



Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter

News, views and events
from meetings in Yorkshire



**Reinvigorating Quakerism
Quakers in Europe**

**Programme for meeting of QIY at Balby
(Doncaster) Meeting House
Saturday 27 April 2019**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter April 2019

Welcome to the latest edition of the QiY Newsletter.

All Yorkshire meetings are invited to send news of their interests and activities for inclusion in our newsletter, which is published four times a year, ahead of QiY quarterly meetings.

We also appreciate receiving in advance the names of AM representatives to meetings of Quakers in Yorkshire.

Deadline for contributions to July issue: 15 June 2019

Hard copies of the newsletter, including the programme for Quakers in Yorkshire gatherings, are sent to all local meetings. Please let the co-clerks know if you need more or fewer copies.

The newsletter is also sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. Please could you ensure that hard copies are made available to Friends without Internet access? If any Friend would like to receive personal copies 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 if there is 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 receive personal details from other parts of the Religious Society of Friends. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know. Apologies to Friends whose details have taken longer than necessary to be changed on our lists. The Editor has carefully entered the changes as requested but seems to have been remiss in operating the 'save changes' key!

Summer Meeting of QiY: Saturday 20 July at Skipton

Skipton Friends have hired the Church Hall of St Andrews Methodist United Reformed Church in Newmarket Street, Skipton BD23 2JE for the morning session of QiY in July. It is a 10-15 min walk from the station and about two minutes walk from the Meeting House. The main Town Hall Car Park is very close and there may be a small amount of car parking for disabled Friends at the venue.

Sanctuary Meetings

Our principal speaker at Skipton will be Tatiana Garavito, Programme Manager for Sanctuary Everywhere at Friends House. The main topic for the morning session will be Sanctuary Meetings. Many Yorkshire meetings work with refugees and asylum seekers and we are inviting representatives from all of them to join us at Skipton and contribute accounts of their experiences working in this field. We hope the session will be useful in helping Friends to share best practice, and that some of the afternoon social time will offer networking opportunities. Please let the QiY clerks know if you can attend. (*Contact details on p2.*)

The Retreat

The Retreat has changed significantly in recent months. It retains its charitable status, and a Quaker-led board continues to be responsible for its operation. But it is no longer be a hospital with in-patients; it will eventually no longer inhabit the whole of the historic 40-acre estate in York; and it will have a wider remit, working much more actively in the community through outpatient and related services.

