



STAFFORDSHIRE QUAKER



SUMMER EDITION, JUNE 2011

FIRST GLIMPSE OF MEMORIAL



The design and text for the Quaker Service Memorial have now been agreed. Here the Working Party gives the latest news.

Once the Area Meeting's Working Party had prepared a design and wording which were acceptable to both Meeting for Sufferings, for the Society, and to the National Memorial Arboretum management (the British Legion), we were in a position to draft a Declaration of Trust to handle the appeal, construction, and maintenance of the memorial and, importantly, the outreach opportunities which this will present. The Declaration was endorsed on 24 May in the names of the four trustees approved by Area Meeting: Paula Knight (Lichfield), Peter Holland (Stone), Helen Lockwood (Stone), and Anthony Wilson (Lichfield), and is being forwarded to the Charity Commission for registration. Its wording commits us to working in accor-

dance with Quaker business method, and allows for the appointment of additional trustees from beyond the Area Meeting. We hope to receive our charity number soon, having engaged in constructive discussion with the Commission through a colleague.

At the time of writing, the only remaining issue to be determined is the choice of stone. What we thought would be straightforward has proved if not an obstacle course, at least a track with hurdles. The Arboretum site at Alrewas is windy and liable to flooding, which can weather the hardest stone unless it is carefully selected. It needs, for our purposes, to be light in colour when wet as well as well as dry, capable of being worked into comfortable seating and paving slabs, and of sufficient density to carry lettering which will remain clear for centuries. Derbyshire quarries cannot supply this, as we had anticipated, so our search continues further afield: we hope to reach a decision soon.

Until that time, we are not in a position to complete our appeal leaflet with details of costs and targets. We will be having

a stand at Yearly Meeting Gathering, when we will in effect be launching the appeal to Friends – on a foundation of grants from friendly trusts which so far totals £2,500 with the prospect of more contributions to come. It is our aim to raise sufficient funds by the autumn to place contracts for construction, which would begin in the spring of 2012 (weather permitting) and be completed by September 2012. We are contacting neighbouring AMs to address them on the opportunities for outreach by 'stewarding' at the memorial on days when we can expect high visitor numbers – some 300,000 come the Arboretum each year.

We hope that we will be in a position to present Area Meeting with a full account of the project on 9 July, just twelve months after Meeting for Sufferings gave us the go-ahead to circulate Area Meetings round the country: it was their response which gave us the confidence to appoint the Working Party which has carried the project this far.

Anthony Wilson, Lichfield, for the Working Party

QUAKER SERVICE MEMORIAL

- Design
- Text
- Choice of stone
- Funding
- Stewarding
- Theology
- See pages 6-7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CREDO	2
SUNDAY BELLS	3
BETTY GRAY	4
PEACE 350	5
QUAKER SERVICE MEMORIAL	6-7
MARCH FOR THE ALTERNATIVE	8
PRISONERS' PENFRIENDS	9
OUR AREA MEETING	10-11
AREA MEETING CALENDAR	12



Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre
Birmingham

'I BELIEVE IN
SEARCHING AND
SEARCHING
AGAIN'

CREDO

Having no creed a 'one size fits all' approach to belief is far removed from the Quaker way. For this reason I found a course at Woodbrooke 'Creating Your Credo' intriguing and appealing. It was led by Julia Ryberg, a member of Sweden Yearly Meeting and European Project Co-ordinator for Woodbrooke. She encouraged the group to explore beliefs through reflection, discussion and collage. Eventually we each felt able to express our individual beliefs in words, but were well aware that a personal creed is something that evolves over time.

Beyond my knowledge and understanding

I believe in a presence,
illuminating my life
nourishing my spirit
nurturing my soul
saving me from my darkest places.

I believe in the spirits of many people

who have gone before me,
I carry forward what they began
I shall pass on
This is the time the place I am meant for.

I believe in the love of family

the kindness of friends
the understanding of strangers.
Walking through doors
and holding them open for others.

