

Tim's Painting at High Leigh, Area Meeting Weekend

photo:John Kay

# NEWSLETTER

#### SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING

December 2016

# **Diary Dates for December**

Saturday December 10th Children's Christmas Party 2.30 pm

Sunday December 11th Christmas meal for everyone

Friday December 2nd Colchester Farmers' Market

Saturday December 10th Colchester Children's Christmas party

Saturday December 10th International Human Rights Day

Sunday December 25th Colchester will hold a normal one-hour Sunday meeting

Wednesday January 4th International Braille Day - Anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille

### 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;

email address: email address: AMClerk@.essexsuffolkquakers.org

Web Address:

www.essexsuffolkquakers.org

# Meetings for Worship

#### **CLACTON**

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

#### Harwich

2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30 am St Nicholas' Church Hall, Stour Road, Bathside CO12 3HS Contact: Ros/Tony Eaton 01255 880500

#### **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)

## FIRST CONTACT

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

# Meeting for Sufferings (MfS)

Friends House, London, 1st October 2016

Robert Parkes

QFP 24.53 It should be the goal of understanding to pierce first through the thin layer of superficial familiarity and then through the hard rock of differing customs, habits and beliefs to discover the real humanity that lies beneath. National, racial and religious differences have not destroyed our common humanity, but they have given it different faces which may tempt us to forget that all the things that really matter, life and death, birth

### **Editorial**

Dear Friends,

It is nearly Christmas! it has crept up on me without my noticing, but in fact I have made some preparations for it. I am fortunate in being blessed with masses of great-grandchildren, and I see quite a lot of them, which is nice because they do enjoy the sort of silly things that I enjoy getting for them, and I have very few of the sort of relations who like sensible presents. At one time I used to take a day in London wearing stout shoes and a rucksack, and a list of sensible things to get. But now I just get things from catalogues. I am old and I get tired and very forgetful.

Our Meeting is very busy and doing lots of useful things which I don't manage to get to, and a lot is being

and love, joy and sorrow, poetry and prayer, are common to us all. The sense of our common humanity is latent within us, but only occasionally do we appreciate it as a living reality, as when at times of great stress we are upheld by strangers of an alien creed and tongue. Then the inward eye is opened and we see humanity standing above all nations, more humble, more patient and far more enduring than all the kingdoms of this earth. This is the ultimate justification for our peacemaking.

From time to time the business of MfS is more about receiving reports than focusing on discernment. This was such a meeting. We received reports on:

- 1 The Vibrancy in Meetings programme. As a pilot project this only covers parts of our Yearly Meeting: East Anglia is not yet covered. The appointed local development workers will be using *Our Faith in the Future (FiF)* as a resource for working with local Friends.
- 2 The recent visit to the USA by the Recording Clerk & Yearly Meeting Clerk, Paul Parker and Deborah Rowlands. They shared their

done for our refugees. We shall be having a Lunch, and a children's party and it so happens that Christmas Day will be on a Sunday, so our usual Christmas Meeting will be combined with an ordinary one. I have run a Meeting on Christmas Day for years and years, so it will be interesting to see what happens.

News, please, to Valerie Graves by the middle of the month, but there will not be a newsletter in January. (We never do have one then) Have a great time!



reflections on their visit to Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings, and other Quaker groups based in the East of the US. This included details on some of the concerns held within these meetings:

on racism, both within the wider society but also looking at inclusiveness and diversity within their Yearly Meetings.

the involvement of young adult Friends at all levels of the Yearly Meetings - finding fresh ways for them to be heard and to take a proper part in the business.

meetings that are running out of capacity. Some are experimenting with different business and clerking styles. For example, instead of fixed committees they use "collaborative sprints" - that we'd probably call "job and finish"; active talent spotting; and upholding active Friends through care support teams

What has emerged is that there are many areas of commonality where we can learn from each other and share experiences - and an opportunity of us to export what we do well too. We can look forward to more interaction.

3 The work of Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee. Currently, it is overseeing some 300 separate projects at home and abroad, across all of our testimonies. There is a general recognition it can't do everything so it is looking to see how best to prioritise what it does, to give Quaker work greatest impact. It is finalising an overall strategy, developed in the context of FiF,

which we can expect to hear a lot more about at Yearly Meeting 2017. This is likely to involve more partnership working with AMs/LMs and ways in which we can work more with other non Quaker groups (Quakers work collaboratively; Quakers are well known and widely understood).

