

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter

News, views and events from Local and Area
Meetings in Yorkshire

and

Programme for QiY quarterly
meeting at

The Mount School, York,
Saturday 15 October 2016

EVERYONE WELCOME

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter October 2016

All Yorkshire meetings are invited to send news of their interests and activities for inclusion in the QiY newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year, ahead of QiY's quarterly meetings. Contributions should reach the co-clerks (details below) early in the preceding month.

NB Deadline for January issue 7 December 2016.

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 electronically to AM and LM clerks. If any Friend would like to receive copies in this way, please inform the co-clerks.

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Please let the clerks know if you see any errors relating to your meeting or if there is any item you would like to include there.

Have your meeting's contact details changed? We always need up-to-date email and telephone details of local and area meeting clerks. Under Data Protection QiY cannot receive personal details from other parts of the RSOF. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know.

The Quakers in Yorkshire calendar for 2017 will be printed in the January newsletter. It will not be circulated separately but if you need a paper or email copy or please contact QiY clerks.

First meeting of QiY in 2017: Saturday 21 January at Leeds.

At our January meeting we will hear reports from Easter Settlement, from our Children and Young People's groups in the morning and from Outreach Projects Committee. In the afternoon we plan to reflect on the future of Quakers in Yorkshire. Diana Sandy has written in *The Friend* on the future of the society, and her thoughts on QiY are included in this issue of the newsletter. We hope that Friends will read and reflect on this piece in advance of the meeting.

Essays in Quaker History

David Rubinstein has gathered together seven of his Quaker essays and is publishing them under the title *Essays in Quaker History*. One essay awaits separate publication. All the rest have been published previously but have now been carefully revised, and a disparate collection (he hopes) made into one coherent book. Contents include the building of Hampstead Meeting House in 1907 and the early history of that meeting; the development of Quakerism in Yorkshire; the impact on Quakers of the South African War and the two world wars in the twentieth century. Also included are accounts of the lives of two outstanding Yorkshire Friends, James Backhouse and Edna Annie Crichton.

The book will be published at the end of September at the cover price of £12.99, but will be on sale at the October meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire for £10.

BARMOOR JUNIOR HOLIDAY: Huddersfield reactions (1)

This was the first time I went on a Quaker holiday. I wasn't expecting much and at first glance everyone was younger than me. But, as the day progressed, I found a number of enjoyable things: first of all the food (my mum was the cook); the football pitch and the other kids. I realised that Quakers weren't just grumpy old people. The downside was we had to do the washing up. All in all a good experience.

Joe

I particularly enjoyed a circular walk finishing in the village of Hutton-le-Hole where we had an ice cream and played in the stream. There was lots of football, we had a talent show (I played piano) and played games. Overall I really enjoyed it and would definitely recommend it to other children, but save me a place for next year!

Frank

Quaker House Flats Leeds

Quaker House is an L-shaped building on St Mark's Street behind Carlton Hill Meeting House, below the shared car park. Twelve self-contained flats open on to one of three communal hallways which access the street through a secure external door.

Three of the four one-bedroom flats are rented from the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. The other one-bedroom and the eight two-bedroom flats are purchased leasehold.

At present there are for sale:

- a one-bedroom ground floor flat
- a two-bedroom flat, also on the ground floor, and
- a two-bedroom flat upstairs.

All look on to the shared garden with lawn, bench seats, and mature plants, and each has a keysafe. Internally there is a call-for-help system, via a pendant and/or pullcord. Individual gas boilers with outside meters provide heating and hot water. A service charge covers building insurance, maintenance, water rates, window and hallway cleaning, and some gardening.

The flats are close to bus routes serving the city centre to the south and Headingley, Horsforth, and Skipton, to the north. There are many shops, pubs, cafes and University facilities to hand. Leeds has many large green spaces, with Woodhouse Moor Park, and the hidden and pleasant St George's Fields nearby. The Art Gallery, Town Hall, libraries, museums, theatres and cinemas, and shopping areas are easily accessible. Quaker House pleasant and quiet, and the adjacent Carlton Hill Meeting is lively and active. Quakers already here would welcome others.

We want to refresh the waiting list of prospective residents. When a flat is available we have two months, (before estate agents are involved), to find a Quaker/attender **who has reached the age of sixty** and wishes to come. Then we contact names on the list, in order, from the earliest date of application. If interested now, or for the future, please contact Una Parker (0113) 244 5454. Please apply soon.

