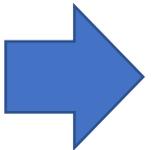


# 2004-2019 Cotteridge Quakers' Eco Church Journey Introduction



# Cotteridge Quakers: Our Environmental Journey

In 2004 some Cotteridge Quakers established a “Living Witness” Group to promote sustainability in our meeting. We started on the road to making our 1964 building more energy efficient.

In 2011 we were given an Eco Congregation Award. In that same year Quakers nationally minuted they intended to be “a low carbon community”.

By 2016 Cotteridge Quakers had earned a Silver Eco Church award.

In 2019 Cotteridge Quakers achieved Eco Church Gold



# This is the House that we've built - a nursery rhyme adapted by Carolyn Arber

This is the house that we've built  
This is the stuff that lies in the house that we've built  
These are the trucks the ships and the planes that bring the stuff  
That lie in the house that we've built  
These are the factories that make the stuff  
That's brought in the trucks, the ships and the planes  
To lie in the house that we've built

These are the chimneys belching out fumes  
That come from the factories  
that make the stuff  
That's brought in the trucks, the ships and the planes  
To lie in the house that we've built

This is the heat trapped by the fumes  
That come from the chimneys  
On top of the factories  
that make the stuff  
That's brought in the trucks, the ships and the planes  
To lie in the house that we've built

These are the ice shelves shrinking fast  
Because of the heat trapped by the fumes  
That come from the chimneys  
On top of the factories  
that make the stuff  
That's brought in the trucks, the ships and the planes  
To lie in the house that we've built

This is the sea level - ever so high  
Caused by the glaciers shrinking fast  
Because of the heat trapped by the fumes  
That come from the chimneys on top of the factories  
That make the stuff  
That's brought in the trucks, the ships and the planes  
To lie in the house that we've built

Where is the island - under the sea?  
Drowned by the glaciers shrinking fast  
Because of the heat trapped by the fumes  
That come from the chimneys on top of the factories  
That make the stuff  
That's brought in the trucks, the ships and the planes  
To lie in the house that we've built

These are the people tattered and torn  
Who have left their island all forlorn  
Under the sea now ever so high  
Drowned by the glaciers shrinking fast  
Because of the heat trapped by the fumes  
That come from the chimneys  
On top of the factories  
that make the stuff  
That's brought in the trucks, the ships and the planes  
To lie in the house that we've built.

[Worship and Teaching](#)  
[Buildings](#)  
[Land](#)  
[Community and Global](#)  
[Lifestyle](#)



Explore our journey in:

Worship and Teaching

Buildings

Land

Community and Global Engagement

Lifestyle

To achieve:

81/100

323/385

125/155

185/230

124/160



[Worship and Teaching](#)  
[Buildings](#)  
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[Lifestyle](#)

# 1. Worship and Teaching



We are a Quaker Meeting. Most Sundays about 30-40 of the c. 100 members and attenders come to meeting and typically between 3 and 10 children aged 2-11. We do not have sermons, hymns or liturgy as such. We do have very regular ministry on environmental matters.

1. [Special Sundays](#) relating to caring for God's earth (e.g. Creation Time, Environment Sunday, Rogation Sunday etc.) are celebrated in our church: **Less often**
2. [The hymns and songs \(and liturgies if used\) in our meeting services enable us to celebrate God's creation: Not applicable \(but note some passages in Quaker Faith & Practice read regularly in meeting\)](#)
3. Our meeting prays for environmental issues **Monthly**
4. [Caring for God's earth is preached in our meeting](#) **At least annually**
5. Our meeting hosts [guest speakers](#) from A Rocha UK or other Christian environmental organisations (e.g. Christian Aid, Tearfund, Green Christian, The John Ray Initiative) to talk about environmental issues **Less often**
6. Caring for God's earth features as a teaching theme in our church's youth work: **At least annually**
7. Caring for God's earth features as a teaching theme in our [church's children's work](#): **At least annually**
8. Caring for God's earth features as a focus of [small group study](#) in our church: **At least annually**
9. Our church's communications (e.g. [newsletters](#), service sheets, magazines, [social media](#) etc.) include items relating to the theme of caring for God's earth **At least quarterly**
10. The Leadership have made a [formal commitment](#) ... endorsing ... work towards an Eco Church Award. **Yes**



# “For the Love of” Feb 2018

1. “Special Sundays” are [not regularly] celebrated in our church but we were moved to support “for the love of the earth” in Feb 2018 “Special” days can lead to ministry-- on “Earth Day” 2018 a Friend used litter she had collected on the way to Meeting in ministry.



[Worship and Teaching Buildings](#)  
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Green Advices & Queries available with [traditional Quaker](#) books during meeting for worship.



**Green Advices and Queries**

We depend for our lives upon the sun, the rain, the wind and the diversity of living things around us. Notice the changing patterns of the day, from dawn to dusk, and the wonder of the night sky. Take heed of the changing seasons, from winter to spring, to summer and to autumn. Each has its particular beauty. Mountains, lakes, rivers and forests can all inspire us and provide places of peace and opportunities for worship. The natural world also presents us with challenges, to which we should be ready to respond. Take time to recognise, respect, appreciate and enjoy the whole miracle of the universe.

# 2. Teaching



Children discuss our links across the planet.



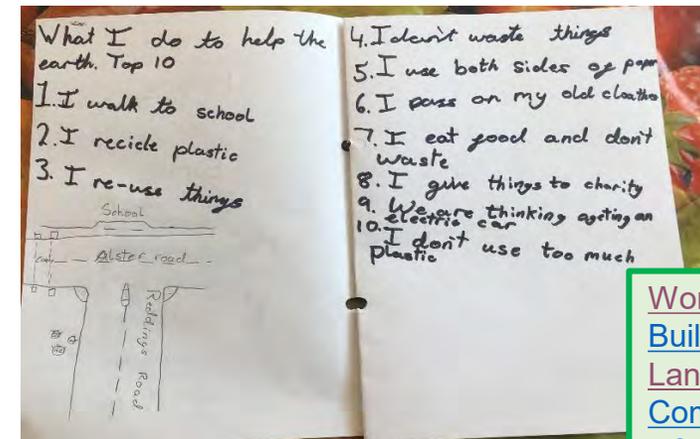
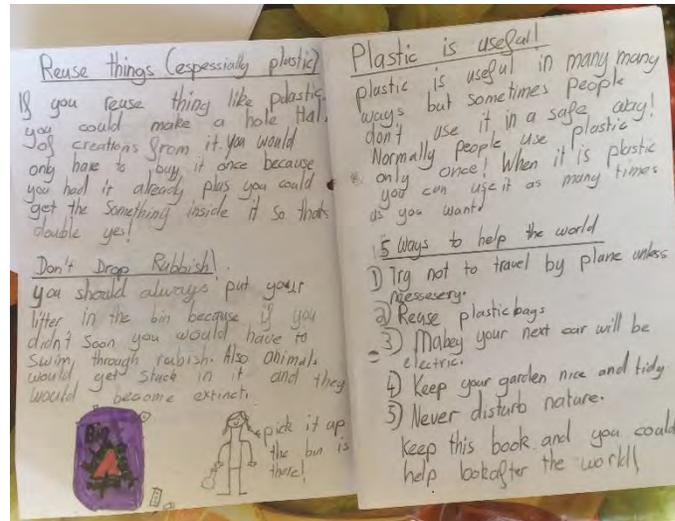
Our children's group very often discusses environmental issues. Twice a year they plan to meet a camp fire organised with the park wardens in a glade in a local park.

Children tell the adults what needs doing to make our lives sustainable.

In 2019 groups of Cotteridge Friends worked their way through "Carbon Conversations" with other Friends and with non-Quakers.

**In time for tomorrow?**  
the Carbon Conversations Handbook

Rosemary Randall and Andy Brown



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# 4. Environmental Crisis: Some Quaker Responses

- We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation. [\*Quaker Faith and Practice 1.42\*](#)
- The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age. John Woolman, 1772 [\*Quaker Faith and Practice 25.01\*](#)
- As a Religious Society of Friends we see the stewardship of God's creation as a major concern. The environmental crisis is at root a spiritual and religious crisis; we are called to look again at the real purpose of being on this earth, which is to till it and keep it so as to reveal the glory of God for generations to come. London Yearly Meeting, 1988 [\*Quaker Faith and Practice 25.02\*](#)
- "Sustainability is an urgent matter for our Quaker witness. It is rooted in Quaker [testimony and must be integral to all we do corporately and individually.](#)" [Canterbury Commitment in 2011](#)



5. Meeting went to Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre for an Away Day on environmental concerns led by [Alex Wildwood](#)



Excerpts from Hieroglyphic Stairway, a poem by Drew Dellinger read to us by Alex.

“It’s 3:23 in the morning and I’m awake... because my great great grandchildren won’t let me sleep.

My great great grandchildren ask me in dreams,

What did you do while the planet was plundered?

What did you do when the earth was unraveling?

surely you did something ?...

When the seasons started failing?

surely you did something?

As the mammals, reptiles, and birds were all dying?

surely you did something?

Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen?

What did you do once you knew?

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# 7. Caring for God's Earth features as a recurring teaching theme in our work with children and young people.



# 8. We met in small groups focusing on Quakers' "Sustainability Toolkit"

**SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT**  
Becoming a low-carbon, sustainable community

**living witness**  
Quakers for Sustainability

**1. SETTING OFF**

**Who is the toolkit for?**  
We have written this toolkit primarily for local meetings. However, much of its contents should be helpful to area meetings and area meeting trustees and others concerned about sustainability in meetings and the use of property

Friends of Cotteridge Meeting stand in front of their new solar array. Photo: Harriet Martin

**Getting support**  
This is a 'do-it-yourself' toolkit; however, there is plenty of support available should you want it. See the Further resources section on page 78. You can contact Living Witness and QPSW for support at any time. See the front of the toolkit for contact details.

A shared meal at the Quaker Community, Banford. Photo: Living Witness/Quaker Voluntary Action

**Sharing your stories and experiences**

- Read the sustainability stories at [www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability-stories](http://www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability-stories); Email your own story to [sunnivat@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sunnivat@quaker.org.uk)
- Sign up to the earthQuaker newsletter at [www.livingwitness.org.uk](http://www.livingwitness.org.uk)
- Sign up to the Sustainability for Peace newsletter and e-updates at [www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability](http://www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability)
- Share and discuss on the Quakeronomics blog at [www.quaker.org.uk/quakeronomics](http://www.quaker.org.uk/quakeronomics)
- Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SustainableQuakers](http://www.facebook.com/SustainableQuakers)
- Engage with your area meeting Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting
- Come to a Living Witness Link Group meeting or QPSW conference

The meditation pond at Poles Meeting House. Photo: Martin Williams

Look out for the following symbols:

- This means that there are resources listed in the Additional support and resources section to support you
- This indicates that there is a group exercise for you to use.

**1. SETTING OFF**

Some questions you might explore, perhaps with others in your meeting in a worship-sharing or discussion session:

- How do Quaker values connect to your vision for a sustainable society? What other values are important to you and how do you express them in your life?
- What might 'low-carbon' mean in practice for you individually? And for your meeting?
- How can you build a stronger and more supportive community in your meeting? What about your workplace or other groups you are involved in?

*Listen patiently and seek the truth whilst other people's opinions may convince for you.*

Worship and Teaching Buildings  
Land  
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YMG 2011. Photo: ©Máiré Puckles 2011

# 9. Our communications feature items relating to the theme of caring for God's earth:

examples from Jan 2018 newsletter

### **A reminder about plastic recycling**

Any plastic that is stretchy can be recycled at supermarkets.

Morrison's, Waitrose, Sainsburys and Tesco all accept plastic packaging in their carrier bag recycling bins. However Asda do not. If you shop online, Sainsburys, Waitrose, Ocado and Tesco will collect plastic bags for you when they deliver your shopping (or you can opt to have your shopping delivered without plastic bags).

### **Types of plastic film accepted:**

- plastic carrier bags
- thin bags used for fruit and veg
- plastic bread bags (shake out)
- plastic bags from some cereals, eg, porridge oats (not inners from boxed cereals)

- plastic wrappers from multipacks of cans and plastic bottles
- plastic wrappers from toilet roll and kitchen towel
- plastic freezer bags

### **Types of plastic film not accepted:**

- any non-polyethylene film (eg PE, PVC), bubble wrap, clingfilm crisps packets, food and drink pouches, film lids from food trays

[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)

Open morning at zero carbon house  
 Thursday 01 February  
 11am-1pm. 103 Tindal St, B12 9QU.  
 limited numbers, please contact [carbonhouse@gmail.com](mailto:carbonhouse@gmail.com)

An opportunity to buy supplies from Suma Wholefoods  
 Heather Rowlands and Michael Eccles are coordinating a bulk order of goods from Suma Wholefoods (www.sumawholesale.com). They order about every 6 weeks and the order comprises tins, dry goods such as flour and pulses, dried fruit and nuts as well as cleaning products. Would you like to join in the order? If so speak to Heather or Michael and they will let you know how to join in.

How Much is Enough? Money and the Good Life, R and E Skidelsky

We need money to survive, but do we want too much? Does too much money play against relationships and damage our planet? How much do we need for a good life?

The authors discuss how fair tax laws can help create a good society. Read me!

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## 9. Our communications feature items relating to the theme of caring for God's earth

[www.cotteridgequakers.org//cotteridge-meeting/our-faith-in-action/](http://www.cotteridgequakers.org//cotteridge-meeting/our-faith-in-action/)

- TUCKWORTH SCHOOL IN ZIMBABWE.
- Community and development in Madagascar.
- St Basil's for their work with the homeless.
- Citizen Advocacy South Birmingham Area (CASBA) who provide independent advocacy for adults with learning disabilities in crisis situations.

### Our witness to simplicity and a sustainable environment

Because we believe it is right to "live simply that others may simply live" we:

- As a meeting we have agreed a [environmental policy](#).
- Support the Northfield Ecocentre, a Quaker project launched in 2009.
- Encourage LOAF (Local Organic Animal Friendly) food at events.
- Encourage travel to meeting by foot, cycle, public transport or car share.
- Have filled our garden with bee- and bird-friendly plants.
- Bring and share excess garden and allotment produce.
- Provide our pre-school a small plot to grow food.
- We have reduced the electricity used to heat and light our all electric building by about 80%. Of the remaining 20%, our solar panels now generate slightly more than we buy from Good Energy (see [Energy Efficiency](#)).



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10. The Leadership have committed formally, endorsing our work towards an Eco Church Award.

Cotteridge Quaker Meeting Sustainability Policy agreed 05.03.2017

*41. Try to live simply. A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford. Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?* Advices and Queries from Quaker Faith and Practice

*42. We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation. Ibid.*

Nationally Quakers made a strong corporate commitment to becoming a low-carbon sustainable community at the 2011 Yearly Meeting in Canterbury. Cotteridge Quaker Meeting affirms and owns this commitment. As Quakers we have a direct concern for the well-being of our neighbours and a responsibility to care for creation.

Cotteridge Quaker Meeting recognises that our actions as a meeting and as individuals effect the environment. We are aware of the importance of minimising climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution of the earth's soil, air and waters.

We agree the following aspects of our lives as Quakers are included within this commitment:

Our Worship, Learning and Spiritual Growth  
Our Building and Property  
Our Community and Global Engagement  
Our Lifestyles

We ask a [group of willing Friends to work with the meeting to help this policy come to life.](#)

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# 10. Our Sustainability Group reports regularly to meeting and asks for support on our wayforward

## **2018/16 Report from the Sustainability Group**

We have received the report from the Sustainability Group detailing their plans for 2018. We appreciate the policy, its layout and how the plans are set-out to reflect the policy. We feel these can encourage us in our faith and witness together. We feel it is important to share these plans with others, possibly with an article in “The Friend”.

We wish to support the group to hold Harvest Home on 22nd Sept 2018. We encourage all to make offers of support and suggestions of a charity to receive funds raised. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss carbon offsetting at a shared lunch in the autumn.

The report is filed with these minutes.

