

GUY STRINGER 1920 to 2009.

A RECORD OF REMEMBRANCE.

Kate Joyce and Judith Atkinson 23/04/2010

Guy Stringer died in on 4 July 2009, aged 88.

By 1939 Guy had obtained a Cambridge degree in history and begun training as a teacher. He joined the army early in the War and stayed on after 1945 when war ended, but in 1955 he decided to resign his army commission, and also to join Friends. Deeply disturbed by the destruction of Hiroshima, and also by experience in Korea, he had become convinced that war was pointless. He found that he had faith in the power of protest at the imperfections and inequalities of the world, and he was glad to acknowledge the light of God in the Quaker commitment to peace and justice.

For a while Guy tried to earn a living as a businessman in the family pottery, making tiles, but in the 1960's he gave this up and joined OXFAM, where he spent the rest of his working life. At the suggestion of his wife Mary, who had been working as an organiser in the chain of shops run by the Oxford Famine Relief (from 1965 called OXFAM), he applied in 1969 for the post of Deputy Director. Details of his work for OXFAM were recorded in the Guardian and other obituaries (copies of which will be filed with this record) In 1983 the enormous value of Guy's work was acknowledged by the award of a CBE and of an Honorary Doctorate of Oxford Brookes University.

In 1974 Guy became chair of a company established jointly by Oxfam and Christian Aid to publish the *New Internationalist Magazine*, which has continued as an influential publication. Through Oxfam Trading and other activities Guy also helped to sow the seeds of what became the Fair Trade movement.

At the end of his life, Guy developed Alzheimer's disease and had to stop coming to Meeting. However, we warmly remember him during the many years when he was active in Oxford Local Quaker Meeting, a gentle presence on Sunday mornings for many years, a close friend and comrade of our dear late friend Jim Howard, who also worked for Oxfam, supplying water in refugee camps and Indian villages. Guy himself remained passionately committed to OXFAM and sometimes ministered about it in Meeting for Worship. He was among the older Friends who attended the special Charney Day and on one occasion spoke very movingly to assembled Friends of how he had been led to renounce war and to make a commitment to Quakers.

Guy has been called 'an extraordinary- ordinary man' and we are indeed privileged to have known him.