



# ***From The Centre***

***Winter 2011***

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The Newsletter of Central England Area Meeting

## ***Editorial***

In our last edition we listed events for Quaker Week in October 2010. We hope you found something to interest you. We also highlighted the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Testimony, complete with “birthday” cake. The business of putting our testimonies into practice goes on, as reflected in a number of articles in this edition. Some of it involves a commitment to long term work overseas, some involves greater awareness of the impact of the way we live, some involves the efforts we make to improve the lives of others, but in all there is something to celebrate – whether it’s in Uganda or here in our own Area Meeting, or perhaps something we are doing here which will help improve life elsewhere. All of this draws in far more Friends than those who’ve put their names to the reports in this newsletter.

Although there aren’t any birthday cakes this time, there are things to celebrate. See the illustrated report of Hartshill Heritage Afternoon, which took place during Quaker Week. If you weren’t at the Elders and Overseers day on supporting small meetings (and if you were) read the script of Desert Island Discourse and have a go at recreating something like it.

It’s not all fun and games, of course. The December event on the spiritual roots of our 10:10 commitment is reported in this edition. As Gill Coffin reminds us, “obeying one’s conscience frequently comes at a price”. The AM Peace and Justice Day in January (which will be fully reported later) dealt with such weighty matters as destitution. Even when dealing with difficult issues, however, there is a sense of hope in looking to what has changed and what more can be done.

Stella Roberts is leaving the editorial team with this edition. The rest of the team thank her for the creativity and enthusiasm she’s brought to our work, including a substantial input to this edition. We look to welcoming Liam Tully to the team in time for the next edition.

John Cockcroft, Michael Eccles and Stella Roberts  
Editors

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Further copies of this newsletter are available by arrangement from the AM Office. Articles for possible inclusion in future editions should be sent to the editors, preferably as email attachments, via Area Meeting Office. All articles, which may be edited, are included at the sole discretion of the editors. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Area Meeting or the editors.

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**From The Centre Quaker Crossword Number 7: Solution**



**Quaker Quest**

The next series of Quaker Quest evenings will be at Cotteridge and Bournville Meeting Houses.

**Cotteridge:** Tuesdays 15, 22, 29 March and 5 April - week 1 Quakers and Worship, week 2 Quakers, Christianity and the Spiritual Path, week 3 Quakers and Peace, week 4 Quaker Faith in Action.

**Bournville:** (same sequence) Wednesdays 27 April, 4, 11, 18 May.

Join at any session.

All meetings start with light refreshments at 6.30, with discussion from 7 to 9 pm. *Full details on Area Meeting website.*

## **VISIT TO UGANDA 2010**

### ***A Report to Central England Area Meeting***

I was in Western Uganda between 17 November and 6 December last year, visiting the projects which you support. Our main partners are Rwenzori Peace Bridge of Reconciliation (RPBR), a network of small local organisations, mostly village-based, in Kasese District on the border with Congo. With your essential help we provide about £5000 annually for salaries, office and vehicle expenses for the central office; the member groups, except for the Ibanda Literacy Schools, are self-financing. This year we made a special appeal and in November, with the help of the Spurgin Trust and some of you, we sent RPBR £4000 towards the cost of a new 4x4 vehicle for the rough dirt roads in the mountains, which had taken a heavy toll on the saloon car we gave them in 2005. It will be sold to help pay for the new one.

RPBR organises training events for its member groups in conflict handling (from domestic violence to community disputes), human rights and access to the law, and group organisation. It trains local people as community mediators and paralegal workers. Its own more experienced mediators are available to help with problems beyond the skill of the village mediators. Two years ago there was a violent dispute in one area between the majority community who are agriculturalists, and a small tribe with a different language and culture, the Basongora, who are cattle-keepers; their traditional grazing lands and water supply were being taken over by the cultivators. RPBR helped to mediate this and set up a consultation process to prevent future violence. On my visit I was delighted to find that the Basongora Women's Group and members of another disadvantaged small tribe had both joined the RPBR network. I helped to lead workshops with each group where we listened to their problems.

