

# Among Friends

No 147: Spring 2020

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## Time to say goodbye

### Dear Friends,

March 2008 – EMES Annual Meeting in Vienna. Europe & Middle East Young Friends serenaded me to the tune of She'll be coming round the mountain and made me disentangle a knot made of humans, an exercise that foreshadowed some of the challenges that presented themselves over the 12 years that followed. Students from the Friends School in Ramallah joined us on Skype – a bit of a first at the time – to talk to those of us who had just watched their riveting short film of Romeo & Juliet, adapted to provide a commentary on their circumstances. My predecessor, Bronwyn Harwood, gave a moving farewell speech, and, after three months of working together, left me to continue the work. I felt like the stabilisers had just been removed from my bicycle, and I had been launched into the ride of my life.

It really is not possible to do justice to the extent these 12 years have changed me and my life. I have learnt so much about myself, about Friends, our history and contemporary make up, visited so many countries I had never dreamed of going to, been inspired by so many examples of Friends' faithfulness, vision and creativity.

I feel blessed to have taken a turn at holding the precious charge of serving FWCC through EMES, and am grateful to those of my predecessors whom I have met and who



Marisa Johnson

Photo: Barbara Forbes

have provided me with support, a context, and the benefit of their experience: Franco Perna, Hans Weening, Tony Fitt and Bronwyn Harwood. I feel very happy to be handing over the task to Michael Eccles, with whom I have enjoyed working so very much over the past two years. I know he and Jez Smith will make an excellent team, supported by our valiant administrator, Kim Bond. EMES will go from strength to strength.

The first FWCC General Secretary I worked with, Nancy Irving, taught me that "We take our Yearly Meetings as we find them", and the second, Gretchen Castle, has brought light, joy and an irrepressible warmth to every meeting and occasion we have shared. I will now have the honour to help recruit a third General Secretary for FWCC.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the clerks I have worked with – Marit Kromberg, Rachel Bewley-Bateman, Sue Glover Frykman and, briefly, Davorka Lovreković, the treasurers – Laurie Naumann, Neithard Petry, Martin Touwen and Penny Heymans, and many members of the Executive Committee and Representatives. But most of all I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleague Julia Ryberg, Ministry and Outreach Coordinator from 2007 to 2019, whose deep spirituality has been a guide and an inspiration.

Marisa Johnson, Executive Secretary,  
FWCC-EMES

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## Online meeting for worship

Join us for 30 minutes online worship every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. We use Adobe Connect for our Wednesday and Friday worship and are trialling Zoom for our new Sunday evening worship.

### When?

Wednesday at 09:30 (GMT) 10:30 (CET) 11:30 (EET)

Friday at 13:00 (GMT) 14:00 (CET) 15:00 (EET)

Sunday at 19:30 (GMT) 20:30 (CET) 21:30 (EET)

### Why?

Quakers have found with online worship that even simple technologies can offer more than just a superficial means of contact. They can provide a space where an authentic sense of presence and connection with other worshippers can be sought and found

This online worship is all run as a partnership between Woodbrooke and EMES. More information here: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/worship](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/worship)

## EMES is moving...

From the 1st May 2020 EMES will have new contact details:

FWCC-Europe & Middle East Section

Woodbrooke

1046 Bristol Road

Selly Oak

Birmingham

B29 6LJ

UK

Email (remains the same): [emes@fwccemes.org](mailto:emes@fwccemes.org)

Phone: +44-(0)7934 310715

## Scottish - Finnish Quaker Connections

*Mary Woodward*, Britain Yearly Meeting writes:

In March 2019 Britain Yearly Meeting [BYM] appointed me to attend Finland Yearly Meeting [FYM] at the Lutheran centre Ilkko, just outside Tampere. Having previously visited my family there, I was delighted to have the opportunity to revisit Finland, and meet Finnish Quakers for the first time. I was even more delighted to be invited back to attend FYM's autumn gathering!

The theme of YM in March was Building Community. I was made welcome and included throughout the weekend, making new Ffriends and experiencing yet again that close community that can develop when two or more Quakers are together, sharing worship, meals, and ways of doing things. I was particularly impressed by the way great care was taken to ensure that no-one was excluded linguistically, and how our five-year-old and his dad were included in all the weekend's activities.

I noticed similarities between FYM and General Meeting for Scotland: both have few members, sometimes very isolated; climate, distance, and geography all affect how frequently people can gather face to face. I was impressed by the many creative ways difficulties were overcome.