I believe in searching and searching again

losing and finding
being lost
and found again

That I may tread my path with open eyes and open heart.

Sandra Chambers, Stafford



Julia Ryberg
See her 'Blogging in the Light'
juliaryberg.net

SUNDAY BELLS - STOKE MEETING

No Sunday Bells have called us here
 (This is a Quaker meeting, dear)
 We settle into gathered peace
 And bid our sullen strivings cease.

Then from the car park comes the clank
 Of bottles in the bottle bank.
 Clang upon clang they toll a warning
 Of heedless waste and global warming.

A father with a girl and boy
 Recycle with a fervent joy
 Their bottles ring with chime on chime
 - The Sunday bells of family time.

And questing in the quiet, I know
 That I have little faith to show,
 While they, with every bottle hurled.
 Believe that they can save the world.

Shirley Torrens, Stoke



Stoke Meeting House

RISKS

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool
 To weep is to risk being called sentimental
 To reach out to another is to risk involvement
 To expose feelings is to risk showing your true self
 To place your ideas and your dreams before the crowd is to risk being called naive
 To love is to risk not being loved in return
 To hope is to risk despair
 To try is to risk failure
 To live is to risk dying

But risks must be taken, because the greatest risk in life is to risk nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing and becomes nothing.
 He/she may avoid suffering and sorrow but simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow or
 love.

Chained by certitude, he/she is a slave, and has forfeited freedom.
 Only the person who risks is truly free.

Julia Rand

This poem was discovered by Gayle Yeomans, Stafford, on the Friends House message board
<http://forum.quaker.org.uk/>

BETTY GRAY, 1915-2011



Betty Gray, a long-standing member of Stone Meeting, died in March. Her son Robin has sent this account of her life.

Betty Gray's very long and full life, spanned two world wars, huge social and economic changes and at least six generations of her own growing and widespread family. Of Scottish ancestry, she was born in Lichfield at the home of one of her aunts, although brought up in Southampton. However Staffordshire remained her spiritual home and was always close to her heart.

She was a prize student of physiotherapy at the RVI Newcastle Upon Tyne, where her family moved when she was 16. This remained her career on and off for more than 50 years – interrupted by raising a family and several moves following in Ivan Gray's footsteps teaching in Quaker schools.

The eight years at Sidcot were a time of raising young children in the post war years combined with working at Southmead Hospital in Bristol where she was particularly interested in natural

childbirth. At Friends' School, Lisburn, she oversaw domestic arrangements in the boarding school as well as working at Belfast City Hospital. During that period she gave voluntary support to the Save The Children Fund, the house often being full of clothes for jumble sales. Moving to Ackworth in 1961 she combined frequent entertaining of school and family visitors with work at Pontefract Hospital. Ivan's retirement in 1971 brought a move to Norfolk, where they made new friends, enjoyed both coast and countryside, and Betty worked in a number of small rural hospitals.

Quaker boarding schools were central to their lives for around 30 years. After Ivan died in 1978, Betty continued her physiotherapy and for 33 years made an independent life of her own. A stubborn inherited Calvinist streak, physical resilience, a strong faith, inner toughness and determination as well as warmth, patience and a generous nature all contributed to a full life.

In Cromer, she became a teacher and trustee of Extend for more than 20 years, and wrote and revised what became the standard text book for Extend teachers. Having moved to Stone in 1992 when she was 77 she became involved with the Stroke Club for several years

and also ran a weekly exercise class at her house until she was 90. At 85, she wrote a vivid and entertaining family history. Writing had always been one of her strong attributes.

Betty was a faithful attender at Quaker meetings for over 70 years after becoming a member of the Society of Friends in the late 1930s at New Mills, and was both an Elder and Overseer at different times. She was a serious minded person, not without a sense of humour, but her more thoughtful side tended to prevail. Quakerism and her spiritual journey played an increasingly important part in her life from the mid 1960s onwards. She read extensively and The Friend was a constant companion to the end.

