

A summary of our activities in 2014



NFPB members were at the *No to Nato* demonstration at the Faslane nuclear weapons base in September (photo: Douglas Shaw)

Information about NFPB

Northern Friends Peace Board is a representative body for Quakers in the North of Britain, encompassing Scotland, North Wales and England North of the Trent. We were set up before the first world war, with the remit 'to advise and encourage Friends in the North, and through them their fellow Christians and citizens generally, in the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth.'

We organise events, produce resources and support the network of Quakers and others who are actively involved on peace issues. Our work focuses on addressing the roots of violence and conflict, on promoting a culture of peace and on challenging militarism.

We have a paid Co-ordinator, currently working from an office in Bolton. Representatives from Area Meetings throughout the North gather for four meetings a year in different locations and are engaged in different aspects of the work, from one-off activities to project groups and our trustee committee.

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Foreword

In the summer of 2014 we produced a simple leaflet, marking the centenary of the outbreak of war. It reads, in part:

One hundred years ago, Europe found itself at the beginning of what would be a catastrophic war. Hopes that it would be quick were left in tatters four years later as the world took stock of an horrendous toll of death and injury. The legacy of unresolved enmities and industrialised militarism cast a shadow across the rest of that century. ...

We appeal to all to seek opportunities to help build a legacy of peace and justice for our children, our grandchildren, and for all humankind across the planet.

... There is another way. We must relearn the ability to live in harmony in this fragile and endangered world.

Producing this short report of our work during the year, we again wish to express our gratitude to all those who have been involved in and have supported the Quaker witness for peace. The membership of Northern Friends Peace Board is an ever-changing community and we are enriched by Area Meeting Representatives coming with new concerns, questions and gifts.

Whilst we have taken some time to reflect on the legacy of the first world war, our work continues to be forward-looking, seeking to develop ways of engaging with the new and very real challenges to peace in our communities and in the wider world. A review by members part way through the year gave us a chance to look at what we do well and what could be improved. And we continued to be inspired by the voices and actions of hope, both amongst our members and in the wider society. Our vision of change is one of people working and acting together; we look forward to further opportunities to do just that in coming months.

Board meetings

Meetings of our Representatives took place in Huddersfield, Chester, Dunblane and Newcastle. We considered a range of issues and heard news and information from Friends on an inspiring diversity of local peace initiatives from throughout the NFPB area. During the year we heard how Friends had used information, ideas and inspiration from our meetings in taking forward their local peace work.

We were pleased to welcome speakers including:

- historian Cyril Pearce, who has worked extensively on the story of WW1 Conscientious Objectors,
- young people from Ukraine
- and Friends engaged in local peace projects in the North East.

At our meeting in Chester, Friends engaged in evaluating the activities of NFPB and sharing visions and ideas for future work. We also spent time in reflection and discussion around issues relating to the Scottish independence referendum, meeting in Dunblane just a week after that historic event. We heard of the hopes expressed in the positive political aspirations of young people that had become visible during the debates leading up to the vote. As the conflict in Ukraine developed during the year, the Board wrote twice to the UK government calling for action to promote peaceful outcomes and to reduce tensions.



In addition to the our main meetings, Scottish NFPB members met with some of our Trustees to explore how the Board could strengthen its work in Scotland and how best to support

Friends working on peace issues before and after the independence referendum.

Networking and communication

We continued our communications and outreach activities through our website and social networking media, as well as through printed materials and responding to enquiries. Our sales of publications continued throughout the year and the reach of our social networking activities grew steadily.

We also collaborated with a number of Quaker and non-Quaker groups, sharing information and developing joint work. We were involved in delivering workshops – some in collaboration with other Quaker groups – and running an information stall at the Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath, in early August. We also participated in national and international networks, Quaker and non-Quaker, including the group in the UK planning resources for the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. We hosted a Peace Education outreach day in Manchester, drawing on the peace education expertise of Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Pax Christi. It brought together participants from different parts of the North and beyond, with a range of perspectives, from teachers to peace activists.

One of our members participated in the annual Peace and Service Consultation for Quakers in Europe and the Middle East.

Project activities

Our **Sustainable Security** group organised a workshop with the Turning the Tide programme, providing useful material and direction for planning future activities. In the light of the issues raised, the group began planning the production of straightforward materials and events to support Friends and others in speaking out on security for the common good. We were pleased to maintain links with an international network of Quaker organisations working on peace and environment concerns and to join these Friends in hosting a well attended interest-group at the Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath in August.