The small scale of the gathering meant I made connections with everyone, in session and in the wide-ranging conversations at meals. We were offered opportunities to dance, sing, take part in a clearness meeting, go on a 'Quaker scavenger hunt' and venture out into the darkness and slither on the ice in search of the Northern Lights. We made a concrete expression of our community by drawing round our hands and using them as feathers on an outline of a whooper swan - as individuals we each have our own shape and way of being and together we make our Quaker community.

Going back to Ilkko in November was like coming home – friendly faces, warm hugs, more opportunities to learn Finnish, and above all to take part in the business of the weekend. I was delighted to meet Kersti from Norway YM and Sue Glover Frykman from Sweden YM as well as new Finnish Friends.

Much of the weekend was spent learning about EMES – what it can offer Finnish Quakers and what they can offer EMES. The planned programme included an opportunity to practise discernment and have a threshing meeting: during the weekend's business meeting it became clear



*Photos of Finland Yearly Meeting by Mary Woodward*

that we could use this process to start considering what to do with FYM's archives now the flat in Helsinki has been sold. Progress was made, and the matter will be revisited in this April's FYM.

We had two five-year-olds with us, and they had a great time all weekend: one of my favourite memories will be that of Leena, FYM clerk, in a bear suit previously worn by Paul Parker of BYM, acting out a Finnish nursery rhyme about a sleeping bear, to the shrieking delight of Little Aino and all of us who were watching. I'm only sorry my limited Finnish didn't allow me to join in the singing...

Both my visits were a marvellous immersion in a different language and culture which was both a great blessing and a huge joy. I have been helped and encouraged to improve my [extremely limited] Finnish, and warmly invited to return whenever I can to spend time with my new Finnish Quaker family: I can't wait!

# Arms trade Unseen, Unknown and Untouchable

*Karina Knight-Spencer* writes:

Where can we start to have an affect on the arms trade? Why should we bother?

One can do things for our peace testimony in your personal life, you can look into your heart to remove the seeds of conflict, you can mediate in your community, there are many actions to take. But when you decide that the international arms trade is a major contributor to violent conflict, and many agree with this point of view, yet the military industrial complex keeps growing and becoming more complex, where do you start?

We can start in Paris. In 2020 we see the largest Arms fair in the world, Eurosatory, where the buyers including human rights abusers are given red carpet treatment. The lines are blurred in this commerce gone mad.

What can a few concerned citizens/Quakers in France and Europe do about it?

We can be an alternative voice in the media; we can promote alternative peace building and security strategies; we can work with other groups who are fact finding, lobbying and researching in this field.

We have a pop up Exhibition of photos and facts on Eurosatory. "Le guerre commence sur la moquette" War starts on the carpet! We can be at the gates of Eurosatory with serious arguments but lively images. We can network with other faith groups in France, join the silent march between places of worship the day before Eurosatory starts. We will reach out to people like you, find activists, experts, contributors to join us.

We can be led by our faith, we can walk with the knowledge that we are supported in all we do at the most fundamental level. And how does this feel when the machine of arms sales keeps rolling on and growing while we have one full-time and one part-time employee and a few active members? By doing something by standing up to be counted (and photographed and have emails read) it brings a stimulating present and peace in your heart.



*Photo: supplied by Karina Knight Spencer*

As well as the internal support it is the connecting with others that is important: as in February when along with six other NGO's we put a legal request to prevent the boat being loaded with French weapons onto the boat "Bahri Yanbu" bound for Saudi and the war in Yemen. Unsurprisingly it didn't succeed (they waited to reply until after the boat had left), but there was a positive shift from the judge expressly acknowledging a link between the authorisations for transit of material and the suffering of the Yemeni population! Miracles will take a little longer!

Stop Fuelling War is asking supporters around Europe to highlight Eurosatory by protesting outside French embassies in their own country (especially if these are implicated in the arms trade) during the week of 8-12 June. We can help with information and materials. We have already heard from Quakers that they are coming to join us in June, we look forward to the challenges we will meet.



## All Poland Gathering



The All Poland Gathering 2019 took place on 8th - 11th of October 2019, in Suchy Bor, Poland. There were a dozens Friends from all around Poland (Białystok, Bytom, Gdańsk, Katowice, Opole, Warszawa), and one Friend from Czechia.

