

# FRIARGATE NEWS

January 2019

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## Editorial

It's very early to be printing a 2019 issue but holiday closures make it necessary, so I am not too late to wish you Christmas joy and hope for the coming year. Hope we surely need. During this endless international uncertainty, I recall William Penn's 1693 vision of a united Europe with a mixture of pride in a visionary Quaker and frustration at humanity's slowness to learn peace. Sadly, his essay 'Towards the present and future peace of Europe' still makes timely reading. **Barbara Windle**

## Returning to Ethiopia in October 2018

Ever since we first met there in the early 1970s, the time of Emperor Haile Selassie,



Chris and I have regularly visited Ethiopia. This time we reconnected with the charity, still going strong, in which Chris had been a UNA volunteer. Cheshire Ethiopia still focuses on those, mainly children, with physical disabilities; whereas polio was once the principal cause of disability, these days patients with club feet, cerebral palsy, or who have

lost lower limbs through gangrene, are among those whom Cheshire assists to become mobile and independent.

Our main purpose was for me to present a paper on human trafficking at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, at the University of Mekele in the north. It was also an opportunity to visit the Mekele School for the Blind, which does impressive work, despite limited resources, to enable visually impaired children to complete their education and ultimately find employment.

It was good to return once more, to enjoy spicy local food, to be in a richly cultured African society with no history of Western colonisation (apart from the Italian occupation of 1936-41) and to arrive soon after their New Year (Julian Calendar) and big annual festival of Meskal, or the Finding of the True Cross, of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. This period marks the end of the rainy season, with a great flowering of bright orange Meskal daisies on every green space.

2018 saw radical political change, with the first ever Oromo Prime Minister, and, despite some recent civil disturbances, the general mood appears optimistic about the future, especially since relations with neighbouring Eritrea have been restored.

**Roy (and Chris) Love**

# Activities in January

|                               |                        |   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 6th</b>             | <b>12 noon</b>         | <b>Local Business Meeting</b>           |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>9.00 – 10.15</b>    | <b>Exploring Quakerism. All welcome</b> |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>12 noon</b>         | <b>Afterword</b>                        |
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>12 noon onwards</b> | <b>Midwinter Party</b>                  |

Bring and share lunch followed by home-grown singing, dancing and entertainment. Bring your instruments, skills and talents to create some communal joy. Please get in touch with Julian Pattison, Cath Harvey or Jacquie Coule Bleakley to offer activities, quizzes, star turns, silliness, fun or games to entertain us all.

|                               |                        |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>12 noon – 12.45</b> | <b>Attenders Group</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

## AND WEEKDAYS -

|  |                     |   |
|--|---------------------|---|
| <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | <b>1.15 pm</b>      | <b>Midweek Meeting</b>                    |
| And every Wednesday thereafter.  |                     | Bring your lunch at around 12.45          |
| <b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>7.30 pm</b>      | <b>Book Group</b>                         |
| Ali Smith  | How to be Both      | Stephen Campbell (ring Jacquie )          |
| <b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>12.30 pm</b>     | <b>Bishophill Group</b>                   |
| God, Words & Us (ch 4)   |                     | at Hartrigg Oaks for lunch                |
| <b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>10.30 am</b>     | <b>Clifton Group</b>                      |
| My earliest memory   |                     | Portland St (David Rubinstein & Ann Holt) |
| <b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>7.30 pm</b>      | <b>Knavesmire Group</b>                   |
| A place that means something to me. [16 St Aubyn's Place, off The Mount. Jane Penman]  |                     |   |
| <b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>10.30am–4 pm</b> | <b>Quakers in Yorkshire</b>               |
| venue: Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, City Square/Lower Basinghall St, Leeds (close to the train station). More details: see Area Quakevine & Quakers in Yorkshire programme. |                     |   |

## Our House Groups: The Bishophill Group

The Bishophill Group (which is so called for historical reasons) welcomes people from all the York meetings. At present it meets in Hartrigg Oaks and central York because that's where current members live. We read short books on religious topics, some Quaker, some not. Recently we have read Laurie Michaelis's *Gleanings* and Harvey Gillman's *Words*. Our current study is Helen Rowlands' *God, Words and Us*. We don't study in advance but read books aloud at our meetings, which encourages us to talk spontaneously about what they bring to our minds. We tend to wander away from the text but learn a lot about ourselves and each other, sometimes more than about the author's intentions. We have a sandwich and cake lunch together beforehand (or eat at Hartrigg Oaks), with tea provided by the host, and talk a lot then too. We are a small group, looking for new members, and when we say 'everyone is welcome' we mean it.

