Ludlow Quaker Journal

November/December 2024

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 are also welcome.
Do remember if this copy is pdf you can listen to it via Windows 10 'read aloud' option at the top of the sheet.

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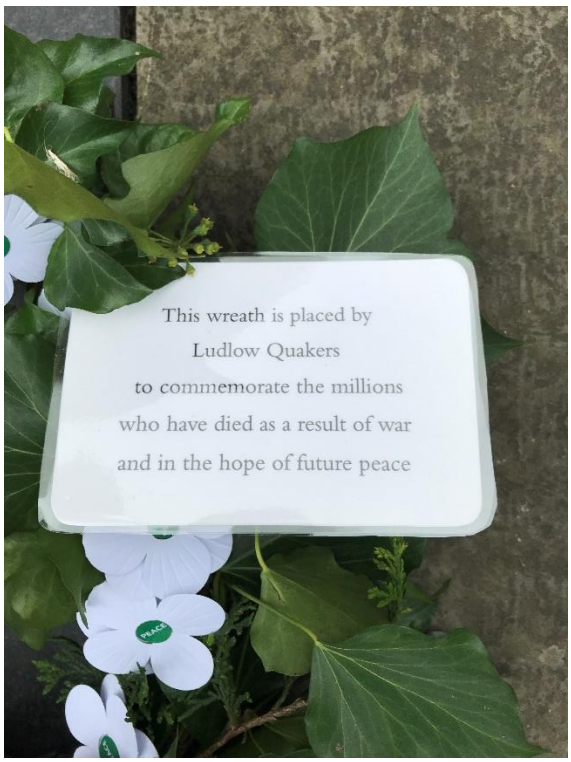
DO LOOK ON LUDLOW MEETING WEB SITE FOR ALL THE JOURNALS

Many thanks to everyone who has helped me on this issue.

Remembrance Day

Jenny Sayer laid a wreath of white poppies for Ludlow Quaker Meeting on Sunday 10th November at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Castle Square in Ludlow. Afterwards friends held a silent vigil for peace in Castle Square. There were 17 friends present, and the general consensus was that it went well.

Thank you, Cynthia, for the information and phots of the event.



After the vigil it was noticed that ‘mysteriously’ some more white poppies had been sprinkled around the memorial.

Climate Fresk Workshop

This was run on 6th November 2024 at Ludlow |Quaker Meeting House

Held in the Ludlow Quaker meeting house, and attended by 14 people, this event was approached with some foreboding. Could a game with cards be serious? It turned out to be both serious and thought provoking. Two groups around two large tables studied four hands of cards given out at intervals - the causes of climate change, and its effects, for example the melting of glaciers leading to rising sea levels and flooding. The groups had to construct a pattern showing how it all linked together. Coming just before the terrible floods in Valencia, our pictures seemed prophetic. There was intense and noisy discussion and it became clear that the card labelled 'Human Action' was the root cause. There was little time to discuss practical action although it was clear that we should address how the Meeting House could made more sustainable.

Thank you John Cherry for this report

Here are some photos from Sue Burnell, who, with Kev Oubridge facilitate a half day Climate Fresk workshop.

The workshop is based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports. Each table created a story line, using 42 cards based on

information from the IPCC reports, to explore the key drivers, mechanisms, and impacts of climate change, and map out where we think we are today and what the future holds.

Article by Roy Payne, who used to be at Ludlow Meeting

Roy very kindly agreed that we could have his article (published in The Friend publication 29th November 2024) in our Journal.

QUAKERS & NOTIONS, DOCTRINES & CREEDS

We are involved in trying to describe the indescribable.

I shall be using terminology that is meaningful for me.

You may need to translate it.

I make the assumption that all sincere Christian leaders at the time when Quakers arose, were concerned with enabling the people to experience the transforming power of God's grace. It was their way of enabling it that caused so much conflict

For the Church of Rome, the centre and core of this concern was a requirement that ordinary, lay people should be present while certain, separated individuals enacted rites and rituals on behalf of those present with the aim of strengthening their awareness of God's presence in their lives and relationships. It also involved the faithful believing without question in certain doctrines that the church had laid down as essential for what was understood as salvation after death.

For the Protestants, the centre and core of this concern was a requirement that the ordinary, lay people be present to hear the Bible expounded and interpreted by someone who had devoted himself to its study so that the people's understanding of what is revealed therein will strengthen their awareness of God's presence in their lives and relationships. Again, salvation after death required believing in certain doctrines derived, in this case, from the teachings of the Bible.

