

# Golders Green Quaker Meeting

## 100 Years of Quaker Worship 1913 to 2013

**Golders Green Centenary Newsletter**

***Celebration Edition***



Photo: Bing Xiao

## In 2013 we celebrated with many joyful events:

- 3 March - Centenary Lecture: Peace, Justice, Solidarity: Europe - A Work in Progress
- 7 April - Meet the Suburb Quakers past and present
- 9 June - The Hoffnung Cartoons
- 23 June - Quakers at the HGS RA Summer Festival
- 29 June - Summer Tea Party
- 22 September - Open House
- 13 October - Centenary Meeting for Worship
- 9 and 10 November - Quaker Service Memorial Exhibition
- 15 December - Christmas Celebration

2013 was a wonderful year of celebration for Golders Green Meeting as we marked our centenary. After much planning, eight events took place throughout the year, as well as our traditional Christmas Party which featured spoken and musical contributions including from our young people. A History of our Meeting, our Meeting House and a profile of Lisa Shend'ge were published in *Suburb News*.

Our first centenary event was a public talk in March given by Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch on their work at QCEA. This was followed in April by a 'Meet the Quakers – Past and Present' which celebrated earlier Friends of Golders Green as well as the work of current Friends. In June, Annetta Hoffnung gave a presentation on the cartoons of Gerard Hoffnung. Our other summer event was a tea party to which former Members of the

Meeting were invited. The weather was lovely so many

enjoyed being in the garden before tea took place in the Meeting

House, with birthday cakes for two current Friends celebrating their ninetieth birthdays. On sale at this event were the beautiful postcards printed from photographs taken by Bing Xiao. In September, the annual Open House took place. Then, in October, the Meeting for Worship was held which celebrated exactly one hundred years since the first such was held in the Meeting House. As with all our centenary events, this was well attended. Finally, Golders Green hosted the Quaker Service Memorial Trust exhibition in November.

Our centenary events have drawn former Friends back to the Meeting House where they have shared memories with each other and with current Friends. It has been a time of working closely together by our 21 Members and 14 active Attenders to arrange and host the events, involving our 5 young people wherever possible,

thereby strengthening our Meeting.



Paddy Baker - celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this year with a cake baked by Brenda Bailey



Brenda Bailey - celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

# Invitations were designed and sent out

## Invitation

a spiritual path  
for our time



The Golders Green Meeting  
Centenary Tea Party

You are warmly invited to attend the Golders  
Green Meeting  
Centenary Tea Party  
On Saturday 29th June 2013 from 2.30pm to  
5.00pm

Please bring photos and memories.

There will be a heritage display, a quiz and short musical  
performances  
as well as time to greet each other.

Tea and cakes will be served.

A centenary postcard will be on sale with proceeds and donations to  
the Centenary iron gate fund.

**RSVP by 6th June please.**

Car parking is available in the nearby Free Church car park.  
The  
Golders Green tu



Golders Green Quaker Meeting warmly invite you to

## The Cartoons of Gerard Hoffnung

A presentation by Annetta Hoffnung about the drawings of the  
artist and musician, Gerard Hoffnung.

Sunday 9th June 2013 at 2.30 pm

Followed by tea

Golders Green Quaker Meeting House  
17 North Square  
Hampstead Garden Suburb  
London NW11 7AD

Golders Green Friends invite you to the  
Quaker Service Memorial Exhibition

to be held on Saturday 9th November and  
Sunday 10th November here at the  
Meeting House, 17 North Square NW11  
12 noon to 4.00pm each day.

It will show the work and service of Quakers  
during the World Wars and their peace  
building and

The exhibition  
sculpted me  
Arbo



Golders Green Quaker Meeting warmly invite you  
to a public lecture to celebrate our centenary

## Peace, Justice, Solidarity: Europe - A Work in Progress?

A talk to be given by Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch, Members of  
Golders Green Meeting, about their ten years' work with the  
Quaker Council for European Affairs

Sunday 3rd March 2013 at 3.00 pm

Followed by light refreshments

Enquiries to Dikynna Warren dikynna@hotmail.com or Jean Jenn 020 7267 0685

"We advocate non-violent approaches to conflict resolution, promote policies that  
respect the intrinsic equality of all people everywhere, and try to ensure that  
European policy sustains the planet's resources and the lives of all those who share  
them." QCEA website

Golders Green Quaker Meeting House  
17 North Square  
Hampstead Garden Suburb  
London NW11 7AD

