

Among Friends

No 129: Spring 2014

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Values or Testimonies?

Dear Friends,

Selfless Commitment, Courage, Discipline, Integrity, Loyalty, Respect for Others. A new expression of our testimonies? Well, no. These are the values of the British Army. I discovered this when I received an invitation to an army “engagement” event at the local barracks in the Autumn, and decided to go along. It is challenging, and also humbling, to realise that an institution that seems to stand at the opposite end of the spectrum from ours, draws inspiration from a set of ideals that would fit easily in our own mindset. Where is the difference between us, then? Is it being more faithful to the values? How can we know that this is the case? We are capable of falling short, just as anyone else, and I do not doubt the sincerity and integrity of many men and women who serve in the armed forces. Is it in the context in which they apply? Take “Respect for Others” – does that mean “others like me”, or “others unlike me, others who I perceive as enemies”? For me, the crucial difference between values and testimonies is that the former are aspirations, subject to human will, effort and interpretations. Testimonies, on the other hand, are “signs” of a radically different way of living, one where Truth, Justice and Compassion rule each life, and the whole of society. Values require struggle that can lead to failure and a sense of inadequacy. Testimonies are a joyous discovery, proof of right relationship, gifts that

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Quaker quilt in Hope School Photo: Linda Whittaker

we become aware of as they naturally become manifest among us.

It is good to be reminded, in this year that marks the centenary of the beginning of World War I, that “those who commit or prepare to commit acts of violence are also children of God” (Britain Yearly Meeting’s Advices and Queries No. 31). Some of the soldiers I talked to at the “engagement” event were reservists who had served as medical personnel or in logistics, and they were keen to talk about saving lives, helping local people caught in the fighting on the ground, to express fellowship and solidarity for their comrades. In the formal presentations there were constant references to “Your Army”. It is indeed “our army”, made up of our neighbour’s parents, spouses, children, sometimes our own also, paid for by our taxes, directed by the will of our democratically elected governments.

Marisa Johnson, Executive Secretary

Discover Peace In Europe

Jalka writes from Vienna:

This project was started in October 2012 with the aim to produce *Peace Trails* in seven European cities: Berlin, Budapest, Manchester, Paris, The Hague, Torino & Vienna. The objective of this project is to draw awareness to peace, human rights and the development of democracies in historical and contemporary activities.

Since the 19th century peace movements have emerged throughout Europe. Ever since then peace activities are taking place, but there is little knowledge about this in public. Numerous monuments display publicly “heroes of wars”. But peace matters hardly ever are subject for memorial culture. For instance not one prominent location exists in Vienna to honour the memory of Bertha von Suttner, the Austrian novelist and radical pacifist who was the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize!

This project emphasizes the importance of personal commitments for the civil society: pacifism, human rights, gender and ecological themes. Peace education promotes the necessary shift in language, thinking and acting. Participation is the core condition for democracies. In October 2013 the website went online. There are still minor corrections to be completed, but we are happy to invite visitors to find out about more than a hundred peace sites in our seven partner cities.

The next important aim is now to establish ‘multipliers’ who will lead tours on these trails and provide information even after the end of the funding period of this project. Our central ambitious plan for the year 2014 is to carry out peace trail activities and creative events in all partner cities, to attract public attention and to counterbalance the foreseeable abundance of 1914 First World War mementos. Our aim is to remind us not on war issues but on the peace movement activities at the time. Engagement for peace matters hardly ever receives serious public attention, but *Discover Peace in Europe* wants be one of the cornerstones for developing the acknowledgement of



The Hague in front of the Peace Palace

Photo: Daniel Kovacs

social justice, human rights and peace activities.

We would love to connect with Quaker - or others - activities for 2014, because the more partners join in concerted actions the more likely it will be to find the attention of the public and, maybe even more important, of the media! Please contact me if you are interested in participating.

