



Bath Quaker  
Meeting

## Bath Quaker News Nov 2018

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### Let's show compassion and respect at Bath's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Armistice commemoration



**Editorial** - In this 100th anniversary of WWI Armistice Day Bath Quakers are again invited to the civic and military ceremony at the Cenotaph on 11 November.

After careful discernment Bath Quakers decided “because a white wreath alone may itself cause conflict, and cause hurt and offence to some, and those who sell red poppies also wish to end wars, we will lay two attached wreaths, one red, one white, to convey the complexity of this deep issue”.

*It confirms our respect for the event and all participants, and our compassion for fallen military personnel and their families. At the same time it confirms remembrance of all victims of war and our determination to work for the peaceful resolution of future conflicts that we have sought to express in recent years.*

*We hope this will be understood and accepted.*

## The Extinction Rebellion and A&Q para 35

*Ali Morgan has decided to join the Extinction Rebellion. She hopes you will too. Ali writes:*

Wednesday saw the launch of a non-violent rebellion. Hundreds of people met in Parliament Square with speakers including Quaker MEP for the south west Molly Scott-Cato. They made a Declaration of non-violent Rebellion Against the British Government For Criminal Inaction in the Face of Climate Change Catastrophe and Ecological Collapse.

Molly writes in The Guardian:

*So how have we have reached a situation where a law maker like me feels there is no alternative but to become a law breaker? Here my Quaker heritage is helpful. Our thin pamphlet of theological guidance includes the useful advice: "Respect the laws of the state but let your first loyalty be to God's purposes."*

As a Quaker, I don't believe that spiritual wisdom resides in books or rituals but in the still, small voice that tells you when something must change. When the inward light, that I believe we all have within us, prompts you to stand up to a fascist bully or to engage in civil disobedience to halt climate breakdown, you have no choice but to follow.

The latest scientific reports are stark. We are in an era of mass extinction and fast approaching the point of return. If we don't act NOW we all have a very bleak future. Our government is doing nothing! Climate change did not even get a mention in the Chancellor's budget on Monday whilst he gave away billions in tax breaks to fossil fuel companies.

Our neoliberal economic structures are at the root of the environmental disaster we are facing and they are at the root of many of the other issues I care passionately about. Inequality has reached extreme levels in countries around the world and Britain has one of the highest levels. Fascism is lifting its ugly head again all over the world, most recently in Brazil. The arms trade drives our UK economy and our government props up appalling regimes in Israel and Saudi Arabia, to profit the powers that be, whilst the children of Palestine, Syria and Yemen pay a terrible price.

The Extinction Rebels come from all walks of life: not just Quakers, but they will be following the good Quaker tradition of non-violent action including being willing to break the law if necessary. I have decided to join them and I hope you will too.

**More info:**

[Molly Scott-Cato's article in the Guardian](#)  
[Guidance on the Extinction Rebellion webpage:](#)

## New Quaker meeting in old Quaker chocolate factory

*Colin Graham writes:*

Dorothy and I set up an informal weekly Meeting in the Chocolate Quarter in Somerdale soon after our arrival in January this year and later arranged through Hazel Mitchell to have a regular Meeting here on the third Sunday of the month, to which we invited Friends from neighbouring Meetings. This has become part of Bath Local Meeting, of which we are now formally members.

The Chocolate Quarter is run as a retirement and care home by the St. Monica Trust, which was founded by the Wills family in the 1920s. They have a number of retirement homes around Bristol and recently they acquired and rebuilt the Fry's chocolate factory buildings in Somerdale, which had been closed down after about 90 years operation, first by the Fry Quaker family and later taken over by Cadbury's. So the building has long Quaker associations.

We now have a Meeting for Worship here at 11 am every Sunday lasting for 30 minutes, to which everyone here is invited, but also to local Quakers on the third Sunday of the month.

Access from Keynsham is by Station Road, then left into Somerdale Road, which leads directly to the Chocolate Quarter. There is limited free parking for visitors behind the Chocolate Quarter (follow the signs to St. Augustine's Surgery), on the roads in the completed part of the Somerdale estate approaching the Chocolate Quarter or in the 'pay and display' car park at the Pavilion beyond it.

