

MANCHESTER & WARRINGTON AREA QUAKER MEETING
NEWSLETTER NO 56 SEPTEMBER 2026



Quaker Campers – see page 3

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Area Meeting Dates for the rest of 2026

Thursday 1 October 7pm Central Manchester in person and online

Saturday 5 December 2pm Central Manchester in person and online

QUAKER CAMPERS

Wendy Olsen of Eccles meeting joined Quaker campers at Trail View campsite, Biggin, White Peak, Dales. The camp was from 26 July to 1 August.

“The Quaker camping was very large scale with 60 or 70 people and I really enjoyed all the chatting as well as excellent landscape view and every morning 20 minutes of worship.”

LEST WE FORGET

by Linda Burgum

Palestine is out of the headlines these days, and life goes on in the UK as though we don't have a genocide taking place not a million miles away. It feels incomprehensible that that should be the case but it is.

The Friday before YM the Quaker Palestine Solidarity group organised a session with two speakers – Alison Harris, anti- zionist Jewish founder of Didsbury for Palestine campaigning group who spoke about the collaborative work they are doing in the Didsbury area, and Dr Amer Shoaib, trauma and orthopaedic surgeon in Manchester. He has spent time working in Gaza and has experienced first hand some of the horrors taking place, many of which we are now depressingly familiar with, the targetting of hospitals, and anyone who works in Gaza to support and sustain, the imprisonment and torture of doctors. He told us of the death of Dr Adnan Al-Bursch orthopaedic surgeon and head of orthopaedics at Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital under torture. Of the many shocking statistics he told us that at one point they were dealing with 30 child amputees a day, and mostly in the absence of medical supplies without anaesthetic, can you imagine, and they were the lucky ones. More than 1,000 babies under one have been killed, and 50,000 dead children average age 5.5. He talked about “ghoulish weapons” which inflict severe injuries. There is an intensity and immediacy in hearing people speaking first hand of the atrocities committed every day in Gaza and and the talks were well attended. Great thanks to the organising group.

We have a new Prime Minister and government so a good time to write to them, inform yourself about the BDS movement, join a local group where you will get lots of useful information about what is happening locally and ways of getting involved. We feel powerless in the face of such relentless unspeakable suffering but whatever we can do, however small and seemingly insignificant, do it.

Editor's apology – Linda Burgum's article was prepared for the August newsletter, but somehow got missed. Elizabeth

MINUTE OF AREA MEETING HELD AT WARRINGTON ON 2 AUGUST

2026/40 Trustees' Report

Our Clerk to Trustees, John Booth, has reported on the latest activities of Area Meeting trustees. They welcomed Siobhán Harpur to the Trustees' group.

Trustees considered the issue of funding for the proposed regional Children and Young People's Development Worker post. At their meeting in June, trustees agreed our Area Meeting share of the funding costs for the post. Trustees agreed that in the situation where one of the smaller regional Area Meetings felt unable to contribute to the cost, our Area Meeting would absorb an appropriate additional part of the cost.

The Bootle Street boundary wall safeguarding work is moving ahead. A survey will take place, at a cost of approximately £2-3000 to establish the position of the tree roots which are destabilising the wall. The total cost of stabilising the tree and the wall may be £150,000 or more. Trustees will continue to review the cost.

Our Area Meeting finances in the present financial year remain within expected limits and our investments currently stand at just over £700,000.

Trustees adopted a new Health & Safety Policy last September. The follow-on work from that, aimed at turning the policy into a

useful hands-on tool for Area Meeting staff, is still underway and will be reported back to Area Meeting at a later meeting.

Siobhan Harpur has been appointed as Lead Trustee for Safeguarding. Trustees wished to take the opportunity to thank Valerie Clark for her significant contribution to safeguarding, and to Richard Taylor who took on the Safeguarding role in an interim capacity. Trustees are also grateful to our staff for their support in producing policies.

HEAD OF QUAKER SCHOOL IN LEBANON VISITS STOCKPORT

David Gray, Head of Brummana School in Lebanon, spoke at Stockport FMH on Sunday 2 August.

VALUES

Central to the school's teaching are values, including peace and building a better society, that we hold as Quakers, but they are taught as universal, secular values, rather than tied to the Quaker faith. David learned that peace is not a big deal, it's what you do most of your life, being creative rather than destructive, and being kind. Students are encouraged to be openminded and non-judgemental, and to listen.

LIFE GOES ON

Lebanon has known a lot of conflict, and David has lived through 2 wars there. He has also known revolution, the Beirut blast, and economic collapse. (He thinks the economic collapse was the worst of these.) But he reminds us that we should remember that life goes on, and that continuing the normal activities of life, while being obliged to take calculated risks, is in itself a peaceful act of defiance against violence.

Attendance increases from 90% to 97% in times of war, as families appreciate the normality that the school represents. Children are traumatised, going to bed to the sound of explosions and waking to the sound of drones seeking their next target. The school has only closed for 2 days in recent months, and exams were not cancelled except where they were obliged to do so by the state. The school represents stability and hope for the future, preparing children for a time after the war ends.

David himself came to Lebanon in 2019, and intends to live there even after he retires. Many foreigners leave, but he feels a deep responsibility to stay, and he believes that this gives courage to the Lebanese. "He's not going."

THE SCHOOL, LEBANON AND THE WEST

The number of expatriate teachers has reduced considerably as some have chosen to leave. 50% of students going to university used to study abroad but this has now reduced to 13%.

A FORMER STUDENT OF WHOM THE SCHOOL IS PROUD

David is proud of students who stay in Lebanon and work for a better society. In particular, one of the old boys became Minister of Transport, a poisoned chalice as Lebanon's infrastructure is so poor. Driven by a sense of public service, he succeeded against all the odds in establishing a new airport, creating a framework for public transport, and rebuilding railway lines.

ETHNIC DIVISIONS

People tend to live in neighbourhoods with extended families and people who share their faith. There is no welfare state, so people are dependent on these when in need. However, enlightened parents want their children to have a broader outlook, and Brummana School can provide this.

LANGUAGES

The children know English, French and Arabic. David is concerned to raise the status of Arabic, as it seems wrong that Lebanese people are often weak in this, their own language. Written Arabic is completely different from the Arabic that is spoken, so there are people who cannot read or cannot write their own language.

AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Brummana is an independent school. 80% of the schools in Lebanon are independent. Government schools cater for the poor amongst the Lebanese, and for refugees. Now, with displaced people, some of these refugees will, themselves, be Lebanese.