Our partners:

- University of Applied Arts/Austria, Vienna, Barbara Putz-Plecko (Director)
- Konfliktkultur/Austria, Vienna, Jalka (Projectorganisation and coordination)
- International Network of Museums for Peace/Netherlands, The Hague, Nike Liscaljet
- Movimento Internazionale della Riconciliazione/Italy, Torino, Zaira Zafarana
- Coordination pour l'éducation à la non-violence et à la paix/France, Paris, Christian Renoux
- Vitakultura Egyesulet/Hungary, Budapest, Daniel Kovacs
- Manchester City Council Nuclear Free Local Authorities/England, Manchester, Sean Morris

Website: www.discoverpeace.eu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/discoverpeace

Jalka (jalka@konfliktkultur.at)

Progress at Hope School

Linda Whittaker writes from Jerusalem:

This year has seen much progress at Hope School in Beit Jala, West Bank. The school cafeteria, a project funded by Embrace the Middle East (formerly Bible Land), and equipped and furnished by a Quaker grant obtained through Sunderland Meeting, is thriving now, a focal point for the children during breaks. Our next step will be to build a “bustan” (a traditional Palestinian garden, with grapevines, fruit trees and aromatic herbs), in order to make the grounds around the cafeteria attractive as a café after school, serving the local people of Beit Jala.

The grounds have some fine old pine trees to provide shade, and a cistern for collecting rainwater; around these a bustan can be built in a second year continuation of the Sunderland grant.

Meanwhile there were major administrative changes in the school. A new steering committee was formed, and through the committee, a new director was obtained for the school, Mr. Khader Saba. A former director at YMCA in East , he is well trained in business administration, and promptly got to work raising funds and restructuring the school. A new headmistress was hired, who has a doctorate in special education. A fresh breath of air has come through the school and there is a feeling of optimism for the first time in many years.



Linda Whittaker (left and photo credits) unveiling the plaque

Mr. Saba has already managed to raise to fix the leaking roof of the building, and is now working on a project to develop a kindergarten, which will serve the local town and villages, and also create more income for the school. The demand for private schooling is very high in this part of Palestine, and there are not enough places for everyone who wants to attend them (Moslem as well as Christian). Thus opening the school to typical children as well as disadvantaged children will fill a local need, and also raise the income of the school towards becoming self-sustaining.

I do believe that Hope School has turned the corner, from a struggling institution which could not pay its teachers and was facing closure, to a school which has been set on a healthy path for development. Quakers contributed to this; we came to the school in desperate times, and provided morale support and encouragement which were as important as the small amount of funding we were able to provide. Many Quakers came to visit in the last year, most notably June Hall, who presented a Quaker quilt to the School in the past summer. It is now proudly displayed in the atrium of the school building, a reminder that in difficult times, we were there for them, and we cared. For this the staff are profoundly grateful and lovingly return our Friendship.



Hope School

Photo: Linda Whittaker

I wanted Bethlehem to look like Oxford Street

Katy kept telling me it wouldn't

It was the last day of November and our last weekend living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We were probably two days too early to catch Bethlehem in its full Christmas glory. The tree was there in the middle of Manger Square, but they were in the process of decorating, and it was surrounded by cranes and scaffolding and unfinished bandstands. We visited the Church of the Nativity, and queued as people were hurried along by impatient tour guides for spending too much time kneeling at the spot where Jesus was supposedly born. We pottered around the shops selling hand made bracelets and kefiyahs and nativity scenes. "My mum has that one at home." "Buy another!" Good try.

Our taxi driver had agreed to drive us all the way from Nablus, and was prepared to wait around for us and then take us home again in the evening. He also let have control of the music. I'm not sure what he made of Erykah Badu. We got stopped at an impromptu check point. The soldiers asked if we spoke Arabic. Maryam and Katy lied. The driver explained we were going to Bethlehem. They let us go. Standard West Bank stuff.