Enlivening and Enriching Our Meetings

Presented jointly by the Kindlers and Quaker Life Network at Friargate, York in June, this event was open to all Yorkshire Quakers. Friends from all over Yorkshire attended and engaged in a range of activities – many of them new to most of us – in the company of Friends old and new.

We were invited to examine and explore our Quakerism in terms of our worship, our Meetings and our other activities. In the morning we went first to a "taster" workshop, spending an all-too-brief half hour exploring subjects such as *Living with Conflict*, *Focusing*, *Singing with Friends*, *TTIP* and *Quaker Life Network*. I went to *Living with Conflict* and felt I had gained enormously from hearing from the group leader, Susan Robson and others, and coming away armed with literature and references to follow up later. We quickly got the message that we would participate in all of the activities – attendance would not be a spectator sport!

After a short break a full hour was given to sessions on such subjects as *Singing in the Spirit*, *Listening*, *Spiritual Exercises*, *Europe*, *Upholding* and *The Labyrinth*. The range of choices allowed everyone to try something new or, if they preferred, to choose something with which they felt comfortable. Much enthusiasm and friendly discussion resulted.

After lunch we met as a single group in the Meeting Room where concentric circles of chairs, facing one another, heralded a series of short, but in many cases quite intense, discussions about our Meetings for Worship – what we liked, what we didn't like and how they worked for us.

The last exercise required us in small groups to answer the question we had been given and then to write a question for another group to answer.

By tea-time we felt we had worked hard and had had the opportunity to examine many different aspects of our faith and our worship and the issues raised were for us to take away and reflect on more deeply at a later date. We had talked and shared in some depth with new and old Friends, we had had fun and a really enjoyable day.

James McCarthy (Friargate)

(This report was accidentally omitted from July's Newsletter. Would your meeting consider running a Kindlers workshop? Ed.)

Proposed changes to governance at The Retreat

Over the past two years, Friends serving on the governing body of The Retreat have been seeking to simplify the governance arrangements. They aim to ensure that the Quaker ethos and links to BYM are nurtured, but that the trustee structure is clarified and becomes more appropriate for a charity operating in today's environment.

At the QiY meeting on 15 October 2016, Friends will be asked to make decisions about these proposed changes. They have been considered by Barbara Windle, Clerk of Trustees, David Olver, Co-Convenor of Nominations Committee, Arthur Pritchard and Chris Love QiY Co-Clerks.

Proposal 1

The arrangement whereby QiY (and other groupings) appoint Friends to The Retreat governing body is to cease. **QiY is being asked instead to appoint three Friends to serve as part of The Retreat Nominations Committee.** This committee will be responsible for searching for names of Trustee/Directors for appointment by The Retreat.

We recommend that the meeting agrees to this proposal and that the procedure is reviewed in three years' time.

Proposal 2

Meeting for Sufferings receives reports about The Retreat every three years. If Friends agree to QiY appointments to The Retreat Nominations Committee, **it is proposed that reports be submitted to Quakers in Yorkshire** at a frequency to be agreed with The Retreat.

We recommend that the meeting agrees to this proposal and that our Arrangements Committee determines the frequency of reporting.

John Miles, the Clerk to the Members of The Retreat, who has corresponded with us, will be available on 15th October if Friends wish to clarify these issues with him.

Proposal 3

The Retreat wishes to establish a Mental Health Forum. We recommend that QiY welcomes this initiative by The Retreat and we look forward to hearing about its progress in due course.

QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE: OUR FUTURE POTENTIAL

Diana Sandy believes Yorkshire Friends should reconsider the future of the Society in our region. This matter will form part of the afternoon agenda at Leeds in January.

Many Friends know that I have a long standing Concern about the Society of Friends in Britain – its drift away from some core fundamental principles, the reduction in opportunities for individual Friends to contribute to its decision-making processes – *inter alia*.

The laying down of Quarterly Meetings weakened those opportunities and this has been furthered by the laying down of the subsequent General Meetings - GMs. 'Quakers in Yorkshire' – QiY - has maintained some of its former strengths by continuing with its former pattern of meeting quarterly but there is no need for that to be so.