Her last year at Hilderstone Hall Care Home brought much pleasure. She still enjoyed dancing at afternoon socials, and on one occasion attending an exercise class she was able to correct a visiting physiotherapist and take over the class!

Betty is survived by four children, Robin, Judith, Tim and Pippa, 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren, each new arrival giving her great pleasure.

Robin Gray

'BETTY'S VERY
LONG AND FULL
LIFE ...
STAFFORDSHIRE
REMAINED HER
SPIRITUAL HOME'

WOLVERHAMPTON WORKS ON PEACE

17 Friends and Attenders from Wolverhampton Meeting met on 15/05/11 to study "Peace Testimony 350 years on – what does the Peace Testimony mean today?" Using material supplied by Quaker Peace and Social Witness, the workshop encouraged us to explore our Peace Testimony using the well known extract from the Peace Declaration 1660/1 which begins, "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever...."

It is tempting to regard the 1600/1 Peace Declaration as one and the same as our Peace Testimony, but this is not the case; a Quaker Testimony is not a set of words but is expressed through our lives, and is to be found in deeds, not a creed.

Through different activities the group explored different

facets of "peace," and in particular we were asked to reflect on the personal challenges our Peace Testimony raises for us. The responses included – "Whilst acknowledging my own capacity for violence, listen to the spirit and actively try to create peace within and without"; "an aspiration that we need to try and live up to. With God's help we will"; "the Peace Testimony causes problems for me as there are many instances when the conflicts raise moral dilemmas for me eg: is it right to let a tyrant continue to kill many people?"; "Peace building has to be important to us. If we don't have that before us always, pacifism is just words;" "What we do must match what we claim. Today the military want our money not our labour. How few of us have successfully withheld our taxes? How many of us have evaded that issue?"

Finally the group split into small groups who were each asked to write a group peace testimony in 10 minutes. This is not long enough, but it was a thought-provoking exercise and demonstrated a wide range of approaches to the task.

The results are to be sent to QPSW as they gather responses in preparation for Yearly Meeting Gathering 2011. There is also a website where Friends can contribute up to 350 words on what a 21st century declaration of our Peace Testimony might look like (www.quaker.org/350).

This has been a useful exercise to help our Meeting begin to think through our Peace Testimony together and we would recommend it to other Meetings.

Rosemary and Mike Fox
Wolverhampton



'FRIENDS CAN
CONTRIBUTE UP
TO 350 WORDS
ON WHAT A 21ST
CENTURY
DECLARATION
OF OUR PEACE
TESTIMONY
MIGHT LOOK
LIKE'

QUAKER VOICES ON PEACE

Inner Peace

You need to be on the look out for the symptoms of Inner Peace.

The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to inner peace and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions.

This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some Signs and Symptoms of Inner Peace

A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experience

An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment

A loss of interest in judging other people

A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others
A loss of interest in conflict

A loss of ability to worry (this is a serious symptom)
Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation

Contented feeling of connectedness with others and nature

Frequent attacks of smiling

Frequent outbursts of uncontrollable laughter

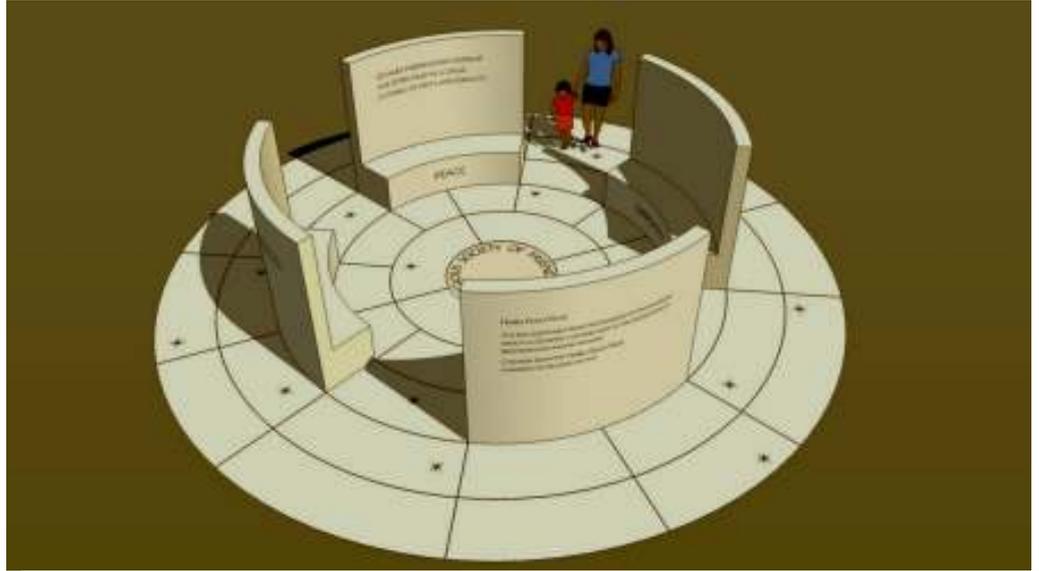
An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen

An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to love them back

*Discovered by Gayle Yeomans,
Stafford, on the Friends House
message board [http://
forum.quaker.org.uk/](http://forum.quaker.org.uk/)*



THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM MEMORIAL



THE TEXT

Adapted from Meeting for Sufferings agenda, 2 April 2011

‘A REMINDER OF OUR TESTIMONIES TO PEACE, SIMPLICITY, TRUTH AND EQUALITY WILL BE OFFERED AT THE BASE OF THE FOUR SEATS’

The immediate purpose of a memorial will be remembrance of the service by Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service during World War II. For the Society today, it will also be an opportunity for outreach. Some 300,000 people visit the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas near Lichfield, each year. A memorial which is explicit in its statement of Friends’ witness and commitment to peace may well find resonance, provided its message draws on our common humanity.

A reminder of our testimonies to Peace, Simplicity, Truth and Equality will be offered at the base of the four seats.

There will be six texts, four carved on the backs of the stone seats and two on the front. The wording will need to be succinct. The proposed wording on the backs of seats:-

1: FRIENDS AMBULANCE SERVICE – The Unit enabled conscientious objectors to serve in theatres of war. They cared for civilian and military casualties of any nation in both World Wars. Seventeen members were killed in World War II.

2: FRIENDS RELIEF SERVICE – The Service was set up in 1939 to relieve civilian

distress in practical ways. It worked in a spirit of peace at a time of war in the UK, Europe and further afield.

3: NOBEL PEACE PRIZE – “It is the silent help from the nameless to the nameless which is the Quakers’ contribution to the promotion of brotherhood between nations” Citation from the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Quakers in 1947.

On the front

“Let your life speak, answering that of God in everyone”

George Fox, 1624 – 1691, founder of Quakerism



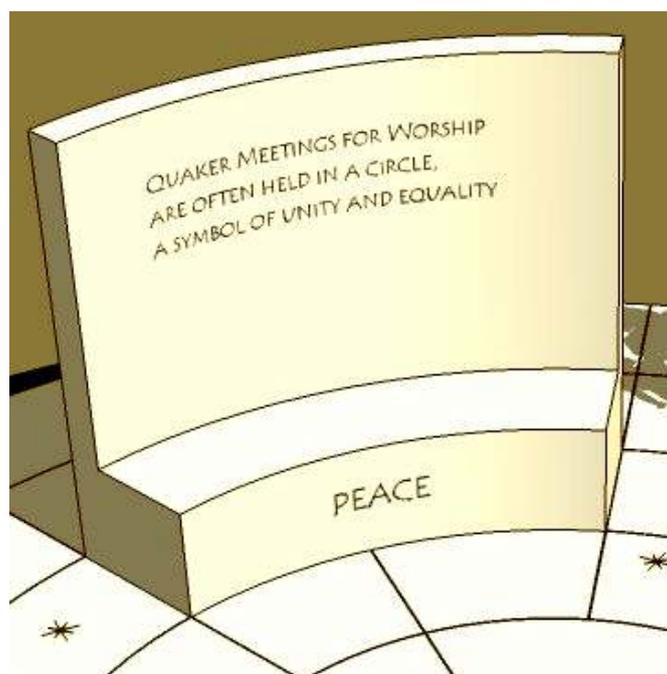
THE TEXT (CONTINUED)

