

Quaker Concern for Animals



NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2005

To say that we love God and at the same time
exercise cruelty towards the least creature is a contradiction in itself

John Woolman (1720 – 1772)

At the moment, our human world is based on the suffering and destruction of millions of non-humans. To perceive this and to do something to change it in personal and public ways is to undergo a change of perception akin to a religious conversion. Nothing can be seen in quite the same way again, because once you have admitted the terror and pain of other species, you will, unless you resist conversion, be always aware of the endless permutations of suffering that support our society.

Arthur Conan Doyle.
(1859 – 1930)

“To one whose mind is free, there is something even more intolerable in the suffering of animals than in the sufferings of humans. For with the latter, it is at least admitted that suffering is evil and that the person who causes it is a criminal. But thousands of animals are uselessly butchered every day, without a shadow of remorse. If any person were to refer to it, they would be thought ridiculous...”

Romain Rolland
(from his 1915 Nobel Prizewinning novel, *Jean-Christophe*)

REPORT

The Annual General Meeting was held at Friends' House, on Saturday, May 7th. 2005 and twenty-six members attended. The day began with worship, followed by business, including the Treasurer's Report, details of which will appear in Spring 2006. Among many matters discussed was the agreement of Nitin Mehta, founder of The Young Indian Vegetarians, to be a patron of QCA. We look forward to a closer association with his group, which is Jain - inspired.

Joan Court, the eminent animal rights campaigner from Cambridge and a member of our committee, gave the first talk. This was entitled **The Dying Seas** – an account of her voyage to Brazil on the Sea Shepherd Marine Conservation Society vessel *Farley Mowat*, which was on a tour of duty monitoring the activities of illegal fishermen and the rapidly dwindling numbers of sea creatures, such as whales, dolphins and turtles, affected by this. Lines of hooks and drift nets, often 40 miles long, sweep the oceans, which, together with vast amounts of rubbish, including plastic bags, and toxic waste, are annihilating life in the southern seas. Her description of life on board an old ship was vivid and inspiring, though Friends were disturbed at the apparent impunity of illegal fishing in the South Atlantic; the dangerous reactions of local fishermen to Sea Shepherd monitoring were described by two of Joan's young crewmates. It is important to know that Sea Shepherd is an entirely peaceful group and the crew never reacts to aggression in like manner. They are also involved in informing and educating local children on responsible care for the environment.

Our main speaker was the **Dharmavidya, of the Amida Trust** in Narborough, Leicestershire. He spoke on the Buddhist view of animals and their rights. In essence, Buddhists enjoin love and compassion to all species, though, not surprisingly, this is a counsel of perfection for most of us human animals. Society revolves around a strongly established mythology which holds that humans are not *animals*, that animals are merely *goods* and therefore it does not matter what we do to them. This arrogant structure of thought is harmful to ourselves – to our souls and psyches – and extremely damaging to the world around us. Joan's description of what we have allowed to happen to the oceans had clearly exemplified this. Not only is it important to try to right individual wrongs, but it is vital to attempt to change society's whole attitude to these. Trying to make people ashamed of hunting foxes would have been more effective than imposing a ban. This was a thoughtful and inspiring address, in which the Dharmavidya stressed that compassion for other species and care for the environment should be part of any and every faith and said that the way we take action is of particular importance in Buddhist thinking. The Minute Secretary summed this up in her vote of thanks by making the point that the ends do not justify the means – a thought which those involved in vivisection might well take to heart.

Sonia Waddell.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Quaker Concern for Animals would like to announce the giving of our Lifetime Award to **Molly Stacey**, of Great Yarmouth Meeting, in honour of her work in defence of our fellow species.

From her childhood, she has had a deep concern for the natural world. Marriage and children took up a lot of years and there was always a stray cat the family just had to feed; before they knew it, they were sharing their lives with eight cats.

In the mid seventies, Molly protested in Trafalgar Square against the hunting of whales and seals and became a member of Friends of the Earth. One of the fur fabric seals she made travelled as a mascot on the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior*.

Molly is a creative and generous person and found a good cause to donate her work to when, in the late 80s, she discovered Hopton Wildlife Centre, for which she and her husband Ray raised money.

Over the years, she has written countless letters to members of parliament and others on the subject of the mistreatment of animals and it was the hunting of wild mammals which was a frequent concern. She is so happy that, at long last, the Hunt Ban has succeeded.

A member of Great Yarmouth Meeting since 1990, Molly has been very proud to carry - and indeed make - the banner of Quaker Concern for Animals. Latterly, as our Newsletter Editor, she was an ex officio committee member.

Molly has always been a very modest person and though she has worked tirelessly for animals all her life, she never believes that it is enough. She is currently suffering from a serious illness and lost Ray recently. It is entirely characteristic of Molly's strong nature that she should not allow these setbacks to affect her work. A project of the last few years has been the laying of a white poppy among the red on her local war memorial on Remembrance Day. This pays Quaker tribute to both human and non-human victims of war and Molly is very happy that poppy is still in place, a tradition which will continue, whether Molly observes it, or other Friends in her Meeting.

Quaker Concern for Animals is proud to give recognition to Molly Stacey for her exemplary work for all God's creatures. We know that Molly would like us to finish in this way:

“Her Master's Work Well Done”.

CAMPAIGNING

At 1pm on Saturday 23rd April 2005, our committee member, **Joan Court**, completed her 72-hour hunger strike in support of the **SPEAK** campaign and the fight to stop the new Oxford animal lab. With much public and press attention, she used this opportunity to inform the people of Oxford and elsewhere about the real nature of animal abuse inside the university's labs.

Joan gave interviews to the media as the final countdown to 1pm was called out and a large

pan of vegan stew was delivered by one of the local campaigners, who throughout the event provided 24-hour support for Joan and made sure that she was safe at all times, sleeping in the back of a van at night.

Susthama Kim of the **Amida Trust** accompanied Joan on her hunger strike until Friday evening, before leaving for London for a 'Free Tibet' demonstration and was replaced by Dharmavidya of the Amida Trust.

