

Threshing Meetings

QF&P 12.26

This term currently denotes a meeting at which a variety of different, and sometimes controversial, opinions can be openly, and sometimes forcefully, expressed, often in order to defuse a situation before a later meeting for worship for business. Originally the term was used to describe large and noisy meetings for convincement of 'the world's people' in order to 'thresh' them away from the world

Threshing Meeting

12th November 2016

2pm, Bexhill FMH

Alex Francis - Hastings LM, writes

Tim Hyde has expressed his concern about the general world situation and seems to be asking for an opportunity to discern a way forward for Quakers in general and SEAM in particular.

Having spoken to Tim and done some research, the among the problems in the world that he is concerned about are the following, not in any order of priority:

- Ecological Crisis, species extinction and Global warming, climate change etc
- Mass migration from the under-developed third world to a better life in Europe & the West
- Economic Justice addressing Food Poverty, Zero hours contracts and low skilled employment
- The nascent Banking Crisis, see William Hague article in Daily Telegraph, 18th October.
- The NHS financial crisis and shortage of NHS funds.
- Asymmetric warfare and endemic terrorism practised by the third world against the wealthy West, see War of the Flea book written in 1969 and the article by Raffaello Pantucci, Director, Royal United Services Institute, Daily Telegraph 18th October.
- Conflict in Syria, Yemen and Israel/Palestine
- The Economic problems of mass unemployment caused by Artificial intelligence and technology de-skilling jobs.

As I understand it, the question from Tim is "What are Quakers doing???" This is a complex, thorny issue hence the Threshing Meeting as per Faith & Practice 12.26.

Sally Phillips has kindly offered to Clerk the Threshing Meeting but as in right ordering no minutes will be taken the emphasis being on open discussion.



JOURNEYS OF COMPASSION

Ann Johnson

JOURNEYS OF COMPASSION, is a QCA publication which marks 125 years of our Quaker concern and action for animals.

This illustrated compendium of quotes, creative writings and images charts our journey from 1891 when the Friends Anti-Vivisection Association was founded by Joseph Storrs Fry as President and Quaker MP Joseph Rowntree among the founder members.

Quaker voices for animals have been raised since the 1650s and **JOURNEYS OF COMPASSION** also incorporates

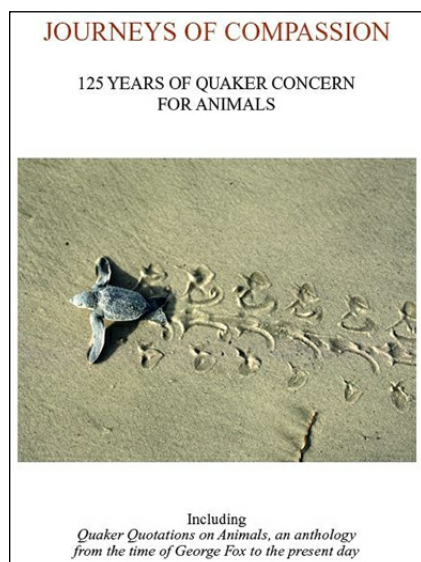
Quaker Quotations on Animals, an anthology from the time of George Fox to the present day.

A complimentary copy has been sent to all Meetings in Sussex East Area Meeting.

Additional copies are available from Ann Johnson (Eastbourne LM) for £4 each - or £4.50 by post.

Cheques should be made out to **Quaker Concern for Animals** and posted to Ann at:

Ann Johnson
5 Garden Mews
15 Beachy Head Road
Eastbourne BN20 7QP



Give Earth a Chance

Daphne Hill



An all-day meeting was arranged by Bexhill Quakers on Saturday 8th October under the title of Give Earth a Chance.

About 50 people attended to hear speakers who showed us the many ways we can make a difference. There were speakers from Global Justice, Fair trade, Transition Town Hastings, South East Water, as well as representatives from Friends House and many others who were each given a 5 minute slot to tell us of their work and how we could be the change.

In the afternoon we gathered in groups to consider what was needed from local and national politicians and in what ways we ourselves could work together to give earth a chance. We were reminded that just as from a seed a mighty tree could grow, so from small beginnings we could grow to make a difference.

A truly inspirational day.



Above: Seen on Bexhill Seafront, whilst riding my bike in July.

Below: Holy Trinity Church at Bosham, West Sussex has been a place of worship since Saxon times and is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.

Bottom: The entrance to Chichester Harbour from the water with the Isle of Wight behind. Images Keith Harcourt, 2016

