

## Midsummer

### My work in the second Quarter of 2023



*The Trundholm Sun Chariot. A horse on wheels towing a disk representing the sun.*

We are half way through 2023 and more than halfway through the Summer Holidays. This Summer Holiday have been quiet-ish (as quiet as it can get with a 10 and 7-year-old anyway).

We went to Ireland for a week and enjoyed seeing family and Dublin – we even got to the National Museum of Ireland. We looked at various treasures, but I struggled to find an artifact that had moved me deeply the first time I saw it, nearly 20 years ago.

I ended up discovering it online. The nearly 3500 year old [Trundholm Sun Chariot](#). It must have been on loan from the National Museum of Denmark when I saw it; although I can't find any evidence that it was ever in Ireland.

The only other option is that I saw it in a vivid fever dream brought on by meeting my (then) boyfriend's parents for the first time.

What moved me about this artifact, apart from its striking craftsmanship, beauty and almost modern appearance, was that it was discovered in multiple parts. It was dug up by a farmer in the 1900s. Nearly 100 years later further bits of the chariot were discovered by metal detectorists and reassembled into the whole.

I could try to make a tortured metaphor here to Quakers and Quakerism... Or my husband's family rediscovering their Quaker history, but it would be a stretch. The chariot is a beautiful and very old thing. When I saw it I remember feeling a level of spiritual awe that I sometimes get in places of worship.

I have several opportunities, from and outwith Quakers, for you to consider/pass on:

### Opportunities for Children and Young People, supported by Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM):

Please pass these on to other parents/carers or young people in your worshipping communities:

1. [Woodbrooke breakfast club](#), every Friday morning until end of August.
2. [Giant Online Childrens Meeting](#) Sunday 5pm on 6 August and 3 September.
3. [Quaker Youth group](#) Sunday 6.30pm on 6 August and 3 September for 11-18year olds
4. [Parent Worship](#) Monday 9pm 14 August and 11 September

### Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) Quaker Action Map:



*Map of Quaker Action in Britain, with coloured tags, showing what sort of work is being done where.*

My colleague Ailish Carroll-Brentnall, Faith in Action Coordinator, has created this map of action, activism and witness work that Quakers are taking across the UK (<http://bit.ly/QuakerMap>). The hope is that when the map is up to date, Friends will be able to see what meetings are working on different concerns.

You will see that there are not as many "pins" in Scotland as you would expect. This is because the map is a work in progress. Ailish can only record what Friends have told her – and she is currently trying to get the map up to date.

**If you feel that there is anything that should be added to the map please contact Ailish** by email ([faithinaction@quaker.org.uk](mailto:faithinaction@quaker.org.uk)) and I would love it if you could CC me in too!

Ailish also said that QPSW now have a 'Celebrate' section at the end of the [Faith in Action Newsletter](#) where we try to celebrate grassroots acts of witness. If there's anything good happening in your area which has managed to get local press coverage or could be good for the ['Our Stories'](#) section of the website, could you let her know?

## Prophetic Activist Scheme from Christian Aid

Do you know (or are you) a young adult (18-30) who is passionate about climate justice and wants to put their faith into action? If so, Christian Aid has got a great scheme, just for them.

### [Applications are now open for the Prophetic Activist Scheme](#)

The 6-month scheme (Oct – April) inspires, engages, and equips young adult Christians in campaigning and activism for climate justice within the Church.

It sounds like a great opportunity for young adults who identify as Christian. Do follow the link to find out more.

## Peace at the Heart



*Illustrated mockup of the Peace at the Heart exhibition*

Can your meeting host the Peace at the Heart exhibition? Peace at the Heart is an exhibition that has been organised by the Parliamentary Working Group alongside Peace Education Staff working for Britain Yearly Meeting. It will go to the Scottish Parliament 26-28 September. I am helping to plan its tour of Scotland after the exhibition at Holyrood.

It will feature multimedia examples of peacebuilding at the heart of schools, from young peacemakers mediating disputes to action on global issues. Peace artefacts will encourage curiosity and critical thinking. Accompanying workshop opportunities will give children and young people the chance to interact and add to the exhibition.

To find out more please go to [Peace at the Heart | Quakers in Scotland \(quakerscotland.org\)](https://www.quakerscotland.org/peace-at-the-heart) and please contact me if you have any questions.

## Current Opportunities that I could provide for Your Meeting:

My ongoing work for Quakers and Meetings includes:

- RESTORE
- Quaker networks for role holders, such as Elders and Pastoral Care Friends.
- Support for Quakers – whether those are as individuals, groups, local and area meetings, or General Meeting.
- Gifts Work
- Membership

If you would like to know more about this work, I have put information up on the Quakers in Scotland website – please check here [\[https://www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings\]](https://www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings)

## What else have I been doing from April to June?

### Children and Families Weekend



*A photograph of Adults and children involved in the Family Weekend at Pitlochry*

I was lucky enough to be involved in organising the Children and Families Weekend at Pitlochry this year. In fact, the CYP coordinators for Scotland are so skilled and experienced that I spent most of my time taking pictures and in the kitchen helping to make food.

We were thinking about the new exhibition that will be touring Scotland soon, Peace at the Heart. Children worked together to think about peace in their lives, relationships, and the world itself. My two children loved the opportunity and my shy 10-year-old is even thinking about going to Shindig next year, when they are old enough.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for Quaker children and families, and the plan is to run it again next year.

### Gifts Workshop



*Felt and fabric picture for a "Godly play" story told at the workshop*

Elders in Central Edinburgh have been organising a wonderful series of Spiritual Enrichment talks and workshops. As part of this series, I was invited to run a Gifts workshop.

The session lasted for an hour and a half and took place after a shared lunch. I was lucky to have the support of the elders, one of whom told a godly play story about Gifts at the start of the session.

Central Edinburgh Friends were wonderful, and there was attendance by a number of the Young Adult Central Edinburgh Worship Group.

This Gifts workshop can help meetings know one another better, build confidence and friendship across the meeting and support nominations and pastoral care work. It is something that I would be delighted to take to other meetings, please let me know if you are interested.

### Options for Scotland

The Options for Scotland 2 recommendations (available here <https://www.quakerscotland.org/general-meeting/options-scotland>) were discussed at all the area meetings in the Spring/Summer. I was lucky enough to get to North and East Scotland area meetings in person. I also attended General Meeting for Scotland in Central Edinburgh.

A huge amount of thoughtful discernment has gone into considering the recommendations of the Options for Scotland 2 Group. The minutes of General Meeting give an idea of where General Meeting Friends are with their thoughts (if you have not read them already, they are here -

[https://www.quakerscotland.org/sites/quakerscotland.org/files/minutes/GMS%20Minutes%202023%2006%2010%20Edinburgh\\_0.pdf](https://www.quakerscotland.org/sites/quakerscotland.org/files/minutes/GMS%20Minutes%202023%2006%2010%20Edinburgh_0.pdf)). It is also worth reading the minutes of your area meeting.

Options for Scotland 2 have been asked to continue some of their work in preparation for the Friends who will be appointed to serve on Options for Scotland 3 in September. I have been supporting them in their work, I have been very lucky to work alongside such wise, dedicated and hardworking Friends and I look forward to supporting the next group of Options for Scotland 3.

## Contacting me:



If you are interested in finding out more about me, I have a webpage and interview video on our Quakers in Scotland website. To visit the page, please go to <https://quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings>

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