

Quakevine

News, Views, Venues and Dates for Quakers around York
Issue 89
August 2011



York Friends joined the final stage of Margaret Johnston's epic 'Woolman Walk'

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Editorial

About twenty of us from York Area Meeting will be in Canterbury for Yearly Meeting Gathering while other AM friends are picking up this Quakevine. We ask that you will all be upholding the Meeting and thus playing your part in helping it to go well. In September Quakevine will offer a variety of personal impressions that will bring Yearly Meeting to life again here. Barbara Windle

Dark Circle A DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

AUGUST 10TH AT 10a.m. in the Music Room, Hartrigg Oaks, New Earswick

Keiko, a Japanese woman who works at Hiroshima with survivors of nuclear disasters, will introduce this film showing USA, Hiroshima & Nagasaki.

Valya, a Ukrainian woman who lives near the Chernobyl contaminated zone, will also give her experiences of living with the fear of contamination. *This event is part of the Women to Women for Peace Exchange and events outlined below.*

Women to Women for Peace – can you help?

Ruth Davies (New Earswick) is asking for support when the **WOMEN TO WOMEN FOR PEACE EXHIBITION (MOTHERS FOR PEACE)**

comes to York from **2nd - 15th September 2011.**

Three **QUILTS** will be exhibited at Friargate, with other display material and a timeline showing activities in many countries over 30 years. There will be items for sale, with leaflets and bookmarks giving the public more information. Ruth will need a rota of morning, afternoon & evening helpers. **CAN YOU HELP?**

On **Saturday Sept 3rd, 3-4 p.m.** Ruth is giving a talk at the Central Library / Explore Centre in York about the '**Peace Coats**' made by Sheila Shaw, former artist in residence at Corrymeela, Northern Ireland. These are fascinating examples of stitching, exploring feelings in relation to peace and conflict. Do come along!! Also at the Central Library, on the top floor, 2 cabinets will display craft items given to Yorkshire members when they have taken part in visits.

Through September/first week of October **New Earswick Meeting House** will show the **WOMEN PEACEMAKERS** exhibition from Bradford Peace Museum. More of these panels will be in **Haxby and New Earswick Libraries.**

We hope York citizens will learn a lot about the peacemaking carried out by ordinary/extraordinary women, past and still continuing...Please help it happen. **Ruth Davies** [New Earswick] telephone 01904 763248

More Reminiscences of Clifford Street Meeting please

I have profited from a suggestion by David Gray, to whom my thanks, that I should ask for more reminiscences of Clifford Street Meeting before its rebuilding as Friargate in 1979-81.

I should be very pleased to receive reminiscences not exceeding one A4 side about the building, the meeting held in it or any other relevant details.

Anyone seeing or hearing of this notice who remembers the old Clifford Street is asked to send me an account, no matter what meeting (or none) now attended. I plan to make accounts available in a folder in Friargate Library for some time, afterwards keeping them in the archives, which I am always glad to make available by appointment. Accounts should be put in my pigeonhole in Friargate, sent to me at 6 Portland Street, York YO31 7EH, or emailed to d.rubinstein@tiscali.co.uk. My telephone number is 01904 638431.

David Rubinstein Archivist, Friargate Quaker Meeting

Backbencher ruminates:

Some frequently heard misconceptions

Clearly in a holiday mood, Backbencher this month is not attempting to clarify expressions used by Quakers, but rather to share some thoughts about three things others say about us.

'Quakers are quiet people.' Not so.

Take this recent exchange from the Archers, concerning a regional Quaker meeting booking at the stately pile of Lower Loxley (presumably Quakers in Borsetshire): "What are they like?" - "Well, they're quieter than the Methodists."

Personally, Backbencher has often found that Friends can be a noisy lot, especially when enjoying themselves, having fun or when meeting up before or after Meeting. It is true that our worship is based on silence, and that Friends are not otherwise unsettled by silence, but it is also part of our tradition that there are times when we don't (and shouldn't) shy away from not being silent, individually or corporately.

'Quakers take decisions by consensus.' Not so.

