

YORK AREA QUAKEVINE

Quaker News, Views, Insights and Reports

Issue 6

August/September 2019



Holiday snap or regular view from meeting for worship? See page 2

Extinction Rebellion – part 2

Friends will remember Camilla Wimberley's article in the April/May issue of YAQ about the inspiration she found in being part of Extinction Rebellion [XR]. Since then her name, alongside a good number of other Friends, has been recorded in the Meeting for Sufferings Court and Prison Register.

Camilla has been charged following her arrest at the Extinction Rebellion protests in April. She was charged with the public order offence, but the other (obstructing the highway) has been dropped. She has already appeared in court and has pleaded not guilty. The trial date has been set for November 20th. Things may change between now and then. For instance, she could change her plea, or the charge could be dropped (especially if any earlier XR trials on similar charges result in acquittals).

XR centrally are offering to reimburse travel expenses for people attending their court dates. There are a few other people from York facing similar charges (Camilla is the only Quaker among them), and XR York are organising a crowdfunder. They hope the proceeds will cover the court fees and legal costs. We'll let Friends know the details of the crowd-funder once it's set up in case anyone's interested in contributing.

Huw Still [Friargate]

Starting a Quaker Meeting from scratch

Earlier this year a visitor to Friargate worship (Kirsten) responded to the general welcome that follows meeting by saying that she was part of a tiny group worshipping in Florence. As I had been one of twelve people comprising 'Italy Yearly Meeting' last September, I was keen to hear more and we spoke. Before we parted, I asked her to write me something for Quakevine about her experience and we have kept in touch about it.

It was quite a surprise to open my latest copy of 'The Friend' and see the article I had been editing earlier that week! I decided to print it here anyway, knowing that many people do not see 'The Friend' and still wanting to fulfil my aim in commissioning the article – my hope that QV can be a means of enabling us all to feel part of the worldwide Quaker family.

I wouldn't say I am a 'dedicated Quaker', so the idea that I'd play a part in setting up a Meeting might seem absurd. Though my attendance was sporadic, everywhere I have lived in the UK I have sought out the local Meeting - and there was *always* a Meeting. I would go when I felt the need for quiet thinking, time to recharge, and a chance to feel a part of something bigger. Quakerism for me has always been on this drop-in basis, until that is, I moved to Florence, Italy.

My Quaker credentials were strong. I was raised a Quaker in Canterbury, attended Summer Schools & Senior Conferences in my teens, QUNO summer school later, then gained a graduate internship at QCEA. Quakerism was always there, shaping me in a quiet but profound way. In 2011, when I moved to Florence with my Italian husband & 4-year-old son, I was surprised & disappointed to discover no Meeting. Facebook drew a blank. FWCC told me of a Meeting in Bologna, but not in Florence.

After four years here, I found a growing need for silence. With two young kids, and setting up my own business, my days rarely allowed me-time and certainly little peace. I wondered about trying to set up a Meeting but thought it too difficult on my own so tried yoga instead. Then, within the space of one week in January 2019, two things happened. I met an American Quaker, who knew of another; and FWCC put



me in touch with Danielle [Leite] Richardson, a former attender of York Meeting. Suddenly it felt right to try something.

We agreed to Meet at Danielle's. I was quite nervous beforehand, checking we had Advices and Queries, flowers, coffee for afterwards. Meeting is utterly different in someone's home & in many respects it's more intense. Initially I found it slightly awkward, but I have become used to it and some Meetings have had very moving moments. Most

of all I have a renewed sense of calm – of reconnecting with Quakerism and connecting with Friends. I didn't know any of the other members well, but they now feel like extended family. I had forgotten the power of silence, and the familiarity of Quakerism.

Kirsten Hills [Florence Worship Group]

Quaker Focusing group – what do we do?

