

Our activities in 2012: a summary



Dear Friends,

The photograph on the front cover is of NFPB members at their final meeting of the year, at Liverpool Meeting House. This was also the last meeting of our first 100 years. During 2012 we worked hard in preparation for our centenary, whilst continuing to hear, to reflect and identify opportunities for action on current concerns.

The world in which NFPB was established in 1913 was very different to our world today, but, sadly, there is now a growing pressure in Britain to support the military as a normality. There are strong echoes of similar moves in the early years of the previous century.

The work of NFPB has, from its outset, been concerned with 'the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth'. The first half of the 20th century meant that, inevitably, issues of conscience and war became a significant part of our work. The role of the Board in nurturing the alternatives has also been there from the outset, and that too continues.

As we write, we are well into our centenary year. This is an opportunity to say a particular thank you to all those Friends and others who have contributed to our work, and who have supported and acted with us. At our Liverpool Board meeting, there was a real sense of a community of Friends looking forward, drawing inspiration from the past but with deep concern to engage and give life to our peace testimony in the years ahead.

With thanks and in Friendship,

Meetings of the Board

NFPB members met three times this year; fewer than the usual four, in order to allow more time for staff and committee members to prepare for our centenary.

In March we met in Darlington. Our main speaker, Maya Evans, was unexpectedly unable to attend due to imprisonment for nonviolent peace action. Gabriel Carlisle, joined us instead and was able to talk about

Maya's recent visit to Afghanistan. This brought home the reality of the continuing military action there, through the lives with whom Maya had the chance to meet. Gabriel identified a number of campaigning and practical actions that Friends could take.

(see <http://bit.ly/11QQwZU>)



At our Glasgow meeting in September, we were joined by Tracy Craggs (shown above), an oral historian who has been undertaking work with our centenary planning

group. Tracy talked about importance of hearing the stories of those affected by war and conflict. She also carried out group interviews with past and current NFPB members. Friends reflected on nuclear weapons and the future of Scotland, assisted by Janet Fenton and Martha Wardrop as speakers. A number also participated in Meeting for Worship at the Faslane nuclear weapons base the following day.

Throughout the year, a concern about militarism and its promotion in schools and amongst young people was being considered and explored. Will McCullum from ForcesWatch and Sam Walton from QPSW spoke at our November meeting in Liverpool, providing both the context and some detail on how this is happening and opportunities for taking action. This concern was taken forward by the Board.

See: <http://bit.ly/19g61QA>

Networking and Communications

Throughout the year, Friends used our meetings and electronic networks for sharing information and concerns relating to our concern and action for peace.

We had spent some time planning a new website, and this was launched in the Spring, replacing a site that



had evolved from an early model in the 1990s and was badly in need of replacement. See www.nfpb.org.uk

Project activities

Building Peace in Diverse Britain

This was the second year of funding from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for this project. We are organising events and opportunities for people to gather for learning, mutual support and networking around issues of peace in our communities.



At our event 'Talking Together', we were joined in central Manchester by two of the leading projects in the country involved in promoting conversation and dialogue within communities.

Talk for a Change had recently published their report entitled "*We need to talk about.....Can discussing controversial issues strengthen community relations?*".



Raj Bahri and Jo Broadwood presented the findings of this report and facilitated participants in exploring the nature of dialogue on issues of conflict.

Justine Huxley from *St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace* also ran two workshops and shared their learning from experiences of working with a variety of groups and faiths.

Complementing the workshops, live music was provided by Avtar Lotar over lunch to support a relaxing atmosphere for conversation, and Brett Fletcher photographed and sketched during the day as an artist in residence. The group hopes to use some of the artwork arising for further publications. Participants'

feedback was very helpful and encouraging, some focussing particularly on the 'Disagreement Success' model developed by St Ethelburga's and by the concept of 'Sitting in the fire', staying with a

conflict and promoting conversation even when things are difficult.

Links:

www.talkforachange.co.uk
www.stethelburgas.org

Centenary

Encouraged by additional financial support from charitable trusts and individual Friends, we spent a good part of the year preparing for our centenary year. We drew on archive resources to research the history of NFPB, particularly during its earliest period. We used historic posters and a wide range of other graphic materials to produce a calendar for the year, a set of postcards, and a booklet giving a brief illustrated history. A tea-towel and a candle were also designed and produced ahead of the year. We were pleased to have to reprint the calendar, due



to the demand and interest amongst Friends and others. Preparations for events taking place during 2013 were being developed as the year ended. See:

www.nfpb.org.uk/projects/centenary

Sustainable Security

The working group for this project was less busy this year but made significant progress in developing plans for a workshop to be offered to Quaker Meetings and other groups. We continued to promote issues connected with this area of concern through our networks and resources and to contribute to discussions and reflections with other Quakers.