Some contemporary protest movements hold lengthy discussion processes (apparently involving a variety of hand signals to express shades of agreement or disagreement) often believing this to be akin to the Quaker business method. Underlying this is a misconception that achieving consensus is the same as accepting the spirit of the meeting. Not so. In fact, our business method relies on our being able to hold and express differing opinions, while also being willing to listen and to be 'open to new light'. The feeling of the meeting allows us to unite behind a minute, in the belief that in a gathered meeting we will be led by the spirit to the best way forward for the present.

'Quakers always avoid all conflict.' Not so.

An obvious misunderstanding of our Peace Testimony. We may have a particular approach to recognising and dealing with conflict, but we certainly haven't been able to abolish it, even amongst ourselves!

(The Editor comments: And would we even wish to abolish it? Don't we see some conflict as necessary to honesty and perhaps also as creative, in that conflict may lead towards fresh thinking?)

Thoughts about Friendship

*You're my friend – What a thing friendship is!
How it gives the heart and soul a stir-up'*

These familiar words from Browning's 'The Flight of the Duchess' came back to me when I was looking through all the cards I had received when I was in hospital earlier this year. They certainly gave my 'heart and soul a stir-up' when I read them again. They reminded me of all those friends who had been thinking of me and praying for me, and those who had offered to assist me in all sorts of ways. All had helped me enormously on my road to recovery. I am truly grateful for this help and, of course, for the help of my family, as without it I would not have been able to cope nearly so well.

Our Friendship Group which meets every month is one good example of true friendship. The members get to know each other and can then support each

other through possible loneliness, or through other difficulties that may arise in their lives. But friendship is much more than being there in times of trouble – it's laughing together and enjoying each other's company – sharing in the joys of weddings and grandchildren, appreciating concerts, visits to art galleries and exhibitions, or enjoying trips to the seaside. Only by getting to know each other in this wider sense can we then be of help in difficult times.

Friendships also need time to develop and our Quaker Advices and Queries ask: 'Do you cherish your friendships, so that they grow in depth and understanding and mutual respect?' Some ways of doing this are described in the previous paragraph. Later our Advices say – 'Try to make your home a place of loving friendship and enjoyment, where all who live or visit may find the peace and refreshment of God's presence' This is not easy to achieve; often we think we are too busy to spend time with an unexpected caller at our door. Jesus tells us a lot about friendship. True friends will get up and help if someone knocks on their door in the middle of the night at a most inconvenient time (Luke 11); and true friends love each other and follow the teachings of Jesus (John 15).

I can only say that from my own experience, my friends are and have been invaluable, and I hope that I can, in a similar way, give friendship to others.

Susan Hartshorne [New Earswick]

Reprinted, with thanks to Huntington/New Earswick's Churches Together newsletter

Refugees: a Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity!

Did you know that there is a significant population of Refugees and Asylum seekers living in York?

Refugee Action York (RAY) was founded in 2002 to raise awareness of the contribution refugees and asylum seekers make to our society and to challenge myths and misconceptions about refugees and asylum seekers.

RAY holds a regular Sunday afternoon Drop-In during school term time, aimed primarily at supporting Turkish speaking families. The Drop-In is run almost entirely by volunteers, except for one paid Coordinator.

Aims of the Drop-In

To provide: English and Turkish language classes for Kurdish and Turkish families in York (Refugee, Asylum Seeker or Migrant).

Turkish classes for children - English conversation classes for adults - Activities & games for children - Homework support

To help build a support network for Kurdish and Turkish families in York – from others within their own community, and also from the wider community

To increase this sense of community by sharing a meal together

To provide signposting for services and help to which families may be entitled.

To facilitate presentations/talks and discussions for the Kurdish and Turkish communities on relevant topics.

The centre is looking for more volunteers sympathetic to our aims who are able to help out with English teaching, activities for children, help in the kitchen, welcoming people on arrival, or in any other way. At present we particularly need volunteers to run activities and games/sports with the children.

If you would be interested in getting involved, or finding out more, please contact Carrie Tipples on carrie.tipples@tesco.net or 07545 060694

Area Meeting - July, held at Acomb

Membership News

Deaths We recorded with sadness the deaths of three Friends – Barbara Richardson, Sheila Dixon and Jennifer Watson.