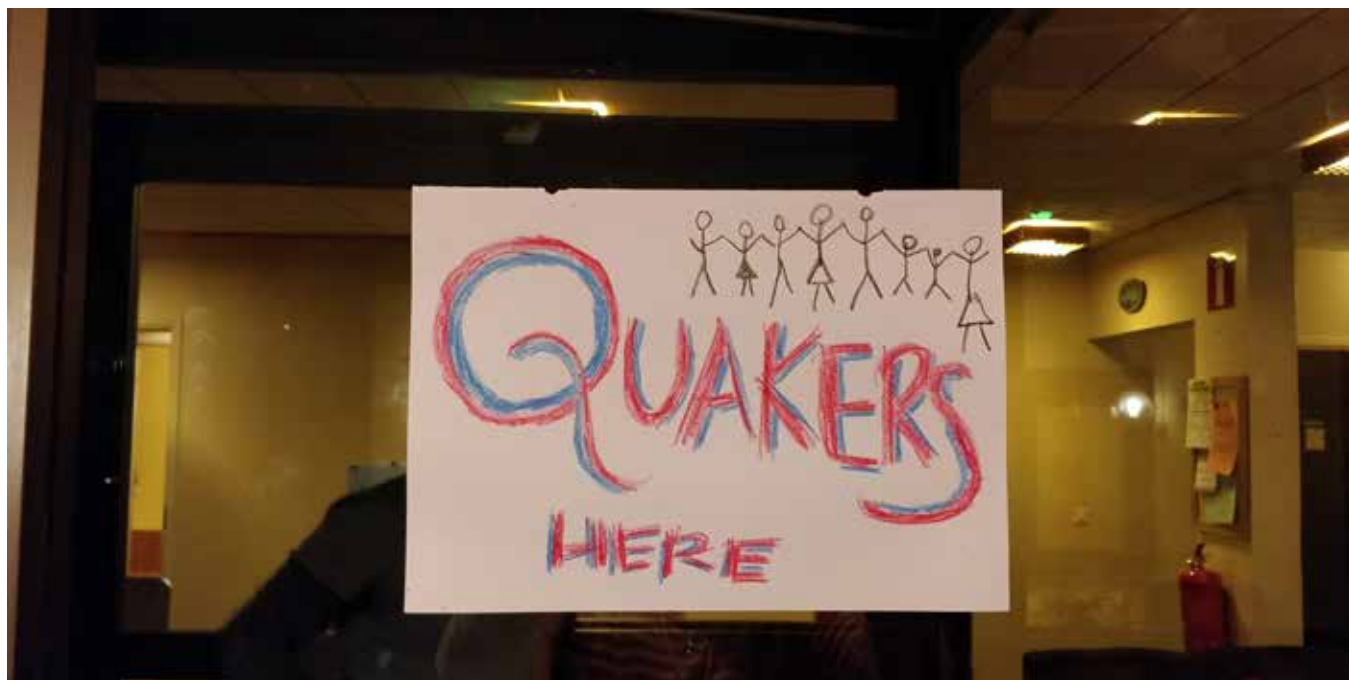


Among everything else the most important was Silence, Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business and being with each other, talking, cheering, singing.



We were given lectures about non-theistic Quakers in the Quaker community and liberal Quakerism. It was a very enriching and intense weekend.

## Threshing towards Discernment



*Taken at the Autumn Gathering of Finnish Friends*

*Photo: Leena Lampela*

*Sue Glover Frykman*, Clerk of FWCC Europe and Middle East Section and member of Sweden YM writes:

Seventeen adults and two children aged 5 gathered for Finland YM's autumn gathering at the Ilkko Conference Centre, Tampere, from 15-17 November. The overall theme for the weekend was *Where is my spiritual home?* The first session was a sharing of thoughts on the theme.

I had been invited to talk about FWCC EMES's forthcoming Workplan (2020-22) and to lead two sessions on discernment. Finland Yearly Meeting's Executive Committee had suggested a specific issue for exploration and discernment in advance. However, during the Saturday afternoon's Meeting for Worship for Business, what appeared to be a short item on the agenda became something completely different in the worshipful consideration that ensued. Instead of being a quick glance at the situation with the Finland YM archives, currently stored in boxes in a Friend's garage, it became a concern that needed much deeper exploration. It was therefore suggested in the business meeting that this was a much more pressing topic for threshing and discernment; a suggestion that Friends united with.

