



*Callicarpa*

*Photograph by Joan Rew*

# **NEWSLETTER**

***SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING  
November 2017***

## ***Diary Dates for November***

All of November World Vegan Month <http://www.govegan.org.uk/>

Friday November 3rd Colchester Farmers' Market at the Arts Centre Saturday

November 4th Art Exhibition at Colchester FMH

Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> World Diabetes Day <http://www.worlddiabetesday.org/>

Sunday November 2.15 pm 19<sup>th</sup> AM Meeting at Colchester Meeting House

Sunday November 19th International Men's Day <http://www.internationalmensday.com/>

Saturday November 25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  
<http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>

***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: [AMClerk@essexsuffolkquakers.org](mailto:AMClerk@essexsuffolkquakers.org)***

Web Address: [www.essexsuffolkquakers.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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



### **Though you've probably heard this before.**

Q: How many Quakers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Thirty-three: One to raise a concern at Preparative Meeting that the light bulb is no longer working. Ten at PM to set up a light bulb replacement sub-

## Editorial

Dear Friends, The end of October, and beginning to be cold, but a good time for a holiday and the start of a new year. We were sorry to hear of Denys Rendell's death. He had a very interesting life, and an account of it is available. He and my son Chris were among those who renovated the houses in the Dutch Quarter that were built by Dutch refugees long ago when they were fleeing persecution, and they got jobs and did very well, just as is happening again now. Though, alas, the "Right to Buy" allowed them all to

### **A Very Comforting Book**

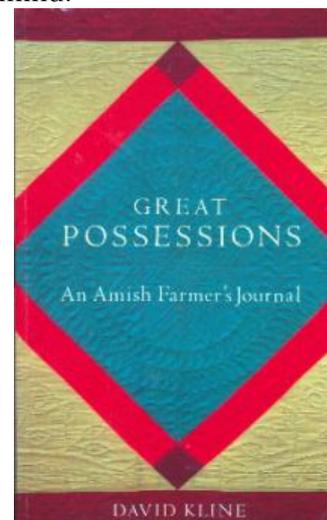
Valerie Graves

This is *Great Possessions*, by David Kline, and it is about the life of an Amish farmer in Ohio. The Amish have a very cheerful life without most modern machinery. They like very simple things, plough with horses and seem to live very happily. Their religion, again, is simple, happy and uncomplicated: services are often conducted in a barn and are not at all severe.

You have probably seen pictures of crowds of them working together to raise a building wall, or designs for furniture. In this book you see a large family of children at school or helping on the farm, but they are perfectly happy to take a bus if necessary. This particular book, (he has written sev-

be sold, and are now very expensive. But that is life. It was good to see Derek Brett, our former warden, even though he did tell us how very many more Friends came to Meeting then than we have now! But we still have plenty of young people working all over the world. News, please, by the middle of the month, to Valerie Graves. You will find accounts of all kinds of interesting events, including Meeting For Eating, in the newsletter.

eral) is mostly about the birds he has seen, or the steps he has taken to encourage them, so you may find it dull, but you cannot but envy him his peace of mind!



group to send a report to Monthly Meeting. Three to work on the subgroup and report to MM. Fifteen at MM to discern that the right way forward is to change the light bulb. One to report back to Meeting that the bulb is going to be changed. One person to change the bulb. One person to write

an article for the MM newsletter about changing the bulb. One to write a letter to *The Friend* saying that the decision about changing the light bulb had not been in Right Ordering.

*From The old town fellowship, google site.*

## Earls Colne News

Jenny Kay

As Remembrance Sunday approaches we are thinking about our Quaker peace witness. Quaker Meetings for Worship are often havens of quiet reflection for yearly visitors who want more than a brief silence on Remembrance Sunday. We have such a visitor who may come to join us again this year.

