



# FORTY-THREE

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

## NEWSLETTER

Number 390

SEPTEMBER 2011

40 pence

### NEAT is not neat

This summer a pink protest took place in the north of Sweden: 'War Starts Here' made a manifestation against NEAT (North European Aerospace Test range). This range is nearly the size of Belgium, and, with Norway and Finland, forms part of 'Arctic NATO' (not the real NATO, which doesn't include Sweden or Finland). Sweden allows Arctic NATO to use this testing range; and Britain, along of course with the US, is encouraging the increased militarisation of this area. This heightened activity in Northern Europe is explained by an increased interest in the Arctic, its natural resources and the US missile defence system.

At the end of July I, along with seven other members of Trident Ploughshares, and over 200 people from 17 countries – including Africans and Latin Americans, who had come for a War Resisters' International executive meeting – travelled to this beautiful land. We were transported to the start of the test range where we began our protest. I felt it was really symbolic to use the colour pink against the war machine. I had brought a dayglow pink dustpan with me to help sweep up the war machines.

We blocked the approach road and painted pink peace signs on it. Then we lay down and held pink helium balloons, until the signal to release them, as a symbol against the militarisation of this

beautiful land. Others, who went through the forest and got through the fence, painted pink peace signs on the runway.

During the seminars we learnt some sobering facts about Sweden. A supposedly neutral country of nine million people, they have the world's highest

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### From *Quaker Faith and Practice*

In friendship we are beyond law and obedience, beyond rules and commandments, beyond all constraint, in a world of freedom. But did not Jesus say, 'Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you'? Yes, he did. We, on our side, are apt to miss the quiet humour of his paradoxes. 'These are my commandments,' he goes on, 'that ye love one another'.

In other words, the friendship of Christ is realised in our friendships with one another. His command is that we rise above commandments, and therefore his obedience is perfect freedom. Make service your centre, with its laws and duties and self-sacrifice, and life is a bondage. Make friendship the centre and life is freedom.

**QF&P 22.10** John Macmurray, 1942

**Deadline for contributions to the October 2011 issue: noon, Monday 19 September**

*Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, would be appreciated to [newsletter@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@oxfordquakers.org), and items for the calendar on page 6 can be emailed to [oxfordpm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxfordpm@yahoo.co.uk). Paper copy can be left in the 'Forty-Three' pigeonhole at the Meeting House. For information: tel. 01865 557373 or visit [www.oxfordquakers.org](http://www.oxfordquakers.org)*

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percentage of military equipment manufactured per head of population. With a low density of population, (moose and reindeer discounted) NEAT is Europe's largest overland test range. It is described as having "Vast space - limitless possibilities!" The opportunities include services and infrastructure for testing, evaluating and operating aerospace vehicles and catering to all vehicle types, such as aircraft, helicopters, UAs (drones), missiles and space systems. NEAT is operated by Sweden's Defence Materiel Administration (FMV). The US find this all very helpful. Please keep aware of what NATO and Arctic NATO are doing in our names: "Cos if war is the answer then it is a very stupid question."



Sarah Lasenby

### Arms fair Unfair

Arms buyers and sellers from across the world will come to London this 13-16 September for the 'Defence and Security Equipment International' arms fair. The Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) is organising mass action on the first day, and if you're considering local action in Oxford please contact **Tina Leonard** (tina.leonard3@gmail.com).



## Young Friends

(aged 18 to approximately 30)

We meet in FMH at 7:30 for 8 pm. Email: youngfriends@oxfordquakers.org.

**1 September:** Worship and reflection

**8 September:** Worship followed by a discussion on the theme of Young Friends

**15 September:** Worship followed by discussion on the theme of Community

**22 September:** Worship followed by discussion on the theme of Migration

**29 September:** Worship followed by discussion and reflection about prayer

Naomi Morris

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## What concerns you?

The other day, I had a spare half-hour, and was reflecting on my last six months as a *Forty-Three* editor. We have had a whole range of different articles, and so I thought it might be a good idea to represent visually what Friends have been writing about; so, I created a "Word Cloud". You might have seen one before on a website or as part of a blog. Basically, they proportionally depict the words that have been used most in any defined area: the larger the word, the more times it has been mentioned.

Have a look at this *Forty-Three* Word Cloud (next page), created from January to August 2011 issues. What words have meant something to us? There are obvious words here, but perhaps you would like to reflect on which ones are missing? We welcome you to write an article on what concerns you. What words would you like to see written large here in the coming months?

