

Our work in 2016



NFPB members during a vigil in Nottingham. March 2016

Introduction

2016 saw largely unexpected political shifts in the UK and the US. NFPB reflected on and responded to some of the changes in politics and society whilst keeping a focus on our core areas of work. A significant number of our members contributed to the work of the Board, both at our meetings and within various sub-groups. We welcomed new members to both.

We received a modest but valuable increase in financial contributions from Area and Local Quaker Meetings during 2016. Individual Friends have also kindly provided financial contributions. Alongside these our core activities and project work benefited from additional funds provided by charitable trusts. We are grateful for all this support. Thank you!

At the turn of the year, the ramifications of the EU referendum and the election of US president Donald Trump were still unclear. Grassroots action by Quakers and many others in building good community relations, in responding to social and human need and in speaking out continue to inspire us. We are greatly encouraged by this commitment and look forward to opportunities to collaborate and support their work in the promotion of peace in all its height and breadth.

Board meetings

NFPB members met in Nottingham in March, Edinburgh in June, Penrith in October and York in November. Most Area Meetings being represented at each. Local Friends interested to find out about our work also joined us. We welcomed a number of speakers as well as sharing news and information on peace concerns and activities across the North. At all but one of the meetings Friends undertook simple acts of witness against the renewal/replacement of Trident.

At our meeting in **Nottingham**, NFPB member Robert Keeble reflected on his family history and how it has been shaped by conscientious objection during the first world war. We considered a number of concerns, including those relating to the referendum on membership of the European Union, the government's Prevent strategy and the renewal of Trident.



NFPB members in discussion, Nottingham Meeting House, March 2016

At our **Edinburgh** meeting Mari Campbell-Jack (Parliamentary Engagement Officer for the Scottish Parliament) joined us and updated us on her work regarding militarism and schools in Scotland. We reflected on the EU referendum, gathered as we were just two days after the murder of MP Jo Cox and a few days before the referendum itself. NFPB members agreed a statement calling for Friends and others to undertake action to build better understanding in and between our communities.

In **Penrith** Ruth Harvey, from Place for Hope, introduced the work of that project to support churches and others in dealing with conflict. We were also joined by Julie Ward, one of the North West of England's MEPs. Julie talked about her work on a range of peace and justice concerns at the European Parliament.

At our **York** meeting, we welcomed Michael Elstub, a Friend and member of Veterans for Peace UK. Friends were moved to hear of his experiences within the armed forces and the challenge this posed to him as his commitment to peace grew. Friends recognised the unique role Veterans for Peace has to play within the peace movement and a number hoped to follow up Michael's contribution to our meeting with further invitations and links. Janet Fenton shared news of the moves towards a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, following her involvement in international conferences preparing the ground for this.

Other events and activities

The possibility of **Trident** renewal was a key theme during the early part of the year. February saw NFPB members and the NFPB banner at the large national demonstration in London.. In April we helped facilitate a 'Productive Trident Conversations' workshop. Hosted by Swarthmore Local Meeting, this was a joint project with Tim Wallis of Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW).



Participants of the workshop on *Productive Trident Conversations*, April 2016

At Britain Yearly Meeting in May, we facilitated a Special Interest meeting on the subject, in partnership with QPSW and Young Friends General Meeting. We also joined with the Network of Christian Peace Organisations in producing and distributing a briefing on the issue.

Following July's Parliamentary decision to go ahead with building a successor, we focused on arms conversion as an alternative to the military production. We made efforts to identify people from the workforce who would be building the successor submarines in Barrow-in-Furness, in order to support them in attending a conference marking the 40th anniversary of the Lucas Aerospace shop stewards' arms conversion plan. Sadly, we were unable to identify people willing or able to attend the conference.

Building on our concern around **Sustainable Security**, in September we delivered a day conference in Darlington on the theme of 'Changing the Narrative for Peace – Critical Role of the Media'. Participants from

Scotland and the North and South of England heard some informative speakers. Workshops and group-exercises provided space for people to explore both the challenges of re-framing the security agenda, and the practicalities of engaging with different types of media. Speakers were Andrew Smith - Campaign Against Arms Trade, Michael Grey of CommonSpace and David Gee of the Ammerdown Group on Rethinking Security.



Conference on *Changing the Narrative for Peace – Critical Role of the Media*

We were invited by Yorkshire's Wooldale Meeting to run a regional event on '**Building Peace with Justice in Palestine and Israel**'. The day provided a space for reflection and discussion on the challenges and opportunities for positive action.

Three NFPB members participated in a two-day workshop on **militarism** in Leeds. Part of a preparatory process for a conference organised by the International Peace Bureau later in the year.

We had a presence at **Quakers in Yorkshire** (in March). In October we helped facilitate workshops on the government's Prevent strategy, at a **Regional Gathering for Friends in the North West**.