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[Lifestyle](#)



# 2. Buildings



(We have no office and thus delete references to one. Decisions are made by Friends in our Business Meetings with guidance from appointed Friends working in committees. Reflecting our practice we have substituted “meeting” for “church”, “warden’s bungalow” for “manse”, “classrooms” for “church hall”)

1. Is your meeting responsible [for the premises in which it meets](#)? **Yes**
2. We [have measured our energy use](#) and calculated the carbon footprint of our meeting premises: **Yes**
3. We have [set sufficient targets](#) for reducing the carbon footprint of our meeting premises and achieving year-on-year improvements in energy efficiency: **Yes**
4. We offset the carbon footprint of our meeting premises for those things we can't reduce: **No**
5. The electricity supplied to our meeting premises is [generated from renewable resources](#) and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff': **Yes**
6. The gas supplied to our meeting premises is generated from renewable sources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff': **No external supply**
7. In terms of energy efficiency (an engineer should be able to determine this as part of the annual service) the main boiler on our meeting premises is rated: **No boiler**

8. Our meeting premises are insulated as follows:

[Meeting room walls](#)

[Corridor walls](#)

[Foyer walls](#)

[Classroom walls](#)

[Toilet walls](#)

[Warm roof over entire building](#)

[Retro insulation of warden’s bungalow](#)

9. Our meeting premises are double-glazed as follows:

Meeting Room **Full [double-glazing](#)**

Classrooms **Full [double-glazing](#)**

Other Building (e.g. warden’s bungalow etc.) **Full [double-glazing](#)**

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10. The lighting in our meeting premises uses [energy-efficient light bulbs](#) as follows:

(e.g. from air or ground source heat pump, solar PV panels; solar hot water; wind turbine etc.): **Yes**

Meeting Room **All LED bulbs**

Classrooms **All LED bulbs**

Other Building (e.g. warden's bungalow etc.) **All LED bulbs**



11. We have a policy designed to limit the amount of energy consumed by floodlighting and/or security lighting around our meeting premises: **Not applicable**

12. The water supply to our meeting premises is metered: **Yes (completely)**

13. Rainwater collection facilities are installed and used on our meeting premises (e.g. 'grey water' systems, water butts etc.): **Yes**

14. [The toilet cisterns on our meeting premises are fitted with dual-flush buttons or other water-saving devices](#): **All**

15. We have installed a composting/waterless toilet (see, for example, [eco-toilets.co.uk](http://eco-toilets.co.uk)) on our meeting premises: **Not applicable (on mains drainage)**

16. Recycled toilet paper is provided on our meeting premises: **Need to find out**

17. The cleaning products used around our meeting premises are environmentally-friendly: **All**

18. The disposables (e.g. paper cups and plates etc.) used on our meeting premises are: **Never use disposables**

19. We are reducing our paper usage (e.g. through double-sided copying/printing etc.): **Sometimes**

20. Our meeting administration uses recycled paper: **Sometimes**

21. In the event of the need to [undertake a building/refurbishment project](#), our meeting would insist that it adhere to BREEAM (or similar) standard to ensure best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation: **Yes**

22. Cycle racks are available on our meeting premises: **Yes**

23. Recycling facilities are available on our meeting premises: **Outside** (for use by the local community)

24. Our meeting has given due consideration to the possibilities of generating renewable energy on our premises (e.g. [air or ground source heat pump, solar PV panels](#), wind turbine, etc.): **Yes**

25. Our meeting generates [renewable energy](#) on/for our premises **Yes**

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# 1. Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House

“In the late nineteenth century Cotteridge ... was predominately rural in character... The villagers either worked in agriculture or at the Cadbury brother’s factory in Bournville. ... A small group of Friends from the Bournville Meeting, who were influenced by liberal ideas, were inspired to form a Meeting which did not follow the evangelism of the Bournville or Selly Oak Meetings. At the expense of George and Edward Cadbury a Mission Hall was built in 1901 in Cotteridge... The hall was owned by West Birmingham Hall Trust which was set up by George Cadbury. In 1906, the Warwickshire North Monthly Meeting received a request from the Friends in Cotteridge, who were meeting at the Mission Hall, for their Meeting to be recognised as a Preparative Meeting.”...

“The Monthly Meeting took over the management of the hall from West Birmingham Hall Trust in July 1950 ... there was growing concern relating to the condition and the cost of maintaining the meeting house by the late 1950s...The architect Frederick W Gregory prepared proposals for a new meeting house on the existing site which required extra land, from adjacent properties (backs of gardens of 7, 9 and 11 Northfield Road)... The [new] meeting house opened on 26th September 1964.” <https://heritage.quaker.org.uk/files/Cotteridge%20LM.pdf>



Original Meeting House

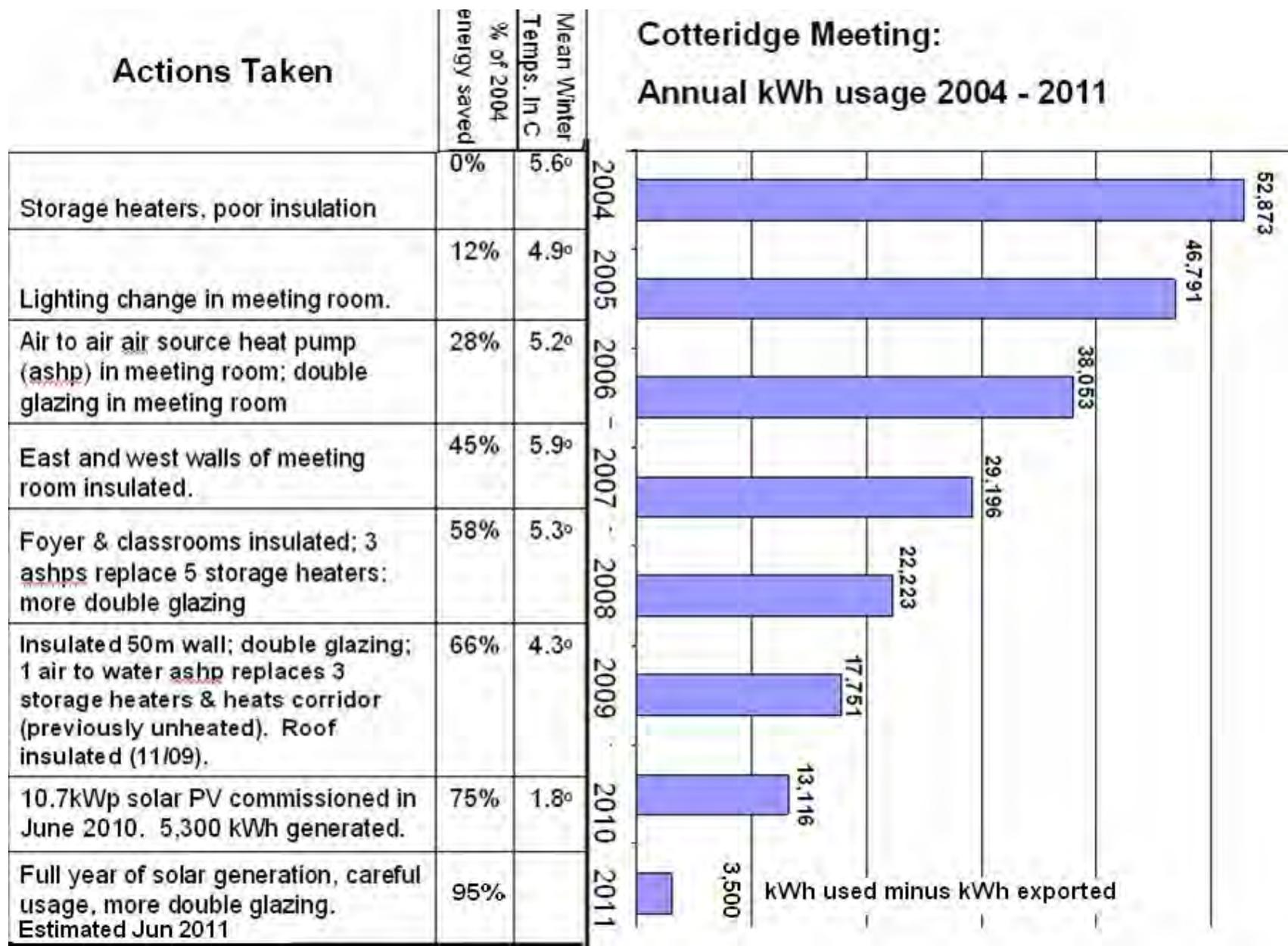


1964 Meeting House

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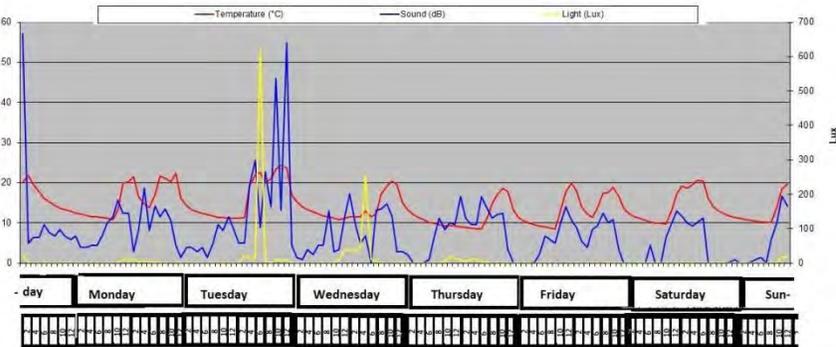


# 2. 2004-2011 Meeting House

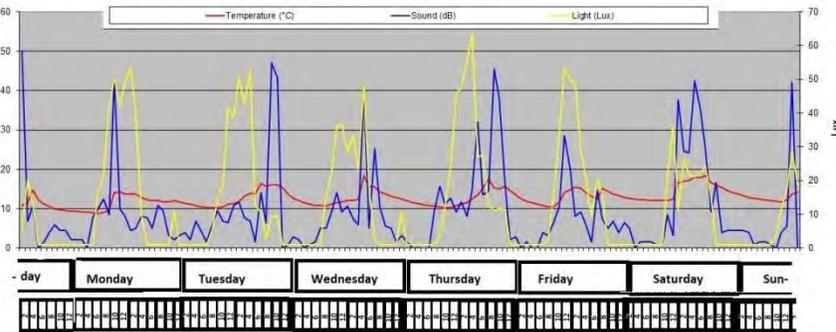


# 2. 2018 On-going Energy Assessment

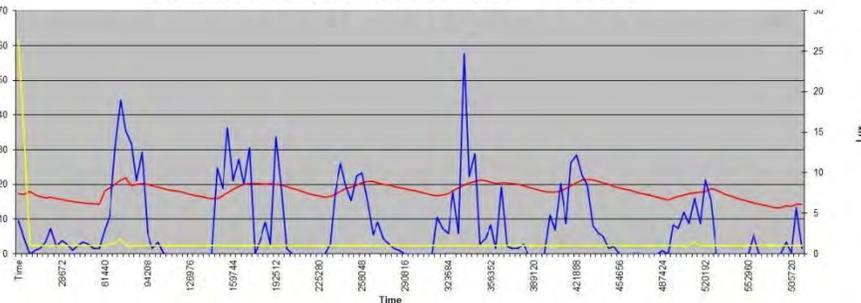
Meeting Room 26 Feb-4 Mar 2018



Foyer 4-11 March 2018 (on table)



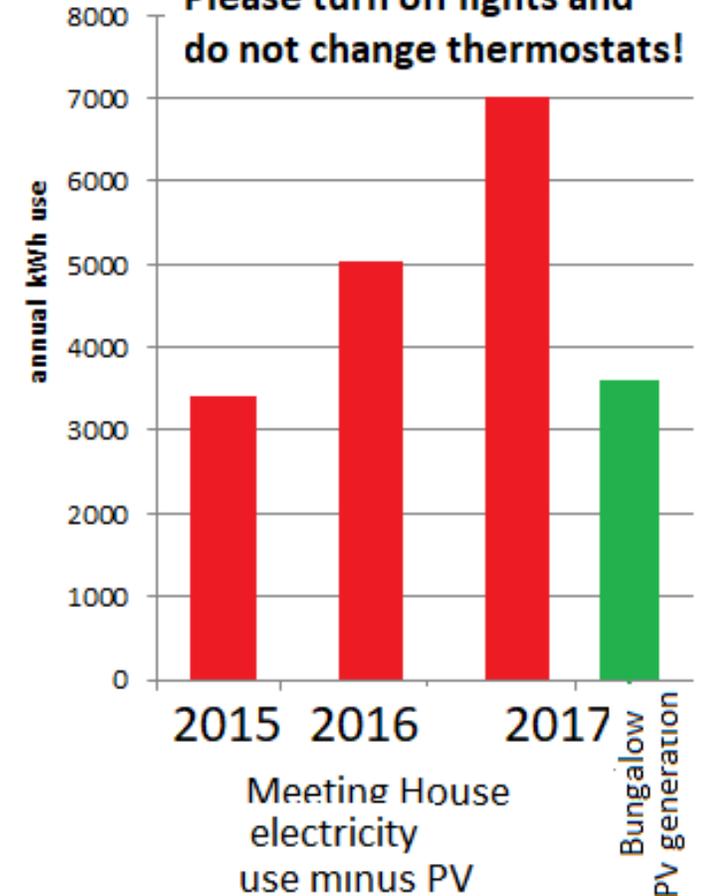
Classroom 11-18 March 2018 (behind books)



The bungalow generation was the equivalent of our grid use of electricity in 2015, but this usage had doubled by 2017.

We measured heat, light and sound in each of our large rooms over a week with our data logger. It indicated that the classrooms were not cooling down as expected over night. This suggested that, for some reason, the classroom heat pump was running 24/7. Readings of our electric meter shows we are using 2kWh over night where there no heaters or lights are on.

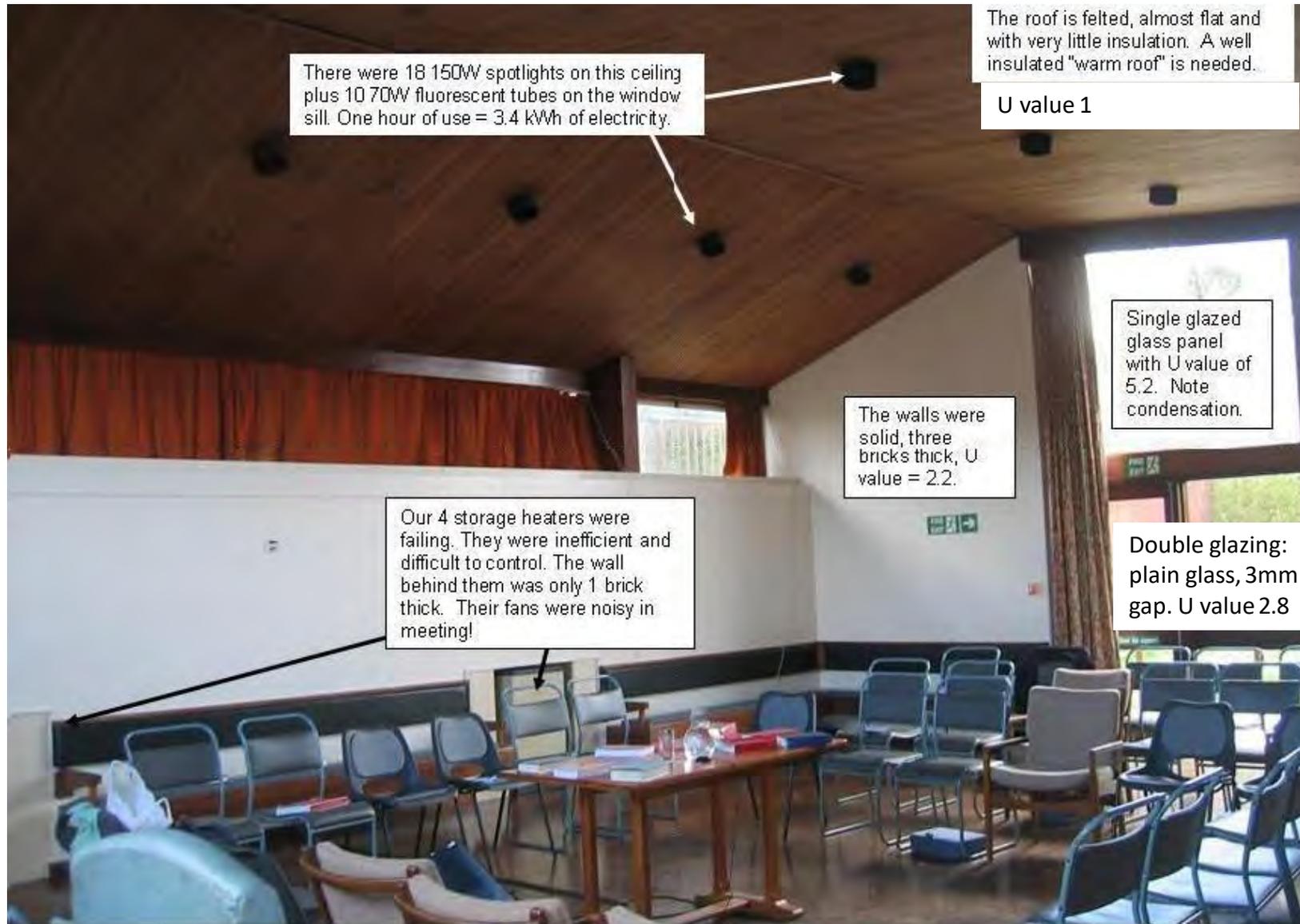
Help us reach 0 CO2!  
Please turn off lights and do not change thermostats!



