



# Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter

News, views and events  
from meetings in Yorkshire

**Including PROGRAMME for  
Quarterly Meeting of QiY**

**16 October 2021**

To be held at York Friargate Meeting House

**Reports from Bootham  
and The Mount Schools**

**Preparing for COP26**

**Racial Justice update**

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# QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

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Welcome to the October edition of the Newsletter. We can offer this in print form to anyone unable to access the internet. Please could you let the QiY clerks know of anyone who would like a hard copy?

### **Reminder**

Yorkshire meetings are invited to send news of events and activities for inclusion in our newsletter, which is published four times a year, ahead of QiY quarterly meetings. **We also appreciate receiving in advance the names of AM representatives to QiY.**

### **Deadline for contributions to January issue: 13 December 2021**

The newsletter, including quarterly meeting programmes, is sent to all meetings via AM and LM clerks. If you know of anyone who would like a personal copy directly, please contact us.

### **Next meeting**

While we have considered holding our January meeting as a blended meeting at Leeds Carlton Hill, it seems likely we may have to meet again online. It has proved difficult to find a suitable space for January meetings since the closure of the Oxford Place Methodist Centre.

**Quakers in Yorkshire Website** *quakersinyorkshire.org.uk* Please let the co-clerks know if you see any errors relating to your meeting or if there are additional items you would like to include here.

**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 regulations QiY cannot receive personal details from other parts of the Religious Society of Friends. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know.

### **QiY Treasurer's email address**

Please note that the email address on page viii of the Book of Members and Attenders is going obsolete and should be '[chrishpetrie@gmail.com](mailto:chrishpetrie@gmail.com)' as shown on pages 37 and 58.

### **Yorkshire Friends Holiday School 2021**

The 2021 Holiday School had to be cancelled at a late stage. Instead a

one day Virtual Holiday School was held on 14 August and a one day in-person event on 16 August at Bootham School.

### **BYM staff hub in Leeds**

The BYM hub at Carlton Hill is now the base for a number of BYM staff, the first time that staff who serve the whole yearly meeting have been permanently located outside London. Friends will meet for the formal opening of the hub on 18 September.

### **Farewell to Lee Lester**

We are sorry to report that Lee Lester, who has made such a splendid contribution to developing activities for young people in our region, has now moved on to another job. Lee set up a number of groups across Yorkshire and when the pandemic hit was able to adapt them to operate very successfully online conferencing. Lee's enthusiasm and lively contribution in engaging the young people connected with our meetings will be greatly missed.

### **Easter Settlement**

Easter Settlement 2022 is expected to be held in person at Cober Hill between 15th and 18th April 2022. More details will follow before the New Year, particularly to those Friends who have already booked.

### **Transport for London**



We're glad to see that Transport for London is promoting the RSOF. It's a pity they've forgotten the diagonal stroke on the red circle

### **Yorkshire Roots**

Yorkshire Friends were well represented at the DSEI Arms Fair at

London's Excel Centre in September. Protester numbers were not as great as in 2019 but our impact on the event was significant. Morning and afternoon meetings for worship were held at the west entrance to the centre. An (inebriated?) anarchist group challenged us to take direct action to prevent public access to the fair. Later a very convincing dalek and group of supporters urged us to 'exterminate' the delegates.

At another entrance Yorkshire Roots staged an intervention on the theme 'Blood on their hands' effectively denying access to delegates.



Four Quakers – ten police officers

*'We are convinced that the making of peace demands us to return to our world in love, to stand firm in public, to confront the "powers and principalities", and to assert that in this time of permanent war, no government which involves itself in the arms trade, no government relying on and colluding with a militarised system, can govern well or for the benefit of all. We are resolute and will not submit before a governing hand that subsidises, facilitates and profits from the sale of weapons to ruthless dictators in our name.'*

From Quaker Roots epistle <https://www.quaker-roots.org.uk/epistle/>

**DSEI: one woman's thoughts**

Our witness started with a multi-faith, candle-lit vigil outside the Excel centre in London's Docklands on Monday night, attended by approx 200



people. Tuesday, the day the Fair opened, was very wet but people from all over Britain gathered to demonstrate from 8am till 9pm. After our Meeting for Worship a young Muslim from Sheffield, ex-services, spoke movingly in support and urged us to work to stop the recruitment of young people. We seemed outnumbered by a large police presence.

Unable to sleep that night, despite being very tired, I realised how disturbed I was by the enormity of what we confront: our fragility in face of the huge vested interest in death and destruction called 'defence'. But what option have I other than to stand with other fragile humans and raise some sort of protest against such horror? Friends from Yemen sent thanks to us for keeping faith with them and lending our support to try and stop the war there.

