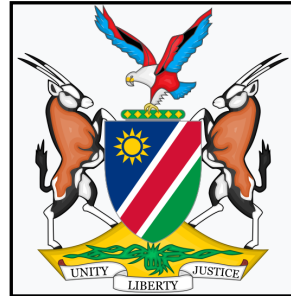


ACOMB QUAKER MEETING

March 2018



NAMIBIA



Namibia has a population of 2.5 million people. The official language is **English** but over 7 other languages are spoken. The country has a stable, multi-party parliamentary democracy. Agriculture, herding, tourism and the mining industry form the basis of its economy. The large, arid **Namib Desert** has resulted in Namibia being overall one of the least densely populated countries in the world. **Windhoek** is the capital city and the national flower, **Welwitschia**, is a living fossil which can survive in the desert for over 1000 years!

(see p10 for information about Sasha's forthcoming trip)



Swarthmore Lecture 2018: 'Changing ourselves, changing the world'

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre is pleased to announce



that the 2018 Swarthmore Lecture will be given by **Chris Alton** who is a life-long Quaker, artist and activist. Through his lecture '**Changing ourselves, changing the world**' Chris will share how he seeks to challenge people and create change through his art and how art can be an act of witness. Chris will address the challenges we face in a changing and increasingly violent and fractured world, while considering how he as an artist and we as Friends might respond creatively, and offer subversive alternatives.

Terry Oakley, clerk of the Swarthmore Lecture Committee said, "The committee is really excited that Chris will be giving this year's lecture and sharing with Quakers how he witnesses to his faith through his art. Chris gives testimony to his Quakerism through his art, which speaks an important message to the Quaker community and beyond".

The lecture presentation on **5 May** at **Friends House** in London will make use of a variety of media, including music, video and visuals, as well as words. A book to accompany the lecture will be produced and available later in the year.

In 2017 the *London Evening Standard* highlighted him as one of ten young British artists to look out for, stating that "*his ability to make protest fun while rendering his targets ridiculous means he may be the artist we need right now.*"

Email: Great Northern March

Dear Friends

This email is advance notice that **Leeds for Europe** and **#StopBrexitMarch** are organising a march to take place in Leeds on **24th March 2018**. Details on the route, timing, speakers, etc. will follow and be available on the Leeds for Europe Facebook page and website www.leedsforeurope.org and the stopbrexitmarch.com website. If you are able to do some leafleting in your area, leaflets will soon be available through stopbrexitmarch.com.

You will be aware, of course, that the referendum has caused deep divisions in Britain, and resulted in a huge rise in hate and racist crimes. That the Government is attempting to take control of human, including children's, and workers' rights through the Withdrawal Bill, which has been with the House of Lords this week. Science, Health, Ecology and Business are all greatly concerned about the loss of freedom of movement, about funding for research, about new trade regulations. Being a member of, and working with the EU, has given us peace in Europe. That EU immigrants are experiencing huge uncertainty as to their future in the UK.

This, the biggest constitutional change in our lifetimes, is not being decided with the gravity & respect politicians should accord it. Please support the march, by attending if you can and by promoting information about it in your locality.

Regards

StopBrexitmarch

Recent Ministry:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain."

"For what shall it profit you if you gain the whole world, and lose your own soul?"

"To honour God in all we do."

"Let your life speak."

Dementia or Hearing Loss?

Recently I attended a check up for my hearing. I was dressed in black as I was travelling to Brighton from Harrogate (where my daughter lives) to attend my brother in law's funeral. I mentioned that he had died from dementia as had his brother (my husband) and their father.

The practitioner commented that the early stages of hearing loss and dementia have the same symptoms, particularly being unable to follow a conversation. He then asked how old my daughters are. They are in their late forties and he recommended that they had a free hearing test so there existed a base line from which a decision could be made later as to whether they had hearing loss or dementia.

I thought others might find this useful.

Debbie W

SHARED LUNCHES

John Bourton and Elisabeth Storrs have been asked by Elders & Overseers to review our plans for shared lunches. We plan that the first four third Sundays of 2018 (Jan-April) will be shared lunches only, i.e. with no preceding speaker.

This will give us the opportunity to discuss as a meeting how we wish to arrange our Sunday speakers and our shared lunches. The plan is to start arranging the tables and food at about 12.00 and finish, having cleared up, at 13.00.

We welcome any views/preferences you may have.

Shared Meal for Sasha

Please come and support this special Shared Meal at the Meeting House on **Friday 13 April** at **17.00**. You are asked to bring food contributions towards the meal and also a donation (£5 .. or more) for Sasha's expedition to Namibia. She still needs to raise £1000!