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←
→

# 8. 2005 Meeting Room “before”



There were 18 150W spotlights on this ceiling plus 10 70W fluorescent tubes on the window sill. One hour of use = 3.4 kWh of electricity.

The roof is felted, almost flat and with very little insulation. A well insulated "warm roof" is needed.

U value 1

The walls were solid, three bricks thick, U value = 2.2.

Our 4 storage heaters were failing. They were inefficient and difficult to control. The wall behind them was only 1 brick thick. Their fans were noisy in meeting!

Single glazed glass panel with U value of 5.2. Note condensation.

Double glazing: plain glass, 3mm gap. U value 2.8

[Now go to 2007 Meeting Room “after”](#)

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# 8. 2007 Meeting Room “after”



## 8. 2006-2009 Solid Walls\* Insulated by “Drylining” with Gyproc Thermaline Super (foam on plaster board)



Battens screwed to solid walls. Insulation boards screwed to battens. Skimmed with plaster to finish (not illustrated)

U value of walls reduced from 2.39 to 0.4. **Heat loss through walls now 1/8<sup>th</sup> of original.**

\*Meeting house built in 1964 with solid walls three bricks thick.

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# 8. Corridor walls insulated.

5. Dry lining attached to battens above 1 m; insulation between batons below 1 m to allow wheelchairs to manoeuvre easily.



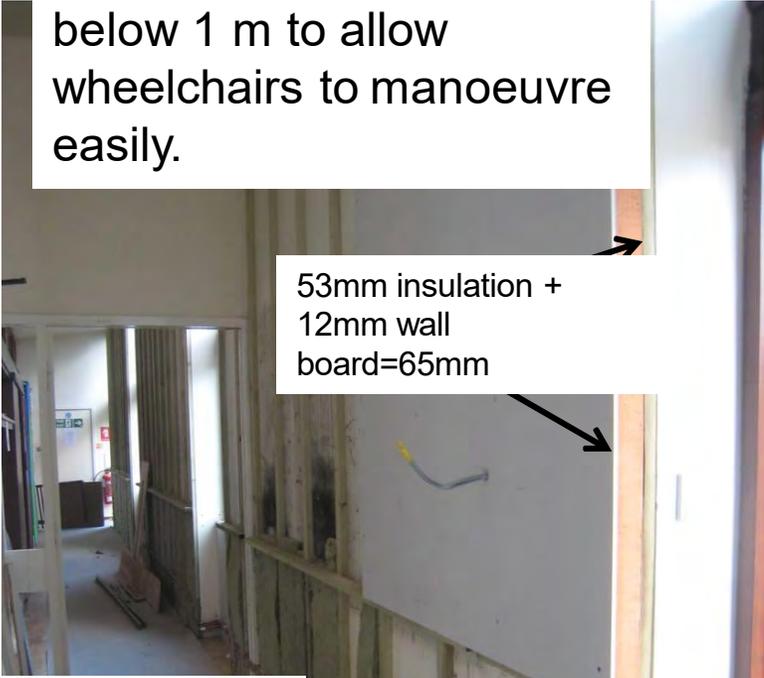
1. Original walls



2. 25mm wooden battens on original walls



3. Lowest of three window panes covered with dry lining insulation.



53mm insulation + 12mm wall board=65mm

4. Insulation between batons & behind pipes

## 8. Foyer walls insulated.



1. Removing old notice board etc.



2. Batons up for dry lining.



3. Dry lining plastered.



4. Mahogany bar replaced.



5. Air source heat pump unit

# 8. Classroom walls insulated



Preparation



Battens up



Dry lining going up.



Floor refinished.

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# 8. Toilet walls insulated (“dry lined”)



1. Wooden battens on original tiled walls



4. Walls tiled and painted.



5. Light tubes installed in cubicles

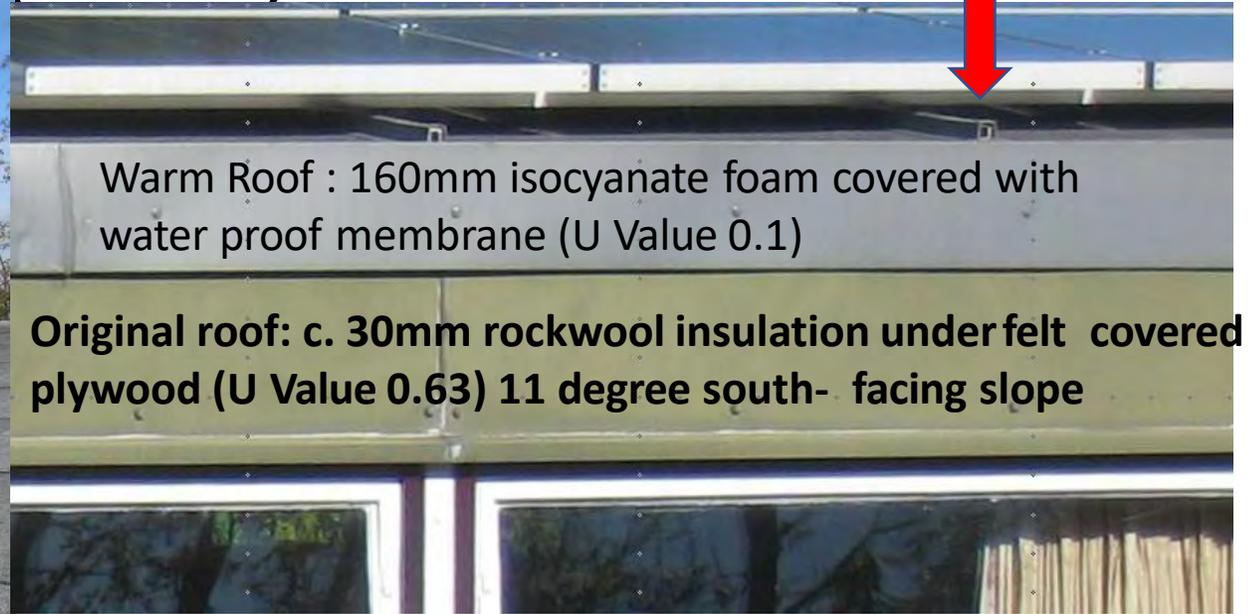
2. Dry lining screwed to battens

3. Walls skimmed with plaster



# 8. "Warm Roof" over all! (2009)

Rails for attaching solar PV panels under panels



Made possible by a grant from



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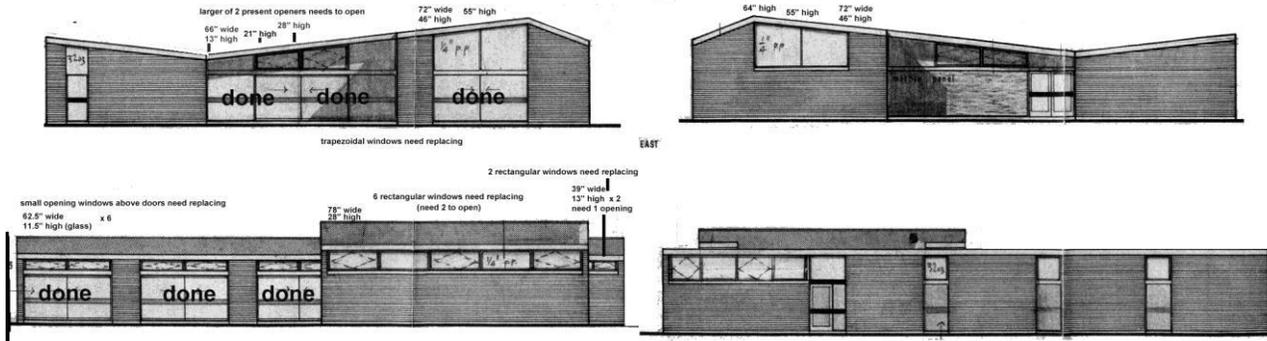
# 21. 2016-17 Wardens' Bungalow Refurbished



In 2016-7 we retrofitted our warden's bungalow. It already had a warm roof; we added external insulation on top of its cavity filled walls. Note: we reduced the original window area and eliminated plastic panels under the windows. We installed 4kWp PV panels on its roof. These generate about 3,400kWh/year.

**Specifications included replacing four windows with triple glazing. Unfortunately we failed to specify 44mm triple glazing. We received the far less efficient 28mm glazing designed for noise reduction.**

# 9. 2004-2009 Windows



68 windows in total including “glass walls” facing the garden. Windows marked “done” had sliding plate glass panels replaced with 12mm double glazing (not Pilkington coated) in 2004.

Considerable draught reduction resulted.

All windows are now double glazed although some have much more energy efficient double glazing than others as illustrated by the thermal images on the right.

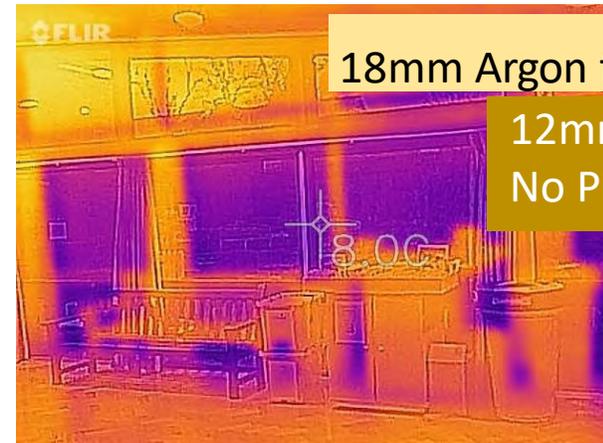
In 2020 Meeting has agreed to replace the 12mm glazing on the large windows with 18mm glazing with argon fill and soft low emissivity coating. The Covid-19 lockdown has delayed this project.

U-value of metal framed single glazed window: 5.6

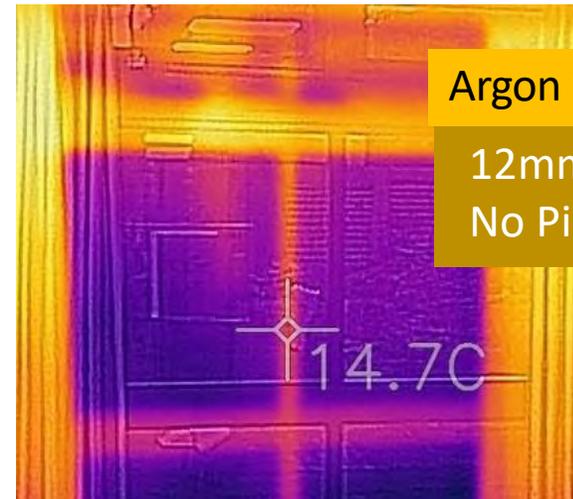
U-value of 18mm argon filled, soft low emissivity: 1.2



18mm with Pilkington (2005)  
12mm Double Glazing  
No Pilkington coating(2004)



18mm Argon fill with Pilkington (2009)  
12mm Double Glazing  
No Pilkington coating(2004)



Argon fill & soft coating (2014)  
12mm Double Glazing  
No Pilkington coating(2004)

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# 10. 2005 Lights in meeting room changed



Similar lights in foyer had reflectors and energy saving bulbs.

Original lights set in black fittings: 18 150W spotlights = 3.24kWh every hour in use!  
 Shallow space behind ceiling meant it was judged difficult to replace the fittings.



Replaced first with energy saving spotlights, but they were too weak. We then tried larger energy saving bulbs, but also too weak.  
 Now we have good LED bulbs but also have two circular fluorescent lights on the side walls.  
 14 fluorescent strips on the back window sill (light directed up to ceiling) finally replaced with led spotlights directed down and into the room.

All lights were routinely on even when sunny!

Actions Taken	Annual kWh usage 2004 - 2011	
Incandescent bulbs in meeting room. No wall and poor roof insulation. Thin double glazing or single glazing. Storage heaters	2004	52,873
Lighting change in meeting room.	2005	46,791

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# 14. Water efficiency improved



Water gushed through when cord was pulled.



Sensors record the urinal use: flushed accordingly.



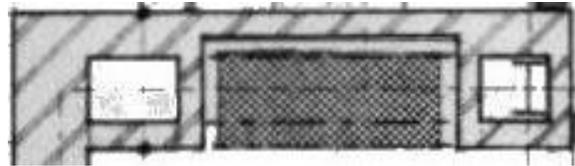
Dual flush toilets installed.



# 24. Air to Air Heat Pumps Replace Storage Heaters

Our 1964 building is all electric. Originally it had underfloor electric heating, but that failed early on. A total of 12 storage heaters were then the only heating, although fan heaters were used as needed as supplementary heating particularly in the evenings.

The 9 larger storage heaters were recessed into walls so their surfaces were flush with the walls. This reduced their efficiency.



In the meeting room the heaters were in recesses with single brick exterior walls. After replacing the storage heaters with heat pumps these recesses were filled with insulation

In 2005 two of the four storage heaters in the meeting room failed. After months of research, we decided to replace them with an air distribution system coupled with a Daikin air source heat pump. This was a mistake. It took almost two years to achieve the efficient, very quiet heating we anticipated.

5 other storage heaters were replaced very successfully and more simply with 3 cassette ceiling or wall units as illustrated.



=



+



[See ASHP in classroom](#)

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# 24. Air source heat pumps throughout

Three storage heaters out

Two air-to-air source heat pumps in.



# 25. 2010 Solar PV

In 2010 we installed 60 185W solar PV panels on our classroom roof (11.1 kWp).



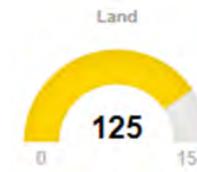
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# Land



1. Does your meeting have [influence over any land](#)? (e.g. churchyard, community nature reserve) **Yes**
2. The land at our meeting is managed for the [encouragement of native wildlife](#) (birds, animals and plants) **Yes**
3. We encourage native wildlife on our meeting land through provision of the following: [Bird Boxes \(2\)](#) and [Bug Hotels \(3\)](#)
4. Stocked wildlife feeding stations are present on our meeting land: **No (See additional comments)**
5. Our meeting land contains a pond or wetland area that is good for wildlife: **Yes**
6. We [grow plants on our land that benefit birds, bees, butterflies](#) etc.: **Yes**
7. Our meeting maintains an area of [land for native wildflowers](#): **Yes (see comments)**
8. Our meeting has researched and established a mowing regime appropriate to the conservation of the grassland and wildlife present: **No**
9. Our meeting avoids the use of harmful chemicals (pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers) in the management of our land (excluding paths and driveways): **Yes**
10. Our meeting participates in responsible native tree planting schemes in accordance with guidance from environment professionals: **No**
11. Our meeting undertakes wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our land: **Occasionally**
12. Our meeting participates in a scheme, other than Eco Church, designed to promote conservation on meeting land (e.g. 'Living Churchyards'): **No**
13. We grow [fruit and vegetables](#) on our land (including in planters, window boxes etc. as well as in a community garden/allotment): **Yes**
14. Composting facilities are available on our meeting land: **Yes**
15. Our meeting actively encourages [members to use meeting land for recreation/contemplation](#) (e.g. picnics, prayer etc.): **Yes**
16. Our meeting actively encourages [members of the local community to use the meeting land for recreation/contemplation](#): **Yes**
17. Our meeting has established a management plan for the land for which we are responsible: **Yes**

## [Additional comments](#)

# Land Comments

We have a car park for about 20 cars in front of our meeting house. On all four sides there are narrow beds with shrubs, a very few small trees and some flowers.

Behind the meeting house is our garden. The garden is fenced on the northern side and enclosed with a thick hawthorn hedge to the west. Two hawthorn trees grow out of the hedge. The meeting house itself forms the southern and eastern sides of the garden area. It measures about 14 x 18 m, with paving around the central planted area (about 12 x 14 m). Planted area rises fairly steeply up from our L shaped meeting house to an older tree in the north-west corner of our plot.

