

CROYDON FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Dear Friends,

We are reflecting on our Spiritual Preparation for Yearly Meeting in our newsletter, taking the theme Living out our faith in the world. We also continue with extracts from Mark Hayler's 1916 diary, edited by Wilf, Barbara Earl has given us her latest thought-provoking article, and we have news of the Trident Rally and news of Friends as well as forthcoming events in March and another crossword. How are you getting on with these? Has anyone finished one? **Gillian Turner**

Spiritual Preparation for Yearly Meeting 2016

We began our preparation for Yearly Meeting at February's Area Meeting at Sutton on Sunday 21st. This was the first time we have met on the third Sunday rather than Saturday, and it left our own meeting somewhat depleted as some ten Friends and Attenders went to meeting for worship there. This was followed by a shared lunch similar to our Sunday lunches, soup and bread, followed by fruit.

At 12.30 we settled to the first part of our preparation exercise, Celebrating how we live out our faith in the world in small, personal things, starting with the reading from Corinthians 12 4-7 & 12 – 21. We had the pleasure of sharing the stories of our personal journeys with Friends and Attenders from other meetings whom we didn't know, and building up an Area Meeting community. We were asked to identify a positive way ('unconditional positive regard') and an aspiration 'Celebrating difference'.

(Details of the following business meeting follow on page 6.)

We undertook the second part of our preparation on our Fourth Sunday activity, after refreshments and before a shared lunch. (Our eating together plays an important role in our community lives, as you can see.) This time we focused on the second set of questions, Pushed by the Spirit, discussing how actions arise from our worship and how we can be prompted to develop a talent or gift arising from a concern.

Next, in response to a meeting for Sufferings request, we thought of personal concerns that had been supported by our local and area meetings. We compiled a list of which our Meeting for Sufferings representative will send back three, Nightwatch, Timane School, Nairobi, and the Friends Family Group.

News of Friends

We send loving greetings to two Friends in hospital. **Alan Yardley** is now staying at Cumnor Lodge in Farleigh. **Marjorie Evans** is in Heathfield 2 in Croydon University Hospital.

Terry Wilkes has arrived safely at Rishikesh after a long overnight train journey which cost the equivalent of £4.20 and included breakfast. He is posting lovely photos on Facebook including statues of the Buddha. I sent him our loving greetings.

Maastricht: an update

Hello everyone! I hope you are all keeping well and warm. I cannot believe I have been back in Maastricht for two months already, time flies when you're having fun (or when you have deadlines).

I have really been enjoying this term at university. I'm currently doing two very interesting modules. I am studying the role of brokers in development projects, and in small groups of three we have to come up with a development project to present to our tutors. I really like the practical skills I am gaining. The other module is incredibly relevant as we look at the role of East Asia in the present-day economy and as international aid partners.

In one month I will be going to India (on the 1st April) to do a two month placement at the Institute for Indian Mother and Child (IIMC) in Calcutta. I will be interning in the women's empowerment programme and the research I conduct there will act as my data collection for my thesis. I'm very excited to be going, another adventure!

I hope to see you all soon.

In Friendship, **Sophie**

Email from Jade Flahive Gilbert

I hope all is well in Croydon and at the meeting.

University has started although I haven't been so excited by my classes because the teaching is not brilliant. My teachers speak Javanese in class (I don't understand, I can only speak Indonesian) and they are pretty grumpy, and even when some people are making mistakes they don't actually help. But I am able to get by if my friend and I compare notes from our different classes and practise together. I also am having private lessons which help a lot.

Apart from that I am really happy to be back in Solo, after having a month away travelling in Sumatra. It is great to be playing gamelan again. I also am performing with some other groups. My friends and I have created a folk music band and we will perform at Lawu Mountain for the solar eclipse. I am also in a spiritual world music band and we have been playing some festivals. Also I am in another spiritual, ritual kind of band and we will play on Sunday for a special ceremony where this high priest from Bali will do some fire ritual for the solar eclipse preparations. It is all so exciting and I feel like I am growing so much as a musician. Before coming to Indonesia I was so scared to perform but now I actually enjoy it here.

