



Quaker HIVE Yorkshire



A Quarterly Newsletter
about Quaker Youth Work
across Yorkshire

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Editor



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FINAL EDITION!

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Youth Development Project²

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).

The pilot project is now coming to an end (May) but the good news is that at the last QiY Quarterly Meeting on 17th April the Trustees recommendation to use the Adult School Funds towards the funding of the Youth Development Worker was approved. The local youth development work will continue for at least one more year and Lee will remain in post for that period. New work will be developed in other Area Meetings, as well as a continuation of some of the work in Sheffield & Balby and of the work that covers all of QiY, e.g. Junior Holidays and Easter Settlement.



Lee's summary of work

I never expected for the last year and a half of the role to be done working from my spare room! Working around the Covid-19 Pandemic has created many challenges but overall I am so pleased with how the project has managed to continue to work with young Quakers across Yorkshire in a fulfilling way.

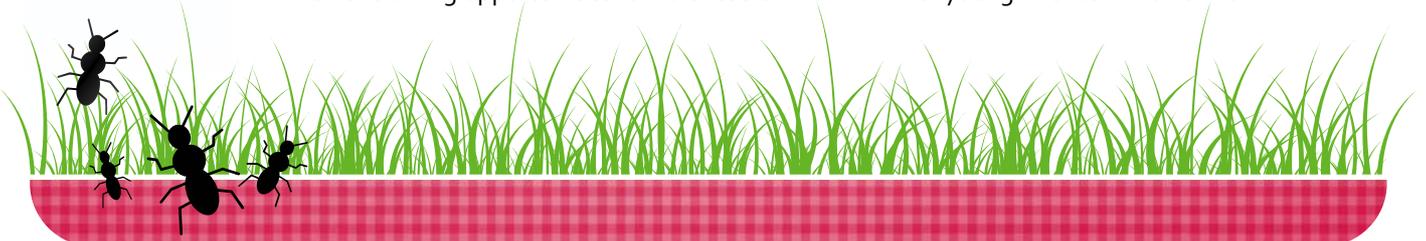
I have continued running SYFAN every week and providing a safe and fun space for young Quakers in Sheffield. I am now planning ways to blend the work so we can finally meet in person this summer but also still offer some online activities and meet-ups as they are so successful and accessible.

I have also ran several youth programmes concurrent to the Quakers in Yorkshire meetings that have had a small attendance. These have been on different themes including: Racial Justice, Being the only Quaker in your school/community and Worship.

Soon, I shall be starting to work several days at the new Yorkshire Hub/Office in Leeds which is very exciting!

Upcoming work:

- Continuing to offer a quarterly young peoples programme at Quakers in Yorkshire
- TYFON—Monthly group for young Quakers across Yorkshire (13-17)
- Monthly creative writing group
- Creation of a series of workshops for all ages looking at Racial Equity and Quaker Action
- Create a West Yorkshire young peoples group (using the SYFAN model)
- Offer training opportunities for volunteers who work with young Friends in Yorkshire



Area Meeting All Age Sustainability Day 18/04/2022 Life beyond zero carbon: Our hopes for 2080

I was thrilled to be part of a small planning group with Tim Herrick (Sheffield and Balby AM co-clerk) and Zee-zee Heine (Hope Valley) who devised and delivered an all day sustainability event.

The idea originally came from young people in SYFAN who wanted to have more all age opportunities especially around this topic. We had hoped when we began planning that this event would be in person but due to Covid-19, we realized it needed to be an online event. We wanted to have a mix of different activities including guest speakers, interactive workshops and cooking.

Below is the programme for the event:

1.30pm – 2.30pm Key Note Speaker and Facilitator – **Laurie Michaelis**
 2080: A World Transformed?

Laurie will lead a creative conversation about the kind of world we hope for, and the seeds of change that we can sow.

3.30pm - 4.00pm Living without Money”
 Short Film and discussion about ethical living and rejecting consumerism hosted by SYFAN
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpfHYhyqC-Q>

4.00 – 4.30pm – Upcycling Craft
 Using plastic bags and other recycled materials to make Bracelets and Jelly Fish!

6.30pm – Shared Meal and Games – Vegan Homemade Pesto, Roasted Veg and Grains

7pm – 7.45pm Eating Sustainably – **Laura Willerton, Michal Dzianach and Bruno Cooke**
 Workshop on vegan cooking, food packaging and having a locally sourced diet

8pm – 8.15pm Epilogue

Although there were fewer participants than hoped for, everyone that took part found the event to be enjoyable and thought provoking.



Easter Settlement

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This year Easter Settlement moved from the picturesque Yorkshire Coast to Zoom!

75 Friends from around Yorkshire, and even Ireland and Mexico City joined us for a full weekends programme!

The weekend consisted of a series of talks and interactive workshops around the theme of building a better future. Including: Climate Justice and preparing COP26 / Looking at scientific advances in reducing carbon emissions / Working Towards Racial Equity / Universal Basic Income / and the importance of personal Well Being.

We also ran a concurrent young peoples programme including workshops on. 'The value of money' and creative writing on the theme of climate change.

In the evenings we had plenty of entertainment with a night enjoying 'Quaker humour and another evening with our annual talent show including dancing, singing, piano and poetry!

"I thought I wouldn't enjoy it on zoom however I actually had a wonderful time and felt so close to everyone there despite the distance." Settler

"I had a really good time! The talent show was amazing and I loved the workshops too and learnt a lot." Young Person

TYFON

TYFON (Teenage Yorkshire Friends Online Network) is an online youth group for young Quakers in Yorkshire aged 13-17.