About eight years ago we landscaped the garden so it now consists of a central grassed circular bed (about 4 m in diameter) accessed via a sloping path curving around it. Grass and path are surrounded on all sides by beds (1-2 m deep) planted with insect-friendly flowers, flowering shrubs, herbs and a tree. Self-seeded wild forget-me-not, foxgloves and poppies grow randomly in the flower beds

A second path runs around the circumference of the garden. This is largely paved and designed to encourage the small children who use out building as a pre-school in term time (and our own children on a Sunday) to run round the garden perimeter and then to slide down a slide onto the corner to the paved area. The paved area also is used by the children for sand play, wheeled vehicles, a play house etc. There are both built-in and free-standing benches to encourage children and adults to sit and enjoy the garden. Our own children and the pre-school children sometimes use tubs for growing flowers or edible plants.

We have monthly "mindful gardening" sessions and well as meetings for silent worship in the garden. Hirers of the meeting house are free to use the garden if they wish.

Because our road has a number of fast-food outlets, our "wild life" includes more rats than we feel are healthy. We have bird feeders, but are sometimes asked not to fill them lest we encourage the rats. We are in the process of installing two starling boxes on the tall north side of the building. We have a crab apple tree on the edge of the car park, but need to sweep up its fruit quickly as the rats enjoy it.

Our warden's bungalow has its own small garden with a small pond (used by frogs and tadpoles) and beds for growing flowers or vegetables as the warden wishes.

The downspouts on the meeting house are internal and not suitable for feeding water butts, however there is a water butt in the car park for use on the plants around the car park. It is fed with water from the warden's bungalow carport.

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# 1 Our land & buildings



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← U →

## 2. Wild life encouraged



Insect houses



Nesting box for starlings



Bird feeder

### 3. 2012 Garden Makeover



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# 5. Warden's Garden with pond, vegetables & fruit



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# 6. & 7. Flowers & wild flowers for insects



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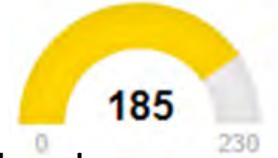


# 15. Garden designed for use of children in our “Early Learners” Nursery as well as for meeting members and hirers



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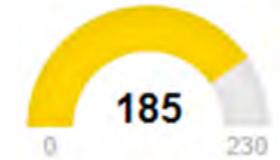
# Community and Global--our answers 1

1. 1. Our meeting organises events providing an opportunity for local people to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues (e.g. local MPs, AMs or council leaders). **Less often**
  1. [“Putting the C in Community” event](#)
2. 2. Our meeting (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, AM, local council or Public Service Board on environmental matters: **At least annually**
  1. [Climate Emergency Petition Presented to Birmingham Council 2019](#)
  2. [Speaking on “Climate, Changing my Life” at “Political Night Prayer” at the Ecumenical Service in Cotteridge Church 2019](#)
  3. [“Time is Now” 2020: Individual Friends joined in a virtual lobby of our MP.](#)
3. 3. Our meeting arranges for local environmentalists to speak in our services: **Less often**
  1. [Sample of work done by Cotteridge Friends working through the Central England Quaker Area Meeting “Low Carbon Commitment Forum”](#)
4. 4. Our meeting (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local sustainability movements like Transition Towns: **Yes**
  1. [Cotteridge Friends founded and supported Northfield Ecocentre 2009-2019](#)
  2. [Cotteridge Meeting participated in British Gas Green Streets initiative in 2009](#)
  3. [Cotteridge Friends joined the “For the Love Of” 2015 Lobby of Our MP, Steve McCabe](#)
  4. [Interfaith “Exhibits and Conversations” on climate between Birmingham faith groups 2015](#)
  5. [Cotteridge Friends shared friendship and environmental concern with neighbours of other faiths 2017](#)
  6. [A Cotteridge Friend worked on climate change with North Wales Area Quaker meeting 2018](#)
  7. [Cotteridge Friends organised a public Quaker meeting in support of youth strikers 2019](#)



# Community and Global—our answers 2

Community and Global



5. Our meeting (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. film evenings, Fairtrade events etc.): **Yes**
  5. [Cotteridge Meeting held an exhibition of sustainability posters for local community 2008](#)
  6. [Solar Day: Cotteridge Sustainability Group organised a tour of local PV 2011](#)
  7. [Cotteridge Friends deeply involved in the Nov 2015 Interfaith Pilgrimage Walk](#)
  8. [Film showings and Green Fairs 2017, 2018](#)
  9. [Cotteridge Friends in Area Meeting Low Carbon Commitment forum organised national event: “No Planet B” Conference 29 JUNE, 2019](#)
6. Our meeting is involved with local conservation work (eg. at an A Rocha UK Partner in Action or RSPB/Wildlife Trusts nature reserve): **Some members are involved**
  1. [E.g., Friends support work with wild life: e.g., wildlife garden opened with NGS; fundraising for wildlife trust](#)
7. At least some of our meeting members (either alone or as part of a local network) have organised and/or participated in a community clean-up project (e.g. local litter-pick): **At least annually**
  1. [A Cotteridge Friend has assisted “Tending to Cotteridge” 2020](#)
8. Our meeting (either alone or as part of a local network) hosts a green fair, showcasing local produce and highlighting local environmental issues: **Less often**
  1. [“Green fairs” held in 2017 and 2018. Covid-19 prevented 2020 planned fair](#)
9. Our meeting organises events providing an opportunity for local people to get out and enjoy God’s earth in our local area (e.g. walks, cycle rides etc.): **Regularly**
  1. [Opportunities to enjoy God’s Earth, e.g. Bluebell walks](#)
10. Our meeting either provides or supports a local car-share scheme (this includes members sharing lifts to church): **Yes** [Supporting car sharing](#)

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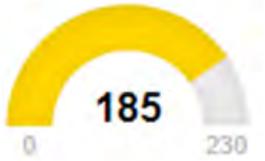
# Community and Global--our answers 3

11. Users of our meeting premises are encouraged to minimise resource use (e.g. people are trained in reducing energy use, notices about turning off lights are displayed etc.): **Yes**
1. [Notices requesting we turn off lights were designed by](#) a member of our children's class.
  2. 12 Our meeting actively promotes Eco Church to other local churches: **Yes**
1. [Celebrating Silver while Promoting Eco Church 2016](#)
  2. [Cotteridge Friends instrumental in planning "A Future for All" 2018](#)
13. Our meeting has committed to pray for a specific overseas environmental project **No**
14. Our meeting participates in regular sustainability initiatives (e.g. Carbon Fast, WWF's annual Earth Hour event): **Yes**
1. [Focus on Eco Church: Sustainability Group Agenda 2018](#)
15. Our meeting participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues: **At least annually**
16. Our meeting participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues: **At least annually**
1. [Environmental Campaign 2009 "Make Waves" London Demo](#)—one of many attended by Cotteridge Friends
  2. [National Environmental Campaign 2015 Climate Justice London](#)
  3. [Collecting signatures asking the council to declare a climate emergency 2019](#)
17. Our meeting participates in the Tearfund/Cord 'Toilet Twinning' scheme as follows: **Some toilets twinned**
1. [Support for Developing Nations through Toilet Twinning](#)
18. Our meeting keeps the congregation informed about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on Christian communities elsewhere in the world: **Yes**
1. [Exhibition of 3rd World Concerns and Action](#)
19. Our meeting financially supports an environmental charity: **Yes**
20. Our meeting is registered with the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade Church: **No**



# Community and Global--our answers 4

Community and Global



21. Wherever possible, Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods are used at meeting services and events: **Yes**

Shared meals at Cotteridge use locally grown food, organic ingredients, animal-friendly (veggie & vegan) food:

22. Any meals provided by the meeting use food that is locally grown: **Sometimes**

23. Any meals provided by the meeting use organic ingredients: **Sometimes**

24. Any meals provided by the meeting use food that is animal-friendly: **Always**

1. Cotteridge Quakers promote vegan foods

25. Any meals provided by the meeting use Fairtrade ingredients: **Always**

26. Any meals provided by the meeting include a vegetarian and/or vegan option: **Always**

27. Our meeting takes steps to reduce food waste (e.g. through composting all waste, minimising leftovers

at meeting meals, partnering with a local food waste scheme), & we encourage our members to do likewise:

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# Community and Global Comments

We are active members of “Churches together in B30”, an ecumenical group of about a dozen local churches. We often work closely with the neighbouring Cotteridge Church (an ecumenical meeting formed about thirty years ago from by local Anglican and URC congregations). We collect food for its foodbank and a number of our members volunteer regularly in the foodbank. (This featured on the home page of our website for some time on our website <https://cotteridgequakers.org.uk/>). We purchase Fair Trade food from the church’s Fair Trade shop. Our members join in with its “Political Night Prayer” service, the last of which was based on climate change. On several occasions we have worked with it to organise hustings for national elections.

In 2017 and 2018 we held “Harvest Home” events in the meeting house. In 2017 the emphasis was on craft stalls but included a showing of Simon Amstell’s *Carnage* with vegan refreshments. In 2018 the emphasis was on reuse. Most of the activity was centred around a large table top sale. Funds raised (£700) were donated to the Food Bank and “The Project” (a local charity supporting homeless and working to prevent homelessness). Meeting has now decided that funds from our regular sales of donated used books will also go to these charities. There were also a few craft stalls, plus sales of garden produce, jams and a vegan cookbook produced by a member of our meeting.

For many years we have housed and supported the “Early Learners”, a pre-school based in our classrooms during term time. Up to thirty children attend it, many from local, deprived homes.

A number of our members has been active in inter faith events, some hosted through “Footsteps—Faiths for a Low Carbon Future” (Chris Martin, a member of the meeting, was instrumental in founding this group at the time of the Paris COP in 2015 and continues to be very involved in its activities). One of the children in our meeting attended a week-long environmental summer school organised by Footsteps in 2016,

A number of our members have attended social occasions at both the Central Mosque and the Clifton Road Mosque in Birmingham. Most recently about eight Cotteridge Friends joined in a special meeting to support the Birmingham Muslim community following the New Zealand atrocity. In June Footsteps will be holding an all-day event at Bull St Quaker Meeting House, again strongly supported by Cotteridge Quakers.



## Cotteridge Sustainability Group Report to Business Meeting 2019

Carolyn, Ian, Chris and Harriet met four times and worked together to take our Sustainability Work forward on over 2019. Margo, Sue and Elaine, also supported this work. We reported to Business Meeting on 2018 activities in February 2019.

### Our Worship and Spiritual Life

Harriet and Chris and Margo enjoyed walking supported a walk in the Lickey bluebell woods in late April.

1. Our children and others from the meeting joined the Cotteridge Park Warden for a campfire in April 2019.
2. Members of the meeting have made use of the Green Advices and Queries which we provided in ministry.

### Our Building and its Use

We now use environmentally responsible cleaning products in the meeting house with the co-operation of our cleaning company.

1. One of our younger Friends made “turn off the lights” notices, now mounted by switches. We discovered that the meeting house uses 2kWh over nights when the meeting house is not in use; investigation into the causes of this is continuing.

1. Premises Committee is awaiting a final quote on replacing the original, thin double glazing in the classrooms and foyer and the replacement of failed window units in the bungalow.

### Wider engagement locally

Chris spoke on the environment at the Political Night Prayer at Cotteridge Church in February.

1. Chris and Harriet held a Footsteps stall at All Saints in Kings Heath on Earth Day in July. They used our “beans in jars” activity to stimulate discussion.
2. Harriet and Carolyn led a six meeting series of Carbon Conversations for members of the Kings Norton U3A.
3. As part of Quaker week, Chris organised and publicised “Living out Quaker Testimonies: Four Peoples’ Experiences”. Chris moderated the event; one member of our meeting, a member of Cotteridge Church and a member of Bournville Quakers spoke; we viewed four video interviews with Friends speaking on their sustainability journeys.

### Wider engagement at Area Meeting level, in Birmingham Faith Communities and in Britain

1. We worked with other members of the Area Meeting in preparing and presenting a “No Planet B” conference at Bull Street on June 29, 2019. About 70 people attended. There were a number of workshops. CAFOD and Christian Aid provided the keynote speakers.
2. Chris and Hilary T. wrote “Birmingham Climate Emergency: the Role for Faith Communities” which was circulated and used widely amongst the Birmingham Council of Faiths.
3. Chris led an appeal for Footsteps: Faiths for a Low Carbon Future in November.
4. A Rocha Eco Church representatives met with Carolyn, Ian, Chris, Harriet, and Alan W. and Lauren R. in August to assess our application for a Gold Eco Church Award. Particularly memorable were Lauren’s description of the children’s camp fire in Cotteridge Park and the short videos made by six Friends explaining how the meeting has supported environmental action in their lives. We reported to meeting on the success of our application in September and the plaque is now mounted outside by our front door. We are the first Quaker Meeting to achieve Gold and only the 6<sup>th</sup> church in Britain.

### Individual engagement

1. We arranged printing through Area Meeting and then displayed copies of Carolyn’s “Food For Thought” in the meeting house foyer and at the Peace Hub.
2. Presented the results of “beans in jars” surveys to the meeting on the display boards and in the newsletter.
3. Some Friends explored their carbon footprints at a shared lunch where Jo Hindley showed us the World Wild Life Fund carbon calculator.
4. Our children prepared booklets telling the meeting how we can help the environment. A compendium was displayed on our notice board and admired by Helen Stevens of Eco Church in August.
5. Mikayla gave a presentation of the reusable nappy project she is championing at our September shared lunch.
6. Our newsletter regularly features sustainability issues.

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# 1. Opportunities to engage with local leaders



During Quaker Week in 2018 we hosted a panel discussion, "Putting the C into Community". We also hosted a discussion of issues within the Cotteridge community with local shop keepers plus our Councillors and our local community policeman (Feb 2019).

Putting the 'C' into Community  
Exploring local community  
Cotteridge Quaker Meeting  
23A Watford Road B30 1JB

7.30 - 9.00 pm  
Refreshments available from 7.00 pm  
Monday 1 October 2018

**Panel Presentations and Discussion**  
Richard Trengrouse JP: Local historian, author and community development expert  
Mat Wilson: Senior Minister Rowheath Pavilion Church  
Sue & Elaine: Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House ward  
Eddy Moreton: community led housing initiative

Local Elections 2018  
City of Birmingham  
for the election of two Councillors to the  
Bournville and Cotteridge Ward

## Hustings

Thursday 26th April 2018  
7.30pm

All candidates who have been nominated for the election have been invited to attend. They are:

Liz CLEMENTS	Labour Party
Peter Ernest DOUGLAS OSBORN	Conservative Party
Fred GRINDROD	Labour Party
Claire Marie HAMMOND	Green Party
Anna MASTERS	Green Party
David Stephen RADCLIFFE	Liberal Democrat
Rob SEALEY	Conservative Party
Timothy Matthew STIMPSON	Liberal Democrat
Clive Richard WALDER	Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition

Questions may be asked of candidates by email to [mike.claridge@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:mike.claridge@birmingham.gov.uk) or submitted in writing to the City of Birmingham, 100 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2DT. This event is being held in partnership with the City of Birmingham, The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Church of Scotland, The United Reformed Church, The Baptist Church, The Salvation Army, The Quakers, The Jewish Community Centre, The Sikh Gurdwara, The Muslim Centre, The Hindu Centre, The Jain Centre, The Buddhist Centre, The Hindu Centre, The Jain Centre, The Buddhist Centre.

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## 2. Climate Emergency Petition Presented to Birmingham Council 2019



Chris Martin (Cotteridge Quaker and Quakers representative on the Birmingham Council of Faiths) joined in presenting Climate Emergency Petition to Birmingham City Council

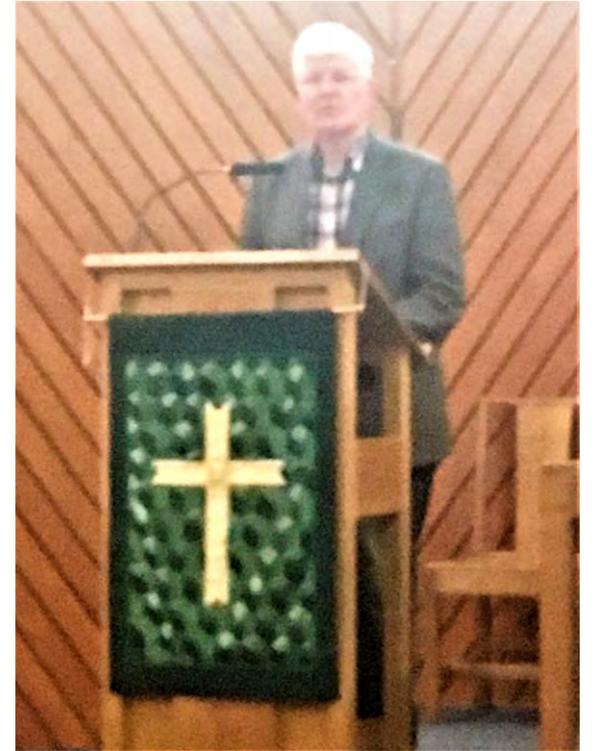
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## 2. Speaking on “Climate, Changing my Life” at “Political Night Prayer” at the Ecumenical Service in Cotteridge Church 2019

“I have tried to provide an honest picture of how climate is changing my life and am quite aware that, through ignorance and other priorities, I have contributed as much as anybody else to the increase in carbon dioxide concentration that I described earlier. It is only now that I feel I am bringing my initial education a scientist and my quite varied life to bear on climate change which I believe is the great challenge for humanity.