At the beginning of the evening session I introduced the concept of discernment and explained what a threshing meeting was. My understanding of discernment, based on the Quaker writings that have been published over the years, is that it lies at the heart of all that we do as Friends and is the core of our practice in Meetings for Worship and in Meetings for Worship for Business. Not only that, it is at the centre of how we make decisions in our lives, for example on marriage, employment, our work in the world, our ministry etc. Discernment encompasses the whole procedure of making a decision and involves rational and intuitive processes that get to the heart of the matter. It means consulting with our deep inner wisdom and letting the answer rise up in us. It takes us beyond the rational and the intellectual to a deep and centred place where God is at work in us. It means listening, allowing and letting go. It is what we learn to do and what our faith supports.

One of the best tools that we Quakers have to help us in the discernment process is threshing – where we *thresh* through to find the kernel, the root, the way forward, and *discern* what Love requires of us.

A threshing meeting or session can be thought of as a threshold, or intermediate space, before making a decision in a Meeting for Worship for Business. It offers a space in which people can explore and understand

a difficult or complex issue. It has been defined as a meeting at which a variety of different, and sometimes controversial, opinions can be openly, and sometimes forcefully, expressed, often in order to smooth the passage of business at a later business meeting. It can be arranged in order to share factual information, air views about a controversial subject, express preferences, or ask questions. No decisions are made at threshing meetings. The aim is simply to move towards clarity and a greater understanding of an issue and to separate the 'grain of truth from the chaff'. Such meetings can also provide an outlet for people to 'let off steam' about a subject before taking the matter to business meeting. There is no restriction as to how many people can attend a threshing meeting/session. The only rule is that we should respect each other's contributions and treat each other with respect. Threshing sessions can be held in different ways. Some Meetings like to do it in one big group, while others prefer to split into smaller groups so that everyone's voice can be heard, or so that people can speak their own language. A threshing meeting or session is usually moderated or facilitated by an experienced Friend, who is asked in advance to take on this role. The facilitator/moderator is responsible for making sure that everyone present has a chance to speak and air their views. It is helpful if someone is asked to take notes at the meeting for future reference.

After introducing the concepts, and clarifying the area of concern, we split into two language groups (Finnish and English) in order to come to a greater clarity and understanding of the question in focus and to look at how we might best deal with the Finland YM archives. It was an adventurous step. Besides responding to the leading to take the structure that was offered to learn a way, Friends also opened themselves up to what might emerge.

It is good to allow time for reflection between a threshing session and a session for more focused discernment. On the Sunday morning I facilitated a worship sharing session for discernment on the YM's concern for its archives. Worship sharing helps us to listen to each other in a loving, prayerful and spiritual way. It draws us into a safe sacred space where we can speak openly from our hearts and encounter each other in 'that which is eternal'. The general rules are to only speak for a second time when everyone has had a chance to speak once, speak only from our own experience, leave silence between speakers, all that is said is confidential to the group, do not comment directly on what others have said, listen with attention and do not lapse into discussion.

During the worship sharing in Finland it became clear that a plan of action was starting to form and when this happened the group went into reflective 'action mode' to write up the steps, guidelines and brief for a working group and the kind of report that would be expected from that group at Finland Yearly Meeting next April. This development felt very important for those gathered and everyone engaged in the discernment.

In the evaluation of the weekend, one of the younger participants said that he would take this way of working through a concern away with him, because it was an approach that could be used in many different contexts. All in all, throughout the gathering it felt as though we had been faithful to the call to do what Love requires of us.

*Article first published in the Friend*

## A moment of surprise

*Lena Hofmaier*, Freiburg Quaker Meeting, German Yearly Meeting, writes:

I recently attended an event in the European Parliament called “Tracking EU migration funding in Africa” on behalf of the Quaker Council for European Affairs. The event was organised by the Green group, who were asking: How much money does the EU invest in Africa and in which projects does it end up? Who is conducting these projects?

Rather than a comprehensive presentation from European Commission staff, or from the European Parliament’s own research department, the main focus of the event was a report made by the independent journalism platform The Correspondent. Their presentation told the story of how the EU spends the money allocated to the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF).

The two MEPs who initiated the research claimed that they, as parliamentarians, did not have oversight over EU migration funding and no clear understanding of either the size of the EUTF, nor which specific projects it had funded. The MEPs were looking for a comprehensive overview of how taxpayer money had been spent, but so far this had been impossible to find – or even to create, as some documents requested by the Parliament’s research staff were said to be classified.

