



Card Painted by Dora Apps

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING

June 2019

Diary Dates for June

Sunday 9th June 2.15 pm Earls Colne Area Meeting

Saturday 22nd June Summer Social Day at Peter Whiteley's Details on Page 3.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Clerk to Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting: Diana Naylor

c/o Colchester Quaker Meeting House

6 Church Street, Colchester CO1 1NF;

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

EARLS COLNE

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

"Don't be sad"

Audrey Hind's Woodland
Burial Friday 24th May 2019

Janet Thomas

A large gathering of family, Friends from various Meetings, with personal friends and colleagues from Audrey's days in Social Work and Mental Health, met in a lush meadow at Oakfield Wood Burial Ground, Wrabness. A moving tribute was given at the graveside and we were told that Audrey had left a note to the family ending "Don't be sad." As we said our goodbyes the ivy-entwined willow casket

Editorial

Dear Friends

We are still struggling to manage without a resident Warden. It is not easy and we are discovering a lot of work of maintenance and repair which has to be done. But everybody is pulling their weight and things are getting done, in spite of a lot of illness.

Indeed there has been a lot of trouble of all kinds throughout the Yearly Meeting, wherever you look, with loss of numbers of members and of income. Years ago, when I first moved to Colchester, I spent a long time sorting out the archives which were

was laid to rest, scattered with Audrey's beloved wild flowers.

The Meeting for Worship and Memorial Service were held at Wrabness Village Hall where Victoria and Andrew shared the record of Audrey's life. An anecdote from Andrew summed up the essence of Audrey for me. It was this: while many people would consider the alcoholics who gathered in the shelter below the house in Harwich a nuisance (at best), Audrey would take cups of tea down there, chat to them and take them to hospital appointments. She found them to be decent men. She did not pay mere lip service to the idea of "That of God in everyone". Somewhat ironically, the men in their turn would keep an eye on the house while Audrey and Don were away!

The ministries that followed were remarkable for their number and for the overwhelming feeling of gratitude for the life Audrey had lived - from the people she had helped.

in a terrible muddle and dumped at the University. I found many occasions in the past where this had happened and also many times when others had stepped in to help.

I myself had a period of several months of inability with that dreadful thing norovirus, where you completely lose your memory. (Thanks goodness, more or less okay now.)

News, please, by the middle of the month, to Valerie Graves.



Through her Quaker work at local, area and higher levels including Meetings for Sufferings, and in her working and personal life Audrey truly did "let her life speak", so there is no need to be sad. She would have been thrilled with the lavish homemade tea laid on, the splendid cakes and scones as in the tea shops she enjoyed visiting in final years.

An important side note Andrew made about Alzheimer's and dementia was that although Audrey could no longer organise a meal and see to such matters as she had previously managed, she still enjoyed their walks, gardens and afternoon teas in cafes. In this way the family were able to enjoy happy times and create memories.

Life goes on: in gratitude and in all our memories of Audrey and the life she lived.

6 things you never knew were invented by Quakers

Jon Martin

6. Monopoly

Finally, did you know that monopoly was created to expose the evils of free market capitalism? You did? Well, did you know it was Quakers who can take a lot of the credit for it?

Lizzie Magie invented The Landlord's Game in 1903 to illustrate how rental markets enriched landlords while im-

poverishing tenants. Lizzie was a Georgist, which in the simplest terms means she thought land belonged equally to all. Lizzie was also connected to Quakers, who throughout the US played a key role in spreading it and tweaking the rules – furthering its development.

Most Quakers I know love both a good board game and progressive politics so it's no surprise that Monopoly's anti-capitalist roots have Quaker ties. The game eventually found its way to businessman Charles Darrow who, spotting

an opportunity, sold it to Parker Brothers. Darrow received the royalties and Parker Brothers turned it into a massive global brand, further tweaking the rules and more importantly losing the political message Lizzie was trying to spread.

So, next time you play Monopoly, think of Lizzie as the game grinds on and on, causing misery and discord among everyone who isn't winning. Remind you of anything?

