

Among Friends

No 145: Summer 2019

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Lessons from the Past?

Dear Friends,

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is the opportunity to represent Friends at events around Europe and the Middle East. These events are sometimes joyous, sometimes sombre, occasionally deeply affecting.

At the end of April I was invited by Friends in Prague to accompany them in representing Quakers at an event at the Foreign Ministry in Prague which commemorated the eightieth anniversary of the Kindertransport, the rescue effort to get Jewish children out of Germany and other Central European countries in 1938/39. The event had its poignant moments – Henry Warriner, nephew of Doreen Warriner, one of those who led the effort in Prague, spoke on behalf of the rescuers and paid tribute to the role played by Quakers. Some survivors and their descendants also spoke movingly of memories, and of loss.

Yet, for all the heart-felt contributions, what was missing for me was the acknowledgement that lessons need to be learnt from these devastating events of the past. And I fear that they are not being heeded. Children and their families are drowning in the Mediterranean sea for want of countries willing to accept them as refugees. Perhaps one day Carola Rackete, Captain of Sea Watch 3 will be honoured



*Statue of Nicholas Winton, Prague Station
Photo: Marisa Johnson*

with a statue, like Nicholas Winton, forever standing at Prague station with his precious charges. But for now, Carola is under arrest, vilified by crowds shouting obscenities at her.

I hope that Quakers will, once again, follow the example of those who helped with the Kindertransport and other rescuers, like John Corsellis, remembered in this issue, and rally in solidarity with the weak and the persecuted, in practical compassionate response to the need that is increasing with every passing week.

Marisa Johnson, Secretary FWCC-EMES

Inside this issue:

EMES farewells and welcomes	2
EMEYF spring gathering	3
FWCC CEC	4
Elaine Green - visit with German Friends	5
Black Forest Meeting, EMES annual meeting	6-7
Remembering John Corsellis	7
Woodbrooke News	8
Sweetness of Unity - Judith Roads	9
QUNO	10
QCEA	11
Diary Dates	12

EMES Farewells and Welcomes

Marisa Johnson, Secretary EMES, writes:

At the Annual Meeting in Budapest in May we heard that at the end of 2019 a number of Friends will have completed their terms of service for EMES. Dag Hovda Sture of Norway Yearly Meeting and Lee Taylor of Britain Yearly Meeting will be leaving the Executive Committee. Both of them have contributed a great deal, and have served as Assistant Clerks on various occasions. We shall miss Dag's towering presence and musical skills, and Lee's extraordinary networking ability.

Lucinda Martin, Co-clerk of Nominations Committee, will also lay down her service at the end of 2019. The other Co-clerk, Vidar Salvigsen of Norway Yearly Meeting has been re-appointed for a second three-year term, beginning 1st January 2020.

The Annual Meeting appointed Annie Janssen, Representative of German Yearly Meeting, and Paul Holdsworth of Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting (Co-opted to EMES) as members of the Executive Committee, and trustees of FWCC-EMES, from 1st January 2020.

Annie was born in Philadelphia but – despite the city's close historical association with Quakerism – first came to the Society of Friends only years later in another part of the world, London, where she went to her local Quaker meeting in 1984, and became a regular attendee there for a couple of years. In 2000 Annie moved to Germany, and one of the first things she did was to investigate the local Quaker group. Annie now lives in Munich, where she works as an assistant in a firm of patent attorneys and is very engaged with two amateur choirs.

Paul was born and raised a Roman Catholic, and was a practising Catholic throughout his studies at Cambridge, but later found his home among Quakers and was accepted into membership (of Worcestershire and Shropshire MM, of Britain YM) in 1985. He moved to Belgium in 1996 when he took up his post with the European Commission. Paul served two triennia as Clerk of Belgium and Luxembourg Monthly Meeting, now Yearly Meeting.