We went Christmas shopping, picking up odds and ends for family and friends (Jesus sandal key ring was a good buy), drank freshly squeezed pomegranate juice, and the girls bought our taxi driver a box of freshly made cakes to say thank you for waiting around for us. We milled about the square with the tourists and the vendors under some twinkling street lights. It was a little more like Oxford Street than either Katy or I expected.

When I was invited to run a workshop at a local Cambridge secondary school for their Year 11 peace studies day - set up by Janet Ganguli*, a member of Jesus Lane Meeting in Cambridge, where I grew up - my initial thought was; "How do you get 15 and 16 year olds to engage with this conflict?" Numbers and dates and maps and statistics barely mean anything to me, let alone these students who may have no knowledge or interest in this place. Things need to be tangible to have an impact. For me while I was out there, it was



The Wall in Bethlehem

Photo: Philip Johnson

knowing the difference between area A and C by whether I needed to wear a seat belt or not.

Bethlehem seemed the obvious starting point. Everyone will have sung a song about it, dressed up as a shepherd or a donkey, heard stories. They might not know it is currently under military occupation, home to a refugee camp and has a 9 metre high concrete wall running through it. But the wall, and more specifically its secondary function as a canvas, actually gave me "the hook" for my presentation. Art.

Art as promoting and preserving culture. Art as a vehicle for building a future. Art as resistance.

Using the idea that art can be used as a form of peaceful protest, I showed the students pictures of the graffiti in Bethlehem. It's interesting to note that one of the most overused pictures (you'll see it on everything from market stall t shirts to high street cushion covers) from one of the most notorious artists from Britain; the protester throwing flowers by Banksy, is actually on a wall in Bethlehem. As are many of his other well-known pieces. The barrier is decorated with personal stories and almost-clumsy-if-they-weren't-so-sincere phrases and slogans. "This wall may solve the present but it has no future." Most of all though, it's a colourful, vibrant protest painted on top of the most eye catching part of the problem.

I followed up my story of our day out in Bethlehem

with a video about the Freedom Theatre in Jenin refugee camp. We were lucky enough to be given a tour of this professional and inspiring place. They make all of the stage props in a little workshop backstage, there is an editing suite for producing video, a small cinema, and a beautiful little space for the performances. For the year 11 students it provided an insight into the “cultural uprising” that is present in this community and the opportunity it is providing the children for expression and creativity.

We then reflected on what freedom meant to us, and using the sort of artistic protest we had thought about, the students designed their own graffiti which would make up their own wall. There were mixed results. It ranged from doss about colouring in session to producing some simple and effective pieces of art. For some, it provided an opportunity to question what was happening in more detail. Are the settlers there for purely religious reasons? What does ‘intifada’ mean?

Do you see an end to the conflict?

I thought for a while. Well it has to end sometime, right? It can't go on forever.

The girl who asked the question looked at me for a second and then added, “But, it kinda has.”

She has me there.

Philip Johnson volunteered as a teacher in Nablus for three months at the end of 2013.



The Wall in Bethlehem

Photo: Philip Johnson



Graffiti on the Wall in Bethlehem

Photo: Philip Johnson

* Our late Friend Janet Ganguli was a tireless campaigner for peace and justice. Her mother, Eleanor Aitken, campaigned for the Palestinian cause from the 1970s until her death. She founded “Unipal”, an educational charity still active in the Palestinian Territories.

Kathy Bergen Recognised For Three Decades Of Work

Martina Weitsch writes:

On 10 October 2013, Kathy Bergen received the alumni recognition award for her peace and justice ministry from the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary at a ceremony held at the seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

On 14 October 2013, Kathy was awarded the Passion for Peace Award by the Middle East Study Group of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch - members of Britain YM, former Joint Representatives at QCEA in Brussels, and currently at Pendle Hill as Friends in Residence for the 2013 Fall Term - were able to be present at that event and to celebrate with Kathy her wonderful achievement of 31 years of tireless service contributing to peace and justice in Palestine and Israel.