The last hope was to raise the issue with the investigative journalists of The Correspondent, who spent five months travelling to Africa and requesting data from sources on the ground, EU representations, and different parts of the European Commission.

### **EUTF. Doesn’t the name explain everything? ‘Emergencies in Africa’, right?**

The EUTF was created at the height of European political tensions around migration in 2015/16, in order to address ‘the root causes of instability, forced displacement and irregular migration and to contribute to better migration management’.

Two of The Correspondent’s findings caused a sharp intake of breath in the conference room at the European Parliament: 60% of all EUTF funds are being spent on measures to make border control more effective, and 65% of funding ends up under the control of only five organisations – none of them African. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) gets the largest

share (22%). The other organisations are the UNHCR and European agencies such as Germany’s GIZ. Some participants expressed surprise that money they thought was being “invested in Africa” was controlled by European organisations, and wondered how much ownership African political institutions, businesses and community groups feel they have.

The Correspondent had focused its research on Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country. Overall, European governments have spent €1.5bn in Nigeria in recent years, mostly through EU mechanisms such as the EUTF. €771m is spent on migration and €378m goes into border control. Only a small proportion goes to local NGOs or establishing safe and legal ways for people to migrate.

At the event I learned that the German GIZ has received €58m from the EU for a job creation project called SKYE in Nigeria. So far so good. However, it turns out that the success of this project is measured in terms of decreasing asylum applications made in Europe. It seems that the emphasis is not helping Africans find jobs, but rather keeping them away from the EU’s borders.

Quakers in Europe, amongst many others, are keen to see European external policy that lives up to the stated values of the EU as a peace project and a promoter of human rights. Many Europeans will feel disconnected from an EU for which a principal external policy objective is to reduce migration from Africa and the Middle East.

### **The role of the Parliament in question**

Sergio Carrera, an expert from the centrist Centre for European Policy Studies, raised his concern about the fact that a large portion of EUTF spending was not approved by the European Parliament. He explained that many countries on the African continent have been designated as being in ‘crisis mode’, which means that, by law, the Parliament does not need to be consulted before EU money is allocated.

This lack of due process is especially dangerous when it involves policies with potential implications for human rights, as is the case with the EUTF. Carrera proposed human rights assessments, similar to those advocated by QCEA over the last two years.

In her closing remarks, MEP Tineke Strik tried to end the session on a motivating note. However, given the gravity of all that we had heard, it was quite apparent that the mood in the room could not be easily lifted.



## Dennis Tomlin: 1930 – 2019. Member of Groupe Quaker, Languedoc - France Yearly Meeting

Dennis Tomlin spent key years of his childhood during the war, evacuated to South Wales for part of the time. After leaving school he studied architecture in Brighton. Trying to make sense of postwar Britain, he developed pacifist views, becoming a conscientious objector. This was no easy matter. He had to go before a tribunal before being allowed to do community service instead of going into the military. Dennis joined the Friends Ambulance Service where initially he worked for the forestry commission. Later he was based in France and helped to renovate a ruined village in the Massif Central which was going to resettle war orphaned children from Paris. He met Françoise, a French social studies student and later to be his wife, who was the camp cook.

After marriage the couple moved to the UK. In 1963 they started the first of their two big projects - The Link Primary School for children with learning difficulties. Françoise was the head teacher and Dennis was involved in organising funding and arranging work camps, at the same time as working at an architect's office by day. Initially the school was also home as they lived in the flat upstairs. The school continues to thrive to this day. The school provides child-centred education much influenced by Steiner and Montessori principles. Françoise and Dennis attended Croydon Meeting in the mid 60s. By the time their son had arrived they moved again to become active members at Sutton Meeting.

Dennis searched all his life for an honest understanding of humankind's relationship with God. In the 1970s he did a degree in philosophy and later aged 84, a diploma in Quakerism. He was a practical thinker. His activism included helping to set up a housing association for

the homeless. An ardent green prophet long before it became a mainstream issue, Dennis was warning people about climate change and the effects it would have on the planet. Dennis and Françoise tried to live a non-consumerist life and believed in sharing with those less fortunate than themselves. Dennis loved poetry, reading his own poems at meetings held monthly. He was also a keen sailor.