Sue Glover Frykman Photo: *Tofte Frykman*

Sue Glover Frykman, who had been appointed Co-Clerk with Davorka Lovreković at the Annual Meeting in Bergen in 2018 to serve until the end of 2018, and had served as Acting Clerk from 1st January 2019 till the Annual Meeting in Budapest, because Davorka had been unable, for personal reasons, to take up service as Clerk, was nominated for, graciously accepted, and was appointed Clerk of EMES for a further two years, until the rise of Annual Meeting in 2021. I am sure I speak for everyone who has worked with Sue and has experienced her clerking style when I say how very fortunate EMES is to have secured her service for the remainder of a second term. Sue's commitment, organisational skills, meticulous preparation and follow up, calm, deep listening and spiritual approach to clerking are an inspiration and a great example.

EMEYF Spring Gathering 2019

EMEYF's spring gathering this year took place in Peski, Russia from the 24th April - 1st May. The epistle and minutes from the gathering can be found on our website: http://www.emeyf.org/documents_new.html

The gathering was attended by 25 adults and 10 children, which gave the gathering quite a different feel from other years, as we sought to balance space for joy and play with space for quiet inward reflection. Attendees came from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Ukraine, and Russia, and the gathering was (mostly) bilingual between English and Russian, though this put rather a strain on the few bilingual people, and encouraged us all to use what few words of the other language we had, as well as making use of activities without words, such as making a mandala from stones on the nearby beach in a worshipful hush. The beach was a place of worship for us throughout the week, as the weather was unseasonably warm, despite the mounds of snow and ice piled up along the shoreline. The make-up of the gathering also encouraged us to seek all-age ways of being together, such as having an Epistle which was partially composed of a puzzle, each piece decorated by one of the attendees, and put together in the final business session.

The theme was Building Bridges, and we took time to consider this theme and its significance for us at several points throughout the week. We also had the chance to experience Russian Orthodox Easter traditions and late night service as Easter Saturday turned to Easter Sunday. As it approached midnight, the large congregation processed round the church in Zelenogorsk after the priests, and then gathered round the steps to the entrance, as the bells clanged insistently, and the priests and congregation broke into a call and response of "Christ is risen!" "He is really risen!"

Earlier in the day we all met with the only Quaker in St Petersburg, Peter Dyson, and his wife, Olga who explained the traditions of the Orthodox church (or the Church for the glorification of Rights and Justice, as she insisted was the proper translation). We were very thankful to them for their willingness to spend time and share their experiences with us.

You can also keep up to date with the EMEYF community by subscribing to our online blog <https://>

willyandpenn.com/ and/or signing up to the Friends of EMEYF list (<http://lists.quaker.eu.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/friends-of-emeyf>).



EMEYFers in front of the Zelenogorsk Church on Easter Saturday Photo: George Thurley



The Beach Photo: George Thurley



Part of the gathering epistle put together by all participants in the final session Photo: Emmie Touwen

(Some of) The World Family come to Toronto and Camp

Lee Taylor, Europe and Middle East Section, writes:

Fifteen Friends from ten different countries met together at Camp NeeKauNis in mid June for the FWCC CEC – the annual week long face to face meeting of the Friends World Committee Central Executive Committee.

FWCC - ‘*crossing cultures, connecting Friends and changing lives through faith*’ has four Sections – Africa, Asia West Pacific, the Americas and Europe and Middle East. All were represented; sadly, the Executive Secretary of Africa Section had his visa refused and was unable to be there.

There is an ongoing tension between our commitment to sustainability and facing the climate emergency and the kind of travel that is necessary for Friends from all parts of the world to meet face to face, and the responsibility for doing this is taken seriously. Meeting face to face, and being in fellowship, has always been part of Quaker work, now expanded by the opportunities to reach out more widely through use of technology.

FWCC’s concern for sustainability was galvanized in the Global Change work at the Dublin Triennial in 2007, which led on to the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice in 2012 and the Pisac Sustainability Minute which came out of the World Plenary Meeting in Peru in 2016. We know that many Friends across the world are working hard on these issues. In the latest Quaker Take podcast, on climate change, Susanna Mattingly, the FWCC Sustainability officer talks about what Friends are doing around the world to tackle the climate emergency:

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duDwKYiEo4E>) – do listen.