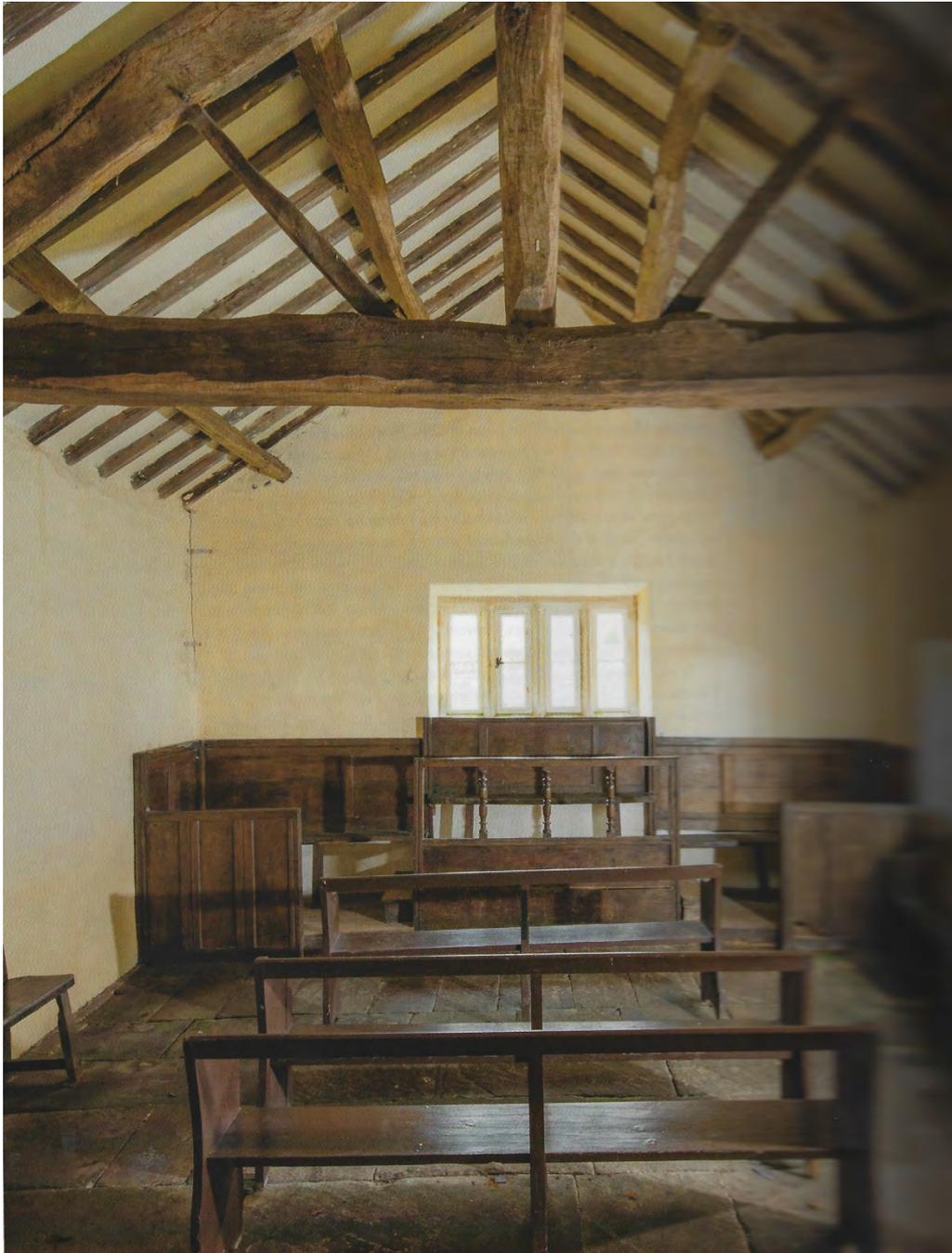
Therapists will offer services for those whose mental health needs care and treatment, but who do not need the intensive treatment of a hospital. The continuing duties of the present Retreat, to people, property and finances, remain. It has its base in the present Tuke Centre, but new technology will enable treatment to be provided over a much wider geographical area.

Our aim is to recreate a distinctive Quaker contribution to the desperate need for loving mental health care in our present society.

Jennifer Barraclough, Clerk to the Board of The Retreat

Farfield Meeting House

Meeting for Worship will be held at Farfield this summer, at 2.30 pm on the following third Thursdays - 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 15 August, 19 September, 17 October. Everyone is welcome to come and share the experience of meeting for worship in this unique historical property.



Farfield Meeting House interior

Farfield Meeting House Appeal

In 2018, Farfield Meeting House in Addingham was chosen by Historic England to be one of 100 most historically significant buildings or places in the country. In the 'Faith and Belief' section, Farfield was chosen along with such buildings as Lindisfarne, Fountains Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral. Its significance lies in the fact that it was built in 1689, the year of the Act of Toleration, and it is still as it was at the time it was built.

The meeting house is owned by the Historic Chapels Trust (HCT) and a small local committee cares for it. The committee consists of four Quakers, two Anglicans (who live opposite the Meeting House) and a local architect.

In order to preserve Farfield, restoration work is needed. Areas of the roof have already been repaired but it has now been decided that it would be cheaper to repair the whole roof rather than small areas at a time. There is significant woodworm infestation in parts of the original 17th century elders' benches. There are cracks in two corners of the interior and, if enough money is raised, a damp proof course would help to further preserve the building. The outside gate is quite rotten and the window frames need painting.

Farfield is situated on the Dales Way and is visited by hundreds of walkers each year. Comments in the visitors' book show that those who visit experience true feelings of peace, awe and tranquillity and a sense of Quaker spirituality.

The committee hopes to raise up to £25,000. So far £11,500 has come in. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Paul and Barbara Henderson at: farfieldappeal@gmail.com or phone 01943 830788

Reinvigorating Quakerism

This is the title of Paul Parker's address to April's meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire. Barbara Windle, Clerk to QiY Trustees reported that 'BYM Trustees brought to the November Meeting for Sufferings the headline "Simple Church, Simple Charity". It was announced that legacy funding has been used to make a three-year appointment of a Simpler Meetings Development Officer (Jonathan Carmichael). The Conference of Trustees & Treasurers in March heard an overview from Jonathan. The aim of this work is to make the lives of clerks, trustees and treasurers easier, providing straightforward guidance and templates that are easy to find when needed. BYM will work on how we communicate and will offer some individual support to meetings which lack the energy, skills or knowledge to tackle something big, like merging two area meetings or laying down an old separate charity.

