

Quakers in Yorkshire

Newsletter

News, views and events from local and
area meetings in Yorkshire



Programme for next meeting

Education, Faith and Practice

The Mount School York

Saturday 20 October 2018



All Friends and attenders welcome



Unfortunately we are unable to arrange
activities for children at this gathering

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter October 2018

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. As well as the programme for our meeting at The Mount on 20 October, you will find various articles on Quaker education issues. Please continue to send news and details of your activities and events. Photos welcome!

Please let us know in advance the **names of AM representatives** to meetings of Quakers in Yorkshire.

The names of those appointed will appear on the QiY website.

Copy deadline for the January Issue 4 December 2018

Hard copies of the newsletter, including the programme for each meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire, are sent to all local meetings. Please let the co-clerks know of changes to the number of copies.

The newsletter is also sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. Please could recipients ensure that hard copies are made available to Friends who do not have Internet access? If any Friend would like to receive a personal copy directly, please inform the co-clerks.

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

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 accept personal details from other Quaker sources. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know.

Looking Ahead to 2019

Saturday 20 January QiY Quarterly meeting at Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds.

This will be our first meeting at Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel. We hope its convenient central location will appeal to Friends. During the morning we will hear reports from the Under 19s Co-ordinating Group, Junior Holidays, and Easter Settlement . The Outreach Projects Committee and some of their beneficiaries will also report. In the afternoon it is hoped staff and attenders from Holiday School 2018 will share some of their experiences. Our final items will be a report from Rachel Muers who represents us on West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council, and an account of the work of the Unitarians in Leeds from Jo James, Minister at Mill Hill Chapel.

In April we plan to meet at Doncaster, where Paul Parker, BYM Recording Clerk, is hoping to speak to us on two current initiatives, Simpler Meetings and the Vibrancy project.



THIS EVIL THING

written and performed by Michael Mears

*...the compelling, shocking story
of the men who said no to war...*

PICKERING Meeting House

FRIDAY 2 November 7.30 pm

19 Castlegate YO18 7AX
01751 472827

"Michael Mears' one-man play This Evil Thing is a theatrical and ethical tour de force. Based on the true story of Bert Brocklesby, a Methodist conscientious objector in the First World War, it dramatically highlights the dilemmas and suffering entailed in an absolutist's opposition to all forms of violence. All this is placed in the political and ethical context of the time whilst constantly posing the question 'what would you have done?'"

Donations will be welcomed after the performance.

Lifting the Shadow of WW1: Prospects for Peace Today

As a contribution to the 'York Remembers' season marking the end of the war in 1918, York Quakers have planned two events to look beyond history and consider a more peaceful future for the world.

Sat 6 October: *Lifting the shadow of WW1 and prospects for peace today*

A day conference at Friargate Meeting House 10-5

An interactive day of lectures, workshops and displays bringing together academics, local historians, poets and individuals involved in promoting peace.

- *Long Shadow of War* Britain 1918-1979 (Simon Ball, Leeds History Faculty)
- *The Hidden Legacies of War* (Trudi Tate, Cambridge English Faculty)
- *The Development of Arms Control* (Nick Ritchie, York Politics Faculty)
- *Can we Build a more Peaceful World?* (Ben Griffin, Veterans for Peace)

Workshops will respond to the history and literature of WW1 and also consider ways of resolving or avoiding future conflict.

Cost: adult £15/student £7 – includes lunch and refreshments.

Sat 17 November: Peace Now – the Personal Dimension

A day of workshops at Friargate Meeting House 10-4.45

Participants will be introduced to skills for practical peace-making, conflict resolution and non-violent communication.

Workshops will focus on:

- *Nonviolent communication* (Roswitha Jarman)
- *Listening for a new world* (James McCarthy)
- *Conflict resolution in schools* (Lydia Noor and Gillian Darton)
- *Being Peace* (Lynda Williams)

Cost: adult £12 students/£7 – includes lunch and refreshments.

Special offer if booking both events at the same time: £25

Reminder from Clerk to QiY Trustees

Barbara Windle asks all treasurers and clerks to remember that the 2019 Quota payment for QIY has been set at £4 per member.

Sheffield Quakers and City of Sanctuary Sheffield
invite you to

ROOM FOR MORE

A Quaker Week Celebration of Sanctuary in Sheffield

Sat 6th October 2018, 4 – 8 pm

Quaker Meeting House
10 St James St, Sheffield, S1 2EW



Come and join us for songs, poems, dancing and
bring and share food (no alcohol please)

FREE EVENT – no need to book

All Welcome



Experiment with Light Retreat

6 October at High Flatts. Contact: highflattsquakers@gmail.com
<http://www.experiment-with-light.org.uk/resource.htm> pp8-9.

