

**MANCHESTER & WARRINGTON AREA QUAKER  
MEETING**

**NEWSLETTER NO 24    OCTOBER 2023**

## **Quaker Congo Partnership**

**We brought clean water to the village of Abeka and have witnessed its profound impact.**

Women no longer risk violence on their perilous journeys to fetch dirty water from a lake. Deaths from preventable waterborne diseases have reduced by 95%.

Now let's extend this lifeline to the neighbouring village of Mkwezi where families still suffer the same hardships. With your support we can break the cycle of danger and disease.



See [quakercongo.org.uk](http://quakercongo.org.uk)

Half the proceeds of the Summer Garden Gathering will go to Quaker Congo Partnership

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## **ANNE EARDLEY MEMORIAL MEETING**

A memorial meeting in gratitude for the grace of God as shown in the life of Anne Eardley will be held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October** beginning at 14:00 at Central Manchester Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS.

All Friends are welcome to attend.

You may join online at the following Zoom link:

**Central Manchester Quakers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: Memorial Meeting for Anne Eardley**

**Time: Oct 9, 2023 13:30 London**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451445728?pwd=dIRIa3JoU04rcmpqL3pweHk0YnluZz09>**

**Meeting ID: 844 5144 5728**

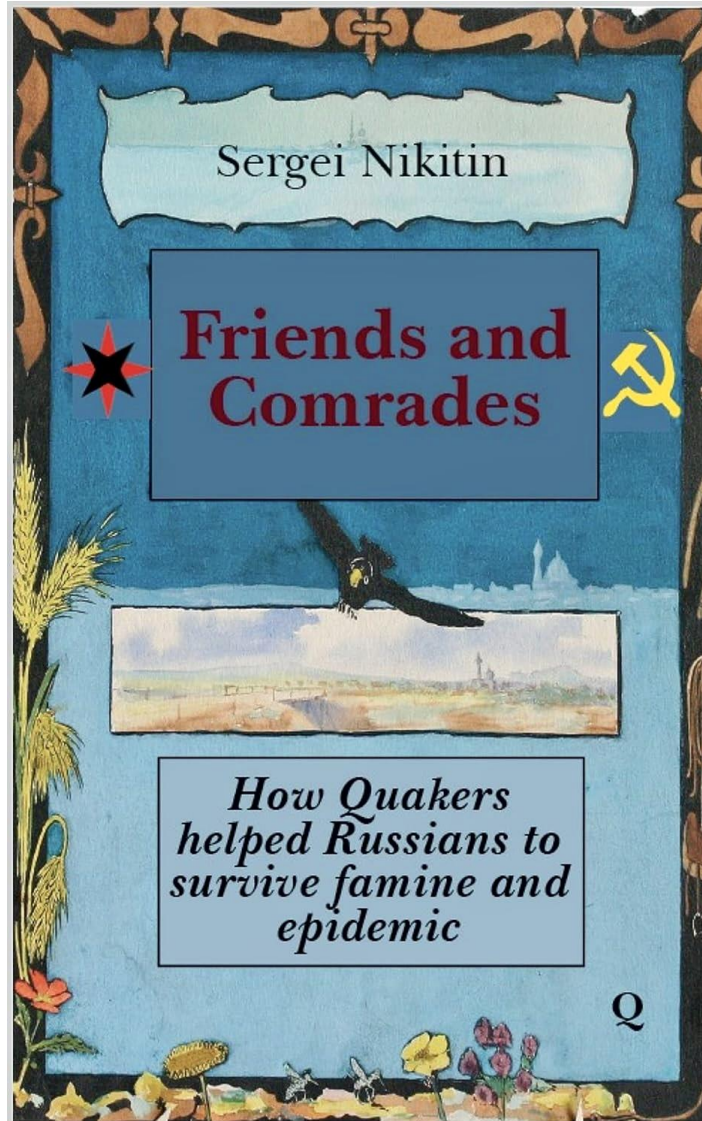
**Passcode: 723955**

**Manchester-St Petersburg Friendship Society presents:**

A talk by **SERGEI NIKITIN**

(former head of Amnesty International in Russia)

on **Quakers in Russia 1916-1931**



*Signed copies of Sergei's book 'Friends and Comrades' will be available for sale*

**FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, MANCHESTER**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm Admission Free**

## MANCHESTER AND WARRINGTON AREA MEETING BANNER

### Valerie Clark writes:

For many years Local and Area Meeting Friends have made good use of the beautiful turquoise and pink cotton banner that says 'Quakers'. It has been carried in numerous Manchester Pride parades as well as other local event and, because it has been out and about a lot, it is looking rather faded these days so we hope to improve its colour in the near future. It was made over 20 years ago by Central Manchester Friends under the guidance of Caroline Jariwala, now a painter, lecturer and community artist in Birmingham who runs 'Mango Mosaics.' There is one of her paintings in the Friends Room at Central Manchester and you can see it is inspired by her Gujarati Indian heritage.



