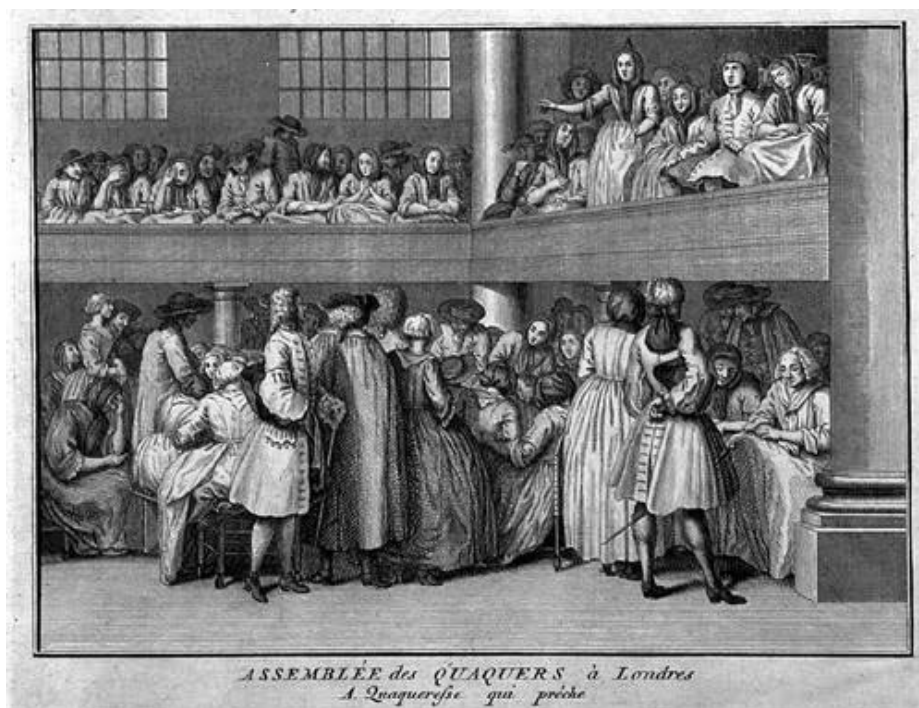
“We have no rules”, “we encourage you to think for yourself”, and “we have no hierarchy”: these were among the most strident of the siren songs that drew me to the Quaker faith. Sadly, I’ve come to see all three as delusions. What’s the fourth delusion? It’s believing the first three aren’t delusions! As always, dear Friends, I encourage you to think it possible I may be wrong but, before you decide, please read a little further.

We have no rules. But see what happens if you speak in business meeting without waiting to be called, you accept an invitation from meeting to go on a course at Woodbrooke but don’t notify the meeting’s budget holder (because you didn’t know there was one) or, as an attender, you decide to go to business meeting without the clerk’s permission. I’ve done all of these and, of course, I’ve been shown the error of my ways. Trivial? Maybe – but each occasion was very uncomfortable for me and, even now, I never speak in business meeting in case I’m ‘not in right ordering’. Please don’t tell me we have no rules. Just because we don’t write our rules down and tell people about them doesn’t mean they don’t exist!

We encourage you to think for yourself. For me, one of the glories of Quakerism is that we are free to think for ourselves about the big things like whether we adopt a theist or a non-theist stance. But we must never think we might like a ham sandwich at shared lunch! We have a vegetarian kitchen and our thoughts about what we might prefer to eat are irrelevant. We can think for ourselves about how we worship, but we can’t be trusted to decide on the content of our sandwiches!

We have no hierarchy. Yet it would be hard to deny that there are some Friends in meeting whose opinions carry more weight than those of others. I’m not saying this shouldn’t be so: many of our most respected Friends have earned their status through their dedication to and efforts on behalf of the meeting, but let’s not deceive ourselves by pretending that their elevated status doesn’t exist. We may not have a formal hierarchy, but that’s not the same as no hierarchy.

In truth, rules, restrictions, and hierarchies are inescapable wherever humans come together and, although it’s sometimes easy to forget, Quakers are only human. With that in mind, my plea is that rather than attempting the futile task of eliminating our delusions, let’s acknowledge them and act accordingly. Let’s make our rules more apparent and, if they’re broken, resolve the issue with sensitivity and tact. Let’s not be unnecessarily restrictive on thoughts and actions, especially in minor matters like who eats what and when. And, dear Friend, if you are one of those ‘weighty’ Quakers who have so much power in meeting, please exercise that power thoughtfully and with a tender hand.



ASSEMBLÉE des QUAQUERS à Londres
A Quakeresse qui prêche

"Quaker Meeting in London: A female Quaker preaches" (c.1723)
engraving by Bernard Picard (1673-1733).