The other day I visited a special needs school as I had contacted the secretary there to try to organise doing some music sessions for their children. It was so great to visit their school as they are amazing. They have music, art, hairdressing, gardening, cooking and so many other things, as well as various therapies. The atmosphere at the school was so positive and friendly. Now I am in the middle of trying to do a few things with them such as getting them a gamelan so that I can start gamelan sessions there, and also I am organising a collaboration between their band and my band, and I also want to work with the speech therapist there. I know I should probably focus more on just my gamelan but now that this is my second year in this city I really want to do something useful and give something back using the skills I have.

Anyway, that is just a little of what is going on here... Sorry if it is a bit rambling! Please let me know how everything is at home. I miss you all very much.

(Mary tells me that Jade was very impressed when she visited the special needs school to see a boy without arms playing the piano with his feet. Ed)

From Concern to Action:

Timanne Junior Academy, Kayole, Nairobi East

I first met Anne Maongo when she visited her daughter in London after the birth of her son and came to Croydon meeting for worship. She told me that God had encouraged her to open a Junior school as there was a great need in her area. She did this but has always struggled with the finances to keep it going.

I had previously visited Nairobi for the World Social Forum, had organised accommodation for eleven international delegates and taken over the local copy shop one day to get our papers printed, as well as organising transport to the Sports Ground where the events took place, so I have some experience of Nairobi and African culture.

I kept in contact with Anne, and when her daughter took the family to visit her mother in Nairobi I was able to give her many items for the school which I had collected, such as very large soft toys, children's books, educational posters for the walls, wooden jigsaws also a camera so they could take pictures of the school and the children.

I felt this very much as a Concern which I brought to our meeting. Supporting the school has now become a meeting concern as well as my project.

From the Erica Johnson Bequest we were able to send a substantial amount of money. I was so happy to get the email at the end of February to say that they used this to install piped water.

This donation gave her the money which enabled her to have piped water installed in the school, so they were able to turn on taps to obtain water. This is a luxury in Africa because of the expense of laying the pipes. It also led to greater level of hygiene in the school. Before they had to have water delivered to the school weekly and store it in tanks, and employ a guard to protect it from people taking it for themselves.

They were also able to buy desks and tables and second-hand computers for the pupils.

This in turn encouraged more pupils to enrol and although the fees are low as it is a slum area in East Nairobi, they are able to get more amenities and offer more support for the school and its pupils

At present I am looking into the cost of solar lighting as electricity tends to be cut off when it is needed most, when pupils have to copy information for their homework.

Our Meeting collected a further £80 for the school on 28 February and along with money raised by the donation table this will also go to the school.

Yvonne Kassim

Charity and Love

At our recent Area Meeting for Worship for Business we started with a spiritual theme: How in our life experiences we had used our gifts in living out our faith in action. Our Friend from Purley read to us 1 Corinthians 12: 27-29. This dealt with how the variety of individual gifts contribute to our Christian witness of service to others.

We divided into small groups in which each participant gave examples and in the process, I felt that this was an exercise in seeking "to know one another in the things that are eternal" I listened to the contributions of the others then shared my two examples. I had run a library for the children in the area in response to their knocking on my door after school asking for a book. For more than ten years I had spent spare time as a member of a committee that provided adult education in my country.

As we shared our thoughts with one another, for the first time I tried to answer the question of why each one of us was led to use our gifts in the way we did. In the quiet of Meeting for Worship on the following Sunday this occupied my thoughts.