Most Friends will know Kathy Bergen as the Programme Coordinator of the Friends International Centre in Ramallah (FICR). She filled this role from April 2006, (a year after the Friends Meeting House and Annex had been restored and rededicated as a place of worship) until her retirement in June 2013.

Those of us who had the privilege of meeting her there will always associate our experience of being in Ramallah, in Palestine, in Israel, with Kathy's tireless efforts to ensure that we learned as much as we possibly could - and maybe a little more - in the short time we had there.

But the seven years of Kathy's work at FICR were only the culmination of a long life of service, which began in the late 70s.

In 1978, Kathy decided to change her career and to train at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, US; she graduated from there with a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree in 1982.

One of her semesters was spent with eleven other students and two professors in Jerusalem; the subjects she studied there were: Biblical Geology, Biblical Geography, Biblical Archaeology, Modern Israel (at the Hebrew University) and Modern Palestine organized by MCC in Jerusalem. This experience proved to be life-changing.

In fact, with only a short break back in the US and Canada afterwards (to find a home for her earthly



Award given at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Elkhart, Indiana Photo: Abe Bergen



Passion for Peace Award given by the Middle East Study Group of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania at Pendle Hill Photo: Barb Smith

possessions), Kathy went back to Jerusalem to work for the Mennonite Central Committee, working on education and advocacy. The work covered three areas:

- educating internationals--individuals and groups (e.g.: doing settlement tours, organizing courses

for seminaries, colleges, etc.)

- supporting the Israeli peace movement (networking with Israeli peace groups, helping to establish the local Israeli-Palestinian FOR--Fellowship of Reconciliation, etc.)
- supporting the Palestinians churches (e.g.: teaching at the Bethlehem Bible College, etc.)

My own experience of meeting Kathy at the EMES Peace and Service Consultations and on the QCEA trip to Palestine/Israel in 2009 reflected her excellent educational capacities - she informed, engaged and involved us in the struggle for peace and justice in a way that was quite without equal.

During this period of Kathy's work in Jerusalem, she also worked with Reverend Dr. Naim Ateek, the priest of the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem and a group of seven Palestinian Christians (The Palestinian Theology Group) to plan and organize the first Liberation Theology conference in Palestine, which took place in Tantur in 1990. This group later established an office and the organisation 'Sabeel'. In May, 2013, Sabeel gave a Recognition Plaque to Kathy for her work with Sabeel in organising the first Palestinian Liberation Theology Conference in 1990 and for her work for peace with justice in Palestine and Israel.

Kathy stayed in Jerusalem until 1991 and then moved to Geneva where she worked until 1994 as the Director of the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP).

From there, her work led her to Philadelphia where she worked for twelve years for the American Friends Service Committee as the National Coordinator of the Middle East Program of the Peace Building Unit. And because she held this role and was therefore deeply involved in Quaker work for peace and justice in Palestine/Israel, she also became involved in the Committee of Friends who raised the funds for the rebuilding of the Ramallah Friends Meeting House which had fallen into disuse and disrepair.

At the end of her time in Philadelphia, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) gave her an award to recognise her work with the Arab American Community in the US and for her work with Palestinians.

This is only a short summary of her work, which falls far short of doing justice to Kathy's 31 years of service



Kathy & her award in Philadelphia Photo: Barb Smith

and work.

The thirty one years were, of course, characterised by many changes and ongoing conflict and struggle in Palestine/Israel and in other parts of the Middle East. The years were also characterised by ever more difficult working conditions for Palestinians, for Israeli peace activists and for internationals like Kathy. She was - for most of her time at FICR - a member of the Right to Enter Campaign, a campaign which aimed to address the difficulties which Palestinian and Internationals face in gaining access to the occupied Palestinian Territories and gaining sustainable work visas.

At one of the award ceremonies, Kathy was asked what kept her going through all these years of struggle and work. Her reply:

What kept me going was that I always felt I was on the right side—the side of justice. I was always seeking to find new ways of finding expressions for justice, but since September 1982, I have never once questioned what I was doing or why I was doing it. I have always felt that as long as there are Palestinians and Israelis working for a just peace, I want to be there in solidarity with them.

