

Keeping connected



ISSUE 6

JAN/FEB 2010

BEVERLEY QUAKER MEETING
KEEPING CONNECTED
A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

... And we shall have snow ...

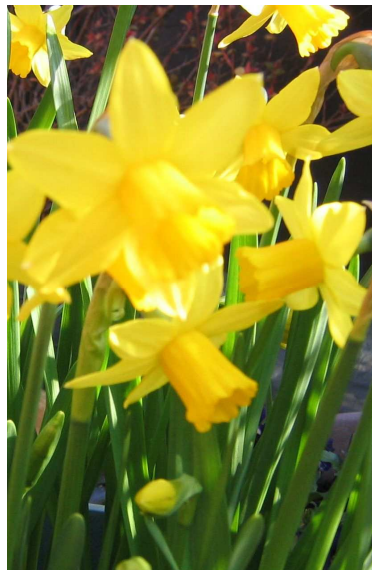
... and so we did. After what seemed like a very long autumn, when trees clung on to their leaves and new buds began to show on some shrubs, suddenly it was winter! It caused some of us to hibernate more than usual—an opportunity to read all those books we'd bought at the meeting book sale, perhaps — and some Friends weren't able to get to meeting because of icy conditions. There was more than one casualty resulting from icy pavements & roads. But snow on the Westwood gave joy to a lot of people. On at least one Sunday after meeting it was difficult to walk down Wood Lane as sled-toting families and friends made their way towards the Westwood for an afternoon on the slopes.

Yet, for all the vagaries of the weather, our meeting activities barely faltered. Poetry and computer sessions continued, as did mid-week meetings. We were in good voice again for our annual carol singing in a snowy Angel Square and the Boxing Day walk arranged by Janet & Phil Entwistle proved to be enjoyable once again. The Brass Band concert in the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough was also a big draw, with the added at-

traction of a fish and chip lunch beforehand!

And now we are half way through our latest study series, exploring farther the experience and insights of early Friends as expressed in their writings to see what relevance they might have for us as Quakers today, what we might learn from that early experience.

These are valuable sharings which will encourage further exploration in the coming months.



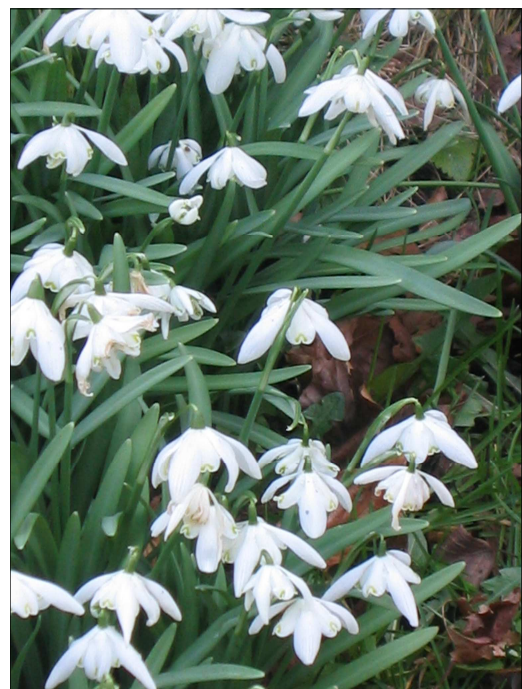
They will come ... if later than last year, captured here 20.3.2009

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Spring's coming!

Snowdrops in the meeting house garden, 2009. Originally from the Swarthmoor Hall garden, they continue to flourish here and can be seen just pushing through, February 2010



Becoming Friends

Coming into membership is a two-sided process involving the individual on their spiritual journey and a whole community of faith. It is a process of discernment that involves both the applicant and the wider Quaker community ... It is the outward acknowledgement of an inward growth of commitment or a sense of belonging to the Religious Society of Friends.

Quaker faith and practice, 11.05

It is a real joy to let you know that, since the last newsletter appeared, two Beverley attenders have been accepted into membership of the Area Meeting and hence of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Helen Clark and Jenni Beech were accepted into membership in November and February respectively and it is a delight to know that they will be continuing their spiritual journey among us. I'm sure that we will all want to welcome them and to reassure them as they continue to discover more about us, how the community of Friends administers itself and about the opportunities and joys that will come from the commitment that we make to each other as members.