Into this environment came the people who became known as the Quakers, with their insistence that the centre and core of this concern was a form of worship that involved ordinary people coming together, being still, and seeking to have an immediate sense of divine leading, and to know at first hand the presence of the living Christ as a way to strengthen an awareness of God's presence in their lives and relationships.

This form of worship may involve words; certainly involves silence; and is not in our hands. But what of the “beliefs” required by the previously mentioned groups as passports to salvation?

Firstly,

Quakers most definitely did not reject doctrines. What they rejected – and what we should continue to reject are what they called notions

Notions are doctrines held without experiential confirmation, clung to apart from life. What does this mean? Arising from their encounters with the divine, Friends did and do feel an understanding of the nature of the relationship twixt God and man; of the nature of the life and relationships they are called upon to live out in the world; the place of love, compassion, peace and justice in those relationships; the nature of evil and the way of meeting it and overcoming it. When such understandings are formulated in words, however inadequate, and are shared with others and found to be commonly held, they may be said to become doctrines; true for us at at this time, but not set in stone for ever.

Examples – which serve to show why Quakers infuriated the church-

The Second Coming was a concept accepted by the main faiths, expected and waited for as being the culmination of God's plan for humankind, and they lived with need to be ready for it when in God's good time it arrived.

The Quakers took the view that of course they believed in the second coming – because it was already happening to them – “Christ had come to teach his people

himself". They lived daily with the glorious experience which had transformed their lives. And what is more it was available to all – Christian, Jew, Muslim, and those beyond the pale.

Thus, this was a doctrine, held because experienced!

And, by the way, it meant that Salvation was not something to have to qualify for after death, it was happening now, to those who daily communed with Christ. Salvation was taking place in man rather than for man; salvation from the power of sin now, rather than salvation from the consequences of sin in eternity; a transforming experience in the soul, rather than a means of escape. Puritans claimed that no soul, though redeemed, could be sin-free in this life. Friends challenged this as a denial of the operations of the Spirit they felt within.

Friends often used the phrase a Windy or an Airy Notion. An example would be the doctrine of the virgin birth. What on earth has this got to do with the everyday life of the individual with Christ alive in their heart!

And all other doctrines which were mere human speculations as to the intentions and mind of God, Quakers rejected.

This all stemmed from the Quaker insight that true Christianity was primarily an experience of God and what led from that experience, rather than primarily a set of beliefs about God and God's requirements.

Creeds were even worse. It helps each individual to have a worked out set of beliefs. But when such a set of beliefs becomes a requirement, a test, to decide whether the individual is one of the blessed or a heretic, then that is totally unacceptable.

Which brings me to the concept of

"Travelling Document."

I was introduced to this concept by a wise old Westminster Friend.

Many years previously she had been influenced, as had Margaret Fell by Fox's

Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest is it inwardly from God?

Mary had decided that she should write down what she could say, after her experience of communing with the promptings of love and truth in her heart.

She put it away in an envelope.

After several years she once again wrote down "what she could say".

A comparison with what she had written previously was instructive in showing her how her further encounters with the Divine had led to changes in her understanding of the "things that are eternal".

Thus, throughout her life, she had repeated every few years the updating of her "Travelling Document" as she had come to call it.

This became her own personal "Creed", expressed in language personal to her, and by no means set in stone. She invited the rest of us to adopt this practice.

A number of us did so and in fact, a set of these "Travelling Documents" were printed and published anonymously within the meeting.

I am not specifically promoting it here, but it might find favour amongst some of us.

Roy Payne

Reflections on Advent

Readers of this journal will know I read 'The Friend' publication and enjoy a great deal of the articles and Quaker discussions through the letter pages. So, you will not be surprised if I share some more words from there.

I wondered what Advent might mean for Quakers. Some will enjoy and feel comfortable with a traditional way of Advent, some will feel rather estranged from this. So maybe not a good time to be writing here. However, can I change the theme a bit and ask what Quakers can take away from this time of reflection? Firstly, I suspect, every friend will have an individual reflection but hopefully much of that will overlap.