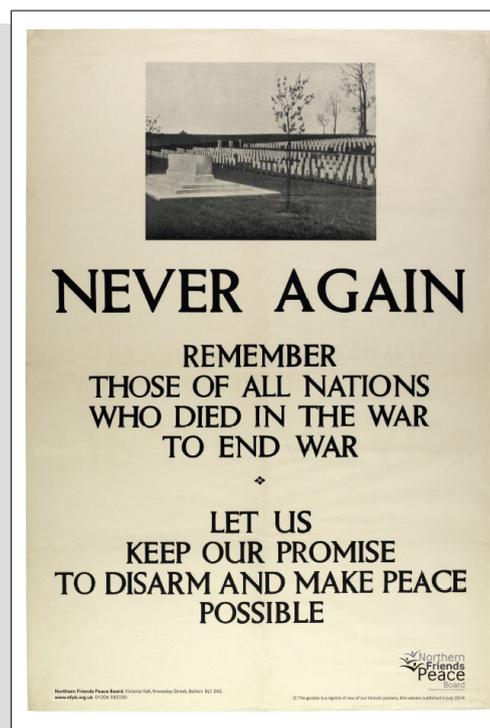
Our work on **Building Peace in Diverse Britain** continued. This year, fifty young people from different backgrounds came together for an event entitled *Young People, Peace and Community* in June. They participated energetically in giving presentations about the activities of their different groups, and in workshops looking at communication skills, at opportunities for peace building in their communities and sharing reflections on the nature of peace.



Photo: Anne Bettys

The project group developed plans for a further event for young people in 2015 and will produce a report on its work. New leadings on peace work in a cross-cultural context will be considered during the year.

First World War Centenary



We produced a leaflet reflecting on the Centenary of the First World war, which Quakers used in many settings, and promoted a range of other activities, from displays to discussions and acts of witness. We produced and distributed a set of four posters, three being reproductions of historic NFPB posters and one new design.

We continued to sell the cards and tea-towels produced to mark the NFPB Centenary year during 2013 and to promote the range of activities marking the centenary through our website and other media.

Future Plans

Trustees identified a number of priorities for 2015 and beyond:

- We want to continue to support Friends in speaking out and witnessing for peace and against militarism and on alternative responses to terrorism and extremism.
- We want to encourage awareness of and opportunities for young people's involvement in peace work and for peace education. In addition, the issue of militarism in schools is of continuing concern to many Friends and we will be alert to opportunities to engage with this.
- We will continue our efforts to strengthen our work throughout the Board's area, in 2015 having two of our Board meetings (rather than the usual one) in Scotland.
- We will provide continued support for Friends in marking the centenary of the First World War.
- We want to widen opportunities for sharing information and inspiration with Friends at the local level, so plan to publish more frequent news bulletins for Friends and begin experimenting with a series of smaller regional NFPB gatherings
- We hope to continue to make sure our Board meetings are effective in providing a framework for joint discernment, sharing information and ideas and for developing the community of our Board members.
- We intend to organise a residential meeting of the NFPB trustees and to continue the new practice of monthly phone-conferences, in order to strengthen the group and its capacity.
- We will continue to seek funds from a diverse range of sources and develop ways of promoting sales of our materials via our website and other means.

Income and Expenditure for 2014

Income	2014	2013
Donations and legacies		
Individuals	£4,587	£6,392
Meetings	£36,546	£30,634
Legacies	£5,000	£1,300
Grants	£5,105	£20,726
Fees and Sales	£1,270	£7,072
Other income	£606	£584
Investment income	£8,365	£10,247
Total	£61,479	£76,955
 Expenditure		
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Salaries	£44,965	£44,584
Rent	£2,400	£2,400
Accommodation	£846	£323
Staff & Committee development	£40	£50
Committee travel	£897	£1,851
Stationery, postage, telephone & office	£4,270	£3,919
Insurance	£401	£251
Depreciation	£86	£107
Cost of publications produced	£568	£2,033
Sundry	£401	£94
Representations & networking	£7	£225
Professional fees	£1,200	£2,846
Events	£395	£1,949
Advertising & Website	£225	£213
<i>Governance costs</i>		
Examination & Accountancy	£1,445	£1,448
Board expenses	£1,319	£1,712
Total	£59,465	£64,005

