



# Quaker HIVE Yorkshire

A termly newsletter about  
Quaker Youth Work across  
Yorkshire.

**Lee Lester** - Editor

“There are those who say to you – we are rushing this  
issue of civil rights. I say we are 172 years late.” –  
**Hubert Humphrey**



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## EDITION FOUR

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## Youth Development Project <sup>2</sup>

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 - Summer

Well...it's safe to say , this wasn't the summer anyone was expecting!

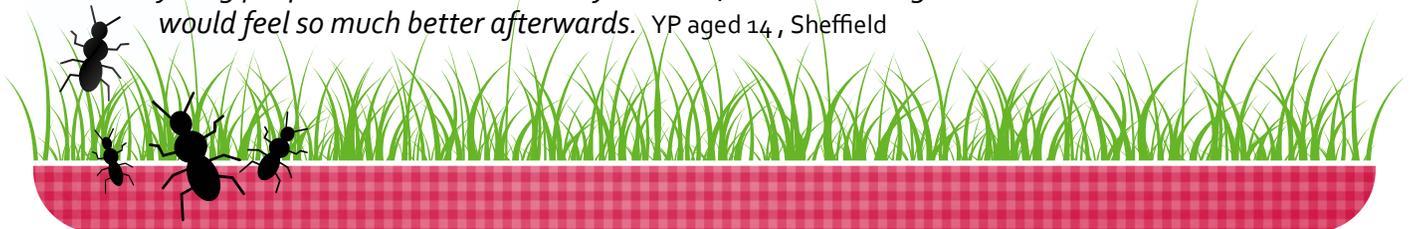
Instead of a packed summer programme of day trips, residentials and socialising with friends, young Quakers in Yorkshire have had to adjust to a very different way of living, one which has taken place predominately in cyber space!

While many BYM staff were furloughed, the youth development project continued throughout summer and continued to evolve to ensure that young people were supported and engaged at a time of great uncertainty.

#### Work Undertaken

- A weekly SYFAN (Sheffield young people's action network) group online. Throughout summer we have played games, had discussions and just enjoyed being together in a virtual space.
- A Wednesday lunchtime zoom drop in session has been offered - these provided another chance for young people to be together and share anxieties and have a quiet space to reflect.
- Support for weekly national youth groups for young Quakers across the country .
- A series of online workshops for young people from Sheffield and Bath/Bristol combined.
- Support for the BYM event-Young Peoples Online Programme, a week long event in early August
- A weekly online worship and support group for young adult Quakers across the country
- Two online "residentials". One with Yorkshire Friends Junior Holidays and the other for young Quakers from Sheffield and Bristol/Bath.

*"I had loads of cool plans this summer which couldn't happen because of the virus. I am so glad that there was so much online stuff to do. I loved the meet up sessions with Bristol young people and when I was really stressed, I knew I could go to the SYFAN session and I would feel so much better afterwards. YP aged 14 , Sheffield*



## Online Youth Work.....works!

*Reflections on how online youth work has proved successful during the Covid-19 Pandemic.*



I admit I was sceptical about moving all my face to face work online. I was worried that young people wouldn't find it stimulating enough or that my basic knowledge of online social platforms such as Zoom would mean the intended sessions were laboured, clunky and "un-cool". However, it didn't take long to realise that the young people responded positively to this new method of being together and I didn't need to be an IT whizz in order to deliver fun and engaging sessions online!

Over summer, myself, Kirsty Philbrick (youth development worker for the West) and Jude Acton (Children and Young Peoples Officer) continued to develop and adapt the work we could offer online and delivered a varied programme that included an online Residential! How does that work I hear you ask?!

We used Zoom to host our Residential. Young people who signed up were given a unique ID and password so they could access the event at various times during the weekend. The youth work team created a programme for the weekend including 'wake up' activities, interactive workshops, games sessions and epilogue. Young people would then log in at the specified times to take part in those activities together.

This event proved to be really successful and the 19 young people that attended all enjoyed the experience.