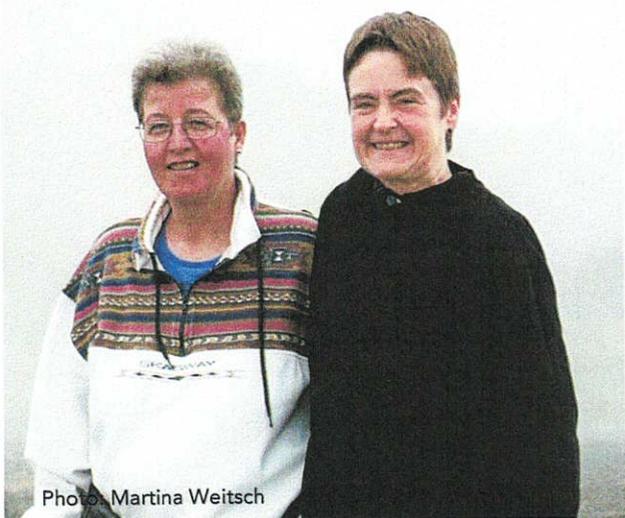


Photo: Martina Weitsch

## Centenary Lecture

On 3 March, Martina Weitsch and Liz Scurfield, longstanding Members of the Meeting who had recently returned after 10 years' service as Representatives at the Quaker Council for European Affairs, gave a public talk to get the year's celebrations under way.

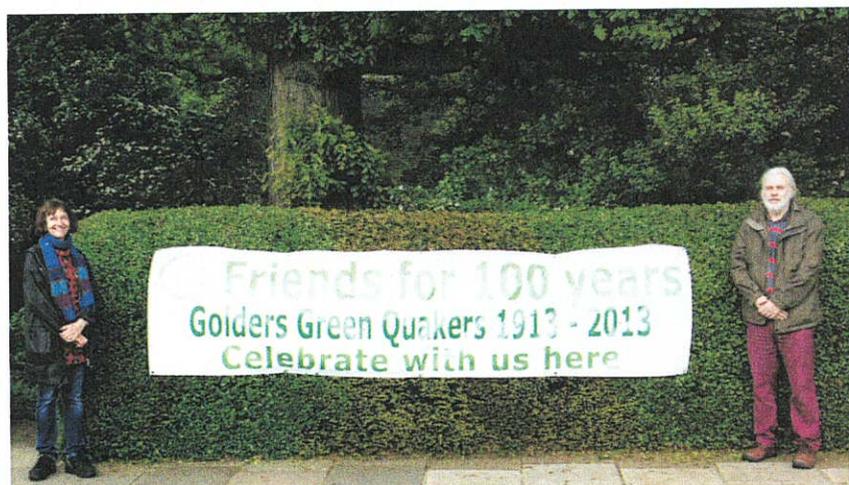
Under the title: Peace, Justice and Solidary - Europe: A Work in Progress, Liz and Martina took us on a whistle stop tour of some of the key facts and figures relating to the European Union and then described

with the help of two case studies the detailed and meticulous work they did to influence decision-makers to bring peace, justice and solidarity centre stage in European policy decisions - in justice and foreign policy matters in this case.

Brenda Bailey, herself a Quaker Representative at the Quaker UN Office in New York in earlier times, said: *'They spoke appreciatively of the groups of European Quakers, and getting some of them into their Management Committee. They must have made our Quaker reputation shine again. The Meeting House was full, as I haven't seen it for years. Every chair was taken. They even had to bring down all the chairs from upstairs. The participants appreciated hearing more about the EU and the Common Market, because we are all so ignorant.'*

The Meeting was gently and effectively chaired by Diktyнна Warren. Contrary to usual Quaker custom she said we might applaud if we wanted to... great relief from Meeting... We did applaud after a rather good point was made by one of the speakers and very enthusiastically at the end.

Afterwards, there was a chance for a great deal of enthusiastic conversation. There were the usual sumptuous refreshments and a collection was taken, raising just over £ 200 for the work of the Quaker Council for European Affairs in Brussels.



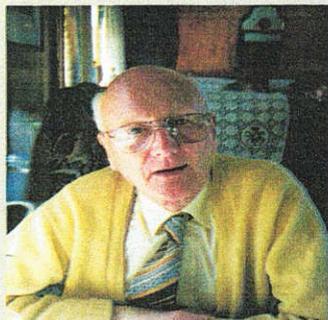
Just in time for the public talk on 3 March, we unveiled the Centenary Banner, which highlighted our presence in this corner of Central Square in Hampstead Garden Suburb

Photo: Daniel Whittle

## Meet the Suburb Quakers - Past and Present

*We may have been in this corner of the Suburb for 100 years, but there are many people - even local people - who haven't met us yet.*

*So we invited our neighbours and friends to meet us and to hear from some of the current members and attenders of the Meeting speaking about just some of the many inspirational people who have worshipped with us in this beautiful Meeting House:*



