

QUAKER CONCERN OVER POPULATION

NEWSLETTER 10 SPRING 2022

QCOP Art/Poster Competition

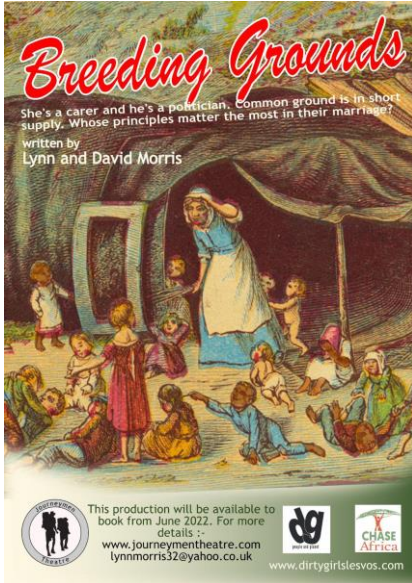
As a Quaker Recognised Body established to raise concerns about population QCOP is always looking for new ways to spread the message and help Friends better understand the challenges of a higher population. We believe there are too many people on the planet using far too much of the Earth's renewable resources. Each extra birth increases consumption and each extra birth in the rich countries increases consumption far

more than a birth in the developing world. It is obvious that this cannot go on! To help spread our concern we are organising a competition for a picture or poster to highlight the issue. These can be in any medium but must be 2D. There are three categories: *Under 11, Teenage and Adult.*

Entries will be displayed on a page on the QCOP Website (qcop.org.uk) and Friends will be invited to choose one from each category which they feel best conveys our concern. This, plus advice from our judges will choose the winning entry. There will be a prize of £100 for the winning entry in each category. The three winning entries will be displayed on our website and hopefully in Meeting Houses.

The competition runs throughout May and closes on 31st May. The winners will be announced at QCOP's AGM on Wednesday 29th June. For an entry form and rules email davidtinsley@yahoo.co.uk.

Breeding Grounds – a new play from Journeymen Theatre commissioned by QCOP



Breeding Grounds

Stewart and Ingrid have been together a long time but the fault lines in their relationship are getting ever more fragile.

Ingrid sees life through the focus of her work as an agency carer and climate change activist, whilst Stewart is a back bench MP. His perspectives are based on political pragmatism, hers on a sense of urgency and the belief that change must begin with each individual.

Breeding Grounds explores the human response to sustainability, world population and the moral dilemmas that are now facing each and every one of us in our daily lives. And to which we have to find our own accommodating solutions in the face of what seems to many to be, a state of political inertia.

Journeymen Theatre are a West Midlands-based Human Rights theatre company. We tour extensively throughout the UK and are supported by Stourbridge Quakers and associated Quaker organisations.

Please check out our website to see the full range of our work and for performance dates:

This project has been commissioned by QCOP (Quaker Concern Over population)

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Why we commissioned 'Breeding Grounds'

We wanted to bring the difficult subject of **world over-population** into the open, as it is rarely mentioned. Who better to do this than the professional actors Journeymen, a Quaker couple who

have written many plays on social issues and performed them around the country?

Breeding Grounds is another intense, thought-provoking play which will be followed by the usual opportunity for questions and discussion. It shows how the environmental crisis is driven by a

combination of population and consumption.

Fran Worpe, Godalming

Performance Dates

Saturday June 11th 7.30pm

Lansdown Hall, Stroud

Wednesday June 15th *Quaker*

Meeting house, Central Leeds,

LS2 9DX. time tbc

Saturday June 18th 7.30pm

Gloucester Friends Meeting

House

Friday June 24th, 5.45pm,

Castle Centre, Barnstaple (part of Barnstaple Fringefest)

Saturday June 25th, 8.30pm,

Castle Centre, Barnstaple

Sunday June 26th, 1pm, *Castle*

Centre, Barnstaple

Friday July 1st, 7pm. *Folk Hall,*

New Earswick, nr York

Friday September 30th,

Friends House Euston Rd. time

tbc

Saturday October 2nd,

Kingston Quaker Centre, time

tbc

Friday October 28th, *Alresford,*

Hampshire, time tbc

Saturday October 29th, 7pm

Guildford Friends Meeting

House

Sunday October 30th, 1.30pm

Guildford Friends Meeting

House (Surrey and Hampshire

Border Area Meeting)

(Information correct at time of going to press but please check Journeymen's Theatre website for updates and additional dates.)

QCOP work with pupils at

William Penn Primary

School, Horsham

(the only UK primary school with a Quaker Foundation)

Current thinking requires successful primary school lessons to start with learning objectives and conclude with an evaluation, which is the way we approached our lesson with Years 5 and 6 at the William Penn Primary School, Horsham when we visited in October.



