



**Canterbury Commitment:
Transforming ourselves: transforming the system
7th – 9th March 2014**

Open space write up

Divestment (fossil free)

1) Raise awareness

- Join:
 - 350.org (and watch Do the Maths): www.350.org, <http://gofossilfree.org/uk/> and <http://math.350.org/>
 - Share Action: www.shareaction.org
- Read:
 - Zero Carbon Britain Report (www.zerocarbonbritain.com) and participate in [the event](#) on 9th April.
 - Energy of Nations
 - The Burning Question (<http://www.burningquestion.info/>)
 - QPSW Briefings

2) Take (quiet) action

- Review AM saving accounts
- Raise 'carbon bubble' with MPs
- Reach out to local faiths and others

3) Consider taking Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA)

- Express the anger at inaction
- Support no fracking actions
- Organise training for NVDA

Resilience

Next steps:

- Several people seem likely to take some action with their local meetings



- Finding out what their local Council's emergency plan contains and talk to those groups involved
- Seeing what the gaps are and what Quakers could offer e.g. using skills in the community; developing resource bank; a space for spiritual/emotional comfort in both the shock period and longer term
- A few people interested in booking on the Woodbrooke course in September: <http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses.php?action=course&id=8797>

Population and 7 linked threats to global collapse

- How to persuade large enough numbers of people that these two issues - resource depletion and population increase need rapid, massive action
- 'wartime' emergency intensity of collaboration
- Need to be clear that population is us not them, because we are not talking about eugenics or cooperation, but more about women's rights.

Quaker network on social, psychological and spiritual aspects of climate change

Opening questions/themes

Learning to stand fearlessly in powerful powerlessness

Quaker network on social and psychological aspects of climate change?

How we find vital ingredients of transformation?

Interests/Concerns

Wants vs needs	Inner strength to stand fearlessly	Transformation in organisations & communities
Despair		
Addiction	Living in multiple worlds – having them meet	Head, heart & hands
Barriers to self change	What makes it work	Community
Denial	Keeping in touch with knowing it can be done	Remembering we're connected to everything
Fear		



Are you happy?	Listening to one another in Meetings	Learning & using our Q. processes & disciplines
Why is it so hard to talk about climate? How can I make it easier? What makes others tick?	Base ourselves in love & care => joy for making changes Creativity – art, theatre	Interview Friends in Mtg Work with Pam Lunn exercises
What makes me tick?		Active Hope group

What next?

E-mail list (see email for details)

Day/weekend gathering

Resources

- Who's doing what
- Tools, e.g. interview questions

Special Interest Meeting at YMG

Political and Corporate Campaigning / Corporate Responsibility

Roger Lankester:

With the technology now developed for deep-sea oil exploitation, major corporations are preparing to exploit the seabed for other mineral resources. There is no governance of the high seas (those beyond the 12 mile national boundaries). Without a strong international law of the sea, the damage to seabed and seawater ecosystems could be devastating. Is there a way we can help bring about the necessary governance?

A line of enquiry could be to see whether the work barrister Polly Higgins is doing to bring about a fifth international crime against peace – Ecocide – would or could cover the high seas in an appropriate way. <http://pollyhiggins.com/>
<http://eradicatingecocide.com/>

Steve Mandel:



At the moment businesses and corporations only have to account for a single bottom line – **money**. Corporate governance needs to be reformed so that they also have to account for their impact on their **community** (employees, suppliers, neighbours) and on the **environment**. This form of accounting is referred to as the **triple bottom line**.

One possible route is to see whether the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility, a partner organisation to QPSW, would work on this, if not doing so already. A law of ecocide (see above) would obviously impact on how businesses behave, but having to report on how they behave is also essential.

Employee share ownership may help to democratise many businesses.

Rob Horton wanted to explore the scope for extending the engagement of Local Meetings and of other groups of faith and positive change in lobbying local and national governments and corporations in a co-ordinated manner. The idea is that a small network of Friends and members of other groups would prepare briefings and draft letters which would be circulated to Local Meetings in the hope that they would do group visits to MPs / local councillors or send the letters in the name of the Meeting. Visits from groups made up of inter-church, inter-faith and inter-secular group representatives could be more influential and save time for busy politicians (compared to individual visits from several groups). Letters from several groups arriving at about the same time may be similarly more effective in conveying a unity of opinion by a greater cross-section of the community.

Local Meetings appointing, where possible, a Campaigning Correspondent/Clerk would relieve the Meeting clerk of the additional work involved in servicing this extension of our work at local level.

The Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) and Quaker Life Network Clusters (<http://www.quaker.org.uk/qln-clusters>) networking methodologies may inform how we work. Thank you to Sheila Mosley who is sending in the QARN information for circulation to all at the conference.

In the first instance it seems to make sense to seek to liaise with Jessica Metheringham (Parliamentary engagement), Sunniva Taylor (Sustainability & Peace), Suzanne Ismail (Economic and human security issues), Marigold Bentley (Interfaith and ecumenical relations) and Oliver Waterhouse (Quaker Life Network Development Officer), the BYM staff working in these areas, for advice on extending engagement, on avoiding duplication and on how we fit into the BYM structure. There is much going on already.

