

# YORK AREA QUAKEVINE

Quaker News, Views, Insights and Reports  
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*48 pictures of the sun,  
in the same place, at the same time,  
over a year.*

*The highest point: summer solstice.*

*Lowest point: winter solstice.*

*Together the 48 shots create  
the symbol of infinity*



## *And is there hope? We create hope by embodying it*

Suddenly the first Area Meeting of the year is upon us, Quaker life is moving forward. Decisions need to be taken in right ordering, by our coming together in a spirit of worship, weighing arguments seriously while following the leadings of the spirit and responding to its call to live adventurously even when we cannot see far ahead.

Truly, nothing is a substitute for 'seeing one another's faces' but what a blessing it is that we may both talk by Zoom and even catch one another's expressions, however imperfectly. Comparing these pandemic trials with those of our Quaker forebears, we can only be grateful for the ease of our times. Instead of being denied contact for months on end with those imprisoned or at sea, we can communicate across greater distance in mere seconds.

At this time it feels crucial that we 'keep our meetings', and not just our meetings for worship. Our infrastructure, our positive planning ahead, needs us all, lest we wake up one day and find the Quaker muscle has atrophied when we weren't noticing. The spiritual health of our Area Meeting is a community responsibility. York AM starts 2022 with forward-looking and significant plans to consider. Do read the relevant documents inside, Friends. Even if you can't attend the Zoom Area Meeting yourself, you can support and strengthen it. Holding Friends in the Light is something we can all do.

**Barbara Windle**, on behalf of York Area Meeting Clerking Team

## Developments at The Retreat

Most Friends will now be aware that The Retreat has ceased to function as a residential mental hospital and that the site is to be sold to a developer. On 9<sup>th</sup> December, a zoom meeting was held to start the discussion on how the heritage of the site, the Quaker origins and the radical mental health work done there could best be honoured.

The meeting was conducted by Ian Holborn, Chief Officer of The Retreat. The project manager for the chosen developers, P.J.Livesey, also spoke. Various others attended. As I don't have a participants list, this is my recollection, to give an idea of who was there.

- three Trustees of York AM, one of whom is the AM archivist and another the convenor of the York burial grounds committee.
- The chair of Heslington parish council
- A representative of York civic trust (I think)
- The archivist from the Borthwick institute, where the Retreat archives are held
- The estates manager of The Retreat
- Laura Potts, who organised the replanting of The Retreat orchard

What emerged was the huge amount of work that both The Retreat and P.J. Livesey have already done to investigate the site's history. I was surprised at how much they already knew. The conversation moved on to what should be celebrated as the heritage and there was some discussion of properly recalling the innovative approach to mental health pioneered at the Retreat, as well as its Quaker heritage and the lovely grounds.

### What will happen now

- The site will be sold to the developers early in 2022
- The Quaker burial ground will not be included in the sale; its ownership will be transferred to York AQM
- Planning permission will then be sought for development of the site
- If successful, the first phase, affordable housing on Garrow Hill, will be built in 2023
- Later phases would include developing the main building (grade 2 listed) into apartments
- The intention is that there should be public access to large parts of the grounds and the entertainment hall in the main building.
- A Heritage Group will be formed, by The Retreat, in the new year, who will take forward the ideas for marking the heritage of the site and work done there.
- New access to the Quaker burial ground will be created with a "green car park" and we will continue both to inter Friends there and be able to visit.
- The mental health work of The Retreat, using existing reserves and the proceeds of the sale of the site, will continue, at Strensall, Manchester and later in other locations across Britain.

If you want to know more about this, it is worth visiting this website:

<https://heslingtonroadestate.co.uk/> and you can see other projects that P.J.Livesey have done at <https://www.pjlivesey-group.co.uk/portfolio/>



*Churches Together writes:*  
COP26 may be over, but it will continue to be vital for churches to build on the progress made over the Climate Sunday campaign. Join us on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 7.00pm – 8.30pm** for the '**Climate Sunday: what's next after COP26?**' webinar to discuss where you can go next in the pursuit of creation care and climate justice. Churches are being called on to continue to

deepen their understanding of creation care and climate justice, to continue action in their buildings and community for the environment, and to raise their voices to put pressure on the UK government to scale up and follow through on climate commitments made in Glasgow.

