

ACOMB QUAKER MEETING

July-August 2018



Alison Ashcroft

27.2.1926 to 5.6.2018

Alison Gillespie was born in Stannington, a village of just 32 houses in Northumberland. She was an only child and was brought up by her grandmother, a huge influence on her life. While working as a medical secretary at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne, she met and married Anthony Ashcroft. She then devoted her life to supporting his career as a general practitioner and to their family. They had two children, Christine and Philip, who meant the world to her, as did her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After 60 years together in Newcastle, Alison and Anthony moved to Copmanthorpe in 2010 to be close to Christine and Paddy.

The memorial meeting for our Friend Alison was held on Friday 15 June in New Earswick Meeting House as Acomb was too small to accommodate the many family and friends who had come from far and wide to share their many happy memories of her.



Interested in Art?



The Old Shed

I would like to invite you to visit **Art at The Terrace Café**, The Hub, St. John's Church, Knaresborough, where I am exhibiting paintings during **FEVA** (Festival of Entertainment and Visual Art) 11-19 August. You are also welcome to the Preview on 10

August, 7:30 to 9:30 for drinks, nibbles and the chance to be there for the opening.

The exhibition is open from 10:00-17:00 in the room adjacent to the church café. I am exhibiting with two other painters and a wood turner so there is a variety of work to look at. During FEVA week there are lots of different activities and exhibitions.

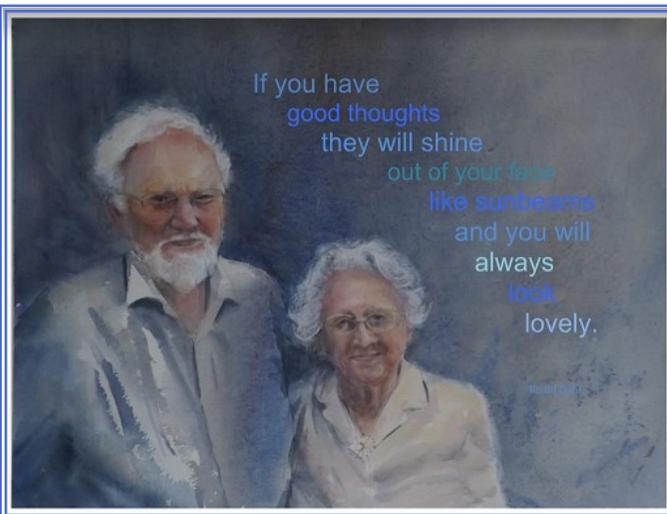


Scarborough South Beach

More information at www.feva.info

Impressed by John and Marjorie's kindness, the wonderful life they had led and also by their serenity and composure during

Meeting for Worship, I wanted to see if I could capture something of the inner joy radiating from them. Adding Roald Dahl's quote seemed appropriate.



Lois

Study group at Acomb Meeting House at 19:30

Friday 27 July Topic: **"Writings that inspire my faith"**.
Please bring something to share and discuss.

Friday 24 August Topic: **"What inspires us?"** - a look at some of the broader aspects of our lives that give us joy and help to move us on.

Come to share and discuss. Refreshments provided beforehand at each session. Everyone is welcome!

Quakers in Yorkshire

There will be a gathering on 21 July at **Ackworth School, WF7 7LT**: Dr Karen Abi-Ezzi of the School of Peace Studies at Bradford University will give a talk about the current state of Arab-Israeli politics. The afternoon will offer various activities, including a visit to the Ackworth archives with the famous Cabinet of Samplers, a guided walk through the Ackworth Arboretum and a visit to Pontefract Castle. There will also be a chance to learn about an Ackworth family of Quaker railway engineers. There will be a minibus transfer service for rail travellers from Fitzwilliam station. There will also be cake!

This is the quarterly gathering of Quakers from all over Yorkshire for all ages - it is always very stimulating. More information from the website: www.quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/
Contact: **Chris Love** 758344 chris234love@btinternet.com

Can you help at Area Meeting?

As **Area Meeting** is being held here on **Wednesday 11 July**, we will need a door keeper, help with arranging the room and two Friends to clear up quietly while others go into the meeting as well as someone willing to feedback to our Meeting afterwards.

Please see either **Jemma** or **Sally** if you can help with any of these tasks. Thank you.

Being a Sanctuary Meeting

At the Business Meeting on 1 July we will have a chance to discuss what this entails and what it might commit us to. The following is a brief introduction.

What are Sanctuary Meetings?

Nationally, Friends have formed a network of Quaker Meetings working together with local organisations "to create a culture of welcoming hospitality which answers that of God in every person". Over 70 meetings have now declared themselves to be Sanctuary Meetings and this number is growing monthly.

What does it mean in practice?