I have taken part in two review/steering groups during these changes. In 1986, following a Concern presented by Pearson Thistlethwaite of Harrogate Meeting, Yorkshire General Meeting – YGM – set up a Steering Group of two Friends from each of the seven monthly meetings plus the clerks, and our Friend, Pearson Thistlethwaite. This group worked hard and ironed out several inherited issues. We enabled YGM to organise two conferences at York of all General Meeting clerks and Assistant clerks. This set up a wider working group from other GMs and led to a third conference in Birmingham in the early 90's. It became clear that the GMs wanted a more proactive role in the Society's decisions and activities. Was this the reason that the General Meetings were then laid down?

I was involved with a smaller group of the clerks, treasurers and others in suggesting ways of continuing into the future. Several ideas were floated including laying ourselves down, setting up a Northern group, setting up General Meetings for the schools and others. In the end it was agreed to continue the mixture as before.

The Society's current uncertainties are being felt in area and local Meetings. In Pickering and Hull Area Meeting we are struggling to maintain 'the Quaker Way', partly because we experimented with changing the format – now going back – and the fact that many of us oldies are dying off or opting out. I do not think that we are alone in

this. Recently we felt it would have been helpful to have had access to the former conciliation group. The laying down of the Enquirers and Attenders gatherings has been a great loss.

Yorkshire Quakers have great strengths and we need to find ways of sharing them especially as the world continues to throw so many difficult issues at us. Our Meetings have stresses too which are different in each area. Concerns exist amongst us all relating to education, poverty and inequality, immigration and the environment as well as those relating to Quaker disciplines and right ordering.

We need to find ways of being there for each other and learning about each other's needs and strengths. We might encourage other areas to regain their strengths too. I do not feel that the current arrangements alone are able to lend themselves to being proactive in these regards.

Is it time for another steering group or working party to explore our possible futures? Should we remain just Yorkshire or is there potential for a more northern response to the more northern issues of the day?

Quaker Burial Ground at Selby



Former burial ground at Selby

Photo: Val Turner

QiY has learned that Selby council is planning to re-vamp the former Quaker burial ground in the town centre. Selby meeting closed in 1877 and the property was finally sold in 1951. The burial ground, used by Friends from 1692, was ‘...GIVEN BY THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS TO THE PEOPLE OF SELBY AS A GARDEN FOREVER.’

Stewards needed again for new WW1 exhibition

Our very successful exhibition on Quakers in World War One, on display in the Community Room at the Castle Museum York in 2014, is being renewed and remounted from November 2016 to January 2017. Focusing now on the centenary of the Military Service Act which introduced conscription, it is now called 'The Men Who Said No'. It will include new displays on York conscientious objectors, and on individuals such as Alfred Martlew imprisoned in Richmond Castle for their refusal to take any part in the war effort.

The exhibition will be considerably enhanced, as it was two years ago, by the presence of stewards from the Area Meeting, who can explain the issues to visitors, and offer the kind of personal testimony shown in the (reworked) film. Please email Anna Baldwin or Kurt Strauss if you could become a Museum Volunteer for the period, and so be able to add your name to a rota – however infrequently – for stewarding the community room. The training session for our Museum Volunteers will be on Thursday 27 October at 2.00 pm (a separate session can be arranged if this one is difficult for you; volunteers get a pass and shop discounts for a year). Please help if you can –

Your Meeting Needs You!

Please email Kurt Strauss at kurt@kurtstrauss.plus.com or Anna Baldwin at baldwinyork@btinternet.com, or ring 01904 637196.

Anna Baldwin and Ros Batchelor

Quakers in Yorkshire Junior Holidays 2017

Junior Holidays committee are planning next year's events, for children aged 7-12. We'd like to know what the children and families in our Meetings want. We've already agreed to have a weekend in June, probably at Barmoor, but need your help to decide what else to offer. We are considering:

- a five-day holiday in August
- a weekend away in late September

We'll only run the August and September holidays if we think there is enough demand. If you think your children, or children associated with your meeting, would be interested in either, ***please contact our convenor as soon as possible - rachel@crojack.org***.

This doesn't commit you to anything but helps us decide whether to go ahead with booking venues and planning the holidays.

Bootham School Report to Quakers in Yorkshire 2016

(The full text of this report can be found on the Quakers in Yorkshire website.)

At the turn of 2016, I was asked firstly to become Deputy Clerk and then Clerk to Bootham's General Committee. The previous Clerk, Chris Petrie, had had to spend some time in hospital and his deputy, Patrick Gray, served in his absence. At that time, I was appointed Deputy Clerk. Living within walking distance of the school I could attend at short notice if needed.