See: **www.nfpb.org.uk/projects/promoting-sustainable-security**

Membership during 2012

Name	Area Meeting / Quaker body represented		
		Clare Wakefield	Manchester & Warrington (dep)
		Steven Waling	NFPB Admin Assistant
Jane Wood	Brighouse West Yorks	Philip Austin	NFPB Co-ordinator
Eithne Dodwell	Brighouse West Yorks (dep)	David James	North Scotland
Keith Hargreaves	Central & North Lancashire	Margaret Clarke	North Wales
		Helen Still	North Wales (dep)
Paul Crossley	Central & North Lancashire (dep)	Philip Latham	Northumbria <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Suzanne Wilson	Central Yorkshire <i>Co-Clerk</i>	David Crockitt	Northumbria
Geoff Fielding	Central Yorkshire (dep)	Lorna Boyd	Northumbria
Ann Bettys	Co-opted / <i>Member of the Executive</i>	Lynne Richardson	Notts and Derby
		Barry Mills	Pendle Hill
Robin Bowles	Co-opted / <i>Co-Clerk</i>	Shirley Payton	Pendle Hill (dep)
Peter Cheer	Co-opted <i>Member of Executive</i>	David Credland	Pickering and Hull
		Sam Walton	<i>Quaker Peace & Social Witness</i>
Mary Alice Mansell	Co-opted		
Caroline Westgate	Co-opted	June Lewis	Sheffield & Balby
Janet Fenton	Co-opted	Jill Burt	Sheffield & Balby (dep)
Tim Carlisle	Corresponding member	Alan Frith	South East Scotland
Brenda Rigby	Corresponding member	Jasmine	
Maria Brown	Corresponding member	Perinpanaygam	South East Scotland
Bobby Locke	Corresponding member	John Cameron	Swarthmoor
Jo Valentine	Corresponding member	Martin Riley	Swarthmoor (dep)
Jette Howard	Craven and Keighley <i>Clerk to Executive</i>	Beryl Myers	Teesdale & Cleveland
		Philip Gill	Teesdale & Cleveland (dep)
Celia Davies	East Cheshire	Jennie White	Wensleydale & Swaledale
Phoebe Spence	East Cheshire (dep) <i>Treasurer</i>	Jo Alberti	West Cumbria & North Cumbria
Sarah Gittins	East Scotland	Myra MacGregor	West Scotland
Jill Tutttton	East Scotland	Shirley Johnson	Wirral and Chester
Allan Williams	Hardshaw and Mann	Jane Laxton	Wirral and Chester (dep)
Mary Bradbury	Honorary Member	Cathy Holman	York / <i>Member of Executive</i>
Barbara Tonge	Kendal and Sedbergh	Josh Parker	York (dep)
Una Parker	Leeds	Peter Doubtfire	<i>Young Friends General Meeting</i>
Anne de Gruchy	Lincolnshire		
Eric Wood	Manchester & Warrington	Beth Howard	<i>Young Friends General Meeting</i>

Finance

Grants from a number of Charitable trusts were particularly appreciated this year, supporting particular strands of our work and enabling the core-funding from Friends and Meetings to be used more effectively. Some of this grant funding will be spent during 2013 and 2014. Thank you to all who have supported us.

We arranged for reserves to be invested through the services of Gaeia Ethical Investment advisors, which will enable us to receive greater income from this source.

Uncertainty concerning pensions arrangements continued to be a matter that of concern to our trustees, members of the NFPB Executive Committee. Full accounts and trustees' report is available from the NFPB office and via our website. See: www.nfpb.org.uk/node/201

Income

Donations from Friends and Meetings	£30,406
Grant funding*	£24,699
Income from sales of goods and fees	£4,253
Investment income	£252

Total income: £59,610

Expenditure

Charitable activities	£50,482
Governance costs	£3,294

Total Expenditure: £53,776

* Grants received during 2012 from:

CB and HH Taylor Charitable Trust

Edith M Ellis Charitable Trust

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Mollie Croysdale Charitable Trust

Westcroft Trust

W F Southall Charitable Trust

Contact Details

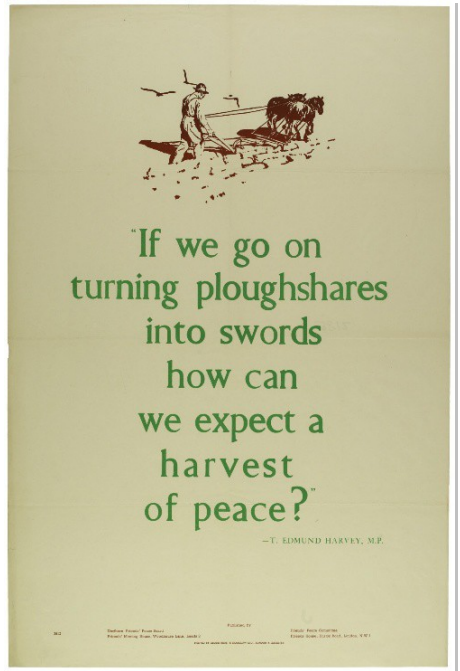
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Charity number: SC 024632



One of our historic posters reprinted as a postcard to mark our centenary

NFPB Centenary resources available

- **Resource pack**, including illustrated booklet, workshop ideas, historical essays and other materials
- **Illustrated booklet** on its own
- **Postcards**
- **Tea-towel**
- **Candles**
- **Display sets** to borrow (full size and A3) and buy (A3 only)

For further information about all the above, contact us or visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/19RBulb>