

Bath Quaker News Sept 2019

Young Friend reports on a successful charity bake sale

Ilana Jones writes:

On Fri 30 August 2019 Ella, Seren and I did a charity sale to raise money for Julian House. We did our sale behind Odd-Down Sainsbury's in a small field. We sold home-made goodies such as: cakes, brownies and cookies.

During the time of our sale we also sold five or six books, a few hand-made bracelets and did "guess how many sweets are in the jar".

We had to decide what charity to raise money for quite close to the sale and since I had heard of Julian House in Quakers I went and researched it. I personally thought it was a good cause because it takes in people who are homeless and who have mental health issues.

If Ella hadn't offered to help us with the sale it wouldn't have happened so a lot of thanks to her. Also thanks to dad for baking with us on Thursday. In the space of five hours and with mum selling a few of our baked goods at her university we managed to raise £40.50!



*Many thanks to the people who
Helped us to raise the money for
Julian House and participated in
Our sale*

British Quakers sign joint statement on political crisis

UK civil society leaders issued a warning on the political crisis arising from proroguing parliament. British Quakers joined other groups in warning that proroguing parliament risks eroding democratic accountability. The statement was co-ordinated by ACEVO, the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations.

The full statement reads:

“Civil society organisations provide support, advice and services. However, another vital role for the social sector is to amplify the voices of the communities and causes we serve. People and issues that are too often ignored or unheard by those in positions of power. A thriving civil society is an indicator of a healthy democracy.

“For a number of years, civil society organisations have expressed concern that some politicians are seeking to restrict the democratic role of the social sector and that such restrictions demonstrate a shrinking of civic space. The prime minister's decision to suspend parliament for more than four weeks in the lead up to one of the most important national decisions in recent history shrinks the democratic and civic space even further.

“And, in addition proroguing parliament means risking ending the passage of a number of bills that could deliver important change for the people and causes that civil society works on behalf of.

“As leaders of civil society organisations, we are concerned that proroguing parliament to push through a divisive policy risks eroding democratic accountability now and after 31 October.

The statement was signed on behalf of Quakers in Britain by Juliet Prager, deputy recording clerk.

Diary date: let's share stories for Quaker Week

Date: Tue 17 Sept

Time: 1900 for tea/coffee, 1930 start, finishing by 2100

Place: Argyle Room, Bath Central URC

Katie Evans writes

Come for an evening of conversation, to share your story and hear Friends':

- What first brought you to Quakers?
- What keeps you here?

- When has being part of Bath Meeting made a difference in your life?

This evening is for getting to know each other. There will also be the option to put some of your story into writing and/or photos to share online in Quaker Week (28 Sept – 6 Oct) if you'd like to.

I'm on the lookout for someone to take photos of the evening. If you can do this, please let me know.

News from some charities Bath Quakers supports

Each year Bath Quakers sends modest donations to selected charities. Hearing back from them is a good chance to catch up with their progress. In recent weeks our Treasurer Sally Harris has heard from Izzy Thorne at the Quaker Tapestry Museum, who writes to say:

It is thanks to generous donations from individuals like yourselves that the Quaker Tapestry can grow and flourish. We are currently raising funds to install automatic doors at our main entrance and improve signage to and throughout the building. We hope to complete these works by the end of the year. We are also developing a brand new programme of workshops, using the tapestry panels to prompt and inspire participants to respond to them through creative writing. Two workshops have been held to date and the writing that has been produced is a testament to the power of the 'stories behind the stitches'.

Visitors continue to be amazed by the tapestries and by the Quaker influence on so many aspects of our society and culture. Working with the local community is also key to our success. Our latest project involved creating a new panel to remember the flooding of December 2015. This is now complete and is hanging in Friends Meeting Room which is adjacent to the museum. It's only been in place for a few weeks but already visitors are sharing with us how much they have been moved by people's experiences, now retold in words, images and stitches.

It is 25 years since the Tapestry made its home here in Kendal and our work continues to inspire and celebrate how communities can come together in unity and friendship. So please accept our most sincere thanks for your donation and for your support. We really do appreciate it.

Sally also heard from Maise Montero, who writes to say Bath Quakers' gift will help take forward the work of Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW):

Your gift is supporting Quaker Peace & Social Witness to tackle the root causes of violence, and to build a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. Here are just a few examples of the work you are enabling to happen:

- Supporting 90 local Quaker meetings to help refugees and asylum seekers in their communities, to challenge racism in all its forms and to campaign for a fairer immigration system.

- *Challenging the militarisation of schools, providing peace education resources, and supporting peer mediation – through which children can work together to resolve their own conflicts.*
- *Supporting Quakers and others to take action on the climate crisis – and working with partners to call for political change to keep fossil fuels in the ground and to invest in a green economy.*
- *Supporting peacebuilders in the UK and East Africa to take nonviolent action against injustice.*

Finally, Joanne Morley at Purple Field Productions wrote to say

We are entirely reliant on the generosity of our supporters, and your donation means we are able to continue our work and projects in many different countries in East Africa. Last week, the very first screenings of our cerebral palsy awareness drama Lisilojulikana took place in Tanzania. The pilot screenings were the result of many months of hard work recruiting a local screening and distribution manager, and working alongside partner organisations in the country.

