

Quakers

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

CIRENCESTER MEETING

53 THOMAS STREET
CIRENCESTER
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Tel: (01285) 652217

From the Wardens: Jeanne Bower
Ray Robinson

20th May 1999

Grahame H Petchey
559 Norlee Street
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Grahame

Quakers are known for their silence, but I'm sure you must be disappointed not to have heard from us sooner! I most sincerely apologise and now write to thank you for your generous gift of the book. In one of those odd coincidences (or are they?), I was gardening near the plaque which commemorates Nona Ransome's name only days before your book arrived and was thinking and wondering who she was since I had not heard her mentioned (having only been joint warden here since last August). I was therefore amazed and excited to receive the book and read it with great interest. It has now been passed to Edgar Hope-Simpson one of our oldest surviving members (at 92!) who remembers Nona and is, I suspect the person you were in touch with before. I imagine you will hear from Edgar but his address is 46 Chesterton Park, Cirencester, Glos GL7 2PX. Tel: 01285 654530.

I recently read a paper by a prominent Quaker, Rex Ambler, entitled "Quaker way, Zen way" which explored our ways in common and the Zen Buddhist master, Thich Nhat Hanh (who is based in France I believe) is highly regarded by many Quakers. I have also just come across a reference to Nona in a local Quaker history as having redesigned the garden with, amongst others, Pauline Faux who is also still very much with us - so I feel I must have been receptive to Nona's continuing presence that day!

Thankyou for remembering us and do come and visit if you are over in England.

Yours in friendship,

Jeanne Bower