



Area Meeting 10 July Earls Colne - Tom's Report

Photo: John Kay

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING
August 2016

Diary Dates for August

Saturday August 6th Hiroshima Day

Tuesday August 9th Nagasaki Day

Saturday August 13th International Left-handers Day <http://www.lefthandersday.com>

Saturday August 20 to Saturday September 3rd Quaker Tapestry exhibition at Chelmsford Cathedral
<http://chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/information.html>

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Clerk to Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting: Alison Parkes
c/o Colchester Quaker Meeting House
6 Church Street, Colchester CO1 1NF;

Web Address:

www.essexsuffolkquakers.org

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Meetings for Worship **Editorial**

CLACTON

Sunday at 10.30 am
1st Wednesday each month
1pm-2pm with Soup & Cheese

Harwich

2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30 am
Nicholas' Church Hall,
Stour Road, Bathside
Contact , Audrey Hind

COLCHESTER

Sunday 10.30 am
Wednesday 12.30 pm
(Soup and Cheese Lunch)

EARLS COLNE

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10.30 am

SUDBURY

Sunday 10.30 am
Friars Street, Sudbury
Thursday 12.30 pm
(Bring Picnic,
Tea/Coffee provided)

Dear Friends,

It has been an exhausting time, what with Brexit and refugees, and no end of horrors going on, but as always Friends have been doing helpful things. We have a lot of migrants in Colchester, and I always speak to them if it seems to be appropriate, and they always seem to be pleased to be in Colchester, and in England. But since Brexit there has been a lot of nastiness about, and, for instance, rude words written on windscreens. One can only hope that it will die away.

Quite a few youngsters have been seen at Meeting, and lots of newcomers and visitors, which often happens in the summer holidays. I go

to Earls Colne Meeting every third Sunday, and last week I met a retired policeman, and we had a great time exchanging experiences of emergencies in everyday work, such as breaking into houses when somebody seems to have died there: you have to shout "Open in the name of the Queen!" and then you may smash a window, perhaps. (Yes, I have had to do this. You feel very silly.)

Send me your news, please to Valerie Graves, by the middle of the month, and enjoy your holiday!



Area Meeting Earls Colne

July 10, 2016
Ann Webb

It was a breezy but turned warm day that greeted 26 of us at Earls Colne for our Area Meeting. Rufus Jones wrote in Quaker Faith and Practice,

In regard to the World Conference, I sincerely hope for good results, but I have become a good deal disillusioned over 'big' conferences and large gatherings. I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles, in which vital and transforming events take place. But others see differently, and I respect their judgment.

Indeed, in our small circle of an Area Meeting we met to welcome new member, Freya Sandford, and new Assistant Web Site Manager, John Hall. We released Robert Crowley for his service as Trustee, John Lewis for his service to Greenwood Trust and Joan Taylor for her service as Representative to the Court of the University of Essex. Our Area Meeting would not run so smoothly without the help of volunteers, for which we are thankful

Jenny Kay presented the Annual Report and Accounts on behalf of the Trustees and Tom Tebbutt on behalf of Area Meeting We thanked all of those who helped in getting these accounts in

order. We approved Whittles & Co. as independent examiners for the year 2016.

Ecky Prolingheuer gave a wonderful report about the success of Glebe House, a place where young sex offenders can be 'reborn', as it were, and learn life and coping skills that will prevent them from re-offending. Glebe House has been recognized by national authorities as a successful and outstanding program and we are proud to support them with funding for their Small Circles of Accountability program. This is restorative justice in action. Ecky's detailed report is in the newsletter.

Robert Parkes reported Meeting for Sufferings. Many things were discussed but the focus was on the recent EU referendum and how the impact of that on communities means that Quaker work building bridges is more vital than ever. Other topics were;

- the aging and declining membership of the Religious Society of Friends
- the burden of our buildings
- the impact of HS2, the new highway proposed by the government to connect North and South

Rob's detailed report is in the newsletter.

FIRST CONTACT	
FOR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS	
CLACTON.....	Carol Holding
COLCHESTER.....	Carol Holding
SUDBURY.....	Peter Whiteley



John Hall, in front of the Camera for a change

John Hall provided a graphical report about our Area Meeting web site and what the traffic statistics mean. Lucien de Leon shared his experiences at a Woodbrooke course titled, 'Sharing our end-of-life Stories'. And, last but not least, there were two records of note about the Regional Gathering recently held at Colchester and the Area Meeting Gathering coming up in November at High

Leigh. For the latter matter, we have opened up the attendance at the Gathering to other Friends in our area including Maldon and Chelmsford, who expressed an interest in joining us at the Gathering.

