

# **Quakers in Yorkshire**

## **Newsletter**

including

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



### **Sustainability Issue**



### **Programme for QiY meeting** at

### **Harrogate Meeting House**

### **Saturday 22 April 2017**



Activities for children (age 4 upwards) and  
young people; please notify in advance



## **Everyone Welcome!**

## **Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter April 2017**

All Yorkshire meetings are invited to send news, images, notices of interests and activities for inclusion in the QiY newsletter. It is published four times a year, ahead of QiY's quarterly meetings. Contributions should reach the co-clerks (details below) early in the preceding month.

### **NB Deadline for July issue 8 June 2017.**

Paper copies of the quarterly newsletter, including the programme for each meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire, are sent to all local meetings. Please let the co-clerks know if your meeting needs more or fewer copies.

The newsletter is also sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. If any Friend would like to receive copies in this way, please inform the co-clerks.

## **OFFICERS OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE**

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### **Quakers in Yorkshire Website** [quakersinyorkshire.org.uk](http://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk)

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 there.

**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 RSOF. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know.

**Quakers in Yorkshire 2017 Calendar** formed the centre pages of January's newsletter. The calendar will not be circulated separately but if you need a paper or email copy please contact Arthur Pritchard.

### **Summer Meeting of QiY: Saturday 15 July, Malton FMH**

In July we plan to start a dialogue with Friends from the north and north-east of our region. We have invited Friends from Northumbria AM and Teesdale and Cleveland AM to join us to explore common concerns and develop possible links. The afternoon will be spent on a range of social activities.

### **Yorkshire Friends Housing Society Ltd: Ravensworth Lodge**

Hester Miller of Scarborough Meeting has been involved with Ravensworth Lodge for over 35 years, much of the time as member and sometime Chairman of the Management Committee. She retired from the Committee in 2015, and writes here as a concerned individual, a passionate supporter of the Home and all who live and work there. Hester writes not on behalf of the Management Committee, but with its informed consent. She continues:

‘It is widely recognised that the Home is managed and run well. The relevant question is how to ensure it carries its distinctive Quaker ethos into the uncertain and ever-changing future. The Management Committee are currently consulting the shareholders (all 20 of us) on its proposal to convert YFHS Ltd, that is, Ravensworth Lodge, from a Community Benefit Society to a Charitable Company, limited by guarantee. For several years the Society has struggled to comply with all its own constitutional rules, most pertinently for us, that there should be at least 50% Quaker representation on the Committee. The Committee feels change to charitable status would allow a restructured constitution to be more flexible and clear, and would suit our charitable purposes.

‘This leads to the nub. Whether the decision at the AGM on 25 May 2017 is to change, or not to change, the question of maintaining Quaker values remains, assuming that we understand and can explain what they are. I am certain that all members of the Committee share/similar values and commitment to the welfare of the Home so does it matter that Quaker Committee members are becoming rarer birds. Are there other ways in which we can show the world that Ravensworth Lodge is founded and grounded within Quakerism? I feel it important that all Friends in Yorkshire should be informed of this proposal. I would be glad to receive feedback and comments which might contribute to the discussion at the special General Meeting on 27 April.’

## **A LOW CARBON QUAKER COMMUNITY? IS OUR FAITH DEEP ENOUGH?**

*Jonathan Dale shares some thoughts for Harrogate on 22 April.*

I am not intending to rehearse the well-known problems created by human induced climate change – in detail. Just an initial summary. We know well enough the rapidly growing dangers of climate change, the devastating effect on the natural world of humankind's ever increasing occupation of space and exploitation of materials and the insidious penetration of a huge range of polluting and toxic materials into the delicate, if sometimes resilient, web of life. We have a rough and ready idea of what we stand to lose. It is immense and heart-breaking.

So, are our hearts really broken open enough? How have we individually and corporately reacted to the astonishing commitment at Canterbury in 2011, to become a Low carbon Sustainable Community? Variably, of course. Between us and within each one of us there are things we have done and things we could do and haven't, at least not yet. That's true for me. We have that in common. And we also know that our particular circumstances also vary and may shape our options in important respects. The sense of being in this together should make our sharing less awkward, so that we can be open and honest, supportive and yet challenging, bound together in the shared sense of an existential challenge which our faith would ignore or minimise to our eternal peril.

