



The Lady Evelyn Wheel on the washing floors at Laxley Mines, Isle of Man

Photo: John Kay

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN EAST ANGLIA AREA QUAKER MEETING
August 2019

Diary Dates for August

Saturday August 17th 2019 12-5 pm Summer Family Day at Colchester Meeting House

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

WebAddress: 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

News from Earls Colne

and further thoughts

Jenny Kay

At the end of Meeting for Worship on second Sunday in June we held a worship-sharing session on racism prompted by John Hall's article in the June Newsletter. Advices 22 and 33 were read during the worship and the article was read out as the first contribution. Those that followed were largely personal reflections and observations from our own experience.

Since our session I sought out mention of racism at BYM and

Editorial

Dear Friends

We are having repairs done to the flat upstairs but no signs of a permanent replacement warden. Everyone is joining in and getting into a routine, but it is coming clear



found little. However I did find this reference to colonialism in the introductory talk 'Looking through the lens of privilege at climate change and social justice' given by Maud and Nim. Speaking on his upbringing in Kenya in the early fifties Nim said '*I would not want you to blame yourselves for what the British Colonials did in Kenya. It's such a big lot, you cannot carry it. You cannot tell me to ask you to forgive you one time. It will have to be many, many times.*

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/y/m/documents>

I have since stumbled upon two recent references which furthered my interest. Firstly, Felicity Kaal's article 'No Tigers in Africa' in the current edition of Friends Quarterly where she describes her ethnic and cultural background in the search to answer the questions '*Who am I? What am I? Where do I belong?*'

Secondly the programme on BBC2 Saturday 27 July 'A

that the Meeting is short of money. This is something we must face.

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

Fresh Guide to Florence with Fab 5 Freddy. He highlighted the depiction of black people in Renaissance Art and it's not what you might expect. It was quite revelatory. Slavery existed in Italy at that time but within a multi-ethnic society. Popular use of the term 'racism' is relatively recent, early twentieth century. It was first used by the American, Richard Henry Pratt in 1902. It's worth reading up about him too! Just put his name into a search engine.

The use of the word 'race' (See Wikipedia on 'racism' and 'racialism') has a complicated history. A genetic basis for this concept has not been proved to scientific satisfaction.

In [Norway](#)'s national laws concerning discrimination the word 'race' is banned. The words ethnicity, national origin, descent, and skin color are there but not 'race' as the use of the word is considered problematic and unethical.

In a Strange Land

Janet Thomas, book review

In a Strange Land by Jill Stow

This account of Jill's mother's descent into dementia is recommended reading from The Friends Fellowship of Healing. It is honest, moving and enlightening. Even though before and after every visit, for example, her mother would forget Jill's very existence, nevertheless Jill found strength in what remained behind. She found that of God where it was difficult to discern, by accepting what is rather than what was before. She believed that being with her Mum, walking with her, holding her hand, helped them both.

What did remain was the essence of her mother's sweet nature.

At the same time as accepting what is now, it is important, if not vital, to make carers and others aware, of the person the dementia sufferer was before. In Jill's mother's case, a gifted teacher in understanding young children, a loving and incidentally rather beautiful mother. Everyone has a history, or her story. Dementia is horrible and scary. But it is "In close relationships we may risk pain as well as finding joy. When experiencing great happiness or great hurt, we may be more open to the working of the Spirit."

6 things you never knew were invented by Quakers

Jon Martin

4. Red Delicious apples

Did you know that 'America's favourite apple' is a Quaker apple?

The year is 1856, and devoted Quaker Jesse Hiatt has moved from Indiana to Iowa. Near the town of Peru, Madison County, he plants an apple orchard. Between two trees a sapling springs up. Jesse chops it down.

Now, apple seeds bear no resemblance to the parents. Each sapling is a roll of the genetic dice, with most of the results tasting disgusting. However, every now and then a miracle happens – and strange things were at work in Iowa.

To Jesse's surprise, the sapling sprouted again next year. He chopped it down once more – only to find it grew back a third time. Perhaps his Quaker instincts kicked in as he let nature do its thing, saying: "If thee must grow, thee may." He wouldn't regret his choice. When the sapling fruited it produced the best apple he had ever tasted.