So let me journey to 'The Friend' publication. On 8th November I was inspired by an article by Keith Braithwaite. He reflected that 'early friends' claimed to be an apostolic church, which I think of as having an experience of the divine inside and outside of

ourselves. An experiential relationship with, I would use the word God, but many others have different words.
The article starts with1 Corinthians 13:4-7 which I think is a good place to start from.
‘ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoings but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things’
Next article which interested me was Damian Entwistle’s article in 22nd November’s The Friend. He explored the three parts of Advent and found that Quakerism also counted them as important. If Advent is waiting, friends know about that, we do it at every time of worship. He visited George Fox’s words about waiting patiently and quietly and that way encountering the spirit and principles of God. Damian explains the second part of Advent, the second coming and the fulfilling of a plan, from the historical perspective of George Fox’s life and times. I question if any of us can truly know or understand this. Lastly there is a reflection of the indwelling Light, an image friends use all the time. This passage, from George Fox, always lifts my heart
‘ I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness.’
I would recommend that publication of 22nd ‘The Friend’. All the copies of The Friend can be found in Ludlow Quaker Meeting library.

Barbara Mark

Embracing the Tiger

This title, oddly printed, caught my eye, as I riffled through a series of pamphlets in the Library. Could it help me curb my inner anger?
It was a program of a concert given by the Quaker Festival Orchestra *and* Chorus. Since I associate Quakers with silence and not music, I looked at it again.
The concert was given on Easter Monday 8th April 1996 in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. The first part consisted of Peter Aviss’s *Festive Overture,* C. H.H. Parry’s *Blest Pair of Sirens* and Ralph Vaughan Williams’s *Serenade to Music*. The second part was a text by Sue Mayo which celebrates the courage of individuals who have stood out against the tide of violence, oppression, apathy or destruction which faces us all and who have become agents of real change. These were Amrita Devi, the Chipko, Mautatra, Rosa Parks, and the Motorways protestors. The music was by Francis Grier. Both writer and composer were unknown to me.
I found that Francis Grier was composing and performing music, and that Sue Mayo was still writing. Indeed her latest project is Breaks and Joins ‘is a film, art, writing and chatting project on repair as an act of resistance. In the project we are exploring how we repair ourselves, our stuff and our communities, and how we live with what can’t

be mended, and break what must be broken.' She has a website http://www.suemayo.co.uk/ on which there is more information about her work.

But while giving me interesting leads, this did not satisfy my curiosity about the concert? Why Birmingham? Does the Quaker Festival Orchestra *and* Chorus still exist? How did this programme come into the Library? Who attended the concert?

Answers please to John Cherry or write something for the next issue of the journal?

Thank you John for this interesting article.

Quake! The on-line news outlet for Friends

This article is taken from the 4th December Quake! It may be of interest as it is close by.

'An estimated 200 people from anti arms trade groups including Quakers gathered in fresh snow and bright sunshine early on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at the gates of Telford International Centre who were hosting a 3 day arms fair: "SDSC-UK" (Specialist Defence and Security Convention UK).

People joined from across Central England / the West Midlands, Worcestershire and Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Cumbria, Manchester & Warrington, Wales and Cornwall. The Stop SDSC coalition includes our project Peace Hub; Campaign Against Arms Trade; South Staffordshire Palestine Solidarity; Drone Wars; Stop the War Coalition and Extinction Rebellion.

SDSC (formerly the "3CDSE", Three Counties Defence and Security Expo) featured arms companies including:

- Elbit Systems – manufacturer of bombs, mortars and drones, and Israel's largest privately owned arms company;
- L3 Harris – maker of surveillance, night vision and targeting equipment and supplier of bomb release mechanisms for Israel's F35 aircraft, which has been confirmed as being involved in the deaths of civilians in Gaza;
- Ultra Electronics – which has been granted numerous arms export licences to Israel by the UK Government and has been involved in the development of the F35 warplane.'

Another article called….9 solidarity actions you can take right now for Palestine and Israel

Stephanie Hunt shares nine ways to keep on speaking up and acting for peace. Stephanie Hunt is Middle East Programme Manager (Governance and Advocacy). Quakers in Britain manages the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (UK & Ireland) human rights programme on behalf of 17 organisations in the UK and Ireland.
The 9 actions range from writing to your MP, and other ways to ask for Peace, giving donations for relief in Gaza or to Brummana High School or Ramallah Friends School, checking your personal savings are not being used in this war and talking to neighbours about ways to gain a ceasefire and then start the work toward peace.

Here is a re-cap, probably not for readers now but maybe helpful for future readers

Barbara

On 23rd November the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Palestinian people. It was back in May this year that a request had gone to the court to do this. As yet the UK government has not taken action to acknowledge this.