**Sydney Bailey**, Pacifist and peace builder at the UN - presented by Liz Scurfield

**Joan Mary Fry**, 'A Briton of Distinction' - presented by John Shinebourne



**Dorothy Manasseh**, Care in the community - presented by Sonia Mathias

**Gerald Priestland**, BBC Radio correspondent - presented by Susan Bovell



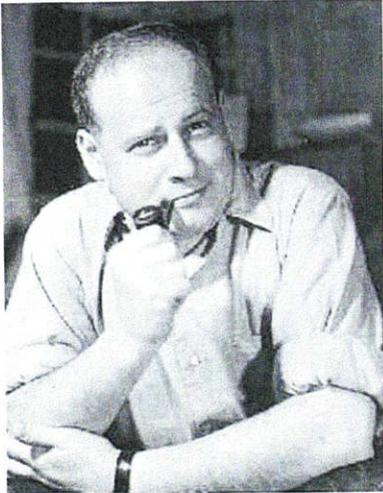
**Bryan Richards**, Town and New Town planner - presented by Martina Weitsch

**Kitty Slack**, H.G.S. archivist and activist - presented by Lisa Shend'ge



## Gerard Hoffnung's Cartoons celebrated

Gerard Hoffnung (1925 - 1959) was not only a Member of Golders Green Meeting, he was much better known for his musical drawings and his broadcasts. After his untimely death at the age of 34, his obituary in the Times said:

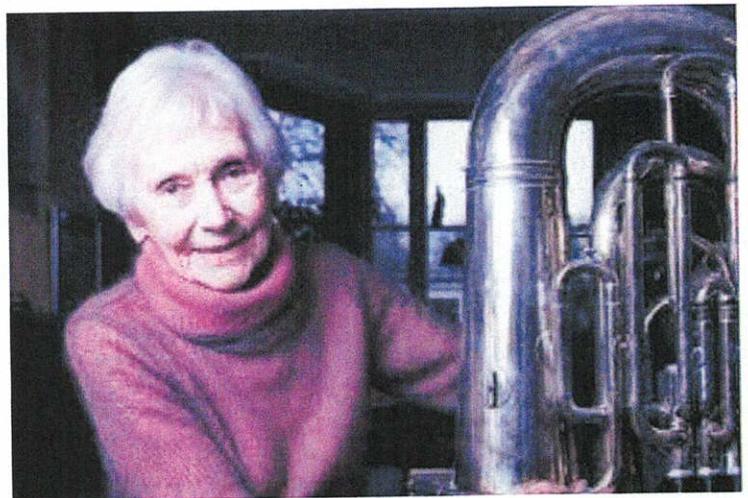


*'Hoffnung was among other things an artist, a musician, a linguist, a raconteur, a Quaker, a bon viveur, a prison visitor and a mime. It is usual to say that a man has left behind a gap that cannot be filled. For Gerard Hoffnung there would be needed a handful of men, all of them greatly gifted.'*

His widow has continued to be member of our Meeting and we were delighted to have an

afternoon with her and her very memorable reflection on his life and work on 9 June.

Both their children, Ben and Emily, a Member of our Meeting, spent the afternoon with us.



We very much enjoyed being reminded of some of his broadcasts on 'One Minute Please', the 'Hoffnung Music Festival' at the Royal Festival Hall in 1956, and his many musical drawings.

## Quaker stall at the HGS RA Festival Sunday 23rd June

Materials had been gathered, display boards had been collected and the rota had been filled in.

The day was bright and sunny but with strong gusty winds. Setting up the table and display boards caused much frustration and merriment until all was assembled in fixed positions.

Many people passed the table and commented 'oh yes, it's your centenary isn't it' thus confirming the value of the publicity of the banner and the Suburb News coverage. Some stopped to look at the enlarged postcard photos, some to point in recognition of Rachel and Nancy on the recent Quaker Life poster.

Some stopped to talk about their good experience of going to a Quaker school, some to remark how they never knew the Meeting House was in that corner of the Square, and some to engage in searching conversation.

## The Big Summer Celebration Tea Party

*Benjamin Newland reports:*

Our Centenary Tea Party was, like all of our Centenary celebrations so far, popular and highly successful. We were happy to be joined by past members and attenders from Meetings far and wide, as well as local residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb, including the vicar of St Jude's and the Free Church minister. It was an event that was nicely informal but with all the benefits of thorough and creative planning. Thanks to the warm summer weather on that day, we were able to gather in the pleasant grounds of the Meeting House for the earlier part of the afternoon, and taste the fine fruit punch that was perfect for the occasion. Meanwhile indoors, a banquet table was laden with a large variety of cakes, many of which were homemade, plus strawberries and cream, and various 'nibbles', which we later enjoyed with our tea in the intimate setting of tables for four set with lace cloths and flowers.