Wednesday Discussion Group

I talked about the **Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement**, a village development organisation in Sri Lanka based on Buddhist and Gandhian principles. They work in over 15,000 villages and were one of the main groups to help after the 2003 tsunami. They work with all age groups, encouraging self-reliance and empowerment. They believe in a "**no poverty, no affluence**" society and in nonviolent resolution of conflicts. They work across faith groups (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist) and their aim is a society where everyone is in a position to pursue enlightenment. They receive funding from Peace Direct amongst other groups.

<http://www.sarvodaya.org/>

James Mc

Using the Meeting House.

Acomb Friends will be aware that the meeting house is now quite heavily used. This means that the building is used more efficiently, that various worthwhile groups get a safe and comfortable place to meet and that a large contribution is made towards our Meeting income (around 25% last year). The downside of this is that it is becoming more difficult to find times when maintenance can be carried out without disturbing our hirers.

We try to give priority to Quaker events, but if you are planning to use the meeting house for a Quaker group will you please check with **John Guest** that the time you want is available. Tel: 795595 or email: AcombLettings@gmail.com

John Guest
Lettings coordinator

Monthly collections:

January for **York Street Angels**

£55

Dates for March 2018

Everyone is welcome at everything.

**If no venue is given, events take place at
Acomb Meeting House.**

Regular Events

Every Sunday: 10.30-11.30 Meeting for Worship (MfW) and Children's Meeting (followed by refreshments)

Every Wednesday: 11.30-12.00 MfW (+ refreshments)

1st Sunday: 09.45 Upholding Meeting before MfW
(Debbie Wright)

2nd & 4th Sunday: 12.00-12.30 'Afterword' after MfW

3rd Sunday: 12.00-13.30 Shared Lunch after MfW

Shared Lunches

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Jan - April | Please see the latest information on page 4. |
| Special Monthly Collections | |
| March | Sasha's trip to Namibia <i>Debbie Wright</i> |

Please Note a full diary of events for York AM and LMs is available on the York Quakers website:

www.yorkquakers.org.uk/eventscalendar.html

Study Groups

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Weds 14 | 10.00 Come and find out! | <i>James Mc</i> |
| Friday 16 | 19.30 "Inspirational Lives" | <i>Nick F</i> |

| March | |
|--------------|--|
| Saturday 3 | <u>Memorial Meeting</u> for our Friend David Peryer 10.30-11.30 Friargate |
| Sunday 4 | <u>Upholding Meeting</u> : 09.45 - 10.15 before MfW <u>Business Meeting</u> : 12:00 after MfW |
| Saturday 10 | <u>Kindlers</u> : 10.00-16.30 Friargate (see p12) <u>Charity Concert</u> : 19.30 Stockton on the Forest Village Hall (see p8) |
| Sunday 11 | <u>Area Meeting</u> : 13:30 - 17:00 New Earswick |
| Weds 14 | <u>Study Group</u> : 10.00 (see opposite) |
| Friday 16 | <u>Study Group</u> : 19.30 Hartrigg Oaks (see opposite & p8) |
| Sunday 18 | <u>Shared lunch</u> : 12.00 after MfW (see p4) |
| Sunday 25 | <u>Daylight Saving Time starts!</u> Clocks go FORWARD one hour. |
| April | |
| Sunday 1 | <u>Upholding Meeting</u> : 09.45 - 10.15 before MfW |
| Friday 13 | <u>Shared Meal for Sasha</u> : 17.00 (see p4 & p10) |
| Saturday 28 | <u>Kindlers</u> : 10.00-16.30 Friargate (see p12) |

If you are welcoming people to the Meeting, please remember to offer them a printed copy of the newsletter. We always have a few spare copies printed for newcomers to gain a flavour of Acomb Meeting.

"A Dash Through the Decades"

Village Hall Stockton on the Forest, York

10 March 2018 at 7.30pm

This is a high profile concert and is fundraising for the Lord Mayor's three chosen charities: "**Keep Your Pet**", **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** and **Refugee Action York (RAY)**. The concert is to be given by Generation Groove Concert Band, and Stockton on the Forest School Choir and the Civic Party will be in attendance. A bar will be provided to add to an evening of music from the past decades, given by the mass gathering of musicians that make up Generation Groove – which is a community based band based in Haxby, and with the added bonus of the contribution from the school choir.

Tickets are available at £10 for the evening which will be by email voucher (or post for those not on the net) through **Stephen Marshall**:

stephen.marshall2@homecall.co.uk

Tel: 07929 719286 or 01904 490440

Friday Study Group

On a bright but very icy morning in Tockwith, I'm sending you news of our next meeting. We will meet at **Hartrigg Oaks** in the **York** room, as before, arranged by Liz Scurfield, on the 16/03 starting at 19.30. As agreed, we will be discussing "**Inspirational Lives**". These can be real or fictional, be linked to faith stories or not, as you wish. The most important thing is that they have inspired and/or comforted you.

I look forward to a really interesting meeting. If you require a lift, please let me know.

Every good wish. Keep Warm!