The Minutes for July are on the Area Meeting website. Tea followed, thank you Earls Colne, and then off to home.



AM Weekend

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts 18 -20 November 2016

Jenny Kay

Bookings are still open for this residential gathering. As there are still places available AM agreed that we can offer them to other meetings. We have extended invitations to Maldon and Chelmsford Meetings. Former Friends of this AM are also welcome to join us.

The theme for the weekend is 'Leadings' Quaker Faith & Practice 29.01. The programme will include worship; an introductory talk on our theme by Sandra Berry (Director of Woodbrooke); various sessions on our theme and opportunities for leisure activities. We have had many offers from Friends willing to help with the programme.

The booking forms are available in each Meeting House and can be downloaded from the AM website. The cost is £150 and bursary help is available through Overseers.

Meeting for Sufferings (MfS)

Friends House, London, 2nd April 2016

Robert Parkes

"Answering that of God in Everyone"

Coming so soon after the Referendum, the agenda was adjusted to give Friends some time for reflection. We welcomed the public statements issued by Quakers in Britain, by the Northern Friends Peace Board and by other faiths. In sometimes challenging ministry we heard: it can't be assumed all Friends voted the same way; the Referendum has brought into fo-

cus divisions within and between our communities, between those in pain and those in power and between the haves and the have nots. Some difficult questions were posed:

Are we, as a Society, listening properly to those who are hurting?

Who do most Quakers identify with, the haves or the have nots?

What is the Quaker presence in those communities left behind?

As our public statement says, there is now a great need for bridge-building, for reaching out to one another in love. Looking ahead, the agenda for BYM in 2017 is likely to reflect this. Meanwhile the leaflet "Our faith in the future"

Wildspot

from Valerie Graves

It has been an astonishing time in the garden for bloom. Of course, there has been no frost, but I have never seen such prolific roses, for instance, and quite ordinary "weeds" have been covered with flowers, so that you wonder what on earth that pink thing is, or that shrub at the corner of the road.

I usually have masses of visiting frogs, followed by frog spawn, at the end of February, but this year only one, and he didn't even croak! All the same, we had masses of spawn and then tadpoles, and now the grass is covered with minute little frogs as usual.

Quite a lot of baby birds, too (they have speckled breasts, not red). I have been enchanted by a small robin, who follows me round the garden in the mornings in a most friendly and chirpy way. Wherever I am he suddenly turns up with a lot of noise and cheerful hoppings and jumpings. But he is now developing a red front and his father chases him away. Most of the adult birds, such as blackbirds have been busy feeding their families in the Hilly Fields woods, which adjoin my garden, so I haven't seen them, but they are coming back now.

My garden is fairly scruffy and overgrown with ivy and e.g. periwinkles, but that is what wildlife likes, so I don't worry about it.



can help, and we are encouraged to use it to aid discernment of our leadings locally.

We heard again that if BYM is to do more it's going to need more money. This is against a background of a number of risks to the Society. These include: an ageing and declining membership; the continuing burden of our buildings (a pilot project including a new post has been initiated to help Meetings so they can enjoy their buildings as places of community and worship that nourish rather than drain the life of the meeting) and the impact of HS2. If it comes to pass there will be years of disruption

around Friends House with reduced revenue for the hospitality company and a knock-on effect on its contribution to the running costs of the building and Quaker work.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness has decided not to take part in the refugee private sponsorship programme initiated by Citizens UK. That said, we are acting in other ways, including recruiting a full-time worker and a conference in February at Woodbrooke, *“Forced Migration: how can Quakers respond?”*

The Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations described the faith landscape of 21st century Britain, multi-faith, whilst

over 50% of population profess to no faith. We heard about the importance of dialogue and working together with others.

It was reported that seven Friends are facing prosecution following their participation in the No Faith in Trident day of action at Burghfield in June.

We were encouraged to:

Look out for the publication from Leeds AM on ‘Assisted dying: a Quaker exploration, which has been sent to AMs.

Support the Campaign against the Arms Trade (CAAT) campaign against UK sales to Saudi Arabia.

Get involved with Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation, via Conscience.