The network we are envisioning would seem to fit in as part of the larger network planned to be supported by the Economics, Sustainability & Peace Network Co-



ordinator, a new role currently being advertised by QPSW. For details of this post go to <http://www.quaker.org.uk/jobs>

Current topics of great concern are fracking and the extension of so-called free trade agreements (Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)) that give the right to corporations to sue governments if they take decisions that affect profits.

Group Participants:

Alan Allport, Oxford & Swindon AM

Jane Booth, MfS Alternate for North Scotland AM

Gerald Conyngham, Devon AM

Geoff Fielding, Central Yorkshire AM

Rob Horton, MfS Alternate for Staffordshire AM

Beryl Lankester, Mid-Essex AM

Roger Lankester, Mid-Essex AM

Steve Mandel, Mid-Thames AM, QPSW Economics, Sustainability & Peace sub-committee

Heather Mitchell, Luton & Leighton AM

Sheila Mosley, Leicester AM, Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network
(<http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/>)

Enid Pinch, Manchester & Warrington AM, QPSW Economics, Sustainability & Peace sub-committee

Mary Watts, Wensleydale & Swaledale AM

Names added afterwards:

Chayley Collis, Brighouse West Yorkshire AM

Sue Meredith Velado, Leicester AM

This report is my recollection of the group discussion plus notes of ideas and information emerging since. Thank you to James Deane of Bristol AM and Jim Kinnibrugh of Staffordshire AM for some of this information.

Please inform me of omissions, errors and misinterpretations. Some of my comments may be in ignorance of prior thinking elsewhere.



I may ask for assistance with the development of the concept and network from members of the list; similarly do not hold back with sending offers, thoughts and ideas.

Do add your name to the list by emailing me to be kept informed of progress or to be involved.

Please let me know at any juncture if you would like/need to come off the list.

Many of those on the list may want to play some part in the eventual network. Such discernment can wait until the way ahead is clear. Holding in the Light is just as important as being an 'activist' and of course the two are not necessarily mutually exclusive!

Whether more formal appointment procedures may eventually apply will emerge along with the place in the BYM structure of networks or groups developing as an outcome of the conference. A formal place in BYM may enhance the acceptance of the work amongst Friends.

Several Friends at the conference commented on the need for a much greater awareness not just amongst Quakers but also amongst other faith and activist groups and the population at large of the depth of the crises we face and of the joyful and positive responses we can all make. Encouraging reading and viewing of appropriate material can play a large part, but Friends travelling in the ministry could engage with groups to foster responses. That may be a role for another network.

I will liaise and consult as necessary and keep everyone on the list informed of progress.

Rob Horton. (wrobw.horton@yahoo.co.uk 01889 881345)

(Large-scale) ecosystem restoration and (small-scale) tree-planting

Daniel Wimberley and Tom Cruyfft

This group looked at restoring barren and denuded landscapes, of which there are millions of square kms on the earth's surface (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Globalndvi_tmo_200711_lrg.jpg) – on a scale which would have a major impact on the carbon content of the atmosphere – and at one specific tree-planting project in Kenya. Also at transporting human waste from population centers to supply nutrients for growth in barren areas.

1 The ecosystem return project aims to restore entire ecosystems, starting from totally degraded and barren landscapes. **Example:** In North-west China, an area of 35,000 km² has been turned from barren to productive and green in ten



years. The target is to restore 150 million hectares in the next 20 years.

The benefits are:

1. Natural Capital: fertile soils, carbon storage, water
2. Social Capital: jobs, income, cohesion and engagement
3. Return on Investment: financial performance
4. Inspirational Capital: beauty, innovation, purpose

“The mission of the Ecosystem Return Foundation (ERF) is to scale up the restoration of degraded ecosystems based on a business case, by matching companies, investors and local organizations in long lasting partnerships.

“ERF aims to restore 150 million hectares of degraded ecosystems in the next 20 years, in line with international agreements, such as the Bonn Challenge and UN conventions.

“Currently we are considering ecosystem restoration opportunities in Europe, South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania”

Contact: Daniel Wimberley, email: jerseycycletoours@hotmail.com

2 Operation Oasis aims to transport human waste from cities, e.g. London to desert areas, to supply nutrients for new planting in desert areas. The transport will be by oil tankers returning empty to oil-producing areas.

Contact: Suzanne Watts, email: suzanne@suzannewatts.co.uk

3 Kitali Project: small-scale project to plant trees in Kitali, Kenya.

Contact: Tom Cruyfft, email: cruyfft1@hotmail.com

Opportunities for Friends

1 and 3 offer investment opportunities for Friends at individual and at corporate level. 1 is I believe functioning now and can be donated to immediately. 3 is scheduled to start offering investment opportunities in the near future.

1 may be grateful for Friends' input with regard to networks and specific training and stakeholder dialogue needs. Daniel will investigate this and report to the relevant people and then we'll see.