The 72 hours saw another very important phase in the campaign against the university and its plans to try to complete the lab on South Parks Rd. Thousands of people saw the banners and placards that acted as Joan's backdrop, hundreds of people signed the petition to stop the animal lab and many people who had previously supported the idea of the new lab changed their minds once they learnt the truth.

We congratulate Joan on a remarkable achievement – she also raised £1,200 for SPEAK – and for being such an inspiration to us all. Oxford University has demonstrated that they will only tolerate free speech when they are not the subject of it. They banned a debate inside one of their colleges, due to be addressed by a spokesperson from SPEAK, which was organised by an independent student union debating society. The question of the new Oxford animal lab is one which this university is trying hard to stifle. It has included bullying and coercion against any of its members and employees who have dared to align themselves with the university's opponents and workers employed by the university even attacked 70-year-old animal rights protestors.

QCA sent our support to Joan and her helpers in their peaceful campaign against the building of this proposed lab .

In July, to coincide with a programme which uncovered abattoir practices, *Slaughterhouse – The Task of Blood*, Joan and Animal Rights Cambridge organised a protest at their local pig abattoir. Pigs are particularly badly treated, confined all their lives in factory farms, and, as slaughterhouse workers are usually on piece-work rates, many animals are not properly stunned and go to their death only paralysed. As Joan points out, the general public believes it is acceptable to eat meat as long as animals are humanely destroyed, but there is no such thing as “humanely killed”.

BOURNEMOUTH MEETING'S QCA TESTIMONY.

This concern began with raising money by selling plants at our Meeting House. It was so successful that we decided to extend our activities by holding a five minute prayer meeting every other Sunday after the morning tea break.

It was then found that most of us had our own particular concerns, one of which was Janet's New Forest Animal Care, described later in the Newsletter. Supporting this seemed to be a very positive move – we could actually do something, not just protest, so we organised a gift box, in which F/friends could place cat food, hen seed, carrots and the like - even bags are hay are donated! The box is placed in the social room every Sunday, then the contributions are taken to Janet's sanctuary.

Our group began to get a bit “ragged” after this. Time was always limited, there was so much to discuss and more and more animal concerns were brought forward. Something had to be done and boundaries set. We decided to retain our agenda, in which every our group is prayer-centred and a limited number of proposals discussed. A bottle collection for loose change for an elephant reserve in Taiwan and posters alerting the public to the fact that their litter left on the beach was a danger to dolphins was decided upon. The local authorities have kindly agreed to take fourteen posters to be placed in their beach offices and outside the Pier Approach Theatre.

A very pleasant afternoon in July was spent at Janet’s New Forest Animal Care. About seven of us were able to go. It was wonderful to see her three sheep, two ponies, ex-battery hens, rabbit, cats and guinea pig enjoying a life of freedom and happiness after one of distress.

We raised £50 this year for QCA, from the sale of plants and a few soft toys.

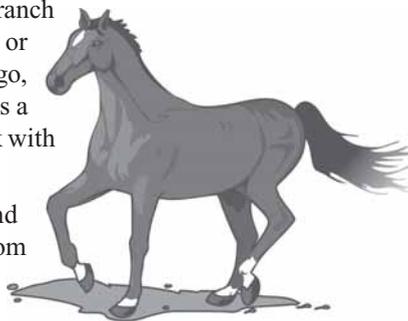
We still have a few ideas waiting to be explored, which will be in the melting pot at our August meeting. Who knows where we will be led next!

Deirdre Hill. 2nd August 2005

NEW FOREST ANIMAL CARE – Deirdre Hill.

This is the local charity that Bournemouth Meeting branch of QCA has adopted. Janet started to take in poorly or unwanted animals rather by accident. Several years ago, she helped friends out at animal refuges. If there was a particularly sick or old animal, she would take it back with her and administer extra tender loving care.

The other animals came later. The ponies, Diamond and her foal Amber are Dartmoor ponies and came from Somerset when a friend told her of the round-up and market for “throw away ponies”, each being sold for 25p. Diamond was in particularly bad shape and had been severely branded.



Later on, Sheila High came across rejected sheep. She and Janet persuaded the farmer to let them have a ewe and her lamb. A tup, on seeing these two were on to a good thing, decided to make an impression and was himself adopted too.

Nine battery hens have been rescued for special treatment and now live with Janet. When first seen, they really looked as if they had been battered. These are now thriving in Janet’s garden. There are also several cats, in various stages of recovery, and a dog. The goats which were nursed back to health have been rehomed.

In the social room at Bournemouth Meeting is an information board illustrating different animals in various conditions.

This poem by **Edward A. Guest** (1881 – 1959) is contributed by **Alan Spinks**, a Friend who was prompted by Deirdre’s concern for animals.

OBLIGATION

They cannot ask for kindness
Or for mercy plead,
Yet cruel is our blindness
Which does not see their need.
World-over, town or city,
God trusts us with this task;
To give our love and pity
To those who cannot ask.

THIS AND THAT FROM NORFOLK – Molly Stacey

To begin with an issue of particular importance, as it affects so many millions of animals, in July and August, the programme Dispatches on Channel 4, screened some undercover footage taken by Hillside Animal Sanctuary at East Farm, near Norwich. They are the local branch of Grampian Foods and the public can now be under no illusions about how these poor birds exist. We also had undercover footage, this time by VIVA!, of the similar conditions in which ducks are kept, this time at Kerry Farms. Thank goodness the media is waking up to these appalling facts, which we all knew years ago. Remember that the four main supermarkets all buy their poultry from these places, even the Co-op, even with their ethical policy. The RSPCA Freedom Foods label was given to one of these places.

There has been quite a lot of action lately regarding the keeping of monkeys as “pets” and my own animal-loving MP, Tony Wright, is one of those involved. He came up against some unkind backbiting from a columnist in the Eastern Daily Press, but I wrote to the paper and to the columnist, to put her right. She had accused our MP of not giving priority to the major issues of the day. Tony is a man who will leave no stone unturned to do what he can for his constituents, whether the issue is large or small.

On the subject of the press, I have had letters printed on the subject of local residents who object to “being cooed at” by pigeons and doves and support their destruction, on the double standards of those who say they champion wildlife yet feel happy to see “plentiful species” shot and slugs annihilated, since they have the temerity to eat garden plants – one correspondent said “None of these creatures plays fair”! As I pointed out in another letter, our QCA members have no problems with the philosophy of “live and let live”.

