

# FRIARGATE NEWS

September 2021

Issue 35

## *Friargate at Glenthorne*



*Friargate & other York AM Friends together at Glenthorne, August 2021*

### *'A super-spreader of connection'*

*Anna Baldwin writes:* For many of us this was the first time we had been in a thoroughly social setting for almost eighteen months, making it a wonderful weekend and the constant rain only helped us meet more closely in spirit. Many thanks to Graham for his organisation and light-touch compering. Here are a few impressions offered by individuals:

The joy of Glenthorne was liberation! All double-jabbed, all taking covid tests before going so no masks around the guest house! How wonderfully normal (**anon**)

Being new to Glenthorne and to a Quaker weekend away, I had no idea what to expect from our August adventure. What a lovely time we had swathed in a spirit of love and friendship. As we all chatted happily together walking or playing games, we found a great deal to talk about! The rain did nothing but make the weekend fun - or rather wet - depending on whether you were inside or out! I'm looking forward to the next chance we have to get away. (**Lesley Batchelor**)

What did I do? A pre-breakfast walk up Easedale to see Sourmilk Gill in spate. I could see the waterfall from a distance - no need to go further! There are some advantages of rain! Later a village stroll in pouring rain, justifying my recent

purchase of a new raincoat; visit the garden centre for hot chocolate and more good conversation: send postcards ['we're having a very convivial time. No matter that we can't see the tops'] to make it feel a real holiday. Do I lie? The sun did come out briefly on Saturday evening; maybe the tops were unshrouded, but we were busy indoors with a quiz. **(Pat Easton)**

I developed a new relationship to rain on the Glenthorne weekend. Walking for four hours in constant wet conditions in some of the most beautiful scenery in this country- after a certain resistance and futile efforts to stay dry, I surrendered to the rain and experienced total wetness. It wasn't unpleasant; it was just what the Lake District was offering that day. I saw red squirrels; and water pouring down the bark of beech trees as though they were crying. And was absolutely delighted to be able to feel gratitude and appreciation despite the fact that rain had penetrated through to my underwear. More prosaically, I learnt that my waterproof clothing wasn't! **(Barbara Webb)**

My first visit. I had heard very good reports and wasn't disappointed. It was good to be together and get to know Friends better, definitely helped by Graham's excellent programme. A lasting memory for me is Meeting for Worship on Sunday. I watched the hills in rain and sun and saw the amazing colours of the Lake District. **(Liz Bryan)**

On our first residential trip with Friargate Friends, there were activities on Saturday to suit all tastes. We chose Blackwell, an Arts and Crafts house Windermere's shores. It is a favourite spot and an exhibition exploring the legacy of artistic exchange between Japan and Britain was not to be missed. A weekend of fun, laughter, conversations from the sublime to the ridiculous and, as was remarked a 'super spreader event' of connection. **(Christine Abbott)**



## *Friargate Business Manager's Update: August 2021*

*As John Guest has explained at York Area Meeting, Friargate's 'office' has added some administrative work for Area Meeting Trustees to its long-established role of running the business side of Friargate Meeting House. Tracey and Eleanor (both part-timers) are involved in the Area Meeting side of things, while Tracey as Manager is responsible for the whole. Hence the recruitment Tracey describes below.*

*Why so many part time individuals rather than fewer but full time? Bear in mind that hours at Friargate can be very variable; they include weeknights, Saturdays and Sunday mornings too. To have the flexibility to cover so complex a schedule, part timers are absolutely essential. We are very fortunate to have such a good team. [Editor]*

Greetings from a slightly overcast day at Friargate. I thought you would all welcome a brief update from me to keep you in the loop on FMH news.

**General matters:** I hope that by now many of you have been able to come into the Meeting House in person and have seen some of the changes we have made to make you all feel welcome but also safeguarded as much as possible from Covid 19. You will have noticed that we now have parasols providing outside shade from sun and rain, both of which we have had throughout our summer months. I would ask that you take the initiative to close them should the weather be windy [one parasol spoke has already broken]. We aim, with the help of volunteers and on quieter days, with staff help too, to tidy the outside space more.

**Staff News:** I am delighted to say that some successful recruitment has gone on since my last update. I trust you have had a chance to meet **Bella**, a young star who starts her A' Levels in Bootham Sixth Form this term. Bella has taken over from Joe Swift working on Sunday mornings to organise tech for Zoom worship and also being present on the desk for in-person meeting for worship. She has also been my right-hand/saviour throughout the summer months, allowing me to get away from the front desk to concentrate on business matters. Bella will continue to fit in some Friargate work around her timetable. If you haven't already met her, please try and pop in. She has a delightful nature and the sunniest of smiles to brighten up even the darkest of days.

Jennifer (**Jen**, as she likes to be known), my Assistant Manager, started in August. Originally from the US, she has been in the UK a number of years now with her young son. Articulate, friendly and well educated, Jen is a fluent German speaker and has other language and musical skills, not to mention essential 'Sage' financial competence. One of her main duties is to schedule the staffing timetables but she has already proved to be capable of turning her hand to everything.

Jose (pronounced **Josie**), also newly appointed this month, is our Meeting House Assistant. Any of you who have already met her will have found her to be most engaging and friendly. Jose has a good word to say for everything and everyone one and nothing is ever too much trouble. She too has a mixed and eclectic bag of experience, including customer services experience at York City Council. Jose is a lay pastor locally. Do come and say hello.

It just remains for me to recruit one other assistant for ten hours a week and some casual staff. As always, we would love to welcome back volunteers.