Following Patrick Gray's standing down from General Committee and the Head, Jonathan Taylor's, decision to retire, our Bursar, Andy Woodland and Treasurer, Alan Ashby, also retired. Concerns were expressed that loss of such key figures could deplete the collective pool of expertise and fracture the continuity of governance. The incoming Head, Chris Jeffery, would inherit a far-from-ideal situation. As Clerk I might afford some measure of continuity and support to Chris during his early years in post.

Like many independent schools in the North, our school faces difficulties with recruitment, ever-changing educational policies, the possible introduction of grammar schools and uncertainty in the European and global markets. One wonders how many independent schools there will be in Yorkshire in ten years' time. Further, the Society of Friends who created us remains divided in its attitude towards independent Quaker Schools. This is a pressing matter that needs addressing urgently and with courage and integrity.

Jonathan Taylor knew about facing difficulties. He guided the school skilfully and with good humour until his retirement in the summer. We owe him gratitude for intelligent stewardship of the school and his calm reassuring ways. We wish him well in his retirement in Cornwall. We wish his successor, Chris Jeffery, good fortune in the years ahead. Chris and Carol are York graduates who know our city and love it. In his short time in post Chris has gained the respect and indeed, the affection of staff and governors. His enthusiasm to increase the joy of school life is palpable and infectious. I have confidence in his judgement and the leadership qualities he brings to the school.

In my visits I listen to staff and learn about their activities, ambitions and concerns. I have been impressed by their commitment to

promoting school life and the energy with which they pursue it. The majority are not Friends, but in some cases, their outlook on life, their values, their ways of being are indistinguishable from Friends I have encountered in local meetings. Their influence on the Bootham community is paramount.

I have made a priority of visiting the Junior School regularly, as well as the Senior School, to try and address some of the disjunctures that split site schools inevitably incur. Increased representation of Junior School staff on Leadership Meeting and General Committee is intended to address this.

Junior School is a relatively recent development and references to it and structures incorporating it in the broader Bootham community are absent from our Articles of Association. Revision of these is long overdue, so we have set up a review group to suggest additions and revisions to bring to Quakers in Yorkshire as soon as is prudent.

The Mount is also revising its Articles of Association. We have asked a governor from each school to work together and share insights and expertise in preparing a revised document that can be considered by both General Committees. The schools have a long history of co-operation and in recent months the Clerks of both schools have met informally to discuss ways to maintain and enhance this co-operation. This follows an initiative by the Friends' Schools' Council to assess ways in which the British and Irish schools might establish co-operative links and offer each other support.

Bootham School is currently fulfilling its role as an institution founded on Quaker principles and demonstrating Quaker values to the community it serves. We have a capable and likeable new Head, dedicated staff, effective governors and children who shine. We look to the future with confidence.

Stephen Sayers, Clerk to Bootham School General Committee

The Mount School Report to Quakers in Yorkshire 2016

(The full text of this report can be found on the Quakers in Yorkshire website.)

The Mount has had an interesting and exciting year. We have a new Principal, Adrienne Richmond, a new Deputy Principal, Bridget Perks, and a new Business Manager, Helen Lambeth. Rachel Capper

continues as Head of the Junior School. We continue the Mount tradition of placing a portrait of our outgoing Principal, Julie Lodrick, in the Esther Tuke Room, following a successful appeal for funds.

Financially, 2014-15 and 2015-16 were challenging. School Committee agreed to spend only within income, any surplus to rebuild the School's working capital and reserves. However, since January 2016, thanks to the new executive team's diligence and sheer professionalism, we have managed to live within the Committee's financial target, having built well on the foundations they were bequeathed. 2014-15 Annual Report & Accounts are available for your inspection. 2015-16 unaudited data shows a much improved picture.

The Mount's iPads in the Classroom experiment has been a huge success with girls, parents and teaching staff. Our new Wi-Fi enabled IT system is a real, new strength of the School.

Our new Principal Adrienne Richmond has presented a powerful vision of The Mount under her leadership. She is an excellent, firm leader, and a true education professional. Since January, she has developed her vision, and spoken publicly about it at our Foundation, Leavers Prize Giving Day, in July.