'In February Sufferings minuted: We recognise there are potential benefits in reviewing, reshaping and simplifying structures and processes in our Local and Area Meetings and also in our national committees. (Min. 17)

'When Quakers in Yorkshire meets in April, Paul Parker will have met some of QiY's trustees, to open up the whole topic and begin thinking about how Yorkshire Friends might be involved in these developing ideas. The thinking on this is at a very early stage. The direction is clear but how the destination will be reached is a question needing discernment by all of us. We look forward to hearing what Paul says in April.'

Andrew Lane

Our main speaker in the afternoon of 27 April, Andrew works as Director of the Quaker Council for European Affairs, and so manages our Quaker quiet diplomacy centre in Brussels.

The session will reflect on QCEA's work to bring a Quaker vision of peace, justice and equality to European governments and institutions. He will also offer some thoughts of how we can create hope in international politics.

At present QCEA undertakes a range of projects to encourage investment in peacebuilding and works to promote human rights, currently focused the rights of migrants and refugees.

Vigil for peace, justice & equality



Huddersfield Friends, with strong support from High Flatts, held their 50th monthly peace vigil in March. Beginning in November 2015, partly in response to the drive for war on Syria by the government, the vigil was a weekly event until January 2016 when it was decided to change to the 4th Saturday of each month. The vigils are held in Huddersfield Market Place and seek to address the roots of violent conflict.

Over the last year the focus has been on the Stop Arming Saudi campaign though we've also held 'NHS not Trident' vigils.

During the vigil we stand quietly holding banners and peace flags and also leaflet passers by. We are constantly uplifted by how well our messages have been received by the public. Average attendance has been around 10 people, often more, with ages ranging from 4 year old Bert to Agnes Bowles aged 92.

At the end of each vigil we take a group photograph for sharing on social media. Through this our message has reached people inside Yemen, some of whom have sent very moving messages of thanks for what we are doing to end the sale of UK weapons fuelling the horrific war.

One of the joys of the vigil is the fellowship that has developed as a result of going to a cafe afterwards for a cuppa and chat. If you're near Huddersfield on a 4th Saturday please come and join us!

Finally, a really huge thank you to everyone who has taken part over the last three years, helping build a peace community and spread the word that we can build a secure, sustainable and equal society without recourse to war.

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School

Bookings are now open for Holiday School for 13-18 year olds. All local meeting clerks can provide application forms. The details can also be found on the QiY website or contact the secretary, Mark Rymer, yfhssecretary@gmail.com 07870 892429

Worfolk Cottage

Pickering and Hull Area Meeting are planning to celebrate 350 years of work and worship in the Scarborough/Pickering area. They are planning a summer gathering on Saturday 22 June at Worfolk cottage, in Staintondale on the North Yorkshire coast. Dianne Hallett will circulate further information on the gathering once they have finalised the details.

Friends unfamiliar with Worfolk can find more about this very special place on its website: <http://www.worfolkcottage.co.uk/>

Roots of Resistance

Roots of Resistance is a community of Friends building a creative, vibrant and radical Quaker response to the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair. We are hoping to encourage people to come to stop the arms fair in London this September. 75 people have already signed up as local organisers, many of who are in the Yorkshire area. There will be some training and information days locally, one in Leeds, one in Huddersfield.

There will be three themes to our action outside the Excel Centre, these are - meeting for worship, bringing our mini banners to form a huge Quaker tapestry and of course protest singing. The Faiths day is Tuesday 3rd September at the week of action to stop the arms fair.

Quakers have been involved in action against DSEI for many years. Roots of Resistance is planning to build an unprecedented Quaker presence this year, standing together against DSEI and the global arms trade.

We will gather for a briefing session on Monday 2nd September, in The Light at Friends House, in Euston, from 1:30pm for action preparation (making banners, etc), and from 5:30 for a full briefing, legal information and meeting for worship, to make sure our hearts and minds are prepared. We would encourage everyone to arrive in London in time to attend as much of the briefing as possible.

For more information and/or if you would like to sign up or to be a local organiser please go to <https://rootsofresistance.org.uk> or contact Ann Bettys bettsarmitage@gmail.com 0798 207 9451

Quaker Faith in Action: Lobbying for Quaker values

Suki Ferguson of Quaker Peace & Social Witness writes:

We are thinking of those we know who are directly affected by the uncertainty of the last three years, and how this will change our communities. Today, our political discourse continues to be shaped by Brexit, and the impact this has on the UK as a nation, and on how we treat each other and how we see ourselves.