But for some time a number of Friends have felt the need to have another banner that also states where we come from as well as our Quaker identity. With this in mind I asked Christ Alton, a life-long Quaker, artist and activist at Central Manchester Meeting if he could make us a simple one of white lettering on a green background. Chris makes textile banners, video essays and other forms of art and also gave the Swarthmore Lecture in 2018 entitled 'Changing Ourselves, Changing the World.'

So our new white and green banner had its first outing on 1<sup>st</sup> September at the Manchester Peace and Social Justice Walk which was held in

advance of the Defence and Security International (DSEI) arms fair in London (12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September).

Then next day, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, it went to Sale Meeting House for the sunny Area Meeting Summer Gathering and was seen and admired by many Friends. It was held in place on that day using three lightweight (but borrowed) poles so the next step will be to source our own poles.

### **Our banner's first outing in Manchester on 1<sup>st</sup> September at Manchester Peace and Social Justice Walk**



Next, Allison Challen and Steve Hornby took it to London on 7<sup>th</sup> September as part of the 'Quaker Roots' protest outside the ExCel centre where DSEI was taking place. 'Quaker Roots' is a community of Friends who are building creative and radical responses to DSEI and its logo was also designed by Chris Alton.

**Our banner's third outing in London on 7<sup>th</sup> September at Quaker Roots gathering in advance of DSEI exhibition with Steve Hornby and Allison Challen (Central Manchester)**





The banner is now in a cupboard in the office of operations officer Clare McCann (room on right as you enter the building). This is a more accessible place than the Pride cupboard where the other 'Quaker' banner is stored and so it can easily be borrowed by Area Meeting Friends.

Please sign out for it using the book that is also in that cupboard. We hope you will enjoy making use of this new green and white Area Meeting form of identity.



**Below: The new banner of Frandley Local Meeting (East Cheshire AM). They joined us on 1<sup>st</sup> September at Manchester Peace and Social Justice Walk**



## BYM ANTI-RACIST NETWORK

The BYM anti-racist network has met for the first time. The network exists to enable Friends working in this area to meet, discuss our work, understand what is being done, and support those who feel isolated. We will meet every month on the second Tuesday, from 12-1 UK time, on the zoom link below - the same one every month.

### *Upcoming events:*

Oct 21, in Bourneville meeting house: *Chocolate, Slavery and Bourneville*. This session will challenge Friends to explore the relationship between Cadbury and the enslaved labour of those who produced the cacao. For more information, contact Stuart Morton [stuartm46@gmail.com](mailto:stuartm46@gmail.com).

Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 10 at 12 noon UK time. We will hear from Lyndsey Burtonshaw about DSEI and how the arms trade targets people of color. In November we hope to hear from Central England AM about their work, and in December we will address the topic of next year's World Plenary Gathering, Ubuntu. We hope to see you there.

In Friendship,

Kate McNally If you want more information, write to [antiracism83@gmail.com](mailto:antiracism83@gmail.com).

Zoom link:

<https://quaker.zoom.us/j/88624803721?pwd=U1hXMDNJTVpNYktOYk1FZHFNcGUwUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 2480 3721

Passcode: 947581

## **A Recipe for Active Enjoyment A GARDEN PARTY ON THE THEME OF WEALTH INEQUALITY**

When I first raised the issue of Wealth Inequality at a meeting of our Area Meeting's Social Justice Group, I envisaged the usual campaigning format: discussion in the group to make sure we knew well-enough what we needed to say, then asking for the support of Area Meeting (Manchester and Warrington), perhaps a Vigil on the steps of Mount Street Meeting House; finally letters from Area Meeting and individual Friends to local MPs, Government Ministers and Party leaders. With four "witness Groups" in the Area Meeting, the format is readily accepted and rarely controversial.

But Social Justice Group's discernment was rather different. It wanted to make sure that the whole body of Friends recognised wealth inequality as critically destructive of Quaker Testimonies and true human community. Area Meeting wasn't enough. But how could we get a wider involvement. A discussion day on the theme risked reaching mostly those already engaged. And then a thought struck The Area

Meeting's annual Garden Party had been discontinued, with Covid and a sense of wider fatigue; so what if we revived it in a different form – a garden party with a theme?