On Wednesday about 100 Quakers gathered outside Friends House for a 'Walk of Death'. Strange to see a police presence there, to quell us riotous Quakers. They did accompany us on the walk, just in case. We walked through the opulence and grandeur of central London, banners flying, diving down side streets to find the headquarters of various Arms manufacturers, Lockheed Martin, Gruemann, BAE: very anonymous, no plaques, no name plates but yet more police waiting.

Silent worship was held outside each one, ending with a plea again from friends in Yemen asking not to be forgotten as they are bombed by Saudi Arabian air force, trained by us and with arms sold by us. A very moving and powerful witness.

*Jennie White, Bainbridge LM, Wensleydale and Swaledale AM*



### **DSEI Another viewpoint**

At this time of year, as Friends prepare to demonstrate against the Defence and Security Equipment International trade exhibition, I always feel uncomfortable. My problem is that my lovely son-in-law works in the

defence industry and sells equipment for land defence to the Scandinavian and Baltic countries. He prepares a stand for DSEI. However, a visit to the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia in Riga, just before the pandemic struck, made me realise what horrors the people of Latvia had to suffer at the hands of others between 1940 and 1991. Maybe I shouldn't feel so uneasy about my son-in-law selling equipment to the Latvians to help them to defend themselves against further invasions.

*Name and meeting supplied*

### **QiY's Racial Justice Group: the quarterly question**

We are asked to consider a question raised by minutes from 2021's Junior Yearly Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering.

The JYM minute in part reads: "As Quakers we need to understand that we are not exempt from racism because we wish to be anti-racist - it is our actions that will make a difference, not our intentions, since racism is so systemic that it's often subconscious".

Then at BYMG this summer, during Session 3: 'For our comfort and discomfort: living equality and truth in a time of crisis,' we considered: 'Are we ready to commit to being an anti-racist faith community?' After stirring and sensitive ministry, the final part of the BYMG Session 3 minute reads: "We declare our commitment to becoming an actively anti-racist faith community. We are still wrestling with what this means for us".

Here is the Racial Justice Group's quarterly question for us to consider in response to these minutes:

**What does becoming actively anti-racist mean for us, both individually and in our meetings? What might we do, or are we doing, individually and in our meetings, to respond to these minutes?**



## **Launch of Major Report on Menwith Hill Station near Harrogate UK reveals serious lack of accountability and democratic oversight of the activities operating**

The Report, entitled 'Menwith Hill in 3D – Domes, Data and Drone Strikes' updates a previous report that was published in 2012. Commissioned by the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign and Yorkshire CND and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust it was researched and written by experienced researcher Barnaby Pace. **The report will be formally launched at 3-4.30 pm on Saturday 2 October 2021 at Harrogate Quaker Meeting House, 12a Queen Parade, HG1 5PP.**

It seeks to update information about the Base following the Edward Snowden revelations about large scale international data capture. Intelligence gained from this has facilitated the increased use of drone warfare in recent years.

Latest news from Afghanistan highlights the significance of drone warfare in an increasingly unstable area. The report reveals ways in which electronic surveillance has developed at Menwith Hill. Use of intelligence captured by the Base to target drones means that the Base itself and the surrounding area are a potential target for retaliatory strikes.

Paul Rogers - Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University said,

*“This is an impressive and authoritative report, backed up by detailed references. It covers a wide field of activity at Menwith Hill and is particularly useful in highlighting its role in the move towards remote warfare, especially the proliferation and use of armed drones. These raise many issues of transparency, accountability, and democratic oversight, and challenging the implications of this trend will be made more effective by this valuable study”.*

1. There will be an introduction to the Report by Barnaby Pace, the primary researcher for *Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade*, and a short film about the report, followed by an opportunity for discussion and comment.
2. The launch event will be accessible online. Requests for a link should be made to [mail@themhac.uk](mailto:mail@themhac.uk) before the launch.

MORE INFORMATION: Martin Schweiger - Tel: 0113 4400736 Mob 07760311406 [germ.buster@phonecoop.coop](mailto:germ.buster@phonecoop.coop)



## Quaker Tapestry - General Manager

Quaker Tapestry is an educational charity based at the Friends Meeting House in Kendal, Cumbria. Its accredited museum displays a unique collection of embroidered hangings depicting Quaker history and concerns and it also promotes arts and craft skills.

Bridget Guest, our present manager has been in post since the Tapestry moved to Kendal in 1994 and is now due to retire. In this time, she has developed the venue into a vibrant, visitor attraction. At present the only full-time member of staff, she leads a devoted and hardworking team of part-time employees and voluntary assistants.

The Trustees are seeking the right person with experience, energy and enthusiasm to develop and manage Quaker Tapestry's future activities. The ability to create within the team a vision that museums change lives is essential. The website [www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk](http://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk) illustrates what the museum currently has to offer, including a virtual tour.