Today she will tell you more about how we can bring The Mount to the forefront in the world of 21st Century education. We need to refresh our vision, and extend our buildings and facilities. We must do two major things: fundraise, and recycle some of our existing asset value within our balance sheet. To these ends, we are creating The Mount School Foundation, a separate Charity, devoted to fundraising for new facilities, for Bursaries, Awards and Prizes. It will absorb three small, historic charities, whose funds will transfer to the Foundation. Secondly, we are exploring new, commercially profitable uses for the far end of the Playing Fields, which has road access and which is not used for Sports.

Our plans, which will be presented more fully by Adrienne, are being prepared for submission for Planning Permission. They include plans (drawings on display on the day) for a new Performing Arts Centre, a newly built space next to the Hall; a refurbishment of the Hall, an Atrium and a link to the Music Building. Also, we will be refreshing

Sports and Science facilities. Our Education mantra will be: From STEM to STEAM! Adrienne will tell us more.

We are keen for The Mount to refresh its links with the Quaker community, and I hope you will help with that. Please speak with Adrienne and me on moving this essential component forward.

The Friends Schools Council, the collective body of all Quaker Schools in the UK and Ireland, this autumn has started a project to explore closer working opportunities between the UK Quaker Schools. To prepare for the project, FSC held meetings with Methodists and Anglicans to understand how they organise their schools, and how they each have come to be entrusted with a chain of tax-funded Academy Schools. Quakers are more decentralised in the running of our Schools than the other denominations, and maybe we can learn better survival skills through closer cooperation. Certainly, organised as we are at present, we are in no state to be granted the privilege of running Academy Schools.

Also, under new leaderships, Bootham and The Mount are energetically seeking closer, practical ways of working together, a sensible and obvious a thing for Quaker Schools in the same city to do! Another collaborative endeavour which has moved forward since last year, has been FSC's connections with Quaker Values in Education (QVinE), who have published an excellent new Advices & Queries publication on Quaker Education. Through close contact with QVinE, we hope Friends ministry to education may slowly, practically, lovingly, cease to be quite as harshly split as it has been for quite some years.

Friends, we can make the future a better place, if we put our minds and hearts and resources to it! The Mount is founded on Quaker faith, values and principles, and with your loving help, always will be a good exponent of living them, daily, in large things and small. *Fidelis in Parvo* is an apt motto!

Timothy Phillips, Clerk to The Mount School Committee

BARMOOR JUNIOR HOLIDAY: Huddersfield reactions (2)

I really enjoyed everything, even when my brain had too many overloads. The best bit was the walk, especially when we went in the stream! I loved that bit. Alex

Programme: Quakers in Yorkshire 15 October 2016: The Mount

10.00 Coffee or Tea on arrival

10.30 Meeting for Worship

10.55 Testimony

11.00 Clerks' welcome to The Mount and to the new Heads,
Adrienne Richmond (The Mount), Chris Jeffery
(Bootham)

Welcome to The Mount: Adrienne Richmond

Housekeeping notices

Appointment of Elders for today's meeting

11.15 Reports from Clerks to Governors, Tim Phillips (The Mount) and
Stephen Sayers (Bootham)

11.30 Reports from the Heads, Adrienne Richmond and Chris Jeffery

11.45 Financial Reports

11.55 Question Time

12.10 Presentation by students from The Mount and Bootham

12.50 Representatives and Notices

13.00 Lunch (bring your own, drinks provided)

14.00 Nominations and appointments

14.10 Changes to governance at The Retreat

14.30 Stephen Pittam will speak on the **York Human Rights City Network**, a plan to establish York as the first Human Rights City in the UK. We hope that Stephen will also talk about his other current and past activities, including his work in Northern Ireland and his concern with social justice, peace and human rights.

16.00 Tea and Departures

We thank The Mount for their hospitality and for arranging the day.

Name badges: sticky labels available - if you have a name badge, please bring it – and remember to wear it!

There will be a Quaker bookstall for you to browse and buy.

Children and young people are most welcome but unfortunately it has NOT been possible to arrange childcare or activities for them this time.