Note from the Gardening Team

Jacqui Mansfield
and the Gardening Team – May 2022

Friends may notice disruption to the front lawn over the coming weeks. We are re-turfing an area that has become very worn. Please keep off this area while the new turf settles in.

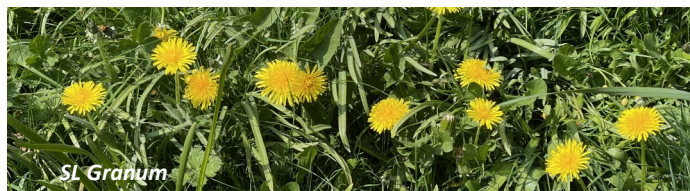
You may also notice a large amount of comfrey in the garden. Comfrey (a green plant with hairy leaves and small white flowers) is wonderful and has many uses, but it does have a tendency to take over. We welcome extra hands to help us manage this and other boisterous plants in the garden!

Join us on Thursdays at 43 St Giles any time between 10:00 and 15:00. Coffee, lunch, chat, and cake available. No experience or expertise needed. If you have any questions please contact Jacqui at office@oxfordquakers.org.

We hope everyone is enjoying the gardens.



Photo by Jacqui Mansfield



Britain Yearly Meeting is Seeking a Youth, Children, and Families Development Worker

BYM, Quakers in Britain

SALARY: £30,271 per annum
CONTRACT: Permanent, full time
HOURS: 35 hours per week
LOCATION: Based in Oxford office and working throughout the Thames Valley

Quakers in Britain is looking for a community development worker to initiate, facilitate, and deliver a range of opportunities for children, young people, and families in the Thames Valley. Could you work with children and young people to build community effectively? Could you promote participation among different age groups and empower Quaker communities to engage with and respond more readily to younger people? We need someone who can plan, deliver, and monitor work with children, young people, and community groups. You will be able to build positive relationships and communicate effectively with young people, colleagues, and stakeholders.

For details of how to apply, go to www.quaker.org.uk/job-opportunities/jobs. For more information about our Youth, Children, and Families team, visit www.quaker.org.uk/cyp.

Closing date: 1 June 2022
Interviews: 10 June 2022 (online)

Britain Yearly Meeting is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk, and expect all our staff and volunteers to share and uphold this commitment.

Quakers have a faith commitment to equality, and encourage and welcome applications for posts from all sections of society. You do not have to be a Quaker to apply for this post, but we expect you to uphold the values of our organization.

Britain Yearly Meeting is committed to equality in all of its employment practices.

Waiting

Rolf Lange

Sunshine
Windswept bridge
One man on the wheel
Singing.
Lonely, unusual,
Eastern and haunting.

We are waiting
For the body of a friend
From a far country.
Everything is sad,
Blue sea haze like glass.

We are waiting.

*Some background on the author:
My late husband Rolf Lange grew up in Nazi
Germany. Although not Quaker, he was a peaceful
man who passionately believed that a united Europe
would eliminate the need for war between nations.
How sad he would have been to know of Brexit and
the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine. I published his
poems in the book "Walking With the Sun" as a
tribute to him after his sudden death six years ago in
Spain, where we lived for 22 years.*

Carol Lange



Photo from Wikimedia Commons.



Living in the Spirit

Anne Watson

– with Friends from *Other Meetings*

I have been attending the Living in the Spirit sessions for the whole of OSAM, our Area Meeting. These last about an hour and take place by Zoom at 19:30 on the first Wednesday of the month. Like the Oxford sessions, they start with a short reading that has some meaning for the person who chose it; these can be Quaker writings, poems, biblical readings, or readings from other traditions. There is then a sharing of responses.

I enjoy being with people from across our Area with whom I do not normally worship, but even so there is a lot that we talk about of our deeper selves – the kinds of insights and understandings that are not explicitly revealed in conversations over a cup of tea, or even in spoken ministry, and which I often only know by implication. I get a real sense of being in a community in which things of the spirit are openly and equally shared.

If you would like to join in, contact John Mason (john.mason@open.ac.uk) and he will put you on the mailing list so you can be given the link a couple of days before.

– with Friends from *Oxford Meeting*

The Oxford Living in the Spirit Meetings take place by Zoom at 16:00 on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. John Mason (john.mason@open.ac.uk) is also the contact for these if you would like to be added to the mailing list. These meetings are usually on the Afterwords link.

Quaker Videos in this Month's *Forty-Three*

In the first video, Quaker William Penn's complex nature is explored. In the second, Jackie Bonomo reflects on environmental issues. In the third video, Professor Harold Boukary-Martinson describes Quaker efforts to abolish slavery.



