



# Quaker HIVE Yorkshire

A Quarterly Newsletter about Quaker Youth Work across Yorkshire



**Lee Lester**

*Editor*



Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

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**EDITION TWO**

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## Youth Development Project

In June 2018, Quaker Life employed two regional youth development workers to work on a new 3 year pilot project funded by legacy funding. The workers both cover a different geographical area—one based in Bristol and working across Bristol, Bath and North Somerset and the other based in Sheffield working across all of Yorkshire.

The aim of the project is for the workers to actively seek ways to build community by facilitating and delivering a range of opportunities aimed at increasing the engagement and participation of young Quakers (and other young people) within the Religious Society of Friends; working towards the strategic aim of ensuring that Quaker communities are loving inclusive and all age ('Our Faith in the Future', 2015).

### Lee's summary of work

I have now been in post for a year and a half which is now halfway through the pilot project!

I have been reviewing how the project is going and collating feedback from young people involved in the activities and events. One quote in particular really stood out to me:

*"I loved tonight's Winter Social event. I really needed a break from some of the stressful stuff in my life right now and I have been really tired and worried about my exams and it was just so good to play games, eat pizza and just feel chilled"*

I feel its just so important to remember all the different stresses and anxieties young people face and how sometimes all they need is a social space to come and be themselves and feel safe and relaxed.

Below is a list of the work I have undertaken since taking over in this role:

- \* Creation of SYFAN (Sheffield Young Friends Action Network) which runs monthly
- \* Organised and ran two Winter Social events for young people (19 and 16 attendees)
- \* Attended and delivered 'Young people and Quakerism' workshop at lettings and building conference in Sheffield
- \* Facilitated an all age spiritual gifts workshop with visiting friend from [USA](#)
- \* Developed and established a support network across Yorkshire comprising Area Meeting Clerks and Young People's Advocates, to offer additional support for work and promote young people's activities and events across area
- \* Ran a stall at Sheffield Pride—showing support and allyship to the LGBT+ community
- \* Planting4Peace Project - planting white poppies around Sheffield as a symbol of peace and anti-violence.
- \* Attended two junior holiday residential – delivering youth activities
- \* Delivered 'Privilege' workshop at National Event



- \* Ran football kit donation scheme - over 30 kits sent to refugee projects
- \* Attended Under 19s Meeting to present work so far and consult with young people across Yorkshire on a social media strategy and Residential planning
- \* Harrogate Meeting- supporting their intergenerational work with refugees
- \* Leeds All Age Area Meeting on Sustainability Easter Settlement – Delivered Young people’s programme
- \* Recruit and train a team of volunteers from Yorkshire – Co-delivery of a volunteer training event in Carlton Hill and York for all people across Yorkshire interested in/already volunteering on youth events.
- \* Wrote Journeys in Spirit- (youth) publication published by BYM and circulated to meetings
- \* Visits and Assembly on my work at Bootham school – to the whole school
- \* Attended YFHS 2018 and 2019 and delivered workshop
- \* Visited and spoke at meeting houses in Yorkshire including Carlton Hill, Friargate and Huddersfield

## Activism in a Youth Work Setting

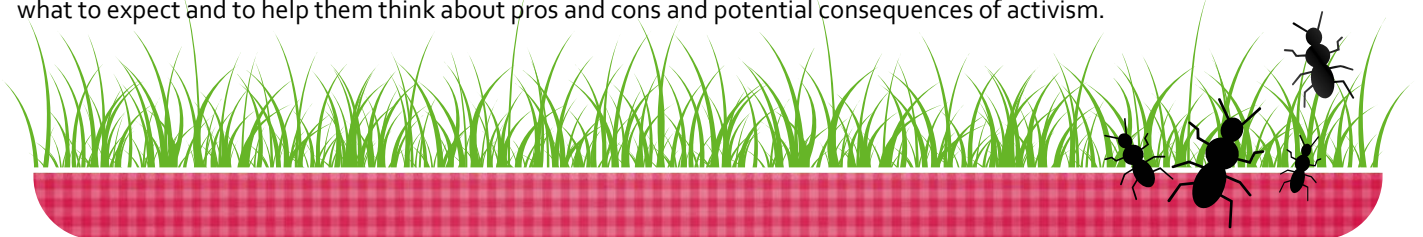


During my role as a youth development worker, I have regularly been asked about how I feel about the climate strikes and young peoples involvement in activism and whether or not I would openly encourage young people to attend strikes, protests and sit ins. My opinion has evolved a lot during my time working in young peoples services and I very mindful not to give a blanket answer. Firstly, I feel there is a huge difference between a strike and a protest. I am very much in the agreement with these definitions created by a young person I have been working with:

*"A strike is when people don't go to work or school in order to bargain for something or make a point about an issue, a protest is when people go out into the streets or to a place like outside a prison because they're upset about something."*

My view is that I would (and have) supported young people at several strikes around the climate crisis and feel being their as a safe adult is quite beneficial especially for some of the younger young people who were quite nervous around large crowds. I would however be slightly more reserved around promoting the attendance and also attending a strike with a group of young people. I feel these kind of social action events can be a lot less predictable and could be a lot more controversial with parents, schools etc. That said, I would consider being present at a protest that young people were planning on attending and being available if they need support whilst there. That way, I am actively giving support and being present without being seen to overtly encourage this type of social action especially as it could lead to consequences i.e being arrested.

