

EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 17/2. First, an apology for a glaring error in the last editorial. I wrote that Rosemary Moore and Richard Bailey were working on an updated volume covering the ground of W.C. Braithwaite's *Second Periods of Quakerism*. It is in fact Richard Allen who is collaborating with Rosemary Moore. My apologies to all concerned. We look forward to this important work.

In this issue, we have the concluding part of Peter Coutts's major demographic study of Newgarden Meeting in Ireland over a three hundred year period. This part of his essay considers in particular births, birth intervals and the age of marriages showing different trends between the sexes and in different periods. This detailed work on one Meeting now invites comparisons from other regions.

Judy Frith received her PhD from the University of Birmingham in 2009. Her research was on how Quakers made choices about time and she concluded that Quakers operated different kinds of temporal systems; that they constructed a temporal college from which they chose what to do when. Some of Judy Frith's work was printed in *Quaker Studies* 15/1. The article in this issue looks at how Quaker social capital is nurtured at a time when family commitment to Quakerism is waning and when the phenomenon of the 'Single Quaker in Family' (SQUIF) seems to be on the increase. Judy Frith concludes that there are plenty of mechanisms to nurture Quaker social capital in the face of the decline of familial or dynastic Quakerism. Friendship and friendship networks, and sites of community such as Young Friends General Meeting and Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre counteract this loss of transmission and kin-fed cohesion and also act across generations to foster commitment.

As Editor, I find that some themes which have been dormant for time suddenly undergo a revival. Such is the present case of Quaker peacemaking and relief work. In the next issues, we will have a number of articles on this theme and we start in this issue with a piece by Fiona Reid and Sharif Gemie on the Friends Relief Service (FRS) in the years after the Second World War. The article argues that the FRS workers were qualitatively different in their approach from the new professionalised United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation (UNRRA) workers. While academic work has often focused on the UNRRA work due to its scale and the way it became symbolic of the growth of professional relief and development work in the second half of the twentieth century, Reid and Gemie argue that the FRS approach was distinctive and is thus worthy of scholarly analysis. The article additionally and very usefully collects a number of diverse archival

sources together to tell the story of many of the challenges and dilemmas facing FRS workers as they entered post-Second World War Germany.

The final article in this issue concerns the satirical poem of 1717, 'The Quakers Tea Table Overturned', written by John Sutcliffe of Clitheroe, to inveigh against young Quaker women engaging in tea parties, fashionable at the time. Oliver Pickering introduces the poem, discusses its composition and literary allusions, and its authorship. It is a fascinating glimpse into an earlier Quaker sensibility and a form of Quaker persuasion largely under-researched.

It with great pleasure that we again have an issue that includes so many disciplinary approaches: it shows to me the depth of all that we can learn about and from Quakerism as well as the breadth and quality of all the research going on. The selection of book reviews at the end of the issue confirms this.

'Ben' Pink Dandelion
Editor