



The Path to Rootes Building

Gouache by John Kay

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING

September 2017

Diary Dates for September

Monday September 4th to Monday September 11th week of protests against the DESI Arms Trade Fair, London <https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/>

Saturday September 9th Heritage Open Day at Colchester QMH and Earls Colne QMH

Sunday September 10th Area Meeting - Colchester

Tuesday September 26th International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
<http://www.un.org/en/events/nuclearweaponelimination/>

Saturday September 30th, 1000 to 1630 Diss Quakers Day on Simple Living. See agenda on the Colchester QMH Notice Board Venue: <http://suffolkquakers.org.uk/diss.htm>

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

email address: AMClerk@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

Ernest Hall

Janet Thomas

18th May 1921 - 1st July 2017

The Unforgiving Minute

Our longest attending dear Friend Ernest Hall died at the age of 97 at the Beaumont Lodge Care Home he had recently entered and where he was receiving end-of-life care. His son Andrew and daughter-in-law Marilyn were with him. He left two sons, Peter and Andrew, two daughters-in-law, Arlene and Marilyn,

Editorial

Dear Friends,

Some of you will have been to Yearly Meeting at Warwick, and come home full of good intentions. These are frightening times and we need all our resolution to tackle

Earls Colne News

Jenny Kay

Worshipping in the oldest Meeting House in Essex is a special privilege, especially with in close proximity with past worshippers at rest in the burial ground. It has recently become a focus of our attention. It is still open for burials but there is some uncertainty as to the exact location of the graves. John Tann left a message to this effect on his plan. We are investigating the possibilities for a Ground Penetration Radar Survey to be carried out by a member of the Colchester Archaeological Group.

Jayne Meleschko and I are researching the names on the tombstones. William Bridge Pudney (died 1904 aged 85) and his wife Elizabeth were farmers at Tilekiln farm, Coggeshall Road. They are buried next to their youngest

them, but I feel sure we will do our best as Friends. All these activities will be reported in this newsletter Please send your news to me by the middle of the month, and enjoy the rest of your holiday.



Earls Colne Burial Ground Photo John Kay

son Oberlin. He was educated at Ackworth and then worked as a publisher's assistant, living in Islington. He died in 1890 aged 31. The most recent burial was Ruth Lamb, still born in 1995, twin sister to Helen. The Lambs have since moved away but their loss was remembered in ministry earlier this year.

and three grandchildren, Jo, Chris and Nick.

His funeral at Weeley Crematorium and following Memorial at the Quaker Meeting House on 19th July were filled to capacity with his many friends, family and members of other churches. It was a day of thankfulness, love and joy which he would have very much appreciated (and maybe did).

He had had attended almost every single Sunday Quaker Meeting and was an enthusiastic supporter



of the first Wednesday Mid Day Meeting, which he also attended without fail. He served us in many offices over many years and was a stalwart in every way. He was an attender and long time lay preacher at Christchurch United Reformed Church, our Quaker-friendly building close by in Church Road. He and Susan Hanson did much for Churches Together in Clacton in this way, attracting others to our own Meeting. Ernest and Susan also attended St. James Anglican Church together. Father Anthony Spooner, who was minister there for many years, comes to our Quaker Meetings and is a good friend, as was his successor, Father Peter.

Ernest invented the word "Quanglican", for his joint membership of both the Church of England and The Society of Friends, a position also held by Terry Waite. He and Heather came to Quakers first at Ipswich Meeting after the Second World War, in which he served mainly as a Prisoner-of-War. It was surely because of his experiences during that time and the German people he met who were simply 'people like us' that he/ they were attracted by the Quaker Peace Testimony.

He always said that he had been a much more successful Prisoner-

of-War than a soldier. He and another prisoner were responsible for moving an, at that time, unknown bundle to safety in the small town of Zittau, Germany, where they were imprisoned. This bundle turned out to be a sacred relic, the Fastenteuch, which is a piece of cloth bearing many fine religious pictures. After his wife beloved Heather died, and with the aid of his family, Ernest made several visits to Zittau. He was later honoured there by the Mayor of Zittau for the part he had played in rescuing this treasured relic. Through this Ernest also made friends with a family and their children, some of whom travelled from Germany to attend his funeral. The two small children who came to the funeral and Memorial Service thought the world of him and called him "Pappi", and Ernest was pleased to have been able to make this contribution to German/Anglo relations.