William Penn

Oil-on-canvas portrait of Penn
age 22, in 1666

[In Penn's Shadow \(1680-1720\) Philadelphia: The Great Experiment](#)

He is at once a radical Quaker, political prisoner, visionary city planner, absent landlord, and a slaveholder. His ideals, contradictions, and ambitions cast a long shadow across American history.

History Making Productions

29 Minutes

<https://youtu.be/-31iitsBAh0>



Jackie Bonomo

State College Friends Meeting
Lemont, Pennsylvania

[Addressing Environmental Issues as a Spiritual Community](#)

Thoughts on this important issue from Jackie Bonomo, State College Friends Meeting, Lemont, Pennsylvania.

**Woodbrooke
Quaker Speak**

6 Minutes

<https://youtu.be/RKWv8VJ77tk>



HB Martinson

Center for Ghana Studies

[The Quakers: The Whites that Helped the Slavery Abolishment](#)

Professor Harold Boukary-Martinson explains in detail the whites that sacrificed against all odds to support the end to slavery.

HB Martinson

2 Minutes

<https://youtu.be/L4VeMmdaRQE>



Events May 2022

Poems, poems, poems! Monday 23 May, 16:00-18:00
At 43 St Giles and on Zoom. The session will have the (voluntary) theme of 'humility'. Any poem we like enough to want to share is always welcome.

Just Stop Oil Event:
Friday 20 May, 19:00
Oxford Friends Meeting House
Come and hear a prominent climate crisis speaker explain how we can prevent this disaster:
"You can sit around and just let it happen. Or you can take responsibility to protect those you love. The breakdown of the climate is destroying the economy. It will destroy your job, your family, this community, this town. It will lead to slaughter, war and mass starvation. It will be the biggest disaster in history." —Sir David King (2021)
Former Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK government
REGISTER AT: <https://bit.ly/399eVFz>

Nominations suggested we plan a **Summer event** to get to know each other better, share some great food, and have fun. A mix of activities for all ages! **We need helping hands to plan the day.** Interested in taking part or helping plan the day? Contact the office team.

10th and 24th Days of the 5th Month
This is when our living, spiritual conversations take place on Zoom (afterword link).
Grab a cuppa and come along for a refreshing chat all about the eternal things.
Living in the Spirit



Forty-Three Newsletter



Zoom Gatherings for those interested in collaborative work across the OSAM area.
Come along to share and exchange ideas and solutions – to help us find common ground.
Finances across the Area - update - Thursday 12 May
Outreach Zoom - (including schools and enquirers) - Thursday 19 May
Premises Zoom - Lettings / bookings / buildings - Thursday 26 May
All at 17:30-18:30
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89355942467?pwd=MHZEZmF3UWVwVGtqRnFuMDlqdmwrdz09>
Meeting ID: 893 5594 2467 / Passcode: oxford / Phone code: 476863

MAY 2022

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many meetings and events are being held via Zoom.

Link for all Oxford Meetings for Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87383304611?pwd=Vkkya2ZweVVRZjRmOE1JVDBFdTdwUT09>

Please contact the Office for more details:

Email: office@oxfordquakers.org Telephone: +44 (0)1865 557373



OXFORD MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings for worship are via Zoom and/or in person.

For more information, contact the Office at
office@oxfordquakers.org +44 (0)1865 557373

First Sunday of each month:

Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30 (in person & Zoom)
MfW for Business 12:15 (in person & Zoom)

All other Sundays:

Meetings for Worship 09:30-10:15 (in person and Zoom)
11:00-12:00 (in person and Zoom)

Monday:

Young Adult Friends 19:00-21:00 (in person and Zoom)

Tuesday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (in person only)

Wednesday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (Zoom only)
Meeting for Worship 11:30-12:15 (in person & Zoom)

Friday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (Zoom only)

HEADINGTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Headington Meeting meets each Sunday at 10:00
at Old Headington Village Hall,
Dunstan Road, Headington, OX3 9BY

For full details see

<https://headington.quakermeeting.org/>

From Quaker Faith and Practice

The dilemmas of the pacifist stand

I speak not against any magistrates or peoples defending themselves against foreign invasions; or making use of the sword to suppress the violent and evil-doers within their borders – for this the present estate of things may and doth require, and a great blessing will attend the sword where it is borne uprightly to that end and its use will be honourable ... but yet there is a better state, which the Lord hath already brought some into, and which nations are to expect and to travel towards.

Isaac Penington, 1661
QF&P 24.2

Forty-Three is available online,
<https://brooksidepress.org/quaker/>
and on the Oxford Quakers website,
www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter

If you are considering writing an article or notice but would prefer it not to go online, please don't hesitate to contribute it. Just indicate that the piece is not for inclusion in the internet version.

*The views expressed in this newsletter
do not necessarily reflect those of the editors.*

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