We go back to the writing of early Friends and bring to them some of the findings of Eugene Gendlin and Ann Weiser Cornell. Gendlin developed Focusing in the 1960s. His driving motivation was always to find a way in which to help people find and use their unique inward resources, and their ability to acknowledge their own personal truths. To this end he attended Pendle Hill Quaker Study and Retreat Centre, PA, and he became inspired by his experience of Quaker Worship to develop what later became known as ‘Focusing’. Since he retired his work has been developed in even more compassionate, gentle and accessible ways by Cornell. Focusing has always been developed in order to be accessible to friends working together as peers as well in in therapeutic relationships. In our group we are exploring what Focusing would be like if it were developed as a specifically Quaker practice.

We are a very supportive group. It is essential that all our members understand the need for mutual respect, confidentiality and gentleness. We do not give each other advice but seek to support each other to find and follow our own inward guide, listen to it, and work at our own pace.

In our next three sessions we will also be looking at some of the writings of Rex Ambler, particularly from his two recent publications: *The Quaker Way: a rediscovery*, and *The Light Within: Then and Now*. Rex has closely studied the writings of early Quakers. His interpretation of what early Friends wrote about their transformational experiences is an additional resource for our learning.

The Quaker Focusing Group meets at Friargate Meeting House. It is open to members of York Area Meeting. Places are limited to nine. Please contact Madeleine Kay to find out more information (contact details in the Green Book).

The next three sessions will be held at 1.30 – 3.30 on the following Tuesdays: 10th, 17th, and 24th September.

Please arrive early so we can start promptly at 1.30.

There is no charge. Any donations to the Quaker Meeting House funds are at your discretion.

Madeleine Kay [Friargate]

A Request

I am a member of North Somerset Area Meeting and a student on the MA (Quakerism in the Modern World) at Lancaster University. I am preparing to write my dissertation, which is on the topic of education. I am interested in talking to/ receiving questionnaire answers from parents and carers who have made decisions about **educational provision for children born since 1990**.

I will provide more information to anyone who contacts me but, in brief, I would like volunteers to complete a short questionnaire (online or by email). The questionnaire can be completed anonymously and any question may be left blank. It is available at <https://tinyurl.com/MAQ-respond>.

Shena M Deuchars s.deuchars@lancaster.ac.uk

Programme: MA Quakerism in the Modern World (DL, 2017-19)

Quakers in Yorkshire

Bootham School, Saturday 19th October 2019

Are you curious about what happens to the documents/minutes from our York meetings? Would you like to find out about one of your Quaker ancestors? The answer to the first? Many end up in the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds. The Quaker Family History Society (QFHS) could help you with the second.

There will be speakers on both these topics on the afternoon of Saturday 19th October when Quakers in Yorkshire (QiY) gather at Bootham School. In the morning we shall hear about the activities of students from Bootham and The Mount Schools.

Refreshments are available from 10 a.m., meeting for worship will be at 10.30 a.m. The day ends by 4.00 p.m. Everyone connected with a Quaker meeting will be most welcome. Find out more from the newsletter/programme which will be with local clerks 2-3 weeks beforehand. Do please contact me if you would like to know more.

Chris Love, Co-Clerk, 01904 758 344

chris234love@btinternet.com

Quaker Week at Harrogate Meeting House

As part of Quaker Week there will be a performance of *The Bundle* at Harrogate Meeting House on Sunday 6th October. Please join us at any point in the day.

10.30 Meeting for Worship as usual

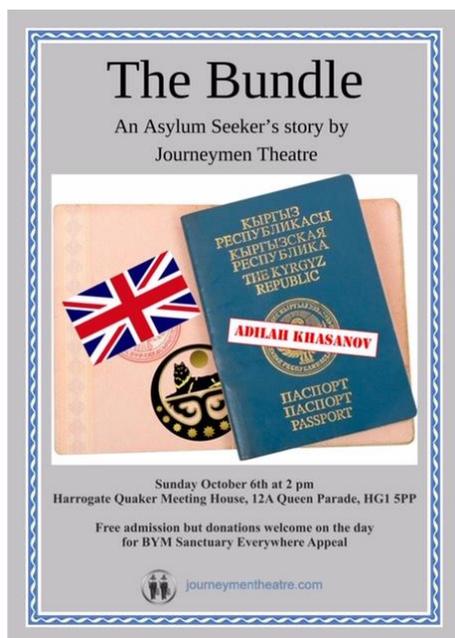
12.15 Shared lunch with Soup.