Nick F

Upholding

Advices and Queries no.18 asks us to “pray for one another”. Upholding is just that. The Upholding Group meet on the first Sunday of the month at 9.45am for 30 minutes. We make a list of people in the Meeting who, for various reasons, might need our prayers. We also uphold friends and relatives and I often think of world leaders, world situations and if anything particularly bad has happened in the news I uphold the victims and the perpetrators, both being in need of prayer.

My parents used to hold a similar group at their Meeting and held in their thoughts somebody who was in a mental institution. The nurses commented that on a Thursday evening from 7.00pm to 7.30pm the lady was very peaceful and quiet. The exact time the group were thinking of her! I too have had personal experience of being upheld and I am sure it works.

Our little group has shrunk down to 2 or 3 – the number to be gathered in His name. I had suggested to Elders that maybe we should lay the group down (Quakerspeak for it to exist no longer) but one of the members who attends was quite distressed at the thought. So if there is anyone who feels inspired to join us once a month to uphold the meeting and its members in prayer it would be lovely to see you there. Please contact me if you have the name of anyone you would like us to uphold in our thoughts. They do not have to be member of the meeting.

Debbie Wright
Tel: 331934



York:
Human
Rights
City

You can explore the full programme of events here:

[http://www.yorkhumanrights.org/
events/](http://www.yorkhumanrights.org/events/)

Volunteering Expedition in Namibia

This summer I am planning on embarking on a 21 day volunteering expedition in Namibia, in which I will travel to a school in a rural area, and volunteer to help the school in different ways. While I am there, I will be redecorating both the interior and exterior of the school, as well as helping to build play equipment for the children, such as climbing frames and swing sets.

In addition to this, I will be taking over items the children need, such as school equipment, clothes and blankets for the cold nights. Many of the children live in



the school as it is so far away from their homes, so we will also be redecorating and repairing their living spaces. We will also get to spend time getting to know the children, teaching them in their new

classrooms and playing games with them - this is one of the most rewarding parts of the whole trip.

I am incredibly excited to be able to take part in this amazing experience. However the cost of this trip is £3300 in total, and I have just over **£1000** left to raise. Because of this I am hoping to hold a fundraising dinner at Acomb Quaker Meeting House, in which I will talk about the trip and the work I will be doing in Namibia.

I would be incredibly grateful to anyone who could attend, and look forward to seeing you there! Thanks so much everyone for your wonderful support in this!

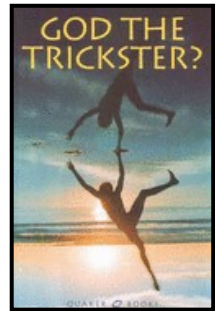
Sasha

The Library

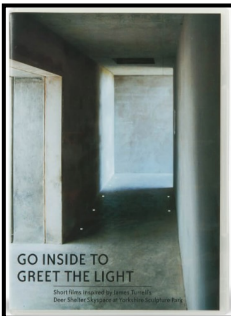


Let me introduce myself. I've been a member here at Acomb Meeting for a number of years, but I'm now the librarian, and I'd like to encourage you all to use the library. We have books on Quaker history, many Swarthmore lectures, several Bible study titles, and a wide selection of works by Quaker authors – including Ben Pink Dandelion, whose ***God the Trickster?*** (an edited anthology of writing by others) I'm reading now.

We have some new additions to the library, too. These include a beautiful Dorling Kindersley book (large format) on the Bible, donated by John Scott. We also have a dvd of James Turrell's ***Deer Shelter Skyspace***, an installation in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park which in my view touches the mystical, the spirit, if one is open to it. Something to experience when the warmer weather finally arrives!



<http://sp.org.uk/openair/jamesturrell/deershelterskyspace>



I hope you all manage to use the library often, and enjoy books both new and old; more titles will of course be added in the future. If you have any suitable books that you'd like to donate, please place them in the plastic basket in front of the bookshelves, on the far right; if too large, please just leave nearby. (Don't forget to indicate that they are donations!)

Paul O'Kell



THE KINDLERS

Northern Series 2018

JOURNEYING IN THE LIGHT

Workshops based in worship, with time to explore in small groups and for personal reflection.

Venue: **Friargate Meeting House**

March 10: **Encounters with the Light**
illumination from within and beyond Quakers

Joy Croft & Angela Sansam

April 28: **Prayer - Connecting with the Light**
exploring ways in which we may deepen our inner life

Ann Banks, Ruth McCarthy & Angela Sansam

10am for a drink, 10.30 start, finish at 4.30pm
£10 payable at the door, free drinks available during the day, please bring your own lunch - there will be cake! All are welcome - no pre-booking necessary

Website: thekindlers.webs.com

*** **

Please email items for the newsletter to:

[**acombquakernewsletter@gmail.com**](mailto:acombquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

... or give printed copy to **Loretta**

... before the **third** Sunday of the month

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