Invitation to the Europe and Middle Eastern Young Friends (EMEYF) Spring Gathering 2014, Macedonia: Borders

European and Middle Eastern Young Friends (EMEYF) invite Young Friends in the region aged 18-35 (and those who are interested in Quakerism) to Lake Ohrid, Macedonia for our Spring Gathering 2014. It will be from 12th to 19th of April 2014.

EMEYF builds closer links, encouraging exchange on spiritual matters and international friendship between Quakers aged 18-35 living in Europe and the Middleeast. EMEYF crosses geographical boundaries, discovering both unity and diversity in our Quaker community.



2013 Spring Gathering in Yorkshire Photo: EMEYF

The Spring Gathering is hosted by a different country each year, exploring a theme through worship and discussion. It is an opportunity to develop personal friendships and deepen our spirituality.

In 2014, the theme of our gathering will be **Borders** and we will be exploring both personal and geographical borders and the effect that they have on our sense of identity and belonging in both positive and negative ways.

We hope that the location, in a country and a region that has been through conflict and changing borders will be conducive to reflections on personal borders, communities and country borders. Crossing any of these real, imagined or implied borders can be dangerous. Remaining inside them can be safe but can cause suffering to those inside and outside the borders. Dealing with borders is part of our human condition and therefore we are inspired by the theme.

We create borders to feel less vulnerable, especially in times of conflict and suffering – and it is important to feel safe. However it does not mean those borders

between people just vanish again once the situation has calmed down. The region of Macedonia and also the whole Balkans are testimony to the challenges associated with that. The recent history there provides evidence that borders are often used to deflect hurt towards others and that they do stop us from caring for and communicating with each other.

We are very inspired by the location and the theme and hope you are too. We hope that Young Friends from all over the region will be able to attend.

Travel and accommodation: We are staying at the Ikar Hut on the banks of Lake Ohrid. Ohrid is about a 3 hour bus ride from Skopje, there are frequent buses from Skopje to Ohrid. If you are travelling on your own let us know and we will try to find you a travel buddy.

Cost: The gathering will cost £130/€157 per person and travel to Macedonia (bursaries available)

For further details on the gathering and how to apply please visit www.emeyf.org or email emeyf.spring.gathering@gmail.com

Woodbrooke

Julia Ryberg writes:

The global project, exploring various technologies and social mediums as a way to keep Friends communicating and connected, is coming to an end. This does not mean that communication and connections are ending, however! The learning from the project will help inform Woodbrooke's development of online resources. There were a number of global Skype sessions and some intense text messaging that I will remember as especially rewarding.

In early November, Arne Springorum and I co-led a weekend for European Friends from dispersed and isolated contexts. We explored challenges and joys of our various Quaker lives. There was a 6-week add-on following the gathering, as we held each other accountable for actions we committed to during the weekend and that in various ways deepen our spiritual lives and hopefully benefit the Quaker presence in our various contexts.

Woodbrooke's 6-week online retreat, *Deepening the Life of the Spirit*, has attracted a number of European Friends. It is fully booked and had a waiting list. Perhaps this is a form that more European Friends might want to explore in future.

The *Experiment with Light international gathering* in September, held at Woodbrooke, has resulted in an international Light group that meets monthly by Skype. We are considering how more Light groups can be established using Skype.

It is rewarding for me to serve both Woodbrooke and EMES, and I am thankful to both for being prepared to explore new ways to deepen and share our faith.

Julia Ryberg is responsible for Woodbrooke's multi-lingual online learning programme in support of Friends and Enquirers across Europe.

