

# Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter

including

news, views and events from  
Local and Area Meetings  
in Yorkshire.

Next QiY Meeting

Oxford Place, Leeds

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016

Activities for children and young people;  
childcare available for infants  
If notified in advance

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## **QiY NEWSLETTER.**

Area and local meetings in Yorkshire are invited to send news of their interests and activities for inclusion in the QiY newsletter. The newsletter appears four times a year, to coincide with QiY's quarterly meetings, and information should reach the co-clerks (see contact details below) by the beginning of the preceding month.

Paper copies of the quarterly newsletter, including the programme for each meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire, are sent to all local meetings. Please let the co-clerks know if your meeting needs more or fewer copies.

The newsletter is also sent out electronically to AM and LM clerks. If any Friend would like to receive additional copies in this way, please inform co-clerks of QiY. Newsletter also available on the website.

## **OFFICERS OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE**

Co-Clerks:

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Clerk of Trustees: Barbara Windle, [bwindle@waitrose.com](mailto:bwindle@waitrose.com) 01904 481977

## **Please take a look at the new Quakers in Yorkshire Website**

which will go live mid December. (It is still at [quakersinyorkshire.org.uk](http://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk))

This is the beginning . . . other items may be added later on. We have designed it with clean looks which we hope will make it easy to find information.

We have checked details as far as possible. If you see a mistake, especially about your meeting, please contact Chris Love, Co-Clerk, [chris234love@btinternet.com](mailto:chris234love@btinternet.com) Thank you!

John Batchelor, David Olver, Teresa Paskiewicz  
Martin Schweiger, Chris Love,

**The Quakers in Yorkshire calendar** is a pull-out from the printed newsletters and is available on the website. There will be no separate printed publication of the calendar for 2016.

**Have contact details for your meeting changed?** Your QiY Clerks

would be very glad to have updated email and telephone details of all 2016 Local and Area Meeting Clerks.

### **Remaining QiY meetings for 2016:**

**Saturday 16 April 2016** at Huddersfield. A consideration of militarisation in schools, featuring a performance of *Over the Top* by Journeymen Theatre [www.journeymentheatre.com](http://www.journeymentheatre.com)

**Saturday 16 July 2016** at Ilkley. Report from Young Friends General Meeting (to be confirmed) and an afternoon of leisure activities.

**Saturday 15 October** Bootham School, York. Presentations from the York Quaker schools; other topics to be announced.

### **Quaker Community, Bamford, Peak District.**



The Quaker Community in the Peak District, west of Sheffield, is a community based on Quaker principles. Our aims include deepening our corporate spiritual experience, supporting individual spiritual journeys, offering

hospitality to Quakers and others and giving expression to Quaker testimony in various ways.

The community is situated on a spur overlooking the Derwent valley with views of countryside and moor. It's an ideal base for exploring the surrounding Peak District or for enjoying rest or retreat.



We offer led retreats and working weeks, we welcome self-catering and catered groups, and we also welcome individuals for self-catering stays. See [www.quakercommunity.org.uk](http://www.quakercommunity.org.uk) or call 01433 650 085 for a

brochure, for information or to go on our mailing list.



Programme of retreats and workshops:

11-15 April: Spring Planting -- 4 days of connecting with nature

13-15 May: The World in Our Hearts -- Spiritual practices to help us respond to the challenges of our time.

3-5 June: Meditation and Qigong -- a weekend to re-energise and feel at peace.

17-19 June: a weekend "Exploring Community".

18-24 July: Summer Working on the Land -- our week hosting Quaker Voluntary Action (QVA).

28 July-6 August: Family Summer Camp -- outdoor fun, school-age families and helpers welcome.

16-18 September: a weekend "Exploring Community".

23-25 September: "When my time is up . . ." Sharing how we might react to and prepare for the inevitable.

26-30 October: Poetry and Walking. This retreat combines the two; no previous experience of writing poetry is needed!

7-11 November: Woodland Working Week -- using traditional techniques to manage our 11 acres of woodland and wetland.

30 December-3 January: New Year Retreat -- celebrating the turn of

the year.