After the variety won a national prize in 1893, Stark Nurseries bought it and renamed it Stark Delicious, later changing it to Red Delicious (Jesse had originally named it Hawkeye – a fun fact for Marvel fans!). The apple became wildly popular, and is valued today for its unusual 'coke bottle' base, which makes it easy for suppliers to crate and stack.

Meanwhile in Iowa that first sapling took on a sacred status, protected by fences and the

SEAQM SUMMER

FAMILY EVENTS BBQ

Colchester Meeting House

August 17th 2019 12-5 pm

Suggested donation £5 per head funds to AM Sanctuary Meetings project.

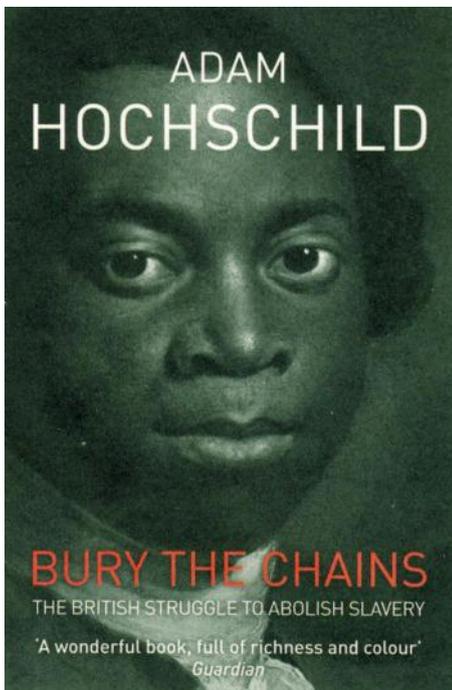
It would be really helpful if it looks like being fine to bring garden chairs!

Garden games would be good too. A walk on Hilly Fields will be offered.



subject of much media and horticultural interest. Jesse's apple tree was an attraction for years, but it met a dramatic end, blown down by the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940.

Many mutations later, the Red Delicious in the shops today is a far cry from Jesse's original miracle apple. On the upside, it still accounts for half of America's apple exports, though I'm more of a Pink Lady man myself.



Two books from The Friend

from Valerie Graves

Two book reviews caught my eye in a recent edition of *The Friend*. The first book was 'Bury The Chains: The British struggle to abolish slavery' by Adam Hochschild (2014). When something has been in use for a long time, it is hard to dislodge. This book is about a part of that dislodging.

The other book was 'Beginner's Luck', by U.A. Fanthorpe. You should read this with her antholo-

An attender in Quaker country

In July 1998 a friend invited me to go on a walking holiday in northern England. We stayed in a 17th century farmhouse called Cold Keld, in a valley between Sedburgh and Kirkby Stephen.

This area is in wild country - between the limestone hills of the Pennines and the steeper volcanic fells and small mountains of the English Lake District. It is a hard land. The hills attract heavy rain in summer, snow in winter. Even in Au-



gy of poems. A marvellous example is:

"This picture was painted by Mrs D Bullock,

Part-time clerk. It is not anything Special. But then I remember That patients come to this hospital to be

Puzzled out of themselves, and that not anything special

Is exactly what they want to be too."

A marvellous modulation of tenderness and indignation!

gust we needed wet weather mountain clothes and strong boots. The sound of rivers and streams is always near. But when the sun shines the hills and dales (valleys) are incredibly beautiful and peaceful.

I remembered that the early Quakers lived somewhere in the north of England but didn't know much history. I didn't realise how close I was going to be. Just before we arrived at the farm we passed a notice saying Quaker Burial Ground. I was curious. Two days later I cycled 8 miles

On Truth

I believe there is something in the mind, or in the heart, that shows its approbation when we do right. I give myself this advice: Do not fear truth, let it be so contrary to inclination and feeling. Never give up the search after it: and let me take courage, and try from the bottom of my heart to do that which I believe truth dictates, if it leads me to be a Quaker or not.

Elizabeth Fry, 1780-1845

Ends & Means

To do evil that good may come of it is contrary to the doctrine of Christianity; that when times are so cloudy that we cannot go forward in the way of clearness and purity, it behooves us in the depth of humility to wait on the Lord to know his mind concerning us and our children.