In later years he had been encouraged by Heather to take a freelance writing correspondence course. He went on to write for many periodicals including Quaker ones but also the paying kind. He wrote technical articles on plumbing for both the unlikely "Men Only" and the prestigious Readers' Digest manuals. He had his own column in the Tendring Times for over twenty years. Er-

nest claimed that writing was his only skill: he was wrong.

During his final years, in his two churches and our Quaker Meetings and at home he was greatly supported and cared for by our treasured Attender Susan Hanson, who he came to look upon as a surrogate daughter, the daughter he and Heather would have liked. She went the extra mile and beyond (as she always does). His gardener Barry, through Sue, was able to help him and became a great friend who spoke so well about him at the Memorial Service.

I feel blessed to have had the great pleasure of knowing him. He nourished and enriched my own life with his humour, his wisdom, his kindness, his remarkable and remarked-upon memory, and much besides. He had a gift for Public Relations, a job he had excelled in for the Local Council and which he referred to jokingly as 'spin'. He did not hide his light under a bushel and for that I and many others are deeply grateful. His humour, kindness, compassion and charismatic persona reached out and touched many lives

He was a lovely and lovable man and his was a life well lived.

Janet Thomas

A Strange Visitor

from Valerie Graves

My son and I are looking after a Bearded Dragon, a lizard from (I believe) Australia. He is about 18 inches long - mostly tail - and lives in a heated glass age. He belongs to a great-grandson, is rather beautiful and when at home is affectionate, plays with the cats and likes to curl round his master's neck. (He is a bit more shy with us yet). He eats live crickets and lots of chopped vegetation. You live and learn.



Printed List of Members & Attenders

Jenny Kay, Overseer for the List

My thanks to everyone who has supplied their details for the printed List of Members and Attenders, and also to the Friends who have helped to check the entries. There is still time for last minute changes and additions as the process is now being held up while I check that Data Protection requirements have been fully met.

Yearly Meeting Gathering

University of Warwick, 2017

Jenny Kay

The Gathering has been well-reported in the Friend, the talks are available on Quaker websites along with the minutes and the epistle. (See below) The Salter Lecture given by Molly Scott Cato's talk 'Brexit, Chilcot and the Role of Conscience in the Political Life' is one I warmed to especially as I am still coming to terms with the future loss of my European citizenship. There was even a drop-in session, led by Oxford Local Meeting for those of us who wanted to express hopes and fears. I listened for a while but as I didn't stay to the end I don't know if there was an outcome. Later in the week I learned that Sarah Dodgson has received an Eva Koch scholarship to explore how and why Quakers voted the way they did in the referendum. We filled in her survey form which can be done online.

There was a good selection of films to watch in the evenings; we took in 'Searching for Sugarman' about US singer songwriter Rodriguez, 'Hidden Figures' the story of African American women mathematicians at NASA and 'Moana', a Disney musical adventure animation.

Making connections with others might just be a brief experience but these occasions all make the event

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I want to make sure that there is a permission slip for each entry. For many of us this will be the slip returned to Viki Grainger and Sandra Berry as I have only asked new entries to write permission slips. There may be gaps in which case I will need to contact people.

In addition we have been informed by Friends House that there have been changes in Data Protection law requiring permission from members and attenders to hold their details. BYM has sent

out a suggested form for us all to fill in which will entitle the AM to hold our data, as well as how to indicate how it can be used. At the moment we only have permission from those whose details are in the book and then that permission is specific to the publication and nothing else.

So, when will the book be printed? I'm not able to say. If it gets too delayed it will have to bear the date 2018.

memorable. This year connections were made with Friends from outside our Yearly Meeting. The Friend from Sweden Yearly Meeting staying in our flat was an American who came from Brandywine Country, home of painter Andrew Wyeth, and one of John's favourite

artists. We visited the Museum there during our time at Pendle Hill. One afternoon we found ourselves wandering in the craft area with nothing much in mind. when we found a Friend from the American Friend's Service Committee putting up an exhibition commemorating its work. We had time to help her hang the large long posters.