Finally, Paul Parker reminded us of the words of George Fox: *“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.”*

A set of the papers, with the necessary links to the above topics can be found on the Quaker.org website.

‘They shall grow not old ...’

Ernest Hall

I first heard a rumour that a vessel transporting British and Commonwealth prisoners of war from Libya to Italy had been torpedoed by a British submarine with heavy casualties, in the winter of 1942/1943. I didn’t pay much attention. The rumour probably wasn’t true, most prison-camp rumours weren’t. In any case, I was much more immediately concerned with my own survival.

I was one of about 5,000 British POWs in a large concentration camp near Carpi in northern Italy. We were housed in jerry-built unheated huts with walls less than six inches thick, unbearably hot during the summer months and freezing cold during the winter. Our daily ration of food was a mugful of watery tomato and rice soup plus a tiny maize-bread loaf (scarcely larger than a bread roll) shared between two. Red Cross food parcels, biscuits, tins of meat or fish, powdered milk, honey or jam, kept us alive. To this day, some 70 years later, I never refuse an appeal from the British Red Cross Society! We were each supposed to get one every week but we often went for weeks without: ‘They’re at the station. We can’t get the transport to bring them to the camp’.

We were cold. We were hungry. We were louse infested. At least



once every week there was a notice on the camp notice board announcing that a prisoner had died, usually of a hunger related cause. The notice always carried a note from the camp commandant *‘Great honour to the soldier who has given his life for his country. Signed Guiseppe Ferrari, Colonel of Cavalry.’* I wondered whether that would have eased the pain of his nearest and dearest in England, if they could have seen it, which of course they couldn’t!

Italy surrendered to the allies. We were transported to Germany in cattle trucks. I was very fortunate in being sent with a party of 30 British POWs to a working camp (Arbeitskommando) in Zittau, a small town where the frontiers of Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic now coincide. We were better housed and better fed than we had been in Italy and the Red Cross Parcels arrived regularly. Our guards were wounded or frost-bitten veterans of the Eastern

Front and were neither the sadistic bullies nor the brainwashed automatons of fiction and sadly, sometimes, our experience. We were expected to work hard (mostly loading and unloading railway trucks but we could be given any work requiring brawn rather than brain).

We had a large degree of freedom while we worked. We soon picked up enough very ungrammatical German to converse freely with German civilians and allied POWs and civilian, pressed or volunteers (mostly Russians and Ukrainians), who were our fellow-workers. I learned enough Russian to help me hitch-hike my way through Soviet occupied Czechoslovakia when the war ended. I have spoken to a number of returned POWs and realize that a great many had experiences in German POW camps that were very different and much more unpleasant than mine. Perhaps I was just lucky.

I survived, and thought little more about my experiences during World War II for half a century. Then, in the 1990s, I was contacted by two Ipswich ladies whose fathers, now deceased, had served in the same regiment as I had (67th Medium Regiment RA). I hadn't known their fathers but I was able to tell them a little of the few weeks of almost continuous combat that had ended with our being part of the garrison of Tobruk, and of being overwhelmed by the tanks of General Rommel's Afrikakorps on 20th June 1942. The following morning we had been ordered by General Klopper, South African Officer who commanded the Tobruk garrison, to burn our vehicles, put our guns out of action, and surrender.

I think that I learned more from those two ladies than they learned from me. They supplied me with a complete list of the 67th Medium Regiment R.A.'s fatal casualties – 100 in all out of a regiment of less than 1,000 men. Ten percent, a pretty high proportion for a mobile artillery regiment that had been in combat for little more than six months in all. The figure seemed even more extraordinary when it was discovered that many more fatal casualties occurred after the regiment had surrendered than in battle.

Some had died in the epidemics of dysentery and diphtheria that swept through the POW camps in Libya after I had been transported to Italy. Some died, I knew a few of them, of starvation related illness in POW camps in Italy. I think it unlikely that any British prisoners of war died of starvation in Germany. Unlike Soviet prisoners of war and the Jews, Gypsies and political dissidents starving to death in concentration camps run by the SS, we *did* enjoy the protection of the Geneva Convention. The Germans took that seriously, there were many German POWs in British camps!

