

Quakevine

News, Views, Venues and Dates for Quakers around York
Issue 168
May 2018



Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House [Cumbria]

*Built in 1674 by local Friends, without architectural advice and with their own labour.
Still an active meeting, it welcomes visitors to '1652 country' every day.*

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Editorial

I first attended Yearly Meeting while still a very green attender. Being part of a meeting for worship of well over 1000 people was awe-inspiring. Yet perhaps taking in part in business meetings of that same huge size made an even greater impact. The Yearly Meeting clerk sits with two assistants, so that between them they can be seen and can include those seated in all parts of the Large Meeting House.

I remember how impressive it was [and still is] to witness Friends' willing and disciplined co-operation with the clerks' role. They waited to be called to speak, then - since only a comparative few can speak in so large a gathering - sat patiently again when not called till later, or not called at all. There was hushed stillness while a complex minute was being drafted after long consideration; next came the clerks' careful listening to thoughtful suggestions from the meeting for changes [some nuanced, others quite significant]; then the reading of a revised draft, ending with the words 'Is that minute acceptable to the meeting?' and a deep rumbling response from all around of 'I hope so.'

Being part of this process first brought home to me the meaning of those three simple words integral to the Quaker approach to decision-making. It was clear that 'I hope so' was not mere custom but a real shorthand for something much more: 'I hope so because - I can only speak my own truth - I can't claim to *know* whether or not this conclusion is acceptable to the meeting as a whole - but to me it seems to express the feeling of the meeting - the place to which we have been led by the Spirit - so, yes, I hope it will prove to be what we as a worshipping meeting feel called to decide.'

A lot of meaning for three words to hold, but they do. And which point the item usually concludes, with the whole meeting feeling a sense of united achievement.

Not invariably however! Just as relaxation begins to permeate, occasionally someone will rise, wait to be called, before voicing a continuing worry, perhaps a small but important detail, very occasionally with the main thrust of the minute. If the former, the clerk will find a way to adjust the wording. But if the substance of the minute is being queried, the clerk is more likely to ask the meeting a second time: Is the minute acceptable, Friends? And if s/he has gauged the mood rightly, the second 'I hope so' will ring out more clearly and strongly than before and that will be that.

If you cannot be there in person, do try looking at updates on the quaker.org.uk website and reflecting on the issues under consideration. We are all a part of it.
Barbara Windle

Quaker faith & practice: extract of the month

Yearly Meeting this year takes place at Friends House London 4 - 7 May 2018.

The service and counsel of John Morland (1837-1934):

His attendance at Yearly Meeting was increasingly prized, and his personality felt to be a permeating influence. To the last his judgment retained its acuteness. How frequently in a few trenchant sentences he has cut through a problem or re-stated confused issues...The precepts laid down by him whilst clerk of Yearly Meeting (1899-1903) were scrupulously observed by himself: 'Do not speak without a sense of the imperative ought; speak audibly, not loudly but clearly; speak shortly.'

extract from: *Testimony of Mid-Somerset Monthly Meeting, 1934 (Qf&p ch 6.10)*

Europe & Middle East Section

Young Friends Spring Gathering 2018

*Young Friends from our Section of World Quakerism send us their Epistle,
from their Gathering in Moyallon, Northern Ireland*

To all Friends everywhere,

This Easter, 37 adult Young Friends and 2 mini-EMEYF members, aged 2 and 5, have gathered in Moyallon Centre, Northern Ireland (25th March to 2nd April) to recharge our Quaker batteries.

Our concerns of a rise in nationalism and closing borders in Europe encouraged us to meet in a place where we could be physically close to other young Friends in order to explore the theme of Community. We heard from local Friend Simon Lamb about how Ireland Yearly Meeting, so theologically diverse, has never divided. This has been a powerful reminder of the possibility of continued unity amongst Friends in our Section and worldwide.

Our week has held spaces for friendship and deep worship; the silence holding together our busy, interesting, inspirational programme. We heard from David Morton of Quaker Service Northern Ireland about Friends' reputation for offering a neutral helping hand which allows us to carry out our service in the world. After installing a portacabin in Long Kesh (the Maze Prison) during the Troubles, Quakers offered visiting wives of people in prison a non-judgemental space. Catholics and Protestants were, and are, able to sit side by side whilst their children play together.