All were treated to a well-rehearsed concert organised by our own Sue Rothstein, a professional harpist, with solos, duos and ensemble pieces played on recorders, harp and piano, as well as a charming violin solo from one of our young attenders, and culminating in a repeat of two of the ensemble pieces this time with audience participation.



The afternoon was nicely rounded off with more tea, cakes and socialising, and will for me no doubt endure as one of the fondest of many fond memories of my first year as an attender.

Photos: Dikynna Warren



## The Party in Pictures



Photo: Dikynna Warren

Postcards for sale to raise funds for the centenary gate; the photos for the postcard were taken by Bing Xiao.

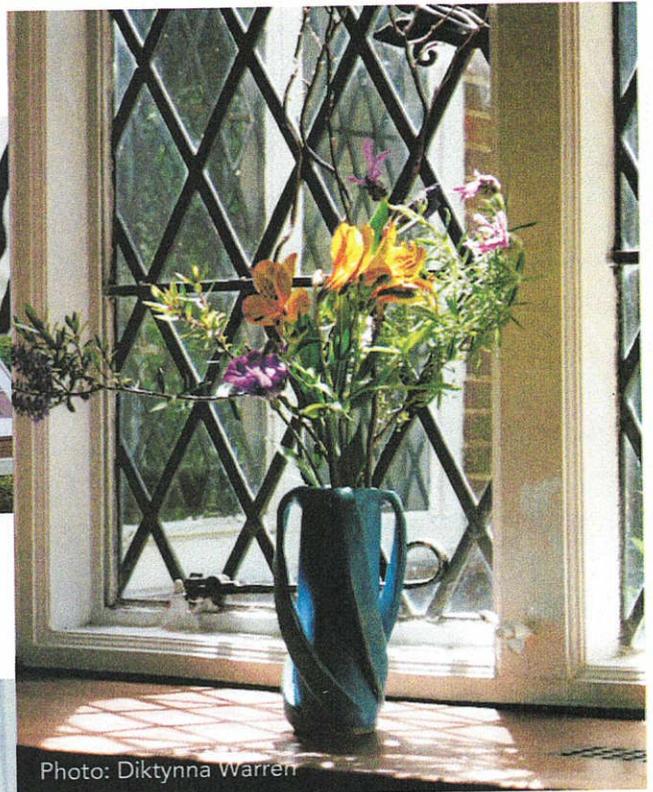


Photo: Dikynna Warren

The Meeting House was beautifully decorated with exuberant flower arrangements by Maggie Feldman and helpers



Photo: Dikynna Warren

We were fortunate to have glorious weather on the day of the summer party; many of us spent most of the afternoon milling around in the garden and enjoying the refreshments.



Photo: Dikynna Warren

A historic exhibition and quiz completed the entertainment

Group photos for posterity were taken outdoors, there was a visual quiz to identify the subjects from the last 100 years on postcards scattered around the house and photos with information of past members were on display.



Photos: Bing Xiao



Photo: Jean Jenn

## OPEN HOUSE at the Meeting House 22nd September

The Meeting House is one of several buildings in the Borough of Barnet to open during the weekend, this year September 21st and 22nd. We have always limited our hours of opening to Sunday between 2 and 5pm.

The Open House weekend now called Open City, is of course an architectural initiative "celebrating architecture, people

and place" With this in mind our hand out sheet introduces our visitors to the architect Fred Rowntree pointing out his inspiration taken from Friends Meeting House at Jordan's when designing the Golders Green building.

Our visitors are often intrigued to discover that in addition to other buildings in the area Rowntree and Sons were selected by competition to design buildings for the University of Chengdu in western China which also happens to be the university attended by Bing Xiao a member of Golders Green meeting. Bing has produced a poster detailing illustrations of her university, Jordan's Meeting House together with a portrait of Fred Rowntree.

Visitors are greeted by one of the members or attenders, usually about five to six volunteer to spend an hour or two during the afternoon. Refreshments are offered and the layout of the building explained. We do not conduct tours preferring to allow free access to other rooms and being available for questions and comments. The main meeting room is arranged as a Meeting for Worship with Quaker leaflets and magazines on display in the entrance hall. There are often questions about Quaker belief and how Meeting is conducted, Many comment on the simplicity of the building and appreciate the quiet of its woodland setting, contrasting this with the large Lutyens churches nearby.

*In 2012 it poured with rain all day discouraging many visitors. This year the weather was fine and sunny and according to our visitors book fifty-four people visited the building, reports Sonia Mathias.*



## 100 Years ago to the day the first Meeting for Worship took place in this room - 100 Years on we gave thanks

Despite the heavy rain and grey skies about 60 Friends and visitors attended our Centenary Meeting for Worship held 13.10.2013, exactly 100 years from the first meeting for worship in this newly built meeting house.