We can decide as a Meeting what we would like to do. Acomb Meeting already does a lot: we support Refugee Action York and my work as Chair; we have donated to Care for Calais and to John's and my week there last Christmas; we have welcomed City of Sanctuary and York as a City of Human Rights. Others are involved in schools based support for refugees and to fund raising. There are already strong networks in York and it could be enough to continue as we are. However, there may be some activities we might want to get involved in later on, either on our own or joining in with other Meetings. These might be:

- ◆ Lobbying local politicians on issues of destitution, detention and deportation
- ◆ Joining local initiatives to build a culture of welcome
- ◆ Building alliances with groups opposing racism
- ◆ Assisting in campaigns to resist deportations.

Why join now if we don't really need to do things differently?

By joining with other groups, we add strength to the national Quaker voice on issues related to asylum seekers & refugees; it also facilitates local Quaker coordination. We would have support, including access to training if we want it, and would

be linked to other like-minded Meetings for sharing ideas and supporting one another.

How do we become a Sanctuary Meeting?

We have strong networks and links already so we do not need to decide what activities to engage in straight away. We need to minute that we wish to be a Sanctuary Meeting and inform Friends House, and identify one or two people willing to act as a link with the Programme Coordinator for one or two years.

What have other York Area Meetings done so far?

Harrogate has already declared itself a Sanctuary Meeting and is involved with local community groups. Friargate has done the same, with two members becoming Trustees for the City of Sanctuary and they have allocated Friargate warden house as accommodation for refugees. New Earswick is considering the matter and wondering if York Area Meeting will become an Area Meeting of Sanctuary.

Further information is available from the website at :

www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration

Sally Bourton

Menwith Hill Worship

RAF Menwith Hill, Birstwith, Harrogate HG3 2RL is a Royal Air Force station which provides communications and intelligence support services to the United Kingdom and the United States.

Meeting for Worship outside Menwith Hill takes place on the first Saturday every two months: February, April, June, August, October and December. This action is a York Area Meeting Concern and Harrogate Meeting would appreciate support.

For details/help getting there, contact *Gilly Charters*, *Barbara Penny* or *Ruth Rymer*

Do join us, bringing a chair.

Dates for July-August 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 (even months): 12:00 Upholding Meeting **after** 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

July & August	None
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Special Monthly Collections

July	AgeUK York	<i>Brint family</i>
August	None	

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

www.yorkquakers.org.uk/eventsalendar.html

July	
Sunday 1	Business Meeting: 12:00 after MfW
Wednesday 11	Area Meeting: 18:30 for 19:00. Help with refreshments beforehand would be welcome. (see p3)
Saturday 21	Pendle Hill Walk: following in the historic steps of George Fox (see p10) Quakers in Yorkshire: 10:30 start (see p3)
Friday 27	Study group: 19:30 "Writings that inspire my faith" (see p3)
August	
Saturday 4	Menwith Hill Worship: (see p5)
Sunday 5	Upholding Meeting: 12:00 after MfW Please note the new time. (see p10)
Friday 24	Study group: 19:30 "What inspires us?" (see p3)
September	
Saturday 1	Woodbrooke on the Road: "Let your life speak": Harrogate (see p11)
Saturday 29 - Sunday 1 Oct	Quaker Week: <u>Theme</u> "Room for More" Further details in September's newsletter.

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 QUAKER CENTRE RESOURCE FOR AREA MEETING

In July 2015, the following publicity was put out as part of a request for donations to fund the building work at Friargate Meeting House:

“The aim of the building Project is the creation of a space fit for the 21st century for Quaker worship, witness and outreach.....

This project aims....to give living expression to the values of social justice, truth and integrity, community, simplicity, peace and sustainability in the heart of York....”

In 2017, Area Meeting Trustees agreed to appoint a “Quaker Centre Manager” to help develop a **Quaker Centre for Area Meeting**.

York Area Meeting Trustees are beginning the development of a vision for the proposed Quaker Centre and have asked for York Area Local Meetings to help create the vision, aims and objectives in line with our testimony.

So far there have been some ideas, but more are needed before the process of discernment can begin. Current ideas fall into three categories:

1. More opportunities for spiritual development
2. The provision of support for Area Meeting initiated activities
3. Opportunities for social and community space and outreach

1. Further opportunities for Meetings for worship and space for spiritual reflection

A quiet garden space has been suggested, as have additional discussion groups, evening Meetings for Worship and spiritual development activities e.g. Focusing with Quakers

2. The provision of support and time for Area Meeting activities

Friends from Area Meeting are involved in a wide range of activities including peace activism, international action and networking, education, social justice, environmental concerns, equalities work and much more.

Quaker groups involved in Peace and Social witness, faith and practice, diversity and inclusion and children and young people may wish for support from a local Quaker Centre. The Centre could support communications and organisation and provide venues, time and expertise. For example, additional support could be given to Kindlers, Quaker Quest, Young Friends General Meeting, Northern Friends Peace Board, etc. or the Centre could support the development of currently-inactive groups such as Quaker Link Group.

Administrative support could be available for Local Meeting concerns and ideas. For example, Quaker Centre resources could build on activities already discussed such as hosting Christmas dinner for those wanting to share a meal, assisting with organisation of the WW1 commemoration, etc.

