



**Quakers in Yorkshire
Newsletter**
News, views and events
from meetings in Yorkshire

PROGRAMME

for

**18 JULY MEETING OF QUAKERS IN
YORKSHIRE**

To be held online via Zoom

Reports from QiY Trustees and Glenthorne

Reflections on

Deep Adaptation

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter July 2020

Welcome to the July edition of the Newsletter. Our meeting planned for Pickering on 18 July will now be held via the conferencing website Zoom. It will also be possible for you to follow the meeting by telephone. Please find details below.

July Newsletter available online PLUS

Paper copies will be available for those Friends who have difficulty accessing the internet. Please let arthurpritchard@gmail.com have the name and address of anyone you know who would enjoy receiving a hard copy. The newsletter will be printed in A5 format, but an A4 copy can be produced if specially requested.

Reminder

All Yorkshire meetings are invited to send news for inclusion in the QiY newsletter, published four times a year.

Normally, hard copies of the newsletter, including the programmes for the quarterly gatherings, are sent to all local meetings. The newsletter is sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. Please could you ensure that Friends without Internet access receive copies? If you have difficulty making hard copies, please inform the co-clerks.

Deadline for contributions to October issue: 14 September 2020

Quakers in Yorkshire Website quakersinyorkshire.org.uk Please let the co-clerks know if you see any errors relating to your meeting or if there are additional items you would like to include here.

Have your meeting's contact details changed? We always need up-to-date email and telephone details of local and area meeting clerks. Under Data Protection regulations QiY cannot receive personal details from other parts of the Religious Society of Friends. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know.

We are requesting local meeting clerks to begin to revise their lists of members and attenders in preparation for the publication of the 2021 Book of Members. (See David Olver's piece below.) Please let the clerks know of changes so that we can keep our lists up to date!

Next meeting of QiY

The October meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire is scheduled to be held at The Mount School York, but in these days of uncertainty a second online

gathering remains a possibility. At this event we will hear reports from the York Quaker Schools, and an item on Quaker chaplaincy is planned.

Book of Members and Attenders

Quakers in Yorkshire publishes the Book of Members and Attenders every three years. The current, green, Book is dated 2018 so the next one is due out in early 2021. The QiY Trustees have asked me to again compile the Book and this will be done in the autumn with the collection of information from local meetings. The Book is a popular printed publication which provides information and links for all the meetings. The format will be similar to previous editions as will the process of collecting the data. The Book contains names, addresses phone and emails for members and attenders who wish to be included. At all stages data protection regulations are followed and for this reason there is no online version.

David Olver (email: david@olver.plus.com)

GRASP

The consultation on the outline proposals of the Group to Reinvigorate and Simplify Processes and Practices (GRASP) has been interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. Some meetings had already considered the issues and sent in helpful minutes. Other meetings were planning to do so when lock-down closed meeting houses and physical meetings. When the future becomes clearer, meetings should resume consideration of the issues. The delay will lengthen the overall process but hopefully lead to a clearer outcome. The pandemic and use of virtual meetings has demonstrated that the centre of our Quaker world is the local meeting for worship and the community surrounding it. The need to simplify our organisation has never been greater so that we can reinvigorate Quakerism.

David Olver

Local Development Worker and Hub for Yorkshire

Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke have jointly announced that Yorkshire is to have a Local Development Worker and Leeds is expected to be the base for a pilot Hub for staff.

Local Development Workers already work with Quaker communities across four different parts of Britain. They respond to the needs and aspirations of Quaker meetings and support them to thrive. They offer support to meetings by: listening, encouraging and reassuring; connecting Friends with people and resources; signposting to other

yearly meeting and Woodbrooke services; facilitating sessions on a variety of themes; helping to review existing activities or processes; assisting with major projects.

The aim now is it to have a Local Development Worker within reach of every Quaker community in Britain. The next group to be appointed will include Yorkshire as well as Scotland, North-East England, and the parts of Cumbria covered by Cumberland Area Meeting and East Anglia. It is hoped to start the roll-out next year.

The trustee of Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke have agreed to create a pilot hub as a base for staff outside London and Birmingham, thereby moving central work closer to Friends. The aim is complementing the work at Friends House and Woodbrooke so as to build better connections between Quaker communities. The hope is to become more relevant to Quakers in all parts of Britain, build resilience and reduce the carbon footprint. The expected location for the pilot hub is the office suite attached to Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds.

