

# Northern Friends Peace Board



## A summary of our activities in 2009

### Introduction

It gives us pleasure to introduce this document that gives a flavour of our work during 2009. On the inside pages is a description of the range of activities we undertook and on the back a summary of our financial situation at the end of the year. This is a new format for our report – we would welcome feedback. For the fuller Trustees' report and accounts, either visit our website or contact our office to request one.

Northern Friends Peace Board's role, since 1913, has been 'to advise and encourage Friends in the North, and through them ... citizens generally, in the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth'. We were pleased to have Representatives from all but one of the Area Meetings in the north during the year, getting to know some of these as new members and drawing on the experience of longer-serving members.

In the summary of our work in 2008 we indicated some of the key areas that we would be focussing on in our Development Plan. We were pleased to complete and to publish this document in July 2009, providing us with a key resource for taking our work forward in the coming years. The four headings – *Relationships with Friends, Communications, Building Common Cause and Sustainability* – are a framework in which our concerns will be developed by our members and other supporting Friends.

Sustainability, one of our Development Plan's themes, is a key issue for us as an organisation. The sustainability of how we live on this planet is becoming increasingly central to our understanding of security and peace. One of our new project groups will be developing work to support learning and action on this. We are also committed to continuing our work in a sustainable way. As well as keeping under close review our own use of resources, we want to be sustainable in both financial and organisational terms. We continue to be grateful for the support and involvement in our work of so many Friends and look forward to this continuing.



Our members joined other Friends for a silent Meeting at the gates of Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, July 2009

Mary Alice Mansell  
Clerk to the Board

Ann Bettys  
Clerk to the Executive

## Key events and networking



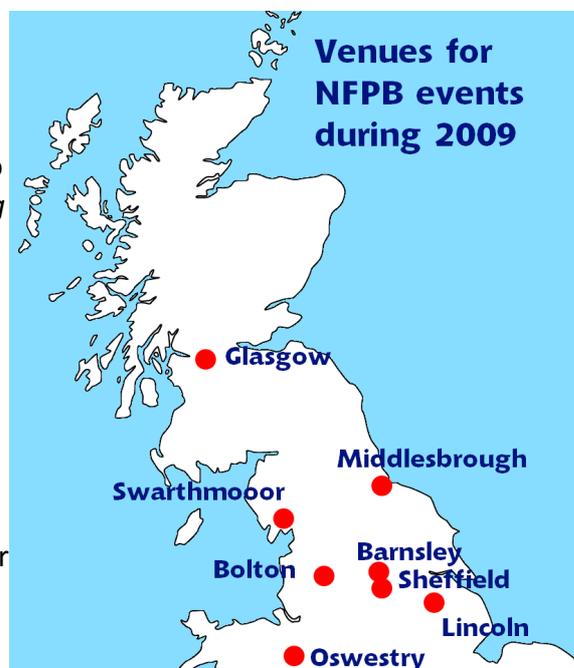
NFPB members talk with Nick Chavasse, Barnsley, February 2009

As usual, our meetings and other events saw us at Meeting Houses throughout the North of Britain. Members' meetings took place between South Yorkshire and West Scotland, taking in Swarthmoor and Middlesbrough in between. We are grateful to all those Friends who made us so welcome and who contributed to our gatherings.

Members of *Middlesbrough Council of Faiths* were able to spend a whole day with us in September. In November, Robert Straughton spoke with authority on the ramifications of naval ship-building on international conflict and on local industry and employment. Jaci Smith and Nick Chavasse shared important learning from their work with Quaker Peace and Social Witness' Peace Education programme and the *Fellowship of Reconciliation* respectively.

The Board and its Executive took some important **decisions** during the year. In the summer, they agreed a final draft of a four-year **development plan** and initiated a consideration of how we might mark our centenary in 2013. In November, terms of reference were agreed for four new project groups to develop work on: *Building Peace in Diverse Britain; Advocating Disarmament and Challenging Militarism; Supporting Young People as Peacemakers and on Promoting Sustainable Security*. We also began the process of looking at how opportunities for NFPB members to meet on a regional basis might enhance our work.

We put on three other events during the year. In March we arranged a follow-up mini-conference on the theme of **Building Peace – Tackling Racism**, bringing people together for a half-day of networking and learning at Bolton Meeting House. We later ran a workshop for Oswestry Meeting on **Speaking our Peace** and a peace learning day in Sheffield on **Paying for Peace**.



In the summer we were well represented at the first *Yearly Meeting Gathering*, held at the York University. We contributed a Speaking our Peace workshop and facilitated a showing of our DVD on Building Peace –



Participants enjoy conversation and music at our event on Building Peace – Tackling Racism, March 2009

Tackling Racism followed by a discussion, as well as producing briefing notes for the visit and Meeting for Worship at Fylingdales and contributing to the groups' fair.

Links with QPSW's Peace & Disarmament programme and a number of key peace and faith-based networks provided further opportunities for collaboration during the year, such as contributing a workshop for a conference of the *Centre for Radical Christianity*.

