

To Quakers in Yorkshire

Ackworth School is delighted to welcome Quakers-in-Yorkshire for their July meeting. Whilst Friends might be more familiar with Bootham and the Mount School because of the closer association with those schools, it might be of interest to learn more about Ackworth School, its origins and the-work it does within its community. We should not be defined by historic perceptions but by the reality of what we do today! We aim to open the minds of our pupils and to awaken their spirit.

The school was founded in 1779 due largely to the philanthropic gesture of John Fothergill, occupying buildings previously conceived as the Foundling Hospital. Ackworth made a significant contribution to the industrial and commercial success of the UK but the emphasis changed in the 20th century and today Ackworth is an independent school committed to its ethos of helping and caring for others.

Meeting for Worship (MfW) remains a central focus in school life and 500 - children attend MfW four times per week. These children and their teachers have helped to inspire action that sees hundreds of children from our neighbouring primary schools receive table tennis lessons and now through the generosity of the Tim Henman Foundation and the Yorkshire Tennis Association, tennis has been added to our aspirational program that takes - sport to these schools, at no cost to them or to the tax payer. Our impact is - considerable whilst the cost to the school is substantial. Others regularly articulate what we do to make a difference.

Pentathlon GB is next, with its Run/Swim initiative which has captured the interest of so many children, who otherwise might look for other less physical pursuits where obesity might beckon.

Our community work is worth mentioning: we engage in litter picks, offer craft walks, nature trails, forest school, the Mayfly Project, swimming, football, cross country, community tennis, resilience days, Stem challenges, coding, science, chess competitions, music concerts, drama productions, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea Party, business@breakfast, business and careers fairs and sports fixtures. We have also hosted refugees and asylum seekers_ in collaboration with the Wakefield Refugees Council and aim to welcome them back in the summer. Our Outreach Programme is delivered without charge and all come to know about Quakerism through the generosity extended to them.

Please consider how you can make a difference through supporting our Opportunities Fund. We are very proud of the faith that Bradford Meeting have placed in us with their donation of £2,000 for 5 years towards the alleviation of hardship. We continue to introduce students to our Quaker ethos and your support for these spiritual aspects of modern life is always welcome.

Anton Maree
Head at Ackworth School

