

FRIARGATE NEWS

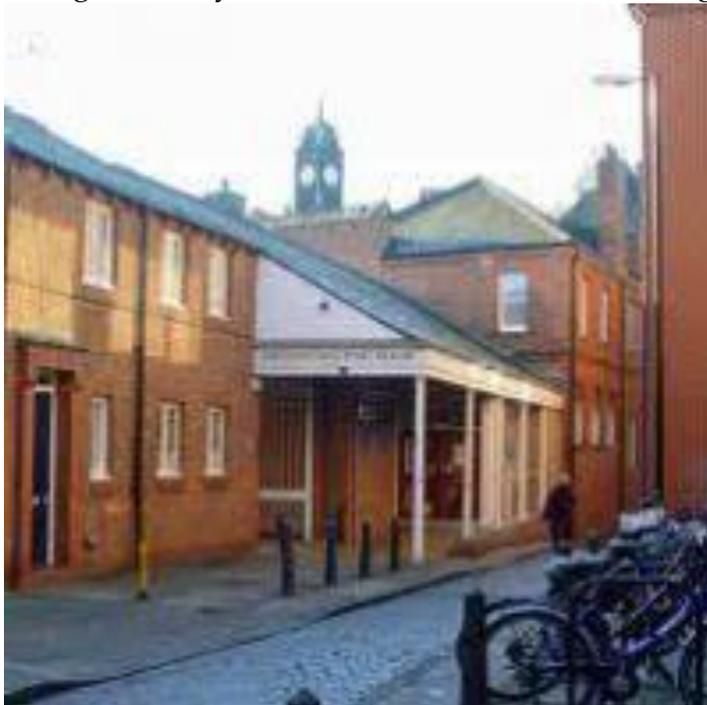
April 2020

Issue 18

Our First Meeting for Worship by Zoom

"Now there were many old people who went into the chapel and looked out at the windows, thinking it a strange thing to see a man preach on a hill, and not in their church, as they called it; whereupon I was moved to open to the people that the steeple-house, and the ground whereon it stood were no more holy than that mountain..." (George Fox, Firbank Fell, 1694)

Yesterday was our first Sunday morning meeting by Zoom. Before 10.30 am over sixty of us were gathered in front of our screens. By scrolling along the top of the screen we were able to see five [or up to ten, depending on whether a couple of an individual was there] of our fellow worshippers at any one time. And when we wished, we could scroll to see others; it was a different way to look across the meeting room, to appreciate the sense of being part of our Friargate family and to hold one another in the light. The ever-present photo of



a corner of a lovely spring garden formed our centre table. There was spoken ministry.

And we enjoyed at least one special blessing normally not possible; we were joined by Friends no longer living in York. Wonderful that they were not only with us in spirit, but we could actually see and speak with them. If you weren't able to join the meeting yesterday, do try it out later. For those of us who are not very tech savvy – which certainly

includes me – getting into the Zoom experience may take a bit of practice, but the relief and joy of being part of a Friends' Meeting again, not isolated nor socially excluded/ing, is so worth it.

Even better: 'You really don't need to know how the tech works or do anything other than join,' says Christine Abbott who 'hosted' yesterday's meeting. 'If anyone wants a practice, I am very happy for people to contact me and I will do a one-to-one with them as a practice.' *Christine's email is on page 4's Ravensworth Lodge article*

SEND YOUR NEWS & EXPERIENCES TO FN!

Please send to me a couple of sentences or a couple of paragraphs about this extraordinary time we're living through – What are you finding hardest? What has been an unexpected joy? What have you accomplished that you've been putting off for five/ten/twenty years? It's good to share our experiences.

Treasurer's report 2019 – and a request for your views

Margaret Bryan, Friargate Treasurer, reported to March Local Meeting on our 2019 finances for 2019. Since then life has changed dramatically, but the questions asked at the end of this resumé are just as important and need your wider consideration.

1 2019 was particularly notable as the year in which all outstanding loans for Phase 2 of the building work were repaid. Two significant legacies and the generous conversion of some loans to gifts made this possible.

Brought forward from 2018	£38,571
Income in 2019	£214,833
Total	£253,404
Expenditure including repayment of loans	£238,455
Total Carried forward to 2020	£14,949

2 Subscriptions income exists to support Quaker work. In 2018 this was defined as 20% of the running costs of the building we use, the quotas (levied *per capita* by member) paid to Area Meeting and to Quakers in Yorkshire, and the varied activity costs of our community. Quaker usage of the building remains constant, but the growth of the business in 2019 means we can pay a smaller proportion of Friargate's running costs. Friends accepted the suggestion that this year we pay only 10% of 2019 costs of £137,789. Thus our necessary Quaker expenses in 2019 amounted to:

10% of building running costs	£13,779
Quaker activities & quotas	£13,257
Total	£27,036

3 Subscriptions income in 2019 totalled £56,719, so once the £27,036 has gone to support Friargate, £29,683 remains. The meeting agreed that, as last year, £20,000 should go to Britain Yearly Meeting.