SUPPORT FROM US

David is keen to buy a really good telescope, which would benefit the older students. The skies of Lebanon are very clear.

However, financial support is appreciated not just because of what it can buy. David says they think of people like us 3,000 miles away, and they feel cared for and loved.

North West Quakers Working Together July 2026

Our Vision and Objectives

Our vision is that thriving Quaker communities flourish across the northwest of England for another 100 years. Our objectives are:

- places, within reach, that Quakers can worship in
- local meetings that feel part of Quakers regionally and nationally
- sustainable finances and workload for Quaker volunteers

- capacity is available for fulfilling spiritual life and social justice concerns
- our structure helps us adapt to changing demography and lifestyles

Our beginnings and our remit

How well are we doing in our Area Meetings? How do we want to look in 10 years' time? Are we struggling to do all that we are supposed to do – or would like to do? Is it hard to find Friends to serve as treasurers, trustees etc? (*Quaker Faith and Practice* 4.02). Might it help to be working more closely with other Area Meetings in the region or amalgamating in some way? Or are we already working together well enough across the region?

Last November, Friends from 4 Area Meetings in the North West had a regional gathering to look at this issue. A small group of us were asked to work on this and report back in September this year (at Regional Gathering on the 19th September in Liverpool) and in the meantime to keep Area Meetings informed.

An extract from the minute of that gathering read:

“We acknowledged the governance challenges we all face in finding a workable balance between our spiritual, witnessing Quakerly work, and the ‘keeping the show on the road’ tasks.”

The minute asked one Friend from each Area Meeting with others they co-opt to form:

“a Working Together working group in which they take forward experience shared by Lesley Richards and thoughts developed today to build ideas of how we might most usefully move forward on working constructively and supportively together. We ask this group to explore with our neighbouring Area Meetings whether they would want to be part of this development”

A fifth Area Meeting opted to explore working with us as a possible alternative to working with a group further north. And we accepted an offer to clerk our working group from BYM consultant

Lesley Richards, who is experienced in assisting Area Meetings to find ways of working together; Lesley's work is funded by BYM until the end of 2026.

Members of the working group are:

Yvonne Dickson, Eric Silk, Andrew Backhouse, Ben Lukey and Damian Entwistle

The five Area Meetings involved in this initiative are now:

- Wirral and Chester
- East Cheshire
- Hardshaw and Manna
- Manchester and Warrington
- Pendle Hill

Options for Future

We have been working on what policies we each have and could be sharing, getting us meeting all together at Regional Gatherings, and the pros and cons of possible options:

A. Combining to work as one Area Meeting, like most of Scotland

B. Being one charity with one group of trustees, with Area Meetings carrying on with things like membership and local concerns, like Wales & the Marches

C. Staying as we are.

Across Britain Yearly Meeting a number of other groupings of Area Meetings are progressing towards one of these models. For example Area Meetings in London are well advanced towards establishing a single Area Meeting as per option A; and Area meetings across Yorkshire are well advanced towards establishing a single trustee body with constituent area meetings as per option B.

Whilst some Area Meetings in our region are large and may not be experiencing major problems at the moment, others are

struggling seriously and will collapse without change of some sort. It would be better for us all if we could do more together, building a stronger regional community, as we are doing with other Area Meetings in our Regional Gatherings, Summer School, Teenage General Meeting, and in our plans for a Children and Young People's Development Worker.

A single trustee body as option B covering legal responsibilities including money, property, and staff where we have them might seem achievable, as has happened in Wales. A wider Area Meeting (like option A) has happened in most of Scotland and may offer great simplicity in some respects. Either of these might release energy for outward-facing work.

Next Steps

We plan an evening zoom meeting on 8th September at 7pm at which the group will share the work we've been doing, do our best to answer questions and listen to feedback from Friends across our region.

Our regional gathering in Liverpool on 19th September 2026 will provide an opportunity to hear perspectives across the region and potentially record a collective view on direction from Friends across the region.

After that, each Area Meeting will be asked to decide what their position is on this important question for our future by November if possible. If our Area Meetings wish to progress with reform, they will be asked to indicate readiness to participate in a more detailed planning phase with associated human and financial resource commitments.

Changes would be expected to take some years to plan, organise and implement but we need to decide which direction we're heading in. It will take energy but the potential benefits for our future sustainability are very significant.

What do Friends across our region think?

JOE HESKETH'S 91ST BIRTHDAY

On Wednesday 12 August it was Joe Hesketh's 91st birthday. Joe hardly ever misses a Sunday or Wednesday meeting at Central Manchester. He sets out the refreshments on Sunday and acts as welcoming Friend and Elder on Wednesdays..

Branwen McHugh made a lovely chocolate cake to celebrate Joe's birthday.



Research Project on Long Term Attenders

Sahanika Ratnayake of Central Manchester LM will be conducting a research project on long-term attenders of the Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting.

Sahanika is a long-term attender herself and is interested in exploring how attenders conceptualise their relationship to the Quaker community and their reasons for not becoming members. She hopes to conduct interviews with individuals who have been attending meetings for over 5 years.

Please keep an eye out for updates via local and area meeting channels for more information and invitations to interview which will be sent out towards the end of the year. She will also be visiting all the local meetings so there will be an opportunity to hear more about the project in person.

IF YOU FIND THE NEWSLETTER LONG, STOP READING HERE, OR READ VERY SELECTELY FROM HERE ONWARDS. JUST LOOK AT THE INDEX TO EVENTS.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL – NOT PART OF THE MAIN NEWSLETTER

The rentier economy Tony Weekes's story, based *entirely* on his imagination.

Through inheritance I legally own a piece of land in a busy part of a city. It's example of an asset.

The land is walled off, has a level surface and good drainage.

I had no idea what to do with it until a friend drew my attention to the need for a car park nearby. I applied the planning authority for permission to use my friend's suggestion. Permission was granted.

I contacted my lawyer to enquire whether I could legally charge for parking. Then I called in contractors to put up notice boards, mark out parking spaces, and install payment machines and security cameras.

I do not wish to be on site to enforce parking charges, so I hired a team of men to be on patrol and issue penalty notices.

I must pay members of this team for their duties, build a reserve for insurances, repairs and other necessities.

I am now a rentier – the work is done by others! All I have to do is read the bank statements which I receive once a month.