The successful applicant will lead all activities, staff and volunteers. S/he will report to the Board of Trustees through its Clerk. Within the working hours, weekend and occasional evening work are required and the ability to travel is essential.

Full details and the application form are available from: <https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/support-us/jobs-quaker-tapestry-museum> or contact the Quaker Tapestry office on [info@quaker-tapestry.co.uk](mailto:info@quaker-tapestry.co.uk) or 01539 722975

**Applications must arrive by 2pm on Monday 11 October 2021**

**Interviews will be held on Friday 22 October 2021**

Registered Charity:1035077



**Craven and Keighley Quakers**

# **Climate Justice Conference**

Saturday 9 October, 10.30 am

Our speakers will be

**Bruce Macleod** [Friends of the Dales]

**Farming and Climate Justice**

and

**Lesley Grahame** [Quaker Green counsellor]

**Climate Justice: the global picture**

Questions and discussion to follow

Conference closes 12.30 pm

Access the conference by Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89313629261?pwd=dE8zYWd0aCtORVBCb1RyVVVZY1VQQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 1362 9261

Passcode: 196708

## **Spiritual support to COP26**

COP26 is the annual UN climate conference. A 'COP' means 'conference of parties' and this is the 26<sup>th</sup> conference. This year it will take place in Glasgow from 1 - 12 November. Leaders and negotiators from around the world will gather to discuss how to keep temperatures below crisis levels and how they will respond to every increasing environmental catastrophe that affects poor and vulnerable people the most.

While some Quakers are travelling to Glasgow to protest, Scottish Quakers are welcoming activists and putting on events, and the Quaker United Nations Organisation (QUNO) is involved in quiet diplomacy to influence decision-makers and make sure the voices of the poor and marginalised are heard. We can't all be there.

However, there is much we can do. We can raise awareness in our own communities and make sure our elected representatives are aware of what needs to change. We can also provide spiritual support to those who will be there, both the activists and the decision-makers. Come to Quakers in Yorkshire on 16 October to find out how you and your meeting can come together yourselves and with other Quakers in Britain and around the world to spiritually uphold this important meeting and all those who are working to address the climate crisis. You'll also have the opportunity to find out what others in Yorkshire are doing and how you can support them.

*Tracey Martin, Leeds AM*

## **Book of Discipline Revision Committee**

Most Friends will be aware that our red book Quaker Faith and Practice is currently undergoing revision. This enormous task is now under way and the Committee includes a number of Yorkshire Friends who are dedicated to the planning and production of the new volume. Quakers in Yorkshire will devote part of the afternoon session this October and a full session next April to hear about developments. Rosie Carnall and one or two others from the committee will offer us an update when we meet in York. If you have questions for the committee, you might forward these to the QiY clerks to enable advance preparation.

## **Quakers in Yorkshire**

**16 October 2021 at Friargate meeting House, York**

## **Programme**

This will be a blended meeting. You can attend in person or join the gathering on Zoom. If you wish to join online you must register in advance:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvf-Ggpz4qGd1xD7wES2yuaFhOMB\\_uQF8z](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvf-Ggpz4qGd1xD7wES2yuaFhOMB_uQF8z)

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

10.00 Coffee or Tea on arrival

10.30 Meeting for Worship

10.55 Testimony

11.00 Welcome from QiY co-clerks

11.05 Welcome to Friargate, Housekeeping notices

11.10 Appointment of Elders for today's meeting

11.15 Presentation by students from Bootham and The Mount

11.45 Reports from Bootham:

Clerk to Governors, Cathy Woodbine; the Head, Chris Jeffery;  
Head of Junior School, Helen Todd

12.05 Reports from The Mount:

Clerk of the Committee, Margaret Bryan; Principal, Adrienne  
Richmond; Head of Junior School, Rachel Capper

12.25 Question Time, followed by minute of the session

12.50 Representatives and Notices

1.00 Lunch

2.00 Appointments

2.05 Update on Racial Justice – the most recent work by Yorkshire meetings.

2.15 The Book of Discipline Revision Committee – Rosie Carnall and supported by other members of BDRC will report to us on the challenges and opportunities for the group and the progress so far. We plan a longer session at our meeting in April 2022.

3.00 Spiritual preparation for COP 26. Tracey Martin with support from her team will lead a session on how we can act ahead of this major conference to be held in Glasgow in November.

3.55 Closing Minute

**Venue:**

Quaker Meeting House  
Friargate  
York  
YO1 9RL

**You can find out how to get to the Meeting House at the meeting website:**

<https://friargate.quakermeeting.org>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AT THIS MEETING.**