There were fatal accidents though. A fellow POW (it could have been me) died when he was crushed by a runaway truck on Zittau's railway sidings. He was given a military funeral with a firing squad from the local German army barracks firing a volley over his grave. Some died in forced march-

Southern East Anglia Area Quaker Meeting

es from prison camps in eastern Poland during the bitter winter of 1944/1945. The Germans marched them to Germany to prevent their liberation by the ever-advancing Soviet Army. Fifty of my comrades though, most of them, like me, volunteers from East Suffolk aged between 21 and 30, died from 'friendly fire'.

By the end of the first week in November 1942 the German and Italian armies had been defeated at El Alamein and were withdrawing westward across Libya. To prevent their liberation by allied forces, some 800 British and South African POWs from prison camps in Tripoli were crammed onto the Scillin an Italian cargo ship, to be transported to prison camps in Italy. The Italians would have crammed even more on board had it not been for the determined protests of a British Medical Officer who was among the prisoners. Fifty of those prisoners on the Scillin were from my regiment. I didn't know them all but I knew several of them well.

Ten miles off the Libyan coast the Scillin was intercepted by the Sahib, a British submarine, whose captain believed it to be loaded with Italian troops. The Scillin ignored warning shots from the Sahib, which then fired a torpedo that struck the vessel's engine room and sank it. The captain and crew of the Scillin and 27 of the prisoners were rescued. 783 prisoners, including the 50 from my regiment, died. I can only hope that they were all killed by the exploding torpedo. The thought of being trapped and drowning in the hold of a slowly sinking vessel haunts my nightmares! What I find unforgivable is that this tragedy need not have happened. British submarine commanders operating in the Mediterranean could have been told by their Egyptian Naval HQ which vessels leaving Libyan ports were carrying POWs and which were carrying German or Italian troops; but that might have revealed to the enemy that British code-breakers had intercepted their radio messages and broken the codes in which they were sent!

It was not until 1996, 54 years later, that the facts of the sinking of the Scillin were made public. Prior to that date enquiries from

relatives had been told that their soldier sons/husbands/boy-friends had died in Italian POW camps (certainly a plausible lie) or had been lost at sea (almost the truth).

They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,

We will remember them!

Those words from Laurence Binyon's poem '*To the Fallen*' will be repeated thousands of times on Remembrance Sunday. They almost make it sound as though the fallen have been rewarded. I have little doubt that every one of those one hundred casualties from the 67th Medium Regiment would have gladly endured growing old, the weariness of advancing age and the 'condemnation of the years' (whatever that means) in exchange for the fifty, sixty or seventy remaining years of life that they would normally have expected, had they been given the choice!

Apologies

Last Month due to a misunderstanding I showed the caption to the cover illustration to be of the Kindlers Visit to Colchester.

It should of course have read:

"Voirrey and Tony Faragher of Cornwall AM- Talk at Colchester FMH on the Legalising of Drugs: Photo: John Hall".



Introduction to the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts 2015

Jenny Kay

The Trustees Annual Report 2015 was accepted by AM in July to be signed at the next meeting with Whittle & Co, the independent examiners.

The Annual Trustees report links the financial accounts to the objectives, strategies and achievements of the Area Meeting providing guidance for the future. It is a requirement of the Charity Commission and is drawn up to meet legal requirements but I hope that it means more to us than just that. It provides us with a public statement of a year's work which Friends in SEAQM will be familiar with either by attending meetings or by reading the Newsletter which reports monthly on AM activities.

The report is put together by the trustees, in 2015 Hazel Jones was Clerk, Tom Tebbutt was treasurer, both supported by the other trustees: Robert Crowley, Robert Parkes, Ecky Prolingueur, Martin Rayner, Peter Whiteley and Henry Ruse until illness prevented him and he was replaced by Eliza Jones. My appointment began in January 2016 when I replaced Hazel Jones who had completed 6 years of service, five of those as clerk.

This report acknowledges the commitment of trustees and in particular the work of the Treasure and Clerk to Trustees. The difficult times that Hazel referred to in her report last year have not completely gone away as yet, as evidenced by this delayed report. However Trustees are putting plans action in to improve the situation.

I see the role of Trustees as an enabling one as we try to ensure that the work of AM can be carried through. SEAQM has valuable resources: properties with an insurance value of £3.5 million, funds at 31 December 2015 both unrestricted and restricted of £1,979.892 and also the resources of its members and attenders. All provide us with opportunities for carrying out our objectives set out in our governing document, interpreted in the report through the seven priorities for Quakers in Britain in 'A framework for action'. Section 8 sets out our achievements and paragraph (h) 'Using our resources well', makes the link with our financial affairs and guides the reserves policy and amounts set aside for future use totaling £369,400 in all. All the financial details are in the report which will be available on the AM website. www.essexsuffolkquakers.org.