So let us share what we have done to minimise our carbon footprint and our wider ecological footprint. Are we insulating our homes and keeping the thermostat under careful review? Are we avoiding leisure flights at least and all short-haul flights? Minimising car journeys? Are we putting any spare cash into renewable energy and/or community based social initiatives? Are we moving to a low impact diet – local, vegetarian or better still vegan? Are we campaigning against fracking and withdrawing any investments from the exploration for further fossil fuels and from their exploitation?

These questions lead me to what I see as the heart of the matter, in two ways.

The first is the conclusion I have come to over the last thirty years, that the modern consumerist industrial society that runs things today is fundamentally incapable of reaching a properly sustainable economy. It also needs to be a much more equal one. We, therefore, need, as a matter of faith, to work towards a new kind of economic and social order that is more compatible with our testimonies.

The second conclusion is that this crisis is so enormous that it challenges us to ask whether our faith is really deeper than our desires for the exotic, the convenient, the comfortable. Is our faith full-time? Is the whole of life really sacramental? If it is, then we travel, go on holiday, eat and shop in the love of God. For every transaction, there is a prayer: does this step I'm taking, this purchase I'm making, demonstrate my concern to build up right relationship with those affected by it – making it, selling it, providing the raw materials – and with the rest of nature. Does it demonstrate that I really believe in God's love? We cannot move to being a real community intent on changing the world towards a low carbon future second hand; we have to come face-to-face with God or whatever we have faith in, and know that our lives do speak. In our half heartedness we don't always want to see and hear what they really say; but, if we really openly share our struggles and wrestle together with our demons of convenience, comfort and desire ... we would surely be liberated into a deeper spiritual joyfulness and a readiness to act much more resourcefully against the spirit of the age, its individualism, its consumerism and its worship of money.

Yes, ultimately, sustainability needs us both to change our behaviour, and to support social and economic transformation. For that there is no alternative to faith fullness. *Jonathan Dale*



## **Doing what love requires of us: Quaker sustainability activism and witness**

*Our Friends Pete Redwood, Sheila Kay and Chayley Collis have planned the afternoon workshops at Harrogate. They offer here the available choices. They have been joined by Anna-Marie Byrne of Huddersfield Friends of the Earth who explains the Personal Carbon Tracker*

Scientists have known about Global Warming since as far as back as 1919 when a group of Australian scientists realised the damage that the sudden growth in coal fired power stations was causing to the climate. In 1975 Shell commissioned a report into Global Warming. It predictably showed the oil industry was a major culprit. They promptly archived it so that no one would read it. It has recently re-surfaced.

We now live in more enlightened times, but action on climate change continues to lack the urgency required. At Harrogate, Friends will have the opportunity to look closer at what they can do to make changes. Choose one of four workshops:

### **1. A Personal Carbon Tracker**

Demonstration of a simple computer program to track where you are creating the most carbon and the changes you can make;

### **2. Keeping it in the ground**

How we as Quakers can challenge the dominance and lobbying power of big oil and the fossil fuel industry, for example:

- a. Fossil Fuel divestment of our Meeting Houses, bank accounts and pension funds;
- b. Taking action against the growing fracking industry, including ways in which Quakers can support activists at the Kirby Misperton Protection Camp near Malton.

### **3. Non-Violent Direct action**

A testimony from a Yorkshire Friend who has been involved in the Rising Up movement, taking non-violent direct action against Heathrow airport expansion as part of his Quaker witness. We will hear arguments for the role of NVDA in effecting change.

### **4. Food**

Surprisingly food production is one of the larger components of the carbon footprint but the one that is most often ignored.

We would be delighted to hear examples/plans from other Yorkshire Friends of their sustainability activism at QiY on 22nd April. Please email with your ideas to: [chayleycollis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chayleycollis@yahoo.co.uk) before 18 April.

### **How the Personal Carbon Tracker works**

In 2011 scientists said: To have a safe climate, globally we have to use less than 1000 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (GT CO<sub>2</sub>) in total – ever.

Like a cake: once it's gone, it's gone.

