

Quakevine

News, Views, Venues and Dates for Quakers around York
Issue 92
November 2011



*Beverley & Ella Taylor at the Freshers' Fair, University of York
photo: Simon Palmour*

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Editorial

Quakers in Yorkshire had a fascinating day at Ackworth in October. Sue Beardon gave moving testimony of her personal experience as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine. Philip Austin and Geoff Fielding from Northern Friends Peace Board made a very informative and challenging presentation on the topic of sustainable security. School pupils spoke about the impact of Ackworth's Peacejam activities in opening their minds and inspiring them to action. The willingness of recent Nobel Peace Prize-winners to meet and work directly with sixth formers means that students have met Peace Laureates from every year since 2006, from Mairead Corrigan Maguire to Betty Williams. Peacejam aims to raise awareness of ten areas of concern, including equal access to water, halting the spread of disease, eliminating extreme poverty, seeking social justice and human rights for all including women and children, and restoring the environment. I am happy to email the minutes of the day to anyone who would like their own copy. They will find it an absorbing document.
Barbara Windle

A Peace Pole for your Meeting House?

After the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a Japanese man, Masahisa Goi, conceived the idea of a worldwide grassroots movement, creating a network of peace poles. These are very simple 6 foot posts (like a fence post) bearing just the world prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth" on one face, repeated on other sides in different languages. The aim is to remind, inspire and re-awaken the love of peace and its need in the world. There are around a quarter of a million such posts in over 180 countries, including schools, meeting houses, churches and community centres, even at the UN headquarters in New York. Many Friends and meetings have found the unadorned simplicity of peace poles particularly appropriate for a Quaker setting. The poles have been endorsed by people and leaders of many faiths and none. Websites record the locations of the posts on a map with photos. There is a national group supporting the network and it produces suggestions, advice and varied peace-related publications for children's activities. A peace pole can involve many members of a meeting in its preparation and a planting ceremony in its garden.

In York, the Mount School already has a Peace Pole. After extensive discussion Friargate LM has also endorsed the idea in principle, if hedged with a number of reservations. It has set up a steering group (Andrew Carter, Cathy Holman, Judith Ward, Raymond Williams) and agreed to return to the matter at a future meeting for further consultation. This means that it will be some time before any realisation of any project is possible. A visiting attender at Friargate spontaneously and generously offered a suitable oak post he has available, and to carry it to the meeting house himself.

If another Local Meeting is interested in a Peace Pole of its own (and perhaps might feel able to committing to a decision and planting it at an earlier date and with fewer reservations), I would be happy to provide more information. If you were able to go ahead this year, it could be a fitting way to mark the 350th anniversary of our Quaker peace testimony.

Friends will find further information about peace poles in Britain at <http://www.worldpeace-uk.org>. Thoughts and ideas about the project can be shared with members of the working group.

Raymond Williams [Friargate]

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Our Summer Productions

Friargate children worked, played and worshipped together in Children's Meetings over the summer holidays and the theme this year was "Gardens". For the final session we had invited a local poet Anneleise Emmans Dean to work with us looking at insects. We had a lovely time looking in our garden for insects and then writing a poem about what we found. Sadly only two children were at Meeting that day but we enjoyed the session and produced these poems which we hope you will enjoy.

Insect Nerds

An insect with a bottle that is blue
Came to our team to say "How do you do"
And then came along a lovely hoverfly.
They are not wasps, we thought with a sigh.
Underneath the stone we discovered wood lice
They scuttled back to the dark, private and nice.
Lifting up the lid of the compost bin,
Lots of tiny flies, with all their kin.
We hunted high and low for pretty ladybirds
We found a seven spotter. Now we're insect nerds!

Deborah King and Cathy Holman

The Meeting Garden Rap

We saw wood lice
They were nice.
Hoverflies hover
Not much bovver.
Centipedes eat
Lots of meat.
Ants are black
They are back.
A bluebottle flew
With a bum bright blue.
Ladybirds are red
With a big head.
This is what we found -
Little things abound.

Christie Pope and Anneleise Emmans Dean

Our Peace Testimony - 9

It is not enough to be satisfied with a barren negative witness, a mere proclamation of non-resistance. We must search for a positive, vital, constructive message. Such a message...we find in the doctrine of the indwelling Christ...leading as it does to a recognition of the brotherhood of all men.