But that needed a wider base of organisation and support than the half dozen members of the Social Justice Group. So we encouraged the other three Witness Groups (Racial Justice; Peace Promotions; the Environment) to join us. And they did. Area

Meeting in session gave its support. And so we had to devise a workable version of a Garden Party that built community through personal encounter as usual, but also through tackling jointly an issue that destroys community. Could we manage to fuse relaxation and effort, group building and group action.

It was hard work for the organising group. And it didn't fully meet every objective. But it did introduce the theme of Wealth Inequality fairly gently into the otherwise relaxed atmosphere. How? We did some 'games' – if you divide into equal tenths the financial gap between the wealthiest and the poorest people in the world, which decile would your wealth entitle you to be in? Most Friends were amazed, as we were all in the lowest decile. This is because the richest person has c. \$180 billion dollars and the poorest nothing or less; so each decile covers \$18 billion. So there are a mere 50 or so people in the wealthiest 9 deciles. Everyone else is crowded in this lowest one. Later there was a talk on John Woolman's prophetic stance on wealth inequality; there was a petition to sign. There were also stalls involving the Racial Justice and Peace Promotions

Group, and a Fair trade stall. And, of course there were walks in the garden, conversation activities for children and refreshments. And blessedly fine weather.

Most of that worked pretty well, though we may not have had quite the numbers who would have come to a “straight” Garden Party. The plan to take offers of products and services that Friends were willing to offer for a donation, with the funds split between organisations dedicated in very different ways to local and global “levelling” was harder to manage. The total raised isn’t yet finalised and it has proved a tiresome business with a lot of chasing up. The final figure will be somewhere in the £500 – 1000 range at a guess. And there too, there is a hybrid at work – while the money will help organisations dedicated to reducing inequality, the offers will continue to build our community more surely as we exchange our gifts to raise funds for the Quaker Congo Partnership and the Area Meeting’s Quaker Work Fund. Additional donations are being sent to the Equality Trust and Tax Justice UK.

**We won!**

**Timber giant Samling withdraws lawsuit  
against Indigenous forest defenders**

After a two year battle, we won! I know I have gone dark, but we have been working really hard. I am overwhelmed. Glory be to God

<https://www.bmf.ch/en/news/timber-giant-samling-withdraws-lawsuit-against-indigenous-forest-defenders-237>

In peace

Hoon

(Hoon Teo of Central Manchester Meeting has been campaigning for the indigenous people of Borneo threatened by logging by an international company. This Newsletter did an item on this in February 2023, and there was also an item in The Friend of 20 January.)

## **CHILDHOOD MEMORIES** **by Elizabeth Coleman**

“The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.”

These are the opening lines of LP Hartley’s 1953 novel *The Go-Between*. And they seem very appropriate when I remember my childhood in Selsdon, South Croydon.

When I was in my thirties and forties, I was not very interested in my childhood, and didn’t remember much. Now I am in my seventies, I think I remember a lot more, and find it fascinating – we thought so differently from people nowadays.

I was born in 1950, closer to Victorian times than to the present day, I recently realized with a shock. When we think of Victorians, we think of rigid moral values, strictness, and condemnation of those who do not fit in, such as unmarried mothers and gay people. But what surprises me as I reflect on my childhood is how free we were as children, and how we were given freedom and responsibility, far more than children nowadays.

I attended Selsdon County Primary School from 1955 to 1961. I lived in Kingswood Way, a mile from my school with no buses, and I walked home by myself. We were warned by our parents not to talk to strange men. My memory is that, when children were 5 years old attending the school’s kindergarten class, that we called disdainfully the babies’ class, their mothers took them to school and picked them up afterwards. But once you were out of kindergarten, ie about 6 years old, you walked home by yourself, or maybe with older siblings.

The “dinner ladies” were responsible for the children during dinner hour, and walked round the playground keeping an eye on us. When it rained, children were indoors in their classrooms, and the



dinner ladies popped in when they could - they were supervising a number of classes. It was not considered right to leave the 5-year-olds unattended, so two ten-year-old girls would look after them – I was one of those girls, responsible for a class of about thirty 5-year-olds.

The school was not like a fortress as schools are today – anyone could walk in and out.

Corporal punishment was occasionally used, though it was rare and on its way out. I remember a teacher hitting a badly behaved boy on his legs. They didn't think of ADHD – they just interpreted such behaviour as naughtiness.

I didn't mind school, though I preferred the school holidays. What I found most difficult was school dinners. You were required to eat everything, whether you liked it or not, and I did not like rice pudding, macaroni pudding, semolina or custard. As custard was poured on our pudding every day, my mother asked the school if I could be allowed not to have it, so I could enjoy my meal, but this was not accepted.