Seagulls are being culled in Great Yarmouth, again because they cause annoyance to visitors with their cries. The wife of our MP is involved in protests against this.

In early August, we heard of the cloning of an Afghan puppy by South Korean scientists. I cannot come to terms with cloning – either of animals or people – I find it obnoxious in every way. Where is the soul in a cloned copy-cat? God is the one great Scientist and that is all I need!

To finish, two small pieces of positive news. Polish farmers are using cruel mouthpieces on their working horse. The organisation Animals' Angels, in conjunction with Snetterton-based International League for the Protection of Horses, is sending 450 replacement bits. Farmers were previously using bicycle chains, wire and serrated metal on their horses; they are now being instructed in the correct use of the simple steel bit.

A mystery benefactor has donated a lifeline in the shape of a beach buggy to rescue sick seals on Great Yarmouth's coastline. Daily patrols will pick up the stranded animals quickly, ready for transport to Winterton Seal Hospital. Several have already been rescued, suffering from mouth ulcers caused by pollution.

Finally – I should like to say how touched and happy I was to receive QCA's Lifetime Award for my work. Thank you very much!

ANN JOHNSON, A FRIENDLY ARTIST.

Ann has kindly allowed QCA to use some of her work for our cards, available from the Clerk and Minute Clerk. This is what she writes about her work:

"I paint in a free and expressive way, concentrating on colour and space and addressing a variety of subject matter, including flowers, still life, the South Downs and Newhaven harbour.

I enjoy painting animals - particularly sheep, which have lovely paintable shapes - and my two cat companions.

My work has featured in a number of London exhibitions including the Society of Women Artists and the Chelsea Art Society and Sussex events, such as the Brighton Festival and Lewes Art Wave.

For the past three years, I have contributed a cat painting to the Compassion in World Farming Celebrity Fundraising Dinner. Last year's effort raised over £900 and, this year, I am donating two paintings - one cat and one sheep."

DEBATE – VEGETARIANS

What are your feelings about vegetarianism? And especially what are your feelings towards vegetarians? An article that appeared in the Guardian on June 13th. was entitled "*Why I hate vegetarians*"⁽¹⁾. Written by Julie Bindel, it describes a visit to a meat-free restaurant where she found both customers and staff to be "smug and self satisfied". She, I suspect, felt threatened by what she saw. Though not a vegetarian herself, she was nevertheless broadly sympathetic to the cause.

Now I wrote an article for GreenSpirit magazine and called it "*Christianity without meat*"⁽²⁾. With a blander title than Julie Bindel's, I wrote it to outline and explain my own change from being an ardent carnivore to becoming a convinced vegetarian. My own family, who are not vegetarians but who tolerate me, would be the first to object if I were to be smug and self satisfied about it. And it would actually be an inconsistency if I showed such compassion to animals but was intolerant towards humans. I like the Hindu practice of *ahimsa*, of respect

for all living creatures, which means I will seek to listen to and try to understand those who think differently.

Recent studies have shown that humans were originally vegetarians. We became carnivores when climatic changes rendered life more difficult to sustain on a diet of roots and vegetables.

In his *Essays on Paleoanthropology* in the 1990's James Q Jacobs writes:

“the available evidence indicates that the emergent *Homo* species made a significant new adaptation to the environment in East Africa during the Middle Pliocene cooling. Unlike their robust Australopithecine cousins, they scavenged meat and used stone tools to do so. Scavenging and hunting capacitated survival in ecologies without the ancestral plants of the African tropics. *H. habilis* was certainly a scavenger, and possibly a hunter. Eating meat enabled a significant dispersal in more northerly latitudes and into new ecological niches. In all probability, the earliest *Homo* to disperse from Africa was a hunter as well as a scavenger. This view provides the dispersing early *Homo* with a capability to explain its rapid diaspora and regional successes.

Whoever that first individual hominid that taught his fellows to eat meat was, she/he certainly altered the course of history. Without that behavioral innovation, however repulsive it may have seemed to those ancient vegetarians, and without its cultural transmission, the species *Homo sapiens* may never have come into existence.”⁽³⁾

Together with the need to hunt for food, came a change in our temperament. We became aggressive predators, eager to kill; the survival of our species justified the taking of the lives of the members of another.

At the heart of carnivorism is the ancient notion of sacrifice. Abraham's son Isaac, the intended human sacrificial offering, was replaced by a ram. The giving of blood sacrifices appeared to be pleasing to God.

Non human animals thus conveniently fulfilled two purposes: they were a useful way of keeping the deity happy and were also available to eat.

Both religion and the meal table became tainted with blood.

However, the Old Testament prophets began to turn away from it. Isaiah says:

“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts: and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.” Isaiah 1.11

(QCA Note: we find it telling that reports of experiments involving animals speak of individual animals being “sacrificed”, instead of “destroyed”. Is this concept still in the human psyche?)

Jesus himself, in a memorable scene from the Gospels, even cast the animals out of the Temple precincts.

His new covenant was decidedly non-bloody. Gone is circumcision and in comes baptism; not blood, but water, is to be the rite of initiation.



Gone is the sacrifice of animals and in comes holy communion; not blood, but the offering of bread and wine, is to be the new rite of reconciliation.

Vegetarian rituals!

But that is to be expected if Jesus, as is thought, was heavily influenced by, if not a member of the Essenic sect (of Dead Sea Scrolls fame).

Not only were they pacifists, but they were vegetarians. They refused to take part in the Temple sacrifices also.

For them, animals were not a means of reconciliation with God. Imitation was their route to reconciliation and ultimate deification. Hence their ascetic, eremitic, lifestyle.

The Gospel writers have Jesus see himself as the fulfilment of the Old Testament sacrifices. But that is one among several theories of the atonement that Jesus used. His own words seem to point most frequently, though, to his concept of himself as someone to imitate. He invited his disciples to follow him and, in following him, to find life in all its fullness.

It is my contention that much has been lost and much blood has been shed because the Church did not espouse the vegetarian option that Jesus seems to have been offering.