3. Support for the York Area Meeting community and for outreach

A Quaker Centre could further develop social space so Quakers and others can drop in when in York city centre.

The Centre could provide community outreach using a calendar of events throughout the year focusing on issues that Quakers care about, for example:

- ◆ Equality - Pride week, International Women's Day, Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Refugee Week
- ◆ Simplicity - National Day of Silence, Mental Wellness Month
- ◆ Peace - international days for non-violence, peace, and the abolition of slavery
- ◆ Sustainability - Hunger Action Month, Fair Trade Fortnight, World Environment Day.

If you have any thoughts/ideas/concerns please get in touch with **Cath Harvey** cathharvey1@btinternet.com or call in at **Friargate**.

***** Cath will be at Acomb Meeting on Sunday 8 July to answer any questions you may have *****

Report from the *ad hoc* Premises Committee

We met to consider the route for future improvements and maintenance of the Acomb Meeting House. The first item was to confirm the expenditure on a new boiler, which will be a Worcester Bosch 25i high efficiency boiler, costing £2,144, which comes within the estimate of £3,200 given at the Business Meeting in March. Work will be carried out on 13-14 August and the new boiler will be operational by 15 August.

The second item was to consider the redecoration and possible reflooring of the Meeting House. We also looked at improving the signage for fire escapes and provision for notices and agreed that it would be best to implement this after redecoration works were completed. A comprehensive plan will be drawn up and presented to Friends at a subsequent business meeting.

Nick Folkard

Upholding Meeting

An Upholding Meeting will be held on the FIRST Sunday (even months) **after** Meeting for Worship for half an hour for the next six months and we will then review. The next one is 5 August. Please come to spend 30 minutes holding people in the light.

Everyone is welcome.

Calling all walkers: Pendle Hill Walk

Meet up on 21 July in the Barley Car Park For Pendle Hill, Burnley BB12 9JX (honesty box fee) which has a cafe for refreshments on return. Bring a packed lunch to eat on top of the hill. A moderately tough climb up a stone-stepped path; approximately three hour round trip. The age range of walkers last time was 5 to 65.

Please let **Carine Carson** know if you are coming, so we won't set off without you:

Email: carinecarson@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 07981 920065



WOODBROOKE . . . on the Road

“Let your life speak”

with **Martin Layton**

Saturday 1 September

Arrivals from 09:30 - first session begins at 10

Part of a season of *Spiritual Nourishment* Saturday events. First Saturday of the month. Coffee and pastries for first half hour, followed by the main session. This time a full day event:

Are we challenging the injustices in the world? In worship are we hearing the cries of the world and are we responding to the call to act? Together we will explore the roots of our tradition to see how this helps us today. In our communities we can find ways to challenge, to test and to work together to build the kingdom of heaven on earth. This may be challenging and uncomfortable, but we can work together with love and tenderness.

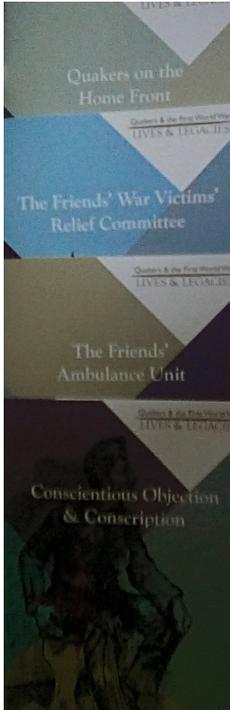
Friends, it's time to ask ourselves, if we were accused of being Quakers, would there be enough evidence to convict us?

Venue: Friends Meeting House, 12A Queen Parade, Harrogate HG1 5PP, UK

How to book: Open to any member or attender of York Area Meeting. Contact **Barbara Penny** on 07737 368459 or email barbaraepenny@gmail.com

Numbers are limited so please book early. There is a charge of **£10** towards the cost (help is available).

Library Corner



Having just received a set of four very interesting booklets, I've postponed my piece on fiction in the library until next time. World War I has recently featured in a number of programmes and books commemorating its centenary, and we've just received four titles on aspects of Quaker concern and involvement in the conflict. They deal with the Home Front, the Friends' Ambulance Unit, the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee, and Conscientious Objection and Conscription. They're fascinating & thought-provoking; perhaps worth a study group. Copies (in pdf) may be available soon from the Learning Resource Centre hosted on Woodbrooke's website, and also from the World War One Engagement Centre at Voices of War and Peace.

The video of the **2017 Swarthmore Lecture** given by *Catherine West* is on the Woodbrooke website:

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/resource-library/2017-swarthmore-lecture-video/>

Remember: "Blessed are the peacemakers." and "Do not fear war, for there will always be wars and rumours of war."

Inspired by Matthew 5:9 and 24:6 respectively.

Paul

Please email items for the newsletter to:

AcombQuakerNewsletter@gmail.com

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

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

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