There is always plenty of opportunity to take in new experiences at Gatherings. For us it was the Programmed Meeting for Worship organised by Helen Gretchen of Friends World Committee for Consultation led by Friends from Yearly Meetings in Bolivia, Rwanda, South Africa and India, offering readings from Corinthians and 'prepared ministry'. We sang 'How Great thou art' and 'In Christ there is no East nor west' at the start. The open worship although relatively short held



Towards the Arts Centre, Warwick

some deep silence and ministry. The meeting closed with singing 'A song of Peace', a benediction and closing prayer.

I took the opportunity to try and develop my singing voice at one of the varied sessions held through the week. Following Mig Kerr's relaxing and warming up the voice techniques, using the Natural Voice method we sang harmony songs and rounds concerned with social justice issues. I was then prepared for the musical closing celebrations where we joined in singing and then listening to the 'scratch orchestra'. The word 'scratch' might have been appropriate at the beginning of the week but the final concert was of a very high standard, helped by Anne Watkinson and her clarinets.

www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents-2

Just Be There

from Valerie Graves

A thought, following something said at Yearly Meeting: To help someone in pain or great distress, eloquence is not needed. So often people say "Oh, I can't go and see her, I wouldn't know what to say!" Don't say anything, just be there. When my husband died, nearly forty years ago, people crossed the road rather than face the embarrassment of having to speak to me. I would have been so comforted if they had just been there and said nothing.



Hearts & Minds

Robbie Spence

Hearts and Minds Prepared

Hearts and Minds Prepared is a course of study of Quaker faith and practice that aims to help new and experienced Friends learn more about Quakerism.

Eliza Jones and I are going to hold a Hearts and Minds Prepared course for Friends and attenders in Colchester beginning in September 2017. I was a participant on the first Hearts and Minds Prepared course provided by Colchester Meeting, which was in 2004, and I found it so useful that I co-ordinated a course myself in 2006. Elders have decided it would be helpful to run another one now and I have offered to run it with Eliza's help.

The course is of 12 sessions, covering:

1. Setting out together
2. Meeting for Worship
3. Personal spiritual discipline
4. Ministry and ministers
5. Liberal Friends and our Christian inheritance
6. Our corporate testimony
7. Discernment
8. Corporate discernment and community

9. Personal testimony
10. Who am I? Personal spiritual journeys
11. Who are we? Challenges, changes and eternal truths
12. What 'being Quaker' means to us

The course is designed for groups where some Friends may do little or no preparation for sessions, while also offering a substantial personal study programme for those who wish to take advantage of it. It is useful to have your own copy of Quaker Faith and Practice or borrow one from the Meeting House. Otherwise everything is provided.

Date, time and place

The venue will be my house (address below). The day and time of the 12 sessions, usually 2 hours each and a fortnight apart, will be a weekday or evening, depending on the preferences of who signs up.

