

*David Lawrence's Goddaughter visited Berlin and sent this to him*

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING**

**September 2016**

### ***Diary Dates for September***

Friday September 7<sup>th</sup> Farmers' Market at Colchester Arts Centre

Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup>

Heritage Open Day at Colchester & Earls Colne Meeting Houses opens 10 - 4

Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> Area Meeting, Harwich

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

Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Gathering at Bury Saint Edmunds FMH

### ***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

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

## Editorial

Dear Friends

There were a surprising number of people at Meeting today, considering that it is the holiday time. It is good to know that there are so many groups and societies still meeting. They will all be reported somewhere in this newsletter.

A long time ago I was General Meeting Clerk and they were all worrying whether they could keep going, so it is good to feel part of a busy and active Meeting.

News, please, to Valerie Graves.



<b>FIRST CONTACT</b>
FOR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
CLACTON.....Carol Holding
COLCHESTER.....Carol Holding
SUDBURY.....Peter Whiteley

## News from Colchester LM

Anne Watkinson

‘Being Friends Together’ has gone from strength to strength, not necessarily in numbers but in spirit. We are meeting in the Children’s room on the second Wednesday of the month. After time to chat and catch up with a drink, we settle for Worship for half an hour. Then someone different leads each time using resources from the *quaker.org.uk* site ‘Being Friends Together’. Spending time together, talking with each other and listening to each other, sharing experiences

of our life journeys, or spiritual experiences and understanding (or not) of Quaker sayings has been so valuable. Two of our new attenders signed up on the spot for the Area Meeting Gathering one evening! These monthly meetings have strengthened our fellowship. What does the expression ‘plain speaking’ mean to you?

We only managed one garden Social Sunday this summer, where eight Friends met in Wivenhoe. We clustered in the shade on one of the very hot days in June but again enjoyed the fellowship of being F/friends together, although without any structure – except the usual good tea. Phyl Reid led a Social Sunday at the Meeting House with a shared lunch followed by talking

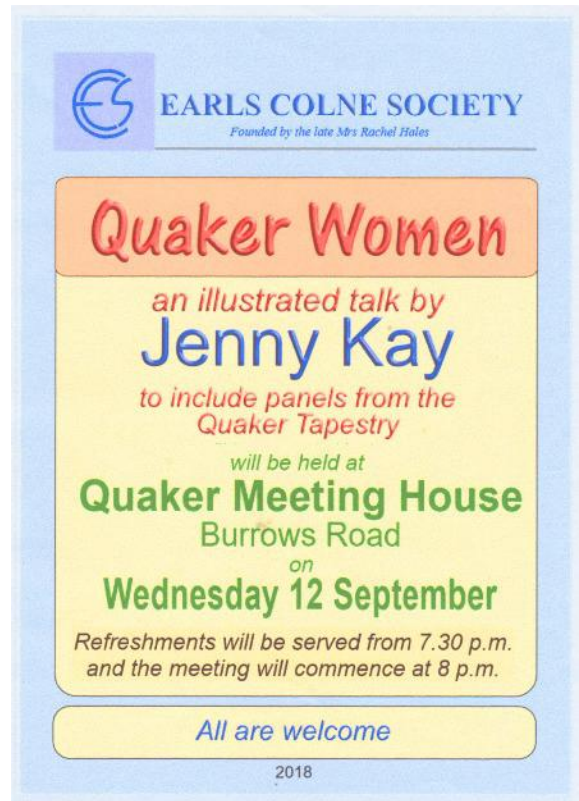
and listening to each other using objects which had special meaning for each one there.

The depth of these experiences have shown that our spiritual life is as healthy as ever despite going through a difficult time over the last couple of years. Slimming down our bureaucracy and recognising our limitations has meant a concentration on the mundane and business side of things, so it is good to spend time on our spiritual needs. We have also been without some of our more ‘weighty’ Friends due to illness, infirmity, moving house, holidays and visiting family and friends through the summer. We have had several completely silent Meetings for Worship on Sundays and some nearly so, but with the support of the smaller

gatherings the worship has been very valuable.

Alongside the talking and worshipping together, the Meeting House renovation project has made a start. Under the direction of the premises committee, a small steering group has been formed of four Friends and the warden. This group has spoken with three architects to start the ball rolling on ideas. They have also talked with Friends' House property officer and three Friends who were involved in their own

Meeting House renovations. They will then process all the information gathered and report back to premises and trustees with some early recommendations. A slow process but proving a very rewarding, interesting and positive one.



