

## **Annual Report for Leyburn Local Quaker Meeting for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

This report is an opportunity to review our life and practices as a spiritual community, as well as giving us a picture of some of the activities of Leyburn Local Meeting during 2009.

We held our Annual review at the beginning of February 2009. This was an opportunity to acknowledge the individuals who undertake the many tasks which keep our meeting ticking over from week to week, often in unseen ways, as well as to hear brief reports concerning children & young people in our meeting, our collections, premises matters, our library and the regular users of our meeting house. We followed this with a 'bring and share' lunch which is always a good way of deepening our knowledge of one another.

We continued our practice of reading of Advices and Queries on the first Sunday of the month.

We have continued to maintain our Sunday morning Fairtrade stall, courtesy of the local fair-trade organiser. Our annual sales for 2009, including Christmas orders, amounted to £821.83

During 2009 we have made the following donations through our special collections announced after each meeting for worship: Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture; the Mary Thompson Hardship Fund which is administered by the North of England Refugee Service; Kids Company; Responding to Conflict; Brummana High School, and Water Aid. The total donated through this charitable giving amounted to £561.80

We agreed as a Local meeting to place £2000 which was surplus to our immediate requirements at the service of others. We decided to give Britain Yearly Meeting an interest free loan of £1000, and to invest £500 in the Shared Interest Society Ltd which uses the pooled investments of its members in the UK to effect real and lasting improvements to people's lives in poorer parts of the world. We also agreed to invest £500 in the North Yorkshire Credit union.

We agreed to take out a one year membership of the Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship (QLGF).

Our Meeting House has been used on a regular basis by a variety of groups including the Mothers Union, the Julian Group, the Writers Group, the Alzheimer's Society Carers and the Mental Health Group. In addition rooms have been booked for WEA writing and poetry classes, a Catholic prayer group, the Alzheimer's Society Choir, a spiritual director/counsellor, the W I produce group, a music group who were rehearsing for the Tournament and Weight Watchers.

We have held a number of after Meeting meetings for reflection and discussion including a letter writing session to encourage our MP's & MEP's to push for a strong climate change policy at the Copenhagen summit meeting; a discussion about whether there was sufficient enthusiasm and support to ask Area Meeting to endorse the running of another Poetry competition for schools; a discussion to share our views on climate Change Issues; and consideration of Yearly Meeting and the media.

Some Friends have held a number of 'Meeting for Singing' sessions on an occasional basis for half an hour before meeting for worship.

Following a meeting arranged by Area Meeting Elders, to consider how we might nourish our spiritual life, we now have a regular midweek 'Quiet Time' hosted in various Friend's own homes.

We continued to benefit, as a Local Quaker Meeting, from the many Friends who are involved in both wider Quaker work as well as bearing witness to the Quaker testimonies through other voluntary activity or through their paid employment or by supporting us both by their physical presence or their loving concerns from afar.

Ian Hunter Smart  
LM Clerk  
December 2009