Becoming Friends is also the title of an exciting new course which aims to nurture and support those coming new to Friends, whether new members, current attenders or those enquiring and just wishing to know more. It has been developed by Ginny Wall and is a project of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and Quaker Life. The course can be obtained in paper format at a cost of £10 or as an online course at a cost of £5 .

The interactive course allows participants to work at their own pace with a variety of materials, has options to work with others if they wish, including on-line discussion groups. It can help newcomers to develop their understanding of Quakerism while at the same time exploring their own spiritual journey.

Alongside the written materials, longer standing Friends will be on hand to give support, in particular those who undertake to become *Becoming Friends* "companions", who will be prepared to walk alongside those who want to follow the course.

The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments which it wears. These things have their own importance: they embody the society to the world, and protect it from the chance and change of circumstance; but the springs of life lie deeper, and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members of the society with God and with one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of the spiritual life which is its strength ☞

William Charles Braithwaite, 1905

Cause for celebration

This year, our meeting winter get-together was something altogether different from our Late, late Christmas party — except for the fact that all Friends were invited! Chris and Brian Fellowes invited us all to lunch at their home in Leconfield on 30th January — well that was a brave thing to do!

Some 20 Friends gathered and chatted over hot fruit punch while Brian and Chris put the finishing touches to the hot spread that they had prepared. Then, as we were called to lunch, Chris and Brian explained that for them this was a special celebration and a way of saying "thank you". It was to celebrate 10 years among Friends, which has been a life-changing experience for them both, and they warmly thanked Friends for the welcome, the "coming home" and the continuing fellowship on their journey.

It was a deeply moving and enjoyable occasion that reminded us how important is our coming together as a community, how sharing our joys, sorrows, doubts, and experience nourishes us and binds us together.

It was good to be able to be part of this celebration.

Sally Staynes, 1910-2009

In December, our dear Friend Sally Staynes died following several months of illness. Just a few months earlier, Sally had celebrated her 99th birthday, among friends and family.

Sally and Billy Staynes had moved to Bridlington over 30 years ago from Wakefield where they had been very active members of the meeting. They soon settled into Bridlington meeting, continuing to serve in many ways, helping to maintain the small meeting and joining in with the life of the Monthly Meeting. Sally was always happy as part of the small team offering hospitality whenever Friends from the area gathered in Bridlington.

In the last few years, Sally has been pleased to offer her bungalow as one of the venues for meetings for worship in Bridlington since the sale of Bridlington meeting house. She enjoyed this time of worship, latterly often reflecting afterwards on her long life among Friends.

Many people's lives have been touched by Sally Staynes and some of this was recollected with thankfulness as family, Friends and friends gathered at Octon for her funeral on 30 December. Her death, following so soon after the death of our Friends Jean McVie and Ken Sheppard, is a great sadness to us, especially to those Friends formerly of Bridlington meeting. We hold them and Sally's family and friends in our thoughts.



Sally is pictured here enjoying the customary refreshment after meeting for worship at the home of Ken & Mary Sheppard in Driffield.

Carol singing in the snow!

Carol singing to raise funds for Shelter has become an annual event for the meeting, whether we are songsters or not. This year it was good to have Finn and Fergus with us from our children's meeting. It is actually good fun standing out there in the freezing cold getting hoarse — and we are grateful to Kathy John for making the arrangements with the council each year so that we can do it. This year, with slush underfoot and a bitter temperature, we were supplied with coffee and muffins by the owner of Dine on the Rowe, a new restaurant just opposite where we were singing. It was a very kind and welcome gesture whether prompted by our sweet singing or pity for our poor feet! This year our collection raised £197.42. Stamping our feet as we severally made our ways home, we were glad to have been there, doing things together.



With thanks to Dennis Parker for the photo— Kathleen and Helen are off the picture, holding the all-important collection boxes.