Quaker service continues today at Quaker cottage, high on the mountains of Belfast. Two roads lead up to this small white cottage from the north and west of Belfast, bringing mothers from both sides of the Peace Walls together. How do we create intentional community? Back in Moyallon, our own Quaker service involved laying new gravel in the grounds of the meeting house. Viele Hände, schnelles Ende! *

In Drogheda, Ireland Junior Yearly Meeting welcomed us with hearts and minds prepared for a warming lunch and windswept wander. We explored their theme of integrity, with one Young Friend making the connection between this and our theme of community: "To me, integrity is about recognising internal conflict with(in) me, and realising how good I am at deceiving myself. Part of this path towards integrity involves making myself vulnerable to others, which leads me to acknowledging my own failings. This vulnerability is simultaneously a key ingredient of building relationships and deeper community".

We are inspired by the trust that people have had in our integrity as Quakers in the past. We can't rest on this. It's our shared joy and responsibility to continue this as the next generation. Exploring the EMEYF archives, we are touched by how our own experiences are echoed in the letters we have read. They are so familiar; they could have been our own. After our week together we are recharged, ready, and freshly inspired.

We look forward to re-forming our intentional community again at our annual meeting and Spring Gathering in Russia 2019.

**many hands make light work*

York Area Meeting

Change of venue: Area Meeting 13 May is at Bootham

Many thanks to Bootham School for hosting us in the School Hall on this occasion. Timings are unchanged: 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm approximately. Parking in school car park.

Looking ahead to May's York Area Meeting

Besides our regular membership items, this is likely to include some consideration of matters from April's Meeting for Sufferings [see the outline report below].

There are three issues: How will we test Southern Marches' concern about the erosion of truth in British civil society? Is there action we could be taking on diversity and inclusion? Should we take steps to implement QFP's advice on a conciliation group?

We shall share something of what struck us at Yearly Meeting.

And we shall also return to matters relating to the end of WW1 commemoration.

Highlights of April's strong Meeting for Sufferings

April's Meeting for Sufferings got off to a challenging start: 'Some Friends deny their anger in a silent 'peace' where there is no understanding...' [Qf&p 20:6] The Appeals procedure report proposed changes to Qf&p, reminded us that we are not immune from conflict in meetings and drew attention to **QFP 4.23's strong advice that all AMs should appoint a standing conciliation group.**

A review of the Sustainability Group was met with frustration. The review group was laid down, but any decision about laying down the Sustainability Group itself and transferring its work to central committees will await further consideration. As with many testimonies in the past, this emerging work is not without its trials and tribulations.

A minute from Southern Marches AM alerted us to the continuing erosion of truth in our society. We are asked to test this concern in AM and report back in time for MFS in November.

Finally BYM Trustees called on us all to **take diversity and inclusion more seriously** as we look to the future of the Religious Society of Friends.

Sarah Allen (York AM's 'Alternate' representative to Meeting for Sufferings)

Sufferings Postscript

From Friends House: Extra news: we are recruiting for an Inclusion and Diversity Co-ordinator - somebody who can help Meeting for Sufferings respond to the call to examine our diversity and find ways to be more inclusive. This post - 3 days per week for 1 year - could be based at home or at Friends House. Information: quaker.org.uk

Data Protection regulations: the bitesize version

The second of David Roberts [clerk of Area Meeting trustees] series of 'bitesize regulations' - a user-friendly guide to keeping up with what is required of us by new data regulations

Please **destroy** any previous versions of the QiY Book of Members and Attenders. Please don't hold on to them because they contain more information about some Friends that has been put in the new edition. Those Friends who have reduced their printed information in the 2018 edition have chosen to do so and we should respect this. Indeed, under the new data regulations we are required to do so.

"Destroy" really does mean shredding or taking items to a commercial document destruction company, please do not put old data in the recycling or the refuse.

Area Meeting Miscellany

New Books of Members

There is a supply for sale at Friargate for Friends and Attenders from any of our Local Meetings. You could ring the meeting house to check when Cath Harvey will be on duty and she will be happy to exchange a book for £5.

If you prefer to pick one up at Area Meeting on May 13th at Bootham, just ring [01904 481977] or email Margaret Bryan [mgtbryan@gmail.com] to alert her beforehand.

Furniture – free - seeks a good home

Gillian Smith is seeking good homes for furniture that belonged to our Friargate Friend Joan Smith. In particular, as shown below: a] Recliner chair, bought 2013, in good condition and b] - 3 upholstered armchairs and 3-piece suite, which charities will not accept as they have no fire-retardant label. Free, to avoid them going to landfill. For viewing and collection, Gillian expects to be in York from 5th-12th May. Please text 07733 485 724 if you're interested.