*"The online resi was brilliant. I thought it would be awkward online but it actually wasn't. Yeah, it wasn't the same as being together but I still really enjoyed it and I hope we do another one soon."*

*"My favourite bit was the bedtime story. One of the workers read us a story and we just listened to it and relaxed. I actually had the best nights sleep in weeks."*

*"I loved it when we got a recipe and went away and cooked it, then we came back online and ate it together. It just felt so nice and it was so funny that loads of peoples baking had gone wrong!"*

A similar Residential was offered for children involved in Junior Holidays due to the fact that their June event had to be canceled. This was run in the same way as the Sheffield/Bristol Residential and the children involved had a wonderful time being together.

Over summer there has been a range of regular activities that have been really well attended and feed-back from young people has been that they want online work to continue even when we can meet in person.

### **So why has online youth work being so successful?**

Its hard to know exactly what makes online youth work so successful and I feel some of its success can be attributed to the young peoples need for something to engage with during the pandemic. However, I also think it's a very accessible platform that many young people are comfy with using and there is such a broad range of options available for activities and connecting across regions that it has great appeal.



## BLM and Racial Justice

### *How young people are responding to the current civil rights movement.*

After the killing of George Floyd and the subsequent protests and rise in visibility for the BLM movement, the BYM youth work projects have used this as an opportunity to capture the views of young Quakers on the subject of racial justice.

I have been astounded by the passionate, articulate and honest responses young Quakers have displayed on this subject and how young people are being so active in the fight for equality at such a difficult time.

*“I don’t know what to do about the BLM protests. I feel led to attend and stand up for my black friends but I know it is risky due to the pandemic. I am caught in two minds and I don’t know what the right thing to do is.” YP Sheffield 16*

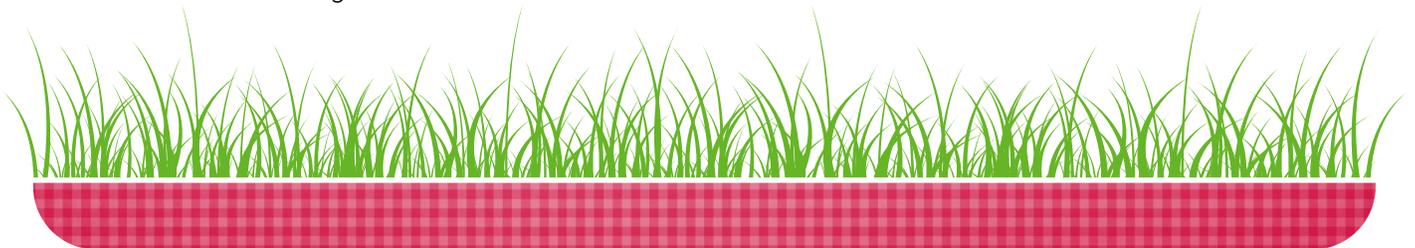
So many young people used our online sessions to talk about the conflicting feelings they had around the May/June BLM protests. So many wanted to attend but were aware that the pandemic made it less straight forward and some hard decisions had to be made.