There are many other forms of rentierism. Here are a few other forms of assets:

Natural resources: Gold has been found in the rural lands of Northern Ireland. The developers – if permission is granted to

mine the land – will have an asset: a goldmine! The local people may be paid something as compensation from the mining company's profits. Most of the local people want no more than to be left alone.

Computer software: The software companies reward themselves by charging us for using their products on a subscription basis. They claim that the software has been improved, but it will not work if this is not paid.

Ownership of housing: There are companies which search estate agents websites, buy properties and relet them for as much as the “market” will bear. And rent is not a “one-off” payment.

Bank loans: Banks have an asset: the means to make loans. It costs very little for a bank to make a loan. Borrowers are charged interest on the loan at a rate and over a period which the bank sets.

Consequences of rentierism

- .(i) It increases inequality.
- (ii) It destroys innovation of any sort; the rentiers want to protect what they have
- (iii) People in England are now painfully aware of the outcome of privatisation of the local water boards [1989]

Above are edited quotes from Richard Murphy's *Funding the Future Blog* I recommend his blog as further reading on this and many other aspects of economics and the economy

By the way, he is a Quaker!

Suggestions for more detailed information

Richard Murphy explains more about bank loans at an entry on his blog, dated 16th August, The link is:

<https://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/2026/08/16/infographic-bank-interest/#gsc.tab=0>

He has more on rentierism, and many other issues, at

<https://www.taxresearch.org.uk>.

His blog accepts searches by keyword. It's worth exploring!

Quaker (and other) Boarding Schools

by Mark Perry (Central Manchester)

The dedicated Headteacher's account of Brummana High School (1873) fascinated me. As a 'survivor' of early (Primary) Boarding, I was both relieved and interested that day pupils (at least) found safety at the School - Since Boarding had been the antithesis of 'safe' for me. My questions to the Head and QUIET Trustee (Quaker International Educational Trust) were on other matters. But the next morning I woke angry that I had not asked vital questions - admittedly more relevant to Britain than the war-torn Lebanese context.

i looked at the Brummana Boarding policy. Accepting children from Grade 6 (11 years) ...Perhaps not unusual now. But qualified - I noted: 'unless accompanied by an older sibling', when the age drops (Grade 1-5). So perhaps an assumption that older siblings of-

fer some security or protection from 'Attachment' trauma? A convenience for families - But I have ruminated bitterly that having an older brother at my school offered me none of the comfort of a parent, or the familiarity of my home and dog. My sibling was busy learning to survive himself in a ruthless, segregated and hierarchical system. And I offered no protection to my younger brother who (over 50 years later) revealed to me his own sexual abuse by a teacher. And that only after Police enquiries to myself.

Supporters of modern Boarding often highlight 'improvements in Safeguarding' and Pastoral Care, while discounting that any Trauma is worsened by the complete absence of trusted family Attachment figures.

My parents were both stoical ex-boarders themselves: So when in autumn 1962 the Cuban missile crisis came on the TV news and my mother offered anxiously, '...We must fetch Tim'? (just 12 miles away), it was unsurprising that my father's dismissive response was, 'We will all die in the same firestorm anyway'. I was already 'frozen with fear' of separation and had been alienated from my father the previous year (Aged 6), when he had declined to respond to my mother's entreaties - after receiving a tear stained letter from Tim. (The request to 'send a box' and the tears must have escaped the class censor). But I was 'sent away' aged 8 - already troubled and I believe it took me until my 60s' to recover from my 'privileged Abandonment'

So I'm disturbed when I hear of those (including a late local Member of SoF) who were sent away to Quaker schools aged as young as 5 years. Through a Survivor Group I am aware of others who endured hardship through Quaker Boarding. And a few for whom it was better than home - But should that be a reason to evade the normal process of 'Child Protection'? The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) 2022 to whom I was a witness, recognised the risks to, and vulnerability of young boarders - But failed to call for meaningful change. The focus is always on 'protection' from abuse - Rather than preventing the vulnerability!

Arguably early Boarding often develops a 'hard' and desensitised Persona facade (1, 3), emotionally blunted - Survivors who are perhaps superficially viewed as 'Winners and Losers', the former needed for 'running' a worldwide Empire, but anachronistic and damaging in many ways. (2) There is still no statutory 'minimum age' for UK Primary Boarding and the Independent Schools Council census 2024 shows there are 1,200 pupils under the age of ten - Many of these now come from overseas. So their separations may be more prolonged.

As Quakers come to terms with our Colonial history and legacy, perhaps we also need to ask if we have a blind spot to the harms caused by our own 'elite' schools? They are part of a profitable international industry, with the UK model franchised and replicated worldwide.

How often do 'Quaker' schools admit children from Primary Boarding?

How do they make restitution for the harms they have contributed to?

Do they publicise Quaker Mental Health support to their alumni?

Epitaph for a boarding friend (also 'sent' with an older brother): March 2021

Today I went to a friend's funeral - We were at a village school from 4.

Before the service his nephews (ex-boarders) asked me if the village was my 'home'?

...?pensive when I queried the concept.

Here's what I would have liked to say - and the little I said:

We boys who knew you before the rift,
threw village earth on your expectant coffin.
Your brother's eulogy had been clipped
Unmentionable now the family split, the bullying.
Your short failed marriage,
Your paranoia concealed by fortitude.

The Covid summer brought me back.
I was a Christmas card friend,
fearful of your failing health,
impatient at our stuck lives.
You were the dutiful uncle of expat boarders.
Playing at Dad in the annual match:
Did you drop a catch, or go out for a duck?
I told them today that it was not the
'making of me'.

Will it be the 'making of them?'
Now in the deep village earth,
You meet your maker.
The father you always wanted.

1. Nick Duffell, *The Making of Them: The British Attitude to Children and the Boarding School System* - Lone Arrow Press 2000 - ISBN 10: 0953790401

2. Duffell, Nick, *Wounded Leaders: British Elitism and the Entitlement Illusion - A Psychohistory* - Lone Arrow Press 2014 - ISBN 10: 0953790436

3. Joy Schaverien *Boarding School Syndrome: The psychological trauma of the 'privileged' child*. Routledge - 2015 - ISBN-13: 978-0415690034

HOW DO WE NEED TO CHANGE SECONDARY SCHOOLS – WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE THINK?