4: RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS):

The Society emerged after the civil war of the 1640's with a commitment "to live by virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars". Quakers continue to work worldwide for peace and reconciliation.

On the front

Quaker meetings for worship are often held in a circle, a symbol of unity and equality.



THE THEOLOGICAL MUDDLE?

Letter to The Friend, 9 May 2011

Roger Hill raises questions which reach beyond the memorial to Quaker service at the National Memorial Arboretum, which now has the approval of both Meeting for Sufferings and the Arboretum trustees. When the Working Group pondered the wording to carve onto the benches which will constitute the memorial, we found ourselves asking a supplementary question to George Fox's original "What canst thou say?" – how canst thou say it?

We have a unique opportunity to reach out to a significant proportion of the 25,000 visitors who come to the Arboretum every month. How to attract and hold their attention, amongst the

hundreds of memorials on the site? The more we try to say, the less likely people are to linger and read; and every letter has a cost – and should still be in place 300 years from now: as far into the future as our historic meeting houses' original buildings are from us in 2011. The working group feels that Peace, Equality, Simplicity and Truth express values which the Society commonly accepts as guides to live by, and would wish to pass on as part of our legacy to generations to come.

We are also responding to the invitation of the Arboretum curator to describe the work of the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service, and using this opportunity to quote the Nobel Peace Prize citation (1947) to Friends, and explain the significance of worshipping in a circle. (The memorial will take the form of four

benches, with high backs to protect from the wind: providing a place where people can pause, and maybe contemplate, as they walk round the 150 acres where there are few other seats.)

We have been aware of the pitfalls of presenting twenty-first century Quakerism as a credal system, at the same time as we posit our commitment to peace in a location which is not one of our usual comfort zones. We look forward to presenting our final design and wording to Friends at Yearly Meeting Gathering in July, just twelve months after Meeting for Sufferings invited us to contact area meetings with our idea for outreach.

Anthony Wilson

For Staffordshire Area Meeting, Memorial Working Group

"WHAT CANST THOU SAY?" – HOW CANST THOU SAY IT?

THE CONCERNS WHICH MADE ME MARCH



I was one of the many who joined the protest on the 'March for the Alternative' in London on 26th March. We will all have our views on what is happening, I would like to share with you some information from my experience.

First the speed of change, take Academies for example. The current range of academies is very different from those introduced by the previous government. This legislation was rushed through Parliament within a time table that had previously only been reserved for emergency legislation affecting national security. It enables fast tracking of schools to convert to academies (as short as 6 weeks) with no requirement to consult with stakeholders (that includes parents or staff). The move to Academy status usually brings financial benefits to the School together with the transfer of school assets. There has been a recent development, a letter from Lord Hill (Parliamentary under secretary for Schools) to Head Teachers considering converting which clearly states that one of the benefits of Academy status is that schools move away from national terms and conditions for staff. Agreement to convert is partially dependent on this. The signing of the TUC model trade union recognition agreement can affect an agreement to convert.

The potential of converting every school to an academy

in the country raises many questions particularly if the opportunity of opting out of a national curriculum is exercised. An argument against academies is the potential creation of a 2 tier education system with children from socially deprived areas being disadvantaged. We have already seen examples in the south of the country where children with learning or behaviour problems have been excluded from academies.