It has not resulted in the new race of gentle, peace-loving, inclusive, unifiers that Jesus seems to have wanted. Our killing of animals for food must be seen as linked not only to the mass sacrifice of innocent animals, but also to the utterly shameful mass slaughter of humans in the last 2000 years of Christian wars. I applaud the Quaker approach as expressed on the front page of your website:

“Quaker Concern for Animals works for the protection of animals and the promotion of their rights, by characteristic Quaker means. We take a religious yet practical approach and are committed to the defence of our fellow species,”

People are there put in their rightful place, as the defenders of all creation and not its exploiters.

Food for thought there, I hope. Please contact me (james@harthome.org) if you wish to follow up any of these issues.

- (1) Why I hate Vegetarians, Julie Bindel, Guardian Newspaper Monday 13 June 2005
- (2) Christianity without Meat, GreenSpirit 2003
- (3) Reflections on the Origins of Scavenging and Hunting in Early Hominids.

The Rev. James Hart began his working life as a teacher of foreign languages in Yorkshire, He studied Theology at London University, trained for the Church of England Ministry, was a Curate in Yorkshire, a Parish Priest in Argentina, Chaplain of Bishop's Stortford College and finally Chaplain of Felsted School and Chaplaincy Consultant for Further and Higher Education in the Diocese of Chelmsford.

This article is an edited version of the essay James wrote entitled *Christianity without Meat*, now the second chapter of his book in progress *Rainbow Christianity*.



HIPPO - HELP INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTEIN ORGANISATION

Friends will probably have been asked, perhaps in their own Meetings, to donate to Send-an-Animal schemes, aimed at helping the poor in developing nations. These projects have a laudable aim and may seem useful, but there is another side to the question.

Neville Fowler of HIPPO writes:

At HIPPO we believe that compassion is indivisible. We do not have to choose the lesser of two evils. Helping the poor and hungry people of the world to get enough to eat does not have to cause suffering to animals. Eating animal products is a major cause of the problem of world food shortage and not even a part of the solution.

One man's meat is another man's starvation... Farm animals waste food. 90% of what they consume is used to maintain and replace their body cells and to produce energy, warmth, skin, hair, horn, bone, and methane. Only 10% on average is recoverable as meat or milk.

In global terms water is an even more scarce resource than land. It takes 2,000 litres of water to produce a kilo of soya beans (40% protein) compared with 100,000 litres for a kilo of beef (20% protein) – 100 times more for beef protein compared with soy protein! And over 90% of the world's soya is wasted by being fed to animals. Don't export problems to the poor and call it charity! It is a mistake to suppose that we do the poor a service by sending them more cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry, or any other type of 'livestock'. Far from helping, it simply adds to the number of mouths to be fed. To encourage impoverished nations to copy our dependence on livestock is crass stupidity. Even when done on a small scale, it paves the way for the imperialism of the burger culture that, through cattle ranching, ends up destroying forests, causing droughts and desertification, floods and erosion, starvation and death.

Send them health and sufficiency. It is a well-established fact that a balanced meat-free diet is fully adequate for human nutrition and is also healthier. Scientific studies comparing vegetarians with meat eaters have shown conclusively that, on average, vegetarians have a significantly lower incidence of heart disease and cancer and that vegetarians usually live longer. HIPPO is committed to raising awareness of the benefits of an exclusively plant based diet for humans. Our aim is to help people to enjoy healthier lives and to avoid wasting the resources of our planet by the breeding and rearing of animals for food. We seek to harness the generosity and goodwill of vegetarians and sympathisers in the west to assist our fellow men and women in poor countries to obtain and wherever possible to produce for themselves wholesome and nutritious plant foods for direct human consumption. In Kenya we are providing food for two vegetarian orphanages, and for a community project (African Food Bank); we have helped to develop the sustainable, organic, non-GM, production of crops, especially pulses, in Kenya, Malawi and Ethiopia, and have assisted a soya food processing plant in Uganda; we support a vegetarian street feeding programme

in Lagos, Nigeria; and we send high protein foods to orphanages in Romania and Croatia. We invite you to join us. Even if you are not yet vegetarian yourself, you must surely see that it makes sense to help the world in this way and, if you become vegetarian, you will save money on your own food and have a greater surplus with which to help us to help others.

Together we can make a difference!

Neville Fowler. HIPPO can be contacted at The Old Vicarage, Llangynog, Carmarthen SA33 5BS. Tel: 01267 – 241547. Email: hippocharity@aol.com

Alan Spinks, of Bournemouth Meeting, wrote to us in very similar vein, and this is an extract from his article:

Animals yield nothing – not even fertiliser – that cannot be had directly and more economically from plants. They compete with human animals for vital resources of land, water, energy and plant foods. They emit methane gas, which is a much more powerful greenhouse gas than CO₂ and although amounts of this in the atmosphere are much less at present, it is building up much more rapidly and could overtake CO₂. If animal farming were phased out, large areas would be released for reforestation. Trees of the right species can yield maximum food per acre, meet most other needs and check global warming, keeping a balance of CO₂ and oxygen in the atmosphere, maintaining watercycles and checking soil erosion.

CREATIVE WRITING

EX OVO OMNIA

A recreative spirit
Ripples across the dank
Face of a city dock
Where a tethered raft
Upholds a nest congealed
From whatever's cast aside
And floats – fag packets,
Wrappers, drifting straws –
On which a goose
With dignity now turns
Her sacred eggs.



*By Bob Ward of Aylsham Meeting (Norfolk)
Bob is an active member of his local group of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.*

HEARTLESS

When winter folds and spring begins,
it brings the newborn siblings in,
to worlds unsure, if truth were known,
what happens when they're fully grown?

The youthful years are fun to see,
for those in fields with liberty;
unfettered, they may run and play,
or graze the land and munch on hay.

The day will come, once fully grown,
When driven to their final home,
The abattoir must be their fate.
No soul should enter this estate.

The panic, fear, the last faint cry –
This is no way for friends to die.

Terry Brooks, Bideford, Devon.

PARADISE OF FREEDOM

Ballet of bear cubs
On burning cups of dreams,
Ballet of calves, lowing in delight and
Ballet of lambs, bleating in their turn,
Chicks cheeping, dancing free
Ducks, which languished once on the ponds of melancholy,
Will swim on lakes of happiness.
Clouds dance to the tune of wind-winged instruments,
They brush your curtains
Coolly skimming
The panes
Of our open hearts.