New Member We were very glad to welcome Alice McIlveen into membership.

Testimony

We heard the testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Rosalind Priestman and forwarded it to Quakers in Yorkshire and to the Yearly Meeting.

Finance

Our trustees' clear exposition of the report and accounts was heard with interest and with satisfaction at the current situation. At an Area Meeting day workshop early in 2012, we can all consider the right use of our money and resources.

Listed building with Quaker links

Roger Pierce alerted us to the parlous state of a Georgian house, grade 2 listed, in Lawrence Street York. This was formerly the home of Samuel Tuke and family. Anyone who would like to know more or to join an informal group bringing this to the attention of relevant conservation bodies in York should get in touch with Roger for further details.

International Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2012 – could you go?

Contact Rachel Miller on gyp.emes@gmail.com then let your Meeting know you are interested. We do hope York AM will be represented at this special event.

Area Meeting Miscellany

Heather walk, North York Moors, 14 August

This five mile walk over moors near Newton Dale is a wonderful opportunity to see heather in full bloom. Starting time: 13.00, i.e. after meeting for worship. Start point: between Levisham & Levisham Station, OS Outdoor leisure map 27 - ref 822915. To get there, follow the A169 through Pickering; after 5 miles go left, through Lockton and Levisham, then down the hill. Park where the road bears sharp left. If you're coming from York, allow about an hour to get there. Please wear good boots, bring an anorak - and a picnic lunch.

A public transport option is unfortunately not practical on Sundays; next year could we try a Saturday? Anyone interested in a moors walk in the Hole of Horcum/Bridestones area, tying in with the Whitby bus, please contact me.

All Friends are welcome. Please ring me to say you intend to come (in case we have to cancel) and if possible, sign the list in Friargate, indicating whether you can offer or would like a lift (thereafter contact one another direct).

Alastair Cooper telephone (01904) 632791

Please donate unwanted books to Acomb

Acomb Meeting will be selling produce and second hand books on **Saturday 27 August** at the annual Fair held on Acomb Green. Proceeds go to the Alternatives to Violence Project.

We are appealing for donations of books and can collect them from anyone in York Area Meeting.

Please contact me, Paul O'Kell. My details are in the Blue Book.

Quaker faith & practice: extract of the month

Perhaps the most neglected of all the advices is that we should live adventurously. If there is one wish I would pray the Spirit to put into our Christmas stockings, it is warmth, openness, passion, a bit of emotion that doesn't mind making a fool of itself occasionally.

Gerald Priestland, 1977 *Qf&p* 21.26

Our Peace Testimony – 6

Guard against placing your dependence on fleets and armies; be peaceable yourselves, in words and actions, and pray to the Father of the Universe that he would breathe the spirit of reconciliation into the hearts of his erring and contending creatures.

Issued by Yearly Meeting in 1804, during the Napoleonic Wars

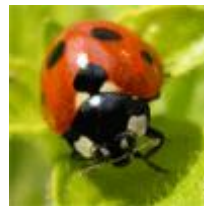
Friargate Miscellany

Charity fundraising – thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped me raise £127 for Stop the Traffik, Toybox and a charity promoting education for poverty-stricken children in India through donations and sponsorship for the Great Manchester Run. With a group of others from my school £499 was raised which has been split equally between the three charities and gratefully received. I enjoyed my first charity run and finished it in around 50 minutes.

Oscar Hughes [Friargate]

Gardens: Joint Children's Meetings - All Welcome



Over the holidays Friargate will run joint Children's Meetings every Sunday. The theme for summer this year is "**Gardens**".

Seven interesting and fun sessions have been planned, including making mobiles, garlands and mini gardens, creating soup from our garden produce and looking at what lives in our gardens.

Our final session on the 4th of September will be led by local poet Anneliese Emmans Dean (see: <http://www.thebigbuzz.biz/> for details) and as we look at the insects in our garden we will hear her poetry and create some of our own.

We welcome all children (and their CYP helpers) across our Area

Meeting to come and join us, particularly on that day, 4th September.

