



# **Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter**

**News, views and events  
from meetings in Yorkshire**

## **Quarterly Meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire**

### **PROGRAMME**

**17 April 2021**

To be held online via Zoom

**Reports from CRESST, Pen and Pencil  
Society and Sheffield Tapestry**

**Breckenbrough School**

**Final report from GRASP**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## **Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter April 2021**

Welcome to April's edition of the Newsletter. Our April meeting and our next in July which was planned for Pickering will now be held online. While we all regret that we cannot yet meet again in person, Pickering and Hull Friends feel that it would be unwise to plan for a large gathering in a small space since some social distancing rules may be still be in place.

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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. Please let us know if area or local meeting clerks' details have changed or if there are additional items you would like to include in the newsletter.

This edition will again be online only, but if any Friend is without internet access we can provide hard copies. Please let Arthur Pritchard know.

#### **Reminder**

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 appreciate receiving in advance the names of AM representatives to QiY. If you are appointed as representative, please indicate this when you register for the meeting.

#### **Deadline for contributions to July issue: 14 June 2021**

Copies of the newsletter, including the programme for QiY quarterly gatherings, are normally sent to all local meetings. We plan to print a full allocation once our meetings are able to return to normal.

The newsletter is sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. If you know of anyone who would like a personal copy, please contact us.

### **Have your meeting's contact details changed?**

We always need up-to-date contact details of local and area meeting clerks. Under Data Protection regulations QiY cannot receive personal details from other parts of the Religious Society of Friends.

### **Black Lives Matter**

Following the decision that racial justice should be a standing item on the QiY Agenda a small group of Friends have offered to co-ordinate the input to the QiY sessions. In this slot at April's meeting we will introduce how we intend to work. We will also offer you something to take away for your own personal reflection.

The question for the coming months is: 'Can you think of something – (an article, book, video, podcast, programme etc) – that has recently challenged or inspired you? What did you learn from it?'

Stephan Ball, Sheffield, Ruth McTighe, Barnsley, Rosemary Roberts, York, Susan Robson, Leeds.

### **Funds for Yorkshire youth development worker**

Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees are responding to the strong desire, expressed by Friends at the January QiY meeting, to find ways of continuing with the Yorkshire youth work project. They propose to re-allocate the Adult School Union funds, about £25,000, for this purpose. The Adult School Union closed in 2015 and the money was given to QiY. A consultation led to it being used to support Friends to attend Woodbrooke courses. However, the take-up has been very low and last year there were no new requests for support. The reason is probably that meetings are able to provide the support needed by Friends to go on Woodbrooke courses. Trustees do not wish to sit on funds which are not being used, so are recommending that the objectives of the Adult School Union fund are changed to support youth work in Yorkshire. This will be on the agenda at the April meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire.

David Olver, Keighley

### **CAAT nominated for Nobel Peace Prize**

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has nominated the Campaign Against the Arms Trade alongside their partner Mwatana for Human Rights, a grassroots organisation working in Yemen, for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. The nomination from AFSC and Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) aims to draw attention to CAAT's work to stop the UK government's sales of arms to Saudi Arabia, particularly their ongoing legal challenge to UK arms sales for use in the war in Yemen.

## REFLECTIONS DURING LOCKDOWN

Over this last year many words have been added to our everyday vocabulary. We have *Locked Down* and *Tiered*, we have *Clapped Carers*, been *Tested and Traced*; we have *Bubbled* and *Streamed* and *Zoomed* to exhaustion! We have *Socially Distanced* and tried to communicate through facemask and visor (no easy feat). We have been told of *Road Maps* quite unrelated to Ordinance Survey!

We long for the day when we will not be challenged by our times, when the headline on our daily newspapers will not be Covid related.

Our Meetings for Worship have taken the form of Zoom which have given us the gift of gathering together as Area Meetings and Local Meetings. We have welcomed old Friends from as far away as Orkney and new Friends who have 'tested the Quaker waters' have attended our Zoom worship and been welcomed among us.

We have been blessed by the ability to gather by Zoom for a 20-minute talk on subjects that educate us and make us think. Who would wrap up on a cold winter evening to attend a 20-min meeting...? With Zoom I can stay in my pyjamas!