## **Trustees' Report**

### **for the year ended 31 December 2017**

Jenny Kay

At the August meeting, trustees approved the Report and Accounts which will be presented to AM in September. The report is short, based on the statements presented by local meetings and written to meet Charity Commission requirements. The following excerpt is offered in preparation for AM. The full report can be found on the AM website or copies can be had from Jenny Kay, [jenny.millrind @btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.millrind@btinternet.com).

#### **Activities**

Membership continued to fall in 2017 to 126, a decrease of 11 with 54 active Attenders including 9 children. During that year all four Meeting Houses were regularly used for

religious worship, weekly at Clacton and Sudbury, twice weekly at Colchester and twice monthly at Earls Colne. Twice monthly meetings in Harwich are held in hired premises.

To support the governance of the Area Meeting (AM) and its constituent Local Meetings (LM), Quaker business meetings for church affairs have been held in our meeting houses including committees with responsibility for oversight; eldership; nominations; wardenship; premises; trusteeship. The Area Meeting has provided financial support to enable both its members and attenders to attend training courses and conferences. All local meetings held events to develop spirituality and fellowship. The monthly Newsletter reports on the life of the AM and

the websites disseminate information to the wider world.

The historic meeting houses of Colchester, Earls Colne and Sudbury were open during the National Heritage Weekend in September 2017. The wider community has benefited from the use of our meeting houses through the room lettings policy. The self-contained former warden's flat at Clacton continues to be let on a tenancy agreement. Routine maintenance was carried out on all properties including burial grounds to ensure their continued good upkeep.

The Area Meeting gave financial support both to the work of Britain Yearly Meeting and to causes in keeping with its charitable aims; refugees in Colchester and Glebe House Therapeutic Community Trust.



## Investments and other resources

The Meeting continues to retain Rathbone Greenbank as discretionary investment managers and all investments are in ethically screened companies or funds. The balance in Rathbone's portfolio was £493,594 at year end. The former Quaker meeting house at Coggeshall valued at £78,000 which is leased to Essex County Council as a local library. The investment policies have been reviewed and developed: Rathbones have been instructed that for the time being their portfolio should be fully invested.

Trustees consider that the present levels of financial assets may be reduced gently over the medium term without financial risk by appropriate charitable giving and improved building maintenance. This policy will continue to be reviewed regularly

and it is recognised that at some time in the future the Meeting will need to exercise greater control over budgeting.

## Review of Reserves and Designated Funds

In line with the existing reserves policy agreed in 2014, from unrestricted trustees have again designated reserves of £150,000 to cover six months operating costs, long term development and employers liability. The new Kendal and Freshfield fund to replace and supplement the Jack Fields Fund (restricted to educational grants) stands at £54,635 and the Colchester Fund, where the interest only is spent, at £42,000. Building costs of £50,000 have been added as has planned spending on refugee support at £6,000 and a contribution to BYM this year of £25,000 bringing the total reserve to £327,635.

In 2017 our total income from all sources was £87,769 We spent £136,029, a difference of £48,260. However, the expenditure included the planned £30,000 donated to Glebe House and other donations of over £20,000 The difference was funded out of reserves in line with the policy to use surplus funds to support the concerns of the AM.

This leaves net resources of £1,756,533 at the end of 2017. The Trustees believe the Charity will be well placed to meet all its liabilities in 2018, including existing commitments to identified concerns.

As stated above, in the long term as assets fall, the Meeting will seek greater control over its expenditure. In the meantime the Trustees are satisfied that our assets are sufficient to cover all contingencies.

*A summary of the actual accounts appears on page 8.*



Southern East Anglia Area Quaker Meeting

## Quaker Humour

John Kay

A particular professor was known to have a sour disposition, and one day he barked at his class, "If there are any utter ignoramuses here, please stand up!" After a long silence, one friend in gray slowly stood up. "I see," said the professor, "so you admit to being a total ignoramus, then?"

"Um, not exactly, Friend," replied the boy, "but I do hate to see thee standing up there by thyself."