## Help for refugee families arriving in Bath

*Judith Eversley writes:*

Wren Sidhe and Graham and Diana Page attended the Syrian Feast organised by Bath Welcomes Refugees. They tell us that Bath Welcomes Refugees is appealing for household goods. The following items are needed to equip two refugee five-member families arriving in Bath in the near future.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cutlery set</li><li>• glasses</li><li>• small coffee cups</li><li>• large Arabic coffee pot</li><li>• scissors</li><li>• kitchen clock</li><li>• calendar</li><li>• first aid kit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• • basic tool kit</li><li>• large saucepans with lids</li><li>• cooking implements</li><li>• ironing board</li><li>• laundry basket</li><li>• laundry bin</li><li>• kitchen bin</li><li>• iron*</li><li>• toaster*</li></ul>
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\* Apparently it's best these items are brand new so they don't have to be sent for portable appliance testing.

If you can help with these or with cash please contact Wren. (We had thought that we would hand over the money, but we now know that it makes their accounting easier if they receive goods rather than cash. They ask us to do the shopping!)

To finish with Wren's inimitable observation: "As Quakers, we strive to live simply; we ourselves may put up with household items that are manky though serviceable. Our wish is to make families who have lost everything feel welcome here, so we hope that items you donate to make a home for them will be in new or as-new condition!"

## **"Roots of Resistance" to the DSEI arms fair**

*More from Ali Morgan, this time on creative resistance to the DSEI arms fair:*

I have volunteered to be an area organiser for Roots of Resistance and I need your support. Roots of Resistance is a grassroots network of Quakers aiming to build a creative, vibrant and radical response to the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair in London next September.

As a ROR Area Organiser I will mobilise support among Friends in our Area Meeting to join me and Quakers from all over the country at the 2019 DSEI.

### **What is DSEI?**

Taking place in east London every two years, DSEI is a huge trade show bringing together 1500 arms companies with representatives from around the world. Some of the world's largest companies market tanks, planes, drones, rifles, ammunition, surveillance technology, training and a huge array of other weapons. DSEI is next due to take place in September 2019 – and we'll be there to get in the way.

At the last DSEI arms fair in 2017 there were at least 250 Quakers there through the week taking part in peaceful arrestable and non arrestable protest, both inside and outside the gates of the arms fair. One of the largest meetings for worships in the UK that year, outside of yearly meeting sessions, was held at the gates of the arms fair. Around 10 Quakers were also arrested, with many more who risked arrest by blocking the road.

The purpose of Roots of Resistance is to mobilise Quakers to gather in larger numbers at the 2019 DSEI, be more coordinated and effective in witnessing to our long held commitment, as Quakers, to peace.

### **What you can do now:**

Find out more about Roots of Resistance – [www.rootsofresistance.org](http://www.rootsofresistance.org).

Let me (Ali Morgan) know if you are willing to join me at the DSEI next September

Follow us on social media: Facebook QuakersRoR and Twitter @quakers\_ror

## War memorials and the “rude” questions they avoid

*Laurence Tindall continues his series on war memorials:*

My mother and baby brother survived a bomb near their house. When they were rescued, they walked out down a road lined with cardboard coffins.

Where is her story memorialised in the civic space? Is it too strong to call this a conspiracy of silence? Why is the military story the only story to be venerated? Why is that story so redacted and censored?

Anyone who has had a relative who has been in the front line of battle, or knows someone who has seen the aftermath of a blasted city and experienced the tragedy of refugees, and has bothered to ask those “rude” questions, will know that the reality and truth of war is not there when they look at most war memorials.

But some war memorials do pull the veil away and let us see the truth. Some memorials do engage in storytelling. There is the Kindertransport sculpture by Frank Meisler and Arie Oviada in Liverpool street station.



*Kindertransport sculpture in London's Liverpool Street station*

In the city of Liverpool there is the blitz memorial by Tom Murphy, and also the Christmas truce football match by Andy Edwards.

These are not particularly great works of art but are great and brave feats of commissioning in the

face of our tendency to obscure the reality of war under a construct of bland nothingness.

You will, if you work hard, find more examples, but they are far fewer than the thousands of official cenotaphs at the heart of our communities and a thousand more statues to this that and the other person, group or event that have no emotional content whatsoever and no real story to tell.

This is not only an appeal for a little bit of truth but also an appeal for some good art.



## Part three: two war memorials we never got

*In his third article Laurence recalls his own experiences responding to commissions.*

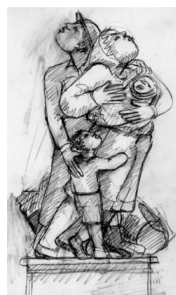
Over the years I have been asked to design three war memorials. These were not looked for but arrived through my “letterbox” due to recommendation. One was for the National Arboretum Memorial in Staffordshire. This came through Julian Bicknell, an architect I had been working for on several other projects, who had been asked by them to submit proposals.