*By Maria Luisa Arenzana. Trans. Marian, with acknowledgment to Animanaturalis
(www.animanaturalis.com)*

Animanaturalis is an animal rights group represented in Argentina, Chile, Colombia,
Peru, Uruguay, Spain and the United States.

NEWS

The **CORDON VERT** school of **The Vegetarian Society** took their Professional Chef's Course "Catering for Vegetarians" to Parliament in April 2005.

Three tutors trained ten House of Commons chefs, not only in the art of catering imaginatively for vegetarians, but also in what vegetarians actually do and don't eat. Members will no doubt consider this is a very useful exercise, as there is much confusion in the wider world about what is and is not a sentient being.

How many of us have been offered fish in restaurants, under the impression that this is acceptable?

So now your MPs can eat cruelty-free, knowing that their chefs have been trained by excellent staff.

The Vegetarian Society is offering this facility to local councils, schools and other government bodies. Contact lyn@vegso.org if you would like more details.



We are grateful to UTE Langenkamp for the use of this painting - www.tierhilfe-aurora.de

JUNIOR

“Thanksgiving dinner’s sad and thankless
Christmas dinner’s dark and blue
When you stop and try to see it
From the turkey’s point of view.
Sunday dinner isn’t sunny
Easter feasts are just bad luck
When you see it from the viewpoint
Of a chicken or a duck.
Oh how I once loved tuna salad
Pork and lobsters, lamb chops too
Till I stopped and looked at dinner
From the dinner’s point of view.”

*From Where The Sidewalk Ends
by Shel Silverstein.*

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

Grandfather Great Spirit,
All over the world,
The faces of living things are alike.
With tenderness, they have come up out of the ground.
Look upon your children that they may face the winds
And walk the good road to the day of quiet.

Grandfather Great Spirit,
Fill us with the Light.
Give us the strength to understand and the eyes to see.
Teach us to walk the soft earth as relatives
To all that live.

~Sioux Prayer

All species and the Earth itself have interdependent roles within Creation. Humankind is not the species to whom all others are subservient, but one among many. All parts, all issues, are inextricably intertwined. Indeed, the web of creation could be described as of three-ply thread: wherever we touch it we affect justice and peace and the health of all everywhere. So all our testimonies, all our Quaker work, all our Quaker lives are part of one process, of striving towards a flourishing, just and peaceful Creation - the Kingdom of God.

Quaker Faith & Practice 25.04 Audrey Urry, 1994.



The Revelation – by Molly Stacey

Walking down my garden recently with my daughter, I pointed out that my nasturtium leaves had large holes, as though eaten by something.

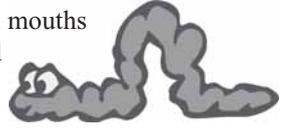
Amanda turned the leaf over and I found I was looking straight into one of the Lord's workshops!

On the underside of the leaf, displayed in meticulous orderliness, was a clutch of miniscule eggs, as bright a yellow as I had ever seen and so perfect with beauty that I looked in awe, none even as large as a pinhead.

Nearby, on the same leaf, lay a tiny huddle of hatched caterpillars, just less than ¼ inch long, these too in perfect orderliness, one pressed close to the next, forming a precise cluster.

The leaf had been eaten and the beauty of the plant destroyed, but Oh! the better beauty was the awakening to this amazingly close encounter I had been given of the quiet creation of the Cabbage White in my wildlife garden.

I felt a great warm smile as I thought of those little munching mouths busy on my plants – what does it matter to see eaten hostas, chewed up leaves, wonderful molehills on immaculate lawns, when we have the privilege of sharing the earth with the “Little People”?



REVIEW

Are Animals Our Neighbors? is the title of an excellent article written by **Gracia Fay Ellwood**, an American Friend. She is the founder of this web site:

www.vegetarianfriends.net is the publisher of the monthly journal The Peaceable Table. We are dedicated to providing inspiration and support for Quakers and other people of faith in the practice of love for animals and a vegetarian diet. This journal is a project of the Animal Kinship Committee of Orange Grove Friends Meeting.

Gracia Fay begins:

Imagine that you didn't know what your species was, says philosopher Mark Rowlands: would you be in favor of some species being killed and eaten by others?...

This interesting article thoroughly examines the thinking and preconceptions underlying our exploitation of other species, including the “quasi-innocence” Gracia describes here:

It is worthwhile to consider the human exploitation of animals as a cultural evil. We really do not have an appropriate word for the moral status of people who unreflectingly profit from a cultural evil. They exist in a misty realm of neither innocence nor guilt, caught by strands of ignorance, half-truths, and falsehoods that they cannot disentangle. For lack of a better term I have called their status “quasi-innocence.” There are various degrees of quasi-innocence, ranging from that of the infant given a bottle of cow's milk, through the impoverished immigrant desperate to support his family who takes the dangerous job on the killing floor, to affluent sport hunters who kill for fun.

The whole article can be viewed on www.friendsjournal.org and if any member would like a printed copy, please contact Marian.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Our correspondent **Olga Parkes**, of ASWA, active animal campaigner and founder of the **Hunter River Animal Watch, Australia**, recently had the opportunity to address the diocesan Social Responsibilities Committee in light of the motion that was unanimously accepted at their last Synod.

SYNOD MOTION

This Synod, recognising that all Christians have been given the stewardship of God's creation including the animal kingdom, expresses its concern at unnecessary suffering inflicted on animals by human beings.

This Synod calls upon the Diocese to seek ways to challenge the Australian community about the care and welfare of animals.

It further calls upon the Parishes to take the opportunity provided by St Francis-tide (4th October) to focus on the Christian responsibility to God's animal kingdom and requests the Diocesan Social Responsibilities Committee to consider ways in which the Church might be assisted to a better understanding of its role and responsibilities in the care of animals.

Moved by

The Very Rev'd Graeme Lawrence
Dean of Newcastle.

Seconded by

The Rev'd Canon Paul Robertson.

