

Our activities in 2018

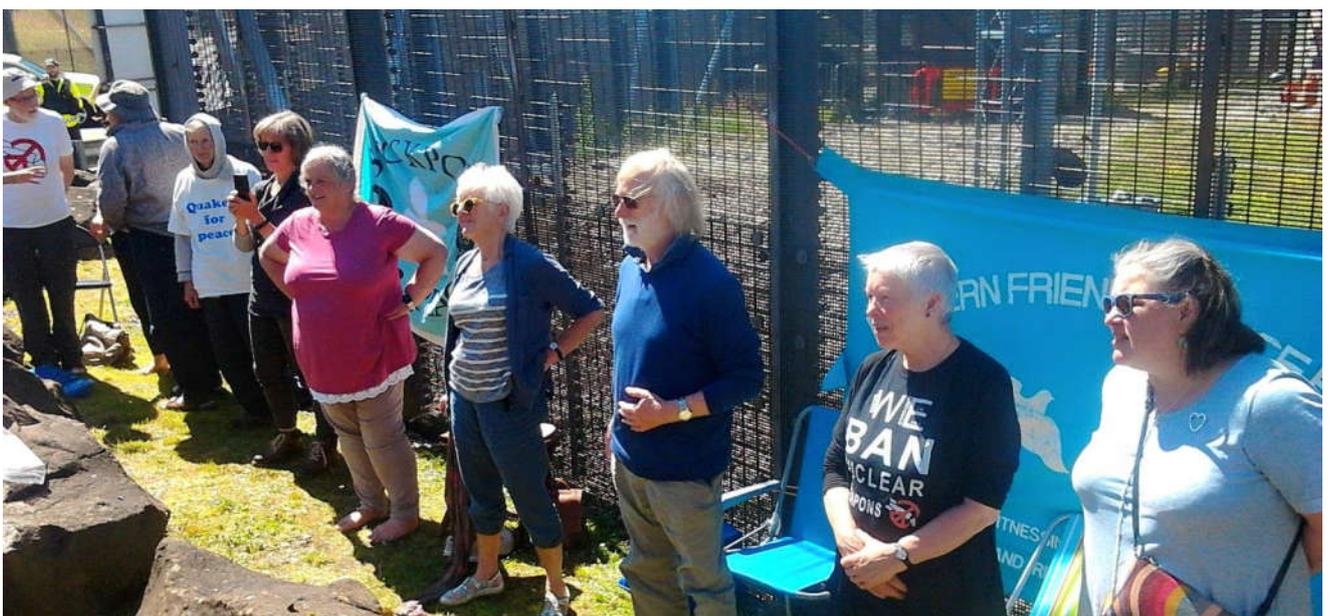
Introduction

As we began writing this report, summer-like temperatures were being recorded in February. As well as indicative of disruption to weather systems and climate change, they echoed shifts in social and political life. Nationally and internationally there has been an increase in divisive political trends, whilst at the same time new and inspiring social movements have been spreading in response, and with visions of radical alternatives.

In such a period, the Northern Friends Peace Board provides space for Friends to gather to reflect and learn, to develop and implement plans for action and to encourage one another.

Severe winter conditions meant that in 2018 we had to cancel one of our meetings for the first time in decades. Predictably, our members were willing to try to make the journey if at all possible, and then made the effort to get to two additional events.

We continued to deliver throughout the year activities and resources to support Quaker peace witness, both on our own and in partnership with a range of other organisations and groups. Thank you to all who have contributed, participated and worked with us during the year. We hope you find this brief outline of interest.



NFPB members and Friends from different parts of Scotland at Faslane, following a Meeting for Worship, June 2018

Acting together and with others for peace

The year was one of building on and developing a wide range of working links and partnerships, both Quaker and non-Quaker.

- We participated in a workshop and a UK partners' meeting of the *International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)*.
- We were actively involved with the *Network of Christian Peace Organisations*, hosting their October meeting in Manchester and also participated in a conference of the ecumenical *Joint Public Issues Team*.



NFPB joined other ICAN campaigners at events, such as this meeting in Manchester

- We were represented at the national *Rethinking Security* conference and joined one of the project's working groups.
- We played an active role at both the *Quaker Peace and Social Witness* spring conference in March and the *Activists' Gathering* in Lancaster in November.
- Our Coordinator and one of our trustees spent time with staff at Friends House, building better mutual understanding of our respective work for peace and justice. The Coordinator also contributed to the annual conference of *Quakers Uniting in Publication (QUIP)*.
- We continued our links with the working group on *Arms Conversion and Defence Diversification*, as well as with the *Global Campaign on Military Spending*.
- We participated in the *Peace and Service consultation* for Friends in Europe and the Middle East, this year held in at Bad Pyrmont in Germany.
- We supported a number of acts of witness, including against the arms trade and on the occasion of the visit to the UK by the US President.