We have spent time ringing folk to check on them and the lost art of letter writing has re-emerged. A hand-written envelope in the post holds so much. As Quakers we learn to take a longer, wider view. These times will come to an end and like the appearance of spring new shoots will appear. Soon we will gather again in person, smile at one another and see reflected in that smile the love and beauty of the Divine.

Tania Brosnan, Kirbymoorside, Pickering and Hull AM

## Book of Members and Attenders

Copies of the 2021 Book of Members and Attenders, covering all meetings in Quakers in Yorkshire, can be bought by emailing David Olver <mailto:david@olver.plus.com> for £5 each plus £2 for postage of any number of copies. Payments can either be by cheque or bank transfer (details provided).

The production of the triennial Book of Members and Attenders went very smoothly this time. I had feared that the pandemic and the lockdowns would make the process slow. In fact, the reverse was the case. Local contacts in Meetings responded with enthusiasm and both

provided and checked the data quickly. The local printer welcomed the business as it provided much needed income in difficult times and were able to complete the printing and binding (which has to be done by hand) quickly.

David Olver, Keighley

### **Sitting Comfortably?**

Airton Meeting is considering replacing its hard, narrow benches with more comfortable seating in order to make it more attractive for use - when safe to do so - by community groups, as a rural performing arts venue, and for Quaker outreach. Standard ranges of community hall chairs would detract from our 17-century grade II\* interior. Locally commissioned, joiner-made benches are expensive. Have any Yorkshire Meetings refurnished themselves recently, or has anyone any advice or suggestions? Replies, please, to [laurelphillipson@gmail.com](mailto:laurelphillipson@gmail.com)

### **GRASP final report**

The Group to Reinvigorate and Simplify Structures and Processes (GRASP) was set up after the QiY meeting at Doncaster in April 2019 when the Recording Clerk enthused Friends with the potential for reinvigoration. GRASP has now published its report with the title "Reinvigoration and Simplification", for consideration by meetings. It contains recommendations aimed at reinvigoration by simplifying the nominations process; how local meetings function; how area meetings work; how AM trustees do business and how to simplify by sharing between meetings. The report is on the QiY website, both in web format and downloadable. See <https://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/report/>

The process of considering the report might seem daunting, but it can be made enjoyable and a means of uniting meetings. Members of GRASP are available to guide if required. The AM reps on GRASP are: David Bunney (Ackworth, Central Yorkshire AM), Alison Clarke (Thirsk, York AM), Tim Herrick (Sheffield Central, Sheffield & Balby AM), Jim Ledwidge (Hebden Bridge, Brighouse West Yorkshire AM), Tracey Martin (Carlton Hill, Leeds AM), David Olver (Keighley, Craven & Keighley AM), Phyllis Wicks (Pickering, Pickering & Hull AM).

The report finishes with a postscript which summarises the objectives:

*We hope you will enjoy considering and implementing this report as much as we have enjoyed its preparation. Try to embrace the prospect of change, remembering that help is available and there are practical suggestions in the report. Change is an essential sign that we are alive.*

*Quakers have a way that is quite distinctive in the world. We need to be more widely known and to reverse the current decline in numbers by reinvigorating and diversifying our community. Simpler structures are part of the process of freeing the spirit in our meetings and ourselves.*

*Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided; and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.*

Postscript to an epistle to 'the brethren in the north' issued by a meeting of elders at Balby, 1656.

## **CENSUS**

The UK census takes place on March 21. It is a legal obligation to fill in the census form. Ten years ago the contract for processing the census was awarded to the US arms company Lockheed Martin, leading to quite a lot of protest. *Peace News* reveals that this year's census is once again being processed by an arms company.

*'The contract for processing census forms has been put in the hands of Leidos, one of the world's biggest military companies. So far, there hasn't been much debate about this. We'd like to change that. We invite you to take action through the census form itself, to suggest to your friends they do the same. You can take some simple actions to make their job more difficult and this way they will make less profit.'*

For information about Leidos, and suggestions for non-illegal protest action see:

<https://peacenews.info/blog/9861/demilitarise-2021-census>





*An Exhibition at Farfield Meeting House, June 2021*

*Dovetailing* is an art installation due to take place at Farfield Quaker Meeting House (by appointment only) in June 2021. The exhibition is inspired by luthiery, the term for the making of stringed musical instruments. Local sculptor Juliet Gutch is creating a series of suspended wooden mobiles which respond to the shapes and forms of musical instruments. Local filmmaker Clare Dearnaley is making a film for the installation weaving together natural sounds, quiet making, the mobile sculptures and played music.