RPBR is getting recognition from Ugandan and international non-governmental organisations (specially in the field of human rights) because it is unusual in reaching deeply into grassroots communities, some so remote that vehicles cannot reach them and I am the first white visitor they have seen. Yet it maintains high standards of practice while working on a very small budget. I have known a number of the RPBR member organisations for many years and watched them become empowered; for example women who were once very shy and often illiterate are now being elected as village councillors or starting self-help initiatives such as savings schemes.

There are over sixty member groups, including village farmers' associations, women's organisations, disabled people's groups, HIV/AIDS prevention projects, adult literacy programmes (which sometimes run nursery schools too), micro-credit schemes, students' peace clubs in primary and secondary schools, and clubs for teenage girls who were never sent to school or drop out because of poverty or pregnancy. RPBR runs annual delegate conferences for the school clubs and the girls' clubs when they have the funds. This year a Quaker friend provided the cost of a schools conference in October; and Aotearoa/New Zealand Quaker Peace & Service paid for the Girls' Clubs Conference (food, accommodation, a speaker's fee and travel allowances for the delegates).

I helped to plan that event and took part. The programme was in three main parts after the welcome and introductions: I was asked to lead a training session on self-esteem and assertiveness; a nurse/midwife came and spoke about health and hygiene (with particular reference to sexual health and pregnancy); and the girls shared news about the activities and inspiration of their Clubs. The District Women's Member of Parliament visited the conference and spoke warmly to the girls, promising them that she would continue to press for further laws to protect them. The delegates included girls from two disabled groups, and the two minority tribes mentioned earlier—which was a breakthrough for RPBR. I was struck by all the girls' liveliness and intelligence, but saddened by the fact that of the twenty-eight

attending (from sixteen different Clubs) seventeen had brought babies with them. Many questions to the nurse were about contraception, and several myths were dispelled.

Many of you know about the Ibanda Literacy Schools, my other main fundraising task; with the help of some Meetings and many individual friends and family members, we provide £5000 a year for the salaries of nineteen teachers. (I can send detailed news if you wish.) This time I did not visit the classes, though I spent a night in one of the villages, and brought spring balances, small kitchen scales, rulers and steel tape measures for the adult numeracy teachers. We spent a day working on ideas for using these in their teaching, and discussing approaches to teaching English (the lingua franca of Uganda) while bypassing the problems of its spelling! My other activities included training a group of local police officers in "handling complex situations" which was well received. During my stay I visited a number of the village programmes and, when requested, gave some training input, mostly relating to the work of the community mediators or "peace monitors".

RPBR may be facing important changes as Nelson Ndungu, the Executive Director, is standing for election as Mayor of Kasese Town in March. He has already withdrawn from the public activities, so that RPBR is not accused of being his political platform, and Ronah Masika, a founder member and excellent trainer, has taken over the management of programmes in the community. If Nelson is elected, he will resign and some reorganisation will be needed. RPBR may be about to receive a large one-off grant of funds from an American source, but this would not affect our promise of core funding for another two years, because it would be for programme development.

My partners and I are very grateful for the support for this work, including generous contributions from Local Meetings, individuals and Trusts in the CEAM area. I would also like to thank my steering group of Area Meeting members: Howard Saunders, Philip Dearden and Diana Lampen. Philip hopes he can come with me to visit this year.

## **SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS**

FIRST TRANCHE 2010 (Dec 2009)	£	<u>4635.00</u>
31.12.2009 In hand	£	1362.44
INCOME 2010 Donations		8142.62
From CEAM Local Quaker Meetings		1196.90
giftaid refund		1886.92
Specific donations: new vehicle		3000.00
conferences & training		<u>1000.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	£	16588.88
SECOND TRANCHE (June 2010)		4733.00
NOVEMBER VISIT		1580.99
TO NEW VEHICLE		4000.00
FIRST TRANCHE 2011 (Dec. 2010)		<u>4985.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£	15298.99
31.12.2010 in hand		1322.89
advance donations for 2011		<u>885.00</u>
1.1.2011 in hand	£	2207.89

