

**London Quakers Banking Day (1.10.16) follow on meeting 24th January –
Minute of Record.**

Nineteen of us met together on 24.1.17 at Friends House to discern a way forward following the Banking Day on 1.10.16. Amongst us was Rachel Oliver from Positive Money, Archie Pearson from Oiko Credit and Maya Williams from QPSW.

Literature was made available, including: Principles for a New Economy and the just published Money, Banks and Finance in the New Economy. We also looked at copies of the Housing Tool Kit, produced following the London Quakers Housing Day 20.2.16.

We agreed to focus on actions we could take to bring about the changes we would seek. These were collected and it was agreed to have a minute of record to include the range of suggestions. This minute of record would form the basis of a further meeting to take our discernment forward and to begin to take action. It was suggested by Maya Williams from QPSW that a facilitator from Turning the Tide <https://turningtide.org.uk/> might assist us in this process.

The summary of suggestions includes ideas offered at the end of the Banking day on 1.10.16 and summarised on London Quakers website. It was said that ideas should be substantial, sustainable and co-faith. We recognised there is a job of education to do amongst us to take forward a grounded concern.

The ideas are grouped into what we can do individually, in our Meetings and more widely. They also include additional information sent after the meeting from Rachel Oliver, Positive Money and Maya Williams, QPSW. The possible actions this group can take concludes this minute of record.

What we can do individually now.

- Start or join a New Economy Reading Group using the new economy series of workbooks. www.quaker.org.uk/neweconomy

From QPSW: New Economy Reading Groups

We have over 25 Quaker New Economy reading groups across the country that are either set up or being set up. People could run one with their local meeting. This would help educate people about the economy

and related topics, and also hopefully encourage meetings to come to a collective understanding and think of ways to take action.

If people do sign up to start a reading group they will then be sent information about how to set up a group and session plans to help people to discuss the 7 books. People can sign up to start a reading group on this webpage: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/neweconomy>

- Share our learning with our LMs and AMs.
- Move from being a passive consumer to being an active participant. (Change your bank.)
- From QPSW: Your Faith Your Finance.
There is a very good website with a lot of information, which people may be interested in looking at- <http://www.yourfaithyourfinance.org/>
There is also a resource online to support people to run their own workshop on this topic with their meeting. You can find the PowerPoint presentation and facilitation notes, and printable resources for group activities on the Quaker website on the ethical finance page - <http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/ethical-finance>
- Complete the Credit Union Survey.
From QPSW:
North Wales Credit Union Group currently have a survey that they would love Friends and attenders to fill in. It would be great if people who were at the meeting could fill this in, but they could also encourage others in their meeting to fill it in to. The link for the survey is:
<http://bit.ly/Qcredit>
- Learn about other ways of saving, eg. Oiko Credit www.oikocredit.org.uk and Triodos Bank www.Triodos.co.uk/savings etc . (Triodos Bank plan to offer personal savings accounts in the early Autumn.)
- Sign the Positive Money campaign. www.positivemoney.org
- Join Positive Money local groups to learn more and join in actions. www.positivemoney.org/local-groups
- Join Local Exchange Trading Schemes, (LETS) www.letslinkuk.net and www.londonwide.letslink.org.
- Learn about the Campaign for Interest-free Money. www.interestfreemoney.org

- Learn about the concept and implementation of 'Basic Income for All'.
- Read more widely to build and question our understanding. Eg. Break up the Banks! A practical guide to stopping the next global financial meltdown. By David Shirreff (ISBN 9781612195025) and The Corruption of Capitalism by Guy Standing.
<http://basicincome.org/news/2015/04/guy-standing-the-growing-precariat-why-we-need-a-universal-basic-income/>

What we can do in our Local and Area Meetings.

- Start a New Economy Reading Group.
- Make links with a Positive Money group in our locality and have a joint meeting or invite a local Positive Money group leader to speak to our LM or AM. www.positivemoney.org/local-groups
- Join the Quaker Living Wage Campaign.

From QPSW:

Lancaster meeting is supporting Quaker Area Meetings to become Living Wage accredited employers. We would encourage all Area Meetings to look to see if they are eligible. There is a lot of information about the campaign on the Lancaster Quakers website-

www.lancsquakers.org.uk/livingwagecampaign.php people can also contact the living wage group via e-mail on livingwage@lancsquakers.org.uk.

They have supported 4 Area Meetings to be accredited since the campaign started in 2015.

- Consider the banking and saving arrangements we use in our LMs and AMs.

What we might do more widely from this group.

- Work to get a statement to BYM encompassing the change we wish to see and how we might bring about an economic system in which Quaker testimony can flourish. BYM 2015, minute 36: "We ask Friends and meetings to engage with the evil of social and economic injustice which creates a world in which the wrong things are valued."
- Learn more about the work being done by others and take a view on who we want to work with.

- Work with others to strengthen this message including those of other faiths and none. Eg. Positive Money, Co-faith for Monetary Justice. www.ccmj.org
- Use the experience of how ensuring same sex marriage was achieved to inform our work.
- Build on the Quaker banking heritage and history to inspire and inform our work.
- Use Quaker Faith and Practice to guide and inform our work.
- Organise other opportunities to inform people and seek influential speakers.
- Consider using the Overton Window approach (ISBN:9781451625288) and MAP of Economic Reform www.themap.org.uk to take our work forward to help change the public narrative and understanding.
- Consider 'painting a picture' of what a next 'crash' would look like.
- Seek support from a facilitator at Turning the Tide www.turningtide.org.uk to help us plan our work.
- Create a leaflet combining all the information gained on the Banking Day 1.10.16.
- Promote setting up an All Party Parliamentary Group on Banking. (APPG) Seek guidance from our Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Jessica Metheringham and her Scottish colleague. Stay connected to the APPG.
- Apply for a QPSW Sustainability and New Economy Grant to take this work forward.

From QPSW:

Sustainability & New Economy Grants

We give out £5000 in grants each yet. Application deadlines are normally around October, and money is distributed in December for projects to run the following year. People may want to start thinking now about projects that may require some funding. In my role I am able to support the development of projects so if anyone wants to get in touch with me about this then they can do that on my e-mail (mayaw@quaker.org.uk)

Recorded by Sue Newsom, on behalf of London Quakers 15.2.17.