While most of the teachers were good, there was one who could not control her temper and terrified the children, and nothing was done about her. I hope this would not happen nowadays.

We were in a peaceful, suburban area, and had never even heard of self-harm, had no knowledge of drug abuse, and I think bullying was rare.

I think we have something to learn from how things were done in the fifties. They would also have something to learn from us.

## **FROM AN EMAIL FROM LIBERTY 23 SEPT 2023**

Earlier this week, it emerged that the Crown Prosecution Service had decided to prosecute a woman for holding up a sign outside a crown court.

The sign told passersby that jurors have “an absolute right to acquit a defendant according to [their] conscience”. Now the woman – 68-year-old Trudi Warner – is being prosecuted for contempt of court.

## **A TRIP TO ROME**

About five Quakers attended the inter-faith meeting of One Faith One Planet at Manchester Museum on 14 September. Rogers Govender, the Dean of Manchester Cathedral, told how he had initiated a trip of Manchester political leaders including Andy Burnham and faith leaders of different faiths, to visit the Pope in Rome to talk about the environment. They had 45 minutes with the Pope, who spoke of how the climate crisis began with the Industrial Revolution, which started in Manchester, and he encouraged Manchester people in their work to end it.

## REFUGEE AND ASYLUM FUND

The Refugee and Asylum Fund is a small fund held in Area Meeting's bank account. It receives donations from individuals and Local Meetings. Expenditure is approved by the Social Justice Group, and applications are considered by a sub-group, currently Alan Pinch, Joan Armstrong and Diane Lewin.

The aim of the fund is:

To support Friends and organisations seeking to relieve the poverty and meet the needs of Refugee and Asylum Seekers, particularly within the Greater Manchester area and Warrington.

Its objectives are:

- a) to raise money in trust to support the above aim.
- b) to support individual refugees and asylum seekers whose needs are of concern to Friends of money or in kind. Application to the Fund should be made by the Friend(s) who support the individuals.
- c) to develop criteria for making grants to organisations working in this field, and to make such grants. Current criteria for supporting organisations - we support organisations helping asylum seekers (including failed asylum seekers), especially those where Friends are active volunteers.

To donate to the fund, make a payment to Manchester & Warrington Area Quaker Meeting, making clear that it is for the Refugee and Asylum Fund.

If you are actively involved in a local organization supporting asylum seekers, or if you are supporting individual asylum seekers, you can apply to the fund by approaching Diane Lewin or [admin@manchesterquakers.org.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterquakers.org.uk) to ask for an application form.

## QUAKER FAMILY DAY OUT

Hi All,

We hope you'll be able to join us for our Quaker Family Day Out.

We'll be visiting Heaton Park on 29 October, meeting at 11am at the Heaton Park Boat Hire, Heaton Park, Manchester M25 0DL. This is right next to the boating lake and is close to a car park entrance and a short distance from the Bocker Vale tram stop.

There's a fair bit to do, an animal park, apiary and gardens. You can get more details

here: <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/heatonpark>

We won't specify a home time so that families can enjoy the day as they please, allowing us all time to socialise.

All are welcome! Feel free to bring your family members or children's friends.

Bring a picnic lunch. We'll have funds to treat you to a brew and snack!

We encourage the use of public transport wherever possible. Or please consider car sharing to reduce the environmental footprint of our outing, as long as those involved are comfortable doing so. If anyone needs a lift or can offer a lift please let me know.

Pay and Display charges apply every day between 10am and 5pm. The maximum daily cost is £3. We should be able to cover this cost for families that request it. Should you need funds for travel, on public transport or mileage, please send me an email.

There will not be a children's meeting at Mount Street on 29 October as we hope families will join us in the park. We're extending this invitation to other local meetings through the CYP AM committee.

We hope we'll be able to meet come rain or shine. If the weather is utterly atrocious we may need to call it off, if so we'll send an email with as much notice as possible.

In Friendship,

Lucy

on behalf of the Central Manchester Childrens and Young Peoples Committee - myself, Katie and Val

**VIGIL TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 12 MIDDAY TO 1 PM  
AT MOUNT ST**

**NO NEW OIL, GAS, COAL/ MAKE POLLUTERS PAY**

**This vigil will be at the time of the Conservative  
Party Conference**

THE EVENT IS OUR CONTRIBUTION TO A  
QUAKER-SUPPORTED NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

## **A MESSAGE FROM FAITH NETWORK FOR MANCHESTER World Mental Health Day**

Tuesday 10th October 2023 is World Mental Health Day and we are organising an Interfaith event and service at Cross Street Chapel from 4:30pm – 7:30pm, as we have done with Greater Manchester Mental Health Chaplaincy Service for the last five years.