4 Local Meeting then considered the question: how should we allocate the remaining £9,683? [NB, this can be rounded up to £10,000]

- Do we divide it into 4 gifts of £2,500, 5 of £2,000, 10 of £1,000 or in some other way?
- Should the beneficiaries be local, regional or national charities?
- How will these gifts express our testimonies?

It was felt right to give more Friends a chance to give their views before making the decision. **Please send suggestions** [max. 250 words] to mgtbryan@gmail.com by 12 April so that ideas can be collated & shared widely.

Woodbrooke online continues to flourish

During yesterday's Zoom conversations after worship, someone was heard to say that Woodbrooke has cancelled all its courses. Not so! John Gray writes:

.....**Woodbrooke's flourishing online courses are all continuing**.....

John suggests: 'If Friends are keen to support Woodbrooke, as well as to deepen their own Quakerism, these online courses offer a wonderful opportunity to do so! Searching for Online Courses on the Woodbrooke website produces several courses on bible study, daily spiritual practices, early Quaker women's writing, Quaker roles, leadership amongst Friends...'

Now there's a productive and inspiring way to use some of that extra time that coronavirus has laid upon us against our will!

The Upholding Group

The upholding group set up a few months ago at Friargate cannot currently meet in person. Rather than set up something virtual, I propose that we join the 'silent at home' meetings held daily from 9.00 – 9.15am.

If you would like to share any names or circumstances with me, I will uphold them in the Light specially.

Carol Gilham

carol@numberseventy.co.uk

01904 639346

'Virtual' Plant Sale for Quaker Tapestry

Getting out into your garden to enjoy healing spring sunshine? Got some gaps to fill? I have plants available currently, including: berberis darwinii, forsythia, tree peony, cotoneaster (misc), hazel, yew, birch (1.5m), buddleia, bay, apple mint, forget-me-nots and other. SDD (Socially Distanced Delivery) can be offered.

All donations will go to Quaker Tapestry for Kendal Meeting House Roof Appeal www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk. Contact Ros rosbatchelor@gmail.com or 01904 624216

One of the windows in the small village church at Boccadasse, a suburb of Genova so close to the sea that you wonder it doesn't fall in. photo BW



FRIARGATE'S APRIL DATES

- every Sunday meeting for worship [zoom] 10.30-11.30 followed by chat
- every Wednesday – midweek worship [zoom] 1.15 worship; chat 1.45
- every day – see 'The Upholding Group' above 9.00 – 9.15
- some groups may decide to meet by zoom – it's in your hands, Friends

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS IN APRIL

1st & 2nd week: Toilet Twinning. 3rd & 4th week: Brunswick Organic Nursery

- Go to Toilettwinning.org. You'll find you can donate direct
- Brunswickorgyork.uk. You can also donate direct on this site

MAY DATES

YORK AREA MEETING on 2nd May 1.30 – 3.30 pm will take place via Zoom
TRACEY & MARTIN'S MARRIAGE was postponed by them, even before the latest government announcement, as the family and F/friends occasion they had planned would be impossible in the present circumstances.

Be a pen pal to an older person

A special call for children/teenagers who would like to exchange letters with an older person in the Quaker residential home for the elderly in Scarborough.

Thanks to Covid19, our residents are now in total isolation with only staff, community nurses and doctors allowed into their home. Many are confined to their bedrooms.

They would love to receive and write letters with you. You can tell them about your life, what you like doing, reading or watching on the television and maybe send a drawing.

They will write back to you with stories of their childhood together you will create many happy memories.



Photo: Thanks to Bridget Walker

Do you have queries before deciding to write? Do contact me direct; I'll be happy to answer them and provide more background. Thank you.

❖ **Please address your first Ravensworth letter to**

Kim Thomson - Care Manager

Ravensworth Lodge

3 Belgrave Crescent

Scarborough YO11 1UB

❖ **To ask me for further information, email: [Christine Abbott cabbott0@gmail.com](mailto:Christine.Abbott@cabbott0@gmail.com)**

Three instances of Hope in Difficult Times

❖ *a poem by a Victorian Catholic writer*

Thanks to Val Humby for this item

And people stayed home
and read books and listened and rested and exercised
and made art and played games
and learned new ways of being and were still.
and listened deeper.
some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
some met their shadows.
and people began to think differently.
And people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal.
and when the danger ended and people found each other
they grieved for the dead people and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

Grace Ramsay (1839–1888)



❖ *And a message from
Friargate's geese:*

Spring's new life continues.
Our eggs are fine.

❖ *extracted from the New York Times*

- ✓ A satellite that detects human activity — vehicle emissions, fossil fuel burned in power plants etc— shows striking reductions in pollution across China and Italy since the Covid19 outbreak started.
- ✓ “It’s the first time in history we’ve seen a decline of this size and speed,” said Marco Percoco, professor of transportation economics at Bocconi University, Milan.
- ✓ A separate analysis from the University reported a “sizeable” decline in several types of air pollution in Milan, including nitrogen dioxide levels and particulate matter pollution, a by-product of burning fossil fuels that is highly damaging to health.
- ✓ The drop in pollution was even starker in China, the largest surrounding the city of Wuhan. Chinese officials put the region on lockdown in late January, barring the movement of nearly 35 million people. Pollution plunged accordingly.