I read 1 Cor. 12: 30 -31. 30: *Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31: But covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way*

I followed on to 1 Cor. 13: 3 which emphasised the fact that in the context of our meeting for sharing, so to speak, all the good works that we had done were worth nothing if not done with charity. The authorised version of 1611 chose the word **CHARITY**, the later versions chose the word **LOVE**, and for a long time I could not accept this change. In the quiet, however, I then realised that in the atmosphere of 1611 the word "charity" would have been the obvious choice, but over the years the word **LOVE** came to describe not just romantic feeling but thoughtful consideration for the recipient. Then here was the opening for me:

with **CHARITY** goes **SYMPATHY**, with **LOVE** goes **EMPATHY**

We drop a coin in the collection box - charity. Indeed we make donations to the Charity shops , not to the Love shops. If we behave like the good Samaritan, with personal involvement, both giver and receiver both benefit from the experience. The Taizé chant : *Where there is charity and where there is love, God is there*. Both are acceptable to God; it is just a matter of degree. I tend to disagree with Paul, (verse 3), for as long as some one benefits from any good act for whatever reason, it "profiteth something" to the doer. Let Jesus have the last word: *A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another. John 13: 34.*

Joyce Trotman

February 1916

On 1st February 1916, it was announced that the Military Service Act would take effect from March 2nd. My father was working at the Liverpool Farm School at the time, and one of his duties was to take the children to Court when there were cases involving them. As he was intending to stand as a conscientious objector, and would be appearing at the local Appeal Court fairly soon, he felt that it would be setting a bad example to the boys, as they would not understand why he was going to Court. And so he immediately sent his resignation letter to take effect from February 17th.

As it happened, and the reason is unknown to me, he was to stay at Newton-le- Willows for another eight weeks. I do know that the Headmaster, although not agreeing with his views, was very upset to lose him and begged him to stay. During the month he had the opportunity to go and hear Dr William Orchard speaking at the Friends Meeting House in Manchester. Rev Orchard was a 'liturgist, a pacifist and an ecumenical' and came from a Presbyterian background; his father worked on the railway, and the family lived in Linslade in Bedfordshire (later notorious as the location of the Great Train Robbery in 1963) In the years before the War, William became involved with the New Theology Movement, in which my father appeared to take an interest and was probably the reason he did not complete his course at Trevecca College.

However, in 1914, William Orchard had become a member of the Congregational Church, and was very well known in this role, before being converted to Roman Catholicism in 1932. In 1917 he was to preside at the first induction of a woman, Constance Todd, to the Christian ministry.

After a brief visit to London to accompany a boy who was being transferred to the Lambeth Workhouse, my Father returned to Lancashire and completed his Appeal form against Military Service and sent it to the Tribunal at Earlstown, receiving notice to appear there on March 3rd. Next month we will hear of the error made by the Tribunal which resulted in what was to come later.

Wilf E F Hayler

Silence

There is a silence when the winds are still
 And hushed by unseen hands that bless;
 There is a silence when the night conceals
 Day's toilings in her calm caress.
 Within the spread of fields a silence waits,
 Where poppies sentry-stand amid the corn;
 And I have heard a solemn hush that mates
 With day at daybreak's dawn.
 Day steals to evening 'mid a stirring rush
 Of busy feet and busier whirling wheels;
 Night finds her ending in a silver hush;
 A silver hush a single daisy feels.

Mark H C Hayler

Thoughts on the meaning of Maundy Thursday 24 March

Recently, I read in *The Guardian* that the actor and comedian Omid Djalili, not surprisingly, had vivid memories of Oliver Reed, with whom he worked on the film *Gladiator*. Djalili spoke with admiration about one particular recollection, that when in conversation, Reed always left a little space to ensure that the speaker had finished before making his reply. This small but important social courtesy struck me as a real act of humility and a gift to others that I would do well to practise. A small but powerful way of demonstrating what Carl Rogers, the American psychologist called unconditional, positive regard.

At this time of year, we may become aware of the observance of particular holidays or holy days. Whether we mark these or not, it is sometimes helpful to think about the principles which these days represent. Maundy Thursday, one of the lesser known days of the Christian calendar, which commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, has been used traditionally as a day of rest for the contemplation of humility and benevolence. In John 13:4 we read that on this evening, Jesus humbled himself and washed the feet of the apostles: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash another's feet". Since the time of Edward I, in remembrance of this, the sovereign has handed Maundy money to the poor (today, recipients will be retired pensioners who have given service to their church or community), although the washing of feet was discontinued in 1689.

