

Chat with an Activist, Martin Schweiger.

Inaction is still an action – Menwith Hill.

**JB : Tell me a little about yourself and your Quakerism?**

MS: My stories not very original my parents joined 1953 and I went with them! We attended Golders Green meeting and enjoyed it. I remember Gerard Hoffnung (a famous Jewish post war musicians and cartoonist) enlivening the whole meeting with his wildness. It was a good place to go, there were funny stories, friends, annual camps, Meetings for Worship outside, it was great!

I trained to become a Doctor and ended up at Medical School in Leeds, where I got involved with various meeting round about. I worked in Airedale Hospital in Keighley, that job was key for me. Airedale was unusual for its time in that is was very patent focused. It treated patients as whole people, and that became very important to me as it resonated with my Quakerism. You can't easily believe that there's that of God in everyone one and only treat patients as problems to be solved rather than people! Airedale really helped me understand how important meeting people where they are! It also had free accommodation, a laundry service included and a very good night chef, which helped! It was totally different then from the situation a Junior Doctors now starts with... [Martin and I now descend into a conversation, too lengthy to replicate here, about how poorly Junior Doctors are treated and how appalled we both are by the whole thing!]

After a few years I undertook voluntary Medical service in Bangladesh, where I saw some amazing things and met my wife. There was a Quaker project called Gono Unnayan Prochesta (*tran: the peoples development project*) out there that I got involved it was all about power in cooperation, compassion, self-esteem and reciprocity. Again it was all about building a better world through people.

**JB: Tell me about Menwith Hill.**

MS: If you think of a rifle, it has ammunition, a barrel, a trigger, other bits and pieces, right? Now imagine that this rifles ammunition is billions upon billions of dollars-worth of missiles, bombs and drone, pretty much all of the removed controlled firepower the USA has... Menwith Hill is the sight on that rifle... it targets all the missiles and bombs, and processes vast amounts of personal, commercial and intelligence data to help that targeting. It is one of the largest military listening posts in world. The area is rented to NSA from the British government, so that America can have somewhere to do its bloody work with much less accountability and scrutiny that it would in the States.

Menwith Hill was leased to the Americans in 1952 and I've been protesting outside of Menwith Hill for nearly twenty years now, a recently discovered neolithic sky made of pebbles in the areas suggests that humans have been looking into the sky in that area for millennia before the first missile was invented. Menwith's current usage is what I've been protesting!

We know that some many "extra judicial" assassinations carried out by America have been care of Menwith Hill in our lovely Yorkshire! There's no accountability, there's huge amounts of data hoarding, we're not even allowed to know the name of the person who oversees the site. People drive past these funny looking golf balls, in lovely green fields and little do they know that what is done in there would be absolutely illegal for you and I. We're pretty sure to that the data that they gather is used for commercial purposes too and that the trade of that data is what pays for the place.

**JB: Sorry did you say you'd been protesting up there for 20 Years!**

That's right, twenty years! The Peace Testimony has to be real to us! What else could or should we doing? For me the heart of being a Quaker is that there is that of God in everyone. That understanding underpins the peace testimony. We know that even though Menwith is perhaps the most advanced targeting station on the planet, the cost in innocent life is huge. It's estimated that when they undertake their "extra judicial killings" (that's murder to you and me – Ed) they on average kill another 70 innocent people besides the one person their targeting. I live in north Leeds, it's on my doorstep, I don't feel like I can ignore it. So many civilians die rather than combatants. Ignoring it would be an action in my life, inaction is still an action. So yes, we're up there every Tuesday, handing out flyers, making friends with the guards, waving to the staff, flying our banners, raising awareness of on the internet, taking action.

Jo the Youth Development worker plans take a group of young people to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July "Independence from America", protests this summer. Watch out for emails about how to get involved.

# Quakers in Yorkshire

## Family Day

Saturday 15th of July

10:30-16:00

### Settle Meeting House

Quaker Business in the morning with a crèche, childrens and youth activities alongside.

\* All-age activities in the afternoon.

\* Refreshments to begin, celebration lunch provided.

\* Bring your children/grandchildren/associated young people.

Financial contributions welcomed but not required.

## The Yorkshire Hammock



A flexible and occasional container for all things that intersect Quakers, Young People and Yorkshire – collated by Jo, for young Quakers



READY....

...FOR A SHREDDY?

Returns on the 1st on Sept.