**Ann Holt**

# News of Members and Attenders

## Heard in worship

*Kate Vernon Rees shared this from All Saints School's Retreat Day: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.*

## Did you hear Lesley on the radio?

Our attender, **Lesley Batchelor**, was interviewed by BBC World Service & by Radio York (11 Dec) about (you've guessed) Brexit. As Director General of the Institute of Export and International Trade Lesley is keenly aware of the actual and potential value of international trade as a force for building relationships across cultures and between countries. If you missed the interview, why not talk to Lesley after meeting?

## Trading by the Wind: Sea Diaries 1919-1923\*

It has been a great pleasure reading this first-hand account of Godfrey Wicksteed's long voyages on two of the last huge square-rigged sailing ships, right at the end of the era of commercial trading 'by the wind'.

Aged 19, Godfrey became an Ordinary Seaman sailing to Buenos Aires with a cargo of coal. In the next four years he crewed on the *Bellands* and the *Barque Transocean*, spending many months at a time at sea, taking cargo between South America, Australia, Scandinavia and the UK. His diaries relate his experience in vivid detail and despite many hardships along the way, he tells it all with great humour and thirst for excitement. He's certainly quick to volunteer when there are risky, dangerous jobs to do!

The sailors were totally dependent on the wind and had no wireless communication or modern navigation aids. His diaries reflect the vagaries of wind and weather and how much they affected everything, telling with wry humour how they would end up changing sails more frequently on a Sunday – supposedly a day of 'lighter' work! A keen photographer, he took and – amazingly – printed many photos while aboard ship! They are fascinating and, along with his and Brenda



Tyler's illustrations, bring his adventures vividly to life. Brenda, Godfrey's niece, has edited this beautifully produced hardback book. I thoroughly recommend it. I have sailed, only for a week at a time, on the 'Lord Nelson' and 'Tenacious' – two tall ships run by the Jubilee Sailing Trust ([www.jst.org.uk](http://www.jst.org.uk)) and adapted to be fully accessible to people of all physical abilities. I too love being at sea and relate to the descriptions of star-gazing while being on night watch or observing wildlife and making your own entertainment while living with fellow crew-members in close quarters! \*edited & illustrated by **Brenda Tyler**

**Rosy Cartwright**

# Announcements and Information

## The Fox Room and the Library: Friargate's decision

Following November's threshing meeting, Resources Committee met and brought its recommendations to Local Business Meeting in December. In summary these were:

1. Refurbishment, Easter 2019, to include redecoration and recarpeting, improved lighting and storage facilities; a new surface below the hatch so that drinks are passed through safely; part of the floor to be washable, allowing for "messy" play.
2. Room to be used by the Meeting's children and for lettings during the week.
3. Library access to be improved by moving it elsewhere. This process involves a small group classifying and sifting the collection using agreed criteria to decide which books need to be on open view and which need to be appropriately stored. Once the size of the open library is known, some existing shelving may possibly be adaptable to fit the proposed new locations in the foyer and the Meeting Room.

**Local Meeting agreed that: "these recommendations reflect the overall feeling which emerged from the threshing meeting" so this plan will now go ahead.**

## Volunteering at Friargate

Current volunteers met after meeting in December and agreed it feels good to offer a little help to the very busy Friargate team - and to meet some of our visitors. We hope more Friends will join us in 2019. Stories abounded, the best being Julian's account of asking a visitor what she was looking for. 'Weightwatchers' 'Ah! I see!' said Julian sympathetically - then wished the ground would swallow him up, as he heard what he'd said. Yes, this service is very varied and introduces one to Friargate experiences that are otherwise a closed book - all part of our Quaker education. **BW**

## QUAKER MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

|                         |                            |                               |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Every Sunday</b>     | Friargate 10.30 -11.30.    | Lamel Beeches 10.30 -11.15    |
| <b>2nd, 4th Sundays</b> | Friargate 9.15 -10         | (shared breakfast from 8.30)  |
| <b>3rd Sunday</b>       | Eastern Villages Group 8pm | (contact Val Humby)           |
| <b>Midweek</b>          | Friargate Wednesdays       | 1.15-1.45 (bring lunch 12.45) |

## NOTICE READERS & COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY

**6th** Huw Still 07915 607 903 [huwstill@gmail.com](mailto:huwstill@gmail.com)

All other Sundays: Graham Ralph [grahamandalison@hotmail.com](mailto:grahamandalison@hotmail.com)

Breakfast Meeting David & Margaret Laverick 798050 [hobgate39@gmail.com](mailto:hobgate39@gmail.com)

**Collections:** 6th, 13th, York Women's Counselling;  
20th, 27th, Europe & Middle East Young Friends

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**Next issue's deadline: Sunday 20 January. Font: Palatino Linotype 12 please.**