In *The Contemplative Life*, Joel Goldsmith writes that we often misunderstand humility and believe it to mean that we must become in some way less worthy than another or beneath someone else. True humility, however, is "the acknowledgement that I of my own self am nothing: the Father within me is all". We are only humble to the extent that we recognise that He that is within us is greater than he that is in the world, or that He performeth that which is given us to do. Any personal sense of virtue must be dissolved as we realise that we are not personally charitable but instruments of God, "helping to meet someone else's need: God meeting another's need through me". Whatever we claim as good qualities are not ours at all but the activity of a spiritual Presence, which functions as ourselves.

Maundy Thursday helps us to rein in our personal sense of life and our tendency to let our ego take dominance in our dealings with others. "Maundy" is from the Latin "man datum" which means commandment to remind us of these words: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you".

Barbara Earl

Monkeys on Mars to run The Sport Relief Mile



Jacob (on the left) has come up with the idea that he and Albie (on the right) should do The Sport Relief Mile, ably supported by Laura and Andy (their Mum and Dad) and their Auntie Sarah. He's wanted to before but Laura has always been working when it's Sport Relief. But this year she's moved jobs. Monkeys on Mars is the team name that Jacob and Albie have chosen for when they do the Mile on Sunday 20 March at the Olympic Park in Stratford, East London. One-Mile may not seem very difficult but (a) it's actually quite far if you are only seven, and (b) we aren't a sporty family, so it's also a long way for the adults too!

Jacob and Laura have decided to run all the way so are very busy in training even when it's cold or raining! Albie, Andy and Sarah are planning to walk so aren't exactly in training – though Andy might do a little bit of jogging between the two groups to help with morale.

The reason we are doing it is to raise money that will help to transform people's lives across the UK and the world's poorest communities – you can find out more at <http://www.sportrelief.com/>. Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored us so far. If anyone else would like to, we'd be really grateful as your generosity really will help to make a world of difference to people living unimaginably tough lives. We have set up a giving page at: <http://my.sportrelief.com/sponsor/teamlauraroling> Wish us luck!

Jacob, Albie, Andy, Laura and Sarah

'Stop Trident' Rally 27 February

On 27 February I went to the 'biggest anti-nuclear march for a generation'. The 'Stop Trident' rally was organised by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and supported by the Baptists, Methodists and United Reformed Churches and Pax Christi (the Catholic peace campaign), as well as Quakers in Britain, Campaign Against Arms Trade, the Green Party and a number of other organisations. Parliament will be voting later this year on whether to replace the Trident nuclear submarines. The Government estimates the cost at around £30 to £40 billion, but other estimates are anything up to £170 billion, at a time of austerity. Having heard survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki speak about the nuclear attacks on their cities in 1945, it seems to me to be totally immoral to be still building weapons of mass destruction.

At first I was disappointed that I thought I would not be able to go, as I was at a Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) Central Committee meeting at Friends House, but QPSW staff, who have been working very hard to get as many Quakers as possible there, worked out that we could take packed lunches and join part of the march during our lunch break. In the end the whole Committee went. We joined the march at Green Park tube station and marched to Trafalgar Square. It was cold, but fortunately dry, and there was a very good humoured atmosphere, with people of all ages, from children in pushchairs to elderly people in wheelchairs, and a variety of imaginative costumes. At Trafalgar Square it turned out that we were quite near the front of the march, and we watched more and more people come into the Square until it was full. There were large Quaker banners from Reading, Swindon and Huddersfield, among others, and then the new pink 'Quakers for Peace' banner appeared, so I followed it to the steps of St Martin in the Fields, where the faith groups were gathering. Unfortunately this meant that I could not hear the speeches, but speakers included Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, Thomas Mahon, a Catholic Bishop, Rev Ngasi, from the Buddhist Peace Pagoda at Battersea Park, and a woman from the Muslim Association of Britain, as well as political and union leaders, including Leanne Wood from Plaid Cymru, Caroline Lucas from the Green Party, Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. Paul Parker, our Recording Clerk, was asked to read a statement.