Forced migration remains a major concern. A new programme manager is soon to be appointed

to cover the subject. Inter alia, he/she will explore what kind of work Quakers can do best as well as build relationships with other bodies. There will be more about this at the Woodbrooke conference on the subject early next year.

As usual, a full report of the meeting and papers can be found on the dedicated pages of the Quaker.org website



# Anthony Johae's poetry reading

on 23rd October 2016 Mary Grocock

This event began with a small miracle. Having agreed to coordinate, I couldn't find Anthony. Rod wrote a letter; Mervyn offer technical logical search; my walk to the library and met Anthony in the street.

At a hastily arranged meeting with Thérèse, Anthony and Mervyn, we wrote down who would do what and with quiet efficiency that is what they did.

Anthony introduces sensitive, moving poems and was assisted in their reading by articulate Friends while Thérèse set out her appetising and delicious Lebanese food.

For this warm, sociable occasion our thanks are due to all who helped; book sellers, washes up, furniture movers and especially to Anthony and Thérèse who, by their generous efforts raised our awareness of a troubled world and a miraculous £600 for refugees.

# Clacton & Harwich News

Clacton Meeting has been unable to find a replacement for Hazel Jones, the current clerk whose term of office expires on 31st December 2016. Therefore, at the November Business Meeting it was agreed that Clacton and Harwich Meetings will meet as Worshipping Groups as from 1st January 2017. Clacton Meeting will seek support and guidance from Area Meeting in how to move forward in its new capacity. The Meeting has an active Premises Committee and Treasurer who will, for the time being, deal with the day to day running and maintenance of the building, with regular reporting to Area Meeting. Hazel Jones must be thanked for all the hard work during her time of office, her efficiency in conducting Business Meetings and her

skill in handling some difficult situations over the years. It is hoped that she will now be able to enjoy just being an ordinary member of the Harwich and Clacton Worshipping Groups.

Silva Garton-Rogers has very kindly agreed to organise our Meeting for Carols again this year, to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm in the Meeting House. The collection will again be given to Derek Crosfield House. It is anticipated that, as in previous years, a good number of visitors will come along to participate in the joyful occasion.

Under the capable organisation of Janet Thomas the First Wednesday Midweek Meeting for Worship with lunch continues to flourish with an average attendance of 12-15 persons. However concern has been expressed that, despite notification, the listing in the Area Newsletter still shows

the Meeting time as 1.00pm. It is actually 12 noon.

The Art Group has been meeting regularly one Friday a month since June. 11am – 3pm. Activities have included a still life with a seaside theme, following instructions from an internet workshop to produce a seascape and working on own projects. The theme for the November session is 'Autumn'.

Harwich Meeting, whose home on Sundays for the last seven years has been St Nicholas Church Hall, Stour Road, Bathside CO12 3HS, continues to meet there on two Sundays a month. We also enjoy meeting in our homes for discussion and for a Light group once a month. Four Harwich Friends were also able to go to Ipswich Meeting recently for an inspirational and informative talk given by Ben Pink Dandelion.

Margaret Ahmed

# Quaker Craft People

John Hall

This one shows John Wolton of Colchester Meeting who, while being a musician by profession, enjoys building things.

This photograph, by Jane Wolton, shows him and the bridge he built. It is a model of the bridge over Pier Gap in Clacton-on-Sea which he made, from concrete and fibreglass, over the pond in his garden.

# High Leigh AM Weekend

Julia Usher

To Dear Peter, Phyl and Jenny,

The peacefulness of the weekend still feels with me, and I have such heartfelt thanks and appreciation of what you three created, visioned and enabled for us.

High Leigh was just right, and beautiful; and there were many unforgettable experiences.

I felt we were able to deepen our relationships, including those with other Meetings.

I have a few photos, which I attach, hoping it isn't too big a mail.

What a Labyrinth too! I couldn't believe it. In warmest appreciation and friendship, Julia.

# Some thoughts

from the AM Weekend at High Leigh 18-20 Nov. 2016.