It's now 2017 and we've already eaten a fifth of the cake since 2011 (burnt 200 GT CO<sub>2</sub>). So the remaining budget is only 800 GT CO<sub>2</sub>. If we share 800 GT CO<sub>2</sub> equally between the 7.3 billion people on earth, we each get 110 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in total, ever. To give you an idea of what this means, an average Brit uses 10 -15 Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year, every year. We need to change fast!

You may know Carbon Footprint calculators. The Tracker takes the carbon footprint idea further, taking account of the total budget (over the next 50 years). Instead of giving you an annual carbon footprint, it tells you what temperature rise we'd all be facing – *if everyone on earth lived as you*. Try out scenarios and plan changes to try to get below 2 degrees C. It's a lot harder than you'd expect. At the moment it is in Excel spreadsheet format: we're developing it as an app. Read more at: <http://personalcarbontracker.weebly.com/>

We'll be at the Harrogate workshop to introduce the PCT, answer questions and run a workshop using the PCT calculator. If you'd like to get more out of the session, look up the calculator and have a go beforehand: <http://personalcarbontracker.weebly.com/calculator.html>. You can either use it online (unfortunately it won't save your data online) or download it and use it in excel (you can save your data). If you bring along last year's energy and water bills we can help you filling it in. Feel free to bring your own laptop too.

So far, people who have tried out the calculator have found it fun, enlightening and a start point for real change. It has shown up areas that have been overlooked and put actions into perspective giving people confidence to know what steps to take in their own lives. Contact [annamariebyrne13@gmail.com](mailto:annamariebyrne13@gmail.com) with any questions. Looking forward to meeting you all and exploring!

## **BYM Sustainability Group Report**

Reports on the continuing work on sustainability came to Meeting for Sufferings in February. Friends can read the minute **MfS/17/02/06** on the BYM website or by contacting their area meeting representative on Meeting for Sufferings. The following minute **MfS/17/02/07** deals with issues of Fracking.

## **Bootham School Reflect 30: Saturday 20 May 2017**

Chris Jeffery, Head of Bootham School is extending an invitation to Quakers in Yorkshire to visit the school. He writes: 'In part, the invitation is a response to the gentle challenge received at the schools' meeting in October about our being seen to welcome Friends from local meetings into our schools.

'We plan to hold regular thirty minute Quaker meetings on Saturday mornings for our wider Bootham community, including parents (past and present), Old Scholars, teachers and friends of Bootham. These 'Reflect 30' meetings will give those who attend the opportunity to explore the benefits of Quaker silence and some of the ideas at the heart of the Quaker way. The idea has been very well received within our community.

'Indeed, one of the things I have most often heard from parents in my six months at Bootham is how important the school's Quaker values, approach and practices are to so many of them. A good number have spoken to me about how much sense they make and how much their children benefit from them.

'We accordingly invite interested members of Quaker meetings in Yorkshire to join us on Saturday 20 May for the second of these events. The meeting will start at 9 am in our central school hall, with coffee and tours of the school to follow for anyone who would like to look around. I hope Friends will find this an interesting initiative and we look forward to welcoming as many as possible on 20 May.'

## **Book Launch at Airton**

***Hidden in Plain Sight***, the history and architecture of Airton Meeting House will be launched on **Saturday 8 April 2017**. Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting will be one of the speakers. Laurel Phillipson of Airton Meeting who has co-authored the book says, 'It will be worthwhile coming: Airton has quite a startling history.'

### **Experiment with Light - Deepening the Practice**

Friday 23 - Monday 26 June 2017

with Andrea Freeman, Helen Meads and Margaret Roy

Swarthmoor Hall, Cumbria LA12 0JQ Tel: +44 (0) 1229 583 204

### **Day Retreats with Experiment with Light**

1 July 2017 10-4 Contact Ann Bettys

[info@huddersfieldquakers.org.uk](mailto:info@huddersfieldquakers.org.uk)

Huddersfield FMH, Church Street • Paddock • Huddersfield HD1 4TR

7 October 2017 10-4 Contact Helen Meads

[highflattsquakers@gmail.com](mailto:highflattsquakers@gmail.com)

High Flatts FMH, High Flatts, Huddersfield, HD8 8XU

### **Day Retreat based on Zen drawing**

20 May 2017 10-4. At High Flatts. Contact Andrea Freeman via

[highflattsquakers@gmail.com](mailto:highflattsquakers@gmail.com)

### **West Yorkshire Campaign Against the Arms Trade**

This recently-formed group will host a stall at Harrogate on 22 April.