On Roses (again)

from Valerie Graves

It is still an amazing year for roses, the cultivated sort and the wilder sort - I have never seen anything like it. I have an enormous one which is probably as big as my house, and is covered with roses of all shades of pink.



Trustees Accounts

Report and Accounts 2018

Jenny Kay, Clerk to Trustees

Trustees will be presenting the Annual Report and Accounts to AM at Earls Colne on 9 June. The accounts were finalised in time for our Trustees Meeting on 18 May; Liz Prockter and I signed them with Michael Greene at Whittles on Tuesday 28 May. We are pleased to have completed the process earlier this year giving more time to budget and plan for 2020. It has seemed a little of a last minute rush, giving just a very short time for Friends to study them before the Area Meeting. Trustees too would have benefitted from more time. We have gained some insight into improving the process for next year.

Should you wish to have a digital copy please email me, jenny.millrind@btinternet.com. Hard copies can be made available please let me know if you would like one.

Summer Social Days

Anne Watkinson

The first is on Saturday 22nd June at Peter Whiteley's house and garden.

From 12 - 17.00. (133, Melford Road, Sudbury, CO10 1JT)

* Enjoy a picnic together (bring your own, and a folding chair or two)

* Short or longer walks on the meadows and in neighbouring countryside.

* Bring a model boat and use the refurbished boating pond on the Croft.

* Play petanque (boules) or outdoor badminton.

* Finish with a cream tea !!

Friends of all ages and from all our Meetings are welcome.....

(some hints to Peter about numbers would be helpful)

The next Summer Social Day is in Wivenhoe on Saturday 20th July.

Ending with 4pm ish: hot and cold drinks and strawberry cream tea provided!

Dora Apps

Gill Apps

My mother, Dora, lived her life with faith, hope and love at the very core of her being.

She was born in Edmonton, the only child of Ethel and Albert Smith. She was brought into this world in a great act of hope. My grandfather had emerged from the first world war with a quarter of a lung after contracting tuberculosis, and my grandmother was already in her late thirties when mum was born.

> She was raised an Anglican, but from an early age appreciated the richness of other non-conformist traditions. Albert was from a family committed to the Salvation Army, and Sunday afternoons were full of music at the Smith family gatherings.

My father started life as a Methodist, but Bill and Dora married at St Mary's Church of England, in East Barnet. Their life together was a deeply spiritual journey of exploration and faith through service.

In Colchester, they found the Quakers, and the Quaker

discipline suited their wish to be of service to others. They worked together with others to bring St. Helena hospice to life, and were very active in the parent support and fund-raising group at Turner Village, where my older sister lived, because Christine is mentally handicapped.

My parents spiritual journey took them to Hengrave Hall, where they were able to work together as part of an ecumenical community. This experience brought them closer together, and drew the strands of their life - religion, art, music, service - together into a single woven tapestry.

Mum's love of her family is profound, as you all know; it is also a brave love. She honoured my wish as a young child to do everything myself, despite having only one hand. She nurtured my independence, knowing that freedom comes with risk.

Perhaps the greatest act of devotion and bravery as a mother was to bring my sister Christine up at home for 16 years, but then recognise that Christine needed to go into a

care home, to be looked after by others. Her faith was deeply tested at this time, but her love never faltered.

She remained, throughout her life, committed to Christine's physical, emotional and spiritual well being. Chrissy has given our family a balanced perspective, and a deep respect for the caring professions.

"So, now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love"

Colchester FMH

Anne Watkinson

The Meeting House is now booked for the use of Friends from 12 noon to 2 pm every Wednesday. Hirers are able to hire the room from 9-12 and 2-5 on that day rather than 9-1 and 1-5 as previously. This means that any Friend who wishes, may use the Meeting room for quiet contemplation or worship, or just eat their lunch there in peace.

Wildspot

from Valerie Graves

Another year of amazing wildflowers, especially flowering trees and a large flowering plant with dark red and purple flowers. The pond is full of water-irises, and there are lots of sort-of forget-me-not. (But no frogs?)



Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting (excerpt)

Held at Frontier Centre,
Northamptonshire 12-15 April,
2019

To all Friends everywhere,

From 12 to 15 April 2019 70 participants and 13 adult team members met at the Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire for a weekend of inward and outward reflection on the theme “Diversity and Inclusivity: how can we use our ideals to change our reality?”

A strong undercurrent of this event has been privilege. Many of our sessions have had elements of examining privilege within them. This has led us to look at our own privilege and how it varies for different aspects of our identity.

Different aspects of privilege in our society. These discussions have been difficult for some, examining our own privilege is difficult due to our unawareness of it. Our lack of diversity prevents us from sometimes seeing our own privileges, but our denial of its existence doesn't remove the inequality caused by it.

Earls Colne News

Jenny Kay

On a Thursday morning in May we had our second Meeting for Sorting at the Meeting House. John and I were sorting out the Library. All shelves, those in the small room and in the Meeting Room were completely crammed full and few books are currently being borrowed. By the end of the morning we had two large shopping bags of books to go to a charity shop. We had discovered books that had not been recorded, presumably donated, or just left

The question was explored through styles, allowing everyone to engage in a way that was comfortable to them.

A point was made that if we do not allow for a diverse way of engaging certain topics, we are excluding those who don't thrive in conventional learning environments.

We began and ended our days with Meeting for Worship, giving us the opportunity to be calmed, settled and spiritual. Some focuses of these worship sessions were Kenyan Quaker hymns, the ocean and a bonfire. These helped us to centre down, providing some Friends new experiences.

We have had an insightful weekend full of learning experiences and hope to go away and apply our new perspectives in making Quakers as inclusive as possible. We hope that the rest of Yearly Meeting takes the opportunity to listen to the opinions and perspectives of younger Friends, and other minority

on the shelf and others that were duplicated which Friends took away on the following Sunday.

Hidden among the older books in the small room we discovered the accession book which had been beautifully kept, along with the card index by John Tann. For some years during his illness he had not been able to get to Meeting and since his death only a few books have been added to the library

A decision was made to take out all non-Quaker books and to keep all books by and about

groups within Quakers and actively absorb our ideas.

We ask older Friends to be open to change and differences in experience, recognising the diversity of lived experience within us all, just as we as JYM have been learning to do. We feel that all Quakers, young and old, must use our privilege for the betterment of society. It's encouraging to see young Friends inclusion in national Quaker bodies and we wish for this to continue.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting 2019,

Anya

Lucy

Anya Nanning-Ramamurthy

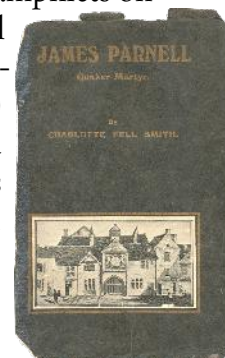
Lucy Cox Dodgson

Junior Yearly Meeting Clerks

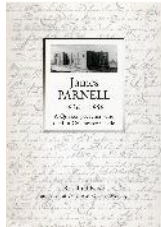


Quakers however old or tatty they might be. We found a copy of Charlotte Fell Smith's 'James Parnell', written in 1906 on the 250th anniversary of his death which we hope to have re-bound. Copies of the pamphlets on James Parnell by Howard Diamond in 1970 and Rosalind Kaye in 2006 as also to be found on the shelves.

The meeting's library has

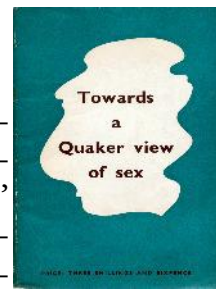


quite an extensive collection of Swarthmore Lectures going back many years. One of my favourites is Janet Scott's 'What Canst Thou Say?' so I was rather distressed when I found the accession card among the ones we had removed. We searched the charity bags, it



wasn't there, it was safely on the shelf!