Glenthorne Calendar

Mike Watson has produced an attractive Quaker-themed Calendar to raise funds for the 'Welcome Project' at Glenthorne Quaker Centre. The Project has supported 500 refugees and asylum seekers from over 40 countries over the last ten years. Liz Watson will bring copies to QIY's meeting at The Mount. £5.

Service for Quaker Schools

In 2010, after 38 years teaching in state education, I retired. When I mentioned to Friends that I would have more time and energy to spend in Quaker service, opportunities were quick to present themselves. One of the most problematic for me was to become a trustee to a Friends' school. Like many Quakers I had reservations about Quaker involvement in fee-paying education. The Mount School needed a Quaker trustee on its committee. This had three strikes against it as far as my prejudices were concerned: all girl, fee paying and boarding. I wondered if this was an opportunity offered me for a purpose, perhaps to spotlight my preconceived ideas and make me examine them.

I went to The Mount on an induction day and attended my first two-day Trustees meeting. I was pleasantly surprised. Yes, the girls and young women were privileged. Class sizes were no more than nineteen so each girl was given tailored support to aid her learning. Yes, examination passes and university places were important but each student received guidance on career choice: what was best for each individual was seen as more important than league tables.

With all this encouragement the school produces magnificent young women who are confident, without arrogance, and aware of their fortunate situation. This spurs them on to expend their time and talents to help others less fortunate.

Quaker schools can stand as beacons: showing government what the state education system could be if we invested more. We need a system that produces well-rounded, compassionate human beings and good citizens. State education is, too often, an under-funded political football offering a one-size-fits-all curriculum that cannot cater for everyone. Dedicated, committed teachers are over-worked and often blamed for systemic short-comings.

The Quaker schools can show us a better alternative.
Denise Stimson, Central Yorkshire AM

Lee Lester

Lee Lester has been appointed as youth development officer for Yorkshire Friends, based in Sheffield. Lee has been invited to speak to QiY in January and we hope to profile Lee and Lee's work in the January Newsletter.

Compassion Focused Therapy

Two years ago, just after I had taken up post as Principal at The Mount School York, I was approached by The Tuke Centre to ask if we were interested in engaging them in a project with our staff to teach them techniques in compassion focused therapy. This therapeutic approach was developed by Professor Paul Gilbert who defined 'compassion' as a quality that aims to 'nurture, look after, teach, guide, mentor, soothe, protect, offer feelings of acceptance and belonging'. The principles of compassion focused therapy have been shown to help organisations improve staff well-being, and have been particularly effective in schools.

This was an exciting opportunity to invest in our staff, to give them time and space to think compassionately about themselves and to develop ways of transferring that into their work and home lives. As a school we embraced the project with our teaching and support staff working on the project collaboratively. Funded by a grant from The Retreat Benevolent Fund, Tuke Centre staff worked with Mount School staff across a 12-month period.

An organisation-wide approach to promoting the social and emotional well-being of young people is important for any school. By considering staff well-being first the project initiated a drive to put a compassion-focused approach at the heart of all we do for both staff and pupils.

A core group of staff has embraced the approach and there is now more self-awareness in a community that was already compassionate, kind, calm and caring. As we live our Quaker ethos, staff have worked on giving one another time and support as well as taking time for themselves and taking note of their own well-being and emotional needs. We are determined to embed the approach as we start a new academic year and to extend the techniques we have learnt as staff with pupils and parents. I would encourage any Head Teacher and all schools to embrace a compassion-focused approach to staff and pupil well-being. I thank the Tuke Centre and their staff for introducing us to it.

Adrienne Richmond, Principal, The Mount School York

We learn that a request for funding from the Retreat Benevolent Fund for a similar project at Bootham has been successful. Ed.

Margaret Bryan, Clerk to The Mount School's Committee

The relationship between Yorkshire Friends and the region's Quaker Schools in York has always been one of encouraging interest and oversight. The Nominations committees of both the Schools and QiY work together to bring forward names of Friends to appoint as governors, and this maintains a valuable link between us. You will recall the agreement minuted last year of a revised Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the ways in which we inter-relate.

As Friends are aware, The Mount is a limited company and registered charity that operates its educational business on Quaker principles. Operational matters are devolved to the executive, but every year governors welcome the opportunity to report to Friends on what we have been doing.

The headlines of the Mount report this year will cover our exciting plans for the site and girls will share news of their activities in a joint report with their Bootham peers.