The artists are working with world-renowned composer and viola player Sally Beamish who has specially adapted and performed a composition for the project, 'Prelude and Canon'. The film will also feature Sally's daughter Stephanie Irvine, who is a luthier and who made the viola which Sally plays. The exhibition explores how the quiet care of luthiery dovetails with the natural world to create potential for musical sound.

*Dovetailing* is a creative response to the evolution of musical instruments as they have evolved over many hundreds of years.

Rhythms, harmonies and timbres of music echo back to the natural world, and it feels as if instruments themselves embody the potential for a balanced and harmonious intertwining of humankind and nature. The title of the project, *Dovetailing*, describes this relationship of two parts by reference to the interlocking dovetail joint in carpentry, a strong and seamless union. This joint is used in the making of instruments and the word has been borrowed for orchestration, describing the technique of overlapping musical lines between two instruments.

The exhibition explores music as an expression of a number of interactions - from the tree to the luthier, to the instrument, the composer, the player and the audience. The mobiles will be hung inside Farfield Meeting House with the film projected onto the wall behind them, catching glimpses of the footage of trees, luthiery and performance as they turn.

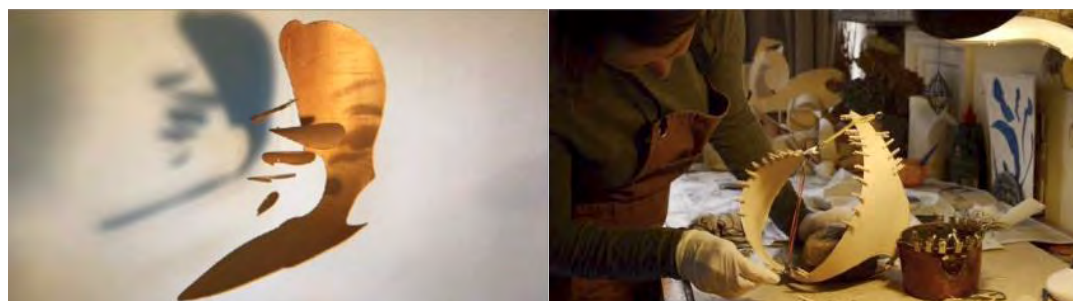
Following successful fundraising, extensive repairs and decoration have been carried out at Farfield Meeting House. *Dovetailing* is the first event to be held in the restored building.

**The exhibition is open Monday 14 June to Sunday 27 June.**

Sunday-Wednesday: 10.00 to 16.00, Thursday-Saturday 13.00 to 19.00.

For further information, including a short trailer, and to book a 25 minute slot to see *Dovetailing*, please go to:

<https://julietandjamiegutch.com/project/dovetailing/> or email [julietgutch@btinternet.com](mailto:julietgutch@btinternet.com)



## **Love & Dying**

Sheffield and Balby Area Meeting have organised a free showing of '**Love & Dying**' (2020)' which makes a case for Assisted Dying (UK 57mins) **on Weds 31 March at 7pm**. The film will be followed directly with a chance to log in to a Zoom Q and A with Jill and David George, the filmmakers. We wish to extend this opportunity to Quakers in Yorkshire. If you're interested please book in good time as places are limited. For information about the film see:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/love-dying-a-film-which-asks-if-there-should-be-a-change-in-uk-law-tickets-141538630855>



## Barbara Bowman



**Born Shanghai, China 27 April 1923**

**Died Gargrave, North Yorkshire 11 May 2020**

This is an invitation to Barbara's friends to join her family and Settle Friends in a Memorial Meeting to remember and give thanks for her life.

It will be held on Saturday 1 May, primarily by Zoom but with 12 pre-booked places in Settle Meeting House.

The Meeting will start at 11 am British Summer Time.

It will be preceded from 10.30 am with photos of Barbara's life.

To book a Zoom invitation or to enquire about a place in Settle Meeting House please email [clerk@settlequakers.org.uk](mailto:clerk@settlequakers.org.uk). Early booking would be appreciated.