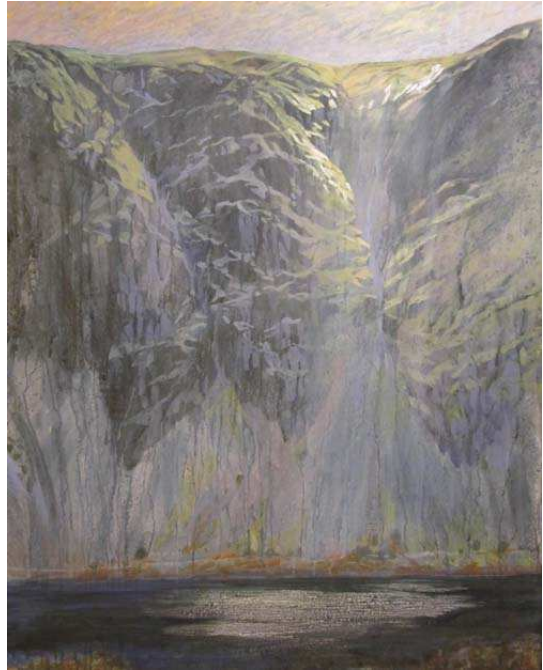
Phil Entwistle — a new exhibition

As a schoolboy in Morecambe, I always thought that the best thing about the place was the view across the bay to the Lake District. The distant hills drew me like a magnet then, and they still do. They became for me, as for many others, a favourite subject for drawing and painting: this was a way to know them better. John Ruskin said that to *see* something and tell what we saw plainly is one of the greatest things we can do. What a challenge that is.

When I took early retirement in 2007 to become a full-time artist, I knew that at some point I'd reach the stage where I felt ready to hold a solo exhibition.

Last summer I felt that the time had come, and was wondering whether I should hire a hall, when to my great surprise and delight an invitation came, to put on a show in the Severn Studio at Brantwood House, Coniston, which was John Ruskin's home from 1878 to 1900.

I was thrilled, but uncertain about my ability to do justice to this opportunity. How could I find something new to say about this sublime landscape that has inspired artists for centuries? My response is to see the landscape as a physical object. My oil-and-ink paintings, many of which are in a square format, aren't "views". Humans are only a transient presence, represented in the paintings by a faint path, a ruined sheepfold, or an occasional distant figure. It's a matter of timescale: we think of the fells as permanent, yet in geological terms they are ever-changing wrinkles, succumbing to tectonic forces and erosion as surely as sand-ripples on a tide-swept beach. I try to portray the hills as a process as well as a place.




The exhibition, "Light, Rock, Water", runs from Saturday 13th March to Monday 3rd May, every day from 11 till 5:30. There's a preview on 13th March, 2 till 4pm, to which admission is free by invitation (which I will gladly provide if you ring me on 01482 863240). More information about Brantwood is at www.brantwood.org.

Phil Entwistle

From 1961-2011 — fifty years in Quaker Lane

Next year is the 50th anniversary of our "new" meeting house. It will be a time to celebrate! Amazingly, there are still Friends among us who were part of that early vision to establish a new meeting in Beverley. A group of Friends had been meeting in hired rooms in Beverley since 1954, but as the meeting grew they felt led to raise funds for the building of their own meeting house. Not an easy task, but a lot of faith that it could be done.

Fifty years on, it is a good time to reflect on what those Friends were moved to achieve and how we, the Friends who have followed on, can continue to let our lives speak in our local community and beyond, using our resources well, including our building, welcoming others in, working with others, giving witness. Now is the time to consider how we might celebrate what has gone before, what is now, and what we might become ... 

... and what of god?

Beyond.

Beyond the smallest particle,
Beyond the furthest galaxy.

And yet.....and yet.....

Before.

Before the big bang,
Before this world began.

And now.....and now.....

Within.

Within each aspect of my being and
Within my soul.

Beyond my heart's yearning;
Before I listen;
And within the silence, daring me to hear.

Brian Fellowes, 11.09

You can't throw it away.... there is no away!

Every August, for the past few years, I have enjoyed two or three happy days visiting the Festival of Quilts at the NEC Birmingham. It is a huge international exhibition in the quilting calendar & there is always much to stimulate the creative brain and far too much to buy!

But the highlight of the exhibition for me this year was meeting the women from Morsbags and feeling enthused by their resourcefulness, energy and sense of fun!

Morsbags (sociable guerilla bagging) was set up in an attempt to reduce the number of plastic bags we use & manufacture, which destroy marine life & contribute to global warming. The idea is to get together with people in your local community (our Meeting perhaps?), drink tea & eat cake and make reusable cloth bags (from old duvet covers, curtains from charity shops etc.) and hand them out to the unsuspecting public for free on specified days outside different supermarkets. Over 48,000 bags have been made so far.

