**The Living Witness Project is a growing network of Quaker meetings and groups in Britain, exploring our corporate witness to sustainable living. The project is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.**

**Project news and events**

Alison Daniels (Link Group Member for Manchester Mount Street) and Richard Summers have moved to Cambridge. Richard is taking up the post of Deputy Secretary General of Quaker Life at Friends House.

I hope we can have an informal LWP gathering at the QGA meeting in Chesterfield, 10-12 December. Please let me know ASAP if you hope to be there.

Our Spring 2005 conference will take place on Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th March at Woodbrooke (one day earlier than originally planned).

I would like to visit as many LWP meetings as possible during the coming 6 months – especially those that joined in 2002 – to hear how Friends feel about their involvement in the project and discuss future needs. Would you be willing to make this the focus of a meeting one evening, or after meeting for worship on a Sunday?

LM

**Ecoteams, anyone?**

The environmental charity, *Global Action Plan for the Earth*, aims to empower people to green their lives. One of its major initiatives is support for Ecoteams – small groups of individuals or households learning about their resource and environmental impacts, and adopting targets for reduction. Each Eco team meets seven times over four months, following a workbook provided by GAP. Participants in Nottingham have achieved average savings of 50% in waste, 27% in gas and electricity, and 17% in water.

GAP UK wants to work with us to set up Quaker Ecoteams. If you think 6-10 people in your meeting would participate, please get in touch with Laurie.

GAP will provide the handbook and training for one of your group to facilitate the programme.

**News from meetings**

**Bournemouth & Poole MM.** I went to the "Rainbow Pilgrimage" in Coventry on Saturday 6th October – the conference was part of Christian Ecology Link’s Operation Noah campaign. It was a lovely all-colour event. Speakers included John Houghton and Aubrey Meyer (of “contraction and convergence” fame).

We have had two very successful LWP meetings recently in Poole: one a shared meal and the other a group discussion, exploring resources on climate change and energy. We are trying to sort out an event for the low days of February...watch this space!

*Jo Abbess*

**Dorking PM.** We had Laurie to speak to our MM in August. That brought a green Friend in another local Meeting out of the woodwork to offer help on green issues. Apart from a project to involve the children in managing our MH garden organically and making it wildlife friendly, we concentrated in the first half of the year on achieving Fairtrade Town status for Dorking. We got there in July! Our recycling project for batteries, plastic, stamps and printer cartridges is still flourishing and is very well used by members and people who hire our rooms. So – we’re pressing on!

*Anne Brewer*

**Newcastle PM.** Friends in Newcastle have been saving their beverage cartons and other food containers all summer. Last month we made the first collection of these cartons and sent them off to Fife to be recycled, following the suggestion in the booklet *Walk Cheerfully, Step Lightly*. We will collect the cartons once a month when we meet for lunch after meeting for worship. Last week I discovered that Sunderland where I live is also set to start carton recycling SOON. It will be the fourth council in the UK to do...
this. Ten supermarkets in the area will have collection points. So we won’t be sending our cartons off: I’ll be bringing them home to Sunderland and saving on the postage.  

Patsy Wilson

Breadmaking workshop at *Heaven on Earth* weekend in Oxford

**Oxford PM.** Green issues have had a high profile in our meeting over the last few months. In September, PM agreed an environmental policy statement, developed by our Group on Sustainable Living (GOSLings). It starts from the spiritual roots of our green concern and sets out practical policies on the use of the meeting house, purchasing choices and so on.

In October, PM agreed a contribution to the funding of LWP. Friends were concerned to make sure that the project is on a firm long-term footing. The grant will be £5,000 next year and “at least £3,000” in each subsequent year.

Then last weekend (8-10 October), GOSLings held a residential weekend entitled *Heaven on Earth*, exploring how we can empower each other for sustainable living. We had 20 participants from outside Oxford, and ten from our own meeting. There was an especially large contingent from Harrow. They went off on Sunday enthusiastic to get their own LWP group going.

**LM**

**QGA News**

About 20 Friends came to QGA Summer Camp at Little Brimley, an eco-campsite run by Jan Copley, a Quaker from Wellington Meeting in Somerset. Our activities ranged from circle dancing to weaving waste paper baskets from tetrapaks, singing round the campfire to building a wood shelter. Little Brimley is on the national cycle network and a lovely place to stay (tel. 01823 672880). Jan also offers self-catering accommodation.

At a series of threshing sessions, we agreed that we would like to see QGA move towards a more conventional Quaker structure, run by a committee with officers appointed by meetings of members. We hope that the membership will adopt the new constitution at our meeting at Chesterfield FMH on 11 December.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the running of QGA, please get in touch with Laurie for an offer of services form. We are also looking for Friends who can help with environmental audits in meetings, offer presentations on green issues, etc.

Yes... it does take five Quakers to mend a puncture…

...but this is what summer camp is really about!

For more information or to get involved in the Living Witness Project, please get in touch with:

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