

Quakevine

News, Views, Venues and Dates for Quakers around York

Editorial

My apologies for this half-size and picture-free QV. It is being written between **M**journeys. Huw Still and I returned late yesterday from the Annual Meeting of the Europe & Middle East Section of Quakers worldwide. (I offer you a flavour of it on page 2, which consists of selected parts of the EMES Epistle). Forty six representatives came together from nearly twenty different Yearly Meetings and worship groups - from Prague, Bologna, Georgia, Finland, Madrid, Netherlands, France, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium & Luxembourg and others. German YM - by far the largest in mainland Europe with over 250 members - hosted us in Bonn. How humbling it is to meet Friends whose contact with perhaps half a dozen other Quakers may mean a seriously long trip fewer than a dozen times in a year.

In the last weekend of September we all have the opportunity to meet the World Relations Committee on which Huw and I currently serve. The committee (nine of us in total) plans to get out of London once a year, to meet local Friends in different regions and share experiences, learning from one another and enjoying fellowship. York is the first such venue. So far the plan is for our committee business sessions to happen in Friargate, from Friday afternoon to Saturday lunchtime. After lunch we hope to walk round some of Quaker York, in company with some Friends from all three York meetings (please volunteer!). Then a short break before going to New Earswick Meeting House where we hope many Friends will join us to spend time getting to know one another, prior to a shared meal. We would part company some time in the early evening. The committee will worship at Friargate on the Sunday.

This is just the first sketch of the idea. Please talk to Huw or me about other ideas to add in or to tell us if there is something in which you would specifically like to be involved. That will help us get the best plan for everyone. Barbara Windle

Quakers in Yorkshire (QiY)

Our next quarterly meeting on 15th July will find us in the delightful market town of Malton where Friends from the local meeting will be hosting us. The address is Friends Meeting House, Greengate, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7EN.

We are taking the opportunity to invite Quakers from the regional grouping north of QiY, Quakers in North East England (QuiNEE) to join us. Our theme will be 'sharing and caring' focusing on how meetings which really struggle can perhaps be given some support by those which are stronger. We shall also have reports from both QiY's and Glenthorne's Trustees.

The afternoon will comprise a range of social activities organised by Malton Friends.

This will be an excellent opportunity to get a taste of a QiY meeting if you have not been before. We gather in time for a 10.30 - 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship. The day finishes with tea at 4 p.m. Programmes are emailed and posted to clerks at least two weeks beforehand. Ask for one! Please contact me for more information.

Chris Love, Co-Clerk

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(extracts from) Epistle from EMES Section Annual Meeting Bonn, 4 – 7 May 2017

To all Friends everywhere greetings. We wish you vibrancy in your meetings: *Vivacita! Zivost! Vitalite! Liewenskraft a vitaliteit! Elinvoima! Medryckande /vibrerande! Die strahlende Lebendigkeit! Beogacht! !Vibrantes con mucha vida! Opgewekt en blijmoedig!* We send loving greetings from a beautifully wooded area on the edge of Bonn, where forty six Friends have met to bring our Section business up to date, see one another's faces, hear one another's stories and gather inspiration for the future development of Quakers in Europe.

...Lindsey Fielder Cooke inspired us with practical examples of the ways in which QUNO's quiet informal provision of safe confidential discussion spaces makes a contribution on unpopular fronts and helps persuade diplomats of the interrelationship between issues such as human rights, peace-building, and climate change. She argued that climate change is only one of nine great challenges, the first two being biodiversity (extinction) and chemical pollution. Yet she also named specific examples that gave us hope that change is occurring and our efforts can help accelerate positive action. We urge Friends to consult the QUNO website, for its list of concise reasons for Friends to take urgent action on climate change.

...We learned of the dedicated work of volunteer Friends at the Eurosatory Arms Trade Fair. They provide a necessary distinctive protesting voice, seeking real contact and not confrontation with arms dealers and customers.

...From a Czech Friend we heard of exciting developments for Quakers in Central Europe; with EMES support, isolated Friends have met annually since the mid-1990s as the Central European Gathering of Friends. Now this has led to the major step of deciding that Friends in Poland, Hungary, Austria and Czech Republic will combine as the Central European Regional Meeting and will support the growth of emerging small meetings and worship groups spanning several languages and cultures.

...Several workshop sessions led us deeper into agenda topics. Some of us learned about theories of conflict resolution. Others spent time considering worshipfully what intervisitation is, reminding ourselves that it stems from meeting to 'see one another's faces and open our hearts one to another' as George Fox put it in the Yearly Meeting Epistle of 1668. We were moved to hear how crucial the long tradition of such visiting is to isolated Friends and we thought of our responsibility to help support worship in our small European groups. This brings just as much joy to visitors as those being visited. It is a truly mutual enrichment. We encourage Friends to think of committing to this as a theme in their own Area, Yearly and Regional Meetings. If each meeting found a minimum of one Friend to visit another meeting, whether nearby or across a border, we should greatly deepen the awareness of 'Friends on the bench' of being members of a Section and should create widening webs of F/friendship.