The weekend began with a recognition of our connectedness, and we have been drawn closer by the opportunities for reflection and sharing. Fascinating to hear the diversity and the similarities of everyone attending -

real food for thought....

Open ended. A good time to talk in small groups. Thought provoking. Listening.

More thoughts on what we have taken away from the weekend;

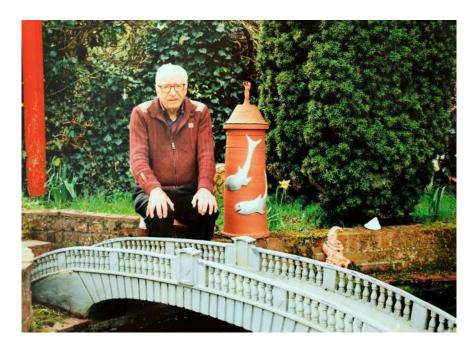
Depth of fellowship. I came to meet Friends, make friends, and I have !

Lovely to connect and reconnect with Friends. Have loved every moment ... and look forward to visiting Woodbrooke!

Relaxed - a framework for study groups provided an opportunity to work with different Friends.

Strengths of belonging to Quakers as a supportive group.

I think our leadings will bubble up as a result of the weekend.













#### Glebe House

Friends Therapeutic Community Peggy Lewis

A group of young men aged between 15 and 18 from backgrounds where neglect and abuse were the norm, now given a chance to turn their lives around. Coming with histories of self-harm, suicidal thoughts and sexually harmful behaviour. Earlier this year I visited Glebe House which our Meeting is supporting.

The day begins with a one hour Community Meeting for residents and staff to discuss the day's diary and rota and scheduled activities. All are encouraged to comment and to bring up any issues bothering them. One resident told me that this can be 'quite a challenge but worth it' For the 15 or so young people in residence there are 43 staff members (some part time) Two staff are on duty through the night in case someone needs help over nightmares, upsets and worries, etc.

Each boy has an individual educational programme covered in 25 hours of education weekly, though lessons are often disguised as activities!

There are good opportunities for work experience - in the garden where they grow vegetables and fruits, which turn up in the kitchen. We had an excellent vegetable curry followed by fruit crumble which some of the lads had helped to prepare and cook,. Others work in the vehicle workshop where they learn how to carry out car maintenance and servicing. This leads on to driving

the car round the track and preparing to take the driving test and to gaining City and Guilds qualifications.

The Drama group is popular where real life issues can be explored as well as producing a lively pantomime at Christmas. Music and sport are also included in activities. HVQs are worked for and six boys have taken GCSEs this year.

A new referral will stay for a 5 week trial period when he is asked whether he wants to stay. Residents give their feed-back and staff make their assessment. When residents eventually leave there is quite a ritual. Special lunch, speeches, gifts then the whole comumunity lines up to see him go. Transition from residential care to independent living is a challenge so they are offered several support strategies plus a life-membership to their sports club to encourage them to visit their old friends any time.

Recently the Director was invited to visit the Palace of



Westminster with several of the young people to meet and talk with Parliamentary Enquiry Group. They spoke with the 8 MPs for well over an hour about their experience at Glebe House. They were articulate and confident and made a lasting impression.

Glebe House is inspected by Ofsted and an Inspector stated that 'I could not commend this home any more, they are fantastic'. I hope that Colchester Quakers will continue to support this excellent Quaker inspired project in the future.







# Wildspot 1

from Valerie Graves

Well, not wild, exactly, but I have been doing an enormous lot of cutting down and trimming and clearing up, and fortunately I have a useful gardener who will clear it all away. As I have said before, the garden has been amazingly prolific with lots of flowers and fruit and new plants of all kinds, but past experience tells me that this often means a cold winter to come.





Southern East Anglia Area Quaker Meeting





Weekend Photographs from Julia Usher and John Hall

More from the AM

# The Quakers - and I!

Part 2

Ernest Hall

The most memorable event of my clerkship was the building of a splendid new Meeting Room at the rear of 26 Granville Road. When Monthly Meeting first acquired this property for Clacton Friends, Meetings for Worship had been held in the front sitting room. The attendance had grown and, and shortly before the arrival on the scene of my family and I, the dividing wall between the front and rear sitting rooms had been replaced with a folding screen, doubling the potential Meeting Room size. Now this was proving inadequate and the only place the Children's Class could go was the We wondered if we kitchen! should look for larger premises but a Colchester Friend with appropriate knowledge and experience drew up plans for an extension of the existing building. The plans were approved by us and by Monthly Meeting - and by Clacton UDC.