Stephen Sayers, Clerk to the Bootham School Committee

The Clerk's Report to Quakers in Yorkshire for 2018 will refer to the adoption of new Articles of Association, a tripartite adoption (with The Mount School and Quakers in Yorkshire) of a Memorandum of Understanding and also the successful outcome of the ISI Regulatory Compliance inspection in January. It will include the reconfiguration of roles and responsibilities within the school, new measures for safeguarding, new key appointments, recruitment and shifts in the school's student demography. In addition, it will record early progress being made in forging new creative links between Bootham and The Mount Schools in York.

Ackworth School

Anton Maree, the Head of Ackworth, was prevented from attending Quakers in Yorkshire in July at the school because of an accident. His written message of welcome included the following:

Although you may be more familiar with Bootham and the Mount School because of your closer association with them, it may be of

interest to learn about the school and some its work within its community. At Ackworth we aim to open the minds of our pupils and to awaken their spirit.

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. The emphasis changed in the 20th century and today Ackworth is committed to helping and caring for others.

Meeting for Worship remains a central focus in school life and 500 children attend four times per week. These children and their teachers have helped inspire action that sees hundreds of children from neighbouring primary schools receive table tennis lessons. Now, through the generosity of the Tim Henman Foundation and the Yorkshire Tennis Association, we now take to these schools, at no cost to them or to the taxpayer. Our impact is considerable whilst the cost to the school is substantial.

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

Our community work includes litter picks, 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 Wakefield Refugees Council. Our Outreach Programme is delivered without charge and all come to know about Quakerism through the generosity extended to them.

You can make a difference by 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.

Quaker Renewal and Quaker Service (Northern Ireland)

Our afternoon speakers at The Mount are Craig Barnett and Evelyn Shire. Friends will know of Craig's articles in *The Friend* in recent years, and some of you may have acquired his collection of articles entitled *Quaker Renewal* that was published by *The Friend* in 2017. He regularly publishes on his blogsite *Transition Quaker*.

Craig Barnett

Craig is a member of Sheffield & Balby AM who works as Volunteer Coordinator for ASSIST Sheffield, a local charity that supports destitute asylum-seekers. He has also been national coordinator of the City of Sanctuary movement, and director of Hlekweni Friends training Centre in Zimbabwe. He has served on the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group and was one of the contributors to the book 'God, Words and Us'.

He plans to consider some issues arising from our differences of religious understanding and practice, and to invite Friends to reflect on and share their own experiences of spirituality.

Quaker Service in Northern Ireland

When I lived in Dublin during 1970s and 1980s, I was a member of Ireland Yearly Meeting and had much contact with Friends work in Northern Ireland. I revisited in April 2018, when, following 20 years of peace, people were facing a time of stress and uncertainty.

Over the decades Quaker Service has developed three strands to their work. Work with prisoners' families has moved to intensive personal work with needy prisoners completing long sentences, Quaker care is fundraising based on the charity shop, while probably the main work is at Quaker Cottage with vulnerable families from deprived housing estates on both sides of the divide. Mums and children and teens look to "the Quakers" at Quaker Cottage on the side of a steep hillside overlooking Belfast, for a programme of support, therapy and "love in action".

Financial support is needed by this charity (NIC 102457). State funding is diminishing due to cutbacks. There is need to look elsewhere for regular donors – the Quaker world and beyond. Quaker Service Northern Ireland, 541 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7GQ Website: www.quakerservice.com

Evelyn M. Shire

PROGRAMME FOR SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2018

- 10.00 Coffee or Tea on arrival
- 10.30 Appointment of Elders for today's meeting
Meeting for Worship
- 11.00 Testimony Joyce Pickard
- 11.10 Welcome to quarterly meeting by QiY Co-Clerks
- 11.15 Welcome to The Mount by the Principal, Adrienne Richmond
- 11.20 Joint presentation by students from The Mount and Bootham. Observations and comments
- 11.55 Reports from **The Mount**: Clerk to Governors, Margaret Bryan; Principal, Adrienne Richmond; Financial Report, Nick Higgins
- 12.15 Reports from **Bootham School**: Clerk to Governors, Stephen Sayers; Head, Chris Jeffery; Financial Report, Gavin Blackstone (The order of speakers from the school may be changed.)
- 12.35 Question time
- 12.45 Draft minutes
- 12.55 Representatives and notices
- 13.00 Lunch (bring your own, drinks provided)
- 14.00 Nominations and appointments
- 14.10 Guest Speakers: **Craig Barnett, *Quaker Renewal***
Craig's talk will be followed by short workshop.
Evelyn Shire: Quaker Service in Northern Ireland
- 16.00 Tea and departures

