

Britain Yearly Meeting 2016

Central Nominations Committee

THE WORK of the Central Nominations Committee (CNC) every year is perhaps the most important and least well-known and understood of all the main Yearly Meeting (YM) committees. Friends need an interest group to seriously

— CNC finds and brings forward to Britain Yearly Meeting names for members of other major YM committees. It looks through the Yearly Meeting of Friends, and should identify and nurture Friends who have abilities and skills to do our work. The Yearly Meeting Quaker Study Centre runs trial courses for admissions

— Friends want to be part of our work, you probably don't know about nominations and should be made

— Friends were urged to please place all nomination forms, even if they are not currently available

— Approval discussion covered the general nomination problems and several cases they were referred for the Yearly Meeting

— Friends were also urged to please themselves about nominations in their own way and to apply to their local or district Yearly Meeting

Conscience and conscription exhibition

THE LIBRARY and archive of the Quaker Yearly Meeting, Central, has a conscience and conscription exhibition on display.

The newly revised Quaker Yearly Meeting Yearly Meeting (YM) members, George Wood, illustrating a busy stretch of work leading to the Peace on the British Isles, is on display.

The 1840-1841 Yearly Meeting is displayed in the pages. This is the first time the middle and right-hand pages have been shown together in 160 years. Unfortunately, the left-hand page is missing. A scan of the right-hand page is shown below.

Some documents, affected how Quakers regarded both conscription and non-compliance, and others how Quakers' attitudes and beliefs towards conscription changed over the years.

The stories behind the statistics

A CHALLENGING production by Journeymen Theatre left a hushed audience with food for thought on Saturday.

Lynn and David Morris performed 'Feeding the Darkness... Shining a Light on State-Sanctioned Torture through Story, Poem and Song' at a special interest group hosted by Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (Q-CAT).

The stories, told via ten standalone dramatic scenes, shone a light on the personal experiences of both the tortured and torturers. The long-lasting effects of such practices as foot whipping, waterboarding, sleep deprivation and rectal feeding on the human beings involved took centre stage.

The scenes approached the subject from a wide range of perspectives: from victims to those in contact with them as they sought asylum; from perpetrators to the impact on their families; from 1930s Germany to present day UK; and from a vicar delivering an impassioned sermon on what they've learned about torture to a couple, involved in manufacturing, shopping for cruises as they discuss the global market their new range of manacles has benefitted from.

The performance showed the complex and far-reaching consequences of torture on all those involved, incorporating shocking facts into heartfelt human stories.