## **Earls Colne News**

Jenny Kay

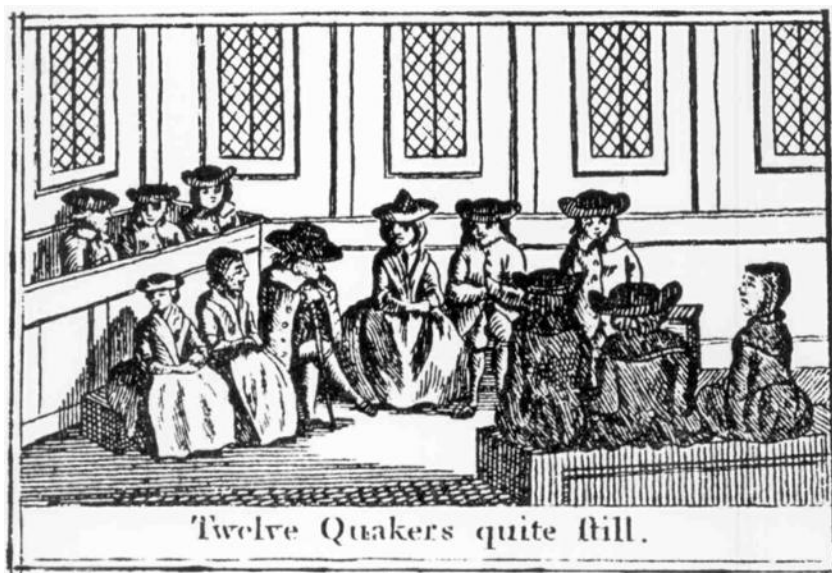
At Meetings for Worship in Earls Colne we often experience long periods of gathered silence. At Meeting on third Sunday in August the ministry led us into reflecting on the value of using the silence as the means of listening to the spirit, each other and ourselves. We can use the practice of the thoughtful silence that follows speaking not just in Quaker meetings but in our everyday lives with family, friends and colleagues. We learned of the

value of coming with hearts and minds prepared and how in a programmed meeting for worship, as practised in the American mid-west, the hymn singing, prayers and planned ministry helps to prepared those gathered for the silence to follow. This reminded me of the programmed meeting which John and I took part in at Yearly Meeting Gathering in Warwick last year when the ministry offered in the silence was especially profound.

## **Wildspot**

Valerie Graves

We have had some rain at last, so it is not quite so frighteningly dry. The brown grass has been replaced by huge clumps of green stuff which looks quite as bad. Most things seem to have survived and the roses have been especially good. This is most noticeable in the town where roadside trees and shrubs all look like coloured cauliflowers. I don't grow any vegetables here but I expect they are doing well too. I am finding all sorts of strange wildflowers which I can't put a name to. Looking at old photographs, lots of them are of snow which the miserables among us say is bound to follow.



## **Sitting Uncomfortably**

Carol Holding

A child of three waits and waits  
Uncomprehending on a trunk  
At Liverpool docks in the middle of war  
While strangers sort our fates.  
No wonder it is blotted out:  
The memories of seasickness  
And the last disruptive days.

The girl of ten understands all  
By now, but has not the words.  
An older sister's death should make us close:  
But the girl sits silent on the sofa  
Thus seeming not to care  
And is deemed to be protected  
By her youth from sadness.

An Articulate adult still finds  
Words elusive in times of stress  
Waiting on a hospital chair.  
Irrational feelings of being  
Invisible and being punished  
Unsure and full of fearfulness  
Just because of being THERE.



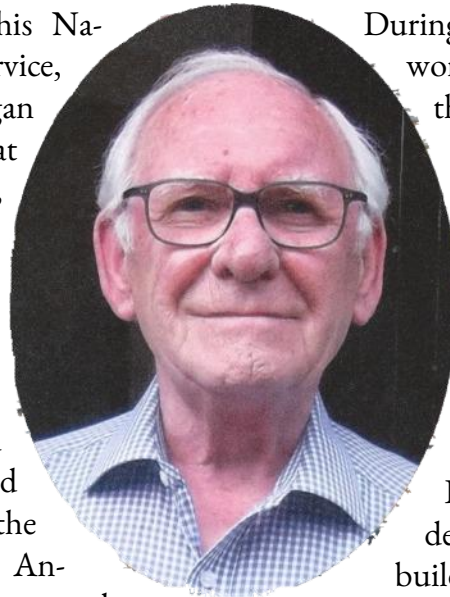


## **A Quaker farewell to Bob Hurley**

*Jenny and I attended Bob's funeral meeting at the crematorium on Thursday 23rd of August, and it was a good Quaker occasion with plenty of ministry and a respectful silence at the end. We reproduce the moving account written of his life by his daughter. John Kay*