John Woolman, 1720-1772

down the valley to Sedburgh and found a bookshop. There I found three books by Donald Rooksby about The Quakers in North West England. They are a rich source of information about the early days of the Quaker movement, where they lived and where George Fox visited - all I needed to know for a short visit.

By a fortunate coincidence I found myself in the heart of Quaker country.

Dai Williams

Emsworth Meeting UK, October 1998.

Quoting the Bible

Jenny Kay

'Be still and know that I am God'
Psalm 46 v 10

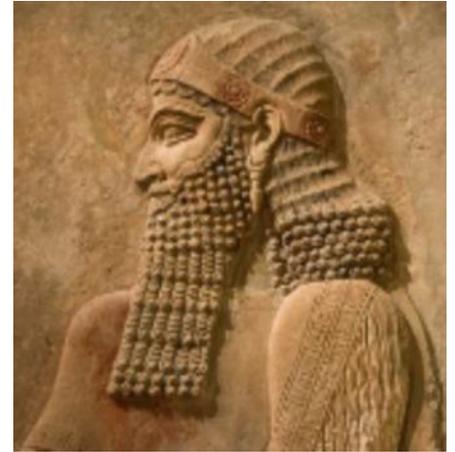
While listening to 'Soul Music' on Radio 4 this morning, I heard this quote in the reminiscences connected with the Peter Maxwell Davies' piece 'Farewell to Stromness'. A familiar quote but I didn't know where it came from.

The psalm is prefaced with instructions to the chief musician or choirmaster for the Korah, singers including maidens, Alamothe. Twice the word 'selah' appears; at the end of verses 7 and 11. Bible scholars have come up

with a number of possible meanings for this word. My choices are silence or pause, perhaps even a musical interlude, giving the listener the opportunity to reflect on what has been said.

Psalm 46 begins with the words. '*God is our refuge, and strength, a very present help in trouble ...*'. I choose to think that this psalm may have been written following King Sennacherib of Assyria's attack on Jerusalem. Verse 9 reads: '*He maketh the wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder, he burneth the chariot in the fire.*' Then follows a change from third to first person for

verse 10. This command '*Be still*' is written in the context of a time of trouble and war and could be interpreted as a strong call to stop fighting as well as the gentle suggestion to find God in stillness.



Sanctuary Everywhere

2020 APPEAL

Ann Kurra

Sanctuary Everywhere was started by Britain Yearly Meeting as a two year project for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. 'Sanctuary Everywhere 2020' is an appeal for £76,000 to continue this work for a further year as there is yet so very much to do.

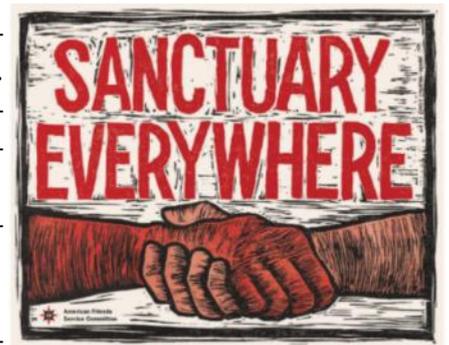
Quakers believe there is that of God in everyone, we have long worked for peace and equality, welcoming migrants to our shores. Through this work we have seen up close how Theresa May's government's creation of a 'hostile environment' has been entrenching disparaging attitudes and hostile discrimination into the language and practices of the state.

Quakers in Britain are committed to creating a culture of compassion and welcoming hospitality. In 2017 Meeting

for Sufferings drew up a Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto. It aims to build peaceful communities through personal relationships by reducing fear and mistrust particularly towards migrants of other races and religions, thereby reducing racial violence and psychological trauma. Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting (SEAQM) agreed early on to become an area Sanctuary Meeting to disseminate this work. Sanctuary Meetings support practical action and build alliances with other groups. There are now about 100 Sanctuary Meetings in Britain. This is an area where money matters. The particular actions taken will vary from meeting to meeting in response to local issues and the leadings of the Spirit.

Our Sanctuary Everywhere program includes the following:-

- We call for 'Human rights standards for all'. These should



be the foundation for any national policy or international agreement on migration. These rights include the right to work, to learn, to housing, to medical care and to security in circumstances beyond personal control.

- We agree to campaign for change to the asylum process so that it is built on compassion rather than an assumption of disbelief.