It was exhilarating to be with so many people campaigning for peace and even if you cannot get to marches there is still time to write to your MP or join our small Croydon CND group!

SLAQM February 2016 area meeting

(Continued from page 1). We recorded the deaths of Ann Barns and Kathy Alton, reinstated the membership of Susan Shaw (Sutton), and noted the appointment of two visitors for an attender at Purley and the transfer Jonathan Idle (Sutton) to Central England AQM.

We received the 2013-2015 spiritual reviews from Croydon and Sutton meetings, released Alan Yardley from service as an elder, and confirmed the appointments of several representatives to various conferences. As no one had been appointed to represent Area Meeting at the QPSW spring conference in April we asked Local Meetings to each seek one Friend or attender who would benefit from this experience. Premises committees are Area Meeting appointments, and those confirmed for Croydon were Stephen Betts, Rachel Edgson, Mary Jakeman and Gillian Turner to the end of 2018 and Kay Papadopoulos to the end of 2016. Also appointed were Brenda Whittaker to serve as Safeguarding Co-ordinator to 31 December 2016 and Kay Papadopoulos on AM Legacies Committee to 31 December 2016

Our Treasurer Frances Touch presented her report and core accounts for 2015, noting that 2015 showed a surplus of about £1000 over expenditure, compared with the previous year's deficit of about £3500, for which she thanked all who contributed to this improvement.

The Handbook Committee reported that they had now drafted preliminary versions of Part 1 to 6 of the online handbook Officers & Committees, Business meetings & administration, Membership, Elders & overseers, and Nominations (SCon), and asked all Friends who are able to access them to read them, especially those parts relating to their posts and offices within the meeting, and to send any comments, queries and suggestions for improvement either to the editors (Frances Touch and David Parlett) or to Area Meeting Committee. For those unable to access them a printed copy was made available to each local meeting.

Dates of future meetings were agreed: Area Meetings: 22 May at Purley; 18 September at Croydon, 27 November at Streatham Area Committee Meetings (to which all are invited): 20 March at Purley, 26 June at Croydon, 2 October at Streatham, and 22 January 2017 at Sutton. **DP**

Coming up...

Wednesday, 9 March: China in Change - Photo Discoveries from the Forties 18:00 to 20:00 at EY, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF. Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding.

Andrew Hicks will tell the story of a unique Quaker project that took medical aid to China, showing a selection of then 500 photos from his new book, A TRUE FRIEND TO CHINA, 'The lost writings of a heroic nobody'. The story of the Friends Ambulance Unit 'China Convoy' is all but forgotten and this talk will celebrate the importance of this remarkable project in the light of improving relations with China. Please book a free place on Eventbrite.

Sunday 13 March: Meeting for worship for business At Croydon, 12:12. All welcome.

Sunday 20 March: Area Meeting Committee meeting At Purley Friends meeting House starting 12:30 after a light lunch (provided), ending about 3pm and followed by refreshments. Not restricted to committee members: all are encouraged to attend.

Sunday 13 March: Women's Interfaith Conference The Ahmadiyya Mosque in Croydon has invited the women of Purley Meeting to their Women's Interfaith Conference for the last two years and this year have asked their invitation to be extended throughout the Area Meeting. Ahmadiyya Muslims are a relatively small sect, for whom peace and working towards peace is very important, so there are some striking similarities with Quakerism. As usual, there will be a speaker from every faith group present, speaking on what the topic means to her faith. The topic this year is 'How to build a relationship with God' and Eleri Pengelly will be speaking on behalf of Purley Meeting. It takes place at the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Croydon on Sunday 13 March from 3-5.30pm and will be followed by a communal dinner.