Craftspeople?

John Hall is producing a set of photographs of craftswomen and craftsmen in the Area Meeting. He hopes to publish one in each edition of the Newsletter.

Hollow Legs

from Valerie Graves

This is a description I used to give of teenagers, especially boys, as they seemed to be endlessly hungry no matter what they had been given to eat, and at the moment I have a visiting great-grandson of thirteen who will really eat anything. In days gone by, when I had a Rayburn and a big kitchen garden there was usually a casserole simmering in the bottom oven and bread rolls in the bin. I have a more suburban lifestyle now but I often get comments from parents who remember hollow legs being filled up in my kitchen! A small green bin is provided by the Council for your leftovers, but I never have any leftovers. I have a weekly vegetable and fruit box delivery, which is lovely, especially as you have no idea what you are going to get but I think I'll have a problem with it this week, as they are all away.

This grandson is saving up to buy a lizard? (Well, rather than than Pokemon), so he is on the lookout for money to pay for it and is prepared to do any sort of menial work for cash, which is useful. Do you have any visiting hollow legs in your family?

This is the first and shows Norman Myall of Colchester Meeting who has been a luthier (viol maker) for over forty years. In this picture he is holding a unique copy of one of the very earliest guitars Norman made from a description in the British Museum. It is a copy of one made by Belchior Diaz in about 1550. It

has fluted rosewood back and sides and a pine soundboard with a pearwood and vellum rose. Note the moveable frets unlike modern guitars. More information about Norman's work including pictures of his viols are at www.normanmyall.co.uk

On Death and Dying

Quaker Life Representative
Council on 15th-17th April 2016

Lucien de Leon

The Council began with a big bang. Three people told each, a story about a personal experience related to the death of a loved one, describing attendant emotional conditions as well as social, legal, moral and practical problems. Their anger, grief, confusion, anguish, despair and frustration camped among us, leaving the fellowship, some in tears, buried in deep silence. Storytelling rocks and the message was clear.

We need to talk honestly and openly about dying, death, grief, fear and practical problems. We don't like going into detail but it is imperative that we discuss, share our worries and doubts, our experiences of loss and tragedy, our knowledge and our ignorance. It goes to the benefit of all.

We need to face the dragon, name the item and deal with the many issues before they deal with us and/or our nearest and dearest. That requires strategic and tactical planning encompassing legal, economic, political, social, cultural, psychological, spiritual and religious "Hellements".

We need to listen. Listening informs you, transforms you, inspires you. It is an act of comforting and healing. At your

disposal you have: generous, appreciative, active, deep, reflective, informational, and dialogic listening for starters. There's a lot of playground in listening. You can really get down and boogie with your compassionate self.

The counsel of experts is indispensable. Finding your way blindfolded through a swamp would be as a walk in the park compared to negotiating the maze of laws and their letters and the rules and regulations surrounding infirmity, dying and death.

We heard of a man who had a stroke who was in danger of dying. He wanted to get married to his partner quickly but could not get the emergency marriage service because he was not classified as terminally ill.

We also heard from a man who, along with his partner, had AIDS. At that time there was no treatment. His partner died. A year later new medicine made it treatable. In the meantime he had to survive without an immune system. How would things be if he had signed a "don't intervene" document?

What do you want? If you get horribly and permanently mutilated in traffic, do you want the result of that to be resuscitated ... regardless? If you don't and even if you have the "Don't Resuscitate" card, how will you ensure in the event of an accident or your body failing,

that emergency personnel see it in time?

We need to learn, plan and organise. If you became a vegetable on life support would you want them to pull the plug? If you fill out an "Advanced Directive Form", will it hold up against your family's wishes if they object to it? If you change your mind when the crunch comes, it might require wriggling worthy of a reptile to get out of it. Are you aware of and if so, are you conversant with the powers and uses of lasting power of attorney? There is much information to be found on government and council websites, offices and information pamphlets.

How do we respond, as a meeting and as individuals, to the needs of our family, F/friends, community? There was an inspiring story of a man who was dying and couldn't leave his home, obviously, so the meetings for worship were held at his house.

The issues are many and long gone are the good old days when you could just drop dead without a care in the world or so much as a by-your-leave. These days we need a sizeable team composed of medical, psychological, legal, economic, religious, spiritual and philosophical elements. We have to be responsible and plan and manage our demise.

