

# Ludlow Quaker Journal

December 2019



*This Journal will publish anything that Friends think is of interest; so its range may be very wide. If you find it too long, select only what interests you from the Table of Contents. Please contact Barbara Mark if you would like to have something included or wonder if you have a subject that might be of interest. It will be published on-line only and will come out when enough articles have been gathered in. Comments and letters to the editor are also welcome.*

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Many thanks to everyone who has helped me on this issue.  
Next edition we hope to have an experience at XR in London from Andrew,  
Woodbrook conferences on Afterlife and Healing from Pamela, Action Foundation,  
Tyneside, from Clive and Local Hubs from Helen Oldridge.



## Greater acceptance of remembering civilians.

It was heart warming to read an article in the Quaker publication 'The Friend' on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 that the wearing of white poppies and the laying of wreaths of white poppies to think about all those who die during war, has become more acceptable. This year the British Legion has stated that it acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict as well as their commitment to remember the loss of armed forces personnel.

So what has changed? The Peace Pledge Union, started in 1934 by Hugué Richard Lawrie, canon of St Paul's Cathedral, has been a long standing stalwart of the white poppy, which was started by Eleanor Barton in 1933. They have worked hard and long to see the wish for peace as a part of the November remembrance services. Then the Veterans for Peace, started in the 1990's, have also worked hard to become recognised.

Passing of time and the gradual drip, drip of ideas does make a difference. It is now 'The Time' to recognise civilian suffering. We certainly see enough of it in today's world with wars in Yemen, Syria and other places.

However may I suggest that there have been other people working to see this happen, these will include groups like the Churches Together in Hexham Abbey, who have distributed white poppies for 15 years. In this Area Meeting we can look to Peter Walker, artist in residence at Lichfield Cathedral, who has worked tirelessly to see the suffering of all involved in war as significant. Marquette's of his sculpture, for the Pity of War project, has visited over 10 cathedrals in this country and many in Germany, has called for the suffering of civilians to be recognised. These visits have meant thousands of people have seen it and engaged with the idea. The sculpture has been so accepted there is now one at the Portsmouth Historic Docks. Many of his other projects have also been about life of ordinary people during war, the one I saw being the 'Consequence of war 1918-2018', 16<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018. So maybe in this area, we should give him some thanks as well.

Barbara Mark



**poem** ( author unknown)

When I wander .....  
don't tell me to come and sit down  
wander with me.,  
it maybe because I am hungry, thirst, need the toilet,  
or, maybe I just need to stretch my legs.....

When I call for my mother.....( even though I am ninety!)  
don't tell me she has died,  
reassure me, cuddle me, ask me about her.  
It may be that I am looking for the security that my mother once gave....

When I shout out.....  
please don't ask me to be quiet.....or walk by  
I am trying to tell you something,  
but have difficulty in telling you what  
be patient.....Try to find out.  
I may be in pain.....

When I become agitated or appear angry.....  
please don't reach for the drugs first.  
I am trying to tell you something.  
It may be too hot.....too bright.....too noisy.  
Or maybe it is because I am missing my loved ones.

Try to find out .....first.....

When I don't eat my dinner or drink my tea.....  
It maybe because I have forgotten how to.  
Show me what to do.....remind me.  
It may be that I just need to hold my knife and fork  
I may know what to do then.....

When I push you away when you're trying to help me.....  
A wash perhaps, or getting dressed.  
Maybe it is because I have forgotten what you have said.  
Keep telling me what you are doing.....  
Over and over and over.....  
Maybe others will think you're the one that needs the help!

With all my thoughts and maybes,  
Perhaps it will be you.....who reaches my thoughts ....  
Understands my fears and will make me feel safe...

Maybe it will be you...that I need to thank  
If only I knew how.....

Thanks to Martin Bradford for sharing this poem for us.

## News from QARN ( Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network)

Firstly the AGM draft minutes from July which will put you in the picture of what this group are all about. I have not changed it at all so I do hope the style of AGM minutes will not be off putting. If it is please don't miss out and do look at notes below about the Woodbrook conference.

QARN Annual Report for the AGM July 2019, covering the period since our last AGM in June 2017.

The Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) is a network of Quakers across the UK who share a concern about the injustices that are practised in our name, and a determination to bring about change for those who have been forced to seek asylum and to reach out with support for those who share our concern. QARN members hold discussions and share information through the email group, and those who can meet together about four times a year in different parts of the country.

Our members are active as individuals and as members of other groups (Quaker and non-Quaker) across a wide spectrum of asylum and refugee-related activities, giving us a broad and solid base of knowledge and expertise. We continue to be morally outraged at some of the decisions that are made by the Government and its agents in our name.

Since our last AGM on 14 July 2019, the network has met in October 2018 in Birmingham, January 2019 in London, and April 2019 in Hertford. The Steering Group has held further meetings in between these dates. Every meeting begins with a report from those attending on the many and varied activities taking place across the country.

There has been a lot happening over the last year, and QARN continues to be active. We thank all those who have been working on our behalf, and those supporting our work.

The **Steering Group** currently consists of Barbara Forbes (to end of 2019\*), Catherine Henderson (to end of 2021\*) and Bridget Walker (to end of 2019). Rosemary Crawley (Treasurer), Sheila Mosley (web-site, and network membership moderator), Fred Ashmore (QARN representative on Detention Forum) and Rhona French (QARN representative with Asylum Matters) are ex officio members of the Steering Group.

### **QARN working with BYM, QPSW, QCEA and Woodbrooke**

QARN held a workshop at Yearly Meeting in May 2019.

We keep in contact with our Parliamentary Engagement Officer Jessica Metheringham, particularly in relation to the Immigration Bill, in relation to which we continue to be outraged about the indefinite nature of immigration detention, however we are advised that this Bill a narrow remit concerning EU citizens in the light of the potential for UK to leave the European Union. We do however keep in

touch with campaigning for legislation that will limit this to a maximum of 28 days, and to understand more about alternatives to detention.

QARN is a Quaker recognised body (QRB).

Quaker Peace and Social Witness - QPSW: We have continued to liaise with the Sanctuary Everywhere programme and its co-ordinator Tatiana Garavito in relation to the activity and progress of the programme, and in discussion about its future as the current stream of legacy funding ends at the close of 2019. Further information about this work is available here: <http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/sanctuary-appeal-2020/>

We share common ground and Tatiana is a member of QARN, but QARN and the Sanctuary Programme are following their own particular paths which distinguish us from each other. QARN does not currently have representation on the Social Justice Committee which determines the direction of the Sanctuary Programme.

We hope that the Sanctuary Programme will be able to support Meetings into the future to be active in relation to their concern for those seeking asylum, refugees and the nature of our racist system that so discriminates against these people.

QARN is working with Quaker Council for European Affairs – QCEA, Woodbrooke, QUNO and QPSW – Sanctuary Programme in preparing for the Conference 'Envisioning a World that is open to All' to be held at Woodbrooke on 27-29 September 2019.

### **QARN Outreach**

#### City of Sanctuary

Several of our members are active in their local City of Sanctuary groups and have regularly reported on developments in this network.

#### Q-CAT

One of our members is a Trustee of the Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture and we continue to look for points at which our concerns overlap.

#### Representation on other bodies

We are represented on the *Detention Forum* by Fred Ashmore; Rhona French on *Asylum Matters* which is hosted by City of Sanctuary; Barbara Forbes and Catherine Henderson who are our link to *Churches Refugee Network*.

Web-based memberships: We agreed last year that Sheila will join *Free Movement* and David will join *Immigration Law Practitioners' Association – ILPA*. Sheila has yet to action this point

Speakers: We continue to offer a speaker for Quaker Meetings, and have facilitated discussions for example at Ealing and Watford Meetings.

Refugee Week: QARN members were busy during Refugee Week in June 2019.

**Current focus:**

We continue to hold a number of concerns as priorities in our work, and have added 'Removals and Deportations' to the list as this has clearly been a concern following the activism and then criminalisation of the Standsted15, and sent a message of support to End Deportation which is taking this forward: <http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/standsted-15/>

QARN now has five leaflets that reflect our on-going concerns which are available for people to download and print from our website: <http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/new-qarn-leaflets/>

About QARN

Immigration Detention

Language matters: challenging the language of asylum and migration

Britain's Hostile Environment

Removals and Deportations

**Website / Facebook / E-mail network**

The Website and the Facebook page are updated as appropriate. QARN, through the Riseup eGroup continues with 110 members.