**John Lampen**

## Could you be a Talking Friend?

*When I was facing the prospect of the imminent loss of my reading sight, I remember the relief I felt when asked to consider subscribing to the Talking Friend. It was so encouraging to know that Quakers recognised and valued people who could not read print, just at the point when I was feeling anxious and sad about my own situation. I thank you all for the dedication you offer to this Quaker work..... it makes the difference between my feeling part of the mainstream of Quakerism rather than sitting in the margins, waiting for others to let me know what is happening.*

*Hilary Davies, subscriber*

Responsibility for this service, which provides audio versions of Quaker Voices, Friends' Quarterly, Quaker News, Towards Wholeness and several other publications as well as the weekly edition of The Friend, was taken over during 2006 by Central England Area Meeting from Dorking and Horsham Monthly Meeting. Management of the service is delegated to an independent committee, to which Area Meeting appoints three trustees, the majority of the readers being members of CEAQM. Recordings have historically been made on cassette tape and there are active plans to move to digital recording, possibly on CD or memory stick, provision being made for the digitally challenged. (see [www.talkingfriends.org.uk](http://www.talkingfriends.org.uk) for details)

There is a golden opportunity to become a part of this worthwhile service in a number of different capacities with differing levels of commitment as

### Readers

Reading 'The Friend' takes about 4 hours, sometime between Tuesday and Thursday, about six times a year, usually in local teams. There are also less frequent publications and single projects to be read by those not wishing to make a regular commitment. Contact Alan Johnson 0121 476 0217 [alan.johnson1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alan.johnson1@blueyonder.co.uk) for further details

### Electronic support

In the changeover to digital recording there will be a need for confident technicians to support those teams less familiar with the digital world, probably in a consultancy role. Again, contact Alan Johnson.

### Committee Members

These are appointed annually at the AGM in May and would be expected to take on responsibility for some aspect of the service under the current clerkship of Alan Johnson. There are about five meetings a year.

.... and, of course **New Subscribers** are always welcome – contact Gillian Bryan on 0121 415 4883 or [treasurer@talkingfriends.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@talkingfriends.org.uk)

**Anne Fletcher**

## **Quintuplets at the Priory Rooms?**

What an imaginative way of helping improve the toilet facilities in an impoverished country! That was the reaction of Andrew Callan at the Priory Rooms, Bull Street when he heard about the project whereby money can be donated to fund the building of safe hygienic loos that help safeguard the health of poor communities. Receptionist Amy Collins put explanatory notices in all the toilets and collecting tins beside the wash basins. The idea proved so popular that with the help from Priory Rooms management who offered to double the money collected, their toilets are now twinned (quinned?) with five in Burundi. Map references are given on the twinning certificates provided, as well as photos of the actual loos. We are wondering if we can see them through Google Earth?

### **Christmas Parcels 2010**

Everyone in the Area Meeting has probably heard of the Christmas Parcel appeal and most people will have contributed. How many though have actually seen what a parcel contains? Each year the contents vary, depending upon the money collected and the availability of a suitable range of items to include. The aim is always to offer a range of staple foods and some luxury items for Christmas to be given to those identified as being most in need.

This year the parcel contained 15 items put together into a stout plastic bag with a label saying: 'Season's greetings. Local Quakers, together with Anglicans, Catholics and many others gave the money to pay for this bag of food and lots more of the same. Volunteers packed the bags. The Probation service and other groups distributed them'.

Whilst most are given to the families of serving prisoners, some go to other deserving groups such as refugees and asylum seekers and to women's shelters. In all over 800 bags hopefully provide a little cheer to families and individuals across the region.

**William Waddilove**

If we were to consider it in the nature of a race, then the men donated more than the women!