At the NEC Morsbags had a small exhibition space with four sewing machines set up for use. A table was piled with cut out rectangles of fabric, plus "handles," ready to assemble into bags. A small queue had built up of women (why no men?!) eager to sew. I rooted through the pile and selected a retro 1970's design – large bright yellow & orange flowers on a brown background. No one would miss seeing that! (But sadly with our black & white print you will not have the pleasure—Editor)

By the time it was my turn to sit at one of the machines I had only ten minutes to spare before I had planned to meet a friend for lunch. I have never before made a handcraft in such haste, I'm surprised the machine didn't blow out! The stitching doesn't bear close inspection but still, I'm very pleased with it. The pattern is simple and the result is a strong hard wearing bag.



Perhaps you have suitable material cluttering up your home. Why not make a Morsbag? The pattern is free to download at [www. Morsbags.com](http://www.Morsbags.com) or I can print copies for anyone interested. Perhaps you don't sew but have some material and would like it making into a bag? I'd be happy to make it for you – if I can make a half respectable bag in ten minutes I'm sure with a little more care & attention.....

If there's enough enthusiasm perhaps we too could end up giving them away outside the supermarkets! Janet Entwistle, autumn 2009

A big thank you to everyone — and a welcome

At our meeting for worship for business in January, we recorded our gratitude to all who had contributed to maintain the vibrant life of the meeting during 2009. Special thanks were given to **Gail Clint** who has served as the meeting's clerk, cheerfully and carefully, during the last three years.

In January we welcomed **Brian Fellowes** to that role and hope that he will feel supported by Friends during the coming year.

BRASS AND CHIPS

Gail Clint enjoyed the Scarborough visit and writes ...

Sunday, 24th January and some Beverley Friends are in a most unusual rush to leave after meeting. Why? Well, fish & chips of course! It is our annual brass band trip. We go on Sunday afternoon to Scarborough's Stephen Joseph theatre and always have fish & chips for lunch before the performance. We sit on the very back row and the theatre in the round is filled with sound. You wouldn't want to be behind the big bass drums.

This year 11 of us went to hear the newly named Hammonds Saltaire Band. In the 7 or 8 years that we have been going the band has had several changes of name and sponsorship. As the Yorkshire Building Society band they won the title of European Champions 9 times between 1996 and 2005 and played the music in the film "Brassed Off". The band goes back over 150 years to its formation in Saltaire by Titus Salt. Now the band has to manage without sponsorship and has lost many of its older, more acclaimed members but its spirit is undaunted.

This year's concert, while just possibly not as musically precise to a very exact ear, gained in youthful energy. They played an excellent range of pieces with something for everyone. It was a treat for all of us. We look forward to next year with delight.

FAIRTRADE

As we approach Fairtrade Fortnight, with many events nationwide, it's a good time to announce that **Gail Clint** has taken over the **Fairtrade stall**, supported by Helen Clark and Jenni Beech. A variety of fairly traded goods are already available from the stall at the meeting house, but Gail is keen to order anything from the Traidcraft catalogue that Friends would like to see on the stall. The catalogue includes household goods, clothes and jewellery as well as a range of food items. Do browse the catalogue and help support Third World growers, producers and craftsmen and women.

Help end trade with Israeli Settlements

...is the title of a new briefing paper. Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, illegal under International law, cause harm and poverty to dispossessed Palestinians. There is considerable doubt about the legality of trading with these settlements, but imported goods originating from them are currently on the shelves of many supermarkets. It is contended that such goods should at the very least be properly marked, so that consumers can understand where they come from.

An excellent and comprehensive briefing paper on this issue has been produced by Quaker Peace and Social Witness. It includes information about the background to the issue, international action being taken to tackle it and advice about what we can do to show our concern.

The full text is available online at quaker.org.uk, but Brian Fellowes has a copy.

A garden for the 21st century

Thinking and planning continues about how we might create a garden that reflects the welcome of our meeting, that will become a more accessible resource for Friends and for others, that will provide a space that becomes one with the building.

Soon, the small group that has been working on the vision of the earlier larger gatherings of Friends in the meeting, will be able to bring designs and plans to the meeting for further consideration.

This exciting project has the potential to be another expression of our witness and values for years to come ☺



10:10 Campaign—a spur to action

In November last year the meeting decided to make a commitment to the 10:10 campaign, to try to reduce our carbon footprint by 10 per cent in 2010, by the use we make of our meeting house, the greening of our building, by car-sharing or use of public transport when we can, and encouraging all of us to be aware individually of what steps we can take. The Sustainability group was asked to consider and report on measures we might take to achieve this reduction.

