

## **Friargate Appeals and Collections Committee**

### **Report to Local Meeting January 2015**

The Appeals and Collections Committee met at the end of 2013 to plan the appeals for 2014. As has been our practice in recent years, we focused on causes which have a Quaker connection, or are of importance to members of the Meeting. We are conscious that many Friends already give to Charities, so we try to draw to your attention smaller Charities, or organisations of which you may not be aware, who will benefit from the scale of financial contribution the Meeting can make.

The annual planning arrangement helps to ensure we are well organised and the process of writing notices goes smoothly. It does make it difficult to respond quickly to urgent appeals – but we are confident friends will respond to major appeals of this sort of their own initiative.

The writing of notices is shared between the members of the Appeals and Collections Team. We endeavour to write a succinct summary of why the Appeal is being made, and what the money raised will do.

A summary of the Appeals and the amount raised for each one is attached. This year the total amount raised has been significantly lower than in previous years: we raised nearly £4500 in total during 2013, and a total of £3842 in 2014. I can see no obvious reasons for this in the nature of the causes or the way they have been presented: most of the causes are ones for which we have raised money in past years. Perhaps Friends, like others, have felt they have fewer resources to spare this year.

As usual, the amount raised for each cause varies quite widely – between £43 for Forces Watch and £250 for Quaker Congo Partnership. [The average is £74 per week - £148 for a two-week appeal]. I can see no particular pattern to the giving, although we should think carefully before asking again for a charity which clearly does not engage the interest of the Meeting.

The committee met again at the end of 2014, following a notice encouraging Friends to let us know of any particular causes which they would like us to support: a small number of responses were received. I attach a list of the causes for which we will be making appeals in 2015, and I hope Friends will see coming up appeals with which they are in sympathy.

I am now at the end of my tenure as a Member and Convenor of the Appeals and Collections Committee. Maggie Caudwell also stands down from the committee. I am pleased that new members have been found: Keith Knight and Stacey Hocking will join Brian Vernon Rees and Felicia McCormick as Members of the Committee. I am also grateful to Felicia for agreeing to convene the Committee for the coming year.

Chris Holman  
Convenor  
January 2015