We will have a celebratory Interfaith service uniting people of all faiths across Greater Manchester to commemorate World Mental Health Day. There will be stalls and workshops with mental health and wellbeing specialists, food and refreshments – all for free! To register contact [mail@fn4m.org](mailto:mail@fn4m.org)

## **PEACE VIGIL AT FASLANE NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASE IN SCOTLAND ON 23 SEPTEMBER**



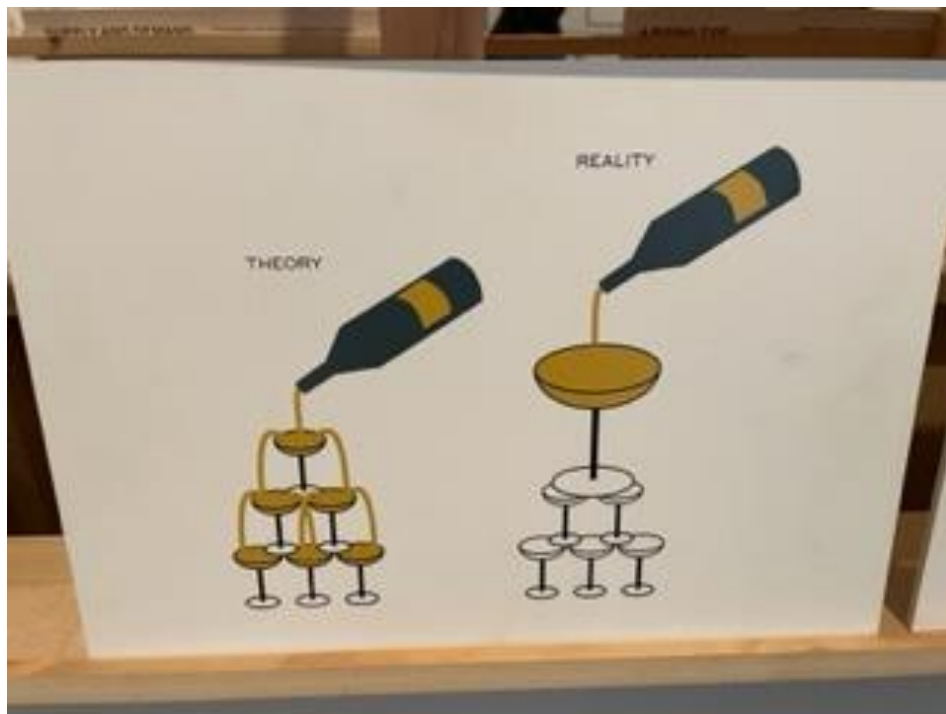
Robert Wilson says: “Sharon and I attended along with about another dozen or so Quakers and Peace Activists. Phoebe, Sharon and I had been at the Northern Friends Peace Board meeting in Edinburgh the previous day.”

## VISIT TO WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

7 Friends visited the exhibition at the Whitworth - Economics the blockbuster it's not business as usual.

The photos are examples of the diagrams used to illustrate the economy. Visitors are encouraged to draw their own economy - lots to look at there. Some of us joined a workshop doing this. We visited Arte Utile which had set up and archived community projects - art and community development! Sandra was able to tell the workshop group about the Conflict Minerals Campaign, there's a section in the exhibition on the DRC and how they are reclaiming the palm oil plantations (Unilever) and their art work. The exhibition is on until 22 October - art meets the economy for a varied perspective!

Phoebe Spence, photos by Kate Hughes







## MAKE POLLUTERS PAY VIGIL 27 SEPTEMBER



It will be repeated on Tuesday 3rd October at the time of the Conservative Party Conference

## LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL

Racial Justice Group organised a visit to the Liverpool Biennial on 16 September to look at the history of Liverpool's involvement in the slave trade. There will be more information on this visit and resulting reflections in a future newsletter.

### **Racial Justice Group: Forthcoming events of interest in October/early November**

1. Over the next month (which is Black History Month) there will be a series of three workshops to be hosted at Mount Street Meeting House on **Sundays October 8<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Each meeting will start at midday and end at 1.15pm. Our discussion will centre on Helen Minnis' 2022 Swarthmore Lecture book 'Perceiving the Temperature of the Water'. These sessions are open to all in person, but there will also be a limited opportunity to join them by Zoom. For further details contact Mark Perry at [mdmwsm@icloud.com](mailto:mdmwsm@icloud.com).