**Finance**

We thank Quakers and Meetings for their continuing generosity. Any donations made to QARN are used for our core funding, such as transport costs to enable members to attend meetings, production of flyers and the website, putting together the Conference and so on. We are not in immediate need of financial support, and will try and help those wanting to give money directly to refugee work to find a local group, or suggest City of Sanctuary as an example of a national organisation involved with this work.

On behalf of QARN Steering Group, 5 July 2019

## QARN Conference at Woodbrook

The Woodbrook gathering in mid September brought together over 60 Quakers and non Quakers.

Here are a few lines from the Epistle written at that meeting.

'Envisioning a world that is open to all seems a daunting prospect, but step by step we can walk forward.

Our friends of experience tell us that it starts with a smile, a simple act of kindness, a hand of friendship, a listening ear, an open mind, and a willingness to believe, then we can begin to walk together and find the energy to create change. We have the opportunity to amplify their voices, '

'Change needs to come on so many levels, but we are not alone. We have the UN Global Compact which outlines basic principles for adoption on an international level. Rethinking Security reminds us that security lies in sharing the world's resources, and the decision-making, in creating positive relationships'

'Militarism and violent conflict have no place in our vision for the future, nor have many of our institutions such as immigration detention, nor their official policy that creates a structurally violent and hostile environment. Language must change. From space, the earth has no borders. Borders are an artificial construct. Money, power and the internet all move around the world, but many people cannot. Love is our guide.'

## Other Groups

There are of course other groups and organisations working with Refugees and Asylum seekers

There are The 'City of sanctuary groups which Friends are very much involved with. In Sheffield, which was the first City of Sanctuary, there are many groups dedicated to 'welcoming' refugees to the city. Practical help involves organising social events and conversation clubs and circles.

ASSIST is a large Sheffield charity supporting destitute and homeless refused asylum seekers. Refugees and asylum seekers are given rolls as volunteers and can be accepted on their board of trustees. ASSIST can call on the help of some 300 volunteers in Sheffield.

SYMAAG (South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group) is a group with a membership of asylum seekers, refugees and activists led by Black activists and people of colour with experience of the asylum system. SYMAAG is not a charity and was established twelve years ago as an overtly political asylum rights, campaigning, and direct action organisation.

**We are looking forward to a personal story from Clive Prior who has a family member involved with such work. Clive's son runs Action Foundation in Tyneside, which has recently won awards for its work. He is going to write about this in our next edition.**

## Book Reviews

Greta Thunberg 'No one is too small to make a difference'.  
£2.99 from all good book shops

This small book has come out for Christmas and makes a good Christmas present for anyone.

Anyone who has heard about Grete Thunberg will be able to image what is inside this book. However the way it is done is actually quite a surprise. Each chapter is a resume of what Greta said at different events and rally's. I am not sure if it is word for word but it certainly sounds authentic. The chapters start in Stockholm on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at a climate march. The last one is in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 in The Houses of Parliament. She has spoken to the UN, the European Parliament as well as the Golden Kamera Film Awards, and many other places and platforms. What an amazing young lady. Her words really resinate.

This is her first book. Her second book is called Scenes from the Heart and is her memoir, jointly written with her sister, her mother and her father.

## Active Hope

Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone  
( from our library)

It is suggested friends read this in preparation for the February Area Meeting weekend away. It is an easy read with guides to workshops and exercises. There are many themes and suggestions. Some of us are motivated to act in our world by gratitude for all that is around us and life itself. If we understand what nature gives us we will want to repay that gift.

'receiving from the past we can give to the future.'

One story from King Arthur and The Holy Grail, about Parsifal failing to show compassion and allowing a whole country and its king and peoples to die, is a 800 year old tale of how not to act.

Sadness and grief is a natural response which acts on us to re-balance things and we must not allow this to frighten us away from actions on environmental issues. However we can all be held back because of our innate instinct

'not to stand out in a crowd'.

We need to ask if we are really as selfish as our consumerist culture tells us we are? Carl Jung' It is a remarkable fact that life lived entirely from the ego is dull not only for the person himself but for all concerned'.