**Plain Quakers Theatre** will present ***For Conscience Sake***, telling the story of conscientious objection in WW1 in the context of militarisation today:

Sunday 21 February at 2.00 York Friargate QMH

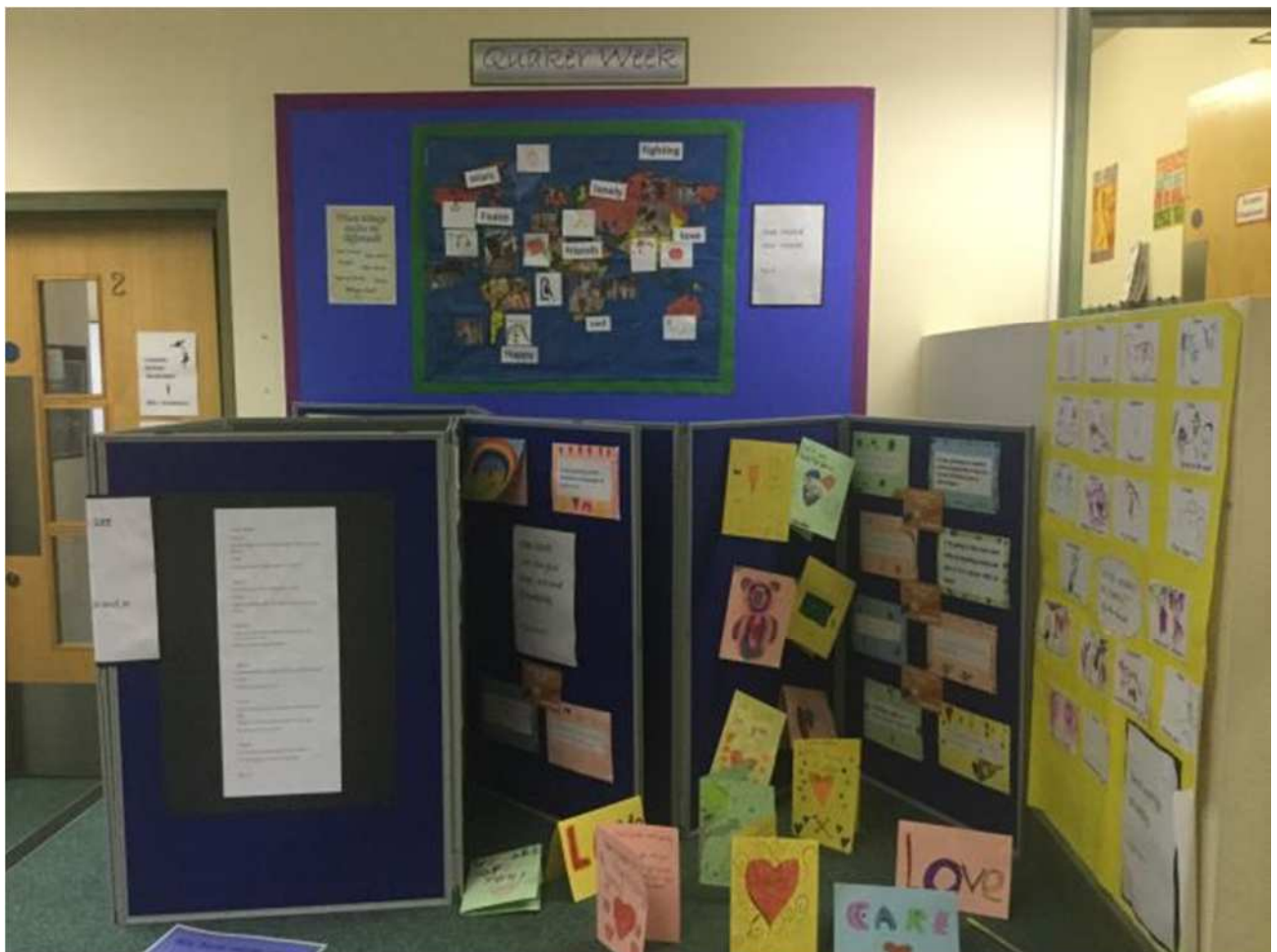
Saturday 12 March at 7.30 Huddersfield QMH

Sunday 13 March at 2.00 Bradford QMH

Wednesday 16 March 7.30 Settle QMH

Admission Free: there will be a collection for Quaker peace work.  
Further information from Arthur Pritchard [arthurpritchard@gmail.com](mailto:arthurpritchard@gmail.com)

## Quaker Week 2015 at The Mount Junior School



In The Mount Junior School we celebrated Quaker Week this year with the theme 'Social Consciousness', which related to the younger children as 'Thinking of Others'. The younger children thought about children who are not as fortunate as themselves and made cards to help unwell children feel happy.

The older children extended their thinking to global issues. The J4 girls decided that they wanted to raise money to help the refugee crisis and independently organised their own cake sale. All the work completed during Quaker Week was displayed in the Junior School Foyer. The work was also presented to parents as part of our Harvest Festival. Many parents commented on the level of maturity displayed by the pupils whilst thinking about relevant and crucial issues. During Quaker Week we also held a Silent Meeting in conjunction with Bootham Junior School.

Rachel Capper

Head of The Mount Junior School, November 2015.