Looking ahead: Two events in June:

Balfour

Chai For All are now developing their show about the many sides of the Balfour Declaration. They are co-creating a new one together with Palestinian musicians they are bringing to Friargate Meeting House on June 16th.

Quakers and Business

Theme: Quakers and Leadership

Friargate, Saturday 30 June 2018

Contact John Gray (Friargate) or Andrew Gray (Harrogate) for more information.

Bookings via the Quakers and Business website <https://qandb.org/what-we-do/events>

Friargate Miscellany

Some Friargate news

The Gardening Group has been re-formed and will be organised by Ruth and David Corry. The group plans to have a working party monthly, immediately after soup on Third Sunday. All offers of help welcome.

Already the borders along the passageway have been cleared and the paving stones and external stairs jet-washed. In April the group has moved the wooden garden seats and tables from their winter store and re-assembled them al fresco.

Most of the garden is maintained by U3A's gardening group. Our gardening group will look after the patio and border at the east end of the garden, the terrace and passageway. Volunteers are always welcome throughout the week to water plant pots and weed the passageway pavement and raised borders. Weeding may also be needed between the paviers on the lower level.

We aim to make it a low maintenance garden, but to brighten up the terrace with a few plant pots, trusting that volunteers will help to water them through the summer. Ideas and donations of suitable plants (or money) are welcome, but please speak to David and Ruth first.

Outdoor bistro chairs (used) have been given to us by El Piano as surplus to their requirements. A small number will be retained. If you would like one or two, please speak to staff. A contribution to the building fund would be welcome.

Volunteers at Friargate greet and guide visitors and undertake a variety of front-of-house and other jobs that help to free staff for work that only they can do. It's busy, rewarding and enjoyable. Could you join the group? To learn more, speak to Julian Pattison or Cath Harvey.

Our Book of Marriages

Did you know that Friargate has a Book of Marriages?

Elders were puzzled, as it appeared that neither Elders nor Overseers had initiated it or was maintaining it. A bit of researching has led us to the discovery that it was one of the quiet services that Joyce Pickard performed, faithfully and without fanfare.

The first wedding in the book is that of Alison Forrester and David Judson in October 1988. The same hand records the names, date, and (mostly) a photo of every couple who have made their declarations in Friargate Meeting House since then, until the last in that hand is the marriage of Ben Arnup and Stephen Robling in June 2016.

There have been three since then, with one anticipated this year. Carol Gilham and Brenda Tyler have taken on the delightful task of maintaining this record and look forward to each new entry taking its place in the book.

Do have a look: it lives on the foyer table to the left of the main meeting room door.

Our new residents in Waller House

We have now welcomed our new residents to Waller House.

The family [Abdul, his wife Zeinab and their children Sam and Khaled] is expecting a baby girl in August.

Formerly Syrian refugees, they have been granted settled status and are eligible for the full range of employment and other services.

They are being supported by specialist council staff.

York City of Sanctuary – how you might help

Tricia Miller: Donations coordinator, writes:

We are sending donations to our centres at Bradford, Middlesbrough, Wakefield and Hull and are also trying to ensure that our own Syrian families and others have all they need.

Refugees need clothing and household items not just on arrival but also if they are given “right to stay” and need to set up homes of their own. Many of you have been incredibly generous, but we still need donations on a regular basis. Please could you or friends, neighbours and associates contribute anything on the list below?

We have been offered storage space at the Mormon church, Acomb, but for now all donations can come to my home. Large items of furniture and household goods cannot be stored at either, but we can hire a van to take items to where they are most needed.

Clothing New underwear and socks for men.

Young men's clothing- jeans, sweat shirts, shirts, t- shirts

Clothing for all ages- women, men, children and babies.

Children's shoes, school uniforms, backpacks

Household equipment Cots and toddler beds + bedding Small chest of drawers

Bedding and pillows, thick blankets, duvets and covers Rugs

Hoovers Microwaves Ovens Large Frying pans and Saucepans Chopping boards

All kitchen tools - can openers, colanders, spatulas etc.

Oven dishes and casseroles Rice/ slow cookers

Ironing boards TVs Lawn mower

General Bicycles for all ages Walking sticks Toiletries - shampoo, shower gel

Tricia can be contacted on 07980 808184 and can provide details about delivering items or having large items picked up. Thank you for anything you can offer.