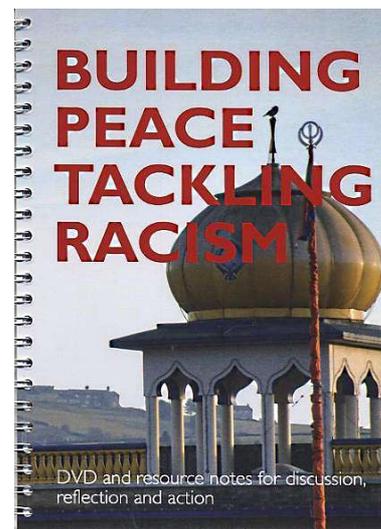
## Project Work

Our work on Peace, Faith & Race was particularly focussed on the final stages of production and distribution of our **DVD** and study materials on 'Building Peace – Tackling Racism', drawing on material contributed to our 2008 conference in Huddersfield. This was shown in a number of settings and copies made available to all Area Meetings through their NFPB representatives.

Following evaluation of our work on Speaking our Peace and Challenging Militarism (whose workshops are mentioned above), we developed proposals for future project work in the light of current concerns.

Our new areas will be:

- **Building Peace in Diverse Britain** - to provide continuing support to Quakers and others in learning and action, to give voice to Quaker concerns and to enable and encourage dialogue in a safe space
- **Advocating Disarmament and Challenging Militarism** - to be a focus for Friends efforts and witness for disarmament, to collaborate and support existing initiatives as well as undertaking some of our own and to educate and raise awareness.
- **Supporting Young People as Peacemakers** - to support Young Friends and others in learning and reflection on peace concerns relevant to young people and to promote positive contributions that young people can make.
- **Promoting Sustainable Security** - to promote sustainable security as a peace priority and to collaborate and support existing initiatives



## Our Executive Committee

Our Trustees make up our Executive Committee, which this year met five times, including an additional meeting at the end of the year to evaluate and plan our work in more detail. Two of their key areas of responsibility are communication and networking and ensuring that our work is properly financed. Our website continued to be updated throughout the year, with the addition of social networking opportunities using Facebook and Twitter. We published one issue of our newsletter and periodic updates of our work for Meetings. We gave presentations on our work to Meeting for Sufferings and to Quakers in Yorkshire.



Members of the NFPB Executive and staff at Swarthmore Hall in November 2009

Friends continued to be generous in their financial contributions to support our work, although we were aware that some were having to reduce their levels of giving as a result of the economic downturn. Our own investment income similarly declined and so we had to draw on our reserves for the first time in several years. We identified fundraising from a wider range of sources as a priority for the coming year.

We supported our members and staff in undertaking training during the year, in presentation skills and in participatory strategic planning.

# Northern Friends Peace Board

## Financial summary, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

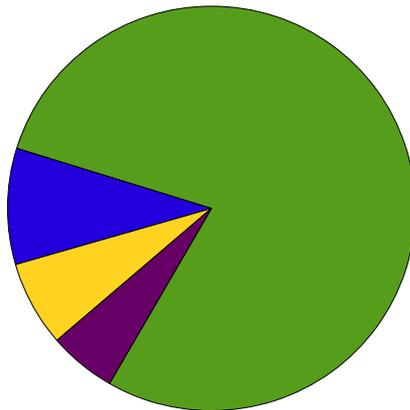
	2009	2008
Total Income:	<b>£43,471</b>	£46,252
Total Expenditure:	<b>£47,321</b>	£46,772

<b>Balance of assets as of</b>		
<b>31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>£ 221,210*</b>	£ 224,385

\* £90,000 of these reserves are designated to meet a potential employer debt on withdrawal from our membership of the Pensions Trust and further funds are held in reserve to meet four months employers' commitments (£12,000) and winding up costs, in the unlikely event that these will be needed, of £3,000.

### NFPB Income 2009

- Donations and legacies
- Grants
- Fees & other income
- Investment income



### Trustees during 2009

*Sarah Alldred,  
Ann Bettys (Clerk),  
Robin Bowles,  
Tim Carlisle (Treasurer),  
Peter Cheer,  
Jenny Foot,  
Mary Alice Mansell,  
Frances Morgan,  
Suzanne Wilson*

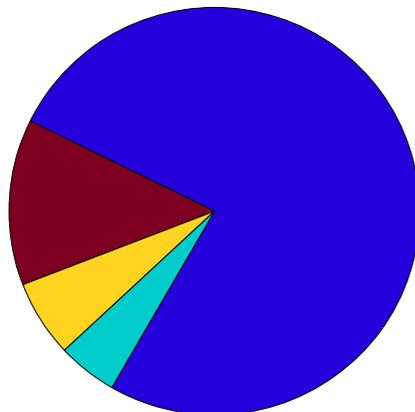
### Staff

**Philip Austin**  
- Co-ordinator

**Steven Waling**  
- Administrative Assistant

### NFPB Expenditure 2009

- Staffing
- Running costs
- Events and resources
- Governance



## Further Information

Full accounts are available on our website at: [http://nfpb.gn.apc.org/nfpb\\_in\\_2009.htm](http://nfpb.gn.apc.org/nfpb_in_2009.htm)  
or available on request from our office:

## Northern Friends Peace Board

Victoria Hall  
Knowsley Street  
Bolton BL1 2AS  
Tel: 01204 382330  
Email: [nfpb@gn.apc.org](mailto:nfpb@gn.apc.org)

Charity SC 024632