Reading the past Newsletters I found a report written by John Tann of a silent peace vigil held in Earls Colne on 8 October at the time of the outbreak of hostilities in retaliation for the terrorist attacks of 11 September in America. In the early evening

eight friends gathered outside the Co-op with candles and placards explaining their presence and calling for support of justice and peace rather than revenge. The day had been wet and windy and friends came suitably garbed.

Small boys hovered around on their bikes and roller blades. People stopped and read the placards and moved off. As the vigil broke up the boys came back and two friends spoke to them of the war.

John Tann wrote in the 'monthly 'Newsletter' "Perhaps the boys will remember that small band who witnessed to another way, and questions will

start forming in their young minds."

The book 'Life Has Been Fun' by Ted Tawell of the Earls Colne Quaker Tawell family has recently come into our possession. (More of this later). Ted recounts, among other events in his early life, his WW1 experiences. He was a founder member of the Friends Ambulance Unit and a conscientious objector. White poppies, crocheted by Una Lawrence are available from the Meeting House for a donation to the Peace Pledge Union.

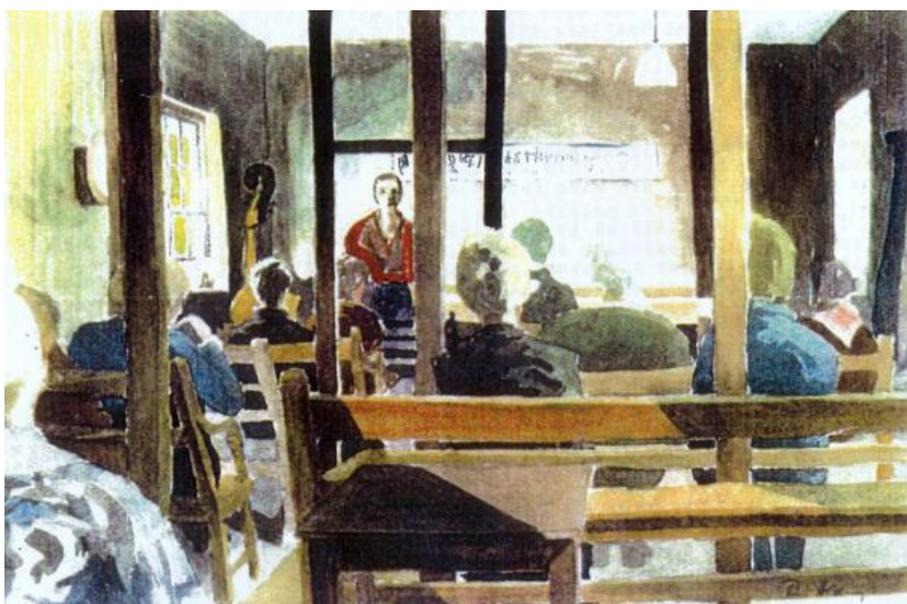
## Advices and Queries

Valerie Graves

I was going to write about this little book, but found it was going to be too large a subject for a short article. It was originally just about how many people called themselves Quakers and who and where they were, then it became more disciplinary and critical. A beautiful Meeting

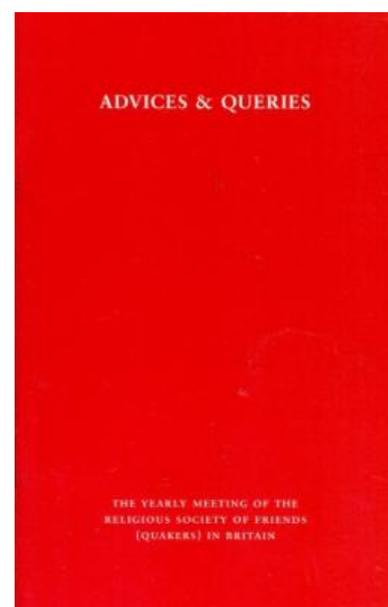
House was built at Layer Breton in the middle of the 19th century, before universal schooling, and like others its chief aim was to teach men to read, with special emphasis on the Bible and Quaker teachings, and classes were popular, of up to 40 men, probably in the evening, and of course the need for this ended.