It is suggested that the old neo-Darwinist view of evolution as a competition has been superseded by 'endosymbiotic theory' were we see much more co operation between species.

The Earth is crying with us and through us because we are in every way connected. If we are looking for happiness we must look further than industrial consumerism to the sharing of many other paths.

So we must ask what is it that keeps our eye on the ball? To find out more may I suggest you read this book.

Barbara Mark

## News from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

### Verging on Wild

We have written a proposal document to initiate a discussion with Herefordshire Council about verge management across the county. They have declared a climate emergency and crisis in biodiversity, so we think they should be acting on that commitment and managing verges for wildlife as well as traffic safety. We will be submitting our proposal to the council in the next few weeks.

We have added 18 new reserves to our list of Roadside Verge Nature Reserves, making a total of 36. But we want more; we know there are more good verges out there, so please keep sending us sites. We have added a site at Ross with 100s of Pyramidal and Bee orchids, we have relisted a Spreading bellflower site which had been deleted from the list and we are restoring a lovely stretch of meadow and primrose bank at Madley.

We have active working groups locally in Storridge, Madley and at various sites in the Olchon and Golden valley and we have sowed Yellow Rattle seed on 3 sites. There are many more places which would benefit from a group cutting, raking, and yellow rattle sowing, so if you'd like to join one of our work parties, or look after your local RVNR, please get in touch.

One new verge rich in wildlife potential has been added to the list on Barnett Lane with maintenance being undertaken by volunteers living the Wigmore Rolls area. If you have other areas of verge which you feel should be "looked after" please do get in touch direct with Suzanne.

Suzanne Noble

Lower Hazle Farm

Tarrington

Hereford

HR1 4JQ



## Some news from 'Positive Money'

The UK has taken two big leaps forward in tackling climate change.

If we're going to stop irreversible climate change, we need our central banks to decarbonise the financial system. So a year ago Positive Money called for two key things to happen, when we launched our groundbreaking report in parliament 'A Green Bank of England'.

- > For the Bank of England to disclose the climate risk on its balance sheet
- > For our politicians to update the Bank of England's mandate to include tackling climate change.

In April, Governor Mark Carney committed the Bank of England to doing the first thing.

The Labour Party announced they're going to look into doing the second thing.

The Labour Party are going to consult on changing the Bank of England's mandate to reflect the climate change emergency. This very likely means they want to empower the Bank of England to directly tackle climate change as part of its work - which could pave the way to decarbonising our whole financial system.

We will put pressure on other parties to put forward their own ideas as well



Now our movement numbers 50,000 supporters, with a network of 35 local groups spanning the country, and we've built relationships with world-leading economists, politicians and journalists.

We recognise that reforming our money system is a global effort. So in 2013, we established the International Movement for Monetary Reform, and in 2016, we launched our QE for People campaign in the Eurozone.

## Cooking for our Future

### Nut Rissoles

#### **Ingredients**

50g margarine  
1 small onion  
1 stick celery  
1tsp mixed herbs  
1 tblsp plain flour  
150 ml milk or water  
1 egg  
225g milled nuts  
1/2tsp Marmite  
salt/pepper  
110g fresh breadcrumbs  
veg stock cube ( optional)

#### **Method**

Gently cook chopped onions, celery and mixed herbs in the margarine. Stir in the flour and then the milk, egg, Marmite, nuts and crumbs. Cook for 5mins. Season to taste. Make into round shapes with floured hands and fry in shallow oil.

## Action for our Environmental Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Today I joined Isla Bikes Extinction Rebellion gathering in Castle Square, Ludlow. David, Sally and I did not walk from Lower Barns but we did have some banners and joined a large crowd in the sunshine.

This was to show solidarity with the Global Strike 4 Future Action, a World wide strike. This has been well covered in some media outlets. At last, some interest is being shown by the media and the politicians.

There were a good number of Ludlow Friends at the gathering and I apologies for not taking enough photos. However the two below give you and idea of the gathering.

There were people sharing their stories, songs and dancing. Thank you Isla for a very good event. The police were not needed and looked quite relaxed as they sipped their coffee in the cold.