Spiritual People Embracing Animals with Kindness

ABOUT THE SPEAK PROJECT – not to be confused with the British campaigning group SPEAK!

The following document was started in June 2005 as an **Earth Harmony** project.

It is intended to promote spiritual unity and create a kinder world for all creatures.

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that our spiritual convictions require us to regard all animals with kindness and compassion. With one voice, we speak out for our fellow creatures, considering it our spiritual duty to practise right relationship with them and to protect them from harm.

- The SPEAK project is based in **Australia** and has the blessing of the Australian branch of the International Network for Religion and Animals.
- The SPEAK project acknowledges that each human travels on his or her own spiritual pathway, and thus respects the belief systems of all people.
- The SPEAK project embraces associations with all spiritual groups and religious denominations who wish to sign the official declaration.
- It is expected that each group who joins the SPEAK list is working in some way to make positive changes in the world which will somehow benefit the Earth's creatures.

- It is hoped that the SPEAK project will encourage spiritual harmony on Earth by bringing together groups of spiritually motivated people who share a common concern for the well-being of all creatures.
- It is intended that the SPEAK list will exist on the Internet as a public document, to educate others that treating animals with kindness and compassion is an important step towards achieving peace on Earth.

Among the organisations signed up to SPEAK are:

From **Australia**, International Network for Religion and Animals, Adelaide, Christians for Animals Network and the Vegetarian Network, Victoria.

From the **USA**, eleven groups, amongst whom are:

The Christian Vegetarian Association, the Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the Mary T & Frank L Hoffman Family Foundation, Catholic Concern for Animals and Veggie Dharma, Michigan.

From **Britain**, Quaker Concern for Animals, Jain Spirit Ltd. and the Christian Vegetarian Association.

Live Exports in Australia



We are grateful to UTE Langenkamp for the use of this painting - www.tierhilfe-aurora.de

As members know, we have been taking a close interest in this subject, for several reasons: the numbers of animals exported from Australia to the Middle East is so incredibly high – each multiple-tiered container ship may transport 80,000 animals in deplorable conditions; the welfare regulations in which Australian officials take unjustified pride are completely inoperable once the animals have left their control; and the Australian campaigners, amongst whom we must single out for particular mention Suzanne Cass and Sandra John in Tasmania, are tireless and inspiring in their defence of these poor creatures.

AACT – Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania – www.aact.org.au , of which Suzanne is Live Exports Campaigner - has presented to the public the atrocities that occur as a matter of routine in the live export trade. The most recent ship (at the time of her writing) to visit Tasmania, the *Al Shuwaikh*, has an appalling record of mortalities, having lost 8,100 sheep in two successive voyages and another 1,100 on the voyage immediately following in 2002. It also has a record of detention in Australia for major safety defects – and it is by no means the worst of the ships.

The **Tasmanian Greens** write: “we have long opposed the live export trade for a variety of reasons and we are now seeing a huge groundswell of opposition from the both the wider community and those involved in the industry to the trade...”

We are stewards of the creatures of the earth and we have a custodial duty to treat them with respect and dignity. There is no place for the brutal live export trade in the 21st century and certainly no place for it in Tasmania, as we attempt to convince the world of our Clean, Green and Clever brand status.”

On the same subject, **Olga Parkes** (ASWA Australia), sent this:

In July this year, **Richard Llewellyn, chairman of The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals**, wrote the following letter to the High Commissioner for Australia:

I write to you on behalf of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals as its Chairman. We are pleased and proud to be able to say that we have members in Australia as well as in the United Kingdom and America.

Fifty years ago, it was standard practice in Australia to move sheep in two-tiered trailers in numbers of up to 1000 at the time. Journeys could take as much as four days and three nights, covering hundreds of miles. Regardless of weather conditions, with temperatures commonly reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the animals were never normally let off the trucks for rest and water and many died.

Such horrors, thank God, are no longer possible. Your country has legislated to prevent it. Can you not take similar steps to prevent the even greater horrors of the export trade in live sheep by sea to the Middle East?

We know there are cultural factors involved which have commercial consequences, but might not negotiations at Government level find some way round these? In any case, are there not some times when ethics must prevail over profits? Australians must have thought so in the matter of internal transport.

People who care about Australia and, rivalry over the Ashes notwithstanding, that includes most Pommies — for one thing, so many of us have relatives who are Australians — would rejoice to see an end to a practice that brings Australia into disrepute, and gives such an unfair impression of its people.

A SLIGHT CHANGE OF EMPHASIS

It is obvious that the way we use and understand words is crucial. The term “pet” is one such example. There are many of us trying to avoid this word, as, though it is intended to be affectionate, we judge it to be demeaning to an animal’s dignity. Now let’s consider the word “animal”. Mike Purton, in his Question of Kinship paper, printed in our previous newsletter, stresses the importance of using that word to include humans too. In this way, our kinship with other species is recognised and it is that much more difficult to defend discriminating against other species, on the grounds that they are “only animals”.

This concept is spreading far and wide. A look at internet sites, for instance, will constantly prove that many are thinking on the same lines. The Hispanic association **Animanaturalis** is one such. They have branches in Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, the United States and Spain. The following is an extract from their May 2005 on-line issue. It is entitled simply:

We are all animals.

There are those who are convinced that animals and the natural world exist simply for the use of the human race. These are people who exploit certain animals as cute and amusing “pets” for a time and then get rid of them quickly, at the slightest difficulty. There are

people who engage in eliminating animals for reasons of “health and hygiene”, for sport, pleasure, entertainment - or cause them harm through negligence or cruelty. There are people who consider that the abuse of animals is a result of industrialization and, in fact, inherent in the development of capitalism, leaving the defence of their rights for a future utopian society, when the ideals of a more just and fair society will have real force.

Let’s suppose that a race “superior” to ours conquered us and used us to perform scientific experiments on our children, removing the pancreas or the thyroid gland, or injecting them with cancerous cells, to see what would result; or imagine that they ate us.

What would we say? Who would listen to our screams and moans? Who would pay attention to the horror that our species would suffer? Yet this is exactly what happens to the majority of animals on our planet. Millions of defenceless animals suffer and die every week in hospitals, test laboratories and slaughterhouses, here and all over the world.