On 29th November Israel's security cabinet voted to approve a cease-fire agreement that would halt fighting in the year long conflict between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, the Lebanese armed group. The agreement took effect at 4 a.m. local time on 30th. President Biden has been known to be putting pressure on the Israel government to do this.

At the moment I read that Egypt is still talking with Hamas leaders about a hand over of hostages in exchange for political prisoners. Doha has invited all the countries involved to find out if there can be a robust ceasefire. However Isreal has said it will only commit to a 60 day ceasefire and Hamas want a permanent one.

On 9th December the Assad dictatorship fell in Syria. After 50 years of violence from his government, the people were celebrating and pulling down statues. Assad escaped to Russia. However, as this was happening in Damascus Israelis were bombing

other areas and moving their tanks deeper into Syria's Golan Hights. This is Internationally considered a buffer zone.

Message from AM

AFSC, American Friends Service Committee, has been holding weekly online Quaker gatherings to focus on Palestine, but they have been at awkward times for us in the UK. This is intended to fill that gap. The first one will be next Monday at 7.30pm, 18th November.

www.campain.org admin@campain.org

Patrons: Michael Mansfield KC, Chris Mullin
Clare Short, Antony Lerman

Campaign Against Misrepresentation in Public Affairs, Information and the News

Calling all Quakers

Dear Tricia

In April 2023, you signed our Open Letter to the Anglican Archbishops asking them to reconsider their posture on Israel/Palestine and enter a fruitful dialogue with us. We were impressed by the way Quakers rallied to this cause.

Since then we have been very active on this topic as you can see from THIS LINK which tells the story of our *Lambeth Witness Group*. Justin Welby eventually had to radically modify his brazen pro-Israeli stance, but this has now been overtaken by his resignation over the Safeguarding Issue. We shall wait for the dust to settle before following up with other CofE bishops.

Our reason for writing now is that one of your fellow Friends, Dr. Nicola Grove, is organising a new initiative called JUST ACTION PALESTINE, It is inspired by the American Friends Service Committee Action Hour that has been running every Friday for the past year.

We invite you to find out more by clicking on this button.

Click here for information on JUST

We shall meet every Monday at 7.30 pm via Zoom and take action on a particular topic that concerns the group. The first meeting is next Monday, November 18th, and will focus on the events in Amsterdam. We shall seek to clarify what actually happened, and submit formal complaints to relevant media outlets.

If you would like to give this a try please sign up using this form, and Nicola will write back with the Zoom link.

If you wish to speak about what is happening in your local area, please let us know. We want to support each other and build resilience.
Best wishes

Jonathan CoulterSecretary of CAMPAIN
Email: ad...@campain.org

Statement from Quaker Peacebuilding Perspectives from early November.

All people have an equal right to life and to protection from threats to their life. This applies both to people in Israel and to the people in all countries and territories bordering Israel.
Israel has protection (against airborne attack) through systems like THAAD, Patriot, Iron Dome, etc.
We urge (the Government) to ensure that all countries and territories bordering Israel are offered air defence systems providing a level of protection (against airborne attack) that is equivalent to that available to Israel.

This enshrines / / applies / / promotes / / puts into practice the principle of treating others as you would like others to treat you, reflected in the Golden Rule mosaic displayed at UN Headquarters in New York.

My Life at Christmas

June and Jane would like to tell you all about this program, broadcast on 1st December, at 10.30am on BBC 1 “My life at Christmas with Anita Rani. “
They say it was the most lovely interview with Sheila Hancock where she explored her Quaker Membership. A lovely programme and we highly recommend it.
It could possibly evoke Meeting House envy and so comes with a warning!

Many thanks June and Jane

Quaker Truth and Integrity Award

Report from Cato Pedder, Media Officer, Friend's House

BBC journalist Peter Taylor receives second Quaker truth award

The second Quaker Truth and Integrity Award has been awarded once again to a journalist, the BBC's Peter Taylor.

Taylor received the reward in recognition of his outstanding work over 50 years, especially covering the Troubles in Northern Ireland, and interacting with terrorist groups such as Al Queda in the wake of 9/11.

Quakers have been committed to truth since the mid-17th century. The Quaker Truth and Integrity Group (QTIG) and associated award were set up in 2022 in response to concerns over the undermining of truth and integrity in public life.