A Mandala by Charlotte Allen

In connection with the Woodbrooke course, *Equipping for Ministry*, Charlotte, a member of Rawdon meeting has produced a series of mandalas with accompanying texts about how she came to create each one. I have found them profoundly moving as an example of what can emerge from a spiritually-centred creative process, and I have persuaded Charlotte to let them be made available as spiritual nourishment for all of us. Bob Davidson, who looks after Rawdon's website and Facebook page, has put a link to the whole collection (16 so far and growing) on the Rawdon website where anyone can access them: <http://www.leedsquakers.org.uk/meetings/rawdon>

***Impoverishment and Asylum: Social Policy as Slow Violence* by Lucy Mayblin.**

The latest Doncaster Conversation Club newsletter (are you on their mailing list?) contains a review of this new book which might be particularly relevant just now. The newsletter, which includes an update on the DCC's current situation, is sent out by Paul Fitzpatrick of Balby (Doncaster) QM.

Publications on Quaker and local history

Roots of Radicalism in the Yorkshire Dales, Airton Friends Meeting and its Antecedents by L. Phillipson £8.50

Economic and social factors made the North Yorkshire Pennines a notable centre of independent, radical religion in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Expression of these beliefs in the lives of particular individuals, and the history of a rural Quaker meeting from the mid-17th to the 21st century are examined. Chapter titles include: Antecedents, Airton Friends in the Seventeenth Century, The Lamberts of Calton Hall, William and Alice Ellis, and Into the 21st Century. The 85-page, A4 monograph includes an extensive bibliography.

Hidden in Plain Sight, History and Architecture of the Airton Meeting House

by L Phillipson & A Armstrong

£ 9.50

This 62-page, well-illustrated book focuses on the unique situation, architecture, and features of the purpose-built Airton Meeting House, constructed early in the 17th century on the foundations of an older, precursor barn. Prior to the mid-1650s when it became a Quaker Meeting House, it was a semi-clandestine meeting place for an unknown group, probably of religious dissenters, perhaps of Seekers. It is among the earliest Quaker Meeting Houses and the oldest places of Dissenters' worship in Britain.



Roots of Radicalism in the Yorkshire Dales

£8.50

Hidden in Plain Sight

£9.50

plus contribution on all postal orders

£2.50

may be purchased at Airton Meeting House or by post

Please make cheques payable to **Airton Friends Meeting** and send payment with order to

Airton Meeting House (books), Calton Lane, Airton BD23 4AE

PAFRAS during Covid-19 crisis

(This is an update from PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.) Friends at our January meeting heard a report from Karen Pearce about this work.

This has been a difficult time for PAFRAS and our clients. Lockdown and social distancing rules have resulted in some major changes to how we do things.

Our weekly drop-in service now takes place in the car park at St. Aidan's Church where we provide clients with food parcels and immediate advice. We are also delivering emergency food and toiletry parcels to clients across Leeds who cannot get to the drop-in. On average we're providing approximately 130 food parcels a week.



Providing food parcels is a vital part of the work we do. Our clients do not have recourse to public funds and those on asylum support are only receive £37.75 or £35.39 per week. Since asylum support is separated from mainstream social support, asylum seekers cannot access Trussell Trust food banks. This makes our work and your support vital.

We have adapted our essential casework, advocacy and mental health support using a combination of social distancing, PPE and surprisingly successful three-way calls. Caseworkers have also succeeded in getting a number of homeless clients housed either by Local Authority or the Home Office. Our Young Migrants Matter project has continued to take a lead on a multi-agency partnership with other youth workers

in the city. It also hosted a joint virtual Eid Party.

Through access to various Covid-related funds, we have provided radios and phone top-up to asylum seekers in Leeds. Top-up is essential to reconnect with friends and family, and keep up to date with the latest news and guidelines. It's also great source of entertainment in these lonely and isolating times. Not a luxury, but a necessity that most of us take for granted.