Glebe House -

Ecky Proolingheuer

July AM 2016

Glebe House, the unsung success of Friends' concern:

Just over 50 years ago a Friend, working as a Probation Officer, brought a concern to his meeting regarding the treatment of young men who sexually offend. Out of this arose, with the support of five Area Meetings (including what is now our SEAQM), Glebe House, a Therapeutic Community based in the hamlet of Shudy Camps.

The concerns, clients and the basic set-up remain the same as they

were 50 years ago: there are still young men who commit sexually harmful behaviour towards children, they are still vilified as 'scum' and 'monsters' by the media and parts of the public, and they still need people who, in the certain knowledge that 'there is that of God in every person', try to re-educate them and to re-integrate them as fully functioning persons into society.

Glebe House can accommodate up to 16 such young male offenders. It is in part run along Quaker practice: Trustees have to be active Friends and the young men have to have twice daily 'Meetings' run by themselves (with staff presence)



where problems and behaviours are openly discussed and dealt with, and where silence is part of the process of consideration and decision making.

Glebe House has fantastic, committed staff: teachers in the school (inspected by Ofsted and judged outstanding for last 6 consecutive years) and psychologists et al. in the Therapeutic aspect of the Community (regularly inspected by the Care Quality Commission). Depending on their personal interests that same staff also teach vocation-

al subjects such as cooking, wood-work, art, music and gardening.

Glebe House staff undertake real work with the young men; to make them understand the harm they have caused; to raise their self awareness so as to recognize when they are mentally or emotionally in danger of re-offending and to give them the tools to prevent that.

The outcome of a long term, independent evaluation by the UEA over 12 years has recently shown that Glebe House has a much better success rate in preventing re-offending than all the state funded

schemes dealing with that kind of offender. Staff as well as current and former Glebe House clients have recently reported their work and experiences to relevant agencies within Whitehall and the BMA.

Glebe House is grateful for the financial support we have offered them, which is used to support those clients who have left there during the first years of their independent living. They also desperately need Quakers who are willing to join their small team of trustees!



Clerk's Corner

Alison Parkes, Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting Clerk

At Area Meeting in September, we will be considering two matters which first came before AM in May. One has to do with the decriminalisation of drugs for personal use; two Friends from Cornwall AM visited us and explained the background to the minute we had received, via Meeting for Sufferings, and to which we are asked to give our prayerful discernment. This we will do in September. If you do not yet feel prepared on this topic, I hope you will take advantage of this time to read the briefing papers (on our AM website www.essexsuffolkquakers.org.uk, or they can be provided for you in printed form) and come "with hearts and minds prepared"

to engage in the discernment asked of us.

Secondly, we have been asked by MfS to consider a view put forward by the Crime, community and justice sub-committee of Quaker Peace & Social Witness, which has put together a briefing paper called

"Vision for a Criminal Justice System". This too is on the Business page of the AM website. I hope the extract below from Quaker faith and practice quoted at the beginning of the paper might inspire you to read the rest of it:

"We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party nor against the other ... but we are for justice and mercy and truth and peace and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our nation, and that goodness, righteousness, meekness, temperance, peace and unity with God, and with one another, that these things may abound."

Edward Burrough, 1659. Quaker faith and practice 23.11

"The outcome of the EU referendum and the campaigning that led up to it have shown up and sometimes exacerbated divisions within and between our communities." So begins the Quaker

statement on the EU referendum, which goes on to encourage us to "build bridges", to reach out to one another in love and trust that below the political differences lie a shared humanity and a wish for flourishing communities. At a time when we can feel helpless to act in ways that might contribute to this bridge-building, it helps to come together for Meeting for Worship. Many of us find that it also helps to share in the discernment required of us at our business meetings, whether at Local or Area Meeting. As Qfp 3.01 reminds us, "Attendance at these meetings is the right, and indeed the responsibility, of all Friends." In this way, we do contribute to broader decisions about how we are putting our faith into action that might just help to build bridges in the wider community.

The next Area Meeting will be held on Sunday September 11, 2.15 pm at Colchester Quaker Meeting House, 6 Church Street, Colchester CO1 1NF. For more details, please see the AM website Business page www.essexsuffolkquakers.org. All are welcome, though if you are an Attender (i.e. not in membership), please ask the Clerk for permission to attend.