

*Speaker for Quaker Gathering Saturday 14 June 2014 – Exeter Meeting House*

**Diana Francis** is a member of Bradford on Avon Meeting and has been named as next year's Swarthmore Lecturer.

Her personal Website: <http://www.dianafrancis.info/>

You can see her on YouTube at a ForcesWatch conference Looking at everyday militarisation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IHv5f7fMDQ>

Diana and her husband Nick on a **Stop The Arms Trade** demo

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/Protest-outside-Bath-firm-BMT-Defence-Services/story-19775348-detail/story.html>

Here's a sample of her writing:

## GROUNDS FOR HOPE

A great deal needs to change, and we are faced with vested interests and inertia. Yet the seeds of change are already active in the soil. Global disgust with war has been growing, and a strong popular movement could contribute to the election of politicians who – see that war serves no one's purpose. As I write, there is a reawakening to the threat of nuclear weapons. Resistance to the 'missile defence' programme is growing. New voices are speaking out for the abolition of all nuclear weapons, and an international commission has been established on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament . . .

The 'war on terror' has been discredited having been recognised as a pretext for hegemonistic wars and as counterproductive for anyone's security. Research is demonstrating the efficacy of nonviolence campaigns, as compared with violent resistance. More and more people around the world are standing up for human rights, and the tyranny of war is itself being resisted ever more widely. Let us now build the movement for its abolition.

The global economic downturn has not only forced a major reassessment of the current financial system, but also heightened awareness of global poverty and injustice. There are signs of a growing current of opinion favouring equity in the face of massive inequality, sufficiency and contentment in the face of uncaring greed.

There is a danger that action to escape recession by stimulating renewed economic growth will undermine efforts to reduce global warming, and that economic preoccupations will weaken determination to address the looming environmental crisis. We must hope that scientists and activists

have done, and will continue to do, enough to convince us all that economic well-being cannot be achieved at the expense of ever-increasing environmental destruction. We have to digest the fact of our interdependence with our whole ecosystem. I believe this is beginning to happen. Fear can stimulate action. It can also produce denial. It is essential to focus not only on what is dangerous and wrong, but also on the values and the vision that can give people the will to take action to secure a better future.

Diana Francis

from *From pacification to peacebuilding: a call to global transformation*  
(2010) pp.178-179