There was a great deal of work involved and I was in the thick of it – but it was a shared responsibility and every member and attender played his or her part. Particularly helpful were Joyce Bissenden (later Joyce White) one of our members who was also Clerk of Monthly Meeting, and Derek Crosfield, a very 'weighty' Colchester Friend, who gave us practical and financial support as well as enthusiasm for our cause. At last, the work was completed and on 12th July 1969 our 'new' Meeting House was officially declared open by George Gorman, Clerk of the national Quaker Home Service Committee (Derek Crosfield was that Committee's Chairman at the time). Our new Meeting Room was packed with f/Friends from Monthly Meeting and representatives of every other Christian tradition in Clacton!

Somewhere along the line – it probably began in Ipswich and concluded in Clacton! – I regained my Christian Faith. There was no Damascene moment; not even a day on which I could say 'yesterday I wasn't a believer. Today I

am'. I just generally came to accept that there was a divine spark within every human being as declared in the preface to St. John's Gospel, and that that divine spark (that of God) was made into human flesh and blood, personified if you prefer, in Jesus of Nazareth. He lived, died and rose from the dead to demonstrate that good would ultimately prevail over evil and to show us in his own life and teaching, something of the nature of God.

With the 'new' Meeting House completed I had more time to survey the wider scene. It appeared that the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was also having its problems. I had seen George Fox's revelation that, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, who can speak to thy condition', as being the rock on which the religious Society of Friends had been built. Now, it appeared, Jesus had become an 'optional extra'. There was, I learned, a division between Friends who considered themselves to be Christian and those who were 'universalists'. This puzzled me at first as I considered myself to be both a Christian and a Universalist. I was a Universalist in that I believed the 'inward light' ('that of God', 'the True Light') to be the universal gift of God to every living human being. I was a Christian in that I believed that 'True Light' to have been made flesh, or personified, some two thousand years earlier in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. This didn't give Christians any extra privileges but it did give them added responsibilities – they had a living example to follow as well as the promptings of that 'Inward Light'.

The world's religions all have some precepts in common, because their founders and followers all had God's gift of that inward light. They are not all of equal value though, and it is a mistake to imagine that they all, deep down, have the same values. They simply haven't. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus have quite different attitudes to prayer, to dress, to diet and to relationships between the sexes. We may, and should, respect those differences, but it is absurd and counter-pro-

ductive to pretend that they don't exist. I think that my wife Heather, perhaps because of her evangelical past, was more concerned about the division between Christians and Universalists than I was. She felt that the division was so basic that the Society of Friends should split and become two Societies. I hoped that a less drastic solution could be found. I think that it probably has been, though I would urge zealots of both sides to follow the 'Advice' that urges us all to consider the possibility that we may be mistaken. I try to follow that advice myself!

Many years later, but before Heather's health again deteriorated and demanded that I become her full-time carer, I had occasionally attended the 8.00 am Sunday Eucharist service at St James' Anglican Church in Clacton. I had been made welcome (although the priest knew me only as a Quaker) and had been invited to take part in the Holy Communion. The Book of Common Prayer was used for this service and I found myself saying with true appreciation the words that had been familiar to me half a century earlier. I attended that service on the Sunday following Heather's death and found myself greatly supported and comforted. Shortly after that I regularised my position by informing both Quaker Monthly Meeting and the priest at St James', that I regarded myself as being in dual membership of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and of the Church of England. Dual membership is unusual but by no means unique. Terry Waite, probably the Church of England's bestknown lay member, is also in dual membership of the Quakers and of the Anglican Church.

Although in dual membership, I give priority to the Quakers, as it was in the based-on-silence of Quaker Meetings for Worship that I had regained my Christian faith. I have never allowed my restored and revived Anglican membership to prevent my regular attendance at Meeting for Worship on Sunday mornings. I hope that I never will.