- We strongly oppose institutional violence and discrimination within the UK system of immigration detention, and we utterly oppose indefinite detention which we believe neither necessary nor right and we will

work towards the closure of all detention centres.

- We support political advocacy and working with others to change Britain's laws on destitution, detention, deportation and removals. We oppose unjust deportations and removals to the EU and the wider world.

- We are working for safer migration routes (to avoid trafficking and unsafe passage), improved rules for family reunion, and we would like to see humanitarian visas.

- Finally the big one! The Manifesto commits us to dismantle discrimination. Inequality is rooted in our history through centuries of colonialism, imperialism, and militarism. Exploitation, oppression

and slavery may have created differences which we as individuals perpetuate because we fail to think about them and examine them. Historically Britain's restrictions on freedom of movement are relatively recent and they have been quite arbitrary & discriminatory!

A sizeable portion of the £76,000 requested will pay for the salary of a manager to coordinate the work of Sanctuary Everywhere 2020, to build on the work of existing Sanctuary meetings, develop new ones and offer us all support and training. Our share for SEAQM equates to at least £785 as we are one of the larger Sanctuary meetings. God willing, we hope to achieve this sum.

We will be asking for donations towards 'Sanctuary Everywhere 2020' at the Summer BBQ to be held at Colchester Meeting House from 12noon on Saturday 17th August.

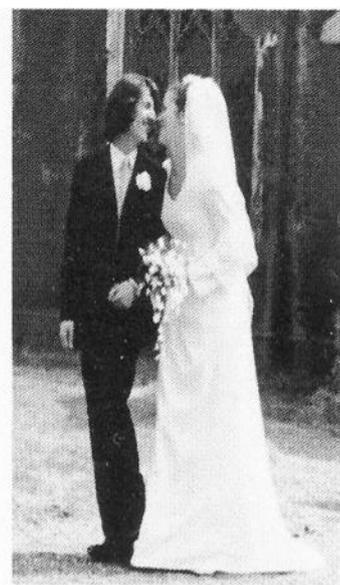
If you cannot make the BBQ and would like to donate please send cheques made out to Britain Yearly Meeting to 'Sanctuary 2020. FREEPOST QUAKERS' or donate online at <http://bit.ly/sanctuary2020> (it is important that you use the exact link so BYM know the money is for the 'Sanctuary Everywhere 2020 Appeal').



Wedding-group



Two wedding-pictures, from the invitation



A Family Event

from Valerie Graves

This was the celebration of my eldest one Chris' golden wedding! (Nothing to do with Friends, but I thought you'd like to hear about it.) It was held in a marquee in Chris and Tina's garden in Langham with dinner and a dance to follow, starting at

4:30pm, with an early dinner and then a dance until 11pm. It was not too hot and we were all grateful for the loan of cardigans and scarves.

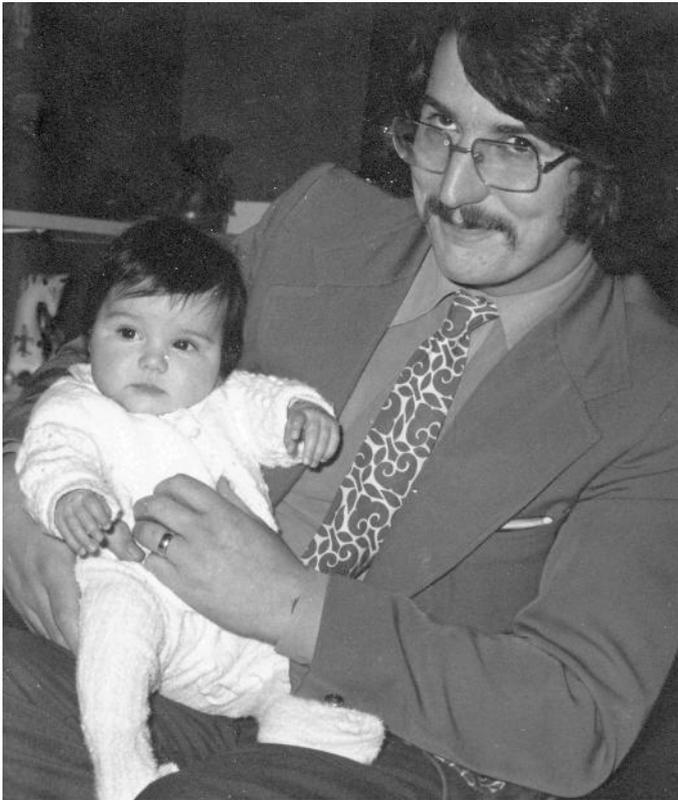
The children joined in the dancing with enthusiasm, and I believe 8-year-old Angus took part in all the dances.