2pm - 3.15 Journeyman Theatre

Tea and cake.

The Bundle Commissioned by QARN (Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network)

Based on a true story, *The Bundle* first follows Adilah's domestic persecution & denial of human rights in Chechnya. Removed from her homeland by her Chechen father, subjected to a forced marriage then a life of servitude, she risks plotting escape to the UK with her three young children. Here she finds a home but also meets the 'hostile environment' for asylum seekers and refugees. The play moves from traditional folk story to biting satire as it charts Adilah's bid for freedom, safety and hope.



Age range: 16 + Duration: 65 minutes **Donations** to BYM Sanctuary Everywhere.

York Area Quaker Meeting (YAQM)

Saturday 14 September

at 1.30 pm

in Thirsk Meeting House

hot drinks are served beforehand

AGENDA includes:

- **Membership matters**
- **Appointments**
- **News of Friends' concerns**
- **Gender & Transgender**

The last of these is a key theme for Britain Yearly Meeting at present and we are glad that Deb Evans of Acomb Meeting will introduce it. She will be supported by our Meeting for Sufferings' representatives, Sarah Allen and James McCarthy. We shall also keep up to date with anything our Sustainability Group wishes to bring.

Meeting for Sufferings

Are you interested in finding out about what's coming up at the 4th-6th October Meeting for Sufferings?

If so, then please join a group at Friargate at 7pm on Tuesday the 1st October, by which date the agenda and papers will be available. This will help your representative by giving her an idea of what Friends think about some of the upcoming items.

Sarah Allen [Friargate]

Area Meeting Sustainability - continued

Martina writes: Minute 7 from Area Meeting in July 2019 asked "James McCarthy and Martina Weitsch to offer ideas for a simple scheme to engage as many individuals as possible in a stories project. James and Martina will now approach Clerks of Local Meetings to ask for the names of one or two Friends in each Local Meeting to join a small group to take this forward."

- James and Martina are particularly looking for Friends who are keen to further this project and who have good knowledge of action that has been taken by Members and Attenders in their Meetings.
- Sometimes the stories of very small steps are the most important to share because they can be replicated and inspire further steps.
- James and Martina are also keen to involve younger Friends and Attenders in this project.

They will be drawing up a brief framework to help collect the information.

An initial meeting of this small group is being arranged for mid-September (depending on availability of those volunteering). Meanwhile, anyone with a story to tell should contact us (james.mccarthy90@ntlworld.com) or (mweitsch@icloud.com) to let us know. Papers can be found at: <http://yorkquakers.org.uk/Resources/Sustainability.pdf>

Quaker Faith & Practice: Unity of Creation

The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age. [QFP 25:01]

John Woolman, 1772

Notices about Friends

Muriel Acomb A memorial meeting will take place at Acomb Meeting House on Sunday 15 September at 3 pm.

David Rubinstein A memorial meeting will take place at Friargate Meeting House on Saturday 21st September at 2.30 pm.

Mavis Simpson Mavis Simpson, a member at Thirsk before moving to be nearer her son, has recently died. Mavis played a key part in supporting the refurbishment of Thirsk Meeting House in 2005.

Temporary Parking at New Earswick

There may well be Friends from other Local Meetings needing to visit New Earswick Meeting House in the next two months. My thanks to New Earswick Newsletter for the following information about temporary parking arrangements.

New Earswick: Reconstruction of the Folk Hall Car Park

A reminder that the car park is closed until Monday 4th November. During this time the only vehicular access is via the road from White Rose Avenue past the doctors' surgery.