Becky Riddell

able accept **action** aged ago alex already anyone apart appointments appreciated arabic asked **asylum**  
**attenders** available basic beatrice become believe benefit best better bill books bring britain british  
business called cambridge campaign care celebrate centre challenge **change** children christian  
**churches** city climate **collection** com comfort coming committee **community** concerned  
conference conflict consider contact continuing contribute copy **costs** country couple **course** create currently **cuts**  
dear death deficit describe destitute details development didn't **different** difficult disarmament discussion dolls  
donations done **early** economic email energy enjoy equality evening event everyone **experience**  
explore eyes faces fact fair fairtrade **faith** family farming father feel felt festival fmh following  
**food** form forty-three forward found **friends** friendship ft full funerals fwcc garden  
general geneva getting given giving global **god** going government **groups** grow growth half hard  
head **health** hear heard heart held **help** history hold home **hope** hour **house** human  
idea including income increasing india **information** injustice institute interested  
international introduced involved **issue** items join journey justice keep land later law **learn** leave led letter library  
**life** light **live** local looking lot **love** lunch making man market means **meeting**  
**members** met ministry **money** monthly months moved music national nature needed  
nhs **number** offer office open opportunity org others outreach oxfaf **oxford** pack  
painting particular particularly partner paul pay **peace** people per perhaps person  
pictures planned play **please** poetry positive possible poverty power **practice** presence present  
**prison** problems produce production programme **public** **quaker** quite quno range  
rather reached **reading** real really received reflection refugees religious remain remember remembrance  
reminded report rich rights road room **school** seed seemed send sense **services** session several  
**share** shops short silent sings sit **social** **society** something sometimes sound speak special  
**spending** spirit **spiritual** staff stand started statement stopped study suggested summer  
**sunday** **support** **system** taken talk tax tea team thanks things **think** throughout  
times together towards **trade** tradition training turn uk un used usually value view ville visit  
volunteers vulnerable walk war water watercolour ways week **welcome** whole wide wish  
witness women woodbrooke words **work** world **worship** yearly  
**years** young

## Welcome, Luke

This month we bid a fond farewell to Helen McCabe, who comes to the end of her service as Assistant Warden (see previous issue). Helen's replacement has responded generously to our request for an introduction:

Hey,

In order to introduce myself, let us begin with the obvious points of interest. Luke Samuel Martin is the full name, and I am from



a large Northern Irish family. I am the eldest in the family, and I have six siblings, the youngest of whom is five years old. Being part of a large family has joys and struggles, as you can imagine. But I do find that the older we all get, the more interesting things get; there is less of that which one associates with young children (mess and noise etc.) and more of the fruition of each individual's character and interests.

At the age of 23 I have just completed the Master of Studies (MSt) in Theology at Keble College, Oxford. I specialised in ethics, and spent most of the year writing about sexuality and gender (oh, such controversy!). Before Oxford I spent three years in Bristol; again, Theology. But rather than back-track stage by stage through my life, as I have begun to, we must leap back to 2005. It was then, during my last year at school, that I had what you might call a faith crisis, or an existential crisis, or one of the many labels we put on such experiences. Brought up Presbyterian, I began to doubt. And in my doubting I found Quakerism. A local Meeting in Coleraine

welcomed me, a confused young lad. They did not judge, they accepted and showed warmth. The silence and lack of dogma was what I needed at that point, for too much doctrine just put my head in knots. Of course, not only did I grow to appreciate the silence on a Sunday morning, but I began to understand Quaker values: care for social justice, for the environment, and a valuing and acceptance of all human beings before the religious questions are asked. Since that time I have been in and out of Quakerism. Half of my gap year was spent with the Quakers, alongside cleaning in the local hospital. Then off to India with Oasis Trust.

What is the plan, and what do I look forward to about this next year(s)? The year will be spent studying part-time (philosophy) and working part-time (tbc!), and probably applying for the DPhil in January to begin September 2012. For those who want to know why philosophy? and DPhil in what? do feel free to introduce yourself and I can explain. As for the work of assistant warden: well, I do look forward to meeting the people whom I will be dealing with, as I have been assured that the Meeting House attracts a diverse crowd, with wide-ranging interests. Furthermore, I do hope I can join you all in some of the Meetings for Worship. I suppose I have been mainly stuck in Anglican circles the last couple years, but I have found myself yearning for a little more communal silence. Next year may be an opportunity to throw water on parched land, as one of our Old Testament Prophets might say.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

**Luke Martin**

## Detaining People Indefinitely

The suicide of an asylum seeker at Campsfield House near Oxford airport on Tuesday 2 August ([tinyurl.com/3dtn4pk](http://tinyurl.com/3dtn4pk)) is a horrifying reminder of the damage caused by the detention regime. Readers will no doubt remember the controversy over anti-terror legislation that allows for terror suspects to be locked up without being charged, the time limit having now been reduced to fourteen days. But many people are kept every year in detention by the UK Borders Agency with the possibility of deportation and no date set for their release. There is no public outrage about this.

The Immigration Act 1971 first included the power to detain immigrants; later legislation has extended or amended that power. People can be detained on arrival in the UK as immigrants or, when seeking asylum, if considered likely to abscond; or when they have already been refused the right to remain and deportation is expected to be imminent. In practice, there can be numerous delays or an indefinite wait for a planned deportation and in some cases eventual release.