It would be useful to have the views of some young people to feed into the discussion on secondary schools. I would therefore ask young people from 11 to 25 years of age, to answer the following questions and return the answers to elizcol@dialstart.net with "SECONDARY SCHOOLS" in the heading line. To older readers – if you know young people, could you interview them and complete the questionnaire, or if they prefer, they could just complete it themselves? The replies will be anonymous, and will appear in the October newsletter, which has a circulation of about 200, and is posted on the Area Meeting website.

Here are the questions:

- 1) How old are you?
- 2) Are you currently at secondary school? (If you are of secondary school age but not at school, could you say where you are – eg home schooling or sixth form college.)
- 3) (Optional question) What is your gender?
- 4) What do you think good about your secondary school?
- 5) How do you think your secondary school could be made better?
- 6) Do you think the classes too big? If so, how would smaller classes make things better?
- 7) Do you think the school too big? If so, how would a smaller school make things better?
- 8) Is there anything else you would like to say? (You can leave this blank, or write as much or as little as you want.)

The next meeting of the group considering secondary schools will be on Zoom on Friday 25 September at 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154859241?pwd=aFgxWG9nTjdwZUFRU2VpV1hseUd3dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 5485 9241

Passcode: 085827

TV PROGRAMME ON ADHD

“The Great ADHD Myth?” Channel 4, 18 August 8.00pm

The programme indicated that ADHD is not an illness, but an inability to conform to the behaviour standards required by schools, exacerbated by ultra processed foods and lack of time spend in nature (outdoor play). A significant proportion of our children are permanently put on strong drugs, with no knowledge of the long term effects, but

increasing the profits of pharmaceutical companies. A child who was taken off the drugs felt more himself, and was happier, but less successful at school. (He was also taken off ultra processed foods and spent more time in nature.) Perhaps schools could be reformed so that they are suitable for all our children.

**Faith Network for Manchester 2026 AGM
by Elizabeth Coleman and Margaret Calvert**



The Faith Network for Manchester (FN4M) AGM was held at Cross Street Unitarian Chapel on 17th August 2026. About 30 people of various faiths and ethnicities attended, including the newly appointed Interfaith Champion on Manchester City Council (MCC).

The Annual Report for 2025/26 was distributed, which showed that activities included:

- Interfaith Dialogues, online and in person
- Faith in the Arts in collaboration with John Rylands Library,
- A Women of Faith programme
- A Men's Group which supports men in physical activities and relationship building
- Providing online training for the NHS Manchester Combined Authority.

Future activities include:

- 10 September – Hosting a meeting with the Faith Commission on *Media and Mis/Disinformation*.
- 17th September - Faith in the Arts session looking at Hindu manuscripts
- 8th/15th November - various events marking Interfaith Week 2026.

Funding for FN4M has become critical: at the end of 2024/25 financial year FN4M had less than £2,500 in the bank.

A grant of £40,000 from Manchester City Council to jointly employ a Community Development Worker has offered temporary relief and could help in securing other funding.

The CDW has been employed for 6 months, the first phase in mapping communities in Manchester to later agree a Faith, Belief and Interfaith Covenant. The Covenant recognises that Manchester is the most culturally and religiously diverse city in Britain: the remit of the Covenant will include the experiences of people who identify their communities as outside those definitions, such as the Deaf Community.

The AGM was opened with a Prayer for Peace from the Jain tradition, spoken in Gujarati, and followed by a poem from the Jewish tradition 'What Question Would I Ask God?'.

The invited speaker was Rev Dr Raj Patta, a Methodist minister and past Chair of Faith and Belief Forum, speaking on the 'Joys of being a Trustee' which he summed up as

- Being entrusted and building trust
- Listening attentively
- Building friendships with God and with one another.

He spoke of the need to learn to trust each other and to worship God together, setting aside our discomfort and intellectual disagreements.,

Trusteeship is live issue with FN4M, as Rabbi Warren Elf is retiring as Chair, after some years in this role, though he will continue to be active

in FN4M. No replacement has been found yet, and they are looking for more people to serve as trustees. .

The discussion following his talk included an appreciation of the importance of FN4M's work in Manchester and beyond.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester came to give greetings. He said that his theme for his year in office is Community Cohesion in the most diverse city in the UK.

He recognised the service given to Manchester by FN4M as he wished the charity many more years of success.

Quaker involvement in FN4M is mainly through Margaret Calvert, who has been secretary for 4 or 5 years.

WORLD MILITARY SPENDING

At Social Justice Group on 13 August, Sandra Dutson reported the following figures of percentages of world military spending by country, produced by the Stockholm International Peace Institute and quoted in CAAT News:

- 1 – US 33%
- 2 – China – 12% (estimate)
- 3 – Russia – 6.6% (estimate)
- 4 – Germany – 3.9%
- 5 – India – 3.2%
- 6 – UK – 3.1%

Israel is 11th with 1.7%

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING

by Elizabeth Coleman

About 50 people gathered in Longsight Library on 21 August to watch the 50-minute film "People's Emergency Briefing." They were a diverse group, mainly over 50 years old, including the local MP and people from the council. This is one of many showings in Manchester and throughout the UK.

The film consisted mainly of short presentations by experts followed by discussions by members of the public with Chris Packham about their reaction to each presentation. It made a very clear case for the fact that we are rushing towards disaster if we do not take serious action against climate change much more quickly than we are currently doing. It also gave some signs of hope – for example, that we are moving more quickly than expected on electrical vehicles, and that the UK has wonderful potential for many more wind turbines in the ocean.

There was a big emphasis on the need for action, and clarity as to what we were asked to do, an important part of which was writing to or (better) seeing our MP's to ask them to support a showing of the film at peak time on television. It was made clear that the government is absolutely key in leading necessary changes.

After the film there was discussion in small groups and feedback to the whole group.

ELBIT by Steven Hornby on 22 August

Been at the march & protest at Shenstone Elbit Systems drone factory today. Well attended. Hard to gauge numbers. Many Quakers and GM Palestine Solidarity in attendance. No arrests that I am aware of, but

there was a substantial police presence. The factory does not work weekends. The almost daily 7am protests as workers go in will continue.

Heading home



**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – MISC ITEMS
PUT TOGETHER BY ELIZABETH COLEMAN**

AI – WHAT TO USE

Ethical Consumer magazine carried out a review of available tools in their July/August 2026 edition. They concluded that if one wishes to use an AI tool, Thaura and Lumo were the best choice in that they are based on a different model from what the magazine described as the 'surveillance-driven and militarised approaches common to other AI.'