The Executive also discussed privilege and historical injustice and how this might be more widely examined in our world family, connecting with Friends who are already working on these issues in different parts of the world, engaging more Friends partly through collecting stories.

It was fascinating to learn about what is happening in Sections to ‘cross bridges’ – between Sections, between countries within Sections, ecumenically and in other



Friends World Committee for Consultation Central Executive Committee Photo: Harry Albright

ways. We heard about the Young Adult Development Fund projects in Africa and between Europe and Middle East Section and Section of the Americas. Planning is already underway for the next World Plenary to be held in Durban in 2023, to be hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting – watch the space!

Of course, there was practical work to be undertaken – the Annual Accounts, forward budgets and the ongoing need to raise funds for the important work of connecting F/friends through ministry and outreach work, and on the major issues of sustainability and addressing privilege. Underpinning all of this is the need to create resilient communities of faith, living out our testimonies.

We found great joy in the beautiful, simple life offered by Camp NeeKauNis, and were warmly welcomed by Toronto Meeting before and after the Executive meeting – many thanks to the wonderful cooks at Camp, and the opportunity for fellowship and meeting together in worship on Sundays in Toronto.

Do look at the FWCC website for more information about the work of FWCC – www.fwccworld.org - or ask your FWCC representative or the Section of the Americas office.

World Quaker Day is on Sunday 6 October: This year’s theme is *Sustainability: Planting seeds of renewal for the world we love*.

Thank you, Friends for your welcome to Canada, Toronto and Camp NeeKauNis, and your support for FWCC.

How do we ground our Quaker identity, and what is our future?

Elaine Green, Britain Yearly Meeting, writes:

This is a rough translation of the theme chosen by Friends in Bavaria-Austria. Meeting in the Black Forest, there were over 60 Friends and Attenders present from the two Area Meetings of South-West and Bavaria-Austria. It was a glorious and unexpected chance that, having completed a short study of Quakers in Germany a few years ago, I met up with Annie Janssen of Munich local meeting at another European Friends event. It was then a privilege to be invited by Bavaria-Austria Area Meeting to offer a plenary introduction to their summer joint Area Meeting gathering this year. I had understood that Friends in Germany were scattered in small worship groups or had little access to any. Their numbers are in noticeable decline, and they do not enjoy an uninterrupted history.

In my presentation I introduced the concept of authority for belief and practice, by reference to early Quaker theology and 'Gospel Order'. I talked about our familiar more liberal form of Quakerism, grounded in experiential authority, and the push given by the Manchester Conference in 1895. Many Friends were deeply interested in our church history and were comforted by its continuity and authenticity.

I drew on recent sociological studies of the nature of religious adherence and spirituality in Germany and Britain to set the scene for my observations of today's Quaker expression amongst an adherence of less than 250, most drawn from other Christian churches. I drew on the threads left by German Yearly Meeting Cary lecturers since the 1930s to show how German Quakerism had changed in its emphasis, right up to the insightful contribution of a young adult Quaker, Esther Köhring, in 2014. She had suggested that Quakers today hide themselves away, for fear of giving offence, yet they had something particular and valuable to offer. I note that young adult Quakers in Britain and Germany have found a way of 'being Quaker' together in structures beyond those offered by their parents, and we might consider new ways of enriching our life of faith which reached outside of our familiar practices.

Group discussions after my introduction addressed

a range of queries around the nature of our worship practice, how we might meet the needs of spiritual seekers both within and beyond our existing groups, how we manage being isolated Quakers within our families or our geography, yet still feed our faith and witness, and what do we want our faith community to look like so that we might be recognised by what we offer. It was interesting to me that the query that attracted least discernment was how best to support our own young Friends in their developing Quakerism. Maybe this was simply too difficult for this occasion, or was crowded out by other challenging discussions.