Many different species of animal are hunted, poisoned, infected with cancer and subjected to experimental surgery; others are brutalised, mutilated and burned, to be finally served up on our tables.

At the dawn of the 21st. century, innocent and vulnerable animals are enslaved, caged and tormented to death.

Does this not show that our much-vaunted human progress has nothing to do with the more noble values that the human spirit and a more just and equitable society could develop?

Extract from an article by Comunicadores Solidarios, courtesy of Animaturalis.

A cub in danger

In June this year, this was reported from Ethiopia: a 12 year old girl was kidnapped and beaten by seven men who wanted to force her into marriage. Three lions chased the abductors away and stayed with the girl until police and family arrived. Wildlife experts say that her crying probably aroused the maternal instincts of the lions.

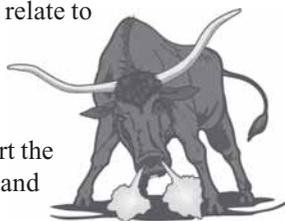
Lloret Bullring closed

Lloret is going to demolish the José Luis Andrés bullring, replacing it with a sports centre. There will be no more bullfights on the Costa Brava.

The bullring opened on Sep. 5 1962. The mounted bullfighter, Angel Peralta, and Joaquín Bernadó and Jaime Ostos, featured on the first bill, fighting bulls owned by María de Terrones of Salamanca.

(QCA Note: The term used here, “reses” for “bulls”, appears to relate to the Latin “res”, meaning “thing”. We can draw our own conclusions from this.)

The Girona town council has also approved planning which will allow for the demolition of the Santa Eugènia bullring, to convert the space into a new headquarters for the Provincial Law Courts and into blocks of flats.



So the bullrings of Sant Feliu de Guixols, Figueres, Girona and now Lloret de Mar, are out of use or gone. The only one still active in the Girona region will be at Olot, which, after Ronda, is the oldest in Spain.

ACTION

EDM 92 ANIMAL TESTING OF DRUGS

Mike Hancock MP launched Early Day Motion 92 “Animal testing of drugs” in parliament on behalf of **Europeans for Medical Progress**:

“That this House, in common with Europeans for Medical Progress, expresses its concerns regarding the safeguarding of public health through data obtained from laboratory animals, particularly in light of large numbers of serious and fatal adverse drug reactions that were not predicted by animal studies; is concerned that the Government has not commissioned or evaluated any formal research on the efficacy of animal experiments, and has no plans to do so; and, in common with 83 per cent of general practitioners in a recent survey, calls upon the Government to facilitate an independent and transparent scientific evaluation of the use of animals as surrogate humans in drug safety testing and medical research.”

We have a little more time to ask our MPs to sign this EDM. If you have not yet done so, now is the moment!

Sonia reminds us of the following pertinent facts about drugs tested on animals:

- The drug Camptothecin successfully cured two different cancers in mice and rats. Not only was it ineffective in humans, but caused vomiting, diarrhoea and anaemia; three of the 61 patients died.
- Penicillin kills cats and guinea pigs, but can save human beings from death by infection. Aspirin kills cats.
- 100 mg. of Scopolomine leaves cats and dogs unaffected, yet only 5 mg. will kill a human being.
- Rabbits can eat deadly nightshade, yet it is poisonous to us.
- Not one of the smoking beagles ever got lung disease.
- The effects of Thalidomide never showed up in mice and rats.

Even between species of animals, there is a wide variation in reaction to drugs:

- A rat can tolerate a dose of Methylfluoracetate 40 times higher than the dose lethal for a dog.
- Aluminium hydroxide has different toxic effects in Syrian and Russian hamsters.
- The chemical 2AAF causes breast tumours in 64% of Sprague-Dawley rats, but not at all in Marshall or Copenhagen rats.
- A dose of Pentobarbital that would kill a tiger would only anaesthetise a mouse.

The list is endless...and we leave the question of ethics and the appalling cruelty of such procedures to the imagination.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS

Printed in Cambridge Evening News, April 4 2005:

Save the Seals

I strongly agree with Nick Richardson regarding the need to protect the seals (Letters, March 15) but he will be aware that the protection of sea creatures throughout the world is becoming increasingly difficult and all our efforts may be too late.

I have recently returned from 10 weeks in Brazilian waters as a crew member of the *Sea Shepherd* flag ship, the *Farley Mowat*. In all those weeks, we saw only two sperm whales and a few spotted dolphins in the South Atlantic.

Sperm whales have diminished in less than a century from 20 million to less than 10. Their lives and that of other sea mammals are destroyed by harpoons, illegal commercial fishing, long line fishing and drift nets.

Albatross die as they try to snatch bait from the hooks, as do turtles, dolphins and fish. Long lines may be 60 miles long or more.

The seas are also made lethal from mercury poisoning, a deadly neurological substance now found in the flesh of fish, dolphins, whales and turtles. Indeed, some beached whales are now often little more than toxic waste.

Other destruction comes from human waste cast into the sea from ships. We saw their rubbish everywhere at sea. Plastic waste is one of the greatest killers and also industrial waste, pouring from filthy rivers into the seas.

And now the atrocity of the seal massacre. *Sea Shepherd*, with other protest vessels and helicopters, is on the ice floes with celebrities and the press and we pray this will be the last of the seal killings.

We all know the collapse of the cod industry is due to over-fishing. Cod is a very small part of the seals' diet. They mainly eat the predators of cod.

Seals are killed for commercial gain, including the hideous profit made from seal penises for oriental medicine.

The worst predator in the world is the human species: intent on bringing other forms of life to the brink of extinction and beyond – lost forever. There is an urgent need to protect sentient life as best we can, even though our democratic right to do so is rapidly being eroded.

Joan Court, Animal rights, Cambridge.

Printed in the Mercury, Norfolk:

Please may I take this opportunity of thanking whoever is responsible for the respect and care that has been shown at our Great Yarmouth town park Cenotaph, as my lone white poppy tribute to Quaker Concern for Civilians and Animals that die in wars is still there. Month after month it has remained – I am quite overwhelmed and feel so grateful on behalf of all Quakers that our small “peace” offering has received such an expression of high regard. Quietly, and well after the normal November 11 ceremony is over, for the past three

years I have placed the home-made tribute. Unfortunately, this year, owing to terminal illness, it might not happen again.

