

**MANCHESTER & WARRINGTON AREA QUAKER MEETING  
NEWSLETTER NO 15     JANUARY 2023**

## **Quaker Quest**

Quaker Quest will take place on Mondays in March and April at Central Manchester Meeting, starting at 7pm, with tea and coffee served from 6.30pm.

The dates of the sessions are Mondays 6, 13, 20 and 27 March and 3 April.

The themes will include Quakers and worship, Quakers and God, Quakers and Peace, Quakers and Equality and Quakers and Sustainability and Simplicity.

Quaker Quest takes the format of three people sharing their stories linked to the themes with opportunity to ask questions and share a short meeting for worship.

Publicity will follow in the New Year.

Please contact any of the organising group if you have any questions.

Anna Bunney, Corinne Fisher, Jonathan Dale and Pam Phillips

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# “Women Against the Bomb” Film Screening

by Allison Challen



On 12<sup>th</sup> December 1982 an astounding 30,000 women linked arms around the United States Air Forces Europe base at Greenham Common, Berkshire, where US cruise missiles were to be based. To mark this event, around 30 people recently watched a screening of the film 'Women Against the Bomb' which tells the story of the first all female Peace Camp. The screening was organised by Greater Manchester and District CND and held at Central Manchester Meeting House.

The film recounts how cruise missiles came to be based at Greenham Common Air Base in the 1980s and how women mobilised in opposition. They wanted to protect life on earth from the threat of nuclear annihilation, their families and children included. Using archive footage, together with

recollections from some of the women who were there at the time, viewers learn (or are reminded) how the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp came into being and of the creative acts, tenacity and personal sacrifice of the women involved.

The ambition to link arms around the Air Base was a big one as the perimeter fence ran for 6 miles. The organisers thought it would be difficult to pull off, however in the end there was so much support for the idea that around 30,000 women responded to the call, getting themselves to the base and encircling it.



The film reminded me how patriarchal society was at that time and

that the power of the feminine rising was so challenging to the established order. Society has changed somewhat since but women's voices are still in the minority when it comes to decisions about security.

The possibility of RAF Lakenheath, in Suffolk, once again receiving US nuclear weapons was raised during the Q & A session following the film. Recent US/NATO spending plans point to the possibility, with the director of the Federation of American Scientists saying “It is unclear if nuclear weapons have been returned to the base yet or NATO is upgrading the base to be capable of receiving nuclear weapons in the future if necessary.”

[CND condemns return of US nukes to Britain - \(cnduk.org\)](#)

[Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath! - \(cnduk.org\)](#)

# REPARATIONS

by Elizabeth Coleman

George Bani of Conflict Minerals Campaign, who lives in the town of Uvira, South Kivu, DRC, (near the village of Abeka, where the Quaker Congo Partnership projects are based,) said he would like to talk with me about reparations.

I told George that the Quaker Africa Interest Group in the UK made 3 points about reparations:

- 1) They should be based on current needs, not on historical wrongs.
- 2) The injustice is not history, it still continues (eg exploitation of DRC minerals without benefiting its people)
- 3) When making decisions on how to pay reparations, we should involve African people.

George said that there are many displaced people in the DRC, including in Uvira. There is fighting between rebel groups (Mai Mai, Gomino) on High Plateau and Middle Plateau, about 60 kilometres from Uvira. The conflict builds on existing ethnic tensions. The Mai Mai are supported by the local Bembe, Fuliru and Nyindu people, and the Gomino are supported by the local Banyamulenge people. Many people have been forced to flee, and a number have ended up in Uvira and Fizi, where they have nowhere to stay and lack food and other essentials. Most of the refugees are women, children and elderly people. George attended a meeting of humanitarian organisations in the area. He was representing INIREC, a local NGO of which he



is co-ordinator. At the meeting it was reported that there are about 3,000 refugees in Uvira and surrounding area, and about 2,000 in Fizi.

George asked me if reparations money could be used to help these people.



## DONATIONS TO AREA MEETING

Hilary Tucker, Area Meeting Treasurer, informed us at Area Meeting on 6 December that unfortunately F/friends' donations as a whole to Area Meeting are not increasing, though we have received one or two large donations this year. But about 40% of our members, and a higher proportion of our attenders, do not donate to Area Meeting at all, despite Area Meeting funding both our Local Meetings and our main donation to the work of Britain Yearly Meeting. We are reliant on the generosity of only half of those who participate in our worship. If we all contributed, even a very small amount, it would make a big difference.

For details of how to set up a monthly standing order to AM, or to make a one-off donation, contact [admin@manchesterquakers.org.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterquakers.org.uk)



## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the shortest Newsletter so far. I think people have been busy with Christmas and New Year. Please keep sending articles and photos, and I hope the February issue will be longer.

If you are not on the mailing list, and would like to be emailed future copies of the Newsletter, please email Clare on [admin@manchesterquakers.org.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterquakers.org.uk) with your request.

Please send articles and photos for the Newsletter to [elizcol@dialstart.net](mailto:elizcol@dialstart.net) The deadline for the February newsletter is 31 January. It can take time for an email to be received, so to be sure that your submission is on time, I suggest that you aim for 30 January.

When submitting items for publication, please be aware that the newsletter is a public document, posted on our website, and we do not control who sees it. So think before submitting personal information, email addresses and photos.

Look at the website <https://www.manchesterquakers.org.uk> if you'd like to see back-issues of the newsletter.

Elizabeth Coleman  
Editor