Holocaust Memorial Day: 27th January 2017

Rosie Crook asks us spread this information amongst our meetings:

Holocaust Memorial Day is the annual commemoration of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. We remember the victims, honour the survivors and pledge ourselves to learn the lessons of the past in order to create a safer, better future in the face of rising hate crime and continuing racism and prejudice. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust can support you if you wish to commemorate the day with resources free of charge:

Free planning workshop in Hull on 13 October - for new and experienced organisers: an opportunity to explore HMD 2017 and meet other organisers. For information and booking:

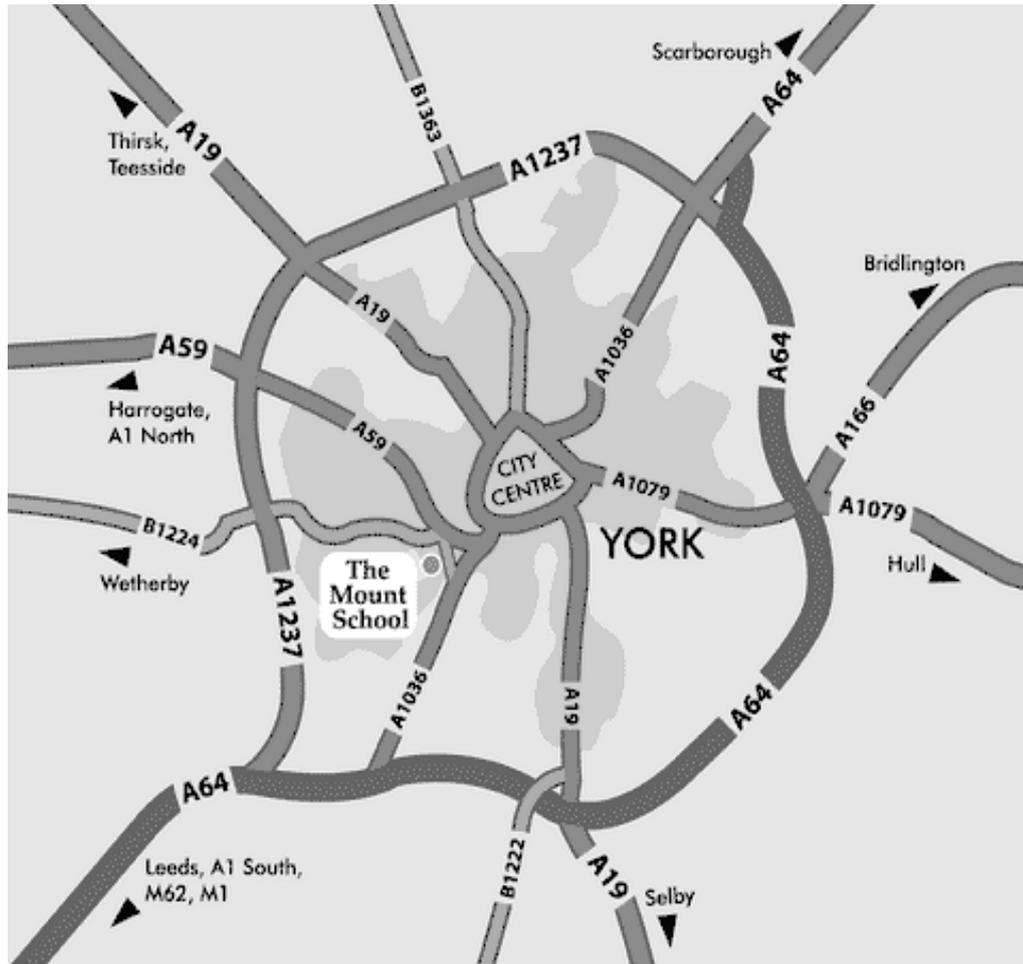
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/holocaust-memorial-day-trust-hull-workshop-tickets-26819138766?ref=ebtn>



QiY demonstrate against renewal of Trident at Ilkley in July Photo:

Diana Jakeways

Directions to The Mount



By Rail

From the station it will take approximately 20 minutes to walk or 5 minutes by taxi. On foot, go right out of the station, turn right at the traffic lights into Blossom Street. Bus no. 1 from the station takes you near.

By Car

From the A1M take the A64 for York and then the A1036 exit (signed York City Centre, Race Course and National Railway Museum). Keep left and follow signs for City Centre. At Tesco's you can use the Park and Ride, or, take the second exit at the Tesco roundabout, pass the Knavesmire (York Race Course) on your right. 250 m further on you will see the Elmbank Hotel on your left. Take the left turn at the hotel and the School car park is on the hill, directly in front of you.

Park and Ride

The Designer Outlet (YO19 4TA) Park and Ride is signposted at the roundabout at the junction of the A19 (York Selby) and the A64 (Leeds Scarborough). Red Line bus number 7 runs every 10 minutes and stops at the rail station. Allow 30 minutes for the bus journey.