Issued by Yearly Meeting in 1915, during the First World War

(We can of course be confident that such a statement issued by Quakers today would use inclusive language - Editor.)

Area Meeting

Area Meeting at Friargate on 12th November

The agenda may include matters not listed. Timings are aspirational.

10.30 am Hot drinks will be available

11.00 Meeting for worship

11.20 'Getting to know our Local Meetings – Friargate.'

11.50 Membership matters

12.10 Registering Officer: requests for meetings for marriage

12.20 Elaine Ross & Roger Pierce: a flavour of Meeting for Sufferings

12 35 Danielle Walker-Palmour speaks about Woodbrooke

12.45 Lunch: *soup, bread (& drinks) provided. Please bring sandwiches.*

1.45 Peter Jarman: nominations for 2012

2.00 Josh Parker: Friargate Burial Ground Committee

2.15 Right Use of our Resources: an AM Day organised by trustees

2.30 Roswitha Jarman: sharing the experience of Quaker Life
Representative Council

2.45 Miscellany

3.00 Tea and departures

Do come! We promise a stimulating, enjoyable day and time to get to know other Friends. Newcomers are especially welcome.

For your 2012 Diary

AM Trustees are planning a big event on 3rd March at Friargate to consider the right use of our resources (our property, our finances).

How we use our resources concerns all of us, so the event is open to everyone who cares about the question: what is our money for? (and Local Meetings will each be asked to send two representatives).

We are looking to bring together a really wide group of Friends to think long term about priorities. Trustees see this as a time of thoughtful discernment together, leading to policy decisions that give them informed backing as they go forward on Area Meeting's behalf.

Quaker Phrases Clarified ... by backbencher

'Are you an attender?'

Backbencher's computer spellchecker hates the word 'attender', always suggesting the American 'attendeé'. But in truth our use of the word is really Quaker shorthand or (dare I admit to it?) jargon. When Quakers say 'attender' they don't just mean 's/he happens to have attended an event'. A good number of people come regularly to our worship and actively contribute to the life of our community without having applied for membership of the Society. They are members in spirit. They are so important to our meetings that (with their agreement) we include them in the care of our overseers and record their address details in our membership lists (with A for Attender). Some of our attenders are listed as such for a relatively short time. Others will have their reasons for not applying for membership for longer. As the signs outside our meeting houses say: "All are welcome".

Area Meeting Miscellany

New Address

Jane & Tony Spiers are now at: 3 Mayroyd Mill, Mayroyd Lane, Hebden Bridge HX7 8NY Tel: 01422 844709

Emails unchanged: janespiers@gmail.com and tonyspiers@gmail.com

Askham Grange Prison Craft Group

The monthly craft group at Askham Grange is going very well and is well attended, but we are very short of used greeting cards for card making.

We have more than enough Christmas cards, but we would be very grateful for any other type of cards, such as Birthdays, Good Luck, Valentine, Easter, etc. There is a box in the entrance hall at Friargate to put them in, or alternatively, anyone at Acomb Meeting could give them to Jenny Hartland. Many thanks.

Sally Harding

Edward Fox reads T S Eliot at the Bar Convent, York

Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm Tickets £15

Distinguished actor Edward Fox OBE, will read The Four Quartets in The Bar Convent chapel. A unique opportunity and a night to remember.

Contact: Bar Convent 01904 643238 www.bar-convent.org.uk

Churches Together: Voluntary Secretarial support?

The Executive Enabling Group which plans city-wide activities on behalf of Churches Together in York and assists communication between its 60 subscribing churches, urgently needs secretarial and administrative help. The post is voluntary but all expenses are paid. Estimated time: 2 hours weekly, with occasional extra hours. For details, please contact: Revd. Paul Wordsworth paul.wordsworth@homecall.co.uk or 01904 426891. For more information about CTY, visit: www.churchestogetherinyork.org.uk

Upright Piano - free to good home

Upright piano, c. 1930s, reasonable condition, free to a good home, to collect from Acomb. **James and Ruth McCarthy**, tel. 01904 330977.

Accommodation in Vienna

Comfortable ground-floor apartment in a great location for culture, cafes, Christmas markets and New Year celebrations. 10% discount available for York Area Meeting Friends and attenders. Sleeps 4.