In the vast assortment of leaflets I came across a copy of 'Towards a Quaker View of Sex' written in 1963 it was a groundbreaking, radical book which received much publicity at the time for what it had to say about homosexual relationships. Hearing about it from our editor Valerie Graves, I had hoped to read if I could get hold of a copy. Valerie stumbled on it by chance and it



led to her joining the Religious Society of Friends.

We have sorted the books ... into a muddle. Books are now higgledy-piggledy on the shelves as we try to decide on a new classification system. We have space to fill with some more recent publications, which we hope that Friends will borrow, bringing 'new light'.

Racism

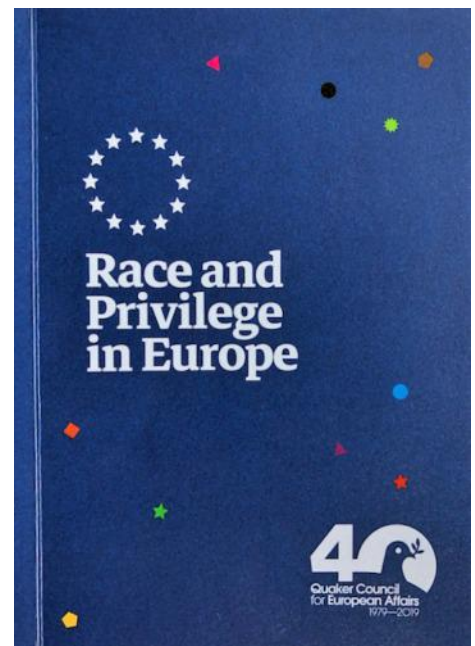
John Hall

A media presenter recently depicted a mixed-race baby leaving hospital as a chimpanzee. This is surely evidence of racism endemic in our society. The well-known figure says that he had no intention of being offensive nor racist, but he certainly was both.

As Friends, we would certainly say "this is not who we are" but the latest publication from the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) tells us that if we do not examine the wider system of racism, it may well be who we are. As it says, "just because we are good and kind and mean well, it doesn't mean we are excused from, or above, or apart from the systems of privilege that shape our world. When we do not acknowledge whiteness and white privilege, we misunderstand racism as a problem pertaining primarily to people of colour. One cannot be passively nonracist in a society whose very economy has been structured on a racist past." Currently, migration is part of European political discourse. It is often deeply intertwined with questions of race. But, obsessing over Europe's refugee crisis while ignoring Afri-

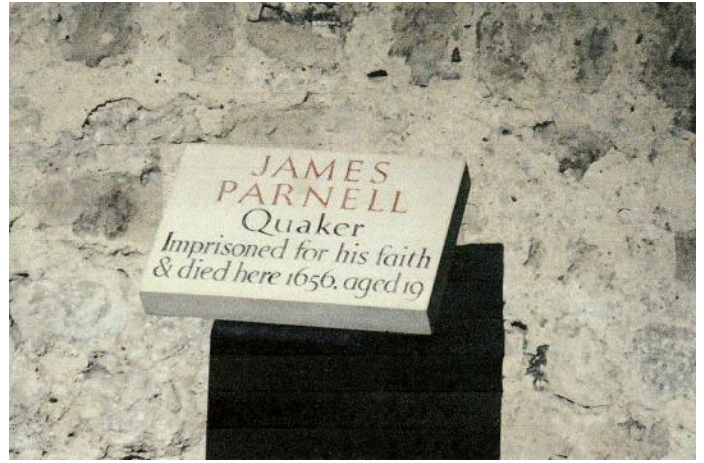
ca's is but one example of white privilege at work. It even continues after migrants and their families have settled as is evident from such terms as "second or third generation immigrants, as if they carry foreignness in their genealogy." Such prejudice is carried into European government when interior ministers of France and the UK, such as Nicolas Sarkozy, David Blunkett and Theresa May set up environments hostile to immigrants and refugees.