After retiring in 1994, Dennis and Françoise moved to Congénies in the south of France. Here they embarked on their second big project. They were instrumental in helping, with others, to bring the former Quaker meeting house back into Quaker hands from its most recent function as a private house. Theirs, however, was the principal vision for the future Centre Quaker de Congénies. The emerging local Quaker group set about fundraising, renovating the building in stages and developing new purposes for the building, the garden and its Quaker cemetery. In more recent years Dennis continued to be active in the development of the Centre through translation and editing, interviewing residents and participating in courses held there.

Dennis was an active member of France Yearly Meeting for over 25 years as well as being involved in the wider Quaker community in Europe. He was appointed to represent France at both QCEA in Brussels and at EMES - always an advocate for this broader vision to promote and live out the Quaker way.

He suggested the theme of 'Joy' for the most recent workshop when he was already quite ill. His positivity was resonant in the meeting house on the 18th August when about a hundred people came to celebrate his life.

<https://mailchi.mp/cec-kek/news-from-cec-1071181>

## EMES Peace & Service Consultation: 22nd - 24th November 2019, Old Abbey Kortenberg

*Michael Eccles*, Britain Yearly Meeting and incoming Executive Secretary, FWCC-EMES writes:

22 Friends gathered at the Old Abbey in Kortenberg for this year's consultation. Andrew Lane and Karin Hoenicke were the clerks and the theme for the weekend was public witness and protest.

We spent Friday evening getting to know each other better and thinking about our expectations for the weekend, before splitting into our home groups for the first time where we shared our experiences of being involved in public witness or protest.

Saturday morning began with 3 speakers: Philip Austin (Northern Friends Peace Board), Karen King (Stop Fuelling War) and Tracey Martin (Roots of Resistance). The 3 speakers were asked to share about how their organisations protest and organise protest. There was some overlap between the input and it was particularly useful to hear the different approaches they take at different places – for example holding a meeting for worship outside Menwith Hill in Britain (Northern Friends Peace Board) and dressing up smart and attempting to engage with arms dealers in Paris at Eurosatory (Stop Fuelling War). After the input we met again in our home groups to consider our responses to what we had heard.

In the afternoon, some of us walked in the local woods during the free time while others took the chance to rest! It was a good chance to chat informally and catch up with old friends.

Late afternoon we had a chance for the home groups to share anything that had come up for them during their meetings. A number of interesting issues were raised including; what – and how much – you should you tell

the police about what you are doing, how to respond to Friends who don't want to protest, are there quick things going on that can be effectively shared on social media, not getting too caught up in thinking about how many people are involved in a particular event, links between the arms trade and climate change and much more. We then gave everyone an opportunity to share an update of their organisation's work. The worked well, as the time was restricted but everyone had the opportunity to feel heard.

For our 'fun evening' on Saturday, we had a story telling session which proved to be really enjoyable. We had serious stories but also stories that had us almost crying with laughter. It was a really good way to get to know each other better, and to relax!

Sunday morning we began by formally minuting the new clerking team for the 2020 consultation; the clerks will be Karin Hoenicke of German YM and Mieke van Opheusden of Netherlands YM.

We then held a brief evaluation or review of the peace & service consultation to consider how useful it is to Friends and whether we could make any changes to improve the consultations in future. Overall we found that Friends were happy with the way things are at present, we thought it would be good to find ways to help Friends prepare for the consultations better in advance – perhaps together online – and to look into ways of improving contact during the year.

If your meeting or organisation would like to get involved please get in touch with Michael Eccles on [emes@fwccemes.org](mailto:emes@fwccemes.org)

# European and Middle East Young Friends Annual Meeting in Brüssel / Brussels

*Vitek Springorum*, Prague Worship Group, writes:

Ich schreibe euch über meine Teilnahme am EMEYF annual meeting in Brüssel. Als ich ankam, waren schon Esther und Leyna aus Deutschland da, die anderen habe ich erst später kennen gelernt.

Das Quäkerhaus ist wunderschön, es ist ein hundert Jahr altes Gebäude. Die Wände sind mit Tapeten bedeckt, und es gibt sogar ein in der Wand eingebautes Sofa, sowas habe ich noch nie gesehen.

Am ersten Abend haben wir uns das Programm angeschaut und das Nominierungs-Komitee ernannt – ich durfte an diesem Komitee teilnehmen. Es gab insgesamt sieben Rollen, die wir besetzen mussten, deshalb hatten wir viel zu tun. Wir haben es aber geschafft, weil wir ein tolles Team waren. Die nächsten Tagen gab es verschiedene Workshops, Paul hat zum Beispiel einen sehr spannenden Workshop über die verschiedenen Interpretationen der Bibel gehalten. Am Freitag wollten wir auch am Fridays For Future Streik teilnehmen, leider ist aber keiner gekommen... der Streik war allerdings auch nicht offiziell angekündigt. Wir haben aber trotzdem nachher sehr viel über Klimawandel gesprochen und allgemein auch viel über die europäische Situation gesprochen, Brexit, und anderes.