Glenthorne and COVID-19

Glenthorne had a successful year in 2019 and entered 2020 with substantial forward bookings and high optimism. Then came COVID-19! On 23 March we closed down, taking advantage of the government's Job Retention Scheme and placing all staff except the Manager, Laura Tortosa, on furlough. Until August the government will pay 80% of furloughed staff salaries and the Glenthorne trustees have agreed to top up the remaining 20% from reserves. We also benefited from a government small business grant of £25,000. Prospects for re-opening are uncertain at present (11 June) and although there may be a national decision on the hospitality industry in mid-July much will also depend on social distancing rules. For those who know Glenthorne, a two-metre rule would mean in effect only two people at each dining room table which would normally seat six!

The trustees have been meeting by Zoom and the co-clerks (Hugh Roberts and Roy Love) and treasurer (James Eddington) are in regular contact with Laura Tortosa. Laura has been doing an excellent job networking with the other Quaker residential centres, with Cumbria Tourism, with professional hotel and catering bodies, and in being fully prepared with all the safety measures that will be required when we re-open, including staff training, guest hygiene re-assurance and so on.

Our best hope is that we shall be able to open in some way by middle or end of July and that a number of the short courses for the second half of the year will be on offer. However, even if official permission has emerged by then a calculation on potential income from opening with reduced capacity versus remaining on the government support scheme will have to be done. Meanwhile, our Friend in Residence, Terry Winterton, continues to provide a daily Zoom meeting for worship from 09.15 to 09.35 and is sending out regular newsletters (contact for each is

terryglenthorne@gmail.com). Future booking queries to info@glenthorne.org 015394 35389.

At the moment, however, everyone at Glenthorne is optimistically looking forward to being in action again soon and tempting Yorkshire Friends to cross the border to the Quaker haven of Glenthorne in Grasmere, Cumbria.

Roy Love (Co-clerk of Trustees, Glenthorne Quaker Centre, Cumbria

LATE , GREAT NEWS!

Glenthorne trustees are pleased to announce that the centre will be re-opening from 1st August and is taking bookings now. We look forward to seeing our many Yorkshire Friends again.

Connection - Junior Holiday June 2020

The Junior Holiday at Nell Bank in early June had to be cancelled because of Coronavirus. We were all disappointed. Then Lee Lester, our Children and Young People's worker, suggested we held it on zoom - so we did!

Twelve children between the ages of 7-12, three teenage volunteers, three volunteers and three Quaker workers joined the zoom at some point over the weekend. Our theme was connection, and despite being only together in the virtual world, we felt linked from the moment it started.

Lee taught us lots of innovative and creative ways to use zoom - letting the children draw and write on the shared screen board, giving us feedback questions we could vote for, then showing us the results on shared screen, using 'chat' for us all to communicate with friends or send messages to the group. Our cook, Becca, provided recipes for dahl and brownies so lots of us made these so we could eat together on the Saturday night.

There were games which were brilliantly led by Rosa, Ash and Hayley, and they read bedtime stories, led the epilogue and provided heart to heart spaces for chats about difficulties under lockdown. There was a very interesting session on Philosophy for Children with Jude Acton (Quakers in Britain Children and Young People's Officer, who lives in Leeds) and Kirsty Philbrick, (the other Children and Young People's worker based in Bristol). The children showed themselves capable of explaining very complicated ideas around nature and peace and the relationship between. There were

times when the children could get together in virtual rooms to chat with friends.

The talent show on Saturday evening included playing of instruments, singing, poems, a sketch about a grandfather and granddaughter on zoom, funny art, all compered by Frank, aged 12.

We had a quiet and centred time at epilogue, with insightful comments from the children, some drawn or written on the shared white board. We even managed to write our cosy glow books by sending our comments in private to Lee who put them together and emailed them out.

So what made it so successful?

Everyone who took part listened, contributed, cared about everyone else, took it all seriously and playfully as required. Lee led it with their usual warmth, clear straight-forward talking, unpatronising and enabling approach. There was lots of variety and the children could choose which sessions to attend and were in charge of it as much as possible. Bronwen, convenor of the QiY JH Committee, organised the administration and consent forms with her usual efficiency.

What did the children say?

‘Being together and making friends’ topped the feedback poll.

‘I was worried it wouldn't be as the same as when we meet up in real life but it was amazing. I loved playing all the games and my best bit was the arts and crafts session when we were just listening to relaxing music and drawing pictures.’

‘I loved it. I got to see my Quaker friends and just have fun. I really enjoyed the bedtime stories and having a shared meal together. I made me feel really happy. Thank you.’