Monday 14 March: Qfp sharing group 2pm, continuing Chapter 2 (Approaches to God).

Saturday 19 March: Kindlers - To Listen and to Speak 10:00 to 17:00 at Friends House, one of five monthly Saturday arts workshops. 10.00 refreshments for 10.30 am start - 4.30 tea for 5.0 pm finish Workshops will be participatory with input, group-work and worship. Paula Tait leads: "What can Quaker vocal ministry teach us about inspiration? With our own written and spoken or sung words we will use Quaker and other traditions to explore." Web link: quakerarts.net

Sunday 20 March: Area Meeting Committee meeting Purley meeting house at 12:30 following a picnic lunch. All Friends are welcome to attend.

Friday 25 March: Easter Sharing of Words and Music At Croydon meeting House from Purley meeting house at 12:30 following a picnic lunch. All Friends are welcome to attend.

Tuesday 5 April: Qfp sharing group 7:30pm, Chapter 10: Belonging to a Quaker Meeting.

Britain Yearly Meeting

We are looking forward to Yearly Meeting which will be held from 27 – 30 May 2016 at Friends House London. This year we will continue to look at how we live out our faith in the world. We will look at how we recognise and respond to the promptings of the Spirit to act in the world, and at how we know and use our gifts. I hope you have seen the **spiritual preparation** sheet sent to all meetings which contains two suggested activities to help Friends prepare for Yearly Meeting. Copies can be found on our website at www.quaker.org.uk/ym. All Yearly Meeting documents will be available on this website when they are ready.

The Agenda and notes for Yearly Meeting will be available by 25 March. Orders for printed copies of agenda notes and other documents required in advance of Yearly Meeting can be taken by the Quaker Bookshop from **10 March** <http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/bookshop>

Register your intention to come to Yearly Meeting

Please help us by telling us that you intend to come to Yearly Meeting. More and more Friends are coming to Yearly Meeting. This is welcome news, but it means we need to change the practical arrangements for the right holding of Yearly Meeting and help our pastoral care group plan support where needed.

We also want to make Yearly Meeting more sustainable by printing the right number of documents and reduce food waste from over catering.

So we are asking you to let us know that you intend to come to Yearly Meeting. We are not asking you to book a place – simply to register in advance to help us plan. If you have not already registered you can do so at <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/bym/>.

If you can't register in advance we please register on arrival to help with future planning.

*Breakfast every Sunday morning from 9 to 10 am.
Please join us for muesli, toast and coffee. Coffee available until 10.15*

February collections

Figures in parentheses are for donations by standing order

3 Qk work at home and abroad	46.50	(YM 87)
10 Area Meeting	75.10	(AM 61)
17 Woodbrooke	48.50	
24 Croydon Local Meeting	60.00	(LM 119)
31 Tommy's*	81.00	

March Collections: 7 Friends Family Group, 14 Quaker work at home and abroad, 21 South London Area Meeting, 28 Timmane School, Nairobi

