

**Minutes of a meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire
July 15th 2023
Held at Settle Friends Meeting House and online, 15th July 2023**

55 Friends notified us of attendance in person and 4 online.

Representative, where notified, are listed at the end of the minutes.

QiY23/07/01 Opening Worship

In our opening worship we have heard read *Qf&p* paragraph 21.28.

QiY23/07/02 Welcome

We have been welcomed to our meeting today at Settle Friends Meeting House by Sue Cariss on behalf of the local meeting as well as giving a flavour of the programme for the afternoon. Our clerks have outlined the agenda for today and we ask Sue Cariss to serve as Elder on this occasion.

QiY23/07/03 Report from Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees

We receive the annual report and accounts from Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees for 2022 and the clerk to QiY Trustees, David Olver, has introduced it to us.

David outlined the role of QiY and its responsibilities. There are supposed to be 7 trustees but for some years Brighouse West Yorkshire AM and Pickering & Hull AM have been unable to find a Friend to serve. Chris Petrie is thanked for 6 years of dedicated service as treasurer, to be succeeded by Roy Love of York AM.

2022 has been a year of recovery from the Covid pandemic. After initial uncertainty around physical activities it was pleasing that live events at Easter Settlement, Junior Holidays and Holiday School could take place successfully, albeit with reduced numbers. Their organising groups have worked hard to re-establish activities.

The quarterly meetings in 2022 tried to balance between sensitivity over Covid and enabling Friends to resume valued connections, which meant a mix of formats throughout the year.

Members of the QiY committees work hard to fulfil their remits and we are grateful to members of the Nominations Committee, Arrangements Committee, Outreach Projects Committee and the Under 19's Coordinating Group for their work.

Trustees are responsible for the QiY finances: both income and expenditure were significantly higher than in 2021, total income at £52,780 (£24,893 in 2021) and outgoings at £65,831. The value of assets fell by 17% due to the stock market impact on ethical investments.

There are continuing negatives: the level of attendance at events is still not up to pre-pandemic levels; and the universal problem of finding Friends to fill key roles.

The great success of the youth work promoted by Jo Baynham, including reviving the long dormant Link Group is a significant positive, together with the work of our first Local Development Worker, Bridget Holtom. The role of QiY support worker is ably filled by Ellie McCarthy. These are real positives in 2022 for QiY.

The simplification agenda is progressing, with the charitable functions of the 7 area meetings under current consideration, where we hope to learn from the recent experience of Friends in London, Wales and Scotland.

We thank David for his report and for the service of all the Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees on our behalf. The report and accounts are available on the Quakers in Yorkshire website.

QiY23/07/04 Report from Glenthorne Trustees

We have received the full report for 2022 on the wellbeing of the Glenthorne Quaker Centre and Guest House from the Trustees and we welcome William Taylor, co-Clerk to the Trustees to speak to the report.

Glenthorne reopened fully in 2022 but this presented a challenge to meet a high demand for UK holidays and the pressure of finding and maintaining staff levels. Occupancy over the year was 74%, limited by staff shortages, but compares favourably with previous years. A full programme of courses was planned and 26 were run, the popularity of the course on Transformative Adaptation to Climate Change being noted. More courses are running in 2023, some of which will be developed by linking some to Woodbrooke and a number of joint courses in 2024.

They are hoping to develop a stronger focus on spirituality, of enabling adaptation to climate change and enabling younger people to enjoy the facilities and spiritual atmosphere of Glenthorne. The addition of a categories classification, 9 in total, to the course brochure for 2023 will help guide new attenders.

The Welcome Project continues to develop. Seven groups of asylum seekers/refugees from the north of England visited in 2022, made up of 42 individuals including 23 children. Since the project started in 2008 850 men, women and children from 58 countries have benefitted from a Glenthorne respite break. Links are being developed further with other groups supporting those in need including the Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission.

Glenthorne is the only remaining Quaker residential centre in the UK with a resident Friend - a much-appreciated provision by all visitors. An extra meeting of Trustees was held in January 2023 for reflection on and development of their vision for the future, to include permanent staff.

Whilst maintenance continues where necessary more works await the outcome of the Quinquennial Review to be carried out in 2023, the outcome being a programme of planned maintenance to improve carbon footprint and environmental impact.

The Trustees express their grateful thanks to the Manager, Laura Tortosa, and her staff for the exceptional service they have given over the year, in difficult circumstances.

Despite the issues arising during the year by the end of November 2022 a modest operational surplus of nearly £5,000 was recorded.

We thank William Taylor for his report, a copy of which is placed on the QiY website.

QiY23/07/05 Report from Breckenbrough School

We have received a report from the Breckenbrough School Governors and Ruth McTighe has introduced it for us. Ruth is the current acting chair until the end of the year, as Alison Clarke had to leave her role due to ill health. She is much missed.

Breckenbrough is a non-maintained residential special school, supported through local and central government funding offering day and residential places for boys between 9 and 19

with a range of complex special educational needs, with the capability to undertake public exams. All are funded by local authorities.

2023 saw 68 students, (still boys only) there is a waiting list and several applications are in the system. Demand continues to grow from the neuro-diverse community.

The therapeutic hub is now complete, with provision for the therapists as well as a climbing wall.

The return to in-person schooling following lockdowns for COVID continues to be very challenging for the students. Staff have worked hard to support students and families through this. One noted difficulty that has been more apparent is dealing with sexualised language.

Through support from a new benefactor, the school has been offered the use of land at Skutterskelfe to support those with more extreme needs and it is hoped that the building will open in April 2024.