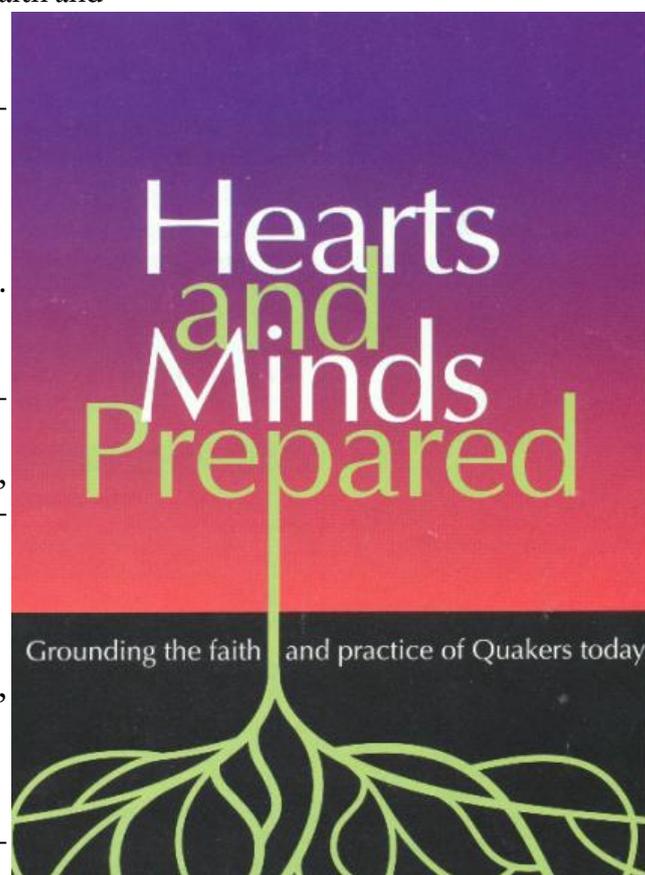
Signing up

If you are interested, please could you let me know by sending me an email, leaving me a note in the Meet-

ing House pigeon-hole, or signing up on the sign-up sheet that I will put on the noticeboard in due course? If you have any questions, please phone me.

In friendship

Robbie Spence, 19 Queens Road, Colchester CO3 3PD,
robbie.spence@btopenworld.com, 07920 137 934



Script

from Rosalind Field

Good Morning

Conversation is a room with many doors. You open one, and move into a different room, and there you find more doors. And so you wander, from room to room, opening doors for each other, sharing time and telling.

I learned about conversations at family gatherings around the kitchen table, squashed between aunts and cousins, where stories were told, and the teapot was constantly re-filled. That's where, as a child, I heard how a conversation moves, and turns in a moment from general to personal, from discussion to revelation.

That change, that moment of opening the door is what I always remember from conversations over the years: there was the night when a friend and I walked for miles in soft, summer rain, finding out about each other's lives. He

was far from home and had been travelling for years. He'd settled down for a few years in Sweden, married, divorced, and moved on again. I told him about my younger brother who had died when I was 13. And then, after a pause, he began to think aloud about prayer. Just quietly saying that he'd reached the point where he no longer believed prayer was about words, or asking, or thanking. It was about *absence* of words, a respite from the sound and the distraction of words. It was listening, waiting, feeling.

There was the moment of going through a door. And something was shared which has never left me. It's why, when I read St Paul talking about not knowing how to pray, about 'sighs too deep for words', I remember my friend, and I try, again, now, to listen.

I try again to hear. To wait. And to be still.

Amen

'Spiritual reflection to start the day' with writer and broadcaster, Anna Magnusson. — *Woman's Hour, Radio 4, Tues 25 July 2017*



Early Days of the Quaker Tapestry

from Valerie Graves

Everybody knows about the Tapestry and how it has spread



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all over the world, and what an amazing effect it has on everyone who sees it. But Jenny Kay and I were privileged to have seen it in its very beginnings, though I have to say that we are none too clear, now, about the details. I know that it was quite soon after I came to Colchester (1987) and that Jenny and I went to a big Quaker meeting at Notting-

ham. Anne Wynn-Wilson was speaking there and was given the go-ahead. She had been at her Meeting at Taunton with just one small boy who said he would like to do some sewing. The rest you can find in many very interesting books, especially the one by Ormerod Greenwood.

We set up a small group in Colchester, to do one of the panels: we would have liked the one about James Parnell as he was local, but he had already been allocated, so we did the one about Children's Meetings, which now hangs in our Meeting House. The photo shows me working on it, in 1992.



Photos by John Kay



Yearly Meeting Gathering

John Kay

Time goes so quickly it doesn't seem as if I was still in the same month of August, yet Residential Yearly Meeting is something that I always treasure. Warwick is a beautiful and well-planned campus and our accommodation was modern and extremely comfortable. Added to that the pleasure of meeting old friends, not seen since the last YMG Julia Gordon, Jez Smith, Sandra Berry Vicky and Maude Grainger again was quite delightful. I spent a great deal of time in the Woodbrooke tent where I was able to catch up with some of my painting and meet more staff from Woodbrooke. Regretfully Tim and Carol Holding were not able to be with us as we had expected but we did spend plenty of our lunchtimes with Anne Watkinson, Sylvia Jeffcock and Anne Olding from Chelmsford Meeting.



Southern East Anglia Area Quaker Meeting



YMG Warwick University Campus

Photos by Anne Watkinson



The Chaplaincy