Layer Breton was a lovely little place, much used in summer for picnics, but no amenities such as toilets or water. It eventually fell down and was demolished. I found a beautiful, but mouse-eaten and torn copy of A & Q there and had it repaired and rebound. I may write a series of articles in due course.



*Monthly Meeting at Layer Breton*

*watercolour by Tim Holding, 1972*



## ***A Singular Quaker***

Qavi, (1936 – 2017),

John Lewis

Qavi, a Friend of Blackheath Meeting died on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017, aged 81. He is mourned by those who knew him as a sensitive philanthropic believer in the goodness of mankind, who was prepared to face man's inhumanity. Qavi's given name was Mohammad. He was born in Delhi and suffered the partition of his homeland when he was 12 when the family fled to Pakistan, then to Bangla Desh. He married and had three children, and made a good living in the Middle East making furniture. Seeking somewhere more in tune with his own character, he came to England in 1983 and , although he did continue making furniture, was semi-retired. His philanthropic activities were taking over. Despite his rather forbidding appearance, he was a very careful speaker who gave advice sparingly but always after thought. His interests were extraordinarily wide. He was a

champion bridge player, recited poetry in 3 languages, was an active Quaker and an active Moslem, attended political meetings regularly and loved the Proms. He was a thoughtful commentator on the religious and political tensions that our leaders are struggling with. Intelligent reasoning brought him to directly to activism and support for the transformational power of education. Thinking and comment were never enough. In Pakistan he was a founder of the Students Welfare Association which did what it says – supporting education for the poor. He funded numerous individuals, especially girls, through schools and university in Pakistan. In 2002 Qavi first visited Palestine and for the remainder of his life he focussed on the apparently unresolvable suffering of the people of that land. He was a gentle and careful man. Again, he funded numerous education schemes and personally paid for education on a substantial scale. Quakers may have seen him in his vigils in London, at peace gatherings,



at embassies after some outrage, against bombing in Afghanistan, against the indiscriminate killing of civilians in Iraq by the military. In Israel and in Palestine he continued, always with his own poster. I think the attached photograph is of Qavi outside the Pakistan Embassy but Blackheath Friends will have similar images from Jerusalem and elsewhere in London. Qavi chose to die in Palestine, in Bethlehem, where meetings in his memory will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> October. A Meeting will be held in the evening at Blackheath Meeting House on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

## ***Degree honour for musician***

21st September

Musician, Julia Usher from Colchester received an honorary degree A Musician who has built a career opening doors for women into the industry has been awarded an honorary degree from University Centre Colchester.

Julia Usher, project director at Colchester New Music and Arts Action East, is being recognised for her contribution to music locally and regionally with an honorary doctorate.

It is one of higher education's most prestigious tributes, designed to recognise her lifetime accomplishments and contributions, and validated by Essex University.

In 1987, Julia joined the initial group which founded Women in Music and attended events run by the Composer's Guild of Great Britain, now known as BASCA. She has worked on many music projects for people of all abilities, and is a strong advocate for equality and diversity in the community, using music as a medium that speaks to most people. She trained as a

music therapist at the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre, which led to her becoming an advisor for musical therapists across East Anglia.

Alongside working as a professional composer, Julia was commissioned in 2015 to write a piece to mark the restoration of the Moot Hall organ.

Her piece, the Art and Industry of Pipework, combined the renewed organ with electronic sounds recorded in the Man Diesel UK factory in Colchester. The ceremony took place on October 7 at Colchester Town Hall.