Also consider where the cuts fell first and who it impacted on. Predominately it was the services for children and young people. Connexions services being an early casualty with major cuts to early years and sure start funding following. Statistics now also show that proportionally women are worst affected through job losses and it is also seriously impacting on our young people who are after all the future.

We are also facing the privatisation of the health service though you do have to look at the detail on this to see what is actually happening. Certainly the original ethos of a free service of health care for the benefit of all is moving to a model of private contractors and profit margins. Efficiency savings being created in public services are also through the reduction of existing pay, terms and conditions of those people who provide that service. A number of those people being some of the lowest paid already.

Consider some of the other changes, the move towards people having their own budgets to purchase care said to provide choice, though it can not be used to purchase services provided by the public sector. Employing your own personal assistant is an attractive option, understandably so. Legally of course you become an employer with all the associated responsibilities. What about the person you employ? Do you pay the minimum and expect the person to buy their own protective clothing and training? There are now a number of examples where this is actually happening and is also an area of employment law just starting to be tested. Vulnerability can exist in many ways, for either party, what protections are in place for them?

Rushing such major changes through without the proper time to consider the implications is fraught with risk. But at what cost and to who pays the price? We are already seeing an increase in the gulf between rich and poor. Are we really 'all in this together' with no alternative?

Jane Heath, Leek

'RUSHING SUCH MAJOR CHANGES THROUGH WITHOUT THE PROPER TIME TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS IS FRAUGHT WITH RISK'

ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR PRISONERS

At least one member of our Area Meeting is a volunteer with 'Prisoners' Penfriends', a charity with strong links with Quakers. Support has been given by QPS (W) and individual Friends and Meetings. Many PP volunteers are Quakers. Here Director Gwyn Williams, who sometimes attends HMP Wandsworth Meeting, describes PP's work.

Prisoners' Penfriends makes it possible for volunteer correspondents, in the community outside prison, to write to prisoners and receive letters in return – and to do so in safety. All letters are sent via the Penfriends' PO box, so that no addresses need be revealed.

This organisation inherited the "penpal" project once run by the Prison Reform Trust. Although "penpals" had been large and successful, in 1998 PRT decided it was not an appropriate focus for its activities and began to run the scheme down.

In 2000, PRT handed over what was left of the project to Prisoners' Penfriends, which became a registered charity in 2003.

From the start, the charity has sought to act with the full co-operation of the Prison Service, which provided our volunteers with guidelines and established an application process for prisoners. Pilot schemes were conducted, and in 2005 the charity received the "green light" to get going.

Although the Prison Service imposed some restrictions on who we could recruit as

letter-writers, it took less than a year to build up our body of volunteers. Each is provided with an advice service.

In addition, since 2006, a training programme has been in place. Volunteers are trained by Martin, a former prisoner, now released on licence. He makes volunteers aware of the possible dangers of contacting prisoners and teaches the penfriends to be "listeners through the post", providing the humane, friendly small-talk which can so often be lacking in a prisoner's life.

Progress Having begun with just two correspondences which survived the run-down by PRT, the scheme has expanded rapidly. We now have 62 volunteers and have exchanged over 9,000 letters with hundreds of prisoners.

This is what some prisoners say about the scheme:

"Being a penfriend has meant so much to me because at times I was quite down – throughout my sentence – and my penfriend's letters really cheered me up, knowing someone out there cared about me."

"Loneliness and isolation is hard in a place like this. Knowing you are not on your own can make such a huge difference. Thankyou."

Funding Prisoners' Penfriends employs just one worker/director, who works from home. Costs are, therefore, kept to a minimum. But, as is always the case, money is hard to

come by!

Many kind friends support the charity with a monthly contribution, set up by way of standing order. Indeed, over half our funds are raised this way. If any Friend would like to join this stalwart band, they should email the charity on: gwyn.morgan@prisonerspenfriends.org.

Many, of course, give one-off sums. The easiest way to donate is via the charity's website www.prisonerspenfriends.org where there is a link to "justgiving". If anyone does give in this way, it would be very helpful if they could leave their details, as we do like to keep you informed on how your money is being spent.