• [FIND OUT MORE](#)

[REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE](#)

*The poem below inspired members of Meeting for Sufferings in December (see p 4)*

## THE WORLD HAS NEED OF YOU

'everything here seems to need us' Rainer Maria Rilke

I can hardly imagine it  
As I walk to the lighthouse, feeling the ancient  
Prayer of my arms swinging  
In counterpoint to my feet  
Here I am, suspended  
Between the sidewalk and twilight  
The sky dimming so fast it seems alive.  
What if you felt the invisible  
Tug between you and everything?  
A boy on a bicycle rides by,  
his white shirt open, flaring  
behind him like wings.  
It's a hard time to be human. We know too much  
and too little. Does the breeze need us?  
The cliffs? The gulls?  
If you've managed to do one good thing,  
the ocean doesn't care.  
But when Newton's apple fell toward the earth,  
The earth, ever so slightly, fell  
Toward the apple as well.

Ellen Bass

## York Area Quaker Meeting (YAQM)

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 7.00 pm – 9.15 pm. Zoom Link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85637508066?pwd=cUtYWnVMYi9sSzJaeFJ3TFdTOldoUT09>

- 1 & 2 Appointments & Membership *Appointments: paper A follows;*
- 3 NFPB *with guest speaker*
- Philip Austin, Director, Northern Friends Peace Board *Papers B & C attached separately*
- 4 MFS December *paper D refers. Barbara Penny to introduce*
- 5 Funding a Yorkshire Quaker Youth Worker *Paper E refers. John Guest will introduce it*
- 6 Matters of record

### Paper D: Meeting for Sufferings Report – December – Barbara Penny

An enjoyable and useful experience, helped by an optional pre MfS event on Tuesday evening, giving the opportunity for discussion of many of the issues in Breakout Rooms.

As usual, the agenda and papers, then minutes are available for all on [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk) by following the links to Meeting for Sufferings. And as John Bourton and I have already announced, we would welcome an email participation group of interested Friends.

A poem by Ellen Bass\* was an inspiring/inspired start during Opening Worship.

**BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE (BDRC)** The Report from Convenors Rosie Carnall and Catherine Brewer was a joy to listen to. They have been meeting mainly on Zoom for obvious reasons. It was pointed out it would be a long job as the last time this mammoth task was undertaken it took 8-10 years and so far they have only looked at a quarter of it. So, there will be plenty of time for in-person discernment. Some draft content should be available for consultation in the early months of 2022 in a series of Workshops, including one for MfS. One of the challenges they shared was the question of God language and what do we need to use to describe Quaker spiritual experience. The role of BDRC is to describe our Quaker faith and practice, not to change it, and to reflect its diversity and its unity.

**REPORT FROM COP26** There was a moving report from Paul Parker and Oliver Robertson. They felt the Country Negotiators didn't have a lot of time for stepping outside and taking a measured look. There was good networking between Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) – who had been busily preparing for this for the previous eight years – Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) and Glasgow Friends. If we look at what's politically possible, there seemed to be quite a lot of movement on Loss and Damage and there seems to be real possibility to push forward to the next Summit in Egypt.

The disappointing part comes in answering "Are we doing enough?" NO.

**THE TRUSTEES' REPORT** Is always interesting. They last met in November. Finances for 2021 are holding up but still not enough. The Quiet Company have only just got going again, which has a serious effect on BYM income. But Trustees still expect to achieve balance in 2023. Many Friends and Area Meetings have responded to requests for increased contributions, but we were asked (though recognising the challenges being faced as a result of the pandemic) to ENCOURAGE FRIENDS INDIVIDUALLY AND AS AMs to give even more to BYM to enable important central work to go on. The Quiet Company has been recruiting and training former prisoners, for which it is getting some funding from The Home Office.

Recruitment of Local Development Workers is continuing and will be completed in 2023.

The Simple Structures Project is at a stage which is quite complicated! It is hoped that recommendations will be brought forward in the first half of next year.

We closed with Worship at 4pm, many of us feeling fulfilled, but also relieved that we didn't have long journeys to negotiate from our laptops/l-pads to our sofas.