The inaugural award was also won by a journalist, Carole Cadwalladr, and QTIG said this highlighted both the importance of trustworthy reporting in today's world, and the challenges journalists face.

Journalists often find themselves working against a background of intimidation, misinformation and reluctance or refusal to engage and listen with others, QTIG said.

Taylor has made award-winning landmark documentaries for the BBC and ITV and received Lifetime Achievement Awards from BAFTA and the Royal Television Society.

He is the author of ten books, the most recent being *Operation Chiffon: The Secret Story of MI5 and MI6 and the Road to Peace in Ireland*.

"Peter's painstaking and brilliant reporting has been based on seeking to bridge differences and understand those from extreme traditions," the QTIG citation reads. "In doing so, he courageously and often at personal risk made a material contribution towards preparing the way for the 1998 Good Friday Peace Agreement, crucially involving the IRA."

Taylor has also investigated the power of Big Tobacco and was awarded the World Health Organisation Gold Medal for Services to Public Health.

In 2008 he received the James Cameron Award "for work as a journalist that combined moral vision and professional integrity."

Concerns over the decline of truth prompted QTIG to set up an annual award to recognise an exceptional contribution by a British individual or organisation towards the enhancement of standards of truth and integrity in public life.

QTIG hope the award will stimulate growing interest around the importance of maintaining standards in public life.

Report from Jan Arriens

The award ceremony for the Quaker Truth and Integrity group on 8th November, went well, better than we could have dared hope. Peter Taylor was splendid, totally entering into the spirit of the Award. He spoke for about half an hour afterwards and then answered questions. In the main this was about Northern Ireland and his relationship with prominent people on both sides, such as Martin McGuinness and Ian Paisley. The Nobel Peace Prize was on display! One Quaker MP, Ruth Cadbury, turned up and there were all sorts of other influential Friends present, so I think the net effect was to put the Award more firmly on the map.

Many thanks Jan

Interfaith News

Welcome to our October and November 2024 South Shropshire Interfaith Newsletter

On a recent visit to Rome our Chairman, David, came across a statue of 'Angels Unawares' depicting People on the Move- Migrants- a crucial part of history. A theme relevant in our world today.

"Angels Unawares" Sculpture commemorating migrants and refugees in St Peter's Square in the Vatican © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

On the 20th of each month

Don't forget to take part in the 20.20.20 prayers on the 20th of the month when Ashwin Mehta invites us to Unite the World in Prayer.

Prayers and reflections can be in any form, length, language or religion and offer a chance to open our hearts and compassion for those suffering around the world.

Hereford Interfaith

Hereford Interfaith members marked National Interfaith Week by completing a two day 60K round trip pilgrimage ending with a pancake lunch for the homeless.

A group member said that Pilgrimage is a common feature for all faiths and offers opportunities for dialogue and sharing as the pilgrims walk along.

The pilgrims set off on the Old Pilgrimage route from the west of Hereford City to the Welsh Border, returning to assemble at the Cathedral where the pop-up pancake stall was situated. It was felt that the whole event was an enriching experience and served to break down many barriers of misunderstanding between faiths.

The Seeds of Hope and Action Exhibition

The Seeds of Hope and Action Exhibition is co-created by the lay Buddhist organisation Soka Gakkai International and Earth Charter International and highlights the urgent need for sustainable living contributing to the realisation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) aiming for a just equitable and sustainable world by 2030.

The Seeds of Hope and Action Exhibition showcases the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and how we can all learn how we can contribute to a just and sustainable world.

There are school workshops and educators forums offering practical insights for a lifelong commitment to sustainable living and knowledge sharing, and dialogues and panel talks like 'Peace on Earth' and 'Land, Sea and Sky' featuring experts and activists, and a celebration with live music.

The programme is available on the website: https://sohacarmarthen.carrd.co/

Environmental Issues

CARING FOR
GOD'S ACRE

Winter Berries: A Seasonal Feast for Wildlife

Winter berries bring vibrant color to hedgerows and woodlands while offering a critical food source for wildlife through the colder months. These berries, ripening in autumn, vary in how long they last into winter, with some enduring until February, depending on the species and the feeding patterns of wildlife.
Remarkably, birds appear to follow a careful strategy when consuming winter berries, selecting them in a sequence that extends their food supply. Early in the season, birds prioritise non-toxic berries with shorter shelf lives, like blackberries. Berries that are mildly toxic or longer-lasting, such as ivy berries, are saved for later, only eaten when other foods are scarce. Even then, birds eat these in small amounts to avoid toxicity, helping to ensure that food supplies stretch into late winter.