"Good inside" The following was written by a young prisoner, applying for a penfriend.

"I want to join this scheme because I don't have a supportive family and friends, they have rather given up on me... I've done a lot of bad stuff in my life and I honestly truly regret it all. I'm using my time in prison to better my future by doing as many educational programmes as I can... I want my family to be proud of me... I am a good person inside and get on with anybody which I hope you give me the time to find out."

The reference to his being "good inside" must resonate with all Quakers. We do not have to condone his crimes or be foolish about the dangers he may represent – but we can reach to what is good inside this young man.



'I AM A GOOD PERSON INSIDE AND GET ON WITH ANYBODY WHICH I HOPE YOU GIVE ME THE TIME TO FIND OUT'

OUR AREA MEETING: A FAMILY OF LOCAL MEETINGS

At Area Meeting in May, Helen Lockwood of Stone Meeting, reported on Meeting for Sufferings. MfS had considered the following minute from North Wales Area Meeting about ways of strengthening Area Meetings. Helen invites comments from Local Meetings and Area Meeting in time for Meeting for Sufferings in October.

Quaker Faith & Practice 4.02: 'The area meeting is the primary meeting for church affairs in Britain Yearly Meeting. Its role is to develop and maintain a community of Friends, a family of local meetings who gather for worship and spiritual enrichment. It should provide that balance between worship, mutual support, administration, learning, deliberation and social life which can make its meetings enjoyable occasions and build up the spiritual life of its members.'

We have been considering ways of developing our AM

as a more attractive, inclusive and spiritually alert body. We do not consider ourselves to be a fragile meeting, but we are vulnerable — our AM is sustained by about 30 or so faithful Friends who attend AM regularly across considerable distances; few if any are under retirement age. We are concerned that there is a strong congregational feeling among many Friends who do not sense that it is any part of their membership to do more than attend and support their own local meeting. We are further concerned that, while there is much support for local meetings provided in the centrally managed work, the relevance of area meetings to individual members as a centre for our spiritual life receives little recognition or support. Meeting for Worship for Business, rightly held, with opportunities for discernment and encountering the spirit, has a capacity to transform just as much as a silent Meeting for Wor-

ship. **'The Friends' business meeting is not just a peculiar Quaker way of getting things done; rather it should be seen as an essential part of the spiritual formation and spiritual growth of every seasoned Friend, for it is that place through which we learn to walk hand in hand with each other and the Spirit out into the world to do the work of committed and obedient disciples.'*** This is rarely spoken of in centrally produced literature.

We ask Meeting for Sufferings to draw this to the attention of all committees and staff. Greater support for area meetings, both centrally and by individual Friends, could revitalize our area meetings.

* Pendle Hill Pamphlet 406 The Mind of Christ—Bill Tabernor on Meeting for Business.

THE FRIENDS'
BUSINESS
MEETING ...
SHOULD BE SEEN
AS AN ESSENTIAL
PART OF THE ...
SPIRITUAL
GROWTH OF
EVERY SEASONED
FRIEND

MARY HOWITT SAMPLER SOUGHT

Does anybody know the whereabouts of a sampler stitched by Mary Howitt? The Uttoxeter Heritage Centre are putting on an exhibition about Mary Howitt and enquired if they could borrow it (I have had an enquiry before from someone else) because apparently it's meant to be

at Uttoxeter Meeting House, but it isn't. I've been in contact with the last two Wardens and they both at one time or another went through all cupboards etc but never came across it. I wondered if in the past it's been borrowed by another Meeting or museum or placed in a safe place. If it has, it is

probably documented somewhere, but the thought of going through all the PM minutes from 1992 backwards is too daunting. I am hoping that maybe somebody's memory may be stirred and we can trace its whereabouts.