Here is the poem I wrote after our first epilogue, at which we had a deep connection:

You light your candles,
and I light mine.
Our faces, in squares
across the screen, are
pools of illumination.

The glow between us
is as bright as a moon-lake.

We are now looking forward to our autumn Junior Holiday at Barmoor, but we know, now, that if it still cannot happen, there is a wonderful alternative.

Clare Wigzell, Volunteer and member of Junior Holiday's Committee

Draft minute from Barnsley LM, 7 June 2020: George Floyd

We offer the following minute/message of support to CYAM, asking that we corporately consider forwarding this minute to Yearly Meeting. We request that our message of support be sent to the appropriate representatives amongst American Friends. We also suggest that local meetings consider ways in which they can, at a local level, begin discussions if they have not already done so about how best to support racial equality and justice.

'Dearest Friends, we have been disturbed and saddened by the recent events surrounding the death in police custody of George Floyd, and the subsequent violence that has arisen from this. On the other hand, there has been a passionate and widespread upsurge of positive protest in favour of meaningful social change. Most of us Quakers in Britain are geographically distant from this tragedy, but feel deeply concerned by it. Either humanity is genuinely a family, or we are not. If we are, then we must act constructively in response to injustice. As Lord Woolley said last year, "the standards we walk past are the standards we accept." Our constructive response in this case suggests itself in two parts. Firstly, we wish to communicate our support for you at this difficult time, and to show our solidarity. We understand that Quakers, locally and nationally, will be doing whatever they can to challenge racism and to mitigate the effects of the violent disorder which has occurred since George Floyd's death. We note with approval the clear and firm anti-racist stance adopted by American Friends Service Committee, as articulated by Shanene Herbert. We also applaud AFSC's role in distributing groceries and other material support to people, both affected by the Covid-19 outbreak and by some protests on local shops and services.

'Secondly, we are all too aware that the issue of systemic racism and racial inequality is also pressing in Britain. This tragic case also reminds us of the vital need to raise our voices in Britain to offer a clear alternative to intolerance and abuse, and to do what we can to support

racial, social, political and economic justice in our own country. We must offer a loving, creative and constructive response to actions which we find to be wrong.

‘As a Religious Society, we try to cherish all of our members and attenders, with all of the gifts of their different cultures, races and ethnicities. We are painfully aware that all too often we are an organisation that is majority white. Yet we seek to be inclusive and welcoming. We remember our Friend Dorothy Case (*Quaker Faith and Practice*, 23.34) who was involved in grassroots community building. We strive to live out the statement that ‘At the centre of Friends’ religious experience is the repeatedly and consistently expressed belief in the fundamental equality of all members of the human race. Our common humanity transcends our differences.’ (*QF&P*, 23.36)

The road to such justice is a long and rocky one, but we are dedicated to playing our small part in walking it. Please be assured that our thoughts and prayers are also with you at this difficult time.’

Deep Adaptation

The QiY July meeting will be addressed by Jilani Cordelia Prescott, one of Jem Bendell’s Deep Adaptation Advocates. A musician, a leader and teacher-trainer of the Dances of Universal Peace, and a Sufi guide, Jilani was born into a Quaker family but later found her spiritual needs were met by a path of singing and dancing. She will share some thoughts about the Deep Adaptation project.

Scientists have been warning for decades about the climate crisis, and yet governments, businesses and individuals have dragged their feet and failed to make the necessary changes. In 2018, social scientist Jem Bendell wrote his paper on Deep Adaptation, analysing the latest climate science in a wide-ranging literature review, which quickly went viral. (You can easily find it online by googling Deep Adaptation or at: <https://www.lifeworth.com/deepadaptation.pdf>.) In it he concludes that we are disturbingly further down the road of climate breakdown than we had previously feared. In other work Jem has described his 4 R’s framework for moving forward in these chaotic and troubling times: Resilience, Relinquishment, Restoration and Reconciliation. What must we maintain, let go of, bring back, or make our peace with, in order to make a future alongside the impacts of climate change and ecosystem breakdown that we can no longer avoid?