Overall, I would always have open and honest chats with young people about these forms of social action and prepare them for what to expect and to help them think about pros and cons and potential consequences of activism.



## Important Events—Residential and Art Group

Below are two exciting opportunities for young people in Yorkshire

2020 VISION:

FINDING HOPE IN HARD TIMES



WEEKEND AWAY

06-08  
MARCH  
2020

@ DUNFIELD HOUSE, 11RS 3IN  
FOR 13-17 YEAR OLDS

MEET PEOPLE, PLAY GAMES,  
EXPLORE WHAT IT IS  
TO BE ALIVE & WELL TODAY  
THROUGH WORKSHOPS  
& REFLECTION

COST: £125, INC ACCOMMODATION & FOOD  
EMAIL: [CYPADMIN@QUAKER.ORG.UK](mailto:CYPADMIN@QUAKER.ORG.UK)  
BOOK BY 6 FEB: [HTTPS://FORMS.QUAKER.ORG.UK/2020VISION/](https://forms.quaker.org.uk/2020VISION/)





**YOUNG PEOPLES ART GROUP**  
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & PROMOTING POSITIVE WELL-BEING

For young people aged 11 - 17

Sheffield Quakers will be running a free monthly art group for young people in the heart of Sheffield.

We want to create a safe and inclusive space where young people can try out a range of arts materials and let their creativity run free. Art is a wonderful way to expressive yourself and can improve well-being and help foster positive mental health.

A qualified and experienced youth worker will facilitate the sessions along with a team of DBS checked volunteers and local artists.

For more information, please contact

**Lee Lester**

Youth Development Worker  
Sheffield Quakers

[leel@quaker.org.uk](mailto:leel@quaker.org.uk)

**WHEN**  
Monthly starting on  
Friday 21st-  
February  
2019  
5 pm - 7 pm

**WHERE**  
The Art  
House  
8 Backfields  
Sheffield  
S1 4HJ

Future dates

- Friday 20th  
March
- Friday 24th  
April



## Holocaust Memorial Vigil

On Monday 27th January, I attended Sheffield's Holocaust Memorial Vigil. This year's theme was Stand Together and the vigil gave us all chance reflect on how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours, and speaking out against oppression. Sadly no young people from Sheffield could join me at the event but it was a privilege to be there representing Quakers.





## Youth Voice

### What are young Quakers talking about?

Recently I had a interesting discussion with a group of young Quakers about how there are reports that many young people are no longer interested in drinking alcohol. The discussion started during an activity about pressures on young people. The group were making a list of the different stresses in young peoples loves and how these could manifest themselves in poor mental heat and self care. This then opened up a debate into the use of alcohol and drugs and one of the group referred to an article them had recently read that stated:

*"Shunning alcohol becomes 'mainstream' among young people as a third are now teetotal,"*

It appears , a study involving nearly 10,000 young people in the UK found that the proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds who say would never drink alcohol rose from 18% in 2005 to 29% in 2015. and now is well over 35%. The study also found that young people who did drink alcohol were drinking less nowadays and that binge drinking rates were falling.

The researchers said the drop in numbers of young people drinking suggested a shift in attitudes towards alcohol. They say this could be due to increased awareness of the health risks of alcohol, as well as changes in the way young people spend their leisure time.

The group talked about their alcohol use/interest and to my suppose the entire group said they had no interest in drinking alcohol and gave various reasons for this including:

- Heath and mental wellbeing
- Fear of addiction and reaction from family
- Aware of potential negative effects



I found this a really interesting discussion and would encourage anyone working with children and young people to also open up this dialogue!

### Quotes

**Below are some quotes from young people I have consulted with about alcohol:**

*"It just honestly doesn't appeal, I am not just saying that. I don't feel it is something I want to try. I get enough pleasure out of seeing my friends, going on walks in the peak district and doing drama and music."*

*"I see what alcohol does to my peers and I don't want to be like that, Getting drunk and making bad choices. I have tried alcohol at a party but didn't like the taste and would just prefer juice or a cup of tea!!!!"*



## Future Events

Social Trip—Location TBC 18th Feb - Half term

SYFAN Social Action Group (last Sunday of each month)

Patchwork Project Art Group - 21st Feb

2020 Residential Weekend 6th- 8th March

Young peoples self defense session. Date to be confirmed Feb/March

*Details of these events and activities can be found on the Sheffield Quaker website*

<https://www.sheffieldquakers.org.uk/about/young-people/>

### CONTACT DETAILS

Lee Lester

Email: [Leel@quaker.org.uk](mailto:Leel@quaker.org.uk)

Based at Sheffield Central Meeting House  
10 St James' St  
Sheffield