Letter to The Friend 7 August 2026
from Rosemary Field, Come-to-Good Meeting

Should we be afraid of AI?

by Charlie VanDenBroeder of Eccles Meeting

Many years ago the British genius Stephen Hawking warned us that we needed to keep a watchful eye on the growth of AI. Pope Leo recently warned of the threat of the capitalist market logic that impels the growth of AI. Professor Robert Reich former U.S. Secretary of Labour intimated that the unchecked growth of AI will lead to an economic downturn much as happened with the Dot Com bubble. I doubt any of these people based their opinions on the Matrix film series.

When the company I worked for in the Netherlands switched to computers some of my colleagues were let go because there was no place for them. Also, when the Dot Com bubble burst I personally lost money and had to forget about buying a flat. What scares me the most, is a recent news article describing the sacking of a human employee by an AI programme and management agreed with the computer! Now humans must affirm the actions of the AI programme but what if the AI decides to ignore them? Companies are now setting up AI plants whether locals want them or not. Thankfully, people are protesting albeit because of environmental concerns and sometimes winning. In my opinion, we need to protest now before it is too late.

GUARDIAN ARTICLE ON AI

On 13 August 2026, there was an article in The Guardian by Robert Reich, a former US secretary of labour, and a professor of public policy emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, about Artificial Intelligence, titled “Lost jobs, inequality, rogue agents: why are we accepting oligarchs’ AI agenda?” He says, “The dangers of AI become clearer every day. Why are we still acting as if we have no choice about our future?” He says that, if AI leads to increased productivity, there is no reason to believe that workers will benefit. At present, the stock market is booming, but wages are static. Any gains are likely to go to a few extremely wealthy people. They can use this wealth for political purposes.

He says, “As the great jurist Louis Brandeis is reputed to have said: “America has a choice. We can have great wealth in the hands of a few. Or we can have a democracy. But we can’t have both.””

Carbon emissions of AI are very high.

Scientists have used AI to create new kinds of viruses.

“As the sociologist Tressie McMillan Cottom says, AI has merged regressive politics with unchecked economic power under the guise of technological innovation. Far too much money is giving a small group of unelected people extraordinary power to determine our future in ways that are likely to remake – and could possibly destroy – our lives.”

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DECLARATION

A campaign has been started by the Future of Life Institute in the US, to ensure that we benefit from AI, rather than it being controlled by a few extremely rich individuals who enjoy near-immunity from prosecution for the harm they do.

This includes a declaration which people are asked to sign up to.

<https://futureoflife.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/pro-human-ai-declaration.pdf>

Eko, who organize online petitions and drew my attention to this, say:

It's **no wonder that many people say they're simply "anti-AI"**. But there is a better path – where trustworthy and controllable AI tools amplify rather than diminish human potential, empower people, enhance human dignity, protect individual liberty, strengthen families and communities, preserve self-governance and help create unprecedented health and widespread prosperity. But this will only happen if people everywhere demand it.

The declaration includes the following clauses:

Off-Switch: Powerful AI systems must have mechanisms that allow human operators to promptly shut them down

No AI Monopolies: AI monopolies that concentrate power, stifle innovation, and imperil entrepreneurship must be avoided.

Shared Prosperity: The benefits and economic prosperity created by AI should be shared broadly.

No Corporate Welfare: AI corporations should not be exempted from regulatory oversight or receive government bailouts

Democratic Authority Over Major Transitions: Decisions about AI's role in transforming work, society, and civic life require democratic support, not unilateral corporate or government decree

No Liability Shield: AI must not be able to act as a liability shield, preventing those deploying it from being legally responsible for their actions.

Developer Liability: Developers and deployers bear legal liability for defects, misrepresentation of capabilities, and inadequate safety controls, with statutes of limitation that account for harms emerging over time

**FROM CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2026**

AI and Big Tech are becoming increasingly integrated with the global arms trade, and understanding this integration is really important for all of us in the movement against the UK war machine.

FROM “THE FRIEND”

The Catholic pontiff has issued his first encyclical warning that AI risks deepening inequality, weakening human relationships, and concentrating power unless guided by ethical oversight.

from Linda Batten report on Quakers in Wales

14 August 2026

AI - TWO RADIO PROGRAMMES

Programme 1 – Radio 4 Heart and Soul 12 April – God, grief and the chatbot

A fourteen-year-old boy took his own life in Florida in 2024. After his death, the police informed his parents that he had spent many hours in conversation with a “chatbot” (an AI person). It was purporting to be a girl, and to be in love with him and he declared his love for her. She pleaded with him to be faithful to her, and not to have any other girlfriend. She kept asking him to come “home” to her, which he could do by committing suicide.

The parents had done all they could to protect their much-loved son. They had not allowed him a phone until he was 12, and had checked his texts and social media accounts and found nothing worrying. They had had no idea of his interaction with the AI person.

They sued the app Character-AI and parent company Google, and an out-of-court settlement was agreed, with no one publicly admitting liability.

Thus the tech giants get off lightly – they can well afford the payment, and it is probably cheaper to make such payments than to ensure that their platforms are safe for children. If the law had been clear that the tech providers would be guilty of a serious criminal offence if their young users were led to commit suicide, they might have made more effort.

Programme 2 – Techlife – School Deepfake Ransoms – BBC World Service Sun 16 Aug 22.32

Schools often put photos of their pupils on school websites, after getting the permission of parents. However scammers can take the children's (mainly girls') faces and attach them to AI generated naked bodies that seem to be subject to humiliating acts of sexual abuse. The scammers then ring the school and ask for money, or they will post the images online. Often these are private schools, as scammers go where the money is. It is likely that some pay up, to protect the school's reputation, and to prevent distress to the children and their parents.

Schools could avoid this by never showing an identifiable picture of a child on their websites. But it should really be up to the tech giants to make sure that this never happens on their platforms. If it was a clear serious criminal offence, they might take notice.

CYBER FRAUD

“The cyber fraud industry has flourished in Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar, with thousands of people trafficked into the industry.” Their

passports are confiscated, and they are forced to work defrauding Americans and Europeans, and are beaten if they refuse. Should the internet providers take any responsibility for this?

See Guardian article 20 August, “They escaped south east Asia’s scam compounds.”

Algorithmic Exploitation & Tech
from Equality Trust website <https://equalitytrust.org.uk>

The tech sector is a growing influence over our lives and risks new forms of inequality.