It was after Heather's life came to an end that I first became aware that there was another, and perhaps more serious, potential source of division between Friends. In the eyes of some Friends God too has become an 'optional extra'. They are those who declare themselves to be non-theists. I had previously imagined that all Friends believed in God. Surely the one conviction that united us all was that there was 'that of God' within 'the heart' of all human beings, whatever their colour, creed, age or sex. Perhaps the God in whom non-theists don't believe is a kind of superman living in a heaven 'above the bright blue sky' who occasionally reaches down to reward one of his favourites or punish a transgressor. I don't believe in that kind of a God either. Neither I think does either the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Pope. However; I do believe in a God; a Divine Intelligence beyond ourselves, not just beyond our experience but beyond our imagination, who pervades the Universe that he (she or it) has created and in whom, as St Paul puts it, we 'live, move and have our being'. That God is able to hear the prayers of the faithful worldwide and, I believe from personal experience, always hears and answers those who pray fervently and with heart and soul, not for themselves but for someone they love. The answer may not, of

course, always be the one for which the petitioner had hoped.

Perhaps I am over-credulous. I have no problem in believing in the value of prayer. I have no problem accepting the healing miracles of Jesus and some of his followers, because I have seen miracles of healing myself in the 20th and 21st centuries. However, I cannot, try as I might, believe that the wonderful Universe, of which our world is a tiny part and our wonderful world with all the wonderful living creatures (including ourselves) that dwell within it, are the product of blind chance. I believe they are evidence of a power and an intelligence far beyond our own, that most of us are prepared to call God.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and I have drifted apart – and I don't feel that the drifting has been mine. There have certainly been revolutionary changes in both Quaker faith and practice since I joined Friends, sixty-eight years ago. I find myself envying the Quakers in Kenya who, according to a recent article in 'The Friend' are all Christians first, and then Quakers. Worryingly, I feel that I have more in common with Roman Catholics and happy/clappy evangelicals though I have never been in the least attracted to either of those Christian traditions) than I have with Friends

who declare themselves to be nontheist. At 95 and after nearly 70 years of membership, I have no intention of resigning. Non-theism is something about which I have read and heard but never directly encountered. My own local Meeting for Worship and its members mean a great deal to me and I intend to continue to be a regular attender on Sunday mornings for as long as I am physically capable. The Religious Society of Friends will no doubt, continue to change and develop. I hope it will rediscover its Christian roots and become a spiritual power house for other Christian groups. Already in Clacton several committed members of another Christian Church come to us twice every month to experience Quaker worship. The alternative may be that our Society will become a purely secular group of well-meaning like-minded people who meet on Sundays to think nice thoughts and sometimes rise to express them. They will pride themselves on keeping alive such Quaker traditions as shaking hands to signify the end of meeting.

I think though that the future of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in the UK will depend not upon us but upon whether or not God has more work for us (with his help) to do.

# Wildspot 2

from Valerie Graves

We are having a very peculiar time. It has, until now, been unseasonably warm, with amazing crops of flowers and fruit (and weeds and slugs) but this last few days have been colder and wetter and windier with stories of floods. Absolutely anything might happen, so I am just waiting with fingers crossed. I visited some newcomers down the road last week, and they have several young toads in their garden. They have only just moved in, and have cleared the very overgrown garden. How exciting! I shall enjoy seeing what they make of it. I shall be very glad of a couple of toads. Watch this space!

# Thinking about War and Peace

from Valerie Graves

Last week, or maybe a few weeks ago, was Armistice Day and we spent a lot of time in Meeting thinking about it. I was a schoolgirl and then a student during that time, and a good deal of it in London, and I remember being scared stiff most of the time, especially during the buzz bombs. I remember walking down Tottenham Court Road one lunch-time en we heard the noise like a broken down lawn-mower overhead, which suddenly stopped, and as we had learned to do, I instantly flung myself face down on the pavement. An elderly man standing next to me looked at me with a fa

scrambled to my feet I saw that he was dead. A car had taken to the air and lodged itself in an office window - the occupants had lost most of their clothes but were unhurt. How thankful we were when it eventually stopped.