Learn more about this project initiated by CORD a Midlands based charity <http://www.toilettwinning.org/>

**William Waddilove**



**Top: toilet "quinning" at Bull Street  
Below: A typical Christmas Parcel  
Opposite: Hartshill Heritage Afternoon**



### ***Hartshill Heritage Afternoon***

Hartshill Local Meeting opened its doors on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010, the second weekend of National Quaker Week. During the afternoon visitors were able to view exhibitions of information and pictures relating to the history of the Meeting from the very beginnings of the Quaker movement including the foundations of the Quaker boarding school by Nathaniel Newton, a contemporary of George Fox. The exhibition also highlighted the influence of the Quaker mission movement on the development of the evening programmed meeting and Sunday School. Visitors were treated to afternoon tea and cakes and this provided the opportunity for visitors to view and pick up leaflets about Quakerism and Quaker week.

A second important part of the afternoon involved the launch of a series of Quaker historical walk leaflets including walks around Hartshill and Fenny Drayton, the nearby birthplace of George Fox. Many visitors took up the opportunity on the fine, sunny afternoon to go on one of two organised walks to visit local Quaker sites of interest including a visit to the Grange, Nathaniel Newton's home where they were able to view the barn where Newton held some of the very first Quaker meetings in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The afternoon was a huge success with over 55 people attending. This included local people as well as Quakers from across the area. Hartshill Friends are hoping to develop the exhibition and hold more heritage events in the future. The walk leaflets and more information about the history of the area can be viewed online at <http://www.1624country.org.uk/>.

***Clare Barnett***

## **Quaker Desert Island Discourse**

*A lively half day for AM Elders and Overseers on supporting small Meetings was held at Bull Street on 16 October. One of the highlights was this Quaker Desert Island Discs programme with presenter Pete Duckworth and "Castaway" Clare Barnett of Hartshill Meeting. Here is the presenter's script, with an indication of some of the castaway's answers. As you will see from the script, the audience were invited to identify the tracks used, and with a little help from their Friends, did so. This will definitely NOT be featured on I-player, so why not try re-creating the event, or your version of it?*

-editors

Cue Track 1 – Eric Cotes *Sleepy Lagoon*  
(Ask audience, does anyone know **Artist & Title?**)

My guest on Quaker Desert Island Discs this week is Clare Barnet. Clare was born into a Quaker family in Bishop Auckland and brought up in Cheshire. She moved into membership of the Society aged 17. After her degree and teaching qualification Clare moved to Coventry. Following the birth of her daughter Esther Clare was cast away to Hartshill meeting in North Warwickshire in Central England area and the closest meeting to the birthplace of George Fox.

Cue Track 2 Beatles *Help*  
(Ask audience, does anyone know **Artist & Title?**)

**Why chosen? –**  
(Guess its self evident & why we are here -  
needing help from others, asking Area Meeting for support).

Cue Track 3 REM *Losing my Religion* by  
**Artist & Title?**

**Why chosen?**  
(needing to keep spiritual life vibrant and be part of bigger Society of Friends)

Cue Track 4 Simon & Garfunkel *Sound of Silence*  
**Artist & Title?**

**Why chosen?**  
(needing to keep Meeting for Worship spiritually healthy)

Cue Track 5 Bob Dylan *Hard Rain*  
**Artist & Title?**

**Why chosen?**  
(large workload on a small number of people and also amount of paper)

Now we get to the point where we offer you a **book** to help on your Desert Island of a small meeting. We are giving you **The Bible & Quaker Faith & Practice** – what else would you choose.

We are also allowing you a **luxury** – what would be the luxury, of no practical value to help a small Quaker meeting?

If the waves come along to wash away your collection what **one record** would you choose to rescue from the deluge?

Clare Barnett, thank you for sharing your Quaker Desert Island Discs.

**Pete Duckworth**

## ***Bull Street Improvements***

During the usually quiet weeks of August and early September last, the Priory Rooms and Friends Meeting House at Bull Street were abuzz with activity as considerable improvements were implemented.