The decision to detain is made by immigration officers without reference to a court. In theory, each detainee has the right to apply for bail after seven days, but many people are unaware of this procedure and find it difficult to access legal advice. The immigration court 'judges' who decide on bail have qualifications and experience inferior to judges in the criminal and civil courts, no records are kept, and in many cases the Home Office view that the applicant is likely to abscond is accepted without evidence. See 'Immigration Bail Hearings: A Travesty of Justice?' ([closecampsfield.wordpress.com](http://closecampsfield.wordpress.com)) – one of the authors being our Friend, Bridget Walker.

The issue was publicised at YMG by the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network. Quakers are asked to write to their MPs, and the text of a letter can be found at [www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/category/indefinite-detention](http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/category/indefinite-detention)

"That which is morally wrong cannot be politically right." QF&P 23.26 (1822)

Janet Toye, Human Rights and Asylum Group

## Meetings and Notices

### Global Change Group

We meet next at 7:30 pm on Friday 23 September. Dr Peter Fisher, past chairman of the NHS Consultants Association, will give a talk on *The NHS – Past, Present and Future*, followed by discussion.



Susan Wright

### Oxford Friends in Print

'Large Meeting House'  
by **Jill Green**, *The Friend*  
Letters page, p8, 19 August

### October Outreach

Oxford University will hold its annual **Freshers' Fair** from **5-7 October**. If you'd like to stand by a Quaker stall in a shift of an hour or two, please ring 01865 283391 or email [mark.ebden@eng.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mark.ebden@eng.ox.ac.uk).

*"To me what is most important [about outreach] is that we help each other to discover our truest selves which is, I believe, where the Spirit is working most profoundly in our lives. So Outreach is reaching out to the other, even if we are changed in the process and probably we will be. It is not making the other person into a Quaker but helping them and ourselves to be fully alive. This process might be called spiritual hospitality." – Harvey Gillman*

**Mark Ebden**

## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

*All 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated*

Thursday 1 September	8 pm	Young Friends (see page 2)	Thursday 15 September	8 pm	Young Friends (see page 2)
Friday 2 September	7 for 7:30 pm	Friday with Friends (see August issue)	Wednesday 21 September	7:30 for 8 pm	Worship at Naomi's house (see below)
Sunday 4 September	12:30 pm	Local Meeting for Worship for Business	Thursday 22 September	8 pm	Young Friends (see page 2)
Thursday 8 September	8 pm	Young Friends (see page 2)	Friday 23 September	7:30 pm	Global Change Group (see page 5)
Saturday 10 September	10 am - 12 pm & 2-5 pm	"Open Doors" (see August issue)	Saturday 24 September	10:30 for 11 am	Regional Meeting, <i>in Reading</i> (see below)
Monday 12 September	12:30- 4 pm	Quilting group: Bring-and-share lunch	Sunday 25 September	12:30	Bring-and-share lunch
Tuesday 13 Sept.		CAAT Action Day (see page 2)	Thursday 29 September	8 pm	Young Friends (see page 2)

*Forty-Three* is available online, at [www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter](http://www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter)

If you are considering writing an article or notice but would prefer it not to go online, please don't hesitate to contribute it. Just indicate that the piece is not for inclusion in the internet version — no reason will be asked for. Articles and notices are very welcome to appear in the print edition only, and the same applies to calendar items.

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Sundays** at 9:30 and 11 a.m. at 43 St Giles  
(followed by coffee and tea)

**Wednesdays** at 12:15 p.m. at 43 St Giles  
(followed by coffee and tea)

**Tuesdays and Thursdays** at 7:30 a.m. at 43 St Giles  
(followed by breakfast at 8 a.m.)

**Sundays** at 10 a.m. at The Priory,  
85 Old High St, Headington

### OPENING TIMES (43 ST GILES):

Wednesday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Friends are invited to meet for worship at my house in Henley Street (OX4 1ES) on Wednesday 21 September, for half an hour starting at 8 pm. Feel free to arrive from 7:30 onwards. Everyone is welcome, but please let me know if you plan to attend, as there is limited space (07533 278598 or 01865 791630, [nai\\_84@hotmail.com](mailto:nai_84@hotmail.com)). This has been organised in response to the interest expressed by some friends in an evening Meeting for Worship, and we may begin to meet fortnightly if there is sufficient interest, although Elders have yet to consider this possibility.

Naomi Morris

Berks & Oxon **Regional Meeting** will be held on Saturday 24 September 2011 at Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading, RG2 7DE, at 10:30 for 11:00. The subject is Quaker faith in action.

*Editorial Team: MARK EBDEN, PENNY ORMEROD, and BECKY RIDDELL (Joint Editing & Production); TINA LEONARD, DEBORAH FILGATE (Proofreaders); HELEN McCABE (Distributor and Subscriptions)*