Beatrice Lance, Uttoxeter

STAFFORD CELEBRATES



I cannot remember what was making me laugh, but friends from most eras of my life, relatives and friends helped me celebrate my 60th birthday at the end of January in Stafford Meeting House by kind permission of and help on the day from the Meeting. It was a very happy,

sociable occasion, with friends mingling with my other guests. I met five people for the first time – close relatives of relatives or friends. Apologies that you were not all invited – we were a full house.

Rob Horton, Stafford

UTTOXETER TRIUMPHS

Triumphant news from Uttoxeter received earlier this year.

I bring you tidings of great joy. The drains have been sorted without digging up the drive! The boss of the firm came to have a look and discovered an old manhole under the paving on the drive. The chap got quite excited about it because although it's no longer part of the drainage system it's a left over from older times. Apparently in Victorian days you would have just poured water down the sink but if the loo had been used you

had to come out and open the valve in this chamber and let the contents out into the main sewer and although the drains man knew about these he'd never actually seen a complete one. (Money making opportunity - come and see our Victorian drain). The "collapse" was actually a loose brick, some old dead tree roots and a lot of gravel and silt that had got caught up in them, some of the gravel coming from this old drain. So all that has been cleaned up and a bung put in so that if it blocks again at least it will be stopped going

into the cellar. So the bill runs into hundreds and not thousands. Matt said the firm, were efficient and friendly and he'd recommend them to anyone with drain trouble

Matt trained as a plumber, passed his theory with 98% and then was involved in a car accident the night before his practical and broke both wrists, couldn't plumb for over a year, so set out on another career. But the knowledge is still there.

Beatrice Lance, Uttoxeter



Uttoxeter Meeting House

STAFFORDSHIRE QUAKERS ONLINE

The 'Staffordshire Quakers' website run by Bill Walley of Stone Meeting has Europe-wide attention! As a result of this e-mail Janet Kreysa is now in touch with Delia Seagar's daughter

Cologne Friends share a subscription to The Friend and I just caught up with the 18 Feb issue recording the death of Delia Seagar. Browsing around in the internet, looking for further details I came

across "The Staffordshire Quaker", and was much impressed by the whole publication, but especially by the testimonies to Delia. My parents, Margaret and Donald Stewart, were close friends of Delia's husband - Cresswell Seagar. We as a family were all delighted when Delia came into his life. I was at their wedding in Aberdeen in 1965 and spent a holiday in the Hebrides with Delia and baby Marian

but since then have lost touch. I have many happy memories of both Cresswell and Delia and I wondered whether Marian would like it if I wrote down what I can remember. Perhaps you could give her my email address so that she can get in touch with me if she would like to.

Janet Kreysa, Cologne Meeting

WE'RE ON THE WEB.
WWW.STAFFS-
QUAKERS.ORG.UK
FOR BACK COPIES OF
STAFFORDSHIRE QUAKER
AND MUCH MORE

CHURCH BLOOPERS

More bloopers taken from church bulletins or church service announcements:

- Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin. 7
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM.
- The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours".

Contributed by Rob Horton, Stafford



by Signe Wilkinson

©2007 Friends Publishing Corporation. Reprinted with permission. To subscribe: www.friendsjournal.org

AREA MEETING CALENDAR JULY-DECEMBER 2011

Date	July 9	Sept 10	Oct 8	Dec 10
Location	Uttoxeter	Wolverhampton	Stone	Lichfield
Start	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
	30 minutes worship	30 minutes worship	30 minutes worship	30 minutes worship
Morning	Speaker	Speaker	Young Quakers - business method course	Speaker
Lunch	12.30 - 1.30	12.30 - 1.30	12.30 - 1.30	12.30 - 1.30
Afternoon	15 minutes worship	15 minutes worship	15 minutes worship	15 minutes worship
	Business	Business	Business	Business

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 25

ONE PAGE TAKES ABOUT 620 WORDS

GABI AND ROGER OLDFIELD

8 MENDIP AVENUE, STAFFORD, ST17 0PG

ROLDFIELD@BTOPENWORLD.COM