Balance at 31 December 2014

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 201

	2014	2013
Fixed Assets	£344	£430
Tangible Assets	£206,210	£199,567
Investments		
	<u>£206,554</u>	<u>£199,997</u>
Current Assets		
Stock	£1,837	£1,460
Debtors	£2,239	£557
Cash at bank and in hand	£55,019	£54,924
	<u>£59,095</u>	<u>£56,941</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year		
	<u>-£2,716</u>	<u>-£2,662</u>
Net current assets	<u>£56,379</u>	<u>£54,279</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>£262,933</u>	<u>£254,276</u>
Reserves		
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	£105,275	£88,466
General funds	£154,214	£153,654
Subtotal	<u>£259,489</u>	<u>£242,120</u>
Restricted Funds	£3,444	£12,156
	<u>£262,933</u>	<u>£254,276</u>

Financial Review for 2014

Our income from individual donations and financial contributions for Local and Area Quaker Meetings continued to be at a good level during the year. Our ethical investments again performed well, generating an

income of £8,000, with an additional £350 from building society interest. Increased pension contributions continue to be required on a monthly basis to cover the pension deficit, as anticipated. These have a significant effect on our funds but we have managed our expenditure to stay within our budget.

We received no additional funding for project work during the year but further utilised funds received previously for our work on Building Peace in Diverse Britain. Additional external funding will be sought for new projects. We spent resources on printing, including posters and colour leaflets marking the centenary of the First World War and generated income from the sales of these and other materials. We also paid for travel and accommodation for staff and committee participation in national and international Quaker events. We intend to find an appropriate way of using remaining funds given some years ago for our Peace Papers project.

In order to provide cover for the Coordinator whilst he was on a sabbatical in the spring, we paid one of our members to undertake some of that work. No significant expenditure was made on office equipment during the year, although we were able to purchase a refurbished PC at a minimal cost. Our expenditure on staff and committee development was less than anticipated but we are committed to using these funds in the future.

People

Trustees during 2014 (our Executive Committee)

Robin Bowles Cathy Holman (Co-Clerks to the Board)
Jette Howard (Clerk to the Executive Committee)
Philip Latham (Assistant Treasurer)
Phoebe Spence (Treasurer) Jill Tutton

Staff

Coordinator – Philip Austin

Administrative Assistant – Steven Waling

Members during 2014

Name	Area Meeting / Quaker body represented		
		Helen Still	North Wales (dep)
		Philip Latham	Northumbria <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Chris Butler	Brighouse West Yorks	Lynne Richardson	Notts & Derbys
Jane Woods	Brighouse West Yorks (dep)	Barry Mills	Pendle Hill
Suzanne Wilson	Central Yorkshire	Michelle Waite	Pendle Hill (dep)
Ann Bettys	Co-opted	David Credland	Pickering and Hull
Robin Bowles	Co-opted / <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Sam Walton	<i>Quaker Peace & Social Witness</i>
Mary Alice Mansell	Co-opted	Sue Beardon	Sheffield & Balby
Caroline Westgate	Co-opted	Alan Frith	South East Scotland
Janet Fenton	Co-opted	Jane Lewis	South East Scotland
Jette Howard	Craven and Keighley <i>Clerk to Executive</i>	John Cameron	Swarthmoor
Celia Davies	East Cheshire	Beryl Myers	Teesdale & Cleveland
Christopher Bagley	East Cheshire	Philip Gill	Teesdale & Cleveland (dep)
Phoebe Spence	East Cheshire (dep) <i>Treasurer</i>	Jennie White	Wensleydale & Swaledale
Jill Tutttton	East Scotland	Jo Alberti	West Cumbria & North Cumbria
Allan Williams	Hardshaw and Mann	Douglas Shaw	West Scotland
Mary Bradbury	Honorary Member	Alison Challen	Wirral and Chester
Barbara Tonge	Kendal & Sedbergh	Shirley Johnson	Wirral and Chester (dep)
Adrian Law	Kendal & Sebergh (dep)	Cathy Holman	York / <i>Co-Clerk</i>
Fiona Spacey	Leeds	Freya Blyth	<i>Young Friends General Meeting</i>
Graham Lewinton	Lincolnshire	Tim Carlisle	Corresp' member
Steven Waling	Manchester & Warrington (and Admin Assistant)	Brenda Rigby	Corresp' member
Clare Wakefield	Manchester & Warrington (dep)	Maria Brown	Corresp' member
Juli Salt	North Scotland	Bobby Locke	Corresp' member
Margaret Clarke	North Wales	Jo Valentine	Corresp' member

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**There is
another way**



We must live together in
harmony in this fragile world



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© Published by NFPB in July 2014

The new poster we had designed and printed in 2014

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