Molly Stacey, Quaker Concern for Animals. April 1 2005

Printed in Saga magazine April 05:

The ‘Incidental’ kill

I always look forward to receiving Saga Magazine each month, but Polly Devlin’s hunting article really saddened me. It played the traditionalist theme for all it was worth and tried to paint a picture of an activity that was romantic, exciting and noble – even resurrecting the old chestnut that to the participants the kill is only “incidental”. In that case, the big question is: why do they refuse to try drag-hunting instead, where the hounds follow a previously laid scent, or even enjoy a pleasant day out riding with friends? We are forced to the conclusion that chasing a small defenceless creature and being “in at the kill” are essential to the enjoyment. Hunters perpetuate another misconception: that hunting is essential to keep down the fox population. The leaked memo last October from the Chairman of the Countryside Alliance referred to an earlier letter from Lord Daresbury, Chairman of the Master of Fox Hounds Association, criticising landowners for not doing enough to encourage foxes to breed on their land. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has recently uncovered hunts around the country that use artificial earths and food trails to entice foxes on to their land.

Sonia Waddell.

Sonia’s letter was preceded by one which began: “As an old countryman, I have never had an inclination to hunt, but to compare traditional hunting to “sports” like pig-sticking and cock-fighting is offensive. Fox numbers have to be controlled...”

Friends, Sonia’s letter adequately answers that point. As for his sense of offence – oh dear...

Published in the Mercury, Tasmania, Friday, June 17 05:

Dear Editor,

Michelle Paine’s article in Friday’s issue speaks of “this morning’s meat forum in Launceston that will look at a bid to process more animals in the state”. Her choice of the words “meat forum” is quite telling. We have obviously reached the point where sentient beings are considered nothing but dead flesh. Unfortunately, when they are exported, shipped and confined in market, they are still living and still suffering.

It is a disturbing indictment of the government department responsible that the minister should not think this cruelty to our fellow species important enough to allow animal advocacy groups to attend the forum. It appears that no other body will speak up for the animals.

I remember being informed, several years ago, in a letter from an Australian minister, that “Australia will not tolerate cruelty”. Over 4000 signatures on petitions initiated by Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania are appealing for that sentiment to be put into action.

Marian Hussenbux, for Quaker Concern for Animals, Britain.

Bearing fruit - The following was sent by a Friend in the south of England:

... yesterday my husband related an anecdote. About 10 years ago, we found ourselves joining in a Boxing Day hunt protest and discovered to our amazement that the local NHS hospital was providing the hunt with drinks on trays before they set off. My husband wrote to the Executive in Chief, outlining why he thought this practice was inappropriate on NHS premises. The letter was acknowledged, but he heard nothing further.

He later attended an event at which a woman came up afterwards to say she had worked at the local hospital at the time his letter arrived. She was delighted to tell him that the Chief Executive had responded by immediately raising this issue with staff and that they had taken a vote on it. The result was that 80 per cent of staff did not want to support the hunt - and the practice of providing drinks for the hunters ceased immediately. Hospital workers had been delighted that someone had written to protest, as it acted as the trigger for the issue to be aired officially and for subsequent action to be taken. Such is the power of a single letter!

QCA COMMITTEE 2005

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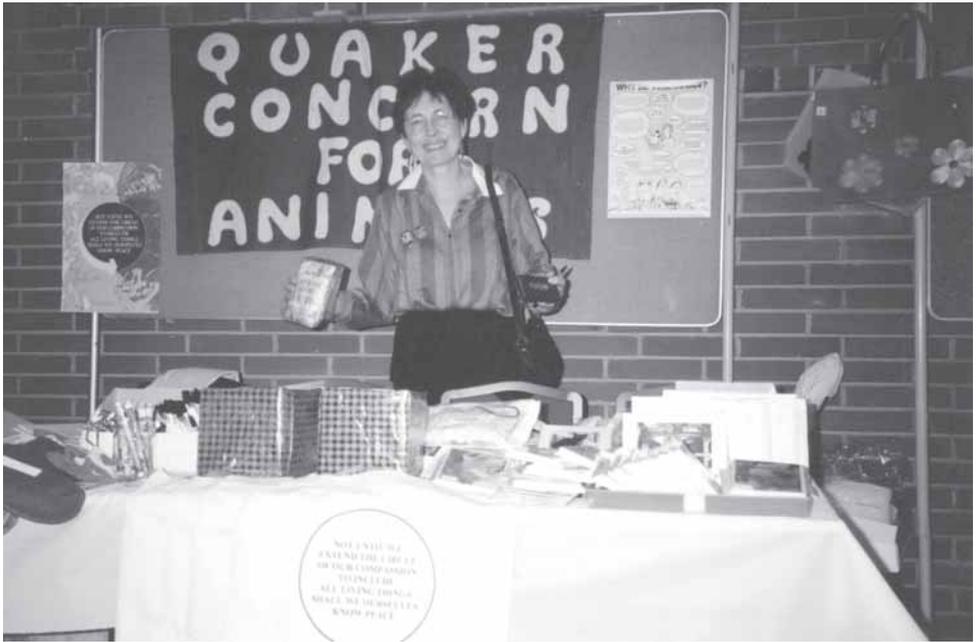
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The **Animal Aid Christmas without Cruelty Fayre** will be held at Kensington Town Hall, opposite Kensington High Street tube station, on December 4th 2005 from 10 - 5. QCA will again be represented; several members give their time to organise and man our stall, but we must single out Sonia Waddell for special mention. Together with our usual merchandise, we are fortunate this year to have on sale greetings cards from original artwork by one of our members, Ann Johnson. This is a good opportunity to meet up again with our friends from VIVA!, CIWF, among many others, visit over 70 stalls, watch videos and hear talks. We would love to see you there.

Entrance is £1 and free for the under 11s.

Quaker Concern for Animals AGM 2006 will be held on Saturday, May 13th 2006 at Friends' House, Euston Road, London. More details, with a booking form, will be sent out in the Spring Newsletter. All members and guests are very welcome.

QCA Newsletter

Your contributions are very welcome, subject to space. The deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter is 15th January 2006.