I was privileged to be allowed also to attend the small meeting for worship for business of the Bavaria-Austria group on the Saturday afternoon. This is a very small Area Meeting, spread thinly over a vast land mass, yet one Friend attended from Vienna. The meeting was positive and reflective, which, with such small numbers may not always be the case, I suspect.

This event was deeply gathered and joyful in a familiar setting. German Friends are particularly good at the entertainment evening which we all recognise as the Saturday night social event. There was a non-Quaker journalist and photographer present throughout the gathering, working on an article for a German Christian magazine. In the closing worship, the journalist ministered to give thanks and to affirm that she had indeed found something worth following. Perhaps this testifies that we have something to offer and must find more ways of welcoming others.

German Quakers are traditionally reticent about outreach, but open to leadings that may take them to unexpected places. The culture and history of German society and the experience of Friends is very different to that of British or American Quakers. They must find their own way to sustain the form of Quakerism which speaks to their condition and offers something to other seekers in their land. I am grateful to them for the enrichment and love they have given me.

Friends in Bavaria-Austria Meeting in the Black Forest

Annie Janssen, German Yearly Meeting, writes:

For many in the South-West and Bavaria-Austria Area Meetings, our springtime gathering in the Black Forest is a highlight of the “Quaker Calendar”. This year was especially memorable, due in no small part to Elaine’s fascinating and thought-provoking presentation. It was a real privilege to see our Yearly Meeting from the “outside in” and to engage with Elaine’s scholarship and special interest in German Quakers, both our past and our present.

Elaine’s insights and questions challenged us to think deeply about who we are and how we present ourselves to the world around us. Her questions sparked lively debate. At its best, the small size of our Yearly Meeting can make for a more intimate Quaker community life

that is spiritually and emotionally nourishing, but it’s all too easy to become complacent and to conclude that the low membership numbers are somehow inevitable or even to imagine that the resulting exclusivity is evidence that we have found something special that others are simply unable or unwilling to recognise. Yet there are signs of change – the Freiburg meeting is currently planning their second annual Quaker Quest. Who knows what may be in store for German Friends in the decades to come? Elaine has certainly given us tremendous food for thought and the opportunity to hold our society up to the light as well as in it.

This was a wonderful example of EMES Outreach in action!

Photographs from the EMES Annual Meeting 2019

From the 2-5 May around 50 Friends from around EMES (and 2 from the FWCC Section of the Americas) gathered in the Hotel Walzer in Budapest, Hungary. We hope you enjoy these photos. With thanks to photographers Cecilia Clemental and Kim Chevalier.





Remembering John Corsellis

Marisa Johnson, Secretary EMES, writes:

On the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I John Corsellis. Member of Britain Yearly Meeting (Jesus Lane, Cambridge, Local Meeting) passed away at the age of 95 at his home in Cambridge, England.

This tribute was given by Michael Opara of the Slovenian Cultural Organization Slovenski Dom at a banquet in Toronto on 1st December 2018, and sent to the family in Cambridge in time for the memorial service and is reproduced with their permission.

“John is one of the greatest heroes and humanitarians of the 20th Century. Most of you do not know who he is or what he did. But he saved many of your parents, grandparents and great grandparents. He, along with Canadian Army Major from Montreal Paul Barre, another hero of the 20th Century, is responsible for saving the lives of at least 6,000 Slovenian refugees in the spring of 1945.

When the Slovenian refugees fled Slovenia in May 1945 a 22 year old humanitarian aid worker by the name of John Corsellis was there at the Viktring Campas in Austria to make sure the refugees had the necessities to survive. As the Welfare Officer he developed a strong affection for the refugees, whom he helped run schools and other camp activities with the most meagre of means. When Major Barre John and the team learned that the Domobranci had been



John Corsellis Photo: British-Slovene Society

betrayed by their superiors, sent back to Slovenia and were executed by the communists they along with their team worked to ensure that the same fate would not befall the remaining Slovenian refugees.

