

## QUAKER UNIVERSALIST GROUP NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

Dear QUG supporter

### **Michael Wright**

We are very sorry to hear of the recent death of Michael Wright, who was a member of our QUG committee in 2020, a speaker at our 2015 conference, and a writer of several articles for our journal *Universalist*. We were very moved when Michael allowed us to publish his article *A life's journey* in our February 2021 *Universalist*: Michael wrote this article knowing he was terminally ill.

We have a pamphlet-size unpublished article by Michael written a few years ago called *Quaker Enrichments* and we hope to publish this in due course.

We have passed on our condolences to Michael's family.

### **QUG at Yearly Meeting Gathering**

As you know, the Yearly Meeting Gathering this year is to be held online. Many of you may have already registered to attend: see <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym> for information on how to register.

QUG are delighted to announce that we have **Rex Ambler** speaking to us at our special interest meeting under the title of *Time and Eternity*: he will continue our recent conference theme from a **Quaker** point of view. This talk will be on **Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 12.30 p.m.**

The format of our 1½ hour session will be the talk by Rex, discussion in breakout groups, and questions to Rex. We hope many of you will want to come to hear Rex but you can only apply to join this meeting by registering with Yearly Meeting Gathering and choosing our meeting in your schedule.

We will also be present at the Groups Fair online, on **Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup> from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.** and on **Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> from 7.00 to 8.00 p.m.** You do not have to prebook the Groups Fair, but just turn up online. Members of the QUG committee will be present to answer any of your questions, talk to you about QUG activities and arrange the sale of our books and pamphlets.

If any other members of QUG would like to help us at the Groups Fair, please let us know by replying to this newsletter: we have three hours to cover so extra help would be most welcome.

### **NFN Conference – That's the Spirit! Dimensions of Spirituality**

QUG supporters may be interested in the Nontheist Friends Network conference this month which will be held on three Wednesday evenings 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July.

*Spirituality, spiritual and spirit are among the most frequently used words in our Quaker vocabulary. But what do we mean by them? What do we mean by a spiritual life, a spiritual journey, a spiritual experience? Can we be religious without being spiritual, or spiritual without being religious?*

With keynote speakers:

Andrew Copson (Chief Executive, Humanists UK),  
Dinah Livingstone (Editor 'Sofia', Sea of Faith)  
and Gill Pennington (Spirituality Tutor, Woodbrooke)

Full details at:

<https://nontheist-quakers.org.uk/events/thats-the-spirit-dimensions-of-spirituality-nfn-conference-2021/>

## **QUG Annual Conference May 2021 – Life, Time and Eternity**

We have been delighted with the positive response towards our recent online conference. We held seven evening or Saturday sessions, each 1¾ hours in length. All six speakers we had originally booked for 2020 were able to join us. The final session tried to draw out conclusions and included our AGM.

We heard about *life, time and eternity* from an anthropologist, a Christian, a Muslim Shaykh, a Zen Buddhist, a leading physicist and a lecturer in Hinduism.

Attendances ranged between 50-70 for each session. After each speaker (except one) we went into breakout rooms of about eight to discuss the talk and generate questions. We then returned and during a short comfort break put all the questions into Chat. In the final part of the session the speaker answered questions, from the Chat or from individuals.

Zoom enabled people from all over the UK (and world) to take part and the breakout rooms enabled everybody to contribute to the event. So, although we lost some of the benefits of physically going away together, in other ways there were gains.

All the talks are now on our website <https://qug.org.uk/>.

Later, we intend to produce a pamphlet containing the talks with an extra chapter trying to bring all the ideas together. Hopefully, this pamphlet will help us all, including those unable to join us online, to continue to investigate the topic of *time, life and eternity*. Since we are putting together six talks, plus a general article, this pamphlet will take some time to prepare: the best guess for publication at present is sometime in August.

## **Our Conference in 2022 – Health and Healing – Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham – April 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>**

We are very hopeful of returning to Woodbrooke in 2022 and we have already booked April 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, so please put these dates in your diary.

We are planning for this to be a blended conference. Hopefully, many of us will be able to go to Woodbrooke, including the speakers and facilitators. However, others may prefer to attend online and we aim to integrate the two groups of people as much as possible. Since we will be based at Woodbrooke using their facilities we will have to charge for both those going to Woodbrooke and (with a lesser charge) for those attending online.

We are planning to cover a range of topics around the subject of health and healing, including:

- The healing ministry amongst Quakers
- Physical, mental and spiritual health
- How healing practices like yoga and t'ai chi relate to the culture and religions where they originated.
- Healing in traditional societies

We hope to include talks, discussion and practical sessions.