...We part, grateful for this opportunity and hoping to meet again in Bergen, Norway in June 2018, shortly before the bicentenary of the founding of Quakers in Norway. Norwegian Friends have accommodation at the event for more than three times the usual number of participants. So come and join us and support the growth of intervisitation in the Section!

*[Editor: This invitation extends to **you**, Friend]*

Quaker faith & practice: extract of the month

Two extracts relevant to the theme of page 1 and page 2 of this issue of Quakevine

It is important that Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting be aware that we are part of the world Quaker community, that we have a responsibility to learn about Friends in other parts and that this can be done in local meetings as well as among yearly meetings. *Part of QFP 9.02*

Britain Yearly Meeting is committed to the support of FWCC and in particular of its Europe & Middle East Section (EMES), which has its own secretary and keeps in touch with European yearly meetings as well as Friends in the Middle East and in those European countries which have no yearly meeting. Britain Yearly Meeting contributes financially to FWCC, including EMES. Local meetings are also encouraged to consider how best they might express their support of Friends beyond the boundaries of our own yearly meeting, and enhance our contacts with such Friends. *QFP 9.04*

Meeting for Sufferings – June 2017

This will include hearing from our committee on Christian and Interfaith Relations; receipt and discussion of Britain Yearly Meeting's Annual Report & Accounts; reviewing and considering our relationship with our faith document *Our Faith in the Future*; hearing from Young Friends ('18-35-ish') General Meeting; & regular business.

Friargate Miscellany

Phyllis and Deborah spread their wings elsewhere

Everyone is very sorry to hear that Phyllis & Deborah King are soon to be leaving us to move to Newcastle for the next stage of their lives - Deborah will be starting her sixth form career in September. We will all want to celebrate their time with us and our gratitude for all the warmth of welcome and care for individuals that Phyllis has unfailingly brought to her role as assistant manager. Please come to the shared lunch on Sunday 25th June after meeting for worship.

Volunteers please: get ready for summer at Friargate

We are all invited to help freshen up our garden furniture after worship on June 18th. Tools will be provided - bring your own gloves if you wish - enjoy a bit of invigorating furniture-scrubbing with f/Friends before and after soup lunch. Info - ask **Ruth Corry**.

Friends of Fox Field

Readers will recall Jo Fox's article inviting us to suggest creative ways to use this piece of land - an amazing and generous opportunity. If you didn't know about it previously, feel welcome to get in touch with Jo and Mhairi now (see below).

We had a wonderful meeting on May 3rd for the Friends of Fox Field and on the 20th May will be having a meeting on the field at 4.00 pm, to work on the plans for the first activities. On June 1st from 6.00 pm onwards we shall be meeting there with friends and families for an evening of celebration around a fire.

The first ventures will be a Forest School for all age groups and abilities, vegetable gardens for special needs people and anyone else who wishes to join in, an orchard, a forest garden, and a secret garden. Also bee-keeping and eventually a few animals. There will be workshops and camping - quiet times in nature, bird watching, painting, photography...

If you would like to use the field with your own family, friends, groups, or join in activities there, please let us know.

Jo and Mhairi

Treefox@hotmail.com

June 2017

Friargate June Diary

2nd	Fri	Bishophill Group: David Boulton's "Through a Glass Darkly" from page 41	6 Portland St (David R & Ann H) bring own lunch	12.30 pm
4 th	Sun	Local Meeting	Friargate	After mfw
4 th	Sun	Carecent collection of food and toiletries	Friargate	
10th	Sat	Saturday Brunch Group	Friargate	10 -12 noon
11th	Sun	Rachel Poulton will talk on fostering unaccompanied refugee children	Friargate	After MfW
15th	Thu	Knivesmire Group. John Harvey: my association with the Scout movement	7 Villa Grove (John & Jane Harvey)	7.30 pm
18th	Sun	Soup and Rolls	Friargate	After MfW
23rd	Fri	Clifton Group: Bring a Quaker Reading	15 Petersway (Pat Easton)	7.00pm
24th	Sat	Peace Vigil	St Michael le Belfrey	1100-12 00
25th	Sun	Attendees Group	Friargate	After MfW
25 th	Sun	Friargate's Farewell to Phyllis	Shared lunch	After mfw

10.30 Notices: 1st Sunday. Send to David Laverick (below) & Huw Still huw.still@gmail.com

Remaining Sundays: send notices to: Jo Reilly 01904 622760 jo_reilly@yahoo.com

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

Collections: 4th, 11th: Carecent. 18th, 25th: York Neighbours

Sunday 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	Knareborough	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 welcome</i>	Termttime
Wed	12.45 -1.45	Friargate: bring your lunch, followed by MfW at 1.15	Weekly
Thu	10.45	Knareborough, 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, Anna Botwright, 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 June 18th.