We have continued to meet monthly however we have had quite small numbers despite a lot of advertising. For more info on getting involved in TYFON contact Lee (leel@quaker.org.uk)

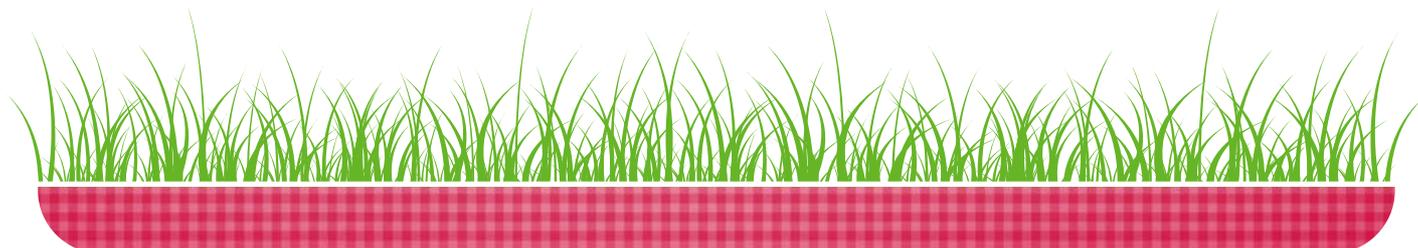
Creative Writing Group

The Sheffield creative writing group has continue to meet monthly and young people have created some brilliant short stories on the themes of - Sci-Fi, Myths & Legends and Space!

SYFAN Easter Activity Day - Freedom of Speech

SYFAN joined up with young people in Bristol (WYFAN) for an activity day centred on the theme 'Freedom of Speech'

They learnt about the current 'Kill the Bill' protests in opposition to the Article 11 and had a lengthy discussion about what freedom of speech actually means and what the different between free speech and hate speech is. They also engaged with some interactive activities that looked at the power of the media in influencing public opinion.





Youth Voice

What are young Quakers talking about?

Earlier in the year Sheffield and Bristol young people took part in a workshop on Gender roles.

The group looked at some old adverts from the 1950s that depicted the roles of men and women and the group were really shocked at just how misogynistic they were. They had further discussions on gendered language, gender diversity and ways to challenge everyday sexism.

"Those adverts were so shocking and I am glad things have improved since then however I still think the patriarchy is a huge problem and being a young girl in todays society is hard." young person aged 13

"We need to talk more about different ways to be a man and different ways to be a woman. I hate how people feel they have to act or dress a certain way because of their gender." young person aged 15



How many Quakers does it take to Change a Lightbulb?

That depends....

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First, property committee has to notify clerk that a lightbulb is burned out. It will then be put on the agenda for the next monthly meeting for business. When it comes up on the agenda, clerk will ask how Friends respond to the notice from property committee. Then, clerk of property committee will be asked for that committee's recommendation regarding the burned out bulb, and we will learn that property committee was merely notifying meeting of the state of the bulb, and it did not reach the point of trying to make a recommendation. The matter will then be referred back to property committee to come up with a recommendation regarding the bulb, and the matter will be put on the agenda for the next monthly meeting for business, four weeks later.

At the next monthly meeting, property committee will report that it needs more time to make a recommendation because it has asked for consultation from other committees, and it has not yet received reports from these other committees. The Peace and Social Order committee is reporting back regarding the relationship between the utility company and the armaments industry and the Pentagon, and looking for a manufacturer of lightbulbs that does not have such ties. Unity With Nature Committee is reporting in the effects of the use of electricity on the environment, and whether the old light bulb is biodegradable, and, if not, is there any way to get rid of it that comports with our commitment to the environment. The Committee on Right Sharing of the World's Resources has reported back that any additional use of lightbulbs by meeting flies in the face of our testimony of simplicity, and recommends that the burned out bulb be left in place as a reminder of all who must live without the benefit of electrical power. The matter is then put over to the next meeting for business.

At the next meeting for business, all committees report and there is no unity on a recommendation to change or not to change the lightbulb. Clerk schedules a threshing to take place in the interim before the next meeting for business, at which time it will be on the agenda again.

At the next meeting for business, Clerk discerns a sense of the meeting among Friends and attenders that meeting should do the following:

1. Remove the burned out bulb from the socket, but not disposed of. It shall be kept on the mantle above the fireplace.
2. A new bulb, provided one need not be purchased, shall be placed into the socket, but not screwed in all the way so as not to use additional current. The decision as to when to screw the bulb in all the way is referred back to property committee which will make its recommendation, after input from all the other committees previously involved, at a future meeting for business.
3. If a new lightbulb needs to be purchased, the matter will be referred to the finance committee to review and make a recommendation.

After a period of silence, an old, well respected Quaker scholar and weighty Friend rises to quote from George Fox, stating that, "It is not in thy power to change it. Thy task is to bring it to Christ and leave it there." In view of this, weighty Friend must stand in the way. After another, even longer period of silence, another Friend rises to make the point that our willingness to proceed requires respect for Fox's writings, but must be tempered by the light received by meeting today. More silence. Clerk discerns that there is no sense of the meeting to proceed at this time, and offers to lay the matter over for the next meeting for business.

Before the next monthly meeting, old weighty Friend becomes ill and at the time of monthly meeting for business, is still in the hospital. Meeting agrees not to act on the lightbulb matter until weighty Friend recovers, since the matter was so close to his heart. The matter is put over to next meeting for business, at which time, though weighty Friend is still in the hospital, he has sent a message that he is still willing to stand aside so long as the Fox education series goes on. Clerk re-reads the three points on which meeting reached unity, and there is a loud "Agreed".

Amhara Powell In "... the Light That Shineth in Darkness..." Orange Grove Monthly Meeting Pasadena, California



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