There is no parking on the Folk Hall car park during the work. The area immediately in front of the Meeting House is a drop-off point and also parking for blue badge holders for the surgery and the Meeting House on weekdays. Visitors to the Meeting House can park there at the weekends.

A Few Dates for your diary

Sat 19 Oct Quakers in Yorkshire meet at Bootham School – see page 3.

Sun 27 Oct is the deadline for the last QV this year. If you want to draw attention to anything happening in December, October is your opportunity.

Sat 9 Nov the final Area Meeting in 2019. At Friargate, 11.00am – 2.30pm

2020 Area Meeting dates and venues (provisional)

Saturday January 11th	Harrogate	1.30 pm
Saturday March 14th	New Earswick	1.30 pm
Saturday May 9th	Friargate	1.30 pm
Wednesday July 8th (evening)	Acomb	7 pm
Saturday September 12th	Thirsk	1.30 pm
Saturday November 14th	Friargate	11 – 2.30 pm

Changes continue in the Quaker Centre at Friargate

Next time you're in Friargate you may notice further developments in the foyer. There's a 'cleaner look' to the 'domestic' side of things – a clear progression from left to right for the self-service hot drinks system, more serviceable cupboard units and a far less cluttered wall. It's all part of making the space more welcoming, clearer for visitors to negotiate and simpler for Friends, staff and volunteers to look after.



Photo: Tracey Sharp

William Penn reaches Russia – via Philadelphia

Philadelphia was the source of my information about this new publication. If you haven't yet come across this book [in English!] let me recommend it as a terrific read, made all the more attractive by its pithy style and gentle wisdom.

Crossing the world...”

Friends House Moscow is happy to announce its modern Russian translation of William Penn's "The Fruits of Solitude." The beloved collection of aphoristic short texts — gentle meditations and wise rules for living — had been translated into Russian before, but that was in 1790. Penn's sometimes poetic musings are known to Russian readers (perhaps also to English-speaking ones) because J.K. Rowling quoted him in the superscription to "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Copies of our translation are available in e-book and in print. Print copies can be shipped anywhere in the world for a small additional charge. To obtain your copy, and to support Friends House Moscow's first crowd-funding effort, go to <https://planeta.ru/campaigns/fruits-of-solitude...>

QUAKER MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Sundays

- ❖ all our meeting houses 10.30 – 11.30
- ❖ Friargate 2nd & 4th Sundays 9.15 – 10.00, after 8.30 shared breakfast
- ❖ Lamel Beeches 10.30 – 11.15
- ❖ The Oaks **11.15 – 11.45**
- ❖ Knaresborough, Calcutt Village Hall, 2nd Sunday, 10.30 – 11.30
- ❖ Eastern Villages Group 3rd Sunday, 8 pm

Midweek

- ❖ Hartrigg Oaks 11.45 Tuesdays
- ❖ University Quiet Place 2.00 pm Wednesdays in term time
- ❖ Friargate 1.15 – 1.45 (bring lunch & gather at 12.45) Wednesdays
- ❖ Knaresborough, Gracious Street 10.45 1st Thursdays
- ❖ Harrogate 12.30 – 1 pm 3rd Thursdays

Local Meetings contact details www.yorkquakers.org.uk

Acomb	The Green, Acomb	01904 796113
Friargate	Friargate, York	01904 624065
Harrogate	12a Queen Parade, Harrogate	01423 563391
New Earswick	Top Folk Hall car park	01904 763248
Thirsk	Kirkgate, Thirsk	01845 523491



Leaf shape seen in a recent Amsterdam art exhibition of early to mid-twentieth century art and design

Photo: Barbara Windle

York Area Quakevine (YAQ)

YAQ appears in January, March, May, July, September, November

Contributions to Barbara Windle (barbwindle@outlook.com 01904 481977)

and all dates information to Julia Terry (jhterry10@gmail.com 01904 656634)

The editor may select & edit all contributions.

Deadline for final issue of 2019: Sunday 27th October