16 past members, some of whom had married in the Meeting House, travelled from far and wide to join us. 11 Friends from the AM supported us.



Photo: Jean Jenn

The worship quickly centered and the various spoken ministries added to the depth of thankfulness and appreciation of the life of the meeting and its worship. We were reminded of the future, with our young Friends now attending Friends Summer School and Senior Conference. Their faith may be spoken in a different language but the depth of attentive

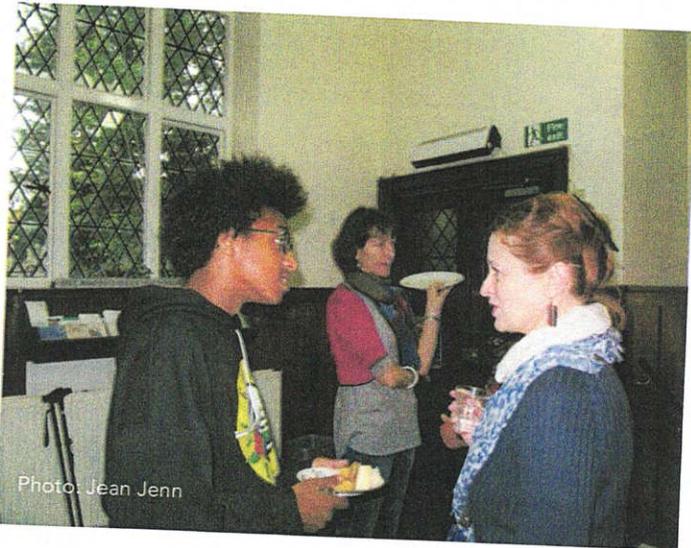


Photo: Jean Jenn

listening in the silence, which nurtures the vine in them and us, will provide vigorous growth in their lives and service.

The clerk gave a warm welcome to all. Then the delicious lunch was served. Thanks to all who contributed to the generous spread on the tables.

Conversations flowed, memories were shared, and displayed photos were scanned!

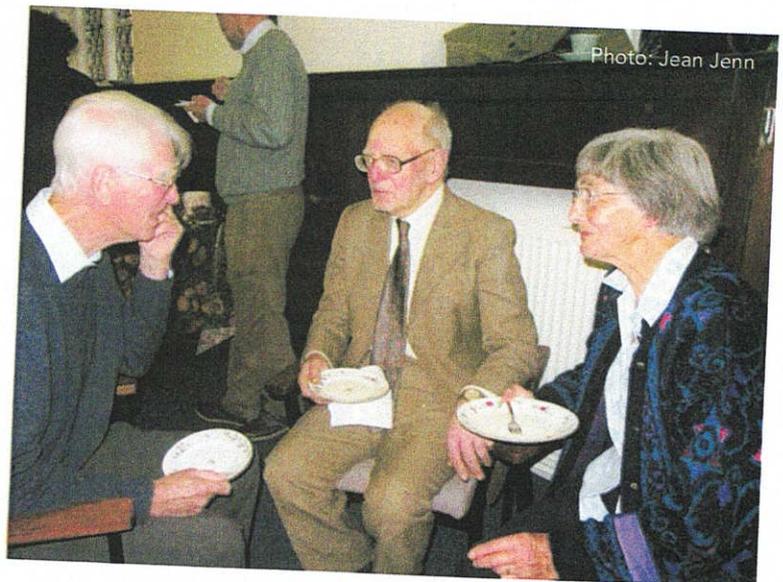


Photo: Jean Jenn

## Making Contact with old Friends

One of the joys of this centenary year was the opportunity to make contact with many, many friends and Friends who had been involved with the Meeting over the years. No, we didn't come up with anyone who was there on the first Sunday worship was held in the Meeting House. But we did go through old visitors books and address lists and used a variety of sources - including the Internet - to find people who had lost touch with us.

We contacted well over 50 people, some who had been children in the Meeting in years gone by, and some who had been Members or Attenders over the years but somehow lost touch or moved away.

Quite a few responded; a few managed to come to one or more of the events throughout the year. It was lovely to make contact with them and it was lovely for them to renew contacts with each other.

### A letter of thanks

Dear Jean and all other members and attenders of your meeting, I came to your Centenary Meeting for Worship last Sunday and wanted to thank you all so much for your warm welcome and generous hospitality. It was wonderful to be in the Meeting House and to worship there for the first time in 50 years (I attended as a teenager with my parents and siblings from 1958 - 1963). It felt oddly unchanged in spite of all the changes and challenges I understand you have been through - something about the essence of the Meeting which survives temporary ups and downs. And it was only in talking to one of your members last week that I realised that you are

currently a fairly small meeting. So even more credit to you all for pulling off a really wonderful centenary year of events and activities - heart-warming, inspiring and inclusive. And a joy to be part of. With love to you all.