Because of their work some refugees were spared by only 12 hours.

John Corsellis was a champion of the Slovene refugees time and again. He made sure they received an education while in the displaced persons camps. One of them was my father who studied at Graz University.

Later in life John put pen to paper and co wrote the book *Slovenia 1945: Memories of Death and Survival* after World War II which chronicles these post World War II events.

Thank you John Corsellis for all you have done. We are forever grateful.”

News from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

Living adventurously

Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community?

Advices & Queries 27

Woodbrooke started over 115 years ago as an experimental settlement, it continues to be an experiment seeking to respond to and serve our religious community and the world around us. The challenges that Quakers and the world face are different to those of 115 years ago, and different to those of 15 years ago.

Over the weekend of 7-9 June, the Trustees of Woodbrooke and BYM (the Governing body of Quakers in Britain) spent time together talking, listening and in worship. Together, they took a decision to reshape the way the two bodies work together, with the aim of improving the ways we serve the needs of Quakers and Quaker communities.

Specifically, trustees decided to extend and expand the successful Vibrancy in Meetings pilot programme under the umbrella of an integrated support for meetings strategy. The Vibrancy pilot is experimenting with locating paid employees in different areas of Britain to test whether local support better enables Quaker communities to thrive. After just two years, a thorough external evaluation told us that Friends in the Vibrancy areas felt more connected, confident and supported. A third of meetings involved were making changes to reduce demands on role holders. Others reported that the programme was helping bring meetings together as a community. Overall there was a clear message: locally based support helps Quakers not only be Quakers, but enjoy being Quakers. Based on this evidence trustees decided that within five years we should aim to have a local development worker in reach of each meeting in Britain.

Of course Woodbrooke has a programme of learning wider than support for meetings in BYM, and our courses and events reach many others, including Friends from other Yearly Meetings, but we can see real opportunities in thinking more flexibly.

This move to providing more of our learning closer to where Friends are was also in response to a survey that Woodbrooke carried out in the autumn of last year. By analysing over 700 responses to this survey, Woodbrooke staff and trustees have been thinking about how we can best meet the needs of Friends and Meetings and overcome the barriers people encounter in participating.

Over the next five years we expect that the provision of Woodbrooke learning will shift from predominantly on-site to predominantly locally delivered, with the proportion of online learning remaining about the same as it is now. This also gives us an opportunity to consider how locally delivered learning might be extended beyond BYM and to work with EMES and Quaker communities throughout the section on this. As we move forward we will need to evaluate what we do, and adapt as we learn what works, knowing that in a changing world the structures that are suitable at one time will not last forever.

As we offer more learning elsewhere, Woodbrooke will continue as a place which offers welcome and speaks Quaker values to the world. We need to find ways to use the Woodbrooke site to its full potential, including the development of new and innovative learning that might make it more accessible to Friends travelling from farther afield. We will continue to offer space for groups including Quaker groups and meetings, to meet, as well as providing hospitality to those visiting Birmingham. We also need to continue to maintain the site and find other ways to make developments such as improving accessibility.

We recognise that this is a significant change for Woodbrooke, we are moving forward experimentally but with faith. We hope you will join us in the next stage of Woodbrooke's experiment.



