

Outreach Projects Committee Report for 2019

The Outreach Projects Committee (OPC) was set up in 2013 to support and encourage all forms of outreach (and now 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, plus the clerk, and primarily operates as a working group by email. The Committee also aims to have one face to face meeting each year, though unfortunately we were again not able to meet due to my health and mobility problems.

This year the OPC has approved funding for nine projects, amounting to grants of £5,084, varying in size from £84 to £1000. After a fairly quiet start to the year, applications gathered pace from June, with five in July. Most enquiries and applications come directly to me as the Clerk, usually directed by the Quakers in Yorkshire website, but it is also possible to apply via our Area Meeting representatives who are able to give help and advice before an application is made, and to guide Friends through the application process. We have been up to full strength, of seven representatives on the Committee, throughout the year, and I am indebted to these Friends for their diligence and careful discernment of the projects that have come before the Committee during 2019.

The projects funded this year have included the distribution of white poppies around the time of Remembrance Day, which remains a popular outreach activity (Harrogate, Sheffield Central and Carlton Hill LMs); the distribution of Fairtrade bananas (Carlton Hill LM); supporting the work of Harrogate and Sheffield Central LMs in their work as Sanctuary Meetings with refugees and asylum seekers; helping Local Meetings to purchase large equipment to help them with outreach activities, and then to be shared within their Area Meetings (Acklam LM and Pickering and Hull AM); and last but by no means least the very exciting pilot project to establish a Quaker presence at Huddersfield University, a project that involves Friends from two Area Meetings working together (Huddersfield and Wooldale LMs). The reports for these events are available from the lead Friend involved, details of which are available on the Quakers in Yorkshire website under the heading 'Spreading the Word' and are also available for you today.

As part of the OPC report to Quakers in Yorkshire in January we hope to hear from Friends who have been part of three Quaker groups that have benefitted from grants from the OPC, about how their funding has made a difference to their project and to the outreach/inreach in their Meeting/Group. We are very grateful to these Friends for sharing their experiences with us.

The Outreach Projects Committee warmly welcomes applications from any Local or Area Meeting or group of Friends considering a project, at whatever stage – it does not have to be fully formed before letting us know it may be in need of funding. We are also well aware that there is a huge amount of valuable outreach going on within our Meetings which is not

in need of monetary help. Sharing our lives as Quakers can not only help others come to know us, but can also be spiritually enriching for ourselves and our Quaker communities.

I have very much enjoyed my service on the Outreach Projects Committee, initially as the representative for my own Area Meeting of Pickering and Hull, and for the past 4 ½ years as Clerk. My thanks to all the Friends who have served on the Committee and to our Quakers in Yorkshire Clerks and Trustees for all their support. I hope that my successor finds as much joy in their service as I have. Thank you Friends.

Annabel May, Clerk (December 2019)

Quaker Outreach Projects in Yorkshire 2019

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 2019. 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.

Annabel May, clerk, QiY Outreach Projects Committee
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Local/Area Meeting or Group	Format	Theme	Venue	Date applied
Carlton Hill LM Outreach Committee	Fairtrade banana distribution, pink high vis tabards	Quaker outreach	Carlton Hill FMH and around city centre	March 2019
Harrogate LM as a Sanctuary Meeting	Holiday for local refugee families	Relaxing holiday with activities	Jonas Centre	June 2019
Ackworth LM	Tent for use within LM and AM	Outreach	n/a	July 2019
Harrogate Local Meeting	White poppies and leaflets	Remembrance/peace	Harrogate	July 2019
Wooldale/Huddersfield LMs	New Quaker Meeting at Huddersfield University	Outreach	Huddersfield University	July 2019
Sheffield Central LM	Stand with white poppies	Outreach/Remembrance	Sheffield Peace and Craft Fair	July 2019
Carlton Hill LM Outreach Committee	White poppies	Remembrance/peace	Leeds and Briggate streets	September 2019
Pickering & Hull AM 'War School' film planning group	Projector, speakers and publicity for screenings & used in AM after	Remembrance/peace	Malton FMH (Nov), Scarborough (June 2020) and within AM	Oct 2019
Sheffield Central LM	Food to share at Sing and Dance off Winter Blues event	Outreach/inreach	Sheffield Central LM	Nov 2019 (taking place Feb 2020)

Total December 2019 = £5084