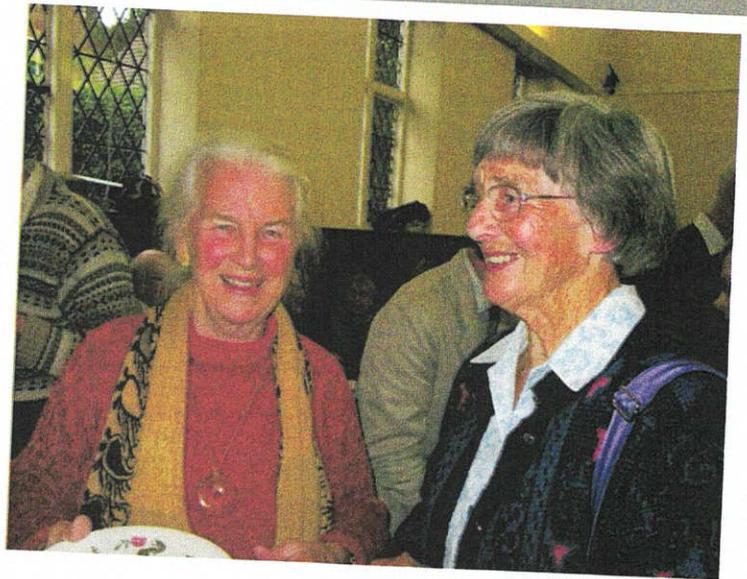
Charlotte Allen



Photo: Jean Jenn

Alison Musnier and Pamela Hawkins came to the Centenary Meeting for Worship

Photo: Jean Jenn



And we reminisced with Friends and others about the changes that have taken place over the years - here illustrated with two pictures of the same two people in the same place with just a few years in between.

Photos: Susan Robson

## Remembrance: Quaker Service Memorial Trust Exhibition

9 and 10 November

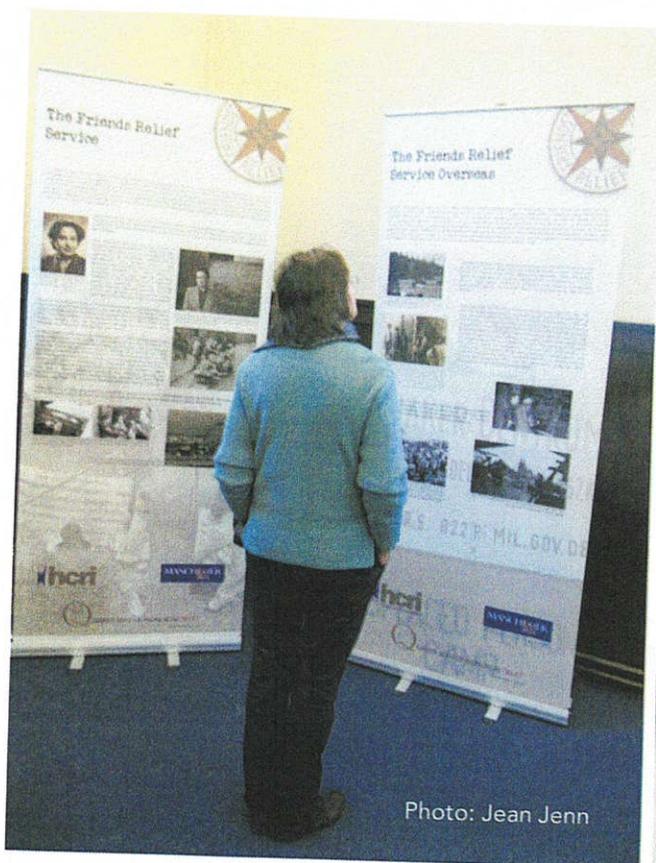


Photo: Jean Jenn

Brenda Bailey provided a portable DVD player and some visitors watched the very interesting QSM DVD with her. But there was not enough time to discuss matters raised and we have ordered a copy for a future LM discussion.

The accompanying leaflets were a useful addition and were taken away by visitors.

We used the exhibition as a local event around Remembrance Day worship.

*Jean Jenn reports:* We had 40 visitors during the two afternoons; local people, some from local churches on Remembrance Sunday, and some Friends from neighbouring meetings wanting to see the exhibition as preparation for their bookings in 2014.

We placed the single banners around the main room in the Meeting House and it looked very attractive. The text and photos on each banner was engaging and informative. We played Karl Jenkin's 'The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace' as suitable background music and it was particularly appreciated by several visitors.