From: Steve Hale <[stevehale1@mac.com](mailto:stevehale1@mac.com)>

**Subject: XR Peace Appeal - Can you help?**

**Date:** 26 November 2019 at 13:28:13 GMT

**To:** Linda <[lindamurray@me.com](mailto:lindamurray@me.com)>

A number of local activists - and Quakers from around the country - joined up with other peace groups across the UK to form Extinction Rebellion (XR) PEACE.

XR Peace aims to raise awareness of the links between militarism, nuclear weapons and the climate crisis and of the huge impact the military boot-print has on the unfolding climate and ecological tragedy. They also want to show how the damaging extraction of resources around the world by corporate power, backed up by military power, causes gross human rights abuses, wars and conflict, species extinctions and climate chaos.

There were 53 XR Peace arrests. Rebels are now beginning to face fines of up to £1,500 per arrest.

We're writing now to ask if you can help support them to cover some of these costs. Whether or not you are able to personally take part in civil resistance actions like these, helping us raise funds to cover court costs are a great way to help make the XR Peace Rebellion sustainable.

To donate please visit <https://chuffed.org/project/xr-peace-non-violent-action-against-war>

Please can you network this appeal so it reaches a wider group of people?

Love, peace and many thanks, Angie Zelter.

PS XR Peace has a website at [www.xrpeace.org](http://www.xrpeace.org) if you want more information about what we are doing.

And here are links to a couple of short videos that highlight 2 of the several actions we organised in October in London

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRRiumDzkyA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hd2Gg6Uk9J8&feature=youtu.be>

## **To Sleep, Perchance to Dream..**

I don't know about you, but most of my bad dreams seem to involve helplessness. Here's one:

I'm on a coach going down a motorway. I've got the seat just behind the driver, with plenty of leg-room, and I'm comfortable, even serene. Then I become aware that in the distance there's a pile-up. The driver hasn't noticed, indeed he's accelerating a bit.

I do nothing; I'm sure he knows what he's doing. But as we get closer, and it clearly is quite a big pile-up, he still doesn't seem to have noticed. I wonder whether I should say something. In the end I say to him, in a conversational tone of voice, "Looks like there's a bit of a prang up ahead". He makes no reply. I repeat myself a bit louder, and two things happen. He says, "it's just a bit of congestion" and one of my fellow passengers nudges me and points to a sign saying "Do not speak to the driver whilst the vehicle is in motion". "Please be quiet", she says, " It's not safe to speak to the driver and you're upsetting my friend".

You know how these things go; no-one else appears to have clocked what is becoming a really obvious disaster up ahead or, if they have, seem oblivious to the danger. They go on chatting and reading and sleeping, and when I try to get their attention they just look at me as if I were a television. And the coach continues to accelerate...

I'm screaming now, pointing ahead: "For God's sake, stop! Brake! Brake HARD!" One or two of the other passengers are looking at me with mild, bovine interest, but most are remonstrating with me for disrupting their journey. And then...with about 100 yards to go before we pile into the destruction ahead, the driver takes his foot off the accelerator, and we start, slowly, far too little and too late, to slow down...

Which is where I wake up, to that overwhelming feeling of relief that it was just a dream.

I usually ask myself what led up to that dream, and usually there's a logical explanation, based somewhere in reality. When you're asleep, your brain apparently sorts stuff you've been dealing with, re-runs it and pigeon holes it whilst you're off-line. I went on a coach to London recently for the last People's Vote march, and I've been reading a book by Extinction Rebellion about Climate Breakdown, so that explains that.

Except, of course, it isn't really a dream. When I wake up I don't get that surge of relief, just a feeling of despair at the reality: the clear and unanswerable fact that we are on the brink of irreversible climate breakdown; the knowledge that, in their anxiety not to be alarmist, our scientists understated the extent of the danger; and the ongoing, wholesale complacency of our politicians even when faced by the reality of fires in California and Australia, famine in South Sudan and floods in Fishlake. And I wish I'd pushed the driver out of the way and taken over the steering wheel myself earlier.

Everything I have done over the last decade or so has been Reasonable and Proper. I've joined a climate action group, written articles for the Friend, had polite meetings with my MP (he says he's always very appreciative of the charts and graphs I give him), written letters and signed petitions. All to no avail.

So, I fear, perhaps it's now time to stay polite, but get arrested. And dare to dream of a hopeful future.

*Jamie Wrench is from Southern Marches Area Meeting*