For years trustees have been concerned about the new part of the building because of the loss of heat, particularly through the atrium. Our architect, Andreas Welzel is to be thanked for identifying that beside several places where there was poor insulation, the double glazed panels were of the 'old type' and had an estimated U value of only 2.6 and it was now possible to replace them with similar sized panels with a U value of 1.0. We have changed all the glass, also replacing the two doors, so whilst they are still made of aluminium, they have a thermal break in the frame so that heat is not conducted through the metal to the outside. They also have a better draft proofing (if you look carefully you will notice that the green is very slightly darker and at the hinge side there is a round 'cylinder'.)

Some of the other panels at the top have been replaced and have insulation behind them. All this should ensure that heat loss is greatly reduced, everyone is warmer and we use less energy to maintain the comfort level. The company Dorset Doors and Glazing have used our job as an example of thermal screening on their website.

*- We hope you will not be able to see the difference in the atrium but will be able to feel it!*

*And what else went on?*

The Priory Rooms offices have been reorganised so that the former kitchen on the top floor has now become the manager's office. What was the Friend's lounge has turned into the general office and the old office, originally a bedroom, is the new Friends lounge. The built-in wardrobes of the old bedroom have been opened up and there is now a sink, kettle and microwave cooker for Friends, as well as a store cupboard for the Quaker leaflet stock. *Retaining a room in Bull Street Meeting House as a lounge for any visiting Friends is a feature we think is important to maintain. This is a facility for everybody in the area meeting to use so please bear it in mind.* You may also be able to meet some of the Priory Room staff when they are having a break.

As for the rest of the building, some of the letting rooms are now fitted with blinds and ceiling mounted projectors and the Reading Room (previously Room 4) now has a smart new wooden bookcase to be used by Bull Street Meeting. In preparation for the adding of external insulation to the Priory Room office walls in the autumn we have fitted new outside doors and a window.

*Recycling*

Much of the atrium glass was taken away to be reused in a home-made green house. The cooker and dishwasher were given to someone for their daughter's new house. The fridge has gone to a poultry farm for the storage of medicines (having first been used by YFGM planning weekend in Coventry), along with the sink and two of the kitchen units for the farm office, and the curtains went to a Bull Street Friend!

***William Waddilove***

### ***Peace and Justice Day***

AM Peace and Justice Day on 29 January highlighted the problems of asylum seekers facing destitution in Britain in the morning, followed by a lively discussion of our testimony to simplicity in the afternoon. A bread and soup lunch and book sale raised over £90 for the Hope Destitution Fund. We will have a fuller report in our next edition.

*Editors*

## ***The Quaker Testimonies and the challenge of Climate Change***

We had a very helpful session on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> on "The Spiritual Roots of our 10:10 Commitment" which our Area Meeting has signed up to. The session was facilitated by 2 members of the Living Witness team who are visiting Meetings around the country to help Friends think through this very important issue ahead of Yearly Meeting next June in Canterbury. Claire Bowman has written an excellent summary of the meeting and the following are my thoughts, stimulated by the meeting, rather than an attempt to record what was said.

A number of aspects were covered, but the one that I found particularly helpful was that on the links between our Quaker testimonies and the challenges facing humanity as a result of our careless emissions of greenhouse gasses, which are leading us towards a global warming that could have very serious impacts on all life on planet Earth.

Global warming is one of several very critical interacting issues facing us including the extinction of species and loss of biodiversity, diminishing resources both non renewable and renewable, and pollution from waste and emissions due to over-population, excessive consumption, and the lack of responsibility of us humans.

But if the global family of humankind can work together to overcome this dire situation it could lead to a better and more peaceful life for us all.

Turning to our testimonies to Peace, Equality, Simplicity and Truth there are many links between them and also many links to our environment and the sustainability of life on Earth.

**The peace testimony:** Shortages of resources and damage to the environment, due both to excessive consumption and to climate change, will inevitably lead to conflicts. Back in the days when humans lived a nomadic life, when they moved from place to place to follow the sources of food as the seasons changed, the effects of climate change - for instance the end of the ice age - was probably less difficult to cope with than it is today when we have converted land for agriculture and built towns and cities. Population growth also leaves no space for people to move to when displaced by drought, floods and sea level rise, the latter being particularly relevant as a majority of our major cities are also sea ports.