When VE Day came at last, thousands of people walked about London for half the night. All the lights were on, everyone was dancing and singing, we went to Buckingham Palace and shouted for the King. I was with my husband-to-be and I remember that

where we spent the night but
I know that it was a long
way from where either
of us lived, and must
have been about 6am when

An exciting experience, but one I don't want to repeat.

we got to sleep.

ce expressing scorn, but when I

### Notes on AM

on 27 Nov 2016 at Colchester Liz Hurley

It was a pleasant late November Sunday when Ffriends met together for Area Meeting in Colchester and we were particularly pleased to have Henry and Sheila Ruse with us once more and also our AM clerk, Alison Parkes, back after her hip op.

The Meeting began with the usual silence, reading and recording of representatives and then we were into the business. There were eight items on the agenda and the first one recorded with sadness, the death of Dennis Skeels in Sudbury, at the age of 90. We were also told of the recent death of our Friend, Grace Ravassio of Clacton. Membership and appointments followed. We were brought up to date on the situation of Clacton and Harwich Local meetings where they are unable to find a replacement for Hazel Jones who comes to the end of her second triennium. After that, a report from the Trustees on current matters.

Other items included reports on Meeting for Sufferings and the weekend at High Leighs which was spoken of with enthusiasm and discussion about a future booking. By now the light was going and Friends were ready for a short break from the business but the Clerk soon brought us back to our seats and we dealt with the final two items on the agenda before getting together for a final chat over tea and refreshments in the Parnell room.





### Ouaker Sale 2016

Carol Holding

This is the report given to Local Meeting with added comments from people on the day which were collected by Freya Sandford.

Main Differences The new layout and new food arrangements were a result of adhering to new Health and Safety rules as explained to us by Peter Whitely and Phyll Reid who had attended courses recently.

Friday began frighteningly with few helpers and what seemed to be very little to sell but the upside of this was that less time and energy was spent setting up stalls in the end, and with the new layout there was a better feel of space and more camaraderie. This was also clear in the Parnell room where the lunches and cakes were sold. Several people said that more cakes could have been sold especially the larger ones.

Several people said how good the lunches were and the atmosphere very sociable. People queued happily before the event entertained by Norman Myall and his band, but there was concern that they could not be heard indoors and it was too cold for them. Before

and passing traffic was good and feeling more relaxed. The foyer was less crowded giving the impression of fewer visitors, but people stayed longer to interact with us and others. The haberdashery stall was disappointing but that may be because it was away from the other stalls. One person asked if our main purpose was to raise money in which case it was inefficient, and if it is outreach how is it measured. The money is probably down and the comments above may answer the latter question but it is difficult to quantify and the people involved all said it was not one or the other. How much the whole meeting was or should be involved is a perennial question which is difficult to answer. The very beautiful posters and hand-

lunch sitting at the tables chatting, and afterwards out of the way of the stalls

The very beautiful posters and handbills designed by Moira Shippard were placed all over. Too much was spent on newspaper advertising, and too much was spent on food but we can learn from these. The clearing up on Sunday was much easier and could be attributed to the smaller event but we still took over £1,000 and had more time to talk.

# Remembrance Day

Amber Kendall-Attrill

These are from Ray Attrill's family, given to Colchester meeting on Remembrance Sunday by his girls.

We've been upstairs writing poems and thinking about why we celebrate Remembrance Day and this is why it's important, we think it's important because people risked their lives for us and if they didn't we wouldn't be here today to celebrate it today.

Soldiers are dying
People are crying
Some don't have nowhere to go
Families are destroyed
People are annoyed
Boys are forced to go in the war
But some are falling on the floor
People are leaving
Some are believing
But somehow there's no reason
People are forced to go into camps
And some rooms are very damp
Some are free
But some have bandage on their knee

The Last of Us (1)

As I struggle out of the claustrophobic contaminated catastrophe trench, bit by bit it uses the last of my body strength to slowly crawl along the floor covered in thick sticky mud. The last of the trees whistle and we looked, waving in the never ending frostbitten wind. The thought of my family at home clenches my stomach and turns it inside out. The thick yellow smoke blinds me like bleach. Suddenly everything disappears...

The Everlasting Nightmare (2)

all around me I can hear the deafening screams of people being separated from their families. The smoke produced from the gas chamber hurls up my nose and I can't stop it flash talks of burnt people, take a hold of my brain and I can't cope. Are these people blind do they see what they're doin. This is an everlasting nightmare. Courageously with courage idea to look at people who are skin and bones those bleak faces stare at me like there is no hope.