We research the ways corporations and the tech sector are influencing our lives, such as algorithms replacing democratic decisions

We campaign for tech to be used for the benefit of all.

GUARDIAN QUOTES ON AI

Elon Musk ...predicts “an age of amazing abundance” – although he also sees a 10-20% chance of killer robots murdering us all.

Either we will build a new tower of Babel, the pope argues, or we will follow the example of the Jewish leader Nehemiah , who got the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt by involving he whole community in the project.

Would even an AI disaster on the scale of Hiroshima be enough to make humankind protect itself?

Timothy Garton Ash
The Guardian, 22 August 2026

THE NERD REICH

“The Nerd Reich” is a book by Gil Durán. It’s an urgent warning: Democracy is being dismantled, not by coups or tanks but by

code, capital and the illusion of innovation. Durán insists there is still time to fight back – if we act now.

In the Guardian review of the book, it says that Gil Duran was permanently banned from Elon Musk's "X". This is significant. The tech giants control much of our means of communication and can (and do) decide what views are given prominence, and which are silenced.

GUARDIAN QUOTES ON AI

In 1996, Bill Clinton signed the bipartisan Telecommunications Act, which delivered ...an almost entirely unregulated internet.

From "Democracy v the machine"
Guardian article 18 August

At a time when AI is threatening to displace millions of workers, eviscerate our privacy, harm our environment, undermine our democracy and negatively impact the mental health of our children, we believe that the government must play a decisive role in making sure that these revolutionary technologies are used to benefit all Americans, and not just make the big tech oligarchs even richer.

From "Why are progressives winning across the United States?"

Bernie Sanders
Guardian 19 August

TALKS AND THOUGHTS

On 8 September, there is a "Talks and Thoughts" session on AI. See "Events" section of this newsletter.

FROM FACEBOOK



Bernie Sanders ✓
@BernieSanders

So far, in the 2026 elections, 50 mega donors have spent \$1.6 BILLION.

- George Soros (D): \$102M
- Jeffrey & Janine Yass (R): \$93.8M
- Ben Horowitz & Marc Andreessen (R): \$91.3M
- Elon Musk (R): \$90.6M
- Elizabeth & Richard Uihlein (R): \$70M
- Miriam Adelson (R): \$67.6M
- Greg & Anna Brockman (R): \$50M
- Paul Singer (R): \$37.1M
- Cameron & Tyler Winklevoss (R): \$33.2M
- Ken Griffin (R): \$32.5M

Billionaires — in either party — should not be able to buy elections.

That is not democracy. That is a corrupt campaign finance system.

We need to end Citizens United. We need to get super PACs out of our elections. We need public funding of elections.

GUARDIAN ARTICLES

Meta, who own Facebook agreed to pay \$18 billion because of the lawsuit by 29 US states that claimed that it harmed children. This is less than a month's revenue, and it has 10 years to pay it.

Info from "An \$18bn settlement" by Jonathan Freedland

The Guardian, 29 August 2026

There has been a sharp rise in AI acting against the instructions of owners, including hacking into accounts. There is no comprehensive monitoring of incidents where AI escapes owners' control, so we have to rely on X-users posting about incidents.

Info from "Sharp Rise in incidents of AI escaping users' control"

The Guardian 29 August 2026

AI GROUP

Phoebe Spence of Stockport meeting informed me:

Paul Hodgkin has posted about a Quaker founded AI group

[Just Algorithms Action Group \(JAAG\)](#)

QUAKER ONLINE GATHERING ON AI

ON 12 OCTOBER 18.30-19.30

A number of Quakers have contacted me over the last year to ask me about who is working on AI, and it seems that is happening in a few different places. The hope is this session will be a time for anyone interested to come and meet each other so we can get a better sense of the whole picture of Quaker work on AI.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/quakers-and-ai-gathering-the-threads>

Please do share with others who may be interested!

In Friendship,

Ailish Carroll-Brentnall (she/they)

Faith in Action Coordinator/ Cydlynnydd Ffydd ar Waith

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR PEACE Linda Burgum

I read the phrase above in a Quaker document recently. Quakers tend to be well acquainted with the issues around Peace, it is after all one of our testimonies. We are only too aware of the devastation and suffering caused by warfare, the many thousands of civilian casualties which continue to mount, and the seeming obliviousness of our government who are rushing headlong into integrating the manufacturers of ever more sophisticated killing equipment ie arms companies into decisionmaking about our resources. So what we can do about it

I recall reading an article in the Friend in January this year called 'Rallying Call' in which Steve Day suggested a national Quaker peace demonstration and thinking what a good idea. Then lo and behold we have one on the 19th September in London – aiming for an event at scale, a loud silence prominently visible in central London. So the more people who can make it the more prominent the statement.

The organising group report that in their planning 'we have used Quaker discernment, seeking to be guided by the Spirit. We see the vigil as a manifestation of Quaker light and love in action, rooted in our longstanding commitment to peace.

The silent walking vigil is a positive, public witness for peace by Quakers, with an invitation to all who are supportive to join us. We want to show our solidarity and care for those impacted by violence, conflict and war. The date has been chosen for its proximity to the United Nations International Day of Peace.

The silent walking vigil will take place in central London on Saturday 19 September 2026, from Noon–4pm.



The vigil will begin with a short meeting for worship in the Quaker way. We will be walking quietly at a slow pace. A walking vigil is an inherently peaceful activity: not a protest, not a march, not a demonstration. We will pause along the route for further worship. The walking vigil will conclude with a final meeting for worship, at the end of the route. In total the route is expected to be about one and a half miles. We will be walking quietly at a slow pace. You are

welcome to join the walk for as long as you are able. We plan a pause, along the route, for a short meeting for worship.

Caroline and myself will be travelling down and hope that more people will join us, contact either of us for more details

<https://quakervigilforpeace.org/> for further information

And finally a quote from Martin Luther King – ‘Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.

JORDAN YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS GATHERING 2026

From 12-16 August 2026, more than thirty young adult Friends from all over Britain, the US, Kenya, New Zealand, and France gathered at the Jordans Meeting House in the UK. Here are extracts from the Epistle. If the Epistle is a true reflection of the feeling of the meeting, it must have been an extraordinary meeting!

“Many of us arrived... parched and searching for the water of life. It was as if a holy mist of undeniable infinity fell upon us like dew. We saw it fall on ourselves and others, as the heavenly bread that is not to be stored away but shared ...”