So, how, as Friends, may we tackle this? Surely, spiritual practice is developing the capacity of self-awareness. So, if talking about racism makes us deeply uncomfortable, defensive, angry, etc. as it surely does for some of us, perhaps we could acknowledge first that, regardless of faith almost all white Europeans benefitted from colonialism. We all have a responsibility to understand what proportion of our advantages come from that period, so that we can disempower ourselves from these benefits and seek to repair the harm caused. Since Europe became wealthy through slavery and colonial domination it is not surprising that compensatory payments to the descendants of Africans who



had been enslaved have been suggested. Direct reparation payments to descendants of slaves present many problems which the QCEA booklet does not address, but "equivalent funding for community or education projects where people of colour are the decision makers," could be a way forward which Quakers might be willing to address. As the theme of Yearly Meeting 2019 is to be "privilege", should racism be its principal topic?

Race and Privilege in Europe is the second edition of the booklet published first in 2017 and now available free to any Friend or Meeting direct from humanrights@qcea.com.



Tim Holding's sculpture-fountain in Culver Square and the James Parnell Memorial in Colchester Castle

Quaker History Trail

Rosalind Kaye

On Sunday 5 May about 15 people followed the Quaker History Trail round the town, as one of 'Jane's Walks' (a se-

ries of themed walks round Colchester).

The Burial Ground was of particular interest. Few people knew that the Marriage family were Quakers, and Bill App's stone, different from the rest, caused comment.

Few of the group had noticed the memorial stone for James Parnell in the entry to the Castle, and no-one knew why Tim Holding had chosen to represent sea holly in his fountain in Culver Square. (Do you know?)

Ageing - and Unicorns

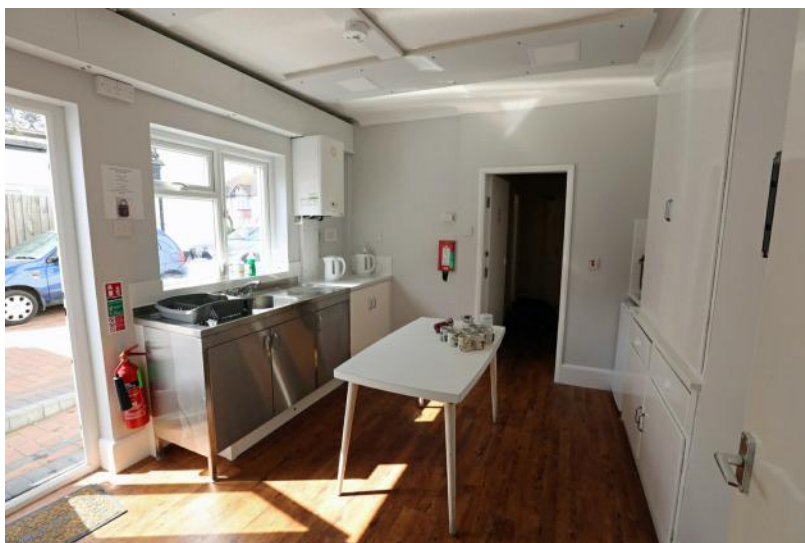
Valerie Graves

As I am now nearly 95 I am starting to give things away, such as books and pictures.

Years ago, before the A12 was built, there was a cafe and a shop for unwanted statues, inn-signs etc. We bought a lot of lions and unicorns, and others, very cheaply. Digging them out is less easy!

So if you hear that I have been excavating a unicorn, it is not a manifestation of Alzheimers!





Two photographs of the new kitchen and one of the new doors of Clacton meeting House. Thank you John Hall.

Beware!

from Rosalind Kaye

The U3A's monthly talk on 15 May was entitled "Scam Awareness", given by staff from NatWest Bank.

Their main message was, of course, never give your bank details to anyone unless you are certain they are entitled, legally, to have them.

A useful ploy - if you are unsure about a card-reader, especially a mobile one - is to enter an incorrect PIN number. A legitimate reader will not accept it, telling you that it is safe to carry out the transaction (with your real PIN). A fraudulent card-reader will accept it, alerting you to the danger in time to cancel.