Barbara Penny YAQM's rep *\* Ellen's poem can be found on page ??? of YAQ*

## Paper E: Proposal for funding a Yorkshire Quaker Youth Worker (YDW)

In November Keith Barnes (York AQM Treasurer) and John Guest (Clerk of Trustees) attended zoom calls where the Recording Clerk and the BYM fundraiser (Beth Follini) sought to persuade us and other Yorkshire AMs to join together to provide the majority of funding for a three year contract for a Yorkshire Quaker Youth Worker.

### Background.

BYM recently funded a youth worker in Yorkshire, supported jointly by Sheffield and Quakers in Yorkshire. Lee Lester was appointed and is generally regarded as having done wonderful work in Sheffield. A thriving teenage community, included young people from Quaker families but also others came into being. Lee Lester has moved on to another role and adverts have been placed for a new appointee. Funding exists for 9 months, but Paul Parker believes that a much better appointment could be made if funding was secured for 3 years. Hence his invitation to the Yorkshire AMs to join together to fund almost all of the cost.

### Rationale, Job description and Budget.

The rationale for this is that, as a church, we spend a tiny proportion of our income on supporting youth work, that our work with young people is struggling and that those young people who grow up as Friends and remain within the society are an important resource. The job description reads thus:

- developing opportunities for young people to have their own relationship with Quakerism.
- maintaining the connection and involvement of young people to Quakers,
- promoting and developing intergenerational connections,
- using their professionalism to enable better inclusion of young people with additional needs,
- increasing opportunities for more people (young or other) to have a wider participation in the Quaker world, and
- encouraging local meetings to develop new ways, formats and times, of worshipping which will be more inclusive and appealing to young people.
- supporting young people to maintain their well-being and mental health

The budget is summarised here

<b>Budget for Yorkshire YDW</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Salary & on-costs (N.I, Pension, staff training)	£38,351	£39,687	£40,557
Project Support Costs (events, training, travel, etc)	£5,500	£5,500	£5,500
Admin & management core costs	£6,250	£6,250	£6,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>£50,101</b>	<b>£51,437</b>	<b>£52,307</b>
BYM contribution (core costs)	£6,250	£6,250	£6,250
<b>Funding Needed</b>	<b>£43,851</b>	<b>£45,187</b>	<b>£46,057</b>

Barbara Windle asked that this matter be considered, in the first instance by Trustees, before coming to Area Meeting. She wrote: “My immediate thought is that BYM’s proposal should go first to trustees, with them subsequently bringing a summary and recommendation to AM. My feeling is that we’d get a better discussion/sense of the meeting at AM if it comes to AM after trustees have had chance to consider it.”

Email consultation produced a positive reaction from some trustees and no negative comment. Separate contacts with several Friends involved in work with our young people, got a very

patchy response, some expressing enthusiasm and some gentle ((Quakerly) scepticism about what the new appointee would do for our Meetings.

In December I went to the Leeds Hub, primarily to talk to the Local Development Worker, Bridget Holtom, but was also able to talk to Jude Acton, who manages the youth worker posts. I asked a lot about what the worker would actually do. The answer seems to be helping Yorkshire Friends to run pan-Meeting events. This is necessary to get a critical mass of Quaker young people to spend time together as most single Meetings do not have a large enough young people's group. Help would include Junior Holidays, Holiday School and continuing what Lee Lester did at Sheffield. Jude also talked about Area Meeting at Leeds where the young people took charge for part.

#### Recommendation

Whilst Trustees have been unable to meet in person, I think we can recommend to York AM, that we offer to part-fund this experimental post for three years. The original proposal suggested each of Yorkshire's 7 AMs contributing 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the total. However, a glance at the relative size and financial position of the AMs would suggest that we fund relative to our membership. If this formula is applied York AQM should contribute around 31% of the total, which would be approximately £13,000/year. This equates to £32/member/ year. The first 9 months are already funded. Other AMs are considering this proposal and Leeds AM is likely to contribute on a pro rata basis. Some funding may be forthcoming from individuals and Meetings with free reserves and a commitment to children and young people's work.

If AM agrees to this funding, Trustees will work out the detail of where the money will be found, but inevitably, this will lead to an increase in the AM quota at some point.

**John Guest**, clerk of trustees

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022



*Living Adventurously among Friends: while visiting family in the vicinity, Andrew (Bone) Jones has been worshipping with Friends in their Chickee at Fort Myers, Florida*