**Doncaster Conversation Club Newsletter:** Excerpts from issue 13, 03 December 2015. (To receive a copy of this newsletter by email, send a message to *Paulfitzp@aol.com*)

**Doncaster Conversation Club** is part of a national structure of Conversation Clubs which offer opportunities for local people and people who have come to live in the UK to join together to share friendship, while offering support and practical help.

**The Club** seeks to create a relaxed, friendly and supportive environment, and works on the principles of

***Ownership*** – everyone can get involved

***Impartiality*** – it is not affiliated to any political or religious body

***Confidentiality*** – what you say is private

***Respect*** – for each other's differences and individuality.

from *DONCASTER VISITS CALAIS*, by Liz Sozanska (DCC Volunteer)

. . .As you enter Calais from the ferry, the changes from when I was last there a year ago are manifest. Far fewer migrants now walk to the centre of town. There are high white fences surrounding the ferry port (paid for by the UK Government) to stop people crossing. Migrants can no longer use local services: the local swimming pool now require a residents' card, while to use the library you need to join to use the computer, both of which need a passport. There are even signs saying 'no immigrants' (in French) on some local businesses. Food distribution is no longer in the centre of the town – it's moved to the Jungle, the refugee camp.

The Jungle is a tolerated area on the outskirts of Calais. It is a place with overflowing toilets, limited water sources, and with winter coming, the cold and the wind make it even tougher. Fights happen due to the continual tensions arising with these conditions, and women are particularly unsafe. However, despite the continuous struggles, endless harassment, hardships and brutality experienced, daily life goes on. Walking through the Jungle, being careful not to slip on the mud from the endless rain, people are playing football (with the odd football flying into the library), throwing around a Frisbee, or playing cards. People zoom past on bikes. It is a place full of tents, shacks



and self-built infrastructure used as houses, shops, restaurants, bars, even night clubs. There is also a great sense of hospitality among the migrant communities in Calais. They will welcome you into their homes, offering tea and food from a collective plate. . . .

from *GOING HOME (some reflections on my experiences with refugees)*, by Digby Swift (Doncaster QM)

My cousin was a Yugoslav refugee at the end of the Second World War. He'd married into our family and settled in England. This was after a very unpleasant trek across Europe surviving by, for example, selling cigarettes he'd made from discarded fag ends and old cigarette packets. He'd worn his boots so long, his toe-nails were growing into the soles of his feet and his boots had to be carefully cut off. As a young teenager in the war, he'd fought with the royalists – and this made him an enemy of the new Soviet regime with no chance of return. But he was welcomed into post-war Britain. . . .

. . . In September this year, my wife and I visited Nyakasura School in Uganda where we'd taught from 1968-1972 in the days of Idi Amin. We met some of our former students in Uganda. We also met some in Rwanda, where I've been working on and off over the last year. These were former refugee children we'd taught at Nyakasura. The (significant) fees for the refugee children had been largely paid by UNHCR, and only the headmaster had really known who was Ugandan and who was Rwandan. We didn't realize, until we met these former students in September, the extent of the head-teacher's efforts in getting through UN and Uganda Government bureaucracy, and the amount of money he himself had put in. This was more than 20 years before the Rwandan genocide, but part of the same issue. (As in so many other places, it was largely a result of colonialism and its bodged demise, though that's another story.) After the genocide, these refugees were able to return and contribute to rebuilding their own country. In the 1970s, these were penniless refugee children. They now include a former Minister and Ambassador, a Brigadier General, business leaders, the head of the main university science faculty who also established a national teachers' bank with branches throughout Rwanda, and the head of a school who is trying to develop the same school ethos as Nyakasura. These refugees have been able to return home – and what a difference they have made!

## **Excerpts from the Ravensworth Lodge November newsletter**

*Fund Raising* Our gratitude to everyone who helped in organizing and taking part in this year's Summer Fair. We raised £440 for our residents' fund.

*Keeping in touch via the internet* A reminder to residents and their families that if you would like to communicate with each other using email, Skype or Facetime, please let Suzanne or Becky know. Emails, ecards, photos and videos can be sent to [info@ravensworthlodge.co.uk](mailto:info@ravensworthlodge.co.uk) and they will be passed on to the resident concerned.

. . . [In October] residents enjoyed an outing to Scarborough Fair. On the 20th there was a trip out to tea at Stepney Hill Farm which stayed open specially for us, and then on the 30th an enjoyable breakfast was had at Brewers Fayre The Carousel.

Also in October our oldest resident . . . celebrated her 99th birthday.

Ravensworth Lodge is at 3 Belgrave Crescent, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 1UB. Website: [www.ravensworth.org.uk](http://www.ravensworth.org.uk) (tel. 01723 362361)