WOODBROOKE

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Sweetness of Unity

Three Hundred Years of Quaker minuting

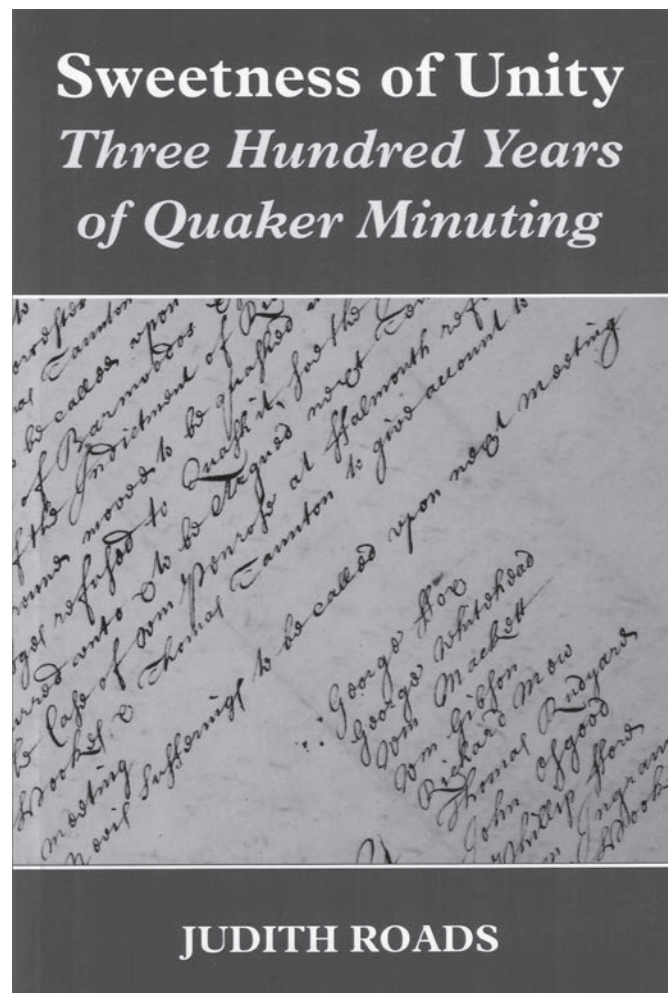
Sue Glover Frykman, Sweden Yearly Meeting, reviews:

Sweetness of Unity – 300 years of Quaker minuting, by Judith Roads, 2019. [£5.00 / €6.00 (euros) plus postage and packing. Copies can be ordered from roads4@me.com]

In the preface, Judith writes that the book mainly speaks to those with some experience of Quakerism and who understand something about Quaker processes. Those interested in language or historical aspects of business English may also find nuggets of interest. Those who are, have been, or are becoming clerks, will also find the book useful in that it tells us a lot about how Friends wrote minutes in the past and how we do it today. Despite Judith's academic background, the book is written in a way in which the words flow easily and are easy to digest and understand.

What Judith has done is to randomly collect and transcribe material from Quaker minute books and from some non-Quaker historical sources (for comparison purposes) from a period ranging from the late 17th century up to the middle of the 19th century. The book sets out to answer the following questions, which I have here paraphrased as: Did old Quaker minutes look like the ones we produce today? What did they do differently from today? What changes can be found over the centuries? Were the processes, phrases and vocabulary different from present-day language, and if so, how? Did Quaker processes and minute books differ from those of the non-Quaker world of past centuries?

Judith has discovered that there are differences between how Quakers did and wrote things in the past and how we do and write them today; many of which are fascinating and range from subjects like behaviour, sufferings, property and housekeeping and reports. She also looks at what was in the past the annual and time-consuming exercise of Answers to Queries, which bulked out many a minute book, and how minutes were produced in practical terms.



There are linguistic differences too – from God-language, to style, tense, civility and the language of giving instructions, to specialised Quaker jargon. Judith also compares Quaker minutes with non-Quaker historical minute writing and makes some interesting observations.

With that taster, I'll leave you, the potential reader, to savour the 'sweetness of unity' contained in the book's pages and discover for yourselves the mysteries of Quaker minute writing across the ages.

Quaker United Nations Office: Seeking Economic Justice and Sustainability

Joachim Monkelbaan (jmonkelbaan@quno.ch), who was appointed in March as Representative on Sustainable and Just Economic Systems at QUNO Geneva, explains this evolving new programme.

Quakers have a long-standing interest in the overarching role of economic systems in achieving peace, justice, and sustainability. The ongoing Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) project on “new economy” for example, investigates topics such as taxation, measuring economic success beyond GDP, and a fair financial system. While Friends mostly agree on what is wrong with existing systems, further discernment is needed on what a more sustainable and just economic system might look like at the global level, and, more importantly, how we might get there.