“As President Obama said, “We’re the first generation to feel the impact of climate change, and the last generation that can do something about it.” At this point I would like to hand over to Greta Thunberg for her perspective on the next 50 years.”



Chris representing Cotteridge Quakers at the February 2019 Political Night Prayer.

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# 2. "Time is Now" 2020: Individual Friends joined in a virtual lobby of our MP.

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile of Steve McCabe MP. The page header includes navigation icons for home, notifications (9), marketplace, groups, and a search bar. The profile name is "Steve McCabe MP" with a "Send Message" button and a "Liked" status. Below the profile, there are promotional banners for "SPEND A FEW QUID", "SUPPORT SMALL SHOPS", and "Thank You Teachers!". A "Videos" section features a video titled "results!" with a duration of 0:05. The main post, dated 30 June, reads: "Fantastic to meet with constituents for the 'Time is Now' 2020 Virtual Lobby to discuss a range of environmental issues and what we can do to make change locally and nationally. The pandemic has given us an opportunity to think about our livelihoods in a new way and consider what long term changes we can make to tackle climate change. I am looking forward to further discussions about sustainability and how we can promote new green jobs to boost employment in a sustainable wa... See more". Below the text is a grid of 16 video thumbnails showing participants in a virtual meeting. At the bottom left, there is a "Page transparency" section.

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## 2. “For the Love Of” 2015 Meeting with Our MP, Steve McCabe

Several Cotteridge Friends travelled to London to meet with our MP to discuss our environmental concerns.



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### 3. Sample of work done through the Central England Quaker Area Meeting “Low Carbon Commitment Forum”

#### **AGENDA CEQ Low Carbon Commitment Forum RECORD Saturday 21 September 2019 Bull Street**

**Present:** Claire B., Don S. (BOU), Chris M. (COT), Harriet M. (COT), Trevor B. (HAL), Wendy E. (WAR), Roger C. (WAR), James B. (STO)

**Prevented:** Jules M. (BOU), Caroline A. (COT), Ian J. (COT)

#### **REVIEW OF NO PLANET B ... CONFERENCE 29 JUNE**

On Saturday July 29th 72 people gathered at the Quaker rooms in Bull Street at the No Planet B ... Acting out Faith in the World” conference. Those present included Baptists, Methodists, URC, Quakers, Catholics, Anglicans, Unitarians and Franciscan brothers; much of the organising and training was provided by Christian Aid and CAFOD working together. Some of the opportunities which came out of the workshops and plenaries are listed below:

- A network of climate champions among the 18 to 35s,
- The campaign for the divestment from fossil fuels in churches and pension funds,
- Support for the Jai Jagat climate march from Rajgat in India to Geneva beginning in October 2019 and taking a year,
- Encouragement to connect with councillors and MPs and hold their feet to the fire,
- Training activists in relating their own stories of involvement to the experiences of others so as to prompt action now,
- Lots of quizzes, posters and cartoons to make learning fun,
- The joy of all ages, churches and faiths working together not in competition but sharing and learning from one another.

**Minute 2:** We agreed to convene another meeting of the No Planet B ... organising group to review the conference and identify what should be done in the future on an ecumenical basis also in the light of Birmingham’s climate emergency declaration.

#### **CONTINUED DISCERNMENT ON QUAKERS INVOLVEMENT IN DIRECT CLIMATE ACTION**

As Quakers we felt that our main climate action contribution is to lead by example, to work with others and different faiths and to use our particular expertise and reputation for reconciliation and bringing people together in safe spaces. We support individual friends who are led by the Spirit to be involved in direct climate action

We were pleased that a Quaker meeting for worship attended by some 15 people was held in Victoria Square, Birmingham City Council on Friday 20 September supporting the young people’s climate strike taking place at that time. Although there were quite a number of Quakers present supporting the young people, they were not very visible to others but did gather under the Footsteps banner.

Elsewhere, eleven Quakers spontaneously gathered to support the Young People 4 Climate strike in Leamington Spa.

**Minute 3:** We feel more Quaker tabards, T shirts and placards are needed to highlight Quaker presence at climate events. The clerk was asked to send this minute to the Peace Hub.

#### **7. BIRMINGHAM CLIMATE EMERGENCY - THE ROLE FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES REPORT**

The report is written by two Quakers, Chris M. and Hilary T.. The report was written from an interfaith perspective not to highlight Quaker climate action work, or the work of any particular faith or Christian denomination. A copy of the report can be downloaded from:

<https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/BIRMINGHAM-CLIMATE-EMERGENCY-The-Role-for-Faith-Communities-Sept-2019.pdf>

and printed copies are available, if needed.

A main feature of the report is the way in which it shows the overlap between ‘just transition’ and ‘faith values’.

The forum was delighted with the Birmingham Climate Emergency - The Role for Faith Communities report that Chris and Hilary had researched and written. It was also pleased by the way in which the Footsteps’ letter presented on June 10 to the Council and supported by area meeting, had resulted in a faith community representative being included in the task force. Chris told the forum that he was in the process of being nominated as the faith community representative to Birmingham City Council’s Climate Emergency task force.

Minute 4: We agree to send copies of the report to Meeting for Sufferings in response to its request for information about what area meetings are doing on sustainability together with Cotteridge meeting’s Gold Eco Church award, information about how the Low Carbon Commitment forum has met three times a year since 2011, Peace Hub support for Footsteps and the area meeting environmental policy. We ask Claire Bowman to coordinate.

[Worship and Teaching Buildings](#)  
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# 4. History of Northfield Ecocentre 2007-19

In 2007 our Quaker Area Meeting agreed a small commercial property owned by them should be renovated and funded to run as an eco centre. Area Meeting agreed to use funds released by the sale of Stirchley Meeting House for this purpose. From December 2007 three Cotteridge Friends worked closely with the architect and contractors. The building was insulated to a high standard. An air to water heat pump warmed it. PV panels were donated by New World Solar and Eco2Solar..



In 2008 two workers were appointed; in [2009 the centre opened to the public, offering information, activities, energy assessment and children's sessions](#). Quakers from Cotteridge Meeting made up about half of its management committee. It was a branch of Central England Area Meeting and shared its charity number.

Between 2009 and about 2015 the Northfield Ecocentre employed two trained energy consultants. Regrettably funding opportunities for these jobs ceased. In recent years it has concentrated on promoting cycling and community and children's activities.

In 2018 Northfield Ecocentre became an independent charity, [Ecobirmingham](#), but continued to receive financial support from Central England Quakers. In 2018 Cotteridge Quakers donated £1,500 to both the Northfield Ecocentre and to Ecobirmingham.

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# Northfield Ecocentre 2009-2019

The story of...

## 2010



### Energy Advice

Since March 2010 we have been running a free service to help people save money and reduce their carbon footprint. We have trained energy auditors who perform an energy audit of the clients home either at the Ecocentre or in another community space, from which they're then given advice on how to make their building and their behaviour more energy efficient.

"I found the energy audit very useful; I was also given an energy monitor which saved me money. When I finished with it I passed it on to other members of the community who also saved money on their energy bills." - Yvette



Our knowledge of relevant government schemes, related 'green' issues means our clients get the best advice possible without any intrusions into their home.

155 home energy audits  
378 people spoken to about energy efficiency

### Group Visits

The Ecocentre also caters for group visits from schools, community groups and any other interested parties. We do tours of the building, quizzes, presentations, Q & A sessions and craft

activities amongst other things. We can tailor our service to the group to make sure they get the most out of their visit and come away feeling inspired to help our planet!

121 people visited in a group a session

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### Contents

1. Introduction
2. Our Work
3. Gardening
4. Family Hour
5. Ecocentre Outreach
6. Energy Advice
7. Group Visits
8. Education
9. Volunteers
10. Environmental Impact
11. Finance

### Introduction

2010 has seen exciting developments and huge growth for Northfield Ecocentre! Our groups went from strength to strength due to the hard work of our groups and events manager Jane Baker and we took on two new members of staff for our energy advice service funded through Birmingham Councils Working Neighbourhood Fund. Later in the year Georgia went off to have her baby and Luke has taken the steering wheel until she returns.

Contained within this document is the story of 2010. We hope you find it enlightening.

*Luke O'Byrne*  
Acting manager  
Clerk of the management committee

### Quaker Ethos

Quakers have long held a testimony to equality and simplicity; over 200 years ago the Quaker John Woolman wrote against the over-exploitation of the world's resources. The Quaker message was that we urgently need to reduce our consumption of the world's resources and to protect the planet for future generations.



### Education

172 children participated in our role play activity 'Greenville-on-sea' run by volunteer Harriet Martin. In this activity they design a low-carbon community and learn

how they can live more sustainable lives through a series of energy related games and quizzes.

We've also had a variety of youth groups come and explore the centre and take part in craft activities, and we've visited all the year 6's in a local school to take their lessons on climate change.



### Volunteers

This year we started an internship program to

I've really enjoyed working as a Winter Intern at the Ecocentre. I met some

### Our Work

In 2010 the Ecocentre continued to develop and diversify its services specifically concentrating on energy advice, groups and outreach which led to a huge increase in the contacts made through those activities.

We increased our staffing levels with two energy advisors and kept on our groups & events manager as we felt it was a crucial part of our work. Overall contacts were up from 2009 by 70%.

### Ecocentre Activity 2010 vs. 2009



### Groups

A number of groups meet regularly at the Ecocentre designed to help people share and develop skills for sustainable living. The role of Groups and Events

Manager was continued after the initial funding had finished as we felt the groups were an integral part of our work.

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### Environmental Impact

Energy Usage  
The Ecocentre only uses electricity as a bought-in energy source. It does however supplement that energy by also using solar water heating panel and an air source heat pump.

Our yearly electricity use is shown below, 2009 figures are shown in red.

- 3326 (1903) KWh was used by the air source heat pump which produced 7535 (4293) KWh of heat (a conversion ratio of 2.25).
- 1745 (1092) KWh was used for lighting and appliances.
- 5071 (2995) KWh used in total.

The energy use is dependent on the programme of the centre. Since the building was opened early in 2009 the number of staff, volunteers and visitors has considerably increased. The increase during 2010 corresponds to the increase activity shown in the 'Our Work' section.

As one of the prime functions of the centre is to encourage

the public to save energy and other resources it is hoped that our overall impact on the environment will be positive, i.e. the resources we use will be more than saved by the action taken by the people we have advised.

Garden  
During the year the garden has been developed and has become much more productive than the previous year. Most of the things grown were edible which has led to a positive environmental effect particularly in reducing 'food miles'. It was all grown organically and the garden is designed to help support local flora and fauna.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use: 1.56 tonnes  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saved due to heat pump and solar hot water heater: 1.89 tonnes

Waste generated: 107.5kg  
Recycled: 46.4%  
Composted: 27.9%  
Total waste saved from landfill: 80kg

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### Ecocentre - Public Opening Thurs & Fri 10am - 5pm

Web site receives 800 hits a month  
317 people visited the Ecocentre for public opening

We're continually developing the Ecocentre and the services it provides. We now have over 50 fact sheets available ranging from topics such as solar PV to fair trade products.

Our web site has also been completely new look, over 50 pages and regular blog. Check it out at: [www.northfieldecocentre.org](http://www.northfieldecocentre.org)



The displays have all been renewed from their original designs and a new Loans Library has been set up allowing people to borrow items such as energy monitors and books.

### Outreach



We've attended many fayres, fêtes and community events throughout the year to advertise our services and get people involved.

55 outreach events attended  
1567 people talked to

Alongside handing out leaflets we also give out free light bulbs and power downs and often do craft activities such as tetra pak wallet making to illustrate what happens at Family Hour.

### Northfield Ecocentre Annual Accounts 2010

The Ecocentre's work and funding expanded significantly in 2010 which has led to an increase in our financial activities. Some of our financial reserves received in 2010 is restricted income for work in 2011 which is why there is an increase in our reserves, our reserves policy also requires us to keep a reserve of roughly 6 months running cost, this accounts for the remaining monies. The Ecocentre is in the process of finding funding to continue the work started in 2010 as the Street Energy Advice project ends in March 2011.

### Balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

	2010	2009
Current Assets:		
Debtors	£	£
Short term deposits		
Cash in bank and in hand	2,705	
Total current assets	27,802	
Current Liabilities (debtors due)		
Debtors due after 1 year		
Reserves as at 31/12/10		
The funds of the charity:		
General Fund		
Projects Funds		
Total		

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# 4. Participation in British Gas Green Streets initiative in 2009

## Supporting Minute from Cotteridge Meeting

### COTTERIDGE QUAKER MEETING 25th October 2009

Harriet Martin has explained the background of her application to British Gas for Cotteridge Friends' Meeting and the Northfield Eco Centre to participate in the Green Streets initiative aimed at reducing energy usage during 2010. The scheme must encompass one community building and twenty private homes, as well as running learning groups for participants.

The initial application has been short listed, therefore our "*Cutting Carbon in Cotteridge and Northfield*" project will be considered alongside two other local schemes.

British Gas will provide goods and services up to a maximum of £143,000 to the successful scheme, as well as administering the work. Cotteridge Meeting would be British Gas's legal partner in running the project, and Harriet would manage it on our behalf, with support from a small group of Friends.

We thank Harriet for the preparation she has done and ask her to clarify the details of the conditions of the scheme and to make the presentation on Wednesday on our behalf. We ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the names of two or three Friends to support Harriet throughout this project.

We wish to go forward in a spirit of daring to contribute to making our building carbon neutral in the future and to take this opportunity for outreach.

In 2009 British Gas launched its "Green Streets" competition looking for projects which would reduce CO2 in neighbourhoods. Cotteridge Meeting agreed to give support to Harriet's bid (right). The winning proposal came from Esther, also a Cotteridge Friend, for her Sustainable Mosely project. Amongst other achievements, it eventually saw her both her local mosque and C of E church gaining solar PV.

**GREEN STREETS**  
Empowering Britain's Communities

**British Gas**  
Your energy experts

## Green Streets 2009 Application

Welcome to Green Streets 2009.

We're delighted you want to join our project and wish you the best of luck with your application.

Before you start read our sample application to give you a better idea of the details we need. Bear in mind that while we're looking for innovative ideas your project plan does have to be workable. The better researched your application is, the more chance you have of being chosen.

**Your name:**  
Harriet Martin

**Your address:**  
8 Innage Road  
Northfield  
Birmingham

**Your contact number:**  
0121 475 2088

**Your email:**  
harrietmartin@btinternet.com

**Your postcode:**  
B31 2DX

**Your project outline:**  
Give us an executive summary of your project plan

The proposed project centers on Cotteridge Quaker Meeting and the Northfield Eco Centre, both Quaker buildings in south-west Birmingham which are exemplars of older buildings already renovated to a high level of energy efficiency. We would aim to install solar PV on the south facing roofs of both of these buildings.

The project will also include 20-40 homes in the local neighbourhood. Businesses in the shopping centres at Cotteridge and Northfield will be encouraged to take part. We will encourage home owners to join in a series of fortnightly workshops with discussions and demonstrations of how one can improve the energy efficiency of homes. Grants would then be available for the most cost effective energy saving actions possible in the houses up to £3,500.

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#### 4. Interfaith Conversations on Climate 2015

“Exhibits and Conversations” between Birmingham faith groups 21 Nov, 2015. It, and the “Walk of Witness” a fortnight later led to the establishment of “Footsteps, Faiths for a Low Carbon Future”.



Globe & footsteps activity provided by Cotteridge Quakers



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Quaker table

 **Faiths for a Low Carbon Future**  
**Invite You to**  
Events Leading Up to December Paris UN Climate Change Conference  
**'EXHIBITS and CONVERSATIONS' 21<sup>st</sup> Nov**  
Quaker hosted National Interfaith Week drop-in event  
Saturday 21 November 2 - 4 pm Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street B4 6AF, featuring:  
• Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh displays & conversations  
• Earth Globe centre piece reminding us of our planet's oceans, forests, deserts and weather.  
• A 'Keep Coal in the Ground' children's game  
• Children's activities enabling them to illustrate to the world they hope to enjoy in fifty years' time.  
• A Quaker Host & Interfaith Week Welcome Corner with information about interfaith networks and activities. Here you can endorse the 2015 Lambeth Declaration. Also Friends of the Earth information point.  
• Refreshments available

# 4. Sharing friendship and environmental concern with neighbours of other faith 2017



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# 4. Working with North Wales Area Quaker meeting 2018

Playing A4 version of [“Good, Better, Best” Game](#)



Using games developed for earlier Quaker workshops with Welsh Friends.