When we really confront environmental catastrophe and the probability of resulting near-term social collapse, or at least allow ourselves to think ‘what

if it were true?', we are likely to experience some strong emotions, such as grief, despair, anger, or fear. It seems to be very important that we give space to these feelings, and allow ourselves to feel them fully, in order to be able to move to a place where we can find 'meaning in new ways of being and acting', to quote Jem's Deep Adaptation paper. Jem made a powerful short film about his own journey with this, 'Grieve Play Love', which you can find online here: <https://jembendell.com/2019/03/24/grieve-play-love-short-film-on-climate-despair/>

'In abandoning hope that one way of life will continue, we open up a space for alternative hopes," wrote Tommy Lynch (2017). 'No matter how doomed the world, no matter how close death comes, we don't ever have to stop caring, because love does not depend on hope, and activism does not depend on hope.' (Rich Snowden, author and coach)

I'm sure you, like me, can recall times in personal experience when the challenges of the situation called forth a courage, a strength, a generosity and a love which I hardly dared to believe I possessed.

'Love in its fullness is an inexpressible power which speaks louder than words; there is nothing that we are too weak to do when it gushes forth from our heart.' (Hazrat Inayat Khan, Sufi Master) Mystics around the world have always known this. There are beautiful words in every tradition describing the divine qualities which we can discover within us, and which we can aspire towards when they at times feel hard to reach. In crisis, we have a genuine opportunity to feel the urgency of acting in the best way we can, as well as allowing the natural drive to do so to arise within us, triggered by our shared humanity. We have a choice to follow our caring instincts and act for the highest good of humanity, and of Gaia, the beautiful EarthUniverse of which we are a part and not separate.

What if the most powerful work we could do at this time was in coming together, building strong communities of kindness, forging deep connections with one another and falling deeply together into the well of love and shared compassion that we can find as our hearts break a little and fall open

MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE 18 JULY

Quakers in Yorkshire's July meeting will be held online using the Zoom video conferencing platform. Many Friends will be familiar with this by now, having used it to join online Meeting for Worship, a local Business Meeting or Area Meeting. You can use it from both Android and Apple smartphones and tablets, on Apple Mac, Windows and Linux computers. You can also

participate over the telephone if you do not have internet access.

To replace the paper sign in sheets usually used at a Quakers in Yorkshire meeting, we will use an online registration that will ask you for your name (full name please), email and local and area meeting. You can register at any time before the meeting – to register and receive the invitation information you will need to attend the meeting online, just visit the website,

<https://bit.ly/2YRNK9b>

If you do not have internet access to register and want to attend, please contact the co-clerks for details of how to join the meeting via a telephone call. The clerks look forward to seeing you or hearing from you then.

PROGRAMME for 18 July 2020

10.00 Access to the meeting will begin

10.30 **Meeting for Worship**

11.00 **Welcome by the clerks**

11.10 **Annual Report of QiY Trustees, and Glenthorne**

Barbara Windle will present the report and accounts for 2019. Copies of the accounts will be available on the Quakers in Yorkshire website.

11.30 **Deep Adaptation**

Jilani Cordelia Prescott will lead our gathering and invite us to reflect on the issues raised in her article above (p 11). She will invite us to discuss some questions in break-out rooms available via Zoom.

12.45 **Nominations**

12.55 **Closing minute and Notices**

Help Quaker Tapestry revive, survive and thrive



Lockdown and suspension of activities came only months after Quaker Tapestry and local Friends happily celebrated 25 years of successful Quaker Outreach based at Kendal Meeting House.



A new virtual tour is now available on the Quaker Tapestry website. [“Walking”](#) among the panels, provides the feeling of a real visit, until such are possible again. There are also some in-depth short films focusing on stories relating to the panels and even a virtual stitching demonstration. Visit www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk



QT has lost all earned income, except some mail-order, and even if able to reopen soon, recovery is likely to be slow. Income from activities normally contributes substantially to meeting Quaker Tapestry’s running costs, as we have no on-going grant funding. Summer visitor income helps carry us through our normal winter closure.

With such a loss of income, QT’s limited reserves will not carry us far. We have accessed available government support but need to find funds of about £5,000 each month for some time ahead. We are now appealing for help to revive, survive and thrive.

If you can help by a donation, contributions to Quaker Tapestry Ltd can be made by BACS transfer to 05 05 40 34336103, by cheque or via the website www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation.

You can also help by:

- planning a visit to Kendal when the Quaker Tapestry Museum reopens
- encouraging others to visit also; group visits will still be possible
- booking a stay at the flat
- buying goods by mail order including new sewing kits and the 2021 Calendar