We will keep you informed of our planning and how you can apply through these newsletters and on our website.

### ***Universalist***

The February 2021 edition of *Universalist* was again well-received and it covered a wide range of topics. Here is a list of its contents:

- *From the Editor* – Shona Lowe
- *Jim Pym: An Appreciation* – Tony Philpott
- *Timeless Moments* – Judith Fullard Smith
- *The QUG Fringe Meeting: Is the future of Quakerism Universalist?* – Tony Philpott, Peter Varney, Alan York
- *A Sense of Belonging* – Clive Sutton
- *A Life's Journey* – Michael Wright
- 4 Book Reviews on *Until the End of Time*, *Heaven and Hell*, *A History of the Bible*, *Wells of Thought*

If you don't get *Universalist* on a regular basis then do join us as a member – see below.

We are now looking for articles for our next two editions, October this year and February next year. We welcome any articles related to universalism. Please send articles to Tony Philpott (by replying to this email), or directly to the Editor of *Universalist*, Shona Lowe, at [shonal@qug.org.uk](mailto:shonal@qug.org.uk). **The deadline for receiving articles for the October 2021 edition of *Universalist* is July 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.**

## Membership of QUG

Renewals for QUG membership were due on 1st January 2021, so to renew your subscription for this year (or to join QUG for the first time) please complete the membership form at the end of this newsletter.

As a member you receive two free issues of our journal *Universalist* each year plus a free copy of the QUG pamphlet which contains the written papers/articles from the conference. You will also be supporting the work of QUG.

Whilst most members choose to receive *Universalist* as hard copies, the option is also available to receive them in e-form, at a reduced membership rate.

If you are a UK member the annual subscription rate for an e-mail copy of *Universalist* is **£12.00** and for a paper copy **£18.00**.

If you have a paper copy you can get extra copies of *Universalist* at £12.00 per annum per extra copy. You may also request to receive *Universalist* in e-form as well, at no extra cost.

If you live outside the UK, or have any questions, please consult us by emailing [contact@qug.org.uk](mailto:contact@qug.org.uk) or by replying to this newsletter.

If you include an email address on the application/renewal form we will put you on our e-list to receive e-newsletters *unless* you request otherwise.

New members will receive two free pamphlets of their choice.

We encourage members to take out a standing order because this is very helpful in reducing the work for your volunteer committee. You can also pay by cheque (made out to QUG) or by direct transfer (in which case please notify the Treasurer of who you are, the date and the amount so that he can identify your payment).

Membership forms (including our bank details) are at the end of this newsletter or on our website at <https://qug.org.uk/membership/>

We have left some gaps below to help you if you wish to print directly from this email.



I am adding a donation of .....

**Total Annual Cost** .....

I enclose a cheque payable to QUG/I am setting up an annual Standing Order/I have transferred the money to QUG bank account. *(please delete as appropriate)*

QUG bank details are: Lloyds TSB. The Quaker Universalist Group. Sort Code 30-97-35, Account No: 00016421.

**Please print**

Name(s) .....

Address:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Post Code: .....

Tel No:

.....

E-mail: .....

*Are you willing to allow your contact details to be made available to other QUG members? Please circle:       **Yes**   **No***

**Please send your subscription to the treasurer:**

Geoff Gates, 5, School Street, Church Lawford. Rugby. CV23 9EE. [glengeoff@talktalk.net](mailto:glengeoff@talktalk.net)

*The Bank Standing Order form follows:*

**Bank Standing Order Mandate**

**To: (your bank)**-----  
-

**(Bank's address)**-----  
-----

-----**Post**  
**Code**-----

**Bank sort code-----/-----/----- (as given in your cheque book)**

**Please pay TSB Bank plc,**

**St. Marychurch Branch, 221, St.Marychurch Road, Torquay, Devon. TQ1 4NB,**

**sort code 30-97-35, for the Quaker Universalist Group, A/C no 00016421, the sum of:**

**(-----pounds -----pence).**

**\*on the first day of each month(or)**

**\*the ----- day of -----each year,**

**beginning-----until further notice.**

**\*(delete as appropriate for monthly or yearly payments; for yearly payments give the day and month; and for either give a start date no sooner than one month from the date of your completing the Mandate).**

**And debit my/our Account No.-----**

**Donors name(s) and initials: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Post Code**

**E-mail**

**Signature**

**Dated**

**Please send this completed form to:**

**Geoff Gates, 5, School Street, Church Lawford, Rugby. CV23 9EE**