Our activities in 2025



NFPB members and other Friends meeting in Edinburgh & online, June 2025

Introduction

This is an overview of our activities during 2025, including a summary of our financial situation. The context for our work continues to be challenging, both in terms of wider events and also amidst Quaker organisational changes and pressures.

We are enormously grateful for all that Friends have given during the year to support and develop our work. Friends have participated in meetings in different parts of the country, as well as online. We have had representation from Area Meetings across the North, with some Friends joining as new Representatives for their Area Meeting and others completing their service during or at the end of the year. Our trustees in particular have been very busy during the year, doing a lot of work between their main four meetings.

As in previous years, our work sits alongside that of other Friends, networks, individuals and groups more widely. It seems more important than ever, with the multiplicity of crises, that we connect and collaborate where and when we can. The pace of change in the world can be disconcerting, and 2025 was perhaps a year in which we felt that particularly acutely, with international norms and expectations shifting dramatically. To provide a space, whether in the same room, in publications or in online encounters, in order to take stock and consider our responses to such changes, is important. We are pleased to play our part in contributing to this.

Main activities

Board Meetings

There were four meetings of the Board – Area Meeting reps to NFPB and coopted Friends – during the year. These were all hybrid, with those attending in the same physical space gathering in Nottingham, Edinburgh, York and Liverpool. We appreciated the hospitality and opportunity to meet with local Friends at the different venues, and were glad that those who could not attend in-person were able to join the meetings online.

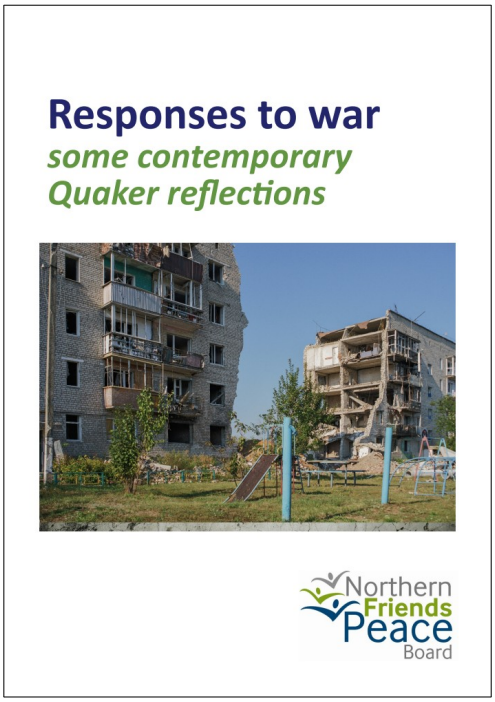
Speakers at our meetings included Russell Whiting, UK Coordinator for the Global Campaign on Military Spending; Rachel Julian, Professor of Peace Studies at Leeds Beckett University; and Diana Jeater, Professor of African History at Liverpool University. We received reports and updates from a number of others, including from colleagues working for Quakers in Britain and Rethinking Security.

Invited speakers and NFPB members encouraged us to learn about grassroots peacebuilding, and to reflect and share responses to the rapidly-changing international context (particularly in relation to the role of the United States on the world stage). Our meetings were also opportunities for Friends to share information and news of peace concerns and activities in their areas and networks. As ever, these opportunities to learn from and support one another are an important part of helping to sustain and develop our community and understanding of the different approaches to taking action for peace today.

Board members also took part in a process of reflection and discussion about the work of NFPB and how it might need to change or develop in the years ahead. This was linked to the Trustees' preparation for a recruitment process for a new Coordinator in 2026.

Responses to War

We published this short book in April, being a collection of written contributions in response to the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as wider issues of war and peace. Ranging from the importance of deep listening to those who have lived through the trauma of war, to addressing wider human and planetary security issues, Friends' contributions have come from the variety of individual and collective Quaker experience. Additional resources accompanying the book are available on our website.
https://nfpb.org.uk/responses-to-war/



Outreach, communication and networking

Our website and social media were continuously updated and added to throughout the year, reaching a wide audience. In August we moved from publishing our NFPB Update, and the Peace Round-up as two separate newsletters, and now publish a combined 'NFPB Bulletin' every two months, with reports of NFPB and other peace activities, and links to resources and events. This is circulated to Meetings, individual Friends and a wider mailing list within and beyond the Society of Friends.

We continue our collaboration with Rethinking Security, Global Campaign on Military Spending, and the Network of Christian Peace Organisations. As well as attending and helping to facilitate meetings of each of these our Coordinator supported the development of a range of outreach and engagement activities that undertaken by them. Additionally, we supported Christian Aid in developing resources to encourage churches and their members in learning about and taking action for a just peace in Palestine.

We also regularly participated in the online meetings of the Peace and Service Network of the FWCC Europe and Middle East Section, as well as that network's weekend gathering (also online, due to health issues). We kept in close touch with Quakers in Britain staff, during their own time of transition in relation to peace work, and participated in Yearly Meeting sessions held in May.

Workshops

We facilitated workshops for Quaker and mixed Quaker-interfaith groups during the year. Themes included the peace testimony and local action, issues arising from the Responses to War book (see above) and building peace and a sustainable future.

Trustees and financial overview

The following Friends served as Trustees during the year: Alan Frith, Till Geiger, Deryck Hillas (Treasurer), Jayne Meadows (Clerk), Peter Speirs and Jennie White. Trustees held five meetings during the year, four being online and one face-to-face, as well as monthly information sharing and preparatory meetings. Staff were Philip Austin, Coordinator, and Steven Waling, Administrative Assistant. Trustees set up a working group to prepare for staff retirements in 2026, which met a number of times during the year.

Income from Area and Local Meetings was at a slightly higher level than in 2024 and we were pleased to receive a grant from the Edith M Ellis Charitable Trust for a peace testimony project to be delivered in 2026. Expenditure exceeded income, affected in part by cost increases, so we again drew on reserves. Trustees annually undertake a risk assessment and during 2025 gave further consideration to the need for greater financial sustainability. Full accounts and trustees' report are available on our website on request via our email address below.

Financial Report

Receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted 2025	*Restricted 2025*	*Total 2025*	*2024*
Receipts	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
Donations	42,424		42,424	37,811
Legacies				4,327
Grants		2,500	2,500	5,500
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	1,756		1,756	70
Investment Income	3,273		3,273	4,750
Total Receipts	**47,753**	**2,500**	**49,953**	**51,958**
Payments				
Charitable Activities	59,259			55,821
Governance costs	1,525			1,424
Total Payments	**60,784**			**57,245**
Net receipts/payments	**(13,331)**	**2,500**	**(10,831)**	**(4,787)**

For 2026 we are giving a guideline figure for contributions from Area (and in some cases Local) Meetings of £11 per member.

We also welcome donations from individuals, collections and other sources.
https://nfpb.org.uk/donate/

Thank you for all your support. Please do get in touch if you would like to know more about the work covered in this short report, or if you would like to discuss how we might support you, your Meeting or another group in taking forward peace concerns and action.

Quaker recognised body

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