Leeds Urban Bike Park

1100-1600

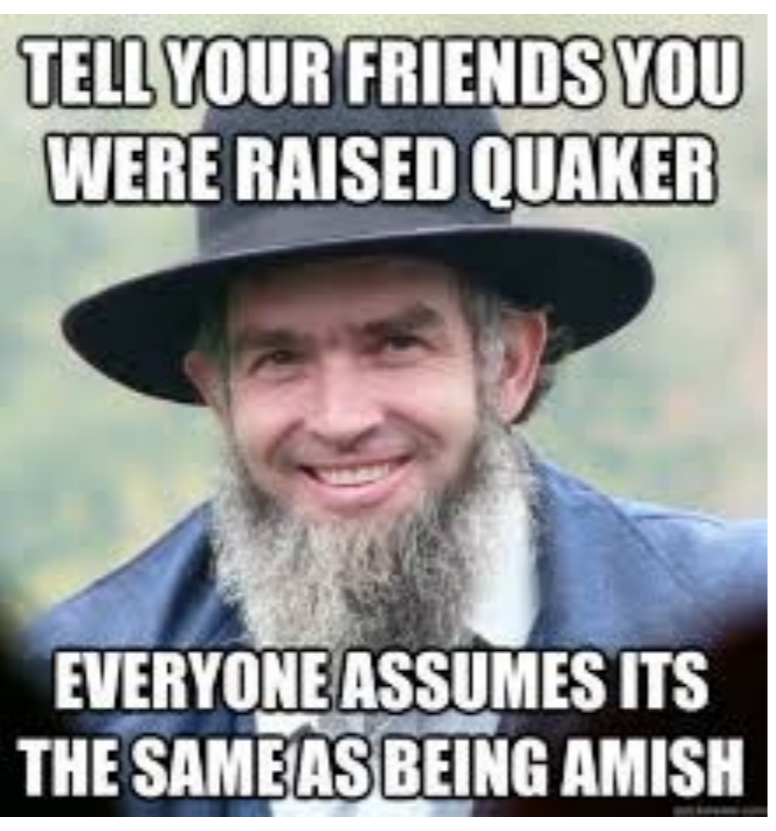


Quaker Youth Events in Yorkshire and Beyond				
Online	Residential	Day Event	Worship	
	<p><b>A note about sign-up forms and links:</b> Broadly speaking there are two forms that govern Quaker Youth work in Yorkshire: <a href="#">Yorkshire online youth work form</a> <a href="#">Yorkshire in person youth work form</a></p> <p>Certain activities have ancillary or proprietary booking forms, for example JH, YFHS &amp; Link Group residential, BVM events, notably online youth group, have central sign-up forms.</p> <p><b>How to be kept in the loop</b> This link leads to the Youth workers direct mailing list, communications are targeted by demographic: young people, parents, meeting role holders, newsletter editor and notice readers are all encouraged to sign up <a href="#">Click to sign up to regular QIY youth work updates</a></p>			
What	Where	Date	How to book	Description
Link Group: Scarborough	In Person: Scarborough meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="https://forms.quaker.org.uk/2023-yqf-qiy-june-link-group-scarborough/">https://forms.quaker.org.uk/2023-yqf-qiy-june-link-group-scarborough/</a>	The third Yorkshire Link Group residential. Extra long! Arrive Friday, Beach Day Saturday, MfW Sunday
Leeds Teen Pizza Social	Carlton Hill	28 <sup>th</sup> June 1730	<a href="#">Yorkshire in person youth work form</a>	We're making banners for the Menwith Hill Protest
National Quaker Online Youth Group	Online	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 1830-2000	<a href="#">Events   Quakers in Britain</a> <a href="#">And this form...</a>	A social, peaceful space for 11-to-18-year olds for Quaker young people to gather, worship and explore together. A warm welcome is assured.
Independent e from America Menwith Hill Protest	Menwith Hill; Kettleing Layby	4 <sup>th</sup> July 1700	<a href="#">Yorkshire in person youth work form</a>	A protest outside of the home of allied extrajudicial killings and data harvesting since the WW2. Enough is enough. Lifts are possible by arrangement. See "Hammock" for more details
Quaker in Yorkshire Family Day	Settle Local Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> July 1100	<a href="#">QMS 2023 – Quakers in Yorkshire</a>	A catered family day with wonderful activities with Friends from all across Yorkshire, in the beautiful village of Settle.
Leeds Teenage meeting	Meeting House at 188 Carlton Hill	16 <sup>th</sup> July 1045	Accompanied young people (ie. Adults in main meeting) just show up.	Worship followed by a shared lunch.
Hello Holidays! BBQ	Harrogate, The Stay off Otland Drive	28 <sup>th</sup> July 1100-1500	Unaccompanied young people <a href="#">Yorkshire in person youth work form</a>	A Lunchtime BBQ for young people with or with families on the Stray in Harrogate off Otland Drive. Food, ball games, tunes. You get the idea.
Summer Shindig	Ackworth School	29 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> July/August	<a href="#">Summer Shindig</a>	A long residential run by Northern Friends for 11–16-Year-olds. this a great alternative if you can't make YFHS.
National Quaker Online Youth Group	Online 1830-2000	6 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="#">Events   Quakers in Britain</a> <a href="#">And this form...</a>	A social, peaceful space for 11-to-18-year olds for Quaker young people to gather, worship and explore together. A warm welcome is assured.
Leeds Pride	Starting from The Meeting House at 188 Woodhouse Lane after MfW	6 <sup>th</sup> August 1045	<a href="#">Yorkshire in person youth work form</a>	Worship with the Quaker Community then it's off into town with glitter. We'll eat in town, bring money or a packed lunch.