## ***A Visit to Grayson Perry's House***

Carol Holding This was an experience, somewhat surreal as I had expected. It sits at the bottom of a track leading towards the Stour Estuary at Wrabness. I caught a glimpse of it from the top of the track – a ginger bread type of building that nestled quite comfortably into the landscape. The main colours however are silver and green and the shape is complex compared to the other dwellings along the track. It is built of ceramic as you might expect and titanium so no expense is spared. The purpose is to celebrate the ballad of Julie, an Essex girl who was born in the South of the county on Canvey Island and who travelled North experiencing a tough life, I think the building is to mark her supposed final resting place. I have not read the details of this life but it certainly caught the imagination of Grayson Perry. The front door, about the size on an ordinary garage door, is surmounted by an arched roof, and behind that is an-

other arch with windows and behind that is a further arch which complement each other, but as the visitor walks down the side of the building, all feeling for scale seems to disappear. The wall is massive and clad with thousands of green tiles depicting a pregnant Julie and various Essex symbols. It finishes with two enormous brick arches which have no obvious relationship with the rest of the wall and seems more like the side of a warehouse than a house. It has no windows so no peeking and no view out. The back of the house is quite high as the land slopes down quite steeply and for this reason only is impressive. The roof decoration is complex but like an afterthought, not really part of the design. There are some everyday concrete steps leading up to the back door, another add on. The fourth side of the house is out of bounds as is the interior and I would have liked to look down on



it from the West. The whole building is standing in meadow grass with sculptural mounds of yarrow which seemed appropriate for the area. Any more formal garden would have been out of place I thought. It can be hired at great expense for holidays which might have been interesting, but as a contemporary folly I wondered what the locals made of it. In the local post office there were some very expensive post cards of it and I hope this might compensate for any disruption to their way of life but all in all the record in my head was all I wanted to take away.

## ***Hollow Legs***

Valerie Graves

This what I used to say, despairingly, about my teenage children and visitors. Fortunately I had a Rayburn and a big productive garden, and lived in a farming area where I was often given eggs, so could just go down the garden with a fork for a potato or two. I was often lent someone else's reluctant eater for the day, and mine would cheerfully clear his plate with no compunction at all! A day or two would usually cure him.

## ***Memorial for Denys Rendell***

At Spring Wood Sunday, 12th November 2017

From: Joy M Rendell

At 2pm, 12th November 2017. The venue is Spring Wood, Cook's Hall Rd, West Bergholt, Colchester CO6 3EY. It is on the right as you go along Cook's Hall Road and there will be signposts too.

The gates will be open from 2pm and there will be people to show you where to park and show you all around the site.

Please come early to take advantage of the sunlight.

The ceremony with the ashes and planting a Chequers Tree will be at

3pm followed by High Tea in the Pavilion. A slide show about Denys will play throughout tea time. Then there will be a Song by Rowany, Con and Lucy who will also lead us all in singing, 'I danced in the morning', also known as 'Lord of the Dance'.

Then more mingling and reading of the albums and leaflets that Paul is bringing.

Please come dressed for the weather, whatever that will be. The site is very well maintained, but it is still a woodland so please come prepared.

**IMPORTANT:** Please let me know if you are coming and also if you have dietary requirements so the caterers can be ready for you all.

Joy M Rendell  
<joy.rendell@gmail.com>

Britain Yearly Meeting  
and Woodbrooke  
working in partnership



## Engaging with families

An event for elders, overseers and other interested Friends

Saturday 11 November  
Friends House, London  
10.30am–4.15pm

or

Saturday 2 December  
Lancaster Meeting House  
10.30am–4.15pm



**Reach out. Connect. Enrich.**

### Engaging with families

An event bringing together elders, overseers and others to explore how meetings might engage imaginatively with families and encourage them on their spiritual journeys.

Each day will include short presentations with opportunities to take part in open and creative conversations in small groups.

We don't aim to provide simple answers or identify the 'next new thing' to do. Together we will think deeply about how our Quaker meetings might reach out to, connect with and be enriched by families.

The day is free, including refreshments and lunch, providing the chance for people to eat and relax together.

Don't come expecting to:

- be told what to do
- be given easy answers
- just sit passively
- have your preconceptions confirmed
- find everyone agreeing with you.