But working together to minimise these potentially disastrous events and helping each other to adapt to the changes we fail to avoid, is the very stuff of peacemaking and an area where Quakers have great experience and a very good reputation. Our peacemaking skills are needed right now to encourage people to understand what needs to be done and to get them to work together.

**Simplicity:** To achieve simplicity is, paradoxically, a complex process. Our present Western culture and the economic principles that maintain it are based on encouraging consumption and hence economic growth. An excellent research project in the late 1960s led to the publication of a book called "Limits to Growth" in 1972 which set out very clearly where our economic system and life style was leading us (there have been 3 follow-up publications by members of the original team since then). It concluded that the course we were on was unsustainable and 38 years later they are being proved right.. The New Economics Foundation has done good work looking at how our economic system could be radically changed so as to lead towards sustainability (See *The Great Transition* published by NEF in June 2010) and it is good to see consideration being given to this difficult but vital issue by Friends.

Our testimony to simplicity is an important concept in moving towards a sustainable life style and needs to be given prominence in our efforts.

**Equality:** Our testimony to equality is closely linked to all of the above issues. Recent research has shown that greater equality leads to a happier existence and also diminishes conflict. Equality needs to work in terms of both raising the standards of the poor and eliminating slavery and getting the rich to live more responsible and simple lives sharing their wealth with others through charities. Combining equality with simplicity makes a sustainable life style more achievable by reducing the demands on global resources and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

**Truth:** I think that for early Friends the word truth was used to refer to Friends experience of the Divine, which led them to assert the reality of the Spirit. But the word also encompassed the importance of facing up to reality and of not distorting a situation for perceived gain or to avoid difficult issues. In the situation humanity now finds itself I think truth refers to facing up to the reality of the threats outlined above and to act to the best of our ability to counter them.

The impact of climate change is probably the most urgent issue, hence Area Meeting's pledge to the 10:10 commitment. Without a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions we will be faced with rising sea levels driving people to migrate in an already overpopulated world as well as other impacts of climate change such as drought and floods, as indeed we are already seeing, with consequential food shortages. This means changing our life styles to minimise energy use, e.g. food & transport, and improving the insulation of our homes and places of work, the efficiency of the equipment we use and informing ourselves of the carbon footprint (embedded energy) of the things we purchase.

Alongside that is the urgent need to protect the planet's biodiversity without which the natural resources on which we depend will dramatically reduce. This means moving towards becoming vegetarians and becoming better informed about where our food comes from and how it is produced, e.g. local & organic, and selecting things accordingly as well as growing your own if possible. There are also a good many other items which need similar selection and in general we need to apply the principles of reuse and recycling.

The question of the global over-population is a truth that seems to be denied by significant sections of the population and seems to be avoided by most politicians. This is another important issue where we need to 'speak truth to power' and seek a sensible family planning policy.

**Happy sustainability:** All of the above sounds pretty dire and many people find it difficult to face up to and to accept what we need to do. But if it can be seen as the family of humankind working together and as a route to a happier and more peaceful life, then it may be seen as more attractive and more worthy of the necessary effort to achieve. This would seem to be a key aspect of how we need to go forward. In all these issues we do of course need to seek the leadings of the Spirit to guide us in our actions – "God has no hands but ours".

**Tom Greeves**

### ***Persecution?***

In the recent discussions about whether our equality laws discriminate against Christians, during which some Christians have alleged they feel persecuted, I've not heard anyone state what to me is obvious - if you are following Jesus, then there will be some choices you will make that will disadvantage you.