Four weeks ago OFSTED launched an instant inspection but this time the outcome is looking promising for something better than "good". To deal with OFSTED interpretations the curriculum has been changed within a safe nurturing environment, promoting social development, developing self-esteem and a sense of achievement. The School's leadership team and Governors have put into place action plans to address the issues, introducing a Quality of Life framework to complement other areas of the curriculum.

We encourage Friends interested in governor roles to approach the clerk, Ruth McTighe, or Alison Clarke.

We thank Ruth for the report and the Governors for their work. A copy of the presentation will be placed on the QiY website. We uphold them as they work to address the challenges the school faces.

QiY23/07/06 Report from the Racial Justice Group

Ruth McTighe has introduced this by quoting from Yearly Meeting regarding the transatlantic slave trade and the concept of reparatory justice. We can do something about what is happening today and we can take responsibility for the future.

Pat Gerwat has spoken to a presentation of what is happening in Leeds AM on reparations and reparatory justice that will be available on the QiY website. Workshops have been held and meetings held at AM and LM level. There are sources of information listed in the presentation that Friends can access. BYM also offers guidance. Remedy is not just financial in repairing harm, it is a process involving healing and a moral dimension as well as providing education and wider opportunity. There is research of local history and whilst there appears no direct involvement in slavery there was a less direct benefit obtained and is still seen in a continuity of the white privilege in the present day.

The presentation gives suggestions on how we can make amends by our actions and how we live our lives in relations with other people, but closing with a financial overview.

John Margham has read a minute on reparations from Huddersfield LM of 16th October 2022. We have also heard of the recent positive experience of Bradford LM in supporting cross-cultural relations and how we must take responsibility for what is required to be done by us.

The Racial Justice group have offered us the following questions:

Have you ever had in your life had a positive experience of reparatory justice?

What does reparatory justice mean to you?

We thank Ruth, Pat and John for their contributions to this meeting. More details are available on the Quakers in Yorkshire website.

QiY23/07/07 Update on preparations for DSEI 2023

The Defence and Security Exhibition International (DSEI) is a trade show for the arms industry. It takes place every two years at the ExCel Centre, a large exhibition centre in east London. This year's event is from 12th to 15th September 2023.

There are plans by the group, Quaker Roots, to protest against the arms fair. This includes holding a meeting for worship outside the DSEI arms fair; working with other faith groups and creating links between migrations, environment and conflict.

Quaker Roots are calling on Friends to Witness at the 'No Faith in War Day' on Thursday 7th September. In order to be impactful and supportive they are asking Friends "to let your life speak, for yourself, God and for those who are silenced due to the Arms Trade". The day will be multifaith, where Friends and other religions will hold space to Witness before the opening of the DSEI Arms Fair.

QiY23/07/08 Introduction from Craig Barnett

We welcome Craig Barnett of Sheffield Central LM who is the new Local Development Worker for Yorkshire, in succession to Bridget Holtom. Craig has told of his plans to visit meetings in Yorkshire to make himself known to and hear from Yorkshire Friends. He will be based at the Leeds hub of BYM. He can also be contacted at: <mailto:craigb@quaker.org.uk>

QiY22/07/07 Appointments and Releases

a. Releases

We have received a request for release from service from Rosie Roberts for release from service on Bootham School Governors on 31st December, (one year early). We agree to this release and give thanks for Rosie's service to Bootham School.

b. Appointments

(i) Our Nominations Committee has brought us the following nominations for service:

To serve as a governor at Breckenbrough School for a first term to fill a vacancy from now to 31st December 2024, Rachel Twort (Attender at Bradford).

To serve as Assistant Clerk of Quakers in Yorkshire for a first term from now to 31st December 2024, David Heslop (Keighley). This is a new role to enhance the clerking team of Quakers in Yorkshire.

To serve on Arrangements Committee from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2026:
Ellie McCarthy (York AM) - first term
Digby Swift (Sheffield & Balby AM) - second term

(ii) York AM has forwarded a nomination to serve on QiY Nominations Committee from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2026, Madeleine Kay (Friargate) - first term.

These nominations being acceptable, those named are appointed accordingly.

We thank our nominations committees for their hard work and look forward to receiving further nominations at a future meeting.

QiY 23/07/08 Minute of Record: Afternoon activities

During the early afternoon Friends have spent time with one another in a range of activities.

We have been glad to spend this time in fellowship together.

We thank Settle Friends and Craven and Keighley Friends for their hospitality and for their work in preparing for this meeting. Amongst these we must mention John Asher, Alison Tyas and David Heslop for their unstinting efforts for us.

Jo Baynham has worked enthusiastically to open up the meeting across the generations and we hope for more such meetings in future. And in a departure from the usual arrangements a lunch was provided by Rosa Fishwick and Settle Friends, based on vegan soup. It was delicious and we thank Rosa for her efforts on our behalf. We hope that this will not be the last time we do this.

We also record our thanks to David Olver who agreed to be co-clerk at this meeting.

QiY23/07/09 Concluding Minute

There being no further business that might be rightly taken at this time, we conclude. We hope to meet again at Bootham School, York, Saturday 14th October 2023 should nothing occur to prevent.



David Bunney



David Olver

Co-Clerks (this time), Quakers in Yorkshire

Representatives:

The following have been notified to the Clerks:

Brighouse West Yorkshire: Hilary Browne, John Gaukroger

Leeds, Carlton Hill: Pauline Leonard

Leeds, Rawdon: Barbara Parry

York, Friargate: Margaret Bryan, Barbara Windle, Jo Reilly, Hilary Collinson.

York, New Earswick: Rosemary Roberts, Ruth McCarthy and Eleanor Tew.

Notice

We have heard of a memorial meeting for Quentin Fowler at Adel MH on 28th August at 3pm.