Do expect to:

- be challenged
- get fresh perspectives
- join in
- hear the unexpected
- talk about the kind of meeting where....

Advanced booking essential: book by 30 October for London and by 20 November for Lancaster.

For booking details see <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/families> or contact 020 7 6 6 3 1013/[cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk).

All who book will receive final information a week before the day.

### AM Annual Report & Accounts

Jenny Kay, Trustee

The Annual Report & Accounts has been completed, approved by trustees, signed and uploaded to the Charity Commission Website. The report will be presented at AM at 2.15 on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

It can be accessed on the AM Website and digital or printed copies are available from Jenny Kay (01206) 240929 [jenny.millrind@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.millrind@btinternet.com).

### Wildspot

Valerie Graves

It continues to be a very odd year, with immense numbers of berries and flowers, including a shrub which has never flowered before, a Fatsia, with big spreading leaves and rather strange flowers in bunches. We have had almost no rain, and there are a lot of dead trees to be seen. A big flowering autumn cherry of mine died, but persisting watering every night seems to have resurrected it, as it is now flowering again, to my delight. As I have said before, I hope this does not mean a cold winter.



## **Benjamin Lay**

A Book by Marcus Rediker

From Anne Watkinson Once thrown out by Colchester Meeting and three other Meetings in the USA and the UK, Benjamin Lay was born in Copford in the late 1600s. He was the first slavery abolitionist, in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, when American Quakers were still slave owners, and, in Barbados where he and his wife lived for a time, even slave traders.

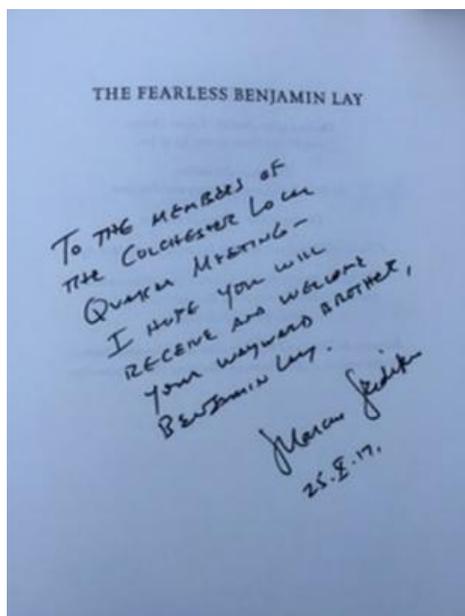
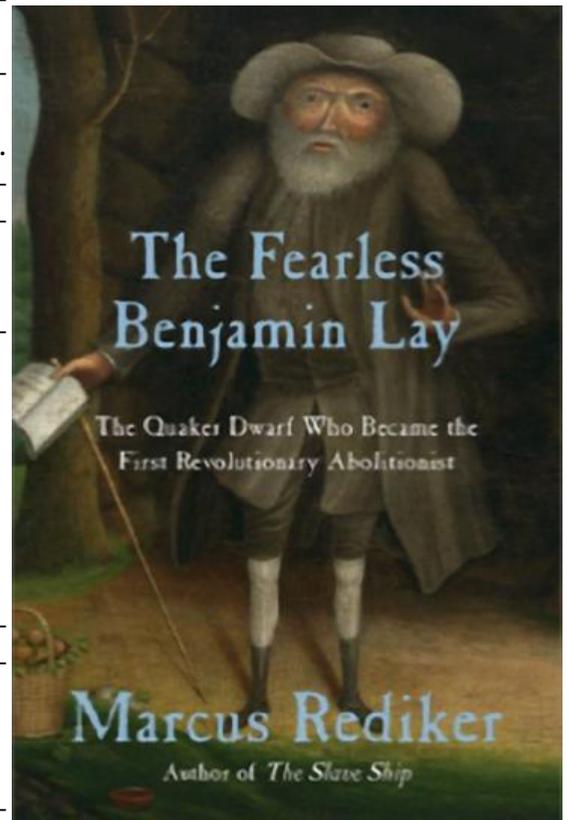
Rosalind Kaye and I were able to go to a recent lecture at the University of Essex given by Professor Marcus Rediker, who has written a book about him. He was a Quaker from the James Naylor tradition, someone who theatrically and dramatically proclaimed his views in public places. He became a sailor, although originally apprenticed as a glover in Colchester. He was self-educated, even writing a book published by Benjamin Franklin. He and his wife finally settled in Philadelphia, living in a cave, practically vegans as he also eschewed hurting animals. He aimed to be self-supporting, growing his own food, drinking