Three striking wild berries to spot in winter

1. Hawthorn: The deep red berries, known as haws, are a lifeline for birds like thrushes, blackbirds, and redwings. Found in hedges and woodlands, hawthorn adds vibrant pops of colour in winter. They can be used to make jellies, wines and even ketchups!

2. Holly: With its glossy evergreen leaves and vibrant red berries, holly is an iconic winter plant. Its berries provide essential nourishment for birds during the colder months, and mistle thrushes are known to fiercely guard these berries to keep them all to themselves! Small mammals, like wood mice and dormice, also benefit from this winter snack. However, holly berries are toxic to humans and pets, so it's best to admire them as festive decorations rather than a treat.
3. Rowan: Also called mountain ash, the rowan's red-orange berries are a favourite for fieldfares and waxwings. The berries are sour but safe to eat and rich in vitamin C. Rowans often grow in open areas, lighting up the landscape even on the greyest winter days.
For a nature-friendly winter walk, keep an eye out for these wild winter jewels, and the animals feeding on them.

Tracks in the Snow

The magic of freshly fallen snow offers a perfect canvas to uncover the secret movements of birds and mammals. Following their tracks provides insights into how these animals move around and use areas for feeding and resting. With a little attention, you can identify a variety of species, including nocturnal creatures rarely spotted in person.

Keep an eye out for fox tracks, which resemble those of a dog but are more oval in shape. Foxes tend to travel in a purposeful way, while dogs move around much more randomly.

Both foxes and cats leave a straight line of pawprints because each back foot tends to overlap with where the front foot was on the previous step. Since cats have retractable claws, their tracks usually lack claw marks, making them easy to distinguish from fox tracks.

You might be surprised to find signs of deer. Look for small cloven hoof prints and telltale signs like nibbled rose bushes, which reveal their browsing habits.

Birds leave plenty of evidence as well. Look for pied wagtail tracks, which are slender and linear due to their running motion. These birds sometimes leave faint marks where their long tails brush the snow. Magpie tracks, while larger, can also feature tail marks and reflect their curious, exploring nature. Meanwhile, thrushes, finches, and robins hop rather than walk, leaving paired tracks that hint at their foraging behaviour.

Andrea Gilpin andrea@cfga.org.uk www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Global Plastic Treaty

The Story of Stuff Campaigning group was one of many groups urging world leaders to pass a strong Global Plastic Treaty. Almost 3 million people globally took action on this. The majority of countries in the UN now agree on a strong, ambitious treaty that tackles the full lifecycle of plastics from how it's produced all the way to how it's disposed of. Over a hundred nations advocating for key demands, including plastic production cuts and banning the most harmful chemicals in plastic products.

However major oil and plastic producing countries and companies used various tactics to delay and derail negotiations. It was observed that, plastic, fossil fuel, and chemical industry lobbyists in attendance vastly outnumbered any of the country - even the host country's - delegations at the negotiations. Companies like Dow and ExxonMobil sent numerous lobbyists.

The treaty is now on hold until 2025 for further negotiations to take place.

Report by Barbara

www.tonillobet.com

tonixllobet

© mammal illustrations: Lynx Edicions
(extracted from the Handbook of the Mammals of the World)

COP29 11th to 22nd November in Azerbaijan

From 'Carbon Brief' about COP29

Developed nations have agreed to help channel "at least" $300bn a year into developing countries by 2035 to support their efforts to deal with climate change.

However, the new climate-finance goal – agreed along with a range of other issues at the COP29 summit in Baku, Azerbaijan – has left developing countries bitterly disappointed.

In the end, negotiators agreed on a looser call to raise $1.3tn each year from a wide range of sources, including private investment, by 2035, which left some countries unhappy because of a lack of certainty.

Countries failed to reach an agreement on how the outcomes of last year's Global Stocktake, including a key pledge to transition away from fossil fuels, should be taken forward – instead shunting the decision to COP30 next year in Brazil.

They did manage to find agreement on the remaining sections of Article 6 on carbon markets, meaning all elements of the Paris Agreement have been finalised nearly 10 years after it was signed.

COP president Azerbaijan – a country that sources two-thirds of its government revenue from fossil fuels – faced accusations of conflict of interest and malpractice, with one minister labelling its hosting style "deplorable".

There is more information on this site about all the past COPs.