Boy Angus



Young Chris with his father, sister and brothers at the seaside.



Chris with daughter Lizzie as a baby



Friends are invited to call on
JOHN KAY
 at home

22 Hall Road Fordham CO6 3NQ

Thursday 29 Aug 2019 2 pm - 6 pm

Friday 30 Aug 2019 2 pm - 6 pm

Saturday 31 Aug 2019 10 am - 4pm

Sunday 1 Sept 2019 2 pm - 6 pm

To view his paintings and if you wish, to choose one to take away as a gift.

01206 240929

gen@millrind.co.uk

<http://www/millrind.co.uk>

About Friends

John Kay

I often cruise the net looking for relevant material for the newsletter and I came across the following archived website page on the BBC website. I soon came across this page which, as archived material would not appear if searched from the BBC website itself

https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/quakers_1.shtml

As a succinct statement which is concise and yet really accurate I don't think I have seen any other summary which is as

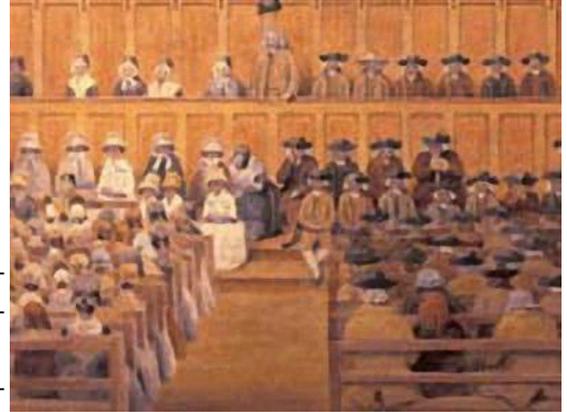
comprehensive and yet still as accurate in its detail. I am sure that the BBC obtained the full co-operation of Friends House and many before it was put on-line.

On reading through it there were several places which called to mind certain facts that had slipped my own mind.

I have asked permission of the Keeper of the Archives to reproduce it. This is with the idea that I might put it directly into the newsletter or hopefully, if it is approved by the Area Meeting, put all of it into a small booklet to give a

good overall reference for new enquirers.

I am convinced that it is the best summary of what we are all about and furthermore gives accurate reasons for the way we are and what we stand for.



Quaker Meeting at Gracechurch Street

Quaker Renewal

John Kay

Last month I mentioned this book that I was keen to review. It arrived very promptly a few days later. It proved to be well worth the effort of sending for it. It is a Friend publication written by Craig Barnett and sold through eBay. This small book has a Preface written by Ian Kirk-Smith consists of nine articles and a few other pieces which Craig has written, I assume online possibly as entries in his personal blog. The first article appears in "The Friend" online magazine and it is reproduced in full on their current page which may be seen at:

<https://thefriend.org/article/quaker-renewal-the-quaker-way>

Craig is concerned, as are many Quakers today, with the influence of newer Friends who are less supported by the

earlier traditions and customs which held earlier Friends together as a society. The titles of the articles give some indication of his concerns: The Quaker way, A shared language, Gathered worship, The meaning of membership, The gift of leadership, The simplified meeting, The testimony of a transformed life, Spiritual generosity.

The note on the back of the cover reads, "What does it mean to be a Quaker today?, In these essays Craig Barnett explores possibilities for spiritual renewal, new life and creativity in the Religious Society of Friends."

It costs £5 plus postage and can be bought from: the Quaker Bookshop

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/bookshop>

Or direct from the author at <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Quaker-Renewal-book-new->

[direct-from-author/162855370752](https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Quaker-Renewal-book-new-author/162855370752)

I'm sure you will find it is a very valid set of concerns which is also very topical. Let me know if you have any trouble in purchasing this booklet and I'll see what I can do to help