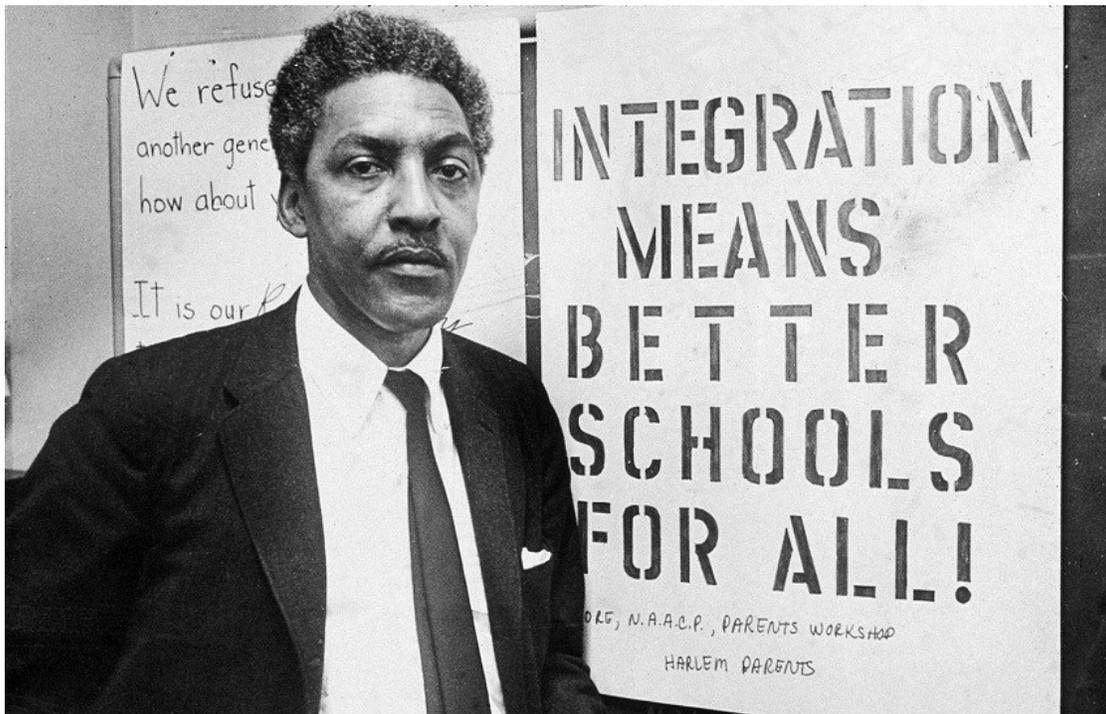
In the end, a couple of the young people attended protests however, many took to social media instead to share their support for the movement. Many young people also purchased books and other materials written by black authors, signed petitions or attended online events that looked at practical ways in which people can support the black community and make positive changes in their schools and communities.

During one of our sessions we learnt about Bayard Rustin who was a American, Black Civil Rights activist, and an advocate of gay and lesbian rights, and a Quaker. The young people were really inspired by his story and enjoyed learning about a Quaker that many of them had not heard of before.

The issues of race and privilege is something that many young Quakers are very interested in and wish to do more work around. As adults within meetings, I think it is of the utmost importance that we find opportunities for young people to be involved and heard within our meeting to help lead us on our responses to racial justice.

*“I want to do more on this subject. I cant believe that things like the killing of George Floyd are happening in 2020. Its wrong. I feel so powerless to make changes but I want to. I think young Quakers can play a huge part in the fight for equality and I am so happy that we have spaces to talk about ways we can become activists. YP aged 17*

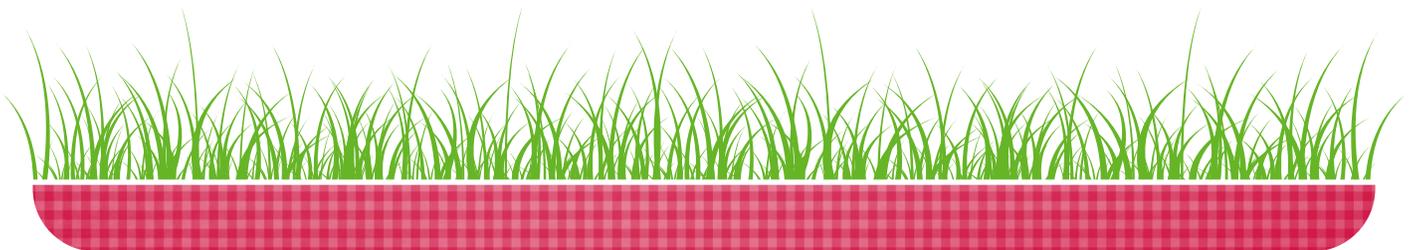




## Bayard Rustin

1912-1987

*Both morally and practically, segregation is to me a basic injustice. Since I believe it to be so, I must attempt to remove it. There are three ways in which one can deal with an injustice. (a) One can accept it without protest. (b) One can seek to avoid it. (c) One can resist the injustice non-violently. To accept it is to perpetuate it.*



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