Es gab bisschen Gesang, ich hatte meine Mandoline mit, also konnte ich begleiten.

Wir hatten viel Spaß, ich habe viele neue Freunde kennengelernt.

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I write to you about my share of the EMEYF annual meeting in Brussels. When I arrived Esther and Leyna from Germany were already there, the others I got to know only later.

The Quakerhouse is beautiful, it is a hundred year old building. The walls are covered with wallpaper, and



*Quaker House, Brüssel / Brussels Photo: Vitek Springorum*

there's even a sofa built into the wall, I've never seen anything like it.

On the first evening we looked at the programme and nominated the nominations committee. By the way, I was also part of the committee, there were a total of seven roles that we had to fill, so we had a lot to do, but we did it, we were a great team. The next days there were different workshops, Paul for example did a very exciting workshop about the different interpretations of the bible. On Friday we also wanted to participate in the Fridays For Future Strike, but unfortunately nobody came...but the Strike was not officially announced. But afterwards we talked a lot about climate change and in general about the European situation, Brexit, and others.

There was some singing, I had my mandolin with me, so I could accompany it.

We had a lot of fun, I met many new friends.

# Diary Dates 2020

More dates are available on the website: [www.fwccemes.org](http://www.fwccemes.org). Please send items for inclusion in the diary to [emes@fwccemes.org](mailto:emes@fwccemes.org).

Woodbrooke & EMES offer several weekly virtual Meetings for Worship. Extra meetings have been added due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please check the Woodbrooke website for the latest information: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/worship](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/worship)

For details see page 2.

## 2020

Please send items for inclusion in the diary to [emes@fwccemes.org](mailto:emes@fwccemes.org).

The following events have been moved online, postponed or cancelled:

**16 – 19 April: Ireland Yearly Meeting**, [office@quakers-in-ireland.ie](mailto:office@quakers-in-ireland.ie)

**17 – 19 April: Finland Yearly Meeting**, [miria\\_2882@yahoo.com](mailto:miria_2882@yahoo.com)

**17 – 19 April: Border Meeting (German speaking)**, [grenztreffenCHD@quaeker.org](mailto:grenztreffenCHD@quaeker.org)

**30 April – 3 May: EMES Annual Meeting**, [emes@fwccemes.org](mailto:emes@fwccemes.org)

**7 – 10 May: Central European Gathering**, [emes@fwccemes.org](mailto:emes@fwccemes.org)

**15 – 17 May: Netherlands Yearly Meeting**, [secretariaat@dequakers.nl](mailto:secretariaat@dequakers.nl)

**25 – 28 June: Nordic Yearly Meeting**, Sweden [au@kvakare.se](mailto:au@kvakare.se)

**At the time of printing, these events were still scheduled to go ahead (please check the EMES website for up to date information):**

**29 May – 1 June: Switzerland Yearly Meeting**, Herzberg [symclerk@swiss-quakers.ch](mailto:symclerk@swiss-quakers.ch)

**18 – 25 July: EMEYF Summer Gathering**, Finland [emeyf@qcea.org](mailto:emeyf@qcea.org)

**1 – 8 August: Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering**, Bath [ym@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ym@quaker.org.uk)

**28 – 30 August: Italian Friends Gathering**, Fattorie Faggioli [e.welkin@gmail.com](mailto:e.welkin@gmail.com)

**11 – 13 September: Border Meeting**, Strasbourg border. [meeting@gmail.com](mailto:meeting@gmail.com)

**9 – 11 October: Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting**, Brussels [quakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:quakerclerk@gmail.com)

**22 – 25 October: German Yearly Meeting**, Bonn [clerks@quaeker.org](mailto:clerks@quaeker.org)

**30 October – 2 November: France Yearly Meeting**, Paris [quakersenfrance@gmail.com](mailto:quakersenfrance@gmail.com)

**20 – 22 November: EMES Peace & Service Consultation**, Bad Pyrmont, Germany [emes@fwccemes.org](mailto:emes@fwccemes.org)

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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**Deadline for Among Friends 148: 1 July 2020**