Linking “Sustainable Environment” to Peace, Justice, Equality & Simplicity at North Wales Quaker Area Meeting



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## 4. Quaker meeting held to support youth strikers 2019



We were pleased that a Quaker meeting for worship attended by some 15 people was held in Victoria Square, Birmingham City Council on Friday 20 September supporting the young people's climate strike taking place at that time. Although there were quite a number of Quakers present supporting the young people, they were not very visible to others but did gather under the Footsteps banner.

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## 5. Cotteridge Meeting held an exhibition of sustainability posters for local community 2008



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# 5. Solar Day: Cotteridge Sustainability Group organised a tour of local PV 2011



Organised tour of local homes with solar PV and solar thermal panels for members of local churches.

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## 5. Cotteridge Friends deeply involved in the Nov 2015 Interfaith Pilgrimage Walk

**Faiths for a Low Carbon Future**

**Invite You to**

**A Pilgrimage Walk departing St Martin's in the Bull Ring at 7.00 pm 28<sup>th</sup> Nov and ending at Bull St Meeting House for an**

**INTERFAITH GATHERING 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015**

**Organised by a group drawn from the Birmingham Council of Faiths**  
**Saturday 28 November 7.30 – 8.30 pm Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street B4 6AF**

- Archbishop Bernard Longley will introduce the Lambeth 2015 Declaration on Climate Change. We are all urged to sign, affirming our support for the declaration.
- There will be short contributions from representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faiths and multifaith chaplains.
- Pictures and writings of children showing us the world they want to live in as adults will remind us whose future Paris will be deciding.
- We also look forward to hearing the voices of representatives of Birmingham's young people

MPs and councillors have been invited.  
 A press photo shot for is planned for 7.25, preceding the main programme.

The Pilgrimage Walk gave support for the 2015 Paris COP. Cotteridge Quakers were active in its organisation. Quakers were joined by Sikhs, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists as well as by Christians of many denominations in a walk of about a mile from St Martins Church to Bull St Quaker Meeting House. Speakers at the meeting house included young people of most of the faiths as well as the Anglican Bishop of Birmingham .

Footsteps, Faiths for a Low Carbon Future, grew out of the event.

Steve McCabe, MP for Selly Oak MP,, attended.



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# 5. Community and Global Activities 2017, 2018

## CEQ LOW CARBON COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM:

### NORTHFIELD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

Saturday 24 May : 11.00 am - 3.30 pm

#### PROGRAMME

##### MORNING:

Northfield Ecocentre tour and project update

VISIT Ecocentre's nearby  
Masefield community garden project

or EXPLORE Ecocentre's 'green'  
heating technologies: heat pump,  
solar thermal, heat recovery ...

Ecocentre plans

**LUNCH:** Bring a picnic lunch: soup, bread, cheese and drinks provided. Enjoy the meeting house and Ecocentre gardens. Folk music

##### AFTERNOON:

Short 'taster' presentations, including:

- Canalside Community Food
- An Edible Garden
- Fossil fuel dis-investment
- MP conversations
- Banbury public meetings
- Power for Good
- Green Bournville
- Cotteridge Church Green Group

Reflections: What am I going to do? What can we do collectively?

##### GETTING THERE:

Northfield Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Northfield Birmingham B31 2L

Northfield Ecocentre, 53 Church Road, Northfield B31 2LB. (adjacent to Northfield meeting house)

Bristol Road buses to the Northfield Shopping Centre. Buses 18, 19 and 27 buses stop at the end of Meeting House Lane in front of the Northfield Library. 15-20 minutes' walk from Northfield train station. Parking at Northfield meeting house, in the council car park opposite and (paid) above Northfield Shopping Centre.



**NORTHFIELD  
ECOCENTRE**



## Film showings:

1. September 2017 "Carnage" (Simon Armatage BBC) shown with vegan refreshments
2. April 2018 "Avatar" shown by Selly Oak Meeting with Cotteridge participation

## Harvest Home Event Sept 2017 & Sept 2018

1. Sale of jams, chutneys etc., allotment and garden produce, fabric craft, pottery
2. Table top sale of vintage clothing and household items

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# 5. NO PLANET B Conference 29 JUNE, 2019

On Saturday July 29th 72 people gathered at the Quaker rooms in Bull Street at the “No Planet B: Acting out Faith in the World” conference. Those present included Baptists, Methodists, URC, Quakers, Catholics, Anglicans, Unitarians and Franciscan brothers; much of the organizing and training was provided by Christian Aid and CAFOD working together. The conference was organized by Central England Quakers’ Low Carbon Commitment Group.



- Some of the opportunities which came out of the workshops and plenaries are listed below:
- A network of climate champions among the 18 to 35s,
- The campaign for the divestment from fossil fuels in churches and pension funds,
- Support for the Jai Jagat climate march from Rajgat in India to Geneva beginning in October 2019 and taking a year,
- Encouragement to connect with councillors and MPs and hold their feet to the fire,
- Training activists in relating their own stories of involvement to the experiences of others so as to prompt action now,
- Lots of quizzes, posters and cartoons to make learning fun,
- The joy of all ages, churches and faiths working together not in competition but sharing and learning from one another.

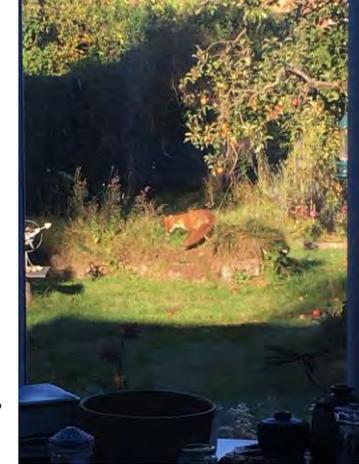
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# 6. Friends support work with wild life



Chris and Harriet have developed their garden for wildlife. In 2016 and 2017 they opened it to the public with others in Bournville as part of the National Garden Scheme.



Fox looking for worms.



Apple sampled by badger.

Judith Jenner

## Judith's Indoor sprint triathlon page

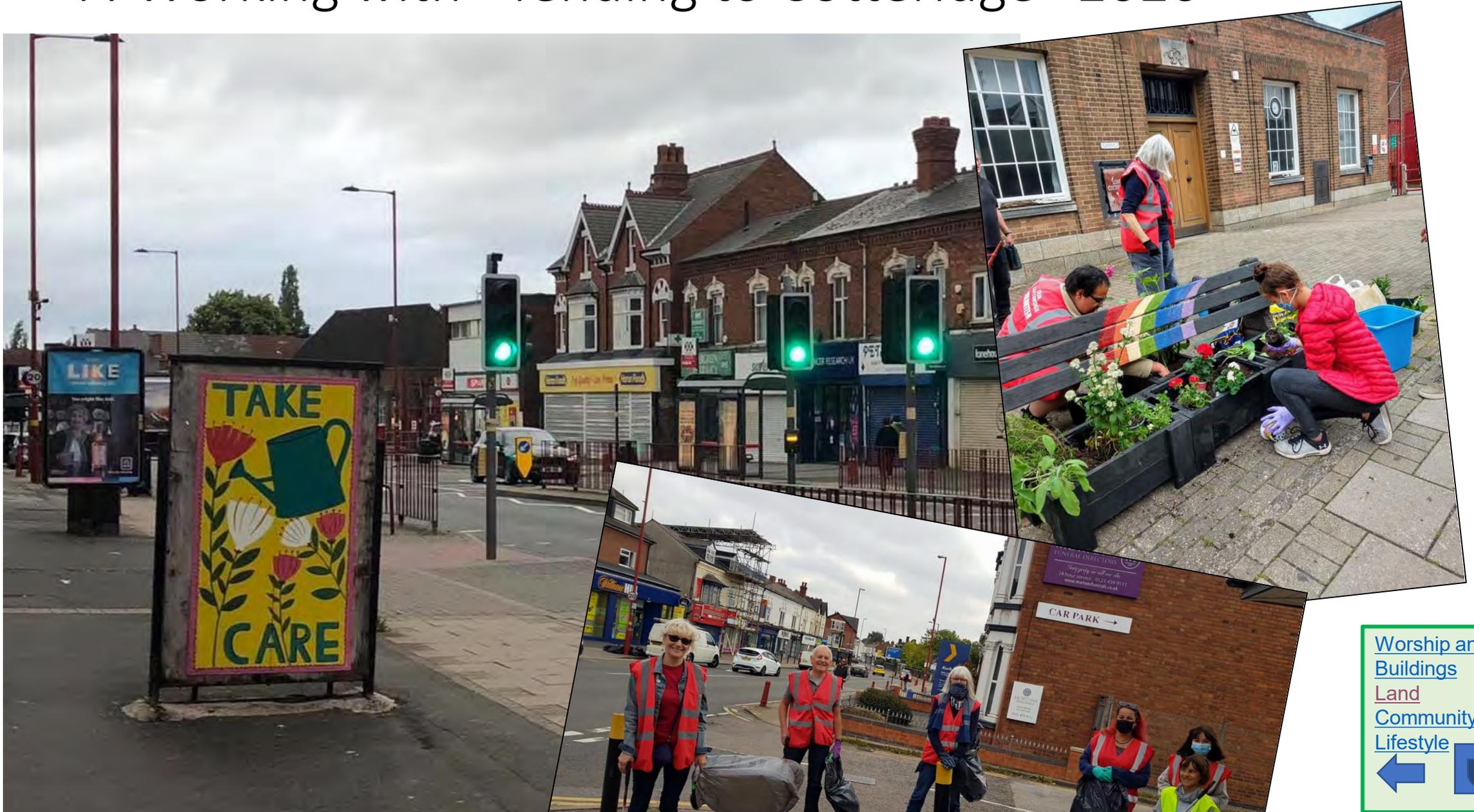
"I am swimming, cycling and running in the gym for Somerset Wildlife Trust because I will be 75 in December and want a challenge."



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# 7. Working with “Tending to Cotteridge” 2020

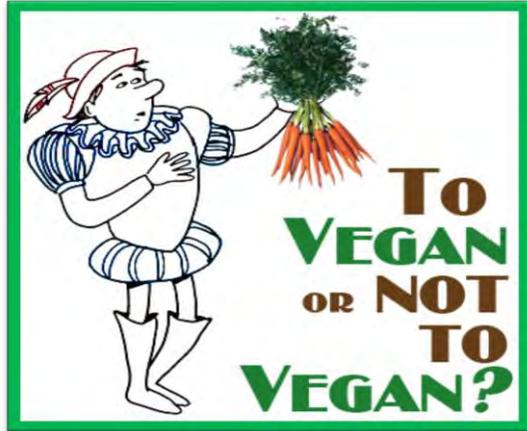


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# 8. "Green Fairs"

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Saturday

September, 4 – 7 pm

**Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House,  
23A Watford Rd. B30 1JB**

(Following our Harvest Home craft and produce sale)

**Animal and Climate Friendly  
Tea, Veggie Tasties and Talk**

*Please do bring and share vegan recipes!*

Before viewing Simon Amstell's  
**Carnage: Swallowing the Past**

Carnage will be shown in the second half of this event. It is a "mockumentary". It mixes unpalatable truths with clips of vegans, food advertising, Fanny Cradock, Nigella Lawson, extreme performance art



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# 9. Opportunities to enjoy God's Earth



## Walk on the Lickeys

Friday 4 May, 7 pm

Meet in the Old Rose and Crown Car Park B45 8RT at the foot of the Lickeys. The walk will be along a route that is known for bluebells on the Lickeys. It will be a bit up and down and will take around 60 - 90 minutes. Please be prepared for rough ground, mud and rain (Hopefully not too bad in terms of rain at least!).

All very welcome, Margo

# 10. Supporting car sharing

Two Friends share use of the same car as neither is a heavy user. Our 2018 beans-in-bottles survey indicates that five people share with one other coming to meeting while four share with two or more (perhaps all four coming in the same car?).

More recently we used beans in bottles to survey how Friends come to meeting. It was pleasing to find far more walked to meeting than came alone in a car.

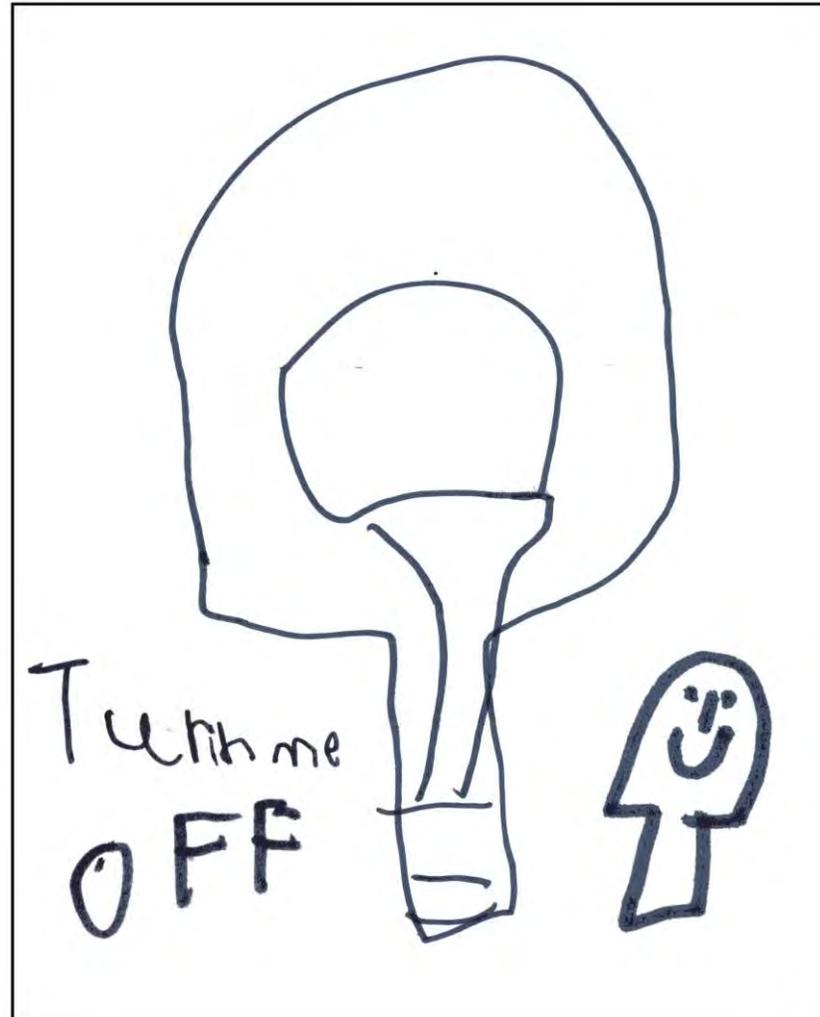
Usually I come to meeting by:	
foot	11
bus or train	9
car with one other	5
car with two or more others	4
cycle	3
car alone	3
<b>total</b>	<b>35</b>



Put a bean in a bottle if that is something you do.



11. Notices requesting we turn off lights were designed by a child in our meeting.



# 12. Celebrating Silver while Promoting Eco Church 2016

## Cotteridge Quakers

23a Watford Road, Birmingham B30 1JB

### Open Day

Sun 27 Nov 12 – 4

### Fit for the Future

Join us to celebrate our newly achieved Silver Eco Church status!

#### Explore—

Our newly renovated and insulated warden's bungalow.



Our energy efficient meeting house, saving £ and CO2 over 10 years!

#### Measure—

Heat retention for yourselves with infrared thermometers.

Energy use with plug-in electric meters.

How you can reduce your carbon footprint.

#### Play—

"Energy Nerd": read meters, use calculator, tell us how much our new LED lighting will save over the next year.



#### Ask--

Owners Tindal St. and Hawthorn Rd. "Superhomes" on hand to give advice on home energy saving.



Organic, vegan, seasonal soup & bread



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Meeting will be taking place less than a week after the publication of the IPCC scientific report on the steps needed to keep future global warming within 1.5' C.