*Please pass on this invitation to any other friends of Barbara who may not have received it.*

## Quaker Tapestry: update for April 2021



Hopes that Quaker Tapestry would stay open throughout this winter were immediately thwarted by the announcement in January of the current lockdown. Museums across the country, despite extensive Covid security arrangements, are now not likely to re-open before 17 May.

The virtual tour and mail-order shop are open now at [www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk](http://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk)

Quaker Tapestry looks forward to eventually welcoming back visitors to the museum and members of the nearly 100 groups who have regularly used the building, including special interest societies, counselling and support groups and activities arranged by local authorities, businesses and others. QT and Kendal Local Meeting are installing equipment to facilitate blended meetings in the future.

The response to the “Revive, Survive and Thrive” Appeal has been most encouraging and Quaker Tapestry is very grateful for the support of Meetings, trusts and individuals. The government furlough and rates related grant schemes are also extremely helpful.

Fund-raising is currently focusing on the Roof Appeal, hoping to undertake the delayed works this autumn. One of those once in a century slating and leadwork jobs, the total cost is an estimated £250,000, of which the cost of scaffolding alone is about £50,000. Over two-thirds has been raised already from local Quaker funds, grants and donations.

For details of how to contribute, please see

<https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/app/uploads/2020/04/Kendal-Meeting-House-Fundraising-Leaflet-2020-WEB-v2.pdf>



*Quaker Tapestry – working for Outreach for over 25 years based at Kendal Meeting House*

**Eva – Pilgrim on the Way**  
*The memoirs of Eva Irene Pinthus*



Eva Pinthus was a well-known Yorkshire Friend who died in April 2020 aged 95. At 15 she came to the UK on the Kindertransport and in later life she gave unique peace-making service in the GDR (East Germany). Her friends have compiled a memoir 'Eva - A Pilgrim on the Way', using her own words. To view the book as a PDF please follow this link [eva-a-pilgrim-on-the-way.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.wordpress.com/eva-a-pilgrim-on-the-way.pdf) and scroll down to view.

To view the book as a flip-book (similar to turning the pages of a paper book) access <https://printcrew.co.uk/pdfbook/evaapilgrimontheway/> and use the arrows at the side to turn the pages.



## Pen and Pencil Society



In 2015 Sheffield Friends formed a Sheffield Quaker history group and surprising things resulted from this.

When in early 2016 Sheffield Friends were informed of some volumes of pictures and writings held by the Sheffield City Archives, the history group was the obvious group to take it further and find out more. There are 40 bound volumes, one for each year the Pen and Pencil Society was in existence. They contain a collection of poems, photos, paintings, drawings and writings, written and illustrated by a group of Sheffield Quakers covering 40 years around the turn of the 19/20<sup>th</sup> century. The writings cover a variety of subjects such as Solving the problem of dividing York Quarterly Meeting, Women's rights, and Notes on the Natural History of a chameleon.

Faith Rodger will tell us more.

## Sheffield Quaker Tapestry



Between 2016 and 2018 Margaret Lawson took part in the two-year Equipping for Ministry course at Woodbrooke. For this course, she had to do some kind of project. Inspired by work done by the Sheffield Quaker History Group and her love of Quaker Tapestry embroidery she decided to make a panel in the style of the Quaker Tapestry for and with Sheffield Meeting. She will tell us about the process that went into completing this with one hundred and ten people sewing on the panel and also about the stories depicted on it.



## **PROGRAMME: MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE 17 April**

To be held online via Zoom. Please use the following link to register in advance for this meeting. If you are a representative, please indicate where shown.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrdeGgrikpGtZR\\_kpYLQfc7U7P28hWKEPF](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrdeGgrikpGtZR_kpYLQfc7U7P28hWKEPF)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**10.00 Meeting open for login**

**10.30 Meeting for Worship**

**11.00 Testimony** - Barbara Bowman

**11.05 Welcome from Clerks** Explanation of how the meeting will be run

**11.10 Report from Breckenbrough School**

**11.40 Report and reflections on the work of CRESST**

**12.25 Report on Funding Youth Development Worker**

**12.40 Black Lives Matter** Update on our responses to this issue

**12.55 Notices**

**13.00 Break for Lunch**

**14.00 Testimony** - Michael Yates

**14.05 Appointments and releases as required**

**14.10 Sheffield Pen and Pencil Society**

**14.35 Final report from GRASP**

**15.25 Sheffield Tapestry Panel**

**15.55 Closing minute**