The Tale of the Sterilizer that Grew Up

transformed from Ugly Duckling to Very Fine Swan in one painless visit

As all Friends in Friargate know, after coffee/shared lunch/Area Meeting tea we have had an established system of washing up, by hand, cups and everything else you can think of, before then putting them through the sterilizer to ensure they are spotless.

New staff couldn't locate an instruction leaflet on how to maintain the sterilizer, so resources committee agreed to have the machine serviced and get staff trained.

The nice engineer came, and when he had finished working, he told us that not only was the sterilizer now in excellent order but that it had actually been a fully-fledged dishwasher all the time! (though sadly it had been suffering from some years without maintenance.)

So we now need simply to rinse off any grease if necessary, just stack crockery and cutlery in the dishwasher and three minutes later everything will be sparkly clean.

The lovely engineer left us with these words:

I'm going now, I have to depart.

I've twiddled all the knobs and fixed every part.

You've been trained on the workings,

The dishwasher now runs,

And I'd like to say thankyou

For the care, tea and the buns.

So now, as I leave, you've a tear in your eye.

Just peruse the bill first, then have a good cry.

Friargate May Diary

4 th	Fri	Bishopill Group: begin reading Craig Barnett's "Quaker Renewal"	6 Portland St (Ann Holt & David Rubinstein)	12.30 (bring own lunch)
6 th	Sun	Carecent Food & Toiletries Collection	Friargate	
13 th	Sun	Exploring Quakerism	Friargate	After mfw
13 th	Sun	Afterword	Friargate	After mfw
13 th	Sun	Area Meeting	Bootham School	1.30 - 4.00
13 th	Sun	Kate Schaffer: Memorial Meeting	Friargate	2.00 pm
19 th	Sat	Clifton Group: weddings	44 Bootham [Keith&Janet]	10.30 am
20 th	Sun	Soup and Rolls	Friargate	12.00 noon
20 th	Sun	Gardening Group – all welcome!	Friargate	After mfw
22 nd	Tue	Knivesmire Group: David Corry on Danish author Charlotte Rorth	The Outgang, Heslington [Barbara Webb]	7.30 pm
27 th	Sun	Attendders Group	Friargate	12.00 - 12.45

10.30 Notices: 1st, send to Huw Still 07915 607903 huwstill@gmail.com or David Laverick.(see below)

Remaining Sundays: send to Annemarieke de Bruin 07964553993 annemarieke.debruin@gmail.com

Breakfast Meeting Notices to: David & Margaret Laverick 01904 798 050 or hobgate39@gmail.com

Collections: 6th,13th, Tree Aid; 20th,27th, Christian Aid.

Worship in York Area Meeting

Time	Location	Frequency
10.30-11.30	Acomb, Friargate, Harrogate, New Earswick, Thirsk	weekly
9.15 – 10.00	Friargate <i>worship is preceded by breakfast at 8.30</i>	2 nd & 4 th Sunday
10.30-11.15	Lamel Beeches	weekly
11-11.30	The Oaks	weekly
10.30-11.30	Knaresborough	2 nd Sunday
8 pm	Eastern Villages:	3 rd Sunday

Weekday Worship in York Area Meeting

Tues	11.45	Hartrigg Oaks	Weekly
Wed	2.00	University Quiet Place, Heslington West: <i>all Friends welcome</i>	Termtime
Wed	12.45 -1.45	Friargate: bring your lunch, followed by MfW at 1.15	Weekly
Thu	10.45	Knaresborough, Gracious Street Centre <i>1st Thu, for 30 mins.</i>	Monthly
Thu	12.30	Harrogate <i>3rd Thursday of the month, for 30 minutes</i>	Monthly
Thu	9.30	The Retreat	Weekly
Wed	11.30	Acomb	Weekly

Contact details for all Local Meetings www.yorkquakers.org.uk

Acomb	The Green, Acomb	01904 795595
Friargate	Friargate, York	01904 624065
Harrogate	12a Queen Parade, Harrogate	01423 563391
New Earswick	Top of Folk Hall car park	01904 763248
Thirsk	Kirkgate, Thirsk	01845 523491

Contacting Quakevine

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Local Contacts: Anna Baldwin, Louise Brown, Sally & John Bourton, John Abbott, Meg Forrest

Please send items in Word, Trebuchet 12. The editor may select & edit all contributions.

Deadline for next issue: 12 noon, Sunday May 20th