

FRIARGATE NEWS

March 2019

Issue 5

Being part of the Granny Cloud

Denise is part of our staff team. This insight into her Thursdays has opened my eyes to something fascinating and worthwhile, something I knew absolutely nothing about. She has visited India to 'meet the kids I had been working with for a number of years, what an experience and a wake up call!... Last year one of the boys qualified as a Doctor – wonderful!'

If you'd like to know more or get involved in support, talk to Denise or google thegrannycloud.org

What do you do every Thursday? Shop? go to work? clean your home? Well, every Thursday I visit India! I belong to a small dedicated team of volunteers reaching out to children with limited educational resources around the globe via "The Granny Cloud", providing them with the opportunity to experience worlds far removed from their own.



I interact with groups of children, engaging them in conversation and activities of various kinds, such as reading and telling stories, craft activities, solving puzzles (hangman and anagrams) and exploring big questions (why is the sky blue)? My role includes provoking curiosity, asking questions, listening attentively and providing warm and positive encouragement.

I am not there to provide lessons but to try and stimulate their curiosity and develop their confidence, exposing them to people and worlds far beyond their context. Some children have never tried using a computer before, never mind the internet or being able to talk to someone in a country far away through Skype! A lot of them believe that if they can learn English it will get them out of poverty and in part that is true. So improving any English conversation/literacy skills they have will help in developing habits for lifelong learning. They may not be aware that talking on Skype allows the opportunity to be curious, friendly, imaginative and enthusiastic. Some take a little while to warm to the experience of listening and looking at a face on screen. They may be shy, wary or lack confidence and some may have very limited English, so I need to find ways to communicate effectively. Singing and telling stories helps.

The centres - rural or semi-rural to urban or urban slums - may be noisy or hot or may have poor internet connections. Each throws up a different challenge! **Denise Wells**

March events – details & dates summary

Care4Calais On 17th March at 12 noon, Sally and John Bourton from Acomb Meeting will be coming to share their recent experiences of working for a week as volunteers with Care4Calais. It will be an interactive session lasting for about 30 minutes with the opportunity to have soup afterwards.

Children's Meeting Picnics The Children's Groups are planning a picnic on the last Sunday of the month during February (the day this is published), March (31st) and April (28th). Parents are encouraged to bring simple food to share; the Committee will also provide some healthy snacks. We hope this will help us to get to know one another better and nurture our little community. We'll eat at 12 and plan to be finished by 12.45 latest. Weather permitting, we may even eat outdoors! Everyone involved in children's groups is very welcome to join in. **Bronwen Gray**

A chance to obtain the best in modern Quaker books We are working through Friargate's Library books before relocating most to the foyer in April. Some (older, historic ones particularly) will join Quaker collections in larger libraries; very damaged or unread books are being disposed of; those lacking any Quaker connection will go to a charity shop. That leaves various duplicates, all in excellent condition, of up to date Quaker books of wide interest especially to newer Friends and Attenders. These will be sold on Sunday March 24th, the proceeds going to Friargate. We hope you will be glad to deepen your own interests while supporting the building fund. **John Fieldhouse (Librarian), Julia Terry, Barbara Windle**

Publication of Janet Dean's novel Come to Friargate to join Janet at the launch of her novel *The Peacemaker*, **Thursday 28th March at 5.30pm**. This is a York Literature Festival free event. Drawing on Janet's family history, the novel tells a moving story of a young woman's struggle to make peace with her father on the eve of World War Two. It speaks of buried secrets and a search for understanding between generations and between men and women. Set at a pivotal historical time it exposes how hiding our darkest experiences lets the same human tragedies occur over and over again. In today's context, Janet will be asking, do we ever learn from the past?

March dates summary

3	Sun	Carecent collection	
		Local Business Meeting	12 noon
8	Fri	Bishophill Group	12.30 pm lunch. Venue 8 Manley Close <i>God, Words & Us (page 68 ff)</i>
9	Sat	York Area Meeting	1.30pm New Earswick. see Y A Quakevine
10	Sun	Exploring Quakerism	9.00 – 10.15 am All welcome
		Afterword	12.00 – 12.30 pm
17	Sun	Care4Calais Update	12 noon then soup & rolls from 12.30pm
19	Tue	Clifton Group	7 pm at 6 Portland St 'Quotations'
20	Wed	Book Group	7.30 pm Fulford. Gillian Flynn: <i>Gone Girl</i>
24	Sun	Attenders Group	12 noon – 12.45 open discussion
26	Tue	Knavesmire Group	7.30 pm Action Learning (2) J & J Harvey
28	Thu	Book Launch	5.30 pm see above
31	Sun	Children's Picnic	see above

From Friargate Local Meeting

Our finances: a good 2018 outcome and 2019's budget

February's Local Meeting (LM) was very happy with the treasurer's report & 2019 budget and wanted to share a summary with the whole meeting via Friargate News. Here it is.

