

# Update – December 2021



## Northern Friends Peace Board

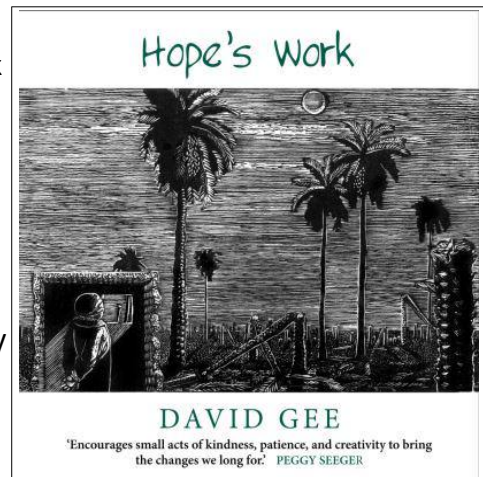
NFPB, Victoria Hall, Knowsley Street, Bolton BL1 2AS  
[nfpb@gn.apc.org](mailto:nfpb@gn.apc.org) 01204 382330 <http://nfpb.org.uk>  
Charity SC 024632

---

## NFPB meetings

***NFPB members met in September and November. As well as hearing about and responding to Friends' concerns, our meetings are spaces for reflection and discernment, learning and connection, and for planning and reviewing priorities. Friends have attended from Area Meetings across Scotland, North Wales and Northern England.***

In September, we were pleased to welcome **David Gee**, introducing a session on the importance of hope in our work for peace. David began by reflecting on the fragility of hope. He suggested that hope is a response to the need for realignment, responding to the old stories of success with a different vision. He acknowledged the sense of loss and despair that we often feel, but in activism these often sit alongside hope and joy, affirmation of those things that are life-giving. It can feel messy, but sometimes hope and history do rhyme. He asked us to reflect on how we cultivate that middle-space.



In groups and in further reflection with David, Friends heard of the importance of community, of getting together, of balancing the sense of urgency with a need to slow down, of giving ourselves the things that we need in the midst of action, of self-love and being the change we wish to see. Of living in the spirit.

David has written further on this theme in his recently-published book, *Hope's Work*. (see review at <https://nfpb.org.uk/voices/review-hopes-work/> )

*Storm Arwen arrived the night before our members' meeting on 27 November.* Plans for a fully-blended meeting were rapidly changed as trains across the north were cancelled and all but a handful of Friends were able to get to the Meeting House in Bolton. So most again joined via Zoom. We were pleased to welcome newly appointed members.

In our opening session at the November meeting, members shared **reflections arising from the COP26** conference that had taken place in Glasgow earlier in the month. Some Friends had been in Glasgow (and other cities), participating in demonstrations and a number of Friends had met with, supported and been inspired by some of the groups of walkers from different parts who had taken their witness to COP26 on foot.

Amidst the small steps forward in the conference itself, Friends acknowledged disappointment – but not complete surprise. Friends spoke of the encouragement they got from the energy and passion of the civil society presence, including opportunities to raise the voices of those most affected by climate heating, which can (must?) be built on in coming years.

Jo Frew, the Outreach Coordinator for **Rethinking Security** (<https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/>), joined us during our November meeting. Jo outlined the aims of the Rethinking Security and of their Alternative Security Review. NFPB is active in developing and promoting this and Friends were encouraged to help make connections and opportunities for local engagement. NFPB is also going to be running an online Woodbrooke course with Rethinking Security on these issues during March 2022.



**Alternative  
Security  
Review**

**You can sign up to get more information about Rethinking Security via:**  
<https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/supporters-network/>

---

## Challenging Militarism

Our **nuclear weapons** working group was reappointed in November and asked to continue its work, with the first meeting in March next year of states parties to the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** (<https://nfpb.org.uk/tpnw-info/>) being a particular focus. We are part of the UK ICAN network and our working group plans to provide further information and resources in 2022 to support Friends in taking action.

We have run a number of **workshops** for Friends, including those during the Yearly Meeting Gathering, and for Friends in the North West of England, online and in person, focussing on different aspects of militarism and security. Following the workshop on armed forces covenants earlier in the year, we invited Ellis Brooks to contribute a session exploring militarism for the north west England Teenage General Meeting held at Stockport in October. *NFPB poster*



Through our involvement with the UK steering group of the **Global Campaign on Military Spending**, we have supported the development of resources and activities, most of which in recent months have been in relation to COP26, the UN Climate conference.

**For more information and to sign up for updates:** <https://demilitarize.org.uk/>

---

## Climate and Peace

- **Addition to our website**

We have pulled together links to resources - Quaker and non-Quaker - in relation to climate and peace concerns on our website here: <https://bit.ly/3GWuGvU>.

Please let us know of additional material that we might add to this.

- **Online event on 29 January**

*Is COP26 enough?* In partnership with the Quaker Council for European Affairs we shall be running this event from 10-11:30 (BST), exploring different aspects of the connection between climate and peace concerns and opportunities for action in our communities.

*More details to follow – please get in touch to register an interest.*

## ***Peace Round-up***

Throughout 2021 we have continued to compile and distribute our monthly **Peace Round-up**, which pulls together links to news and comment on a range of peace concerns. Back copies are available to download – (<https://nfpb.org.uk/resources/publicity-information-outreach/>).

*Please get in touch if you would like to be added to the distribution list for this publication.*

---

## **Governance changes**

At the end of 2021, Phoebe Spence will complete her service as NFPB's Treasurer, and Douglas Shaw as Clerk to the NFPB Trustees. Deryck Hillas and Peter Speirs will undertake these roles from January 2022. Friends have also been working on a revised governing document for Northern Friends Peace Board, bringing it up-to-date with more recent models and including provision for online meetings.

---

## **Meetings, events and activities in 2022**

NFPB members and trustees have kept under review how and when our activities can move from online to in-person or hybrid. Whilst we have not, with one exception, run workshops in Meeting Houses since 2019, we are keen to support Friends through online events and to look at local or regional in-person opportunities, as and when health-safety measures in the midst of the continuing pandemic allow.

## **Please get in touch if you...**

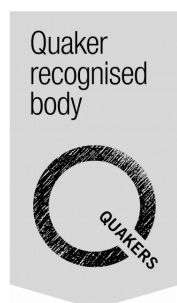
- would like to be added to our mailing list for information and updates about our meetings and events.
  - are interested in inviting us to run a workshop or contribute to a discussion or session for your meeting or group.
  - have news or information to share about events coming up.
- 

## ***Thank you!***

Thank you Friends for your continuing financial support during this challenging period.

For different ways to contribute go to: <https://nfpb.org.uk/donate/>

---



## **Northern Friends Peace Board**

NFPB, Victoria Hall, Knowsley Street, Bolton BL1 2AS  
[nfpb@gn.apc.org](mailto:nfpb@gn.apc.org) 01204 382330 <http://nfpb.org.uk>  
Charity SC 024632

---