



# FORTY-THREE

OXFORD FRIENDS' MEETING  
43 ST. GILES OXFORD OX1 3LW

## NEWSLETTER

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### Smiling on our way to the bank: the Westmill Wind Farm Co-operative AGM

Little did I think I'd live to see the day when investing in a wind farm could be a safer home for my money than a bank or building society. However, after over a decade of hoping, planning and fundraising (including a second appeal for a top-up million or so from members), Britain's largest community-owned wind farm was able to receive near-unanimous approval to declare its first dividend. This happened ten months after the turbines had finally been installed and only after searching questions from the floor to make sure that a 2.3% dividend was indeed affordable and prudent. There had been a little *more* wind to produce electricity to sell than had been budgeted for and it was even clearer than at last year's AGM that this company is managed carefully and prudently, as well as ethically. So in the words of the *Westmill Calypso*, which all joined in after the end of formal business:

*I'm glad to say, we're on our way  
Westmill Windfarm is here to stay,  
Hearts are leapin', turbines turnin' around  
'Cos we're making clean power on this green ground.'*  
(Tune: *Jamaica Farewell*; words: Liz Rothschild)

The five Siemens turbines (the optimum number for this site), produce enough electricity each for 5,000 people per annum. They are almost silent

when turning; at last year's AGM you could hardly hear them for lark song; this year a tractor was ploughing the green ground turning it brown. As Adam Twine, the landowner and main force behind the whole project is an organic farmer, the larks' lifestyle would surely have been respected (this year's AGM was earlier than last's).

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#### From *Quaker Faith and Practice*

Having felt thee abundantly near this evening, I am free to write what revives for thy perusal, hoping it may be useful towards our rightly stepping along through time together. And first, dearly beloved, let me tell thee, that however short I may be of strict adherence to the Light of Life; yet it is my crown, my chiefest joy, to feel the holy harmonious influences and inshinings of the love of Jesus my Saviour upon my soul; and I feel that without this I must be miserable indeed. I also believe that the true enjoyment of the marriage union consists eminently in both being engaged to draw near to the Lord, and to act in his counsel; which I not only wish, but in a good degree expect, may be our happy case. If it should, though we have as it were a dry morsel to partake of, as to the things of this life; yet we may joy in the Lord, and rejoice in the God of our salvation.

QF&P 22.36 Job Scott, 1780

**Deadline for contributions to the September 2009 issue: noon, Friday 21 August**

*Contributions, of 500 words or fewer, would be appreciated, preferably by email: [oxfordpm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxfordpm@yahoo.co.uk). Paper copy can be left in the Forty-Three pigeonhole at Oxford Meeting House. For information: tel. 01865 557373.*

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## Please hold in the Light

Westmill is one of the seven community co-op wind farms supported by Energy4All, a Cumbria company which exists to 'deliver community-owned green power' and which provides information and management support. Ring their Barrow-in-Furness office for information (01229 821028) or visit [energyprospects.coop](http://energyprospects.coop) online. Westmill's website is [www.westmill.coop](http://www.westmill.coop)

**Patricia Wright**



Last December I was reading the Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) website ([www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)) and spotted the name of an old Quaker friend. I emailed to ask if he was the same John Lynes that we'd known many years ago, when my husband and I were actively involved in nonviolent direct action (NVDA).

He replied saying 'Yes, I'm the same John Lynes, only older - 80, in fact. Right now I'm in Iraq with the Christian Peacemaker Team, in Kurdistan.

'My wife passed away in 1999 after I'd left teaching, so Life brought me here with CPT. I worked in Palestine, mostly in Hebron, with CPT from 2002 to last year, including a brief spell teaching in the Islamic University of Gaza. I hate to think of the students I knew there becoming even more embittered. Kurdistan has its tragedies too. The mountains are beautiful even in winter, but villages on the Turkish border are bombed regularly, which is why I am here.'

Since then we have been in sporadic email contact and below is John's June message:

*'It's great to know that others are with us in spirit, especially when we'd feel discouraged. I hope to circulate an update soon, but so much is going on and the heat is debilitating. Iraqi Kurdistan is in the throes of an election for the Regional Government. Today there are reports of an*

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## Seeking God

If I seek the word of God,  
There are a thousand books  
In which to search.

If I seek the works of God,  
There is a whole Universe  
To explore.

If I seek the presence of God,  
I have only one place to go;  
Into the depths of my own heart.

**Chris Gaal**



*explosion in Kirkuk, not far from here. This will be a lovely country when violence is abandon-ed. I do circulate occasional on-the-spot reports; let me know if you'd like to join my mailing list, here is my last circular message:*

'Villagers along the northern Iraqi-Kurdistan border have been subject to repeated bombardment from Turkey and Iran for over two decades. Turkey has identified the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and Iran cites the Party for Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) as their targets. Those groups have been resisting Turkish and Iranian repression of their Kurdish populations, and both are on US and EU lists of terrorist organisations. Meanwhile, thousands of villagers have been forced to flee. Those from around the town of Zharawa are 137 families from 11 villages, totalling more than 600 people, now sharing 45 tents.

'In 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) contracted a private company, Qandil, to build an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp outside Zharawa. The conditions at the camp are terrible. There is no shade, and summer temperatures here can reach 48 degrees Celsius (118 degrees Fahrenheit).

' "I spend most of my day looking for shade for my children," one parent told us. The people have no electricity to refrigerate their food. Latrines are dangerously close to their tents. They anticipate rampant illness, and worry about how the elderly will survive. There is no employment; whatever resources people had are dwindling away. "Some families cannot buy even a bag of fruit," one man told us. There is no prospect of an early return to their homes. Something must be done urgently before people start dying.

'So two women from the Christian Peacemaker Team, Michele from New York and Chichuan from Taiwan, will move into the tent camp on 14 June 2009. We hope their presence will help to focus international attention on the plight of the IDPs. A week later, all being well, the men from the team, Craig from Maryland and I, will follow them (so you may not hear from me again for some time).

'Please help us to tell the world what is going on. Join us too in praying for the IDPs, and for a just solution to this sad conflict.'