Born in Kirkcaldy in Fife, Bob was the youngest of five children. Known as Bert, he grew up in a Roman Catholic family. Although his childhood coincided with WW2, he was not directly affected by it, despite watching dog-fights above the Forth Bridge. He was the first one in his family to go to college, having discovered his love of architecture whilst articled to a local practice. He studied to be an architect and once qualified, moved to London.

Following his National Service, Bob began working at the LCC, and it was here that he met his wife, Liz. The two married and soon found themselves the parents of Andrew, Eleanor and Martin. Liz, an architectural assistant, and Bob were keen to move out of London with their young family and were fortunate enough to have the chance to design and build their own home, Burnside where they lived happily for the next 48 years. There in West Bergholt, they built up a warm circle of friends and neighbours and became involved in village life.



During the 60s, Bob worked with Liz's father in his architectural practice and was later joined by John Duell.

They worked together harmoniously as partners until Bob's retirement, designing many buildings, including a number of YMCAs.

Bob enjoyed varied interests, from golf and football to music, art and politics. He loved laughter and his life was enhanced by Quakerism, his love of painting and the friends he made. In later years he became a proud grandad to Jim and Robbie and enjoyed many happy holidays in France with all the family.

## **Sleeping in Meeting**

George Fox

Dear Friends— Be faithful in the service of God, and mind the Lord's business, and be diligent. So will the power of the Lord be brought over those who have gainsayed it ... Friends, all take heed of sleeping in meetings, and sottishness and dulness. For it is an unsavoury thing to see one sit nodding in a meeting and so to lose the sense of the Lord.

It is both a shame and a sadness, and it grieves the upright and watchful [this then also meant waking] who wait upon the Lord, to see such things.

It is a shame and an unseemly thing for the priests, people and others who come in to your meetings—and see you who come together to worship God, to meet together to wait upon him, and to have fellowship in his spirit—for you to sit nodding.

Therefore be careful and watchful—and let it be mended.

Mind the light and power of Christ Jesus in you. That will condemn all such things, and lead you out of and above such things; and make you watchful over one another for your good.

(Epistle No 257, 1668, p.257; Works 71308)

## **With a Tender Hand WW1**

Brian Wardrop

Centenary Exhibition

Sat, 4 Aug 2018 17:16:16 +0100

To mark the centenary of the end of WW1 and as part of 2018 Heritage Days, Chelmsford Quakers are holding an exhibition highlighting peace and reconciliation and humanitarian work undertaken by Quakers throughout WW1 and up to the present day. (Poster attached.)

It is called 'With a Tender Hand' and includes displays prepared by Manchester University; posters showing the involvement of local Quakers; and an opportunity to contrib-

ute to a peace themed art installation to be shown in London in November.

The exhibition will be at the Chelmsford Quaker Meeting House in Rainsford Road, daily 12.00 – 17.00, from 14 – 16 September, and we cordially invite you to visit over the weekend.

Refreshments will be available. Further information can be found on our website. <http://www.midessexquakers.org.uk/exhibition.php>

We look forward to welcoming you to our Meeting House.

In Peace and Friendship,  
Brian Wardrop, Clerk



## **Area Meeting**

Alison Parkes

Directions to: Area Meeting, Sunday September 9 at 2.15pm, St Nicholas Church Hall, Harwich CO12 3HS

It would be great to support Harwich Friends as this is the first AM they are holding as a Local Meeting.

From the A120 into Harwich:

Almost at the end of the A120 is a small roundabout with a turn off to Bathside. The main A120 continues to the Port, but the second turn off that Bathside roundabout leads into a narrow road clearly labelled Ingestre Street. Continue to a staggered crossroads, turn left into Alexandra Street which then bends sharply

to the right and becomes Stour Road. The church hall is on the right, a few yards up, on the corner with Vansittart Street.