This year, the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva launched Sustainable and Just Economic Systems (SJES), a pilot programme that seeks to help transform global economic systems through work on international policy. We are working to further define unique roles that QUNO can play within this broad topic - roles that can have the greatest potential impact on the ground, and that benefit from our “quiet diplomacy” approach. We seek to ensure that our work is demand driven and responds to real human needs.

So, which are some of the specific economic issues that we have identified at QUNO so far? We believe there is a need to reframe the economic models that underlie such systems — to re-examine and challenge the attitudes and materialistic assumptions motivating global economic development. In this work, we hope to offer a safe mental and physical space in Geneva for institutional and international leaders to freely explore ideas for making economic systems more sustainable and just.

We are intrigued that we are being led to reengage with the World Trade Organization (WTO) where QUNO has worked in the past to help seek more transparency and justice. Various interconnected issues and processes at the WTO could benefit from being examined in the kinds of quiet spaces that QUNO can offer at Quaker House. Presently, Members of the WTO are involved

in intense discussions on how to reform the institution amidst rising trade tensions between major powers. It will be important to revisit the role of the WTO in a critical manner and help empower its Members that are underrepresented, particularly countries that are economically less developed.

We also see opportunities in the current WTO negotiations on the elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies, particularly on reflecting the interests in those negotiations of the approximately 90 million people whose livelihoods depend on small-scale fisheries. Removing fisheries subsidies would address overfishing, food security and climate change issues since most subsidies go to large scale vessels, which leave few fish for subsistence fishers and depend heavily on fossil fuels.

The linkages between trade, peace, and human rights continue to be topics of lively discussion at the international level. In theory, there should be more peaceful relations between countries that economically depend on one another. In practice, important questions arise around the potential harmful effect of trade on peace. Unequal trade relationships, demand for natural resources for exports, and trade in weapons can fuel conflict. In the area of business and human rights, the balance between the rights and responsibilities of trans-national corporations (TNCs) appears to be skewed. More progress is needed on an international treaty that confirms the accountability that TNCs have regarding human rights.

While only a few months into this new work, we are ready to discover and discern the practical actions that QUNO can take on behalf of Quakers to foster economic systems that are more sustainable and just. We may not ultimately work on all the topics mentioned above, but our approach is to be critical yet constructive and even-handed, trusting that paths will open towards the vision of a flourishing future. Eventually, we need more spiritual solutions for our economic, social, and environmental ailments so that economic activity regains purpose and improves human well-being.

QCEA responds to online hate speech with love

Martin Leng, Quaker Council for European Affairs, writes:

Anti-migrant hate speech has become a major problem in recent years, particularly thanks to the anonymity and immediacy of the internet. If you use social media, or read the comments on a news website, you've probably seen xenophobic or violent language used to discuss migrants and refugees.

For the past few months, QCEA ran a campaign against such hate speech on the internet in the context of the European elections, called #ChooseRespect. We created a website which was full of resources aimed at responding constructively to anti-migrant hate speech – defined generally as language which incites violence or dehumanises a group of people. This included a “myth-buster” page which debunked some commonly-held myths about migration to Europe, as well as advice on how to build a more positive narrative around the issue both online and offline.

As the European elections approached, we took our campaign to Twitter, calling out examples of xenophobia by MEPs and sending out messages of positivity and love to Europe's voters. By the end of the campaign we had reached over 1.1 million Twitter users across the EU – a spectacular achievement for a small NGO of which we're very proud.

The Twitter campaign has now finished, at least for the time being, but the associated website and its resources are still available at www.ChooseRespect.eu

Why is hate speech a problem?

It might seem easy to dismiss a hateful comment as a sad but unavoidable aspect of a democratic society. In particular, hate speech on the internet is so common that we sometimes ignore it altogether. But we shouldn't, as it can have devastating consequences for our public life – and pose real risks for those who are the targets of such speech.