Members will be on hand to talk to Friends about current campaigns.

### **Anti-Fracking: Meeting for Witness Saturday, 6 May 2017, 2-4 pm**



Pendle Hill Friends invite us to join them for a 'Meeting for Witness' at 2pm on 6th May 2017 on Pendle Hill to bring attention to the injustice of fracking, and call on those in power to ban it. There is parking at Barley village for access up the steep end of the hill.

### **David Griffiths**

Pickering and Hull AM have sent us an appreciation of the life of David Parry Griffiths a Pickering Friend who died in April 2016. This has been placed on the QiY website, and a copy can be obtained by email or post from the QiY clerks.

## **Examiners of Accounts**

A number of meetings are having difficulties in filling key roles. Central Yorkshire Area Meeting would welcome the thoughts of other Friends and meetings on creating a Yorkshire-wide pool of examiners of accounts, in order to ensure the independence and integrity of the examiner's role. Please contact QiY clerks in first instance.

## **The Peace Museum**

Wednesday 26th April 5.30pm till 7.30pm

The Peace Museum will open for a special evening event to mark the end of the Kindertransport display. The evening will explore the story of Ursula Michel in more detail, including a talk and discussion with Judith Rhodes, her daughter. A re-showing of her film will also take place.

### **Programme**

5.30: Welcome and viewing of the display

6.00: Speakers and Film

7.30: Close

Space is limited, so those who intend to come must **RSVP to [info@peacemuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@peacemuseum.org.uk)** to guarantee a place. Free, all welcome.



## **MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE 22 April 2017**

### **Harrogate Quaker Meeting House**

#### **PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY**

10.00 **Coffee or Tea** on arrival

10.30 **Meeting for Worship**

11.00 **Testimony**

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

11.15 **Jonathan Dale: A low carbon Quaker community?  
Is our faith deep enough?**

12.40 **Notices**

12.45 **Lunch** (bring your own, drinks provided)

2.00 **Testimony**

2.05 **Appointments and releases**

2.10 **Ravenscroft Lodge**

2.15 **Sustainability Issues and workshops**

Sheila Kaye from Keighley will set the scene. This will be followed by a brief introduction from each of our workshop leaders: Anna-Marie Byrne, of Huddersfield Friends of the Earth, Chaley Collis and Ian Bray from Huddersfield, and Pete Redwood from Carlton Hill, Leeds. Friends will then be able to choose one of the four workshops:

- 1) Using a Personal Carbon Tracker (devised by Anna-Marie)
- 2) Keep it in the Ground - the follies of fracking and other carbon fuel extraction
- 3) Divestment – are you investing to support global warming?
- 4) Food – a major part of our carbon footprint but the most ignored.

16.00 **Tea and departures.** We thank Harrogate Friends for their hospitality, for organising activities for children and for making all the arrangements for today's meeting.

**Name badges:** There will be sticky labels for you to write your name on. If you have a name badge, please bring it and remember to wear it. **Please note:** *in the interests of safety we will ask you to sign in as a record of your attendance at the meeting*

**Children and young people under 19** are most welcome to attend Quakers in Yorkshire meetings. Harrogate Meeting is offering a programme which will follow a short period of time in meeting for worship 10.30-10.45.

**Please contact Barbara Penny** [barbaraepenny@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraepenny@gmail.com) or mobile (07737 368459) with names, ages and any special needs of those coming. They should bring packed lunch, waterproof clothing and bus fares. **Please get in touch by 10 April to reserve a place.**

### Directions

For visitors coming by train from Leeds, first cross the track by the footbridge and leave the station via the eastern exit by the car park. Trains from York arrive at the eastern platform. Walk along Station Avenue and bear right on to Queen Parade. The meeting house is on the right hand side.

For road users, there is parking at the rear of Meeting House (Homestead Road) and in surrounding streets.

### Harrogate Quaker Meeting House Location