Given a map of this extensive park my response was to place around the lake family groups with their deceased loved one. One group a soldier having a picnic with his mates, another a sailor arm-in-arm with his lover, an airman playing French cricket with his children and wife and so on - as many as was required.

The idea was to show real people in real life and by subtext reveal the real sacrifice that serving in the armed forces entails, not just by the service person but by their family. I heard no more on this and to be fair, many of my designs have met with the same passing of tumbleweed and sound of whistling emptiness.

One such attempt ended in quite a different way but with the same effect. I was asked to design a memorial for the Bath Blitz. The site was just across from the Bath College next to Church House on Lower Borough Walls. Us Bath people all know the old employment exchange on James Street, now a cookware shop. This has been left as a pretty good war memorial with its shrapnel scarred facade, although, perhaps, not many people would realise it is a memorial because it has no official designation as far as I know.

## BATH BLITZ MEMORIAL



A discussion document about ways of  
interpreting and illustrating the  
memory of the Bath Blitz in a sculpted memorial.

Prepared by  
LAURENCE TINDALL

*Bath got the blitz, but it never got the memorial. The abortive proposal.*

I thought I could make a similar wrecked facade in the rather tatty space allotted for the memorial, and have an air raid warden and family carved in stone emerging from the doorway. On either side of this, within window reveals, plaques with all the names of the civilian dead. Horror! Was I suggesting that the citizens of Bath would ever cower in their cellars in the face of the Luftwaffe? There were letters to the Chronicle! Was I a third column undermining the moral fibre of our valiant wardens? How could a young fifty something whippersnapper like me know anything about the war?

This so upset the committee attempting to put the scheme together that nothing further happened. I should have known, in fact I did know and should not have dealt in any form of reality concerning the war.

A plain stone with the names was all that was required and I feel I let the people down by trying to tell the story of what happened and spoilt their chance of getting a memorial.

*In his next articles Laurence Tindall tells us his favourite war memorial, and rescues a lost masterpiece hidden in deep undergrowth.*

## Day of quiet on Kelston Roundhill

On Saturday 16 Bath Quakers enjoyed a "day of quiet" on Kelston Roundhill. Facilitated by Katie Evans and Christine Goodgame-Nobes the day was largely spent in silence, with activities including colour-matching, calligraphy, exploring through drawing what brought us closer to the spirit and craft activities.

Some Friends walked, others read or spent the time in quiet reflection. One Friend, Dan, said about the day: *"Spending a whole day together allowed us to reach a deep silence in which we were able to connect with Spirit at what was for me a powerfully transformative level. Such experiences are surely very nourishing for the life of our meeting as a whole."*

## Diary

Sat 10 Nov **Meditation & stitch day** Oldfield Park

Sun 11 Nov **100th anniversary of end of WWI**. Bring along war poem; read, share, talk about how it makes us feel. Enquiries: Stephanie

Tue & Weds 13 & 14 Nov ***This Evil Thing*** by Michael Mears, Ustinov Theatre. Starts 2000

Fri 16 Nov **Open for Transformation: identifying our gifts and needs as a Meeting** FMH; simple supper 1830, workshop 1930-2100

Th 29 Nov 1315 **Is God colour blind?** – lecture by Prof Anthony Reddie, Uni of Bath, Free, [needs ticket](#) (Eventbrite)

Th 29 Nov **Open for Transformation: how our Meeting works** FMH; simple supper 1830, workshop 1930-2100

Th 13 Dec **Open for Transformation: living the Quaker way** FMH; simple supper 1830, workshop 1930-2100

### Further ahead:

**BYM 2019** 24–27 May - London

If you have diary dates please have speak with or email the editors, or [if you're reading online click here & type them in](#).

### Worship at Friends' Meeting House York Street

Sunday 1100-1200; Tue 1800-1830; Wed 1030-1100

### Regular Events

Every Sunday	11:00-12:00	Children's Meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Feb, Apr, May, July, Sept, & Nov	13:00	Meeting for Worship for Business (Preparative Meeting)
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	10:00-10:30	Friends Fellowship of Healing
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun odd months	13:00	Poetry Group
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	13:00	Shared lunch

Articles to [wmheath+BathQN@gmail.com](mailto:wmheath+BathQN@gmail.com); please include photos.  
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