

Quakers in Yorkshire – 20 January 2018

Report from the under 19's co-ordinating group 2017

The **Under 19's co-ordinating group** consists of three people to provide oversight for young people's activities under the umbrella of QiY. The core activities are Yorkshire Friends Holiday School, Junior Holidays, and the Easter Settlement children's activities.

Last year we were anxious. Junior Holidays struggled to find people for its committee and we were very aware of how much work there is now in organising residential holidays. This year things are looking more hopeful - we have a lot to celebrate and many people to thank.

Junior Holidays committee which at one point had only two members, now has six with some other offers of administrative help. We thank Nominations for their search for new members and the Trustees for offering some paid admin help which the committee is trying to work out how to use well. The committee has successfully organised two weekend holidays for the 7-12 year old age group and are beginning to feel more confident in their skills. Organising the weekends remains labour intensive - we have to watch that no-one is getting overloaded.

We've also done training for all the junior holiday volunteers - thanks to those who came and those who gave it - it made everyone feel more secure.

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School group continues to organise their week at Bootham for 13 to 18 year-olds in August. Their hard work and cohesiveness as a group show us how to do this well.

Easter Settlement is planning for next Easter – they have organisers for the young people's activities but will still need volunteer helpers.

Some **safeguarding issues** have been ironed out – again thanks to the safeguarding co-ordinators, without whom we could not run these holidays.

And some **good news** – Quaker Life have found funding for a pilot with two youth workers for three years. They will be centrally managed to each work in an area within Britain Yearly Meeting with 11-18 year olds – trying to find out how best to keep them in touch with the Society and engaged. It's very much a pilot – to see if such a worker can reverse the drift of teenagers away from the Society of Friends. In November they asked for expressions of interest for these workers – QiY replied and so did Sheffield and Balby, who have a large number of teenagers in their meeting. We were asked to try to combine the two bids and we had a meeting on the 18th January to discuss how a project worker could be based in Sheffield, but work both locally and across Yorkshire. I heard today (Jan 24th), that we have been successful, the other area being Bristol and its surroundings. We hope that the project workers will be appointed in early summer.

This seems a very exciting project and we look forward to seeing how it plays out – we will have some input to what our youth worker does via a reference group that will meet regularly in London. It should be an exciting three years and give us lots of guidance into what we might be doing across Yorkshire. So my thanks to all those who read our 'expression of interest', and commented and supported us in applying.

Rosemary Daley Jan 24th, 2018