The learning objectives shared with the class were that they would understand two of the major challenges to sustainable societies:

- rich countries produce more carbon dioxide and global warming than poorer countries
- more *people* produce more CO² and global warming

The lesson began with visual demonstrations of actions that produce CO²: lighting a match, using a hair dryer, eating a

sausage and a grape etc. The source of CO² being traced back to fire, electricity generation, transport, agriculture, retail heating and lighting. Breathing into lime-water was also demonstrated, showing that just by being alive everyone produces CO²!

The children were then asked what they had done that morning to produce CO² and to record this on shapes of children, which they stuck on a map of the world. Thus they seemed to understand that whereas 34 lots of CO² produced by their class probably made little difference to global warming, 7.5 billion (the current world population) lots made a huge difference!

William Penn School has a green ethos and the children, already having a good understanding of the negative effects of global warming, were asked. "How might these affect your living in a sustainable society?" This brought sobering thoughts to some!

A good primary school lesson needs challenging activities to provoke thought and questioning. Pairs of children were asked to “match” cards to show how changing their behaviour could make a difference, eg: driving to school **or** walking to school, bathing **or** showering, using power from burning coal **or** power from wind, having a smaller family **or** having a larger family. This produced lots of interest and discussion.

QCOP are very aware that rich countries need to change. This was emphasised when children were shown two pictures: one of life in a Western city and the other of a boy carrying water in a poor country. They were asked “Who produces more CO²?” The answers came thick and fast for the first picture but the boy carrying water in old plastic bottles hanging from a pole on his shoulders proved much more difficult!



Developed World

Write 5 ways the people in this picture are producing carbon dioxide.



Developing World

Write 5 ways the boy in this picture is producing carbon dioxide.

The pupils then completed a questionnaire, for example “Do you shop at charity shops or Primark?” “Do you turn the tap off when cleaning your teeth, or not?” The teacher evaluated their responses.

Carbon Footprint Worksheet

1 Do you turn the lights off when you leave the room?

Yes	0
No	2

2 How do you get to school?

Walk or cycle	0
By car	4
By bus	1

3 Do you turn off the water when you clean your teeth?

Yes	0
No	2

4 Are you a meat eater or a vegetarian?

Meat eater	3
Vegetarian	0

5 Do you buy most of your clothes from

Charity shops	0
Clothes shops	2

6 Do you holiday at home or abroad?

At home	0
Abroad	4

7. Do you try to recycle or throw things in the bin?

Recycle	0
Use the bin	2

8. Do you spend more time reading or on your computer?

Reading	0
Games console/phone	1

9. If you are cold do you turn the heating up or put on more clothes?

Turn the heating up	2
Put on more clothes	0

10. Do you think you will have a small family or a large family or no children?

A large family	10
A small family/no children	0

*The lower your score, the better.
You make less carbon dioxide*

To end the lesson on a high note, the children were shown a pineapple and an apple and asked: "Which is the greener option and why?" As a reward for the correct answer, each child was given an English apple to enjoy at break-time. Louise and I went for a rest!

Our thanks to Years 5 and 6 at William Penn School and especially their teacher Anna

Constable for allowing us to join in their learning.

*David and Louise Tinsley for
QCOP*

CHASE Africa
(Community Health and Sustainable Environment)
– a talk by Robin Witt to QCOP, 23rd February

I was really impressed with this talk by Robin Witt. In a world of increasingly corporate charities, often with CEOs on six-figure salaries, we heard how CHASE Africa is (like the best Quaker concerns), small and agile enough to fill the gaps left by other charities and responsive to the needs of people on the ground. Robin told us that he only works part-time with a small stipend on the charity, which seems to be a real passion, and partly funds himself by working the rest of his time as a builder (with postgraduate qualifications and lots of experience in agriculture)! This is a refreshing change from some high-powered corporate charities.

CHASE Africa began primarily as an environmental charity planting trees in schools (many of which had some land) and protecting wildlife. It still does! Robin then described how the charity responded to local needs by supplying more efficient clay ovens. Importantly, in talking to African women, he also realised a real need for family planning, which was next to non-existent for most people there, resulting in a huge impact on the environment due to a rapidly increasing population. Robin described his response, not motivated by ideology so much as by practicality.

CHASE works with Community Health Workers (and “back-pack nurses”), a practical, efficient approach building on what was already working on the ground. Robin described progress against cultural issues such as the perception of men that large families were a sign of virility or the myth that contraception would cause

infertility. The approach here is again responsive, seeking to recruit more *male* Community Health Workers, who will be listened to more by the men.

Robin is realistic and CHASE Africa has approached family planning as part of a primary health strategy: responding to need and giving people the ability to choose, empowering women, reducing poverty, and thereby fulfilling the original aim of the charity to lessen human burden on the environment. Contraception can be given as long-lasting injections (giving 3 month contraception) or implants (for around \$10 for 5 years protection), reducing the need for unlicensed and often unsafe abortions. Today 100 million women in Africa cannot choose when to have children.