Letting hate speech spread unchallenged poses a threat to our shared fundamental values because it encourages people to disregard them in certain cases, or for certain people. And history shows us that – once we start down that route – things can get dangerous very quickly.

Just think about Germany in the 1930s, where anti-Semitic propaganda created the climate of hate which

led to the horrors of the Holocaust. Or, more recently, the tragic murder of British parliamentarian Jo Cox by a man who spent much of his time reading extreme right-wing material on the internet.

At the present time, migrants and refugees are the most common targets of hate speech, largely due to the recent humanitarian crisis in Syria and the subsequent political debate about migration into Europe. And, as in the past, we're once again seeing that words have consequences. In fact, a recent study from Germany showed that a rise in anti-migrant hate speech on social media directly correlated with an increase in real-world violence aimed at migrants and refugees, including assaults and arson attacks.

ChooseRespect.EU

Thanks to Friends in the Europe and Middle East Section this website is fully available in: Czech, Danish, German, Polish, Serbian, English, Croatian, Dutch and French.



Diary Dates 2019 and 2020

More dates are available on the website: www.fwccemes.org. Please send items for inclusion in the diary to emes@fwccemes.org.

Woodbrooke offers two weekly **Virtual Meetings for Worship** on Wednesdays at 9:30am GMT/10:30am CET and Fridays at 1pm GMT/2pm.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/online-mfw

2019

30 August – 1 September: Italian Friends Gathering, near Bologna e.welkin@gmail.com

6 – 8 September: Border Meeting, Sittard, Netherlands border.meeting@gmail.com

3 – 6 October: German Yearly Meeting, Bad Pyrmont clerks@quaeker.org

25 – 28 October: France Yearly Meeting, Lyon secretaire.communications@quakersenfrance.org

8 – 10 November: All Poland Gathering, Opole emes@fwccemes.org

14 – 17 November: EMEYF Annual Meeting, Brussels emeyf@qcea.org

15 – 17 November: Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting quakerclerk@gmail.com

22 – 24 November: EMES Peace & Service Consultation, Brussels emes@fwccemes.org

2020

28 December 2019 - 2 January 2020: Senior-Junior Gathering for (16-18 year olds), Quakerhaus, Bad Pyrmont, Germany emes@fwccemes.org

16 – 19 April: Ireland Yearly Meeting, Belfast office@quakers-in-ireland.ie

17 – 19 April: Border Meeting (German speaking), Black Forest grenztreffenCHD@quaeker.org

30 April – 3 May: EMES Annual Meeting, Paris emes@fwccemes.org

7 – 10 May: Central European Gathering, Litomyšl, Czech Republic emes@fwccemes.org

15 – 17 May: Netherlands Yearly Meeting, Bennekom secretariaat@dequakers.nl

29 May – 1 June: Switzerland Yearly Meeting, Herzberg symclerk@swiss-quakers.ch

25 – 28 June: Nordic Yearly Meeting, Kungälv, Sweden au@kvakare.se

1 – 8 August: Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering, Bath ym@quaker.org.uk

Among Friends is the newsletter of Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation. We want Among Friends to reflect the diversity of Quaker life and experience across the Section and welcome articles, photos and news of forthcoming events.

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From outside the UK: (Payment in Euros can now be made to a German Bank. Details from the Secretary)

Bank – CAF Bank Ltd,

25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

SWIFT BIC Code – CAFBGB21XXX

IBAN No – GB73CAFB40524000025578

Account Name – CAF Bank Ltd

For Credit to (enter in field 72) – FWCC EMES 405240 00025578

Account Number – 00025578

Sort Code – 40-52-40

For holders of UK bank accounts please send cheques or CAF vouchers in GBP to the EMES office or directly to CAF Bank using the account number and sort code above. Scottish Charity number: SC 036528

Deadline for Among Friends 146: 1 November 2019