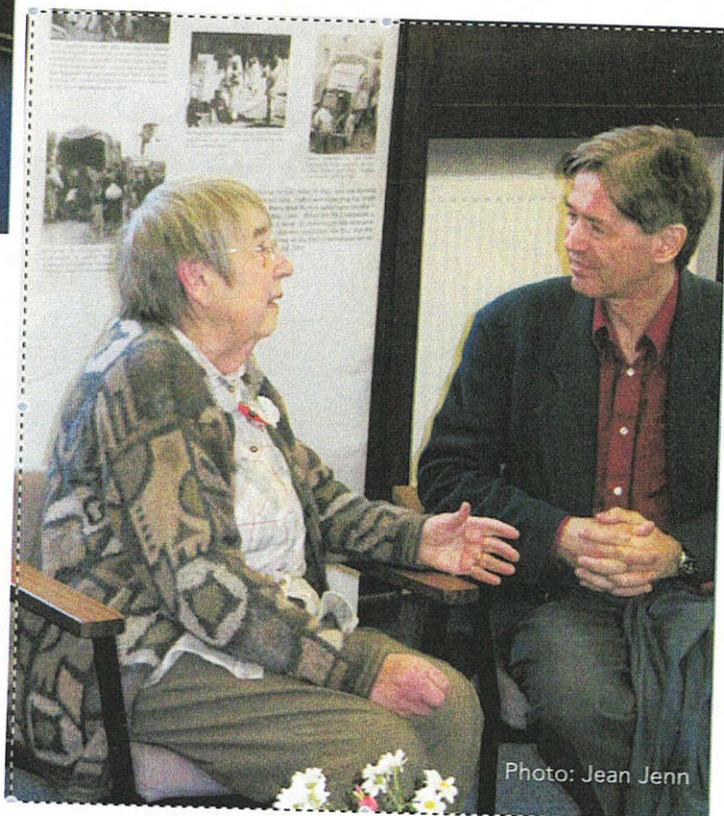


Photo: Jean Jenn

## Christmas Celebrations

On 15 December 2013, Friends at Golders Green Local Meeting held their usual Christmas Celebration. The Meeting House had been beautifully adorned with green branches and leaves and about 50 of us were present to partake of the worship and fellowship. We also enjoyed the warmth of being together and the roaring log fire – wonderful.



Friends and Attenders both old and new contributed to the skilfully arranged programme. We sang carols, Friends sang to us and we listened avidly to readings from the Bible, poetry and prose. We enjoyed music from a variety of instruments including harp, piano, recorders, a bassoon and, of course, our piano. It was truly inspiring to know we have such talent and enthusiasm in our small community. As the programme was being held after the manner of Quaker worship, there was no applause but, instead, a deep and grateful silence. Indeed, the youngest member of the audience, lulled no doubt by the beautiful music and readings, slept peacefully throughout.



This year, our collection was for Quaker Homeless Action and the collection bag seemed to become very heavy.



Afterwards, we enjoyed a truly sumptuous tea. Friends do seem to be very good at this! Who was it who said "After Meeting, sweet is eating"? We thank everyone who helped and contributed to this wonderful and fitting end to our Centenary Year.

To everyone who contributed to these centenary celebrations; all who are now part of the Golders Green Meeting, past members, Friends from the Area Meeting, local friends and neighbours, we extend our warm thanks.