Sandra Berry writes:

In the last edition of Among Friends we talked about a process of strategic planning that Woodbrooke Trustees have embarked upon. This is a 12 month process which will look at Woodbrooke's direction for the next 10-20 years. Some Friends feel uncomfortable with the word 'plan' or 'planning' and have preferred the word 'design'. The word design does give a stronger sense of the multidimensional nature that our strategic thinking must take. During the process we have been thinking about Woodbrooke not just as the place which we know of as Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham in the UK. We have also been thinking about what is the essence of Woodbrooke learning that transcends the physical place, whether this is in the form of something like Woodbrooke-on-the-Road or our online work.

We would be delighted to hear about your thoughts and ideas and there is a short survey which can help facilitate this at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6KPQ5QJ>. I would also be very happy for you to contact me directly.

Sandra Berry, Director, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, sandra.berry@woodbrooke.org.uk

Thinking of attending a course at Woodbrooke? Catchpool Fund bursaries are readily available if financial help is needed. Contact Julia Ryberg, European Project Co-ordinator, for information on the Catchpool Fund at julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk or +46 (0) 175-715 30. See www.woodbrooke.org.uk for general information and to request a course brochure.

The Assembly of the World Council of Churches 2013 at Busan



The Assembly of the World Council of Churches 2013 at Busan (Kees Nieuwerth on the left). Photo: Jonas Jorgensen

Kees Nieuwerth from Netherlands Yearly Meeting writes:

From 30th October to 8th November I attended the Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Busan in South Korea on behalf of Church and Peace, IFOR and the European Quakers. I wrote a detailed report on this Assembly which only takes place once every eight years.

The theme of the Assembly was: *God of Life: lead us to Justice and Peace*. Personally I would have preferred *God of Life: make us instruments of Justice and Peace* as furthering justice and peace is the calling of the church, is building the Kingdom here on earth!

Before the Assembly started I investigated who of the Traditional Peace Churches (Mennonites, Quakers and Brethren) would attend and urged them (by e-mail) to meet several times during the Assembly to discuss our contribution and strategy. The first time more than 30 of us crammed into my hotel room, later we met several times in a meeting room at the Conference Centre. This way we coordinated our efforts to influence proceedings and statements. We drew up joint proposals for amendments to the Statement on the Way of Just Peace which was to be accepted by the Assembly.

In this respect I – just as in Kingston- focused particularly on getting the Assembly to *adopt a critical attitude towards the United Nations resolution on ‘Responsibility to Protect’*, as it is often misused as a ‘backdoor’ to wage ‘Just War’ after all... And this whilst the World Council is in the process of rejecting the theory and practice of Just War in this dialogue on ‘Just Peace!!!

We are happy to tell you that we succeeded in doing precisely that!

The Statement now says that the WCC will perform ‘...a critical analysis of R2P and its misuse to justify armed interventions...’

The Assembly calls member churches to embark upon a *Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace* in the coming years towards the next Assembly. Personally I do hope this will bring about the same dynamics as the Concillinary Process Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation did at all levels: WCC, national councils of churches, member churches and local congregations...

This will provide us with new opportunities for our Peace Ministry!

Correction to Issue 128 article on Quaker Service Norway

The article on *Quaker Service Norway celebrates 50 years* on page 4 of Issue 128 contained an error. **Egil Magne** was the Programme Manager for the first two years from 1963 to 1965. Afterwards he was the contact person between the group and the local authorities. The article stated incorrectly that he was the Programme Manager until 1969. The article authors offer sincere apologies for this error.

Being ‘the Quaker Voice’ in Europe: Quaker Council for European Affairs

Alexandra Bosbeer writes:

It is a great privilege to represent Quakers at the European level. One gets to focus during the working day on peace, human rights, sustainability, and economic justice: the areas on which one might want to focus anyway, but would often need to squeeze into a few hours between coming home from work and going to sleep. I am lucky in that I get to lead a team which is focusing on important issues all day long.

Let me give you a flavour of my time. A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to get to know Quakers in East Germany when they invited me to discuss QCEA with them at their regional meeting. The programme started with Friends reflecting on what they would like from an international advocacy office (if neither QCEA nor QUNO already existed). This format meant that the subsequent discussions were more active: Friends were not waiting for me to tell them what we do but were first reflecting on what an international Quaker presence would represent for them. When Friends take up the responsibility of being represented, the privilege which I enjoy of representing Quakers becomes part of a two-way discourse.