largely water and making his own clothes.

Professor Rediker researched his book partly by delving into our archives at Essex University, and has signed a copy for our library. Rosalind has the copy to read first but I am sure our librarian Freya Sandford will be happy to have a list of those who want to borrow it next – worth a read I think, if his style is anything like his lecture! He gave a lively and dramatically delivered talk with a brief history of Quakerism. Some more details, including a map of Benjamin's travels can be found on the website [marcusrediker.com](http://marcusrediker.com) Apparently, there is a move now to reinstate him as a member of the Society of Friends by a Quaker in north London. There had been an attempt by Britain Yearly Meeting to do this soon after he died, when Quakers eventually took up the cause of the slaves, but Colchester Two Weeks Meet-

ing, as it was called then, adamantly refused to do this.

Are we more understanding today of those who have a cause within the Society? Professor Rediker would be very interested to receive any feedback from our reading or discussion about the issues and has left me his card if we did wish to communicate with him later.



Anne with Marcus

## Peacebuilding

*From the QCEA Newsletter  
“Around Europe”*

The QCEA peace programme looks forward to launching a significant peacebuilding report at the heart of a new approach to security in the beginning of 2018. The report comes out of months of research and will showcase a variety of civilian peacebuilding tools relevant to a wide audience including practitioners and policy makers. It will take the reader through a critical thinking process that interrogates whether they are the right actor to use that tool and how certain tools can enhance peace dynamics and be conducive to building peace. The core of the report provides eleven peacebuilding tool portfolios, structured along government ministries including Education, Economics, Communications and Security. To avoid silos in thinking and action, the report creates linkages to indicate where there is poten-

tial for cooperation. In addition to traditional peacebuilding tools such as dialogue and mediation, the report aims to show creative ways of addressing peace across and between sectors. This approach highlights that while peace work is often conducted at high levels of government, holistic and multi-track tools have the best potential for lasting change by including maximum cross-sections of the population and addressing root causes of conflict across levels of society. In addition to the report, QCEA is developing a research database. The database compiles over 250 sources on



peacebuilding, searchable by theme and geographic area. More details on the peace programme, research project, and database are available on the QCEA peace programme webpage. [www.qcea.org/peace](http://www.qcea.org/peace)

## Structural Inequality

**This failure to address inequality is looking more and more ridiculous**

Also from “Around Europe”

In July 2017 the European Commission published its Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, with specific measures to improve age, gender, disability and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) inclusion within its workforce – all of which are important. Despite representations and dialogue with the European Network Against Racism during the development of the strategy, the European

Commission did not refer to the vast under-representation of people of colour, including Black and Asian-heritage Europeans, in the 33,000 person organisation and did not include any measures to address this imbalance.

Following a private letter on the same subject, that the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) wrote to the relevant Commissioner earlier this year, QCEA joined the European Network Against Racism and 27 other organisations in an open letter. We are proud to have signed this, particularly given the support the letter

has received from the European networks that represent age, gender, disability and LGBT organisations – that had been included in the strategy.

We are all minorities in one or more ways, but by showing solidarity with each other we can build a Europe that promotes the inclusion and dignity of all people. As Quakers we seek to recognise the value of all people, challenging racism and other forms of injustice.

To read the full letter visit [www.qcea.org](http://www.qcea.org)