I should also like to take the opportunity to thank our continuing staff, **Eleanor** and **Zainab**, for everything they have done in the last 18 months. All in all we have a lovely team. Many thanks to Roger Pierce for all his help in this and also my right-hand financial man, assistant treasurer Terry Kay.

**Meeting House broadband and fibre-optics:** Over the summer months we have been working away behind the scenes on a number of different projects. One of these is to replace the slow broadband speed (think - snail in a coma) with something akin to the bullet train! I can report that BT came in yesterday (25 Aug) and installed our new router. Once our systems company hook up to our pc's and backup, this will offer us realtime download and a speed of 200MB/S.

**Safety:** Finally, I would like to point out that whilst we have no restrictions on distancing at present, I have kept all the Covid safety measures in place. These include track and trace, separate entry and exit doors, sanitizer in each room, maskwearing advised when moving through the building.

I wish you a pleasant Bank Holiday weekend and I look forward to seeing you soon.  
**Tracey Sharp** *Friargate Meeting House Manager*

## *Friargate's Regular Zoom Links in September*

Sunday worship 10.30am <https://zoom.us/j/413858597>

Wednesday 10.30am Mindful Makers <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82485150983>

## **FRIARGATE'S SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

### *Two Memorial Meetings at Friargate in September*

**Rosemary Johnson** 11<sup>th</sup> September at 3 pm.\*

**Theodore Bacon** 18<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm. Please contact Ruth Bacon in advance [[ruth.bacon26@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.bacon26@gmail.com)] if you hope to attend.

\*NB So as to prevent an unfortunate clash between Rosemary's memorial meeting and York Area Meeting, please note (below) Area Meeting's change of time.

### ❖ **Daily or weekly happenings:**

*Quiet Time at home* Reminder: 9:00 - 9:15 every morning.

An opportunity to reflect in silence, knowing that other F/friends are doing the same.

*Mindful Makers* Every Wednesday morning 10.30 – 11.30. *see link above.*

*Midweek Meeting* Every Wednesday 1.15 – 1.45 pm. At Friargate, in person

### ❖ **Single events taking place in September:**

*Local Business Meeting* Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> following meeting for worship.

*Monthly Epilogue* Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 pm until 9.45 pm

Elders will continue the monthly Sunday Epilogue experiment for six months.

Everyone is warmly welcomed. Dates: 5 Sept, 3 Oct, 7 Nov, 5 Dec, 2 Jan, 6 Feb.

Join the Epilogue via this Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88404495533>

***York Area Meeting*** Saturday 11th at 10.30 am. This is a change of time.

Further details of Area Meeting will be given later.

***Afterword*** will happen after worship on Sunday 12th September

***Clifton Group*** Saturday 14th at 10.30 am. The topic is 'Patriotism.' We hope to meet in a garden, but zoom back-up is booked. Venue details will be circulated much nearer the time when all (rules? weather?) is clearer. Contact Graham and Alison Ralph for more information.

## ***Sociable Soups in September***

**Restarting Soup Lunches with a Postcode Party: Sept 19th**

Queen of Soups, Lesley Batchelor, and all on Social Committee would like to get our normal monthly Soup Sunday socialising going again. Soup, accompanied by bread, cakes, fruit etc. will be served in the Penn Room after worship on September 19th. Outside doors will be open and there are tables and sheltered seating on the patio. To help us make new friends we will sit in postcode groups. Just come along.

If you would like to join the rota for making soup (generally only 2 or 3 times a year) please contact Lesley ([lesley@cmc-marketing.com](mailto:lesley@cmc-marketing.com)).

***Soup Sunday*** Sunday 19th after worship. See previous page for details.

***Eastern Villages*** Sunday 19th at 8 pm. Eastern Villages is a friendly small group welcoming all living on the east side of York – or beyond. Contact Val Humby for details.

***Attenders Group*** Sunday 26th September at 12 noon, Attenders Group resumes normal service, in person at Friargate, every 4th Sunday. All attenders, enquirers, and newer Friends are invited. The aim is to provide a forum to meet people and to discuss topics relating to Quakers and our Friargate meeting in a supportive environment. September 26th will be an introductory session 12 noon – 12.45 pm.

Future meetings in 2021: 24th October and 28th November, both from 11.45 to 12.45  
There will not be a December meeting as the 4th Sunday falls on Boxing Day.

Enquiries: you are welcome to contact me: Terry Kay [terrykay.28@outlook.com](mailto:terrykay.28@outlook.com)

***Looking Ahead: October's Quakers in Yorkshire is at Friargate***

We shall be the hosts for Quakers in Yorkshire first resumed **meeting in person**. This will be on October 16th. We look forward to welcoming Friends from all of Yorkshire's six other Area Meetings and to engaging directly with members of the new Book of Discipline Revision Committee.

## **Friargate/Zoom NOTICE READERS & SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

**Friargate-in-person Notice Reader: Ian Buchanan** 01904 672168 [ianbuch@gmail.com](mailto:ianbuch@gmail.com)

**Zoom First Sunday: David Laverick** 01904 798050/ [hobgate39@gmail.com](mailto:hobgate39@gmail.com)

**Zoom Remaining Sundays: Keith Knight** [kk@deanknight.co.uk](mailto:kk@deanknight.co.uk) 07808 770274

**Collections: 5,12** Excellent Development; **19, 26** Prison Phoenix Trust

## **FRIARGATE NEWS contact details**

All content to Barbara Windle [barbwindle@outlook.com](mailto:barbwindle@outlook.com) 01904 481977

Next issue's deadline: Sunday 19th September.

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