The **AGENDA** will include:

1. Eco Church activities and progress:
  - 'A Future for All' Conference feedback and follow up
  - Stourbridge: Bronze Award and 'Love your place on the Planet' event
  - Cotteridge: 'Harvest Home' and Vegan Cookbook
  - Sutton Coldfield: 'Before the Flood' film and discussion
  - News from other local meetings
2. National and global context
  - IPCC report on 1.5' C warming – implications for CEQ LCCF?
  - Video conference with Chris Walker (Friends House) and Lindsey Fielder Cook (QUNNO)
  - Living the Change global interfaith initiative
  - Training - lobbying politicians on climate change. 1 December in Manchester:
3. Area meeting environmental policy
  - finalise wording as requested by area meeting
  
  - guidance to area meeting
  - Local meetings' electricity and gas annual usage
4. Updates, Upcoming Events and Opportunities
  - Ecumenical study course '*Our Common Home: Caring for God's Creation*'
  - Eco Church conference Solihull Methodist Church
  - Tread Lightly conference 14 November at Sikh gurdwara, Smethwick
5. Low Carbon Commitment budget 2019
4. Any other business

## 12. Focus on Eco Church: Sustainability Group Agenda 2018

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# A Future for All...

Saturday 14th July 2018

10.00am - 4.00pm

Priory Rooms Bull Street Birmingham B4 6AF

## PROGRAMME

### 09.30 REGISTRATION

10.00 Welcome Rt Revd Anne Hollingshurst Bishop of Aston and Claire Bowman Central England Quakers

Talk Bishop David Atkinson - scientist, theologian and author of "Renewing the Face of the Earth: A theological and pastoral response to climate change"

Talk Paul Parker - Britain Yearly Meeting Recording Clerk: Quaker's commitment to becoming a low carbon community and working for climate justice

### COFFEE BREAK

ECO Church Case Study from St Peter's Maney John Heywood

ECO Church Journey's from a Quaker Meeting Harriet Martin

Choose an ECO church themed workshop from  
The A Rocha ECO church Project  
Worship and Teaching  
Community and Global Engagement

**SANDWICH LUNCH** provided (meat, vegetarian, gluten free, vegan options)

Short Talk Hope for the Future

Short Talk Interfaith experience

Choose a practical action workshop from  
Building and lands Engaging with Politicians  
Inter Faith Experience Fossil Fuel Divestment campaigning  
Life styles and living sustainably

Talk Rich Bee - Engagement Director at A Rocha UK 'Be inspired'

Closing worship

**4.00 END**

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-future-for-all-tickets-43748587180>

Organised jointly by  
Central England Quakers Low Carbon Commitment Forum  
Birmingham Anglican Climate Action Group

# 12. "A Future for All" 2018

In 2018 Central England Area Quaker Meeting's "Low Carbon Commitment Forum" (clerked by a member of Cotteridge meeting) organised "Future for All", a national ecumenical conference linked to EcoChurch. One hundred people attended, primarily Church of England and Quaker. Keynote speakers included Rich Bee of Eco Church and Paul Parker from Friends House, London. Two "eco churches" were profiled: St Peter's in Maney, Sutton Coldfield, and Cotteridge Quaker Meeting. Members of Cotteridge meeting were active in the delivery of the day.



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# 16. National Environmental Campaign 2009 “Make Waves” London Demo



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# 16. National Environmental Campaign 2015 Climate Justice London



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# 17. Support for Developing Nations through Toilet Twinning



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# 18. 3<sup>rd</sup> World Concerns and Action

## Sustainable security



### A manifesto for a safer world

This display was produced by Quaker Peace & Social Witness. If you would like to borrow it for use in your area, please contact Quaker Peace & Disarmament Programme, Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ, T: 020 7663 1067, E: [disarm@quaker.org.uk](mailto:disarm@quaker.org.uk)

## Thinking differently

The big problems we face globally – that is, the ones which will cause lot of trouble on a global scale – are climate change, competition for natural resources like oil, global poverty, marginalisation and inequality, and using war to solve disputes.

At the moment, we are doing more to make these problems worse than we are to solve them. It doesn't make sense to say climate change is a serious problem but to build new airport runways, as the government wants to do. Nor does it make sense to say that we need to prevent war while spending large sums of money on the military and exporting weapons abroad, as Britain does.

A new approach to these problems will focus on tackling their root causes, rather than trying to control them or dealing only with their symptoms.



There are enough renewable energy sources to create a low-carbon global economy; the world's overall wealth has risen but the poorest have gained little – this injustice sows the seeds of conflict; a fraction of the world's spending on war would be enough to fully fund solutions to all the major problems that the world faces.

## Our children's future

We live in an increasingly interdependent world. Building a better future for our children requires a fundamental shift: from a focus on the 'national interest' to a focus on our 'shared interest'. We need to understand security in terms of inclusive justice and common human needs, rather than primarily the physical defence of the nation state achieved through military might.

Developing long-term 'sustainable security' for everyone means understanding the root causes of conflict and insecurity, and promoting dialogue rather than confrontation as the means to a truly secure world. Ecological responsibility, a reduction in consumption, economic justice, and progressive global demilitarisation are four core ingredients of a sustainable system of security that places equality and justice at its heart, rather than the power of few over many.



**We already have the means we need to solve global problems. All that is required is for governments and citizens to work together to make it happen. We have a choice: to continue as we are thereby guaranteeing our children a highly unstable future; or to act now to make the changes necessary to forge a sustainable global society and a peaceful future for all our children.**

What will you choose?

## Stopping climate change

If global warming is not stopped it will force millions of people worldwide from their homes, leading to massive suffering, violent conflict and global insecurity. The government's chief scientific advisor has said that climate change is 'the most severe problem that we are facing today'.

Climate change can be stopped but the changes need to be made now by governments and citizens alike. Those changes need to be sustainable and long-term in their thinking.

Nuclear power is not the answer: it is dangerous; it is costly; and it can be used to build nuclear weapons. Contrary to popular belief, nuclear power programmes are not carbon-free; in fact, they produce large amounts of greenhouse gases.



Renewable energy – wind, wave, tidal, solar and biomass – is plentiful. Combined with energy efficiency and conservation, renewables really can provide for our needs, but only if we invest in them seriously and now.

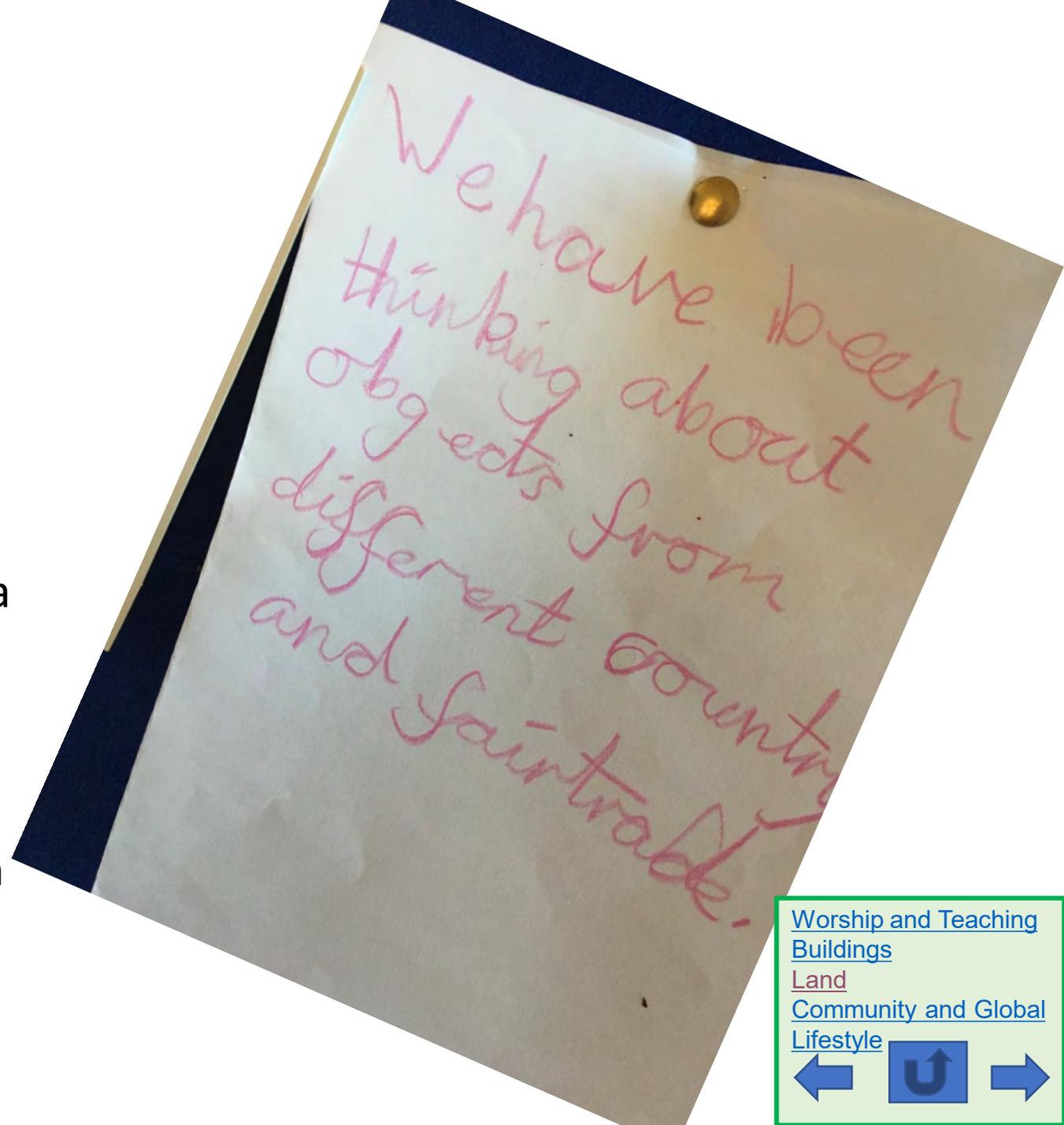
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# 21. Fair Trade

For about twenty years Dorothy Forbes, a member of our meeting, held a stall of Fairtrade goods (foods and handicrafts) after meeting in our foyer once a month. This ceased some years ago when Dorothy was no longer fit to manage it. Meeting decided not to replace it as by that time Fairtrade goods were widely available in supermarkets and Cotteridge Church runs a Fairtrade shop in conjunction with its coffee shop.

In 2019 we agreed with our warden that she would buy Fairtrade materials for our own meeting's supplies in our kitchen. (On occasion other Friends leave non-Fairtrade goods in the cupboard, but we are working to discourage this practice.)





## 22-26. Food at Cotteridge Quaker Meeting

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Friends bring contributions for a shared lunch. Over the years meat is being seen less. Cheese still appears, but vegan spreads and salads are now common staples.



On the Sunday before Christmas volunteers may prepare a vegan feast to share before carol singing. .



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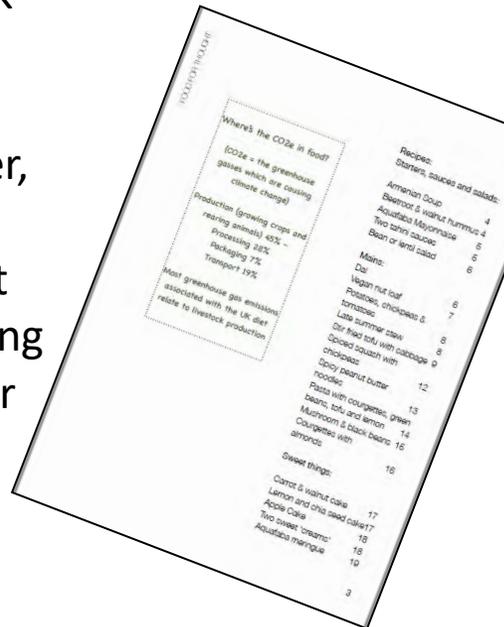
# 24. Cotteridge Quakers promote vegan foods



The feast following a morning of vegan cooking lessons by Carolyn and Barbara.



“Food for Thought”, a vegan cookbook compiled by Carolyn, a Cotteridge Quaker, and distributed without charge at Cotteridge Meeting and at the Quaker Peace Hub in central Birmingham.



“Well Rooted”, a shop for vegan foods linked to the Friends of the Earth Warehouse & run for several years by a Cotteridge Friend with her daughter.

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# Lifestyle

1. Our meeting has appointed an individual or [group to champion the cause of our meeting community becoming more environmentally sustainable](#): **Yes**
2. [Walking and cycling](#) to meeting for worship' and events is promoted in our meeting house **Occasionally**
3. The [reduction of car use is encouraged](#) in our church: **Yes**
4. The members of our meeting receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit: **At least annually**
5. Our meeting encourages members to [reduce their personal energy consumption](#): **Regularly**  
[Two families created & promote eco homes](#). [Beans in bottle inform/encourage](#). [Workshop on foot-printing](#). [Games explain CO2 emissions](#). ["Carbon Conversations"](#)
6. Our meeting encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of [reduce, re-use, recycle](#): **Occasionally**
7. Our meeting hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes): **Occasionally**
8. Our meeting operates a communal Christmas and/or Easter card scheme among the congregation: **No**
9. Personal use and consumption of [Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods](#) is promoted in our church: **Yes** (advices & queries)
10. Our meeting encourages members [to use food at home that is LOAF \(Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade\)](#) **Yes** ([and shares garden produce](#))
11. Our meeting runs or partners with other organisations in [running a food cooperative](#) that enables members to bulk buy ethically sourced produce at wholesale prices: **Yes**
12. The [ethical investment](#) of personal savings is encouraged at our church: **Yes**
13. Our meeting funds are ethically invested (e.g. current account and/or investments): **Wholly**
14. Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth are included in our meeting newsletters/on our meeting website: **Regularly**
15. As part of our life together, the members of our meeting undertake an environmental lifestyle audit: **Less often**

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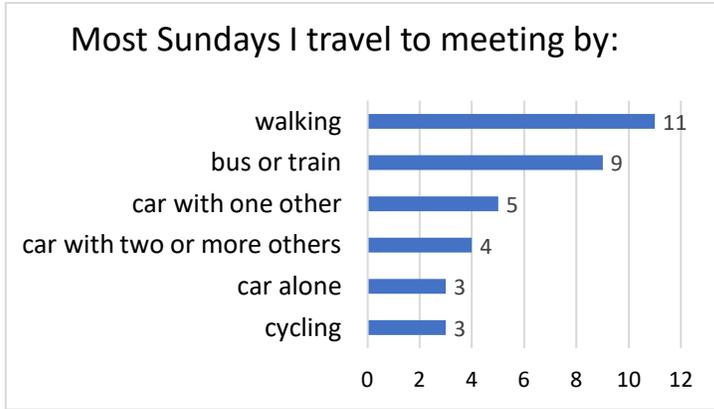


## Cotteridge Sustainability Group: Minutes 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**Present:** Carolyn Arber, Ian James, Sue Jenkins, Chris Martin, Harriet Martin

**19.21 Matters arising:**

**19.06 travel to meeting:** Results of beans in bottle survey—



Harriet will post these results on our notice board & Carolyn will include it in our newsletter.

**19.08: use of garden herbs:** Judith Jenner showed Harriet the herbs growing in the meeting house garden which included Rosemary and about four other herbs. We will suggest to the children's committee that the children make paper bags and then collect some of each of these herbs, offering them to Friends at the end of a meeting.

**19.09: work with other churches:** Political Night Prayer at Cotteridge Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. As part of the Political Night Prayer Chris Martin told the story of his life and how it corresponded to the rise of fossil fuel use and the ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere. He included a very inspiring clip of Greta Turnberg speaking at DAVOS.

**19.14: Electric vehicle charging points.** Our warden, Sue Jenkins, has been experiencing stress in managing use by the public of our car park. Currently no member of the meeting has an electric car. We thank Ian very much for his thorough research on this issue. We will keep it on file for use in future when we hope conditions will be more favourable. We will pass Ian's research on to Area Meeting Property Committee. It may be helpful to other meetings. Ian's report is filed with these minutes.

**19.15: Encouraging other churches.**

- Chris was invited to attend a 'mobilising the churches around the environment' seminar
- in London organised by A Rocha UK (Eco Church) and Churches Together in Britain and
- Ireland. The seminar was attended by 25 representatives from different churches and
- Christian environmental projects. It was a full and stimulating day. Chris is still 'processing'
- the presentations and plans to write an article for the Friend on some of the implications for
- Quakers in Britain. Themes explored during the day included: lone voice, green group
- syndrome; individual v. church action; creating spaces in which spirituality and morality

can be 'brought to the table'; and should churches provide a prophetic voice or work within the system.

h.. The Area Meeting (Chris and Claire) Members of the meeting are involved with planning an ecumenical climate change conference, "No Planet B", on June 29th at Bull Street. Amongst other, the Catholic Church is working with us on this. Their work has more emphasis on Acting out our faith in the world.