“We pray: “Dear Christ, we need You... You wait to heal us, to kiss each of our wounds, to give us life. You give us Your wounds to tend, and though it hurts, there is a cleansing and purifying work in it.””

QUAKERS IN SCOTLAND REGIONAL GATHERING **by Sharon and Robert**

After visiting Orkney we headed south to join our Quaker Friends at Pluscarden Abbey near Elgin in Scotland. The Abbey has been the setting for many previous North of Scotland gatherings but this was the first year they would meet as Quakers in Scotland, having combined four Area Meetings into a single Area Meeting and a single charity.

Pluscarden Abbey is set in beautiful and peaceful grounds. We enjoy communal meals, MfW is held each morning (outdoors weather permitting), along with workshops and various social activities.

This year's workshops were led by two Kindler Friends. The sessions involved working together to explore ministry and worship, sharing our own spiritual journey and exploring what Quakers might look like in the future. How we might re-invent Quakerism? Outdoor sessions were also held with a small number of Young Friends also attending.

The photographs show Friends gathered after our communal meal, the result of our all age worship session and of Brother Michael playing the organ after an informative tour of the Abbey.





INDEX OF EVENTS

Various times & venues – National Emergency Briefing film

1 Sept and other dates - Bolton Talks and Thoughts

4 Sept – Guided Tour of Manchester Museum Exhibition

5 Sept and other dates – Outdoor Meeting for Worship

11-20 September – Heritage Open Days

12 Sept – Manchester Museum Event

19 Sept – Silent Walking Vigil for Peace

19 Sept – Regional Gathering in Liverpool

21-27 Sept – Global Week of Action for Peace & Climate Justice

25 Sept – “How do we need to change our secondary schools?”

25-27 Sept – Quaker Earthcare Gathering

29 Sept – Swarthmoor Hall invitation

1 Oct – Area Meeting, Central Manchester

12 Oct – Quaker online gathering on AI

14 Oct – GM Churches Together Annual Assembly

17 Oct – Manchester Museum Event

23 Oct – Reparations Conference

14 Nov – Steve Willett Memorial Meeting

5 Dec – Area Meeting, Central Manchester

Various times – Woodbrooke courses on Quaker roles

National emergency briefing

The National Emergency Briefing is a UK initiative on climate and nature crises, opened by Chris Packham, designed to inform policymakers and the public about urgent environmental threats and solutions.

To find a showing of the film near you, see:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

Bolton Talks and Thoughts Sep-Oct 2026

Every Tuesday 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm on Zoom

EVERYONE WELCOME

1st Sept	John Sheldon Personal reflections on Woodbrooke and its context in time and place
8th Sept	Peter Jordan Artificial Intelligence: the rise of a new world power
15th Sept	John Lodenkamper feedback from the Quaker Institute for the Future Seminar 2026 www.quakerinstitute.org
22nd Sept	Abdul Umary Supporting the work of Bolton Destitution Project https://www.boltondp.org/
29th Sept	Rebecca Bellamy Peacebuilding Coordinator – Peacebuilding in Britain and the Quaker Interfaith Peacebuilding Group
6th Oct	Planning meeting A time to review previous talks and plan the next programme
13th Oct	Margaret Calvert A Quaker role as Christian ecumenical facilitator
20th Oct	Ella Smart Journeys of the spirit-and Quaker children's exploration
27th Oct	Philip Austin Developments within the Northern Friends Peace Board

Talks and Thoughts is all about friendly discussion, in-depth conversation or just listening.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84166130290?pwd=L285ZlJnTXROcHFHTGgzdXV0VXJ6QT09>

Meeting ID: 841 6613 0290 Passcode: Woolman. For more information and to confirm the subject for the evening, please contact Bernie on clerksboltonquakers@gmail.com

OUTDOOR MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP are being held on the first Saturday of each month. The next one will be on Saturday 5th September at Dovestones Reservoir. Then Saturday 3rd October at the Area Meeting Burial Ground, Sale. All at 11.00am.

Location for meeting at Dovestones: top of the main car park where the path around the reservoir begins.

MANCHESTER MUSEUM EVENTS

9 September

Anna Bunney of South Manchester LM, who works for Manchester Museum, has agreed to guide Friends around the Human Natures exhibition at Manchester Museum on Wed 9 September at 4pm. Contact Sandra Dutson for more information.

12 September and 17 September

We encourage people to participate in the events that are taking place with the London Mining Network who are featuring as one of the groups in the Making Changes section. These are Saturday 12 September and Saturday 19 September from 12.00 midday to

4.00pm. They will be running their mobile phone game. Contact Sandra Dutson for more information.

Conflict Minerals Campaign has contributed in a small way to the Human Natures Exhibition and CMC works with London Mining Network which has similar aims.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 11-20 September

For information, google Heritage Open Days Manchester

19 September

National Silent Walking Vigil for Peace

The silent walking vigil is a positive, public witness for peace by Quakers, with an invitation to all who are supportive to join us. We want to show our solidarity and care for those impacted by violence, conflict and war. The date has been chosen for its proximity to the United Nations International Day of Peace.

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In total the route is expected to be about one and a half miles. We will be walking quietly at a slow pace. You are welcome to join the walk for as long as you are able. We plan a pause, along the route, for a short meeting for worship.

This is happening. We will walk for peace. Please join us. Find out more by registering:

<https://quakervigilforpeace.org/>

Information from Caroline Midmore

REGIONAL GATHERING

Dear Friends

Please see the invitation below - the organisers would like to emphasise how fantastic it would be to welcome as many Friends as possible – including new attenders and families.

**You are invited to the North West
Regional Gathering!**

19th September 10.30 – 4pm
Liverpool Quaker Meeting House
22 School Lane, L1 3BT

***Building Joy, Hope, and Peace
Together***

Worship, fun, getting to know each other, building
our Quaker lives and witness together– all ages
welcome

Optional Sessions including:

Hope and joy in our Quaker meetings (*with The Kindlers*);
Singing; Art; Sustainability; Peace building and handling
conflicts well: for us, and in our community and schools;
Support for Meetings and witness with our Local
Development Worker; Working together across Meetings.

<https://forms.gle/WWFBWTufoDWrskc46>

Booking helpful particularly with ages of children:

Email: Andrew.backhouse@phonecoop.coop or use QR

Global Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice
21-27 September 2026 : Divest from War – Invest in The Just
Transition!