Short breaks or longer. 01904 416840 anne.reynolds@uwclub.net
www.holidayapartmentinvienna.co.uk

Quaker Tapestry Extended Opening at Kendal

This year the Quaker Tapestry is staying open at Kendal Meeting House until 17 December. There will also be a number of special daytime events, including:

11 Nov "These Houses Hold Secrets" – Dutch Quakers in WW2

15 Nov "Ticket to Ride" – a journey along a Quaker Railway Line

See www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk or read the poster at Friargate or telephone 01539 722975 for more details.

What's in a name?: Stages in Quaker life

Elsewhere in this issue, Backbencher has chosen to pick up on our use of the term "attender". Here two Friargate Friends reflect on some of the terms we attach to ourselves at various stages.

As Friends, we often refer to our individual "spiritual journey", as a way of describing personal and spiritual development in the light of our personal experience. In a more particular sense, we also identify stages of a spiritual journey in our relationship with Quakerism as a kind of journey.

October and November are Quaker Quest months in York. The privilege of spending time and sharing insights with people attending Quaker Quest events reminds us that our personal spiritual journeys and stages in Quaker life are not the same. For most of us, as with Quaker Questers, our personal spiritual journey began before we ever came into contact with Friends.

Having said that, there are real journey stages in our relationship to Quakerism. We even give them names: newcomer; enquirer; attender; member.

Obviously the **newcomer** is the person who has walked into a Quaker meeting for worship for the first time. Whether or not s/he will feel moved to return is as yet unknown.

The **enquirer** is the person who continues to come, is definitely interested and wants to gain more experience and to know more (hence, enquiring). The enquirer is still, so to speak, testing the water rather than identifying with the meeting but is reaching out and may soon wish to identify more closely.

As people start to identify with the meeting, and the meeting with them, they have effectively become **attenders**, considering themselves as belonging and warmly recognised to do so by others. They can look forward to being asked if they have added themselves to a rota; they may be asked to welcome people at the door, or to try any one of all those other little jobs that make us a family.

Enquirers who regard themselves as ready to participate further in the life of the meeting should not be shy of telling someone (e.g. the clerk, the notice reader, any overseer or elder) if they have not been given an overseer or a named Quakevine; it will not have happened deliberately, but unfortunately it can occur, and more probably at Friargate than in our other Local Meetings, simply because of Friargate's size.

Membership follows from the attender speaking to their overseer and applying via the Area Meeting membership clerk. Some people like to write a little about what has brought them to this point; others prefer to send a simple sentence on the lines of 'I wish to apply for membership'. Area Meeting will then appoint two Friends for the very pleasant responsibility of spending an informal hour or so with the applicant, talking together about the applicant's spiritual journey and exploring what they are discovering about Quaker practice and structures. A short account of this meeting, always agreed with the applicant, is presented at the next Area Meeting, where the formal decision is taken.

But of course that should not be the end of the story in the stages of our relationship to the Society and our spiritual growth. It is less easy to define those stages after we have been accepted into membership, but one which all of us as members might like to reflect on.

Quaker faith & practice: extract of the month

As a teenager I looked for proof of the existence of God, but soon realised that there would be none. I chose to adopt as a working hypothesis a belief in God, and to go on from there. I have not felt the need to revise that hypothesis - yet. I believe in a powerful, all-knowing God, but a caring and a forgiving God. I believe he says to us: 'All right, you've got life, get on with it, live it! I am there behind to guide you, to help you live it; but don't expect me to interfere to make life smooth for you - you are old enough to stand on your own two feet.'

From what I have learnt as an astronomer I believe that the Universe evolved itself without any active participation from God, and it seems reasonable to me that the world continues, at least on a grand scale, to evolve by itself - that God does not directly interfere with the running of the world; but that he does through people and their attitudes...

I believe that we are God's agents in this world and that he may require things of us. A lot of my effort goes into trying to understand what God expects of me. I do this by trying to maintain an orientation towards God - to live my life in the spirit - to bring my whole life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ - to acknowledge my discipleship.