After one screening, a young father spoke to the team about his 3 year old daughter who has cerebral palsy and how his wife was reluctant to seek help for their daughter fearing that her condition was due to witchcraft. As a result of watching the film, the team has been able to put this family in touch with a local disability support organisation who we know will be able to help them. As we continue screenings in Tanzania over the next 12 months, we hope to help many more.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Malawi, we have completed more pilot screenings in Kasangu now that the film has been dubbed into Chichewa, the local language there, and a wider distribution programme will begin soon. Over in Sierra Leone, we continue to work alongside the young filmmakers, Future View Film Group, who will soon begin production on a new film about safe motherhood. We are so very grateful for your support as it really does mean we are able to continue work on these projects going forward and to offer hope and support to more families struggling with the stigma of disability or ill-health.

Sally adds:

Have you decided how much you can give to Quakers this year? There's an [online form on our web site](#). Please think about increasing your standing order or make a single donation to help us meet the needs of our Meeting and the wider community.

Bath Quakers attend climate crisis event

Half a dozen Bath Quakers participated in a Bath "Climate Crisis" event Sat 13 July organised by our local MP Wera Hobhouse.

Speakers set out the urgency of the situation, balanced with practical optimism that we have the ability, should we find the will, to become "zero carbon Britain" within a short number of years.

We heard from keynote speakers Molly Scott Cato MEP and Paul Allen from the Centre for Alternative Technology, from young climate strikers, and from Bath & NE Somerset Council's new Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency Cllr Sarah Warren and Community Sustainability Manager Jane Wildblood.

The speaker from the CAT, which local Quakers are visiting in September, set out their [Zero Carbon Britain project](#) which describes how the UK could have a sustainable future based on available technology and changed behaviours.

DSEI: invitation to non-violent resistance to the arms trade

Ali Morgan writes

[Roots of Resistance](#) is a Quaker non-violent action in response to the Biannual DSEI arms fair that will take place in September. The aim is to get 1000 Quakers to the protest that will take place on 3 Sept, during the setting-up week before the fair opens (10-13th Sept). There is a briefing session on 2nd Sept 1300-2000 at Friends House.

Further information is available on the RoR website [Quakers against the arms fair](#)

Refusal to fight with weapons is not surrender. We are not passive when threatened by the greedy, the cruel, the tyrant, the unjust. We will struggle to remove the causes of impasse and confrontation by every means of nonviolent resistance available -
QF&P 24.10

Could you help fund "Disarm the base"

Jess Metherringham writes:

As many Friends know, two years ago Sam Walton (then managing the peace and disarmament programme for BYM) was arrested for breaking in to a military base to try to disarm war planes bound for Yemen. He and his co-defendant Daniel Woodhouse were later acquitted. I was also working for BYM at the time (I used to be parliamentary engagement manager) and was struck by how this direct action could be made into a board game.

Well, we're now in the process of creating "Disarm the Base". It's a cooperative board game for up to four players. (You might have seen the recent article in *The Friend* about how this project was part of normalising direct action for peace.) We need at least 150 people to pledge to buy it in order for it to get made. Anyone who is interested can pledge to buy a copy at

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/dissentgames/disarm-the-base> or can find out about the whole project at www.disarmthebase.com.

Invite to card recycling bee

Margaret Heath writes:

We need more cards to replenish our stock and to sell for charity, especially the Somerset Churches Trust. A few of us are working on recycling.

You can help by:

- providing attractive used greeting cards, A5 postcards, pretty brochures and catalogues which can brought to the Meetings.
- joining a recycling “bee” or recycling at home
- selling the recycled cards. It could be arranged for you to take our collection to sell at appropriate events, e.g. coffee mornings, etc, provided we do not complete with or undercut others
- buying the cards!

Suggested date for next open house is Fri 4 Oct 0930-1530 at 4 Gerrard Buildings, Bath, BA2 4DQ. Please email Margaret if you can come. All equipment and refreshments provided, no special skills required.

Sign up for *Bath Quaker News* on line

As ever, more *Bath Quaker News* at BathQuakers.org web site. You can “Follow Bath Quakers” there; that means you get an email each time a new piece is posted.

Diary

Fri 13 Sept 1930 - 2100 *An Evening with Lord Dubs* in aid of Ammerdown's refugee work; Ammerdown Centre, Radstock BA3 5SW £10, admin@ammerdown.org

14 Sept *Ride & Stride* in aid of Somerset Churches Trust.

Sat 21-Mon 23 Sept: *Quaker visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology*, Wales (contact Alan Fox and Robin Brookes, Devizes Meeting)

Sat 28 Sept *Beyond the fog of Brexit* 1000-1600 Somerset Room, Manvers Street Baptist Church. Contact Nick Francis

Chocolate Quarter Meeting for Worship 1100-1130 each third Sunday in the month; after discussion group at 1030. Colin Graham 0117 986 1277 for info

Further ahead:

BYM 2019 24–27 May, London

If you want diary dates included in the newsletter please speak with or email the editors. If [you're reading online click here](#) & just [type them in](#).

Worship at Bath Central United Reform Church

Sunday 1030-1130; Tue 1800-1830; Wed 1030-1100

Regular Events

Every Sunday	10:30-11:30	Children's Meeting
1 st Sunday of Feb, Apr, May, July, Sept, & Nov	12:30	Meeting for Worship for Business (Preparative Meeting)
1 st Sunday	09:30-10:00	Friends Fellowship of Healing (currently suspended)
2nd Sun of even months; 3rd Sunday of odd months	12:30	Poetry Group
4 th Sunday	12:30	Shared lunch

*Articles to wmheath+BathQN@gmail.com; please include photos.
Follow @BathQuakers on Twitter and Instagram.*

And finally: all prepared for the Day of Quiet



Katie and Christine taking a short rest after setting everything up for Bath Quakers' 31 Aug Day of Quiet on Kelston Roundhill.