

Outreach Projects Committee Report for 2016

The Outreach Projects Committee (OPC) has now been in its present form for three years, set up in 2013 to support and encourage all forms of outreach and inreach, receive grant applications and provide funding for projects from any Quaker Meeting in Yorkshire not fully funded locally. The committee comprises a representative from each of our seven Area Meetings and primarily operates as a working group by email, with one face-to-face meeting each year.

This year has been a 'bumper' year for the OPC, word has been spreading and it seems that once funding has been granted for one project in a particular area, more applications come in to us from that area. This year the OPC has approved funding for eleven projects (compared with five in 2015) amounting to a total of £6414 (£2904 in 2015), though we were not in danger of meeting our budget from QiY of £10000. Most applications are quite straight forward, but we have had a few more complex ones this year, and declined a request for a substantial amount on the grounds that we felt the project did not promote Quaker outreach in our area.

There have been quite a variety of projects supported in 2016, including a stall at Leeds Pride (Carlton Hill), an event and exhibition continuing to mark the centenary of World War 1 (Friargate and Carlton Hill), and outreach around Quaker week, Heritage Open Day and the Gildersome Scarecrow Festival (Gildersome and Malton). Airton LM is a small Meeting, but has undertaken a big project to reach out to the many visitors they have each year to their historic Meeting House, with a booklet and information panels, costing several thousand pounds, towards which the OPC has granted up to £3000. The OPC has also supported the distribution of peace poppies on Remembrance Day (Carlton Hill), the printing of hoodies for the Quaker Chaplaincy team at Leeds Prison (Rawdon), and an interesting project resulting from the work of Nic Burton of Northumbria University, and an Attender at Malton LM, on different business models that support Quaker values and testimony. Nic's large project is also being funded by QPSW and Quakers and Business, and the OPC have granted funding for a small part of it with £215 being given for a workshop in Yorkshire in 2017 to disseminate his work to local Friends. To round off the year the OPC Friends were pleased to be able to again help support the work of the Yorkshire Kindlers with a series of workshops at Carlton Hill FMH in 2017.

The reports for these events are available from the lead Friend involved, details of which have been circulated to Area Meetings under the heading 'Spreading the Word' and will also be available at the Quakers in Yorkshire meeting in January. If Meetings are considering an outreach project in the near future, please do use the experience and knowledge of Friends who have completed a project, and they may also have materials they can lend out.

After a difficult 2015 for the OPC it has been wonderful to enjoy a smoother year for the Committee. Most of our work is done via email, so it was great that most of us were able to meet up in Leeds in July. At our meeting we took a good look at our working documents, having used them for a couple of years it had become clear that some changes needed to be made. Our revised documents then went to the Trustees and to Quakers in Yorkshire Meeting where they were approved and are now up on the website. The main difference for applicants is that the Committee now has 14 days to consider applications (previously five days) which gives more time for

discernment, Friends to comment, research if needed, and to make allowances for the vagaries of the internet in remote (and sometimes not so remote) parts of Yorkshire! In practice, the OPC representatives are often very speedy in their decisions (eg 4 days for Nic Burton's application). We now also have a Report Form which Friends can use after their project has finished to let us know how it went. By using the Report Form (or using it as a guide for their own report) we can ensure that information given about the projects is fairly consistent. Our Area Meeting representatives are happy to advise on and facilitate applications to the OPC and also help to spread the word about the availability of OPC grants to their Area Meetings.

Annabel May, Clerk (December 2016)

Quaker Outreach Projects in Yorkshire 2016

Please find below the outlines of projects funded (or funding agreed but yet to take place) by the Quakers in Yorkshire Outreach Projects Committee in 2016. If you are considering a similar project to any of these, it may be helpful to contact those involved – as well as practical advice, past projects sometimes have materials that they can lend out.

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Local/Area Meeting or Group	Format	Theme	Venue	Date applied	Report available from/Contact
Airton	Booklet and Panels	History and Architecture of Airton Meeting	Airton FMH	March	Laurel Phillipson
Friargate	Graveside ceremony, talk and tea	“Remembering the Men who said No”	Bishopthorpe Churchyard and hall	April	Anna Baldwin
Carlton Hill	Exhibition	Leeds Quakers response to WW1 and Peace Witness 2016	Leeds Museum	July	Robert Keeble
Gildersome	Leaflets/cards and mannequins	Quakers	Outreach around Gildersome Scarecrow Festival and Heritage Open Day	July	Robert Keeble
Rawdon	Hoodies	Quaker outreach by Prison Chaplains	Leeds Prison	July	Emma Roberts
Carlton Hill	Posters and stickers	Quaker - equality	Carlton Hill FMH and Leeds Pride	July	Iona Lyons
Malton	Exhibition, talk, tea, Quaker Quest style evening	‘Quaker Festival’ during Quaker week	Malton FMH	August	Janice Every
Friargate	Museum display	Refreshing WW1 display	York Castle Museum	September	Anna Baldwin
Carlton Hill	Poppies	Peace	Outside Carlton Hill FMH on 11/11/2016	October	Robert Keeble
Malton	Workshop	Disseminating information from Nic’s project on different business models in keeping with Quaker values and testimonies	A venue in Yorkshire	December (to take place in 2017)	Nicholas Burton
Yorkshire Kindlers	Series of one day workshops	Based on selected Advices and Queries	Carlton Hill FMH Leeds	December (to take place in 2017)	James McCarthy