The start of the year has been busy. Yesterday I participated in an annual meeting with the directors of the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg, where I asked about improving project screening with regards to social and environmental impact. Last week I observed (and blogged about) debates on human rights in the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly (see qceablog.wordpress.com/). Meanwhile, the rest of the team at Quaker House Brussels — Andrew, Becky, Chris, and Gordon — were writing on various issues for our newsletter *Around Europe* and asking candidates for the European Parliament to pledge to advance human rights (with our colleagues in the Human Rights and Democracy Network, see www.stand4humanrights.eu). Today, we welcomed translation intern Anissa Diraa, who will translate some of our publications into French and German to make our work more accessible to European Quakers whose first language is not English.

In the months to come, we will be advocating on human rights and criminal justice, conflict sensitivity in EU funding and lending, helping national Quaker groups to lobby candidates for the European Parliament on shared concerns, asking those who signed up to our action alerts to respond to EU consultations including some about worrying developments in free trade agreements. You have a chance to learn first hand about the work of your Quaker voice in Europe! Participation in the QCEA study tour in April is open to everyone over 18 – see www.qcea.org or e-mail Andrew at studytour@qcea.org.



*Front of Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly
Photo: Alexandra Bosbeer*

Diary Dates 2014

More dates for 2014 are available on the website: www.fwccemes.org. Please send items for inclusion in the diary to Marisa Johnson at emes@fwccemes.org.

29th – 30th March 2014: Denmark Yearly Meeting.
Contact the Clerk through EMES website

5th – 12th April 2014: QCEA Study Tour.
Contact Andrew Lane: alane@qcea.org

12th – 19th April 2014: EMEYF Spring Gathering.
Contact emeyf@qcea.org

11th – 13th April 2014: German-speaking Gathering
See: <http://www.fwccemes.org/calendar/german-speaking-border-meeting>

24th – 27th April 2014: Ireland Yearly Meeting
See: <http://www.fwccemes.org/calendar/ireland-yearly-meeting-2014>

1st – 4th May 2014: FWCC-EMES Annual Meeting of Representatives, Strasbourg. Contact emes@fwccemes.org

10th – 15th May 2014: Artist's Retreat in the South of France. See: <http://www.fwccemes.org/calendar/artist-s-retreat-in-the-south-of-france>

16th – 18th May 2014: Netherlands Yearly Meeting.
Contact secretariaat@dequakers.nl

29th May – 1st June 2014: Sweden Yearly meeting.
Contact kvakargarden@kvakare.se

29th May – 1st June 2014: Central European Gathering in Vienna. Contact: jalka@konfliktkultur.at

6th – 8th June 2014: Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting. Contact quakerclerk@gmail.com

6th – 8th June 2014: Finland Yearly Meeting Summer Gathering. Contact jaanaerkkilaja@gmail.com

3rd – 6th July 2014: Norway Yearly Meeting
Contact kveker@kveker.org

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) International Gathering 2014

This event will take place in Maynooth, Ireland, from 13th to 19th July 2014. More information from <http://avpinternational.org/IG2014>

Among Friends is the newsletter of Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation. We want Among Friends to reflect the diversity of Quaker life and experience across the Section and welcome articles, photos and news of forthcoming events.

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If you wish to make a bank transfer, please use the details below:

From outside the UK: (Payment in Euros can now be made to a German Bank. Details from the Secretary)

Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HB, UK

IBAN: GB11 CPBK 0800 5150 0732 10

BIC: CPBKGB22

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Account Name: FWCC-EMES

Account Number: 20180696

Sort Code: 08-60-01

For holders of UK bank accounts please send cheques or CAF vouchers in GBP to the EMES office. Scottish Charity number: SC 036528

Deadline for Among Friends 130: 1 June 2014