We continued our European Quaker links, again being represented at the annual Quaker Peace and Service Consultation in Belgium, and nationally contributed to the work of QPSW's Peace Education, Campaigning and Networking sub-committee and of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO).

Resources and Information

We use our **social media** (Facebook and Twitter) accounts to share information from Quaker and non-Quaker sources on current peace-related concerns, as well as reports of our own activities on our **website**. We responded throughout the year to a range of **enquiries** and were able to provide resources for Quaker and non-Quaker events. We produced a new leaflet on **'Quaker Approaches to Peace'**

Towards the end of the year we began work to develop new **workshop** activities to offer to Quakers and others. These will be aimed at promoting the skills of talking with and working with others in addressing and acting on peace and conflict in our communities.

Trustees' and financial report

A full Trustees' report is contained in our Annual Accounts, available on our website and from the NFPB office (see back page for details). Douglas Shaw joined the Committee at the beginning of 2016, whilst Philip Latham, Christopher Butler and Jette Howard (Clerk) completed their service at the end of the year.

We were pleased to note that income from Area and Local Meetings, and from individuals, showed an increase in comparison with 2015. Income from investments helped offset the cost of additional payments that we now have to make in respect to the Pensions Trust deficit.

Financial statements from our accounts are included in the following two pages.

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Total Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2015 £
Receipts		
Donations	41,367	31,720
Legacies	4,698	-
Grants		
Bryan Lancaster Friends Gift	300	-
Edward Cadbury Trust	500	-
Friends' Trusts	623	550
Westcroft Trust	4,500	4,500
Total grants		5,050
Receipts from other charitable activities		
Workshop fees and sales	628	419
Commission	539	605
Reimbursements	87	-
Total receipts from charitable activities	1,254	1,024
Income from investments	8,821	10,406
Total Receipts	62,063	48,200
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Staff costs	46,632	47,891
Premises	2,710	2,100
Publications produced	131	979
Publicity	358	120
Office costs	3,463	4,110
Meetings & Events	576	1,184
Travel & accommodation	3,284	3,918
Professional fees		24
Total charitable activities		60,326
Governance Costs	1,266	1,302
Total Payments	58,420	61,628
Surplus /(deficit)	3,463	(13,428)

Statement of balance as at 31 December 2016

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2016	Total funds 2015
Cash Funds				
Bank and cash balances at start of year	51,575	3,444	41,591	55,019
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts & payments account	(11,389)	(2,039)	3,643	(13, 428)
Bank and cash balances at end of year	<u>40,186</u>	<u>1,405</u>	<u>45,234</u>	<u>41,591</u>
Investments				
	Fund		Market valuation 2016	2015
Investment portfolio	Unrestricted		<u>212,051</u>	<u>204,602</u>
Other assets				
	Fund		2016	2015
Stock of goods for resale	Unrestricted		2,644	3,072
Computer and office equipment	Unrestricted		1,228	1,228
Total other assets			<u>3,872</u>	<u>4,300</u>
Liabilities				
	Fund			2015
Other creditors	Unrestricted		-	-
Total Liabilities			-	=
Contingent liability				
	Fund		2016	2015
Pension scheme withdrawal debt	Unrestricted		<u>109,837</u>	<u>117,050</u>

Members during 2016

Name	Area Meting / Quaker body represented		
Chris Butler	Brighouse West Yorks	Fiona Pacey	Leeds
Jane Woods	Brighouse West Yorks (dep)	Mary Elliot	Lincolnshire
Maureen Saga		Ursula Sharma	Manchester & Warrington
Francis	Central Yorkshire	Juli Salt	North Scotland
Ann Bettys	Co-opted	Donald Saunders	North Wales
Robin Bowles	Co-opted	David Mellor	North Wales (dep)
Mary Alice Mansell	Co-opted	Philip Latham	Northumbria <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Janet Fenton	Co-opted	Matthew Guest	Northumbria
Geoff Fielding	Co-opted	Lyn Pardo	Notts & Derbys
Keith Hargreaves	Co-opted	Barry Mills	Pendle Hill
Robert Keeble	Co-opted	Michelle Waite	Pendle Hill (dep)
Suzanne Wilson	Co-opted	Sylvie Barrett	Pickering and Hull
Jette Howard	Co-opted and <i>Clerk to Executive</i>	Rod Heath	Pickering and Hull
Richard Vesey	Craven & Keighley	Sam Walton	<i>Quaker Peace & Social Witness</i>
Jo Alberti	Cumberland <i>Clerk to the Board</i>	Sue Beardon	Sheffield & Balby
Christopher Bagley	East Cheshire	Alan Robinson	Sheffield & Balby (dep)
Phoebe Spence	East Cheshire (dep) <i>Treasurer</i>	Alan Frith	South East Scotland
Jill Tutton	East Scotland	Karina McIntosh	South East Scotland
Ed Bruce	Hardshaw & Mann	Jocelyn Gaskell	Swarthmoor
Ann Le Mare	Kendal & Sebergh	Don Hay	Swarthmoor (dep)
Paul Crossley	Lancashire Central & North	Leti Hawthorn	Teesdale & Cleveland
		Philip Gill	Teesdale & Cleveland