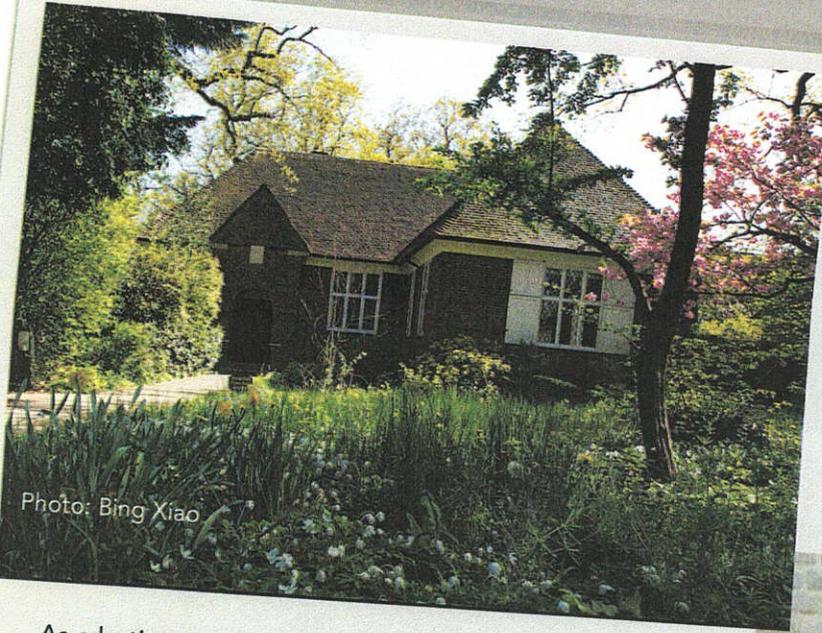


Photo: Bing Xiao

As a lasting celebration of the Centenary, we are planning to install a beautiful cast-iron gate at the entrance to the Meeting House. This is an early design under consideration. It will incorporate the date 2013 to sit below the porch headstone with the date 1913. We are still raising funds for this and welcome donations.

Donors giving £5 or more will receive a printed copy of this Newsletter with copies of the centenary postcards displayed on this page.

Postcards are available at 50 p each. To order see contact details below:

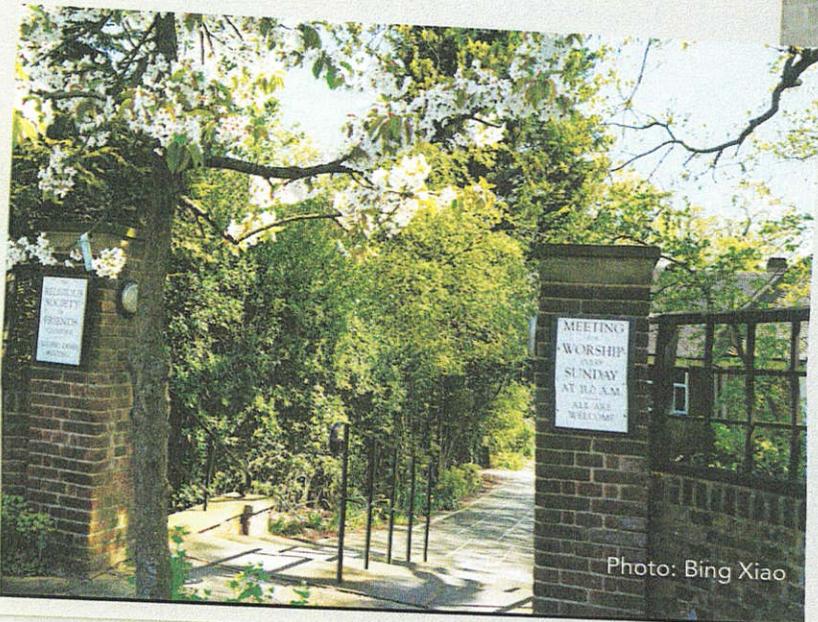
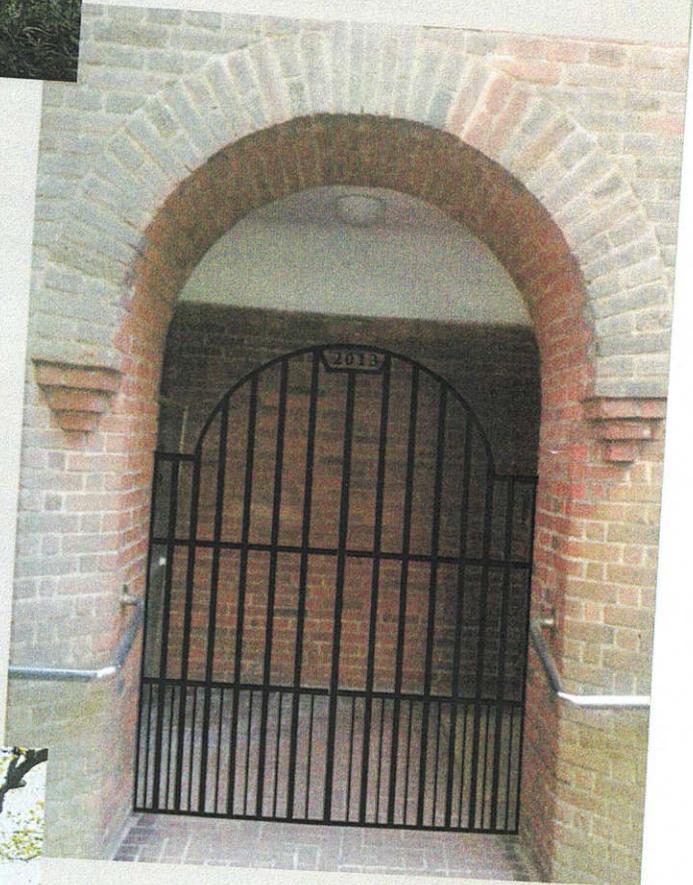


Photo: Bing Xiao

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