**19.16: May Shared Lunch** Jo Hindley has asked Friends to use the World Wildlife Fund calculator to assess our carbon footprints in preparation for a discussion following shared lunch in May. We welcome this initiative.

**19.21 Involvement of children.** On 24.03.2019 Harriet and Chris worked with the children (James, Natasha and Elfie), discussing and making booklets with ideas on how we can help our earth. Harriet will print out a copy of their advice for the notice board.

Arthur made some "turn off the lights" notices earlier in the year. Harriet will print these off, together with some from the web, laminate them and mount them by light switches in meeting.

**19.17: Spring walk.** Harriet and Chris attempted to join Margo in a walk through the bluebells in the Lickey on Tuesday, 30 April. Scheduling conflicts resulted in them walking separately, but meeting and greeting Margo and her friend, who were walking in the opposite direction.

Harriet joined the children at their campfire meeting on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April in Cotteridge Park.

**19.20 Earth Overshoot Day** Currently there is an on-line competition to estimate Earth Overshoot Day for 2019. The competition concludes on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; result to be announced on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We will request an Overshoot Day to be held at shared lunch in July.

**19.18 Harvest Home Event.** The meeting house will be being used by Junior Young Friends over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. On that day Harriet and Chris will be involved in a Sustainability Day organised by the BVT Green Forum. Harriet plans to join the car boot sale at Row Heath Pavilion on June 8<sup>th</sup>, with proceeds going to the Food Bank. She will suggest others contribute to the sale.

**19.19 Quaker Week evening event:** We have suggested to business meeting that four Quakers (probably, but not necessarily, all from Cotteridge meeting) speak about their work and concerns relating to different Quaker testimonies, demonstrating how sustainability permeates all the testimonies.

**19.16: Eco Church Gold Application.** Review of our Eco Church survey form. We went over the Eco Church form, modifying a few answers. Harriet will ask our Clerk if we can bring our completed form to Business Meeting in June for approval before submitting it to Ecochurch for a Gold Award.

Harriet Martin, Convenor

1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

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More recently we used beans in bottles to survey how Friends come to meeting.

It was pleasing to find far more walked to meeting than came alone in a car.

Usually I come to meeting by:	
foot	11
bus or train	9
car with one other	5
car with two or more others	4
cycle	3
car alone	3
<b>total</b>	<b>35</b>



## Getting to Meeting



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# Opening our "Superhomes" to the public



**5+ tonnes CO2 Saved every year!**

**gas 70% saving**

**Generates as much electricity as uses.**

## Old Home Superhome

39 Hawthorne Rd  
Bournville B30 1EQ

Open house with 90 minute tours:

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept: tours at 10am, 2pm, 4pm**

**Book your place at**  
www.superhomes.org.uk/63 or phone 0121 475-2088  
or email harrietmartin@btinternet.com

- RSVP www.superhomes.org.uk/63; harrietmartin@btinternet.com; 0121 475-2088

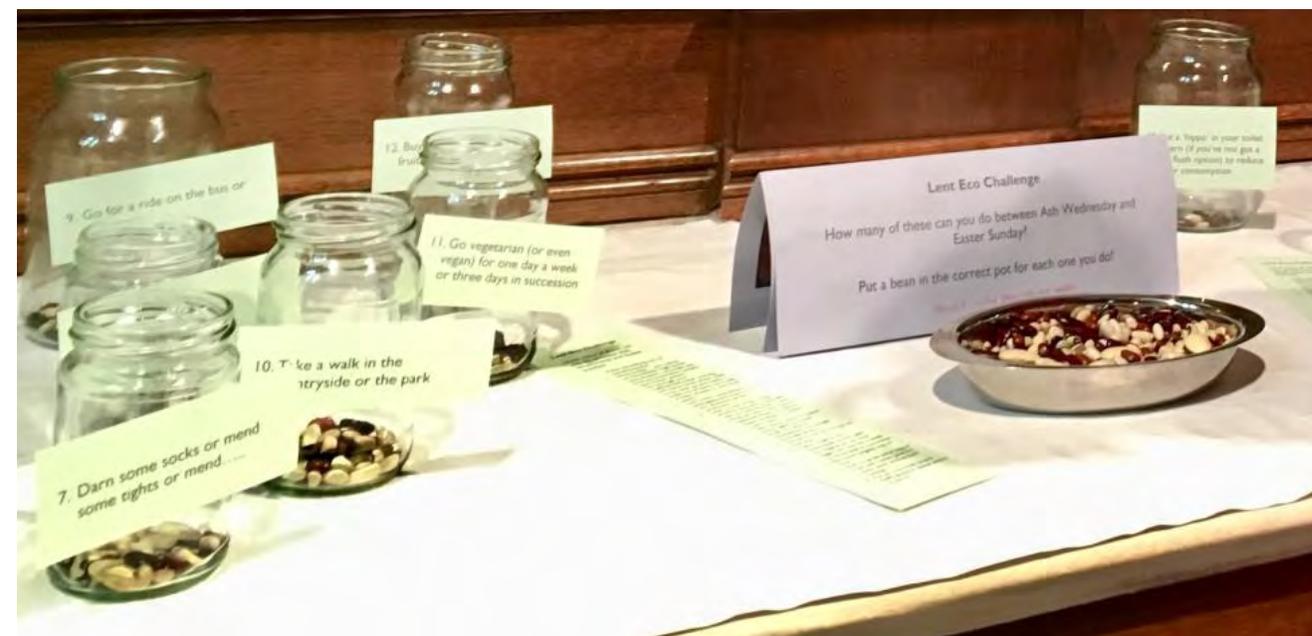


Zero Carbon House, Balsall Heath

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# Encouraging Carbon Friendly Lifestyle Choices within Meeting

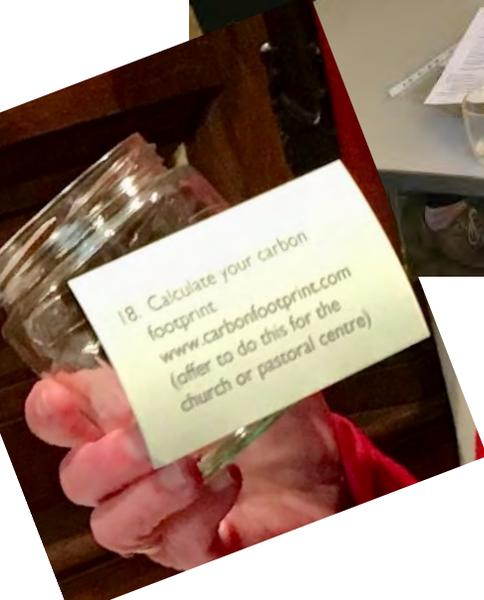


Cotteridge Quakers' Bean in a Bottle Survey



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# A Workshop on Foot-printing and Off-setting



living  
witness  
Quakers for Sustainability



## Climate impact calculator for individuals

This calculator helps you to estimate the climate impact of your own life. It is divided into seven categories: transport; energy; food; waste; house building; other goods and services; and public services.

You don't need access to precise information to fill it in. It may not quite fit your lifestyle so be creative and make guesses – but do be honest with yourself! Unless you are brilliant at mental maths, a calculator will be very helpful. An online version of this calculator is available at [www.quaker.org.uk/climate-impact-calculators](http://www.quaker.org.uk/climate-impact-calculators). Some sections start with calculations in kg per household, but all end up with kg per person (that means you!).

You don't need to do it all at once – perhaps tackle one section at a time.

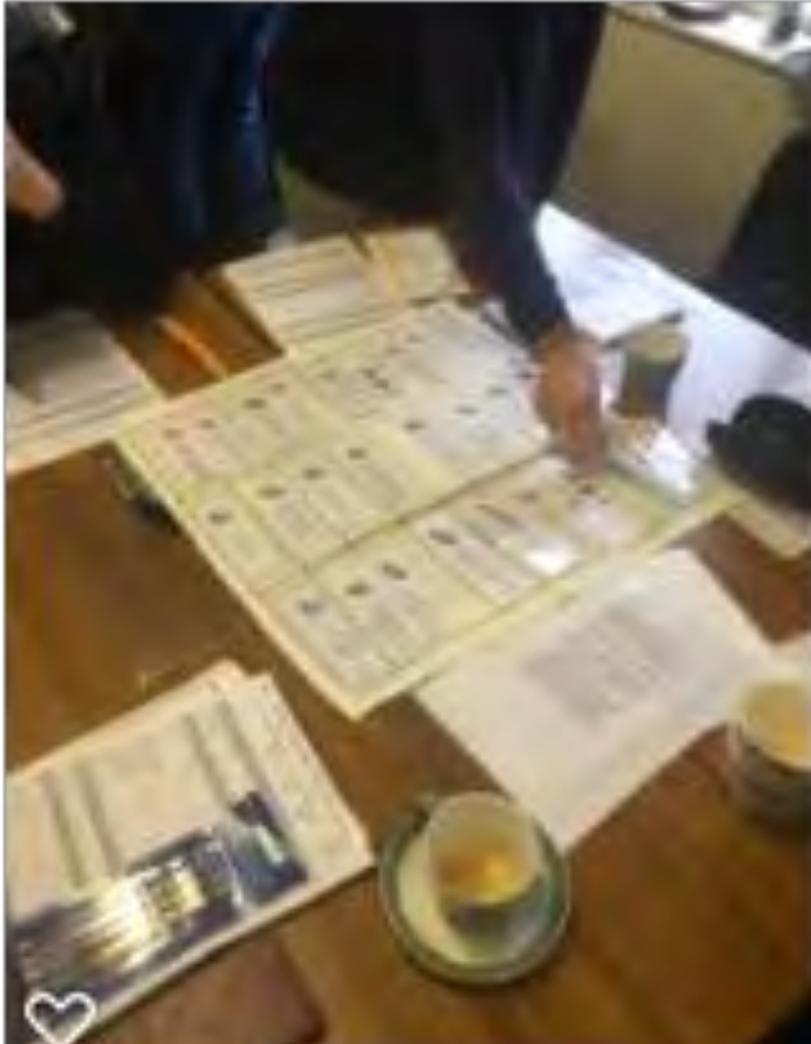
Calculations are made in kg of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent gases per year: this is the standard unit for greenhouse gas emissions. Some activities emit greenhouse gases (e.g. methane, nitrous oxide) that have a much higher climate impact per kg than CO<sub>2</sub>, and this is taken into account in the calculations. As far as possible the calculations account for the total impact of activities in each category. For example, the calculations for food take into account emissions in transport and retail, as well as agriculture and processing. For more details see the 'Calculating Emissions' guide at [www.livingwitness.org.uk](http://www.livingwitness.org.uk)

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# Games Made & Shared by Cotteridge Friends

[Playing A4 version of “Good, Better, Best” Game](#)



Linking “Sustainable Environment” to Peace, Justice, Equality & Simplicity at North Wales Quaker Area Meeting



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# In time for tomorrow?

the Carbon Conversations Handbook

Rosemary Randall and Andy Brown



Two Cotteridge Friends ran a Carbon Conversations programme in 2018 for six others

## The Carbon Conversations Workbook

Rosemary Randall and Andy Brown

“ Carbon Conversations is brilliant: it doesn't preach, it doesn't tell you what to do and it doesn't make you feel guilty. Instead it helps us understand the bigger issues surrounding the choices we make – the importance of travel to our identity, the complex relationship we have with food, the range of reasons why we buy stuff – and this gives us the insight to begin to address underlying causes of our behaviour.

“ The group helped me see that the impact of our daily decisions goes far beyond what I thought. There's a whole spectrum of opportunities for making a difference.

“ The small group approach meant it was a cooperative effort – rather than being told what to do, we were led to better understanding of the issues and encouraged to make personal choices.



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# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

In 2017 and 2018 we held “Harvest Home” events in the meeting house.

In 2017 the emphasis was on craft stalls but included a showing of Simon Amstell’s *Carnage* with vegan refreshments.

In 2018 the emphasis was on reuse. Most of the activity was centred around a large table top sale. Funds raised (£700) were donated to the Food Bank and “The Project” (a local charity supporting homeless and working to prevent homelessness). Meeting has now decided that funds from our regular sales of donated used books will also go to these charities. There were also a few craft stalls, plus sales of garden produce, jams and a vegan cookbook produced by a member of our meeting.

Double booking of our facilities prevented us holding a planned event in 2019.

Very regrettably similar planned event for 2020 was cancelled because of the pandemic.

23 Saturday



**September, 4 – 7 pm**  
**Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House,**  
23A Watford Rd. B30 1JB  
(Following our Harvest Home craft and produce sale)

**Animal and Climate Friendly**  
**Tea, Veggie Tasties and Talk**

*Please do bring and share vegan recipes!*

Before viewing Simon Amstell’s  
**Carnage: Swallowing the Past**

Carnage will be shown in the second half of this event. It is a “mockumentary”. It mixes unpalatable truths with clips of vegans, food advertising, Fanny Craddock, Nigella Lawson, extreme performance art



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# Members lead Making, Mending, Crafting groups



Northfield Quaker Meeting House Monthly Creative Day  
(run by two Cotteridge Friends)

## MAKE, MEND & RECYCLE

Next Meeting: 26th February 2020



You are welcome to join in with whatever activity is going on or to bring your own project.

At February's meeting we will be continuing repairs to knitwear (bring along needles, wool, holes to be darned...) and learning to crochet granny squares.

If you would like to crochet granny squares, whether you are an expert or a complete novice, please bring along a crochet hook and wool if you have them.



Are you interested in the mending and recycling of clothes, yarns and textiles creatively and sustainably? Would you like to come and share ideas and skills? We are not experts but aim to share what we know and learn together what we don't.

We meet from 1.30-3.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Community Room, upstairs at Boston Tea Party, The School Yard, High Street, Harborne, B17 9NJ

contact Carolyn on [cally.q@outlook.com](mailto:cally.q@outlook.com) if you want to know more

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24 Feb 2020 Event at Harborne Make Do and Recycle Group (attended by two Cotteridge Friends)

# Use Fairtrade goods as default

We have been  
thinking about  
objects from  
different countries  
and fairtrade.

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# Encouraging LOAF eating at home: Vegan Recipe Book by member of meeting



## **Carrot and Sunflower Spread/Dip**

200 g cooked carrots

100g sunflower seeds, soaked in water for approx 2 hours and drained

1 tablespoonful parsley

finely grated rind of 1 orange

2 teaspoons maple syrup

1 teaspoon ground coriander

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

3-4 tablespoons sunflower oil

salt and pepper

1 tablespoon nutritional yeast (optional)

Combine all ingredients in a food processor, adding oil and seasoning to taste.

“Food for Thought”, a vegan cookbook compiled by Carolyn, a Cotteridge Quaker, and distributed without charge at Cotteridge Meeting and at the Quaker Peace Hub in central Birmingham.

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# Sharing food & flowers from our gardens



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# SUMA food co-operative members

Suma

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	
	code	bulk unit	bulk price	Sale units	unit price	Number needed in full case	Number ordered		Heather & Mike	Adnan & Mark	nessa	Wendy	Harriet & Chris												
									No.	Price	No.	Price	No.	Price	No.	Price	No.	Price	No.	Price	No.	Price	No.	Price	
2	<b>Dried fruit</b>																								
3	dried fruit salad	DR068	5kg	32.5	500g	3.25	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	vine fruit mix	DR069	5kg	20.75	500g	2.08	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	raisins (organic)	DR053	1kg	5.49	250g	1.37	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	sultanas (organic)	DR146	2.5kg	10.59	500g	2.12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	cranberries (organic)	DR219	1kg	12.95	250g	3.24	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	12.96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	dried apricots	DR168	1kg	5.45	500g	2.73	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	prunes	DR239	1kg	4.75	500g	2.34	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10	mango slices	DR320	1kg	19.25	250g	4.81	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11	<b>Nuts and seeds</b>																								
12	Cashew nuts (pieces)	NU020	1kg	13.65	250g	3.41	4	5	0	0	0	1	3.41	4	13.64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

New order Account 17 July 19 June 1 May 16 March 27 Jan



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# Witnessing for and advising on the right use of money

Members of the meeting were encouraged to attend a meeting in town where the ethics and methods of Triodos were explained.

Now that Triodos runs current accounts, several Friends are doing all their banking with them.

Menu

Triodos Bank

Log in

Celebrating 25 years



Image: Ecotricity



Let your lives speak...

Be sure your money is not being invested in coal, oil or gas; ask your bank, pension fund, university to do the same!

Cotteridge Friends joined others in lobbying HSBC at its AGM on its support for fossil fuel companies in 2019. HSBC policy did as asked in 2020.

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