Quakers have been working hard to overcome barriers at a local community level. Back in January, we encouraged Friends to contact their MPs to ask for an amendment to the Immigration Bill, a piece of policy designed to shape post-Brexit immigration. Meetings coordinated letter-writing campaigns in their constituencies. Watford Friends went to meet their MP to ask for the amendment in person. Sanctuary Meetings also petitioned the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, to end indefinite detention, and posted some wonderful campaign photos to social media using the hashtag #EndIndefiniteDetention.

Things are looking positive – with some caveats. The government is likely to adopt the 28-day limit on immigration detention, though this may only apply in the case of EU citizens

While this is only a partial victory, and there is much more work to do, this change would not be happening without the dedicated

efforts of people who are moved to act. But this work shows the power of grassroots groups lobbying for change at government level. As Quakers we continue to push for high-level policy change to the fundamental issues of nuclear disarmament and climate breakdown. Please write to your MP about these. The full text of this piece can be found on the BYM website quaker.org.uk

How asylum seekers become slaves

Although we live in an era of prosperity, development and scientific and technological breakthroughs, and despite the existence of human rights conventions signed by most of the world, we find slavery still exists within British society.

In a simple way, when the asylum seeker presents a request to the Home Office, his application will often be rejected for strange and misleading reasons. And then the court will also reject him many times because they will believe the strange reasons until he exhausts the appeals of the decision. Therefore the legal aid will already be stopped. At that point, the asylum seeker has to pay the court, solicitor and the Home Office as well. In the end, the asylum seeker finds himself compelled to seek financial support, and may have to find a job which is illegal.

He is forced to work long hours in an unsuitable work environment and may be subjected to poor treatment, threats, verbal abuse, and sometimes sexual abuse of women. In the end, the asylum seeker finds himself constrained by fear of poverty and anxious about his case.

However, the British government still ignores the slavery phenomenon and does not consider any radical solutions to help eliminate this phenomenon. It is certain that this problem will grow after Brexit because of the economic consequences and chaos which will follow. Prices of consumer goods, etc will increase in the UK, so no doubt the rate of bondage will also increase.

Ahmad Albahrani

From Doncaster Conversation Club Newsletter

MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE
27 April 2019 (Balby) Doncaster Quaker Meeting House
PROGRAMME

10.00 **Coffee or Tea** on arrival

10.30 **Meeting for Worship**

11.00 **Testimony**

11.05 **Welcome to Doncaster and Appointment of Elders**

11.15 **Paul Parker**, Britain Yearly Meeting Recording Clerk, will speak on a range of issues under the heading **Reinvigorating Quakerism**. The aim is to explore ways of simplifying structures and processes and to make the work of trustees within Britain easier to manage. The issues arise from two successful BYM initiatives, Vibrancy in Meetings and Simpler Meetings. It is possible that future plans may involve Quakers in Yorkshire.

Paul's talk will be followed up with discussions in groups and feedback in a short plenary session.

12.50 **Notices**

13.00 **Lunch** (Bring your own – drinks provided.)

14.00 **Appointments**

14.10 **Jennifer Barraclough** on recent changes at **The Retreat**

14.40 **Andrew Lane** on the work of the **Quaker Council for European Affairs**. QCEA works to bring a vision based on the Quaker commitment to peace, justice and equality to Europe and its institutions. It seeks to build support for humane, non-military policies at the EU level, both inside and outside its borders. It works in the spirit of peaceful cooperation which forms the foundation of European politics. QCEA has been based in Brussels' European Quarter since our foundation in 1979.

16.00 **Tea and depart**

NB We regret that it has not been possible to arrange care for children at this meeting.

Doncaster (Balby) Meeting House
 Oxford Place
 off St James Street
 Doncaster DN1 3SL
 01302 343002

From Doncaster Station or the Frenchgate Interchange, leave the station forecourt at the opposite end to the Frenchgate Centre. Walk along West Street and follow it through a right turn and then left onto Cleveland Street. Turn right along Cleveland Street and cross it at the pedestrian island traffic lights. Pass between the blocks of flats into St James Street, turn right at the end, then left at Oxford Place (signposted 'Quaker Meeting House'). The Meeting house is on the right