It is hoped, but not essential, that participants will have read the book by 8<sup>th</sup> October. It is also possible to watch the original lecture at the following web address:

**<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/resource-library/swarthmore-lecture-2022-perceiving-the-temperature-of-the-water-by-helen-minnis/>**

A few copies of the book (which costs £10) are available to buy from Antony Froggett [antonyfroggett@gmail.com] but they can also be purchased online directly from the BYM Quaker Book store at

**[https://bookshop.quaker.org.uk/Perceiving-the-temperature-of-the-water\\_9781739226008](https://bookshop.quaker.org.uk/Perceiving-the-temperature-of-the-water_9781739226008)**

2. Further events of interest in October include a Zoom meeting of BYMs anti-racist network which will meet online on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** between 12 and 1pm. We will hear from Lyndsey Burtonshaw about DSEI and how the arms trade targets people of colour. These meetings will take place regularly every second Tuesday of the month and the Zoom link and password for all these sessions is as follows:

<https://quaker.zoom.us/j/88624803721?pwd=U1hXMDNJTVpNYktOYk1FZHFNcGUwUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 2480 3721

Passcode: 947581

3. On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** there will be a meeting of the Racial Justice Group to be held in person at Mount Street and by Zoom link between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. The theme will be 'What we have learned about racism since the death of George Floyd and how our awareness of racism has changed'. The Zoom link and password are as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82295809932?pwd=aUIGM0ITZWxtZFR4YVUwYXFJM095QT09>

Meeting ID: 822 9580 9932

Passcode: 514277

4. Also of interest to members of the RJG is a new exhibition which has recently opened at the John Rylands Research Institute and Library that runs to 23 March 2024. The focus of the exhibition is **Founders and Funders: Slavery and the building of a University**. Students at Manchester trace the University's and city's legacies of transatlantic enslavement in a ground-breaking exhibition. Further details about this can be found at <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/founders-and-funders/> We are currently exploring the possibility of organising a group visit (date to be determined) where there will be an opportunity to hear about the investigative work underpinning the exhibition from one of its curators.

## **SUPPORT FOR QUAKERS IN NEED IN GOMA**

We appealed for support for the Quakers in Goma, North Kivu, who were cut off by M23 rebels and short of food and other essentials. Quaker Congo Partnership received donations and sent them to Congo, and some donations were also sent independently direct to Goma before this. George Bani reports that he received \$1,015 that he sent to Goma. This is a report from George Bani, Quaker, on this assistance.

### **Report of Humanitarian Assistance in Goma**

Done in Uvira, 28 September 2023

George Bani Bibenga  
Coordinator of Assistance

The resumption of fighting in the east of the DRC between the M23 armed group and the national army, FARDC since June 2021 in the province of North Kivu has included among the harmful consequences, the massive displacement of civilian populations towards areas somewhat secure, particularly in the city and surroundings of Goma.

According to humanitarian organizations and data from the Congolese government of the DRC, more than 250,000 people are displaced as a result of this armed violence.

To help meet the need for food for some displaced people in Goma, Quakers from around the world and especially from Great Britain (United Kingdom) sent money to pay for food to some of the most vulnerable families, notably: the poorest households the poorest, women heads of households, children heads of households, people living with disabilities and elderly people.

**Type of assistance:** Each family (household) received 5 kgs of rice

Number of beneficiaries:

1. 95 poor families
2. 59 families of female heads of household
3. 26 family of children heads of household
4. 17 families of people living with disabilities

5. 41 families of 3rd age people

Total households (families) having benefited from assistance: 238, or at least 1428 people.

**Note:** It should be noted here that apart from the Rice purchased by the fund from the Quakers in Great Britain, the Quakers of Goma collected clothes and shoes which were also distributed at the same time to the displaced people. Also, 80% of the beneficiaries were Quakers displaced in Goma and its surroundings and 20% displaced people of other beliefs (Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, etc.).



**Some beneficiaries after distribution**





Clothes and shoes from Quakers in Goma



George adds: “At this time, the displaced people in Goma still remain in very critical situations with an enormous need for food and other essentials and school materials for their children. The hope of returning to their villages is increasingly reduced because the war continues between the M23 and the national army.” The Quaker Congo Partnership appeal is now closed. If you would like to donate to support Quakers in Goma, please contact [elizcol@dialstart.net](mailto:elizcol@dialstart.net)

## IMPUNITY FOR ATROCITIES IN CONGO

**Justice Congo Group suggested letter to your MP (or other democratic representative if not in UK) on the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partial publication of the Mapping Report**

**If you write, please send a copy to [justicecongo610@gmail.com](mailto:justicecongo610@gmail.com), and keep us posted on any reply. And feel free to adapt it, as you wish. Please make sure you include your address in your letter, so that the MP knows you are their constituent.**

Dear (name) MP – you can find your MP through “findyourMP” on Google.