Excellent 2018 Out-turn - thanks to good trading figures & three exceptional items:

- the receipt of two legacies;
- a significant Gift Aid sum from 2017 donations;
- several Friends generously converting their Building Fund loans to gifts.

We have repaid these loans (including repayment to BYM seven years early)

- ✓ Acomb Local Meeting (£10,000),
- ✓ New Earswick Local Meeting (£10,000)
- ✓ New Earswick's Holmgaard Fund (£13,252).
- ✓ Britain Yearly Meeting Property Fund (amount outstanding was £17,500)

2019 Budget - we expect a continuing upward trend in lettings and plan to:

- replace the boiler, improve external lighting, provide a railing on the terrace
- refurbish the Fox Room
- instal an electronic booking system
- set aside money from the marketing budget to promote the Quaker Centre
- repay all outstanding loans by December 2019

Please note that although the 2019 budget shows expenditure exceeding income, the surpluses we are carrying forward give us full confidence that we shall be able to meet our loan repayments and all other commitments listed above.

In 2020 we will become full contributors to the Area Meeting Property Reserve.

Income from Members' and Attenders' Subscriptions in 2018

For the first time, Friargate LM requested one donation, to split between Local/Yearly Meeting and received in total **£57,115** including gift aid. How much does LM need?

- Our Quaker activities (Local, Area, Regional) cost **£13,352**.
- Running Friargate (£113,345) + direct lettings costs (£7,441) total **£120,786**.

We allocate these costs: 20% Quakers and 80% to business, so Friargate needs **£24,156**.

After adding Quaker activities costs, Local Meeting needs **£37,508** of the £57,115 total.

LM agreed we could therefore send **£20,000 to Britain Yearly Meeting**. We know this is less than the BYM treasurer's ideal of £225 per member. However, our early repayment of the BYM Property Fund Loan significantly redresses this balance.

*Do contact the Treasurer, **Margaret Bryan**, if you have any queries mgtbryan@gmail.com*

A midweek minibreak at Barmoor?

A break for Friends and families in the North York Moors! We have provisionally booked Barmoor, Hutton-le-Hole, for midweek, July 23 – 25. Barmoor is self-catering with several family-size and other smaller bedrooms, a well-equipped kitchen, two large social rooms, a table tennis room & large garden. If 3 or 4 families - or anyone who would like to come, enjoy the landscape and social time together - shared Barmoor, it should cost no more than £30 per room per night. For now, we just need expressions of interest. Email Ruth Corry ruthlcorry@gmail.com) or call 0113 281 3376. **Anna Baldwin, Ruth Corry, Graham Ralph** (The Glenthorne/Barmoor Group)

Miscellany

Can you help me – and other things

I have on my shelves a book by Lyndall Gordon which is not mine. It is **Divided Lives** and gives an autobiographical/biographical account of the author and her mother. I'd love to return it, albeit very belatedly, to the owner. Whose is it please?

Early spring weather has evidently brought out the ironically whimsical side of our Friend, Roy Love. Will his verse inspire other writers to try the pages of FN?

Barbara Windle

Ode to Mud: Put a Spring in Your Step!

Some winter walks have loads of mud

But don't just grumble "What a dud!"

It's only nature, after all,

Not some grubby urban sprawl.

Look out with joy o'er field and furrow

Where robins sing and rabbits burrow.

The lively lamb, the cow chewing cud -

They're not bothered by a bit of mud!

Mud replies

I am mud, do not curse me or recoil.

I am home to an army of unseen workers of the soil,

Provide comfort to pigs and thick-skinned hippopotami

And greatest of all, to human populi,

Adobe homes and kiln-baked bricks,

Clay pots, bowls and other arty tricks!

I am mud, look on my works, ye humans, and despair

When you are gone, I will still be there!

Roy Love

NOTICE READERS & SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

3rd March

David Laverick 798050 or Huw Still 07915 607903

Other Sundays:

Nick Perks, 01904 593659 nic.perks@phoncoop.coop

Breakfast Meeting: Margaret & David Laverick 798050

Collections:

3rd, 10th Quaker Congo Partnership;

17th, 24th Ulster Quaker Service; 31st Friargate Funds

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Every Sunday

Friargate 10.30 -11.30

Lamel Beeches 10.30-11.15

Every Wednesday

Friargate 1.15-1.45 *bring lunch from 12.45*

2nd, 4th Sundays

Friargate 9.15 -10.00 (shared breakfast from 8.30)

3rd Sunday

Eastern Villages Group 8pm (contact Val Humby)

FRIARGATE NEWS

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April deadline: Sunday 17 March.

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