Friargate Children and Young People's Committee

Taking a snapshot of our Quaker witness today

In our Quaker Quest we tell people of our testimonies to peace, equality, simplicity etc. In general conversation we are proud to recount the notable work of our Quaker forebears in founding The Retreat, the two Quaker schools, the three Rowntree Trusts, but that is all history. What are we doing today for

the people of York and for the wider world? While we are a large and diverse meeting and perhaps seldom take action corporately, lots of us in our different ways do try to work for a fairer and more caring community and for better relations between people and groups. How can we become more aware of this present day activity, so much of which is rooted in our faith?

In our June Local Business Meeting we agreed to gather a snapshot of what we do as individuals and groups to try to make a difference. Inside this QV you will find a slip of paper on which we hope you will write some of the ways in which you try to put your faith into action so that we can gather a picture or record of Friargate Meeting in the Community.

Many examples come immediately to mind. Some are employed in the 'caring professions' – teaching, health and welfare, housing – others do voluntary work serving on trusts, governing bodies, action groups, Samaritans. There are councillors, magistrates, workers in the CAB. Others are involved in Night Stop or other ways of working with young people and others at risk. There is support for the homeless and refugees; others are involved with minority groups of various kinds. Some are fundraisers, some visit those confined to home, hospital or prison. So much is done quietly and often individually and these things are therefore not necessarily brought together to indicate that these actions are the outcomes of, or are related to, our life as a faith community.

We look forward to gathering a snapshot record within the next month or so. So this is a plea to everyone associated with our meeting, whether attenders of members - please fill in a slip yourself, and encourage others to fill in one in too. Leave your slip in the box on the Warden's desk.

Ben Arnup, Felicia McCormick & Joyce Pickard will collate the results and seek the best way to record 'Friargate Meeting's service in 2011'.

Policy Matters at Friargate's September Local Meeting

At Friargate Local Meeting for Business in September we will be considering a number of important issues concerning the care and future use of our resources. We will be thinking about the implications of our Yearly Meeting's current Framework for Action for our meeting, and about the right use of our financial reserves. Our Premises Committee will be sharing their thinking about the upkeep and development of our meeting house for future needs, as well as plans for a new website for the meeting.

Local Meeting is on Sunday, September 4th after meeting for worship.

As the meeting is likely to take somewhat longer than usual, there will be a break for a sandwich lunch. Please make a note in your diary for this important event!

Raymond Williams, co-clerk

Friargate Bike Ride

Advanice Notice:

The annual Friargate bike ride is to take place on September 18th after a soup lunch. John Gilham and Bone Jones will be organising and leading this annual event which is likely to include good company, fine Yorkshire scenery and welcome rests en route with poetic interludes. Weather unpredictable of course, but last year was magnificent. All riders welcome, including children accompanied by an adult.

Barbara Webb

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

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>for locations, ask the Editor</i>	3 rd Sunday monthly

Weekday Worship in York Area Meeting

Tues	11.45	Hartrigg Oaks	Weekly
Wed	12 noon	Thirsk <i>followed by bring your own lunch at 12.30</i>	Weekly
Wed	1.15	Friargate <i>preceded by lunch at 12.45 (bring your own)</i>	Weekly
Thu	9.30	The Retreat	Weekly

Friargate August Diary

3	Wed	Retired Friends Coffee <i>1st Wed of month</i>	Friargate	10.30 am
14	Sun	Afterword: reflections on worship	Friargate	After worship
27	Sat	Justice & Peace Vigil	St Michael le Belfrey	11 - 12 noon
21	Sun	Soup and rolls.	Friargate	12 noon
28	Sun	Attenders Group: all are welcome	Friargate	After worship

10.30 Meeting Notices to: David Gray 01904 767944 or d.m.gray@hartriggoaks.net

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

Collections: 7, 14 Ekta Parishad; 21, 28 Bradford Peace Museum

Contacting Quakevine

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Editorial team: Anna Baldwin, Simon Palmour (photography), Julia Terry, Barbara Windle

Local Contacts: Christine Bailey, Lee O'Neal, Susan Hartshorne, Dorothy Riordan

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 21 August.

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