**Re: 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the partial publication of the UN Mapping Report, on atrocities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from March 1993 to June 2003**

Robert Garreton’s Mapping Report of the atrocities of violence, murder and rape committed in the DRC from March 1993 to June 2003, was commissioned by the United Nations, and partially published on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. I am writing to you on the anniversary of its publication to draw attention to the urgent need for full implementation of this extremely important report. It remains without full publication, and has remained shelved by the UN until now. The names of perpetrators were withheld from publication in 2010 (hence partial publication) largely because of pressure from the Rwanda government, many of whose military and political leaders were, and continue to be implicated in atrocities in the DRC.

This Mapping Report contains descriptions of 617 alleged violent incidents occurring in the DRC between March 1993 and June 2003, and contains a plan of action on these appalling and gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. As many of the perpetrators continue to act with impunity, especially in the east of DRC, it is

vital that these alleged crimes are brought to justice, so that the Congolese people can move forward.

The UK is greatly benefitting from the “critical minerals” mined in DRC for its energy transition, as well as the “conflict minerals” found in our mobile phones, which come from mineral mines in the east of DRC. It is essential that the UK government, and yourself as an MP, take responsibility for ensuring that the tragedies of the DRC’s recent past are dealt in an appropriate manner through implementation of the Mapping Report. In this way, our reliance on the DRC’s mineral wealth can be more adequately justified.

I look forward to hearing that you have been able to raise this matter in Parliament, when it resumes after the party conference season. It is well past time for a full and honest debate on the tragic situation in DRC, which persists to this day, and which could be greatly assisted by urgent implementation of the Mapping Report, as detailed above.

With greetings on this important 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mapping Report publication, which is being marked by many groups across Europe, as well as the UK Justice Congo Group, of which I am a member.

Yours sincerely,

**Your name and don’t forget to add your address**



1<sup>er</sup> OCTOBRE 2010 - 1<sup>er</sup> OCTOBRE 2023  
13 ANS D'OMERTA - Des décennies d'impunité  
Le MONDE LE SAIT , LE MONDE SE TAIT

Le peuple congolais réclame  
**JUSTICE !**

Journées de  
Mobilisation pour le  
**Rapport  
MAPPING**  
de l'ONU

Kinshasa , Goma , Bukavu, Rome,  
Dublin, UK, France, Belgique, RSA, Norvège...

[www.resistancecongolaise.fr](http://www.resistancecongolaise.fr)



Plus de 12 Millions de congolais morts  
Plus de 500 000 Femmes congolaises violées  
Plus de 6 Millions de déplacés



## **SUMMER GARDEN GATHERING PROCEEDS**

Summer Garden Gathering proceeds so far are just over £1,000. This figure is not final, as money is still coming in. The Gathering was not primarily a fundraising event, but was also for enjoyment and for reflection on wealth inequality.

### **Meeting For Worship at the DSEI London Arms Fair - held at the London Docklands ExCel Centre**

Steve Hornby and myself joined Quaker Roots to witness against the DSEI arms fair recently. Two weeks of resistance to the arms fair was planned this year. We joined the 'No Faith in War' day which took place during the setting up of the fair. This meant traffic was using the roads to take equipment and supplies in to the ExCel. The following is an account of the afternoon Meeting for Worship.

At the start of MFW some Friends were in the road but soon most moved on to the pavement. Less than a handful remained, they were sat in the road, and as MFW progressed the police given the more 'community' facing roll spent some time talking to them. It was clear the Friends would not budge. This led to the officer in charge marching in to the gathered worship shouting something about Section 14 and anyone in the road being arrested immediately. The Friends were then arrested. During the ministry of one Friend the police tried to take his microphone away but he stood his ground, having to remind them several times we were worshipping.

[www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/sep/20/war-military-inside-europes-biggest-arms-fair](http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/sep/20/war-military-inside-europes-biggest-arms-fair)

Allison Challen

**WHITE POPPY STALL - CENTRAL MANCHESTER MEETING HOUSE STEPS,  
SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 12- 2pm** (packing up earlier if bad weather).

**The support of AM Friends would be appreciated.** Flyers will be handed out and poppies distributed for a donation. Hot drinks available in the Friends Room throughout.