S Jocelyn Burnell, 1976 [Qf&p 26.25]

War comes to York: July-October 1939

In this brief but packed book, author, historian and York AM Quaker **David Rubinstein** gives a vivid picture of the events, thoughts, actions and personalities within York as it struggled to understand that another war would actually become a reality, despite the sense of 'phony war' that for many people was all that could be recognised in mid to late 1939. By analysing a wealth of factual detail and personal comment David enables us to appreciate the multiplicity of attitudes in a single city and the confusion people in the region faced in trying to make appropriate decisions e.g. about evacuating their children (or taking in evacuees), about whether to concentrate on planning for the worst or to try to look beyond to a post-war world. Quaker concerns and individuals take their place within the text as part of the larger canvas that is York itself. David's focus on a short period of time and a (comparatively) small place results in an extremely approachable combination of historical analysis with human stories. '**War comes to York: July-October 1939**', is printed by Quacks Books and is available from David Rubinstein at £5.

Books from the Quaker Centre Bookshop

Joseph Wood 1750-1821: A Yorkshire Quaker *Pamela Cooksey* £10.99

An Introduction to a remarkable man, a Quaker of the Quietist years and a prolific writer. Based on the contents of 100 notebooks begun in Joseph's youth and continued until his death, plus related letters and Quaker writings, it offers a lively portrait of a much travelled minister and tireless worker.

Through the Language Glass: why the world looks different in other languages *Guy Deutscher* £7.99

This is currently your editor's favourite new book! She will be happy to enthuse about it to you.

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

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|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Acomb | The Green, Acomb | 01904 769563 |
| Friargate | Friargate, York | 01904 624065 |
| Harrogate | 12a Queen Parade, Harrogate | 01423 563391 |
| New Earswick | Top of Folk Hall car park | 01904 470808 |
| Thirsk | Kirkgate, Thirsk | 01609 780881 |

Sunday Worship in York Area Meeting

| Time | Location | Frequency |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 10.30-11.30 | Acomb, Friargate, Harrogate, New Earswick, Thirsk | Weekly |
| 9.15 - 10 | Friargate <i>worship is preceded by breakfast at 8.30</i> | 2 nd & 4 th Sunday |
| 10.30-11 | Lamel Beeches | Weekly |
| 11-11.30 | The Oaks | Weekly |
| 10.30-11.30 | Knaresborough | 2 nd Sunday monthly |
| 8 - 9 pm | Eastern Villages; <i>Roger Bellingham, Pocklington</i> | 3 rd Sunday monthly |

Weekday Worship in York Area Meeting

| | | | |
|------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Tues | 11.45 | Hartrigg Oaks | Weekly |
| Wed | 1.15 | Friargate <i>preceded by lunch at 12.45 (bring your own)</i> | Weekly |
| Thu | 9.30 | The Retreat | Weekly |

Friargate November Diary

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|----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 | Wed | Retired Friends Coffee <i>1st Wed of month</i> | Friargate | 10.30 am |
| 4 | Fri | Bishophill Group: continue chapter 12 The case for God [Karen Armstrong] | 30 Lucombe Way (David Hoare) | 12.30 pm [bring own lunch] |
| 4 | Fri | Book Club: to discuss <i>Trespass</i> (by Rose Tremain) intro: Sue Dennis | 4 Flavian Grove (the Wakemans) | 7.30 pm |
| 13 | Sun | Afterword: reflections on worship | Friargate | After worship |
| 14 | Mon | Andrew's photos of Yorkshire Meeting Houses | Lang Rd (the Carters) | 7.30 pm |
| 20 | Sun | Soup and rolls. | Friargate | 12 noon |
| 26 | Sat | Justice & Peace Vigil | St Michael le Belfrey | 11 - 12 noon |
| 27 | Sun | Attendees Group: all are welcome | Friargate | After worship |

10.30 Meeting Notices: 6th Huw Still 607903 huw.still@gmail.com; 13th Margaret Bryan 481977 mgtbryan@gmail.com; 20, 27th Ann Oates 639995 poachers@72dalestreet.freeseve.co.uk

Breakfast Meeting Notices: David & Margaret Laverick 01904 798 050 or hobgate@aol.com

Collections: 6, 13 Ulster Quaker Service Cttee; 20, 27 York Women's Counselling

Contacting Quakevine

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Please send contributions in Word, Verdana 11.5 (just type 11.5 into the 'font size' box).

The editor reserves the right to select & edit all contributions.

Deadline for next issue: 12 noon, Sunday 20 November

Quakevine is available by email - just ask the editor to add you to the list