We heard some interesting facts. Education is the best form of contraception. Primary education is free in Kenya, but secondary education is still very expensive (£250-£300 per

year, with a typical income of less than £2 per day). 19,000 teenage girls became pregnant last year during the covid pandemic, and consequently had to drop out of school. For every £1 spent on contraception £3 is saved on abortive, new-born and maternal care costs in low and middle income countries, saving mothers and infants. When a woman can space out her children, she can care for them much better.

Shouldn't the government in places like Kenya provide family planning? However, there aren't the funds for the government to do, so CHASE Africa fulfils a vital need by working with the Kenyan Ministry of Health, and with their approval. CHASE Africa is also increasingly working with adolescents.

CHASE Africa works in partnership with environmental charities which benefit from the increased standing they get in the communities, often

in fragile rural areas. When poor African women see the benefit of having access to contraception, they are more likely to be on-board with other ways of protecting the environment.

The experience of CHASE Africa confirms QCOP's thinking on population with the minimum of pre-conceptions and maximising practical empowerment. I was thoroughly impressed with Robin's charity, a true passion which seems very effective and focused. I thoroughly recommend listening to the whole talk! It includes more facts and figures, and more of Robin's very personal and moving story with this concern. Robin really cares about some of the world's poorest women.

QCOP has chosen to support this charity. Details of how to help can be found below.

Jason Evans, Brighton

Support a charity

We are often asked what individual Friends can do. One way is to support bodies working in family planning. Our nominated charity is **CHASE Africa** (See article above). Please donate generously to help them carry on their work. Thank you.

You can make a donation to CHASE via BACs Payment:
Account Name: CHASE Africa
Sort Code: 40-21-19
Account No: 31623834

Or via their website
www.chaseafrica.org.uk/donate/

Difficult Questions Over Population.

This booklet is still available priced for £3.50 (£5 incl UK postage). Available from jmrr57@outlook.com.

Lending with lendwithcare.org

Friends might like to know about this website which matches up people willing to lend from as little as £15 to budding entrepreneurs in poorer countries. The way it works is quite clever: once signed up (you will need an email address and a PayPal account), you simply choose the entrepreneurs you wish to fund and pay them via the website. The website then collects all the money for the entrepreneurs (typically many lenders will make up the full loan) and makes the loan via microfinance lenders based in the poorer countries.

When the loan is repaid (you typically get a small amount back each month), you can withdraw the money or else put it towards more loans. This means the same pot of money can go round many times, helping poor entrepreneurs to

help themselves. There is a video on their website at <https://lendwithcare.org/info/how-it-works> that explains the process in simple terms.

The website is run by CARE International which sent relief packages to Europe after WW2. QCOP Friends might like to know that this parent charity also work in an area close to our concern: <https://www.care-international.org/what-we-do/sexual-reproductive-maternal-health> .

I have set up a lending team for Brighton Quakers at <https://lendwithcare.org/teams/brightonquakers>. Once you are signed up to the scheme you can add the loans you have made to this lending team, or to another if you prefer. No money changes hands in crediting a lending team, it just keeps a tally of all the loans made by members of the team. You can't credit a loan to more than one team at a time,

but you can change your mind later if you wish.

What I think is wonderful about this scheme is that almost anyone can make a difference, even people on low incomes here, because in the end you need not be substantially out of pocket and the same money put in can go round many times. If you can spare £15, even just for a while, you can be part of this. Donating a regular small amount to keep the service going is encouraged, but entirely optional.

The loan requests tend to be for in the region of £1000, but can be made up from numerous little loans of £15 or more. There is plenty of scope to lend to particular types of borrower, based on your search preferences. For example you might prefer to lend to Palestinian territories, or to borrowers running “green” businesses. Once the total is reached, the website

will let you know that that entrepreneur is fully funded. You will then receive regular payments back into your PayPal account.

Many of the borrowers are African “village ladies” who club together to act as mutual guarantors. On rare occasions I have had a borrower delay payment but defaults are very rare. It’s worth mentioning that as a lender you don’t receive interest, but you do have the satisfaction of giving someone a much-needed ‘leg-up’. I can try to answer further questions.

Jason Evans

2022 Events Diary

(see above for Journeymen
Theatre dates)

27th April 19.00 Members
Evening. Florence Blondel

May - Art Competition

21st May 17.00-18.30 - BYM
Groups Fair

22nd May 14.00-15.30 - BYM
Groups Fair

22nd May 19.00-20.30 BYM -
Quaker Concern over
Population - our faith in action
(*Zoom link available via BYM*)

29th June – AGM followed by
a proactive workshop

17th August - talk by Terry
Spahr – Earth Overshoot Day

12th October 19.00 Talk by
Martin Earl - 'Is the global
population falling?'

15 October A member of
QCOP speaks to Yorkshire
Quakers

(further details - including
zoom link- of these events will
be sent to members nearer
the time)

Our Newsletter

The opinions in this newsletter are
the views of the contributors and
do not necessarily represent
those of the Editor or QCOP.
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