



Quaker belief and action on peace

Quakers believe that each person is uniquely valuable. They advocate putting energies and resources into developing and training non-military ways of solving conflicts and averting wars.

Quakers believe that there is always a choice between working for war and working for peace. They work locally, nationally and internationally to address the root causes of violence, conflict and insecurity, to promote nonviolent approaches to work for peace, justice and social change; they support peacebuilding and peace-making in areas of violent conflict and to promote disarmament.

Quaker work in Britain includes providing school children with skills to deal with conflict, working with communities in the north of England to tackle racism and build peace, and supporting the next generation of workers in peacebuilding organisations. British Quakers work overseas to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions, to support local peacebuilding organisations in Burundi and to create non-violent peaceful solutions to often bitter and entrenched local conflicts in South Asia and East Africa. Individual Quakers are active in many parts of the world, as well as throughout the UK.

Diary of Events

The series of free evening meetings is on
Thursdays from 7 pm to 9pm:

15th October 2009
10th December 2009
28th January 2010
11th March 2010
8th April 2010

The Meetings to be held in :
Colchester Quaker Meeting House,
Church Street, Colchester
(close to the Mercury Theatre)

Advance Notice

Public Meeting
in the Moot Hall,
Colchester Town Hall
on

Wednesday 12th May, 2010

For more information call: 01206 540447



Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution

A winter programme of talks,
discussions and workshops
exploring the Quaker peace
testimony

Organised by Colchester Quakers



The programme

This winter programme of five talks, discussions and workshops is organised by Colchester Quakers. It is then to be followed by an open public meeting in the Moot Hall, Colchester Town Hall.

Meeting 1 - Thursday 15th October, 2009

Working alongside victims of conflict and ethnic violence

with Laura Shipler Chico

Laura Shipler Chico lived and worked in Rwanda for 2 years with peacebuilders there and in other parts of East Africa. She is currently coordinating Quaker peacebuilding initiatives in East Africa.

Meeting 2 - Thursday 10th December 2009

Resettling refugees after displacement by civil war and serious tribal disputes

with Andrew Rendle.

Andrew Rendle went to Sudan with the Sudan Volunteer Programme to teach English in a college of higher education. After his visa expired he left the country and then returned via Kenya to work in the war-torn areas in the south of Sudan.

He worked for an American charity which aimed to help returning refugees to resettle the lands which they left many years previously.

Meeting 3 - Thursday 28th January, 2010

Peace Direct: a presentation by young Truce 20/20 graduates

Hannah Pennock, a former member of Colchester Quaker Meeting, is the manager of the Truce 20/20 project which works with Conflict and Change, a local charity with 20 years experience of conflict resolution within and between different ethnic groups in Newham, east London. Some of these young people will share their training and experiences, and report on progress so far.

Meeting 4 - Thursday 11th March, 2010

Women in Peace.

This session will be led by women workers for peace, who are sponsored by Peace Direct.

Meeting 5 - Thursday 8th April, 2010

Building a Culture of Peace

with Bruce Kent

Bruce Kent is vice president of the Movement to Abolition War

Bruce Kent will be examining the culture of war which currently prevails in our society. He will ask why this seems to be widely accepted as the norm, suggest how we might challenge it, and how we might begin to transform it into a culture of peace.



About the Contributors

Laura Shipler Chico works for Quaker Peace and Social Witness in London and has responsibility for co-ordinating Quaker work in East Africa, where she has lived and worked. Laura lived in Rwanda for two years and has also lived in Thailand, Israel, Moscow and Saigon. She holds a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Over the years she has raised large sums of money -with her husband - to fund some of their working projects. Laura is a member of Westminster Meeting.

Andrew Rendle read Maths at Cambridge, then set off for Sudan, where his grandmother had lived in the 1930s. After teaching English for six months he travelled south and worked alongside returning refugees; for visa reasons he had to leave the country. From Nairobi he returned with a Southern Sudan visa and worked for an American charity which aimed to resettle those displaced by tribal conflict and civil war. He did this, often within the sound of gunfire (day and night). On his return to England he studied for a master's degree in Conflict Studies at Kings College, London.

Truce 20/20 This project is rooted in an age old Olympic tradition. In ancient Greece, from the seventh day before the games opened to the seventh day after they closed, conflicts stopped so that athletes, artists and spectators could travel safely to and from Olympia. Truce 20/20 develops conflict resolution skills in young people aged 16 - 21 who then go on to develop peace building projects in their community, making Newham a safer and more welcoming place for the London Olympics. This is a story of commitment, challenge and achievement which can change communities - long beyond the 2012 Games.

Peace Direct Wherever there is conflict there are local people trying to resolve it; there are people who understand why the conflict started, who's involved and what might end it. Peace Direct finds, funds and promotes local people working for peace in conflict areas around the world. Conflict does not just kill through violence, it costs lives through poverty and disease, and threatens regional and global stability. Women play a crucial role in local peace building initiatives.

Bruce Kent was a founder member of CND in 1958 and is now its vice-president. The length and breadth of his peace activism, his energy, optimism and wisdom are inspiring. Bruce is now the patron of Action for UN Renewal and is also working with the International Movement for the Abolition of War, which seeks to 'Educate for peace, human rights and democracy'.