Also look at www.unepfi.org and government site.

Also information in 'The Friend' 6th December

Shropshire Climate Action news emailed round 2nd December

Here are a few snippets from it.

Shropshire residents ask National Trust AGM to support the Climate and Nature Bill :

Last month two Shropshire residents participated in the National Trust's AGM representing a member's resolution for the Climate and Nature Bill (CAN

Bill). Jamie Russell from Shrewsbury (seconded by Dougald Purce, also from Shrewsbury) proposed that the NT support the bill.

The CAN bill has been reintroduced in the House of Commons by LibDemMP Roz Savage and is heading for its second sitting in parliament on the 24 January 2025. If successful, it would bind the UK Government to delivering on its international agreements and treaties on mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change, for instance, pledges made with the Paris Agreement at COP21.

National Trust members overwhelmingly supported the resolution. This is at a critical moment in the bill's progress through Parliament: it needs 102 MPs to turn up and vote for it on its second reading.

Ask your MP to support the Climate and Nature Bill this month

You can help the CAN Bill by writing to your local MP. The CAN website helps people create letters:

- to our local MPs who are already supporters of the CAN Bill (Julia Buckley, Labour, Shrewsbury and Helen Morgan, LibDem, North Shropshire)
- and local MPs that have not yet agreed to support it (Mark Pritchard, Conservative, The Wrekin, Stuart Anderson, Conservative, South Shropshire, Shaun Davies, Labour, Telford).

Groups that want to get more involved in the CAN campaign can use this pack of resources which has lots of ideas, including template press releases, downloadable materials and a pack of social media resources.

A response to Keir Starmer's COP29 comments

Dr Sam Hampton (the keynote speaker at the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Climate Action Conference in May this year), together with Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh (Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations, University of

Bath), have written an article explaining how important individual actions are to meeting the UK carbon reduction targets.

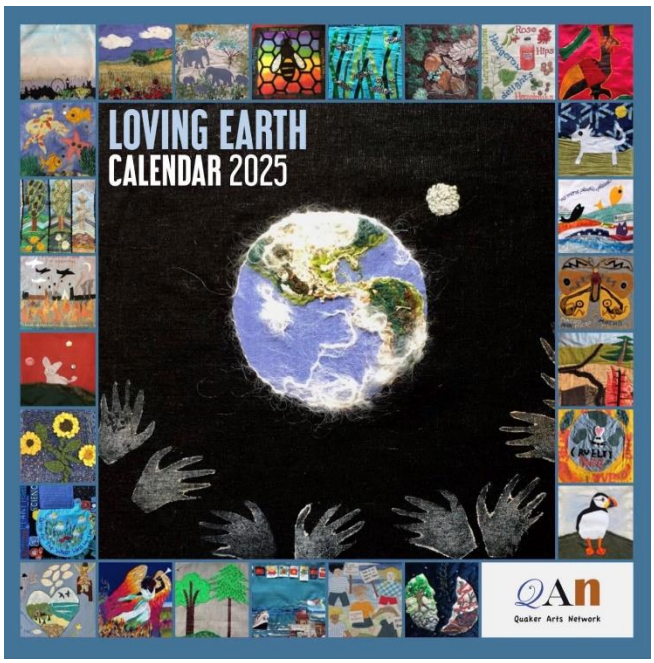
They acknowledge that PM Keir Starmer's pledge made at COP29 last month to cut the UK's emissions by 81% by 2035 is ambitious. However, they challenge his assertion that it can be achieved without "telling people how to live their lives". They argue that although "telling" people what to do would be counterproductive, the Government needs to be clear that lifestyle changes are essential (particularly for those that can afford it and tend to carry the largest carbon footprints) and Government can most certainly incentivise the right choices. It mustn't duck the challenge of addressing behaviour change, as its predecessor did consistently.

Read their article published in The Conversation on the 14 November 2024.

Take a look at South Shropshire Climate Action's website for ideas on how to reduce carbon emissions and save money by reusing and sharing instead of buying new.

- See what organisations across Shropshire are doing to help people swap and share: tools and equipment, furniture, clothes, baby items, children's items, school uniform, craft supplies
- Check out the guide on how to arrange a Swap and Share event where you live
- Go to Scrappies in Church Stretton to get your materials to make Christmas cards, decorations, gift wrap etc.

News from Quaker Art Network (QAN)



Do look on their web site and see these lovely calendars for sale.