There is parking all along Stour Road and in Vansittart Street. There are also a couple of spaces in front of the Hall for AM Clerks and other visiting dignitaries. We will leave this parking area clear for you and any disabled/frail Friends.

Stour Road continues past the Hall, parallel with the A120, leading back on to it after another 100 or 200 yards.

If you miss the Bathside roundabout turn, you can continue to the next right turn off the A120, which is the far end of Stour Road. You then need to come back to the Hall which is now on your left.





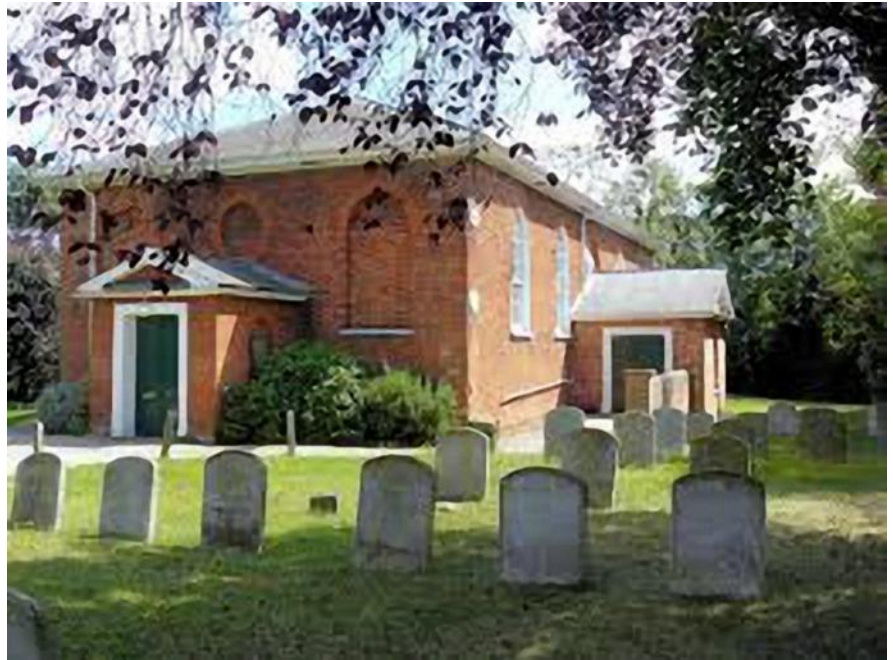
## Old Friends

from Valerie Graves

I have been visiting Joan Tann who, I had feared, had been having immense alterations to her cottage, and had said "Don't come, I can't do with you" for some time. And she was full of beans and cheerful, as the work is nearly finished. The weather has not been good for the fruit in their orchard but she said that they are hopeful for it.

We were remembering Jonathan King who I used to know long ago when his mother used to go to Maldon Meeting. She was a true Gypsy and came to Meeting with bare feet and full Gypsy clothes. They used to use a pony and trap, very popular at garden-parties where he would give the children rides on the trap.

He has been doing a good deal of the work on Joan's cottage, and they have had floods and roadworks which have slowed them down.



*Maldon Meeting House*

## Riddles

From Janet Thomas

Q. What do you call a Quaker who collects rare seashells?

A. A Conchientious Se(a)lecter

Q. What do you call a Quaker cannibal?

A. A Humaneatarian

Q. Why was the duck asked to quit the Society of Quackers?

A. He was struck dumb

Q. Why did the Quaker cross the road?

A. The Green Man "spoke to his condition"

Q. What does a Quaker see when she looks in the mirror?

A. A quiet reflection

Q. What is the name for a gay Quaker?

A. A Quaker

## AM income and expenditure in 2017

### A short, simplified summary

AM income including local meetings	2017	2016
Donations, gifts, contributions	24,361	21,998
Legacies	600	12,426
Room hire and rents received	54,053	50,793
Dividends and bank interest	7,548	11,786
Other income, including acting as agent	1207	8365
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£87,769</b>	<b>£105,368</b>

### AM spending including local meetings

Bursaries, Grants and donations	59,940	51,733
Property maintenance	54,868	53,621
Running the Meeting	20,221	24,857
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£136,029</b>	<b>£130,211</b>
Cash & investments at 31.12.2017	£677,843	£699,875

(Note: in the last 15 years the cash and investments of the Meeting have varied between £0.5 million and £0.8 million)