Jennie White Wensleydale & Swaledale
Douglas Shaw West Scotland
Alison Challen Wirral and Chester
Shirley Johnson Wirral and Chester (dep)
Kurt Strauss York

Laurence Hall *Young Friends
General Meeting*

Corresponding members

Tim Carlisle, Brenda Rigby,
Maria Brown, Bobby Locke,
Jo Valentine, Caroline Westgate



NO FAITH IN TRIDENT

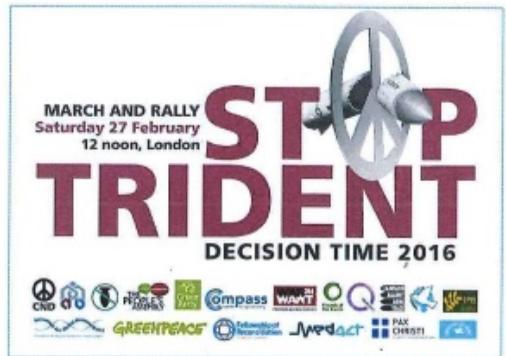
Join us on 27th February and help Stop Trident

Members of NCPO and other faith groups will gather at 11.00am at Hinde Street Methodist Church Marylebone, London W1U for prayers before setting off to join the march and rally.

The march ends in Trafalgar Square where there will be speeches, including from faith leaders.

www.paxchristi.org.uk

www.facebook.com/ncpouk/?fref=ts



Flyer for service organised by the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, of which NFPB is an active member, ahead of the Stop Trident demonstration in London

Flyer for day of reflection at
Wooldale Meeting House >>

Approaches to promoting peace with justice in Palestine and Israel

*A day of reflection and discussion, arranged
by Wooldale Quaker Meeting with
Northern Friends Peace Board*

The day will give space for

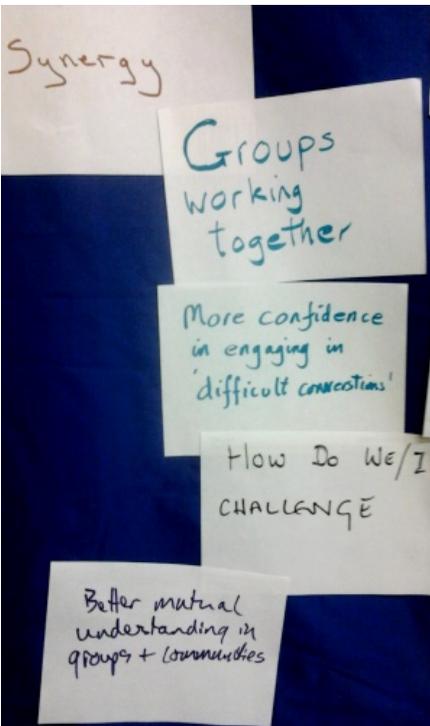
- exploring dilemmas
- identifying positive action
- hearing differing perspectives
- learning

Venue: Wooldale Quaker Meeting House,
Pell Lane, Holmfirth, HD9 1QL West Yorkshire

Date: Saturday 2nd July 2016

Time: 10.30am – 3.00pm

If you are interested in participating, please contact
.....@gmail.com (before 27th June)
01204 382330 (up to 17th June)



<< Notes from a workshop planning event in
December

Quaker approaches to peace

The Quaker peace testimony is an active expression of our understanding of the nature of how we should live in this world; an understanding that comes from our experiences of meeting together in worship – periods of collective quiet prayer and reflection in which we listen for the leadings of the spirit.

Our commitment to peace is many-faceted, and how we are led to act will be different in any given situation. It challenges us in many settings and for every generation. Our peace testimony is about paying attention to all relationships; from those with family and neighbours to those between nations.



We try to live out our commitment to peace in our daily lives and in our work. Sometimes we set up and support long-term individual or collective Quaker action as an expression of our peace testimony. For example, we develop and support alternative ways of resolving and engaging in conflicts. We also work for a reduction in armaments in the world and for a change to the conditions, policies and circumstances that can sow the seeds of war and violent conflict.

Our new peace testimony leaflet>>

Northern Friends Peace Board

Victoria Hall, Knowsley Street Bolton BL1 2AS

<http://nfpb.org.uk> nfpb@gn.apc.org 01204 382330

Thank you to all those who have supported us during the year -
financially and in many other ways.

**Contact us at the address above if you want to know more or if
you wish to make a donation** towards our work. Further
information about ways in which you can do this are available at:
<http://nfpb.org.uk/about/supporting-us-financially>

Charity: SC 024632