Following that report to our meeting for worship for business in January we minuted:

“... Whilst not all are convinced of the scientific basis of climate change, we do recognise that, whatever the cause, we need to use energy efficiently and especially in reducing the use of fossil fuels. We want to be mindful of our energy use and make a public declaration to this effect.

We believe that we may be able to achieve a 10% reduction in 2010 in the use of energy in the Meeting House and in our travel to Meetings by the measures outlined in the report and are prepared to try, especially by reducing heat loss and the greater use of car sharing.

We ask our treasurer to switch our electricity to a green supplier.

We ask our Sustainability Forum to monitor energy use during the year and to report to us again at the beginning of 2011 with the results of our efforts.

We ask our Clerk to register our Meeting with the 10:10 campaign.”

The Sustainability Forum will continue to monitor our efforts and update the resources sheet so that Friends can explore the issues, possible actions, keep an eye on the government’s developing policies and funding opportunities for alternative energy use and energy saving.

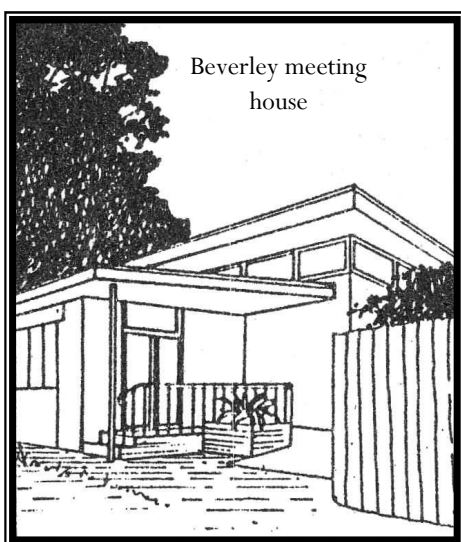
The Sustainability Forum would be happy to hear of actions small or otherwise that Friends are taking to reduce

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Send your contributions please
to
Brenda Rigby
e-mail to: brigby@rigby2003.karoo.co.uk
or via the "Dumb Clerk" at the meeting house



Regular meetings for worship

Sundays, 10.30-11.30am, followed by coffee

First Wednesday each month, 12.30-1.00, followed by picnic lunch

Third Wednesday each month, 7.00- 8.00pm

Monthly meetings for worship (except Jan/Feb) **with Friends in Bridlington** or Driffeld . Dates vary. Usually 2.15-3.15 followed by tea & biscuits (contact Eric or Brenda Rigby)

First Saturday in January, March, May, July, September & November at the entrance to **Fylingdales base** from 12.00-1.00, followed by picnic lunch at Pickering meeting house

Elders and overseers during 2009-2011

Overseers: Chris Fellowes, Lydia Harris, Joan Hill, Anne Pullon.

Elders: Brian Fellowes, Mary Munro-Hill, Pat Midgley, Eric Rigby

STOP PRESS! Two important changes

Change of time of meeting for worship

The **mid week evening meeting** previously held on the third Thursday of each month has been **changed to the third Wednesday of each month**. This is to avoid the parking problems experienced on Thursdays when another regular group uses the meeting house. In future we will have sole use of the building on third Wednesday evenings which will give adequate parking for those who need it.

Garden maintenance in 2010 will be 10-12am on third Saturdays in **ODD months**, not even months as 2009, hence January/March/May/July/Sept/Nov.

Quaker faith & practice, 23.32

I have never lost the enjoyment of sitting in silence at the beginning of meeting, knowing that everything can happen, knowing the joy of utmost surprise; feeling that nothing is preordained, nothing is set, all is open. The light can come from all sides. The joy of experiencing the Light in completely different way that one has thought it would come is one of the greatest gifts that Friends' meeting for worship has brought me.

I believe that meeting for worship has brought the same awareness to all who have seen and understood the message that everyone is equal in the sight of God, that everybody has the capacity to be the vessel of God's word. There is nothing that age, experience and status can do to prejudge where and how the Light will appear. This awareness — the religious equality of each and every one — is central to Friends. Early friends understood this and at the same time they fully accepted the inseparable unity of life, and spoke against the setting apart of the secular and the sacred. It was thus inevitable that religious equality would be translated into the equality of everyday social behaviour. Friends' testimony to plain speech and plain dress was both a testimony of religious equality and a testimony of the unacceptability of all other forms of inequality.

Ursula Franklin, 1979