Resources for action

We promoted and delivered workshops during the year, on the themes of Engaging with the Media and Building Peace Together. These took place in Manchester and Lancaster respectively. We were also pleased to provide a short workshop for the Quaker project *Ride for the Common Good* as part of their preparation for an act of witness, cycling from Cumbria to London during the summer. A sub group of our members was appointed to review and develop the workshop programme further.

Through our NFPB members meetings (see next page) we disseminated information and materials, and throughout the year used our mailings to Meetings, our website and social media to promote understanding, reflection and action on a wide range of peace concerns. Marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, we completed the compilation of writings from the *Tribunal*, which are now on our website, and distributed copies of our 'Never Again' poster. We began the process of updating our website, with work due to be completed on that in the first half of 2019.

NFPB meetings during 2018

Board members attended meetings throughout the year, to develop understanding of particular peace concerns, to exchange information ideas and to reflect in worship. Among the many issues considered and shared were militarism and remembrance, peace education, supporting sanctuary seekers, and challenging racism and hate-crimes. We were also encouraged to reflect on personal peace and on the effect of violent conflict on women and young people in particular.

Our first meeting of the year was to have been in Carlisle. Severe winter weather led us to cancel that meeting and in its place we had two smaller additional gatherings, meeting in Huddersfield and in Lancaster respectively. With a significant number of new NFPB representatives this year, these events also provided a good opportunity to introduce the work of the Board and for Friends to get to know one another. At the Lancaster gathering we were joined by Dave Webb, chair of CND and also a link with the International Peace Bureau, with whom we renewed our membership.

Our meeting in Glasgow considered issues of identity and peace, in the context of a climate in which internationalism, community and national self-determination are significant forces shaping our society's future. We heard moving ministry from a range of perspectives and personal journeys. Either side of the meeting itself Friends participated in an act of witness against an undersea defence event – part arms-fair, part conference - taking place in the city, and also joined Friends from many parts of Scotland for a particularly well-attended meeting for worship at Faslane.

At our meeting in Lincoln, we heard an account of one Friend's involvement in delivering peace education at the Bomber Command visitor centre near the city, leading to a challenging and moving consideration of how we relate to historic and current militarism and its effects on all those involved. And our final meeting of the year in Sheffield included two workshop sessions, in which Friends explored the issue of Religion and Violence, and Rethinking Security.



Friends at the NFPB gathering in Lancaster

Finance and administrative

Financial support from Area Meetings was at the level anticipated in our budget, with additional support coming in the form of a legacy contribution and other donations from individuals, local Meetings and small charitable grants. We were also very grateful to receive the second part of a legacy gift, left to us by Mary Minto. During the first months of the year, we completed the process of releasing invested reserves in order to finish paying off the liability to The Pensions Trust, removing a significant element of uncertainty that Trustees had been facing.

As with all organisations, we spent time in ensuring compliance with new data-protection legislation. Throughout the year we produced and distributed updates about our work to Quaker Meetings and to other interested individuals and groups. We continued to use social media and our website as a means of communication and information-sharing on a wide diversity of peace concerns.

Trustees worked with staff in preparing a significant quantity of historic and more recent material for archiving, which was deposited with the rest of our collected papers near Leeds. Other work to improve the office working-environment was researched and will be implemented during 2019.

Our Trustees (the Executive Committee) met four times during the year and most members participated in monthly phone- or video-conferences. Geoff Fielding joined trustees as Assistant Treasurer, whilst Jill Tutton completed her second three-year term on the committee.

A more detailed Trustees' report and our accounts are available from our office on request (see contact details below) and via our website.

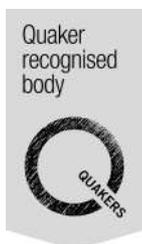
Receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2018

Receipts	2018	2017
<i>Donations</i>	35,670	37,100
<i>Legacies</i>	12,020	40,000
<i>Grants</i>	5,062	5,106
<i>Sales and Fees</i>	1,100	1,132
<i>Investment Income*</i>	932	7,141
Sub-total	54,784	90,479
Receipts from asset and investment sales*	45,927	159,445
Total Receipts	100,711	249,924
Payments		
<i>Charitable Activities</i>	51,300	53,796
<i>Governance costs</i>	1,226	1,266
<i>Pension scheme exit charge*</i>	40,456	80,000
Total Payments	92,982	135,022
Net receipts/payments	7,729	114,902

*A note about investments and pensions payments

In 2017 and 2018 our investment income was reduced as we sold our investments to release cash in order to pay off the Pensions Trust liability.

In September 2017 actuaries calculated the pension scheme exit charge at £120,456, which we paid off in full during late 2017 and early 2018. This cleared our liability and NFPB Trustees began research towards future income-generating investment arrangements.



Northern Friends Peace Board

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