

Obituary – Mykil ‘Michael’ Waugh

Most of us knew Mykil as Michael and I will refer to him as Michael from now on. On his recent 75th birthday Michael (pictured below) had a large cake with candles in the garden of the nursing home where he had been since last year. In the week following his birthday his sister and husband were able to visit him from Leicestershire but his brother was too unwell to come from Yorkshire.

Michael was a member of CND for many years. Kate Hudson, general secretary of CND, has written ‘I very much liked Michael and knew him through CND council. He was incredibly committed and hardworking but with a real wry humour too. He will be much missed’.

Nigel Day from Oxford CND said that Michael was a veteran peace campaigner, a CND South delegate to CND Council, a Quaker, and the

He did my garden for many years; he was the same age as me, and like me, he sometimes offended people with a degree outspokenness, especially when younger, and occasional eccentricity. I do not claim to know him well, but I am glad I did know him, and I want to mark a life well-lived, warts and all. Of such, I believe, is the Kingdom of Heaven, however it is named’.

Another former attendee of the Southampton Quakers, Douglas Constable, wrote ‘I remember Michael well. Every time he spoke, my too-easy accommodation with the powers of this world was pierced by his passion for uncompromised peace; that is, peace that refuses to yield to militarism and corporate injustice for the sake of a quiet private life’.

I think I met Michael first in the late 1970s at a Southampton CND meeting which he had



Michael with Bruce Kent in 2017.

author of the most comprehensive history of peace camps in Britain – ‘Peace Camping – A History’. The current edition traces the history of British Peace Camps beginning with some peace Camping in the 1930s and then runs from Aldermaston in 1958 to the bombing of Libya by the USAF aircraft from Upper Heyford in 1986. This is a very readable history of some 331 pages and covers an important era of British life.

Peter Martin, who used to attend Southampton Quakers, described him as ‘he had Parkinson’s but more than that he was a lifelong peace campaigner, Quaker, an ecologist at ground -level (you may have seen him riding around Portswood. wispy beard afloat, on his bespoke tricycle, made to carry garden waste), a man of complete integrity. He was a remarkable, unremarkable man.

convened. I remember him at a peace meeting in a park on Southampton waterfront helping to plant a peace rose. At those early CND meetings when we showed films, he hired a cine projector which often ran in fits and starts. He organised Southampton CND during the lean years before 1980 but graciously gave it over to others in the resurgence of peace making in the 1980s and 1990s. Michael was a keen cyclist and was a member of a cycling group who visited India. He wrote numerous letters, usually on peace issues, to the local paper which sometimes got printed. He regularly reported on what went on in CND Council meetings and was often Southern Region CND delegate to the national CND annual meetings. Michael will be much missed in our CND group. ■

David Hoadley, Southampton CND