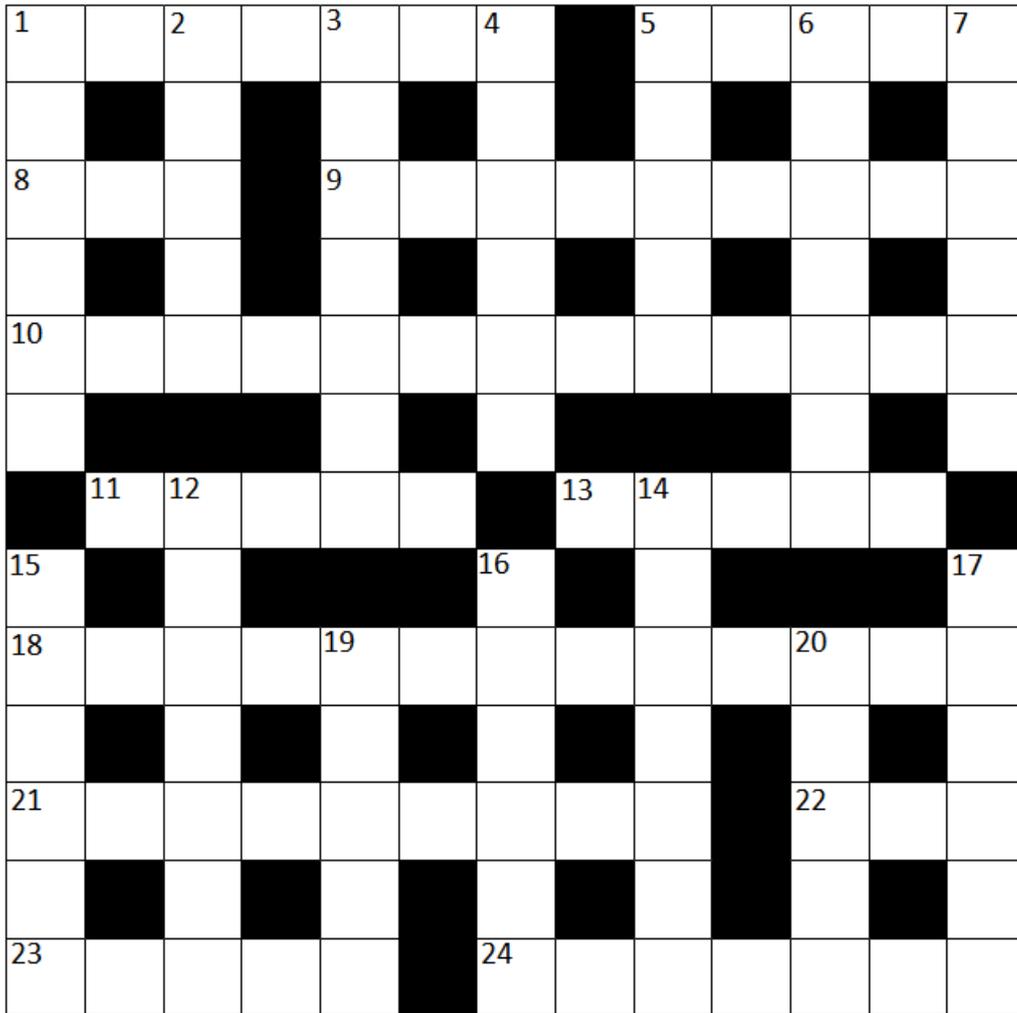
The deadline for the April edition is Sunday 23 March 2016

Please give, send or email contributions (no longer than 500 words, please) to Gillian Turner
Tel 020 8688 9659 email gillianturner033@gmail.com



**COULD YOU HELP OUT WITH COFFEE AFTER MEETING? WE ARE
DESPERATE FOR HELP ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.
PLEASE LET GILLIAN KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT
ASPECT OF OUR MEETING.**

Crossword #6 by Grumpy Old Quaker



Across

1. Parts of speech (7)
5. Father and daughter in Hollywood (5)
8. Title not recognised by Quakers (3)
9. Seaside town cut off suburb of Adelaide (9)
10. Room at Woodbrooke for its founder (6,7)
11. Hillside rubble (5)
13. Pear candy but not eye candy? (5)
18. Fox went to earth here (7, 6)
21. Backwards backwards (9)
22. Time for a drink (3)
23. Name shared by Bob and Thomas (5)
24. *Taxus baccata* (3, 4)

Down

1. Delegate to a donkey? (6)
2. Left to a bookbinder (5)
3. Displaced person (7)
4. Quartz (6)
5. George in a fuddle? (5)
6. Democrat bridge-player's bid? (2, 5)
7. Eternally a Berlin love song (6)
12. The red line in London (7)
14. Dorothy went over it (7)
15. Put down (6)

16. Stout-hearted (6)

17. Ordered by God, according to the hymn (6)

19. One from the Hawk-eye State (5)

20. Not just now (5)

Solution to #5 below