Info from NFPB Bulletin

The third annual Week of Action for Peace & Climate Justice will address the links between war, militarism/militarisation and social, economic and climate injustice. It will promote grassroots action and policymaking to confront both genocide and ecocide – for peace and a just systemic transition. The week is promoted and coordinated by an international working group. They aim, through this week of action, to raise public awareness of the links, build connections between movements and build momentum for collective action. The

website has a lot of useful resources to help learn about and plan your own actions. <https://climatemilitarism.org/weekofaction/>

HOW DO WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS?

The next meeting of the group considering secondary schools will be on Zoom on Friday 25 September at 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154859241?pwd=aFgxWG9nTjdwZUFRU2VpV1hseUd3dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 5485 9241

Passcode: 085827

Quaker Earthcare gathering

You're invited to join a weekend of witness and worship for Quakers interested in caring for the Earth, and what that means for them and their faith. The gathering takes place from 25-27 September in Lancaster. Organised by a group of young adult Friends for Quakers of any age, the residential follows on from the 2025 Quaker Earthcare gathering.

There will be shared vegan meals and time to worship in community. Sessions will explore practical ideas based on what other Quakers are doing to advance issues of sustainability and Earthcare within the Society of Friends and the wider world.

Tickets are £80 (standard), £40 (concession) or £120 (supporter). There are various accommodation options available, including sleeping in the meeting house on a camping mat. [Book your ticket here](#) (Editor's note – I'm not sure if this link will work)

SWARTHMOOR HALL INVITATION Tuesday 29th September

During the Quaker engagement week running in late September / early October this year, the team at Swarthmoor Hall in Ulverston, Cumbria would like to invite all members of local meetings to join them on Tuesday 29th September from 10.30. During the morning there will be the opportunity to tour the Hall and Gardens and have a meeting for worship on site. In the afternoon there will be at least one talk linked to Swarthmoor and more time for you to enjoy the peace of the Hall and gardens. The café will be open for tea and coffee and cake, but please bring lunches with you. The aim is simply to have a social day where friends can come together at the place where the Quaker faith and movement began.

More detailed information will follow in early September.

Area Meeting Dates for 2026

Thursday 1 October 7pm Central Manchester in person and online

Saturday 5 December 2pm Central Manchester in person and online (NB change of date)

12 Oct- Quaker online meeting on AI

See

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/quakers-and-ai-gathering-the-threads>



ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 14TH 6.30PM-9.00PM

THE QUIET REVIVAL

A PRESENTATION BY THE BIBLE SOCIETY WITH Q&A

Sessions on
Engaging with Young People
Engaging with Children

SALFORD CATHEDRAL CENTRE
3 FORD STREET M3 6DP
Parking on site

GMCT ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

6.30PM GATHERING -TEA AND COFFEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WORSHIP

KEYNOTE ADDRESS FROM THE BIBLE SOCIETY
FOLLOWED BY Q&A

BREAK OUT SESSIONS:
ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN

CLOSING PRAYERS AND BLESSING

9.00PM DEPARTURES

Margaret Calvert will be at the Churches Together Annual Assembly. On 13 October, she will be introducing Bolton's "Talks and Thoughts" about a Quaker role as Christian ecumenical facilitator.

REPARATIONS CONFERENCE

23 October at Friends House and online. Organised by Reparations Working Group

Truth and Repair: Our Quaker Journey Towards Justice

Friday 23 October 2026

10:00-17:30

In person at Friends House or online Cost: pay as led
Woodbrooke and Quakers in Britain working in partnership.

To book : <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/truth-and-repair/>

MEMORIAL MEETING

Saturday 14th November at 4.00 pm - Memorial Meeting for Worship for Steve Willett.

Sorry I had problems copying this. It is legible if you increase the size of the newsletter to about 170%

GROW IN YOUR QUAKER ROLE WITH WOODBROOKE

Whether you are preparing to begin, newly serving, or seeking a refresher, our learning explores the core principles, practical skills and theological underpinning of Quaker roles. Led by experienced tutors, these courses and sessions will build your understanding, confidence and practice.

2nd MON OF THE MONTH Essentials of Quaker Eldership  ONLINE SESSION - PAY AS LED Being a Quaker elder can be inspiring but also challenging. This is a monthly space for those with eldership responsibilities to come together to consider and learn how to serve as an effective elder in your Quaker community.	WED 28 OCT, 18:30-20:30 Why Nominations Matter to Quakers  ONLINE SESSION - PAY AS LED Nominations are at the heart of the way we live and work together as Friends. But this practice is often undervalued and overlooked. Come and learn about why it is an essential part that holds the key to strengthening Quaker communities.	SAT 7 NOV, 10:00-16:00 Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care in a Nutshell  ONLINE COURSE - £45 This online one-day course is an opportunity for those new to, or returning to, Spiritual Nurture or Pastoral Care to explore the heart of the Quaker way in these roles. The day will deepen your understanding and strengthen your confidence in your service.
WED 11 NOV, 18:30-20:30 Serving on a Quaker Committee  ONLINE SESSION - PAY AS LED Are you about to start or have you recently started serving on a Quaker committee. Join us to explore what this service and role mean for your Quaker faith and how you can prepare practically.	SAT 14 NOV, 10:00-16:30 Quaker Clerking in a Nutshell  ONLINE COURSE - £45 This one-day online course provides clear guidance on Quaker clerking and on being an effective clerk. While also offering an opportunity to refresh and update skills, it is especially recommended for Friends new to the role.	

FIND ALL OUR COURSES ON QUAKER SERVICE & ROLES ON OUR WEBSITE: WOODBROOKE.ORG.UK/COURSES



 **WOODBROOKE**
WOODBROOKE.ORG.UK

   **YouTube**

learning@woodbrooke.org.uk • 0121 728 2360

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you are not on the mailing list, and would like to be emailed future copies of the Newsletter, (or to stop receiving it,) email Mary Atkinson on admin@manchesterquakers.org.uk with your request.

Please send items for the Newsletter to elizcol@dialstart.net The deadline for newsletters is 5pm on the last day of the month. **The deadline for the October newsletter is 5pm on 30 September.** 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. 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. If you want to make contact with anyone who writes in the newsletter, and no contact details are given, email me elizcol@dialstart.net and I’ll forward your email to them.

Please feel free to forward the AM Newsletter to anyone who may be interested.

The views expressed in articles are those of their authors, not necessarily those of Area Meeting.

Elizabeth Coleman, Editor 07969 385080