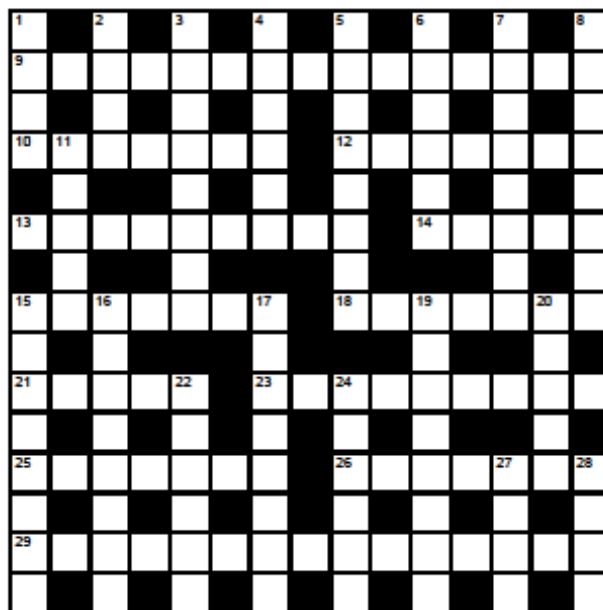
As Quakers we know that obeying one's conscience frequently comes at a price. Historically and still today, Quakers have had to make choices such as not to pay tithes, not to swear oaths, not to fight in the wars, not to join the army, not to work for a particular company, not to invest in various profitable industries, or not to accept lottery money - sometimes at very great cost, financially and personally. And there are positive choices - to live simply,

My view is that people who oppose equality for lesbian and gay people can act according to their consciences - in the same way as we do, by accepting that it comes at a cost to themselves. They should not, however, impose that cost on others, by denying them a service to which they are entitled by law. They have a choice. They can compromise and obey the law. They can choose to stay in a business or a job where they might have to defy the law, and take the consequences, and pay the fine without complaining. Or they can change their job or move into another line of business. These aren't easy choices. But I did not choose my sexuality. It is a real relief now to find that if my partner and I want a double bed in a hotel or guest house, we won't get insulted, as we have in the past. More fundamentally, no one will refer me to a psychiatrist for being who I am (as happened to me as a teenager).

**Gill Coffin**

## From The Centre Quaker Crossword Number 8: Winter 2011

Set by Tryfan



### Across

- 9 Fishermen can net flounder, but give it freedom (15)  
 10 The Rioja - no the Retsina swallowed but not this one! (7)  
 12 The revision I call unfinished like Q investments? (7)  
 13 A New Testament message (9)  
 14 As once were cabbage fields with 51,000 English dead (5)  
 15 Sort out real DNA near the kidneys (7)  
 18 *Strictly* dress I had left you to start with! (7)  
 21 *Fun* doesn't start with top to lift the lid off (5)  
 23 *Labyrinthine* meander to French cathedral (5,4)  
 25 *A single "best friend" of 3/17?* (7)  
 26 *See 1 Down*  
 29 *Profession of 3/17 a sly cartographer working with 25s* (15)

### Down

- 1/6/26 *Helen beat my Zen hex into a molecule whose structure was discovered by 3/17* (17)  
 2 Have your hair in a frowned on style? (4)  
 3/17 A lone Shetland elk distracted a Quaker scientist! (8,8)  
 4 Damage on church was hard to find (6)  
 5 Creditor upset manager (8)  
 6 See 1  
 7 Accepted gladly Lew, who backed business Amed didn't start (8)  
 8 Impassively lots came up to join lazily (8)  
 11 Not even one bear was celebrated (5)  
 15 A question: Plateau ends by eastern channel - is it a water carrier? Yes (8)  
 16 Berceuse for baby in the tree top of damaged Bryce Oak? (4-1-3)  
 17 See 3  
 19 Sculptured natural figure shows up when its safe to cross (5,3)  
 20 Fruit drink (5)  
 22 Get on to public relations quickly (6)  
 24 Bogota maybe a partner for Trinidad (6)  
 27 Nymph discovered in an Aztec house (4)  
 28 Biblical book for poet only a £1? (4)

Note: The *italics* in some of the clues have no significance, except to prove two things – 1. Computers have minds of their own

- 2. We don't know how to get rid of them!! (Tryfan and the Editors)