

The Living Witness Project is a growing network of Quaker meetings and groups in Britain, exploring our corporate witness to sustainable living. The project is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Living Witness Project

**Newsletter No. 7:
July 2004**



QGA/LWP Summer Camp

27-31 August

Our summer camp this year will be at Little Brimley, a Quaker-run eco-campsite in Appley, near Wellington, Somerset.

There will be a relaxed (& optional) programme of worship and discussion, including business sessions on the future of QGA and time for relaxation, work on the campsite and walks.

Camping £3.50/day; B&B list also available. Veggie/vegan food provided £4.50/day.

Bursary help available from LWP and QGA.

Book now with Laurie -

laurie.michaelis@eci.ox.ac.uk or

01865 302907.

New Huddersfield Link Group Member!

Chayley Collis and Jonathan Purkis are delighted to announce the birth of their son **Murray Arthur Holmes Purkis** Born Huddersfield Royal Infirmary at 00.02am Wednesday 7th July 2004 weighing 7lbs and 13oz.

Chayley says we can call him Murray. They are very happy and well, and doing quite well for sleep, from the sound of things (5 hours last night, I'm told). *LM*

News from Gloucester & Nailsworth

Our MM has encouraged PMs and Members to consider what they can do to reduce their environmental impact and to write to MPs, Ministers and local councils expressing their environmental concerns, particularly climate change. People involved in the Living Witness Project have been asked to provide information to our PMs which may be helpful in doing this. Friends were encouraged to support Operation Noah. *Martin Quick*

LWP/QGA Events

27-31 August: LWP/QGA Summer Camp, Little Brimley, Somerset. Includes threshing meetings on QGA structure. Open to all. Contact Laurie. Bookings are already streaming in!

10-12 September 2004 Quakers and Permaculture. Postponed. Date to be advised.

8-10 October, 2004: Heaven on Earth. Weekend workshop at Oxford FMH.

9 October 2004: Rainbow Pilgrimage. Operation Noah day conference on climate change in Coventry.

30 October, 2004: Walk Cheerfully, Step Lightly. One day workshop at Huddersfield FMH.

Late autumn, venue needed - any offers? QGA meeting to agree changes in structure.

17-19 February, 2005: Foundations for Sustainability: Three Spiritualities. Weekend workshop at Lancaster FMH.

18-20 March, 2005: LWP Conference, Woodbrooke

News from Llanidloes

Green awareness continues to grow in our meeting, not so much through structured activities as sharing thoughts and experiences informally at coffee time and shared lunches. Most Friends support the local organic fruit and vegetable shop and buy fairly traded goods, some being active in helping Llanidloes to become a Fairtrade town. Most Friends are actively trying to reduce car use and some even cycle to Meeting over some distance and very steep hills! Several have switched to green electricity.

LLES (Llani Energy Solutions) continues to grow. We are now the biggest community group in town with nearly 90 members, and have recently been asked to speak at the local WI and Inner Wheel meetings, which resulted in more new members. We are promoting green electricity and have had stalls at two recent local events where people have been interested to learn about how to switch their supplier. We are in the process of becoming a public limited company prior to applying for charitable status, which will give us greater access to funding and eventually enable us to set up our own community owned electricity supply company. However, that will be some time in the future. *Gwen Prince*

BYM and Operation Noah

I often hear from Friends concerned that BYM is not doing enough (if anything at all) to witness to Quaker environmental values. LWP Newsletter 6 reported on the Hereford and Mid-Wales MM minute and the Meeting for Sufferings discussion on Operation Noah, an ecumenical climate change campaign. QPSW is currently exploring ways of taking this forward. They have been in touch with QGA/LWP. While it seems unlikely that we will see BYM signing up to Operation Noah, the Earth Charter, or other non-Quaker campaigns, there is a real concern to find our Quaker voice and to encourage local meetings to develop their own witness. I hope to be able to report more in the autumn. *LM*

Project news

The Link Group met on 2-4 July at Bamford Quaker Community. We welcomed two new members – Liz Ovenden for Ackworth PM and Graham Davey for Bristol & Frenchay MM. We hoped to be joined by Franklin Apfel, developing environmental initiatives at Sidcot School. He was unable to attend as he was too busy organising two “Environmental Days” for the school on 5/6 July.

As always, we enjoyed catching up with each other, sharing successes and learning points, and refreshing our vision and plans for the project. As always there wasn't enough time. Contact me for copies of the meeting report.

A strong theme on the weekend was “intervisitation”. We feel that it is important that we have more contact, by visiting each others' meetings. One way is to invite other Link Group members to speak to Friends in your meeting. Oxford Friends were very inspired by Gwen Prince's talk earlier in the year. Rachel Phillips offers inspiring talks on the experience of *Growing with Grace* and green, lifestyle and food issues more generally. Martin Quick can offer talks on energy efficiency and renewable energy, addressing peace, environmental and technical dimensions. Please do think about whether you could talk to Friends in other meetings about your green activities (LWP or other).

I would like to visit as many LWP meetings as possible during the coming 6-8 months – especially those that joined in 2002 – to hear how Friends feel about their involvement in the project and discuss future needs. Would you be willing to make this the focus of a meeting one evening, or after meeting for worship on a Sunday? *LM*

LWP on the Road

Would you like a day or weekend event in your meeting or area? Here are some ideas. Various LWP members can speak or facilitate. Please contact Laurie for more info.

Walk Cheerfully – Step Lightly

Starts from values of participants to explore how we can build a sustainable world and how sustainability can be fun, grounded in and inspired by the spirit.

Quakers and Climate Change

Mainstream responses to climate change do not address lifestyles. What do our testimonies to simplicity, social justice, and peace imply for lifestyle and community responses to climate change?

Quakers and Permaculture

Permaculture is concerned with the regeneration of land, communities and people. This course offers an opportunity to explore synergies between the Permaculture movement and Quakers.

Letting Lives and Meetings Speak

Explores dilemmas and complexities in living our values and Testimonies in everyday choices. Includes application of Quaker and other discernment practices to real decisions in our lives.

Meetings for Eating

Learn about implications of food choices; explore spiritual aspects of food and eating; experience meetings for worship for eating, and ways of building community through meals and cooking.

Foundations for Sustainability: Three Spiritualities

Sharing our spiritual paths – whether they start with ourselves, our communities, or the natural world. Experiment with various forms of spiritual practice and connect it to our practical sustainability witness.

For more information or to get involved in the Living Witness Project, please get in touch with Laurie Michaelis at:

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Living Witness Project on the Web:

<http://www.quakergreenaction.org/lwp/>