[www.ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies](http://www.ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies)

Thanks  
Allison



## **MANCHESTER PRIDE 25-27 AUGUST 2023**

### **Valerie Clark writes:**

For many years Quakers in Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting took part in Manchester Pride events during August Bank Holiday weekend and we were in the parade the year that Ian McKellen walked at the front. In those days we regularly hosted a ceilidh at Central Manchester Meeting House on Friday, walked in the parade on Saturday, and staffed an outreach stall on Saturday, Sunday and Monday in the Village. We did this because we knew our presence as a religious society was important as a way of witness, particularly as gay marriage was not yet legal. However, we decided to lay down our involvement when we felt our presence was no longer so critical, especially as the whole of Manchester Pride gradually became more and more commercialised.

Although Quakers were no longer formally involved, some of us still felt a need to take part. We once joined Cross Street Chapel Unitarians wearing our blue and green Quaker t-shirts (Quakers for Equality/Quakers do it in silence) as a complement to their deep purple ones. That year, both groups met up at the gold pillar box in Albert Square that has since been moved because of the Town Hall renovations and is now standing outside Central Manchester Meeting House instead. In the following years I often walked on my own with Cross Street Chapel friends wearing a blue Quaker t-shirt and they were most welcoming.

In 2022 Jeanna Roberts and I were in St Peter's Street, both wearing blue Quaker t-shirts to watch the parade, and several people came across to talk to us. This year I was asked by Young Friend, Thea Luckcock, if Quakers were taking part and, when I said we were not, I was invited to walk with CND. I asked Luke Cadden to join me but - on the day of the parade I sadly did not live, or even walk, very adventurously because I believed it would rain heavily and so I stayed at home.

But Luke stepped out in Quaker green and was hailed by Ella Otomewo, also from Central Manchester, who was elsewhere in the parade. And Jeanna Roberts took part this year too, riding on the float of the National Education Union. I was sorry I missed it all because I think our Quaker

presence in distinctive blue and green t-shirts is still important, whether as observers or participants.

### **Luke Cadden writes**

Sunshine pierced through the clouds after a rainy start to Manchester Pride; there was a motley procession of rainbow-draped corporations, trade unions, charities, anti-Tory protestors, the NHS and the UK Armed Forces.

Friends have spoken out against corporatisation of Pride and rightfully so. Meanwhile, as Pride becomes more profitable and mainstream, hate crimes against LGBT people have spiked since 2019. How paradoxical!

As an LGBT Quaker, I held the banner with the passionate folks at the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). Our weather-beaten classic typeface banner aesthetically harkened back to an era of radical LGBT activism so perhaps I had a taste of the radical past after all.

In previous years, brave people took radical action in staging Pride marches against the tides of disgraceful bigotry. And anti-LGBT discrimination once threatened livelihoods and ruined lives. We can never go back to all that.

Friends let's embrace the nuance and contradictions of activism in capitalism. Let's celebrate the transformation of the Gay Village into the atmospheric splendour of joy and take stock of our responsibility to stand up for our LGBT friends.

I really hope to see us return under our Quaker Rainbow banner at Pride 2024!



**Above: Luke Cadden and Ella Otomewo (Central Manchester)**

**Below: Jeanna Roberts (Central Manchester) and others on the NEU float.**



## **ECCLES LIFT**

The lift is now in working order. It developed problems after its annual service. This has certain irony as it was working before! There was then a need to get the firm back which is why there was a further delay and unfortunately expense.

Apparently the lift equipment is Canadian and the firm which came to do servicing and then repair think the problem may arise again as there is an intermittent issue with the wiring.

## **STOP PRESS**

**It looks like the lift has gone wrong again. From email preparing for Local Business Meeting 1 October:**

Update on the necessary lift repair situation and implications for Meeting for Worship and holding events.

Planning for the Lunen Event on Saturday 7th October. The lift situation may complicate this and we need to discuss how we all contribute to the successful hosting of the evening.



## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you are not on the mailing list, and would like to be emailed future copies of the Newsletter, 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 November newsletter is 31 October. It can take time for an email to arrive, so I suggest that you aim for 30 October. I put almost everything I receive into the newsletter, with very little editing. Short items with pictures are best.

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. Try to avoid sending text and photos that are under copyright, and get consent from people in photos if needed.

Look at the website <https://www.manchesterquakers.org.uk> under “Newsletters and Events” if you’d like to see back-issues of the newsletter.

If you want to make contact with anyone who writes in the newsletter, and no contact details are given, email me [elizcol@dialstart.net](mailto:elizcol@dialstart.net) and I’ll forward your email to them

Elizabeth Coleman, Editor 07969 385080