Leeds Teenage meeting	Meeting House at 188 Woodhouse Lane	20 <sup>th</sup> August 1045	Accompanied young people (ie. Adults in main meeting) just show up. Unaccompanied young people <a href="#">Yorkshire in person youth work form</a>	Worship followed by a shared lunch
Yorkshire Friends Holiday School	Bootham School	20 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> Of August	<a href="#">YFHS 2023 – YFHS</a>	<b>The one, the only HS. The quintessential Yorkshire Quaker Experience for 13 to 18's. Go!</b>
Ready for a Shreddy 3	Leeds Urban Bike Park	1 <sup>st</sup> September	<a href="#">Yorkshire in person youth work form</a>	At adventurous Mountain Bike Day in Leeds. A BBQ lunch too!
National Quaker Online Youth Group	Online 1830-2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<a href="#">Events   Quakers in Britain</a> <a href="#">And this form...</a>	A social, peaceful space for 11-to-18-year olds for Quaker Young people to gather, worship and explore together. A warm welcome is assured.
Junior Holidays: Barmoor	Barmoor	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<a href="#">Junior Holidays – Quakers in Yorkshire</a>	An adventurous weekend residential in Ilkley for young children
Link Group: Ilkley?	Probably Ilkley	7 <sup>th</sup> = 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Watch this space	A, cheap, wonderful one night residential on the meeting house floor to build and connect the Yorkshire Quaker Youth Community
Facilitation and leadership	Highbury Centre; Islington, London	20 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<a href="#">Facilitation and Leadership: 2023   Quakers in Britain</a>	Facilitation Training for young people and young adults. Highly recommended! Bursaries available.

## QuakeFlix - TV and Film Through a Quaker Lens: Truth, Hugh Grant and the multiplication of deceit.

Young Hugh Grant annoys me but I'm warming up to old Hugh Grant. Young Hugh always seemed cast as a similar caricature of a similar English Gentleman in every film he ever did before Guy Ritchies: The Gentleman. In the Gentleman, you get the feeling that Grant (casts as a predatory, egotistical, conniving journo) is finally beginning to enjoy his career. Between *The Gentleman* and *Dungeons and Dragons - Honour among Thieves* come the Oscars, and an interview. An interview now infamous where Grant, bumbles through and does something rare. He tells the truth. "*What's your favorite thing about coming to the Oscars?*" "*Weeeell, its fascinating, its vanity fayre. "are you excited to see anybody win, are you rooting for anyone...?"*" "*No one in particular*", "*Your last film, was it fun?*" "*Almost*". Perhaps my inner Quaker likes the rejection of the facade of the glitz and glam of Hollywood that Grant makes here? We learned from Me Too, that what the Oscar project and the Truth of the movie industry are quite different, especially for women. Grants character in D&D, Forge, has something to tell us about Truth and the nature of lies, I think. Small decepts, attract more decepts, and greater decepts attract greater villains, greater villains attract, well, the apocalypse. The spiraling, growing nature of untruth evident in the plot and characters of D&D HaT reminds me a bit of Shakespeare's Macbeth, where the Witches blur multiplication and half-truth in every spell. "*Double, double, toil and trouble*", even Lady Macbeth recognises it. "*O the multitudinous seeds incarnadine.*" Predictably Macbeth and Forge meet a similar end, the maths and the truth catches up with them. You don't have to look too far in our politics of late to see what happens when lies are used to cover lies.

Our testimony to truth and integrity is not only good for protecting society, it protects us from the high and inevitable cost of untruth.



We join the festivities after a special teen MfW at the meeting house at 188 Woodhouse Lane