



Bath Quaker
Meeting

Bath Quaker News July 2017

Web site <https://bathquakers.org>

See also <https://bathquakers.org/bath-friends-admin/> (needs password)

The Quaker physical presence in Bath: developing our vision

Sally Harris writes

I came to the *Reaffirming Our Quaker Centre* meeting on 11 June full of enthusiasm, ready to hear ideas from the Long Term Vision Group and think about who might use the meeting house once the Council stop hiring it for school parties. We looked at a wide range of different potential uses grouped into various themes, and at a timeline which told the tale of the journey Friends have taken and our hopes for the future.

Although we were concentrating on potential hirers of the meeting house, there was also an awareness that our building is the public face of Quakers in Bath but is not yet in a fit state to live up to our vision, whatever that might be. And this is point of what I'm writing – Friends, it's now time to finish the refurbishment which we started in 2013 when we launched the appeal.



Four down; three to go: the list of seven jobs in our original appeal leaflet.

Do you remember the appeal leaflet with its yellow “sunshine” of the changes we needed to make? There were seven jobs listed in the sunshine and we got four of them done before Yearly Meeting Gathering in August 2014 – new kitchen, new accessible toilet, better acoustics, and access for all. That left three – refurbished windows (to reduce heat loss and noise from outside), low energy lighting (again for energy-efficiency and comfort in the meeting room), exterior renovation (good stewardship and better appearance). At July PM, I shall ask if we are ready to relaunch the appeal and finish these last jobs so that the meeting house can be ready for whatever its future holds.

I have a stock of appeal leaflets in my loft. I hope some of you will volunteer to help hunt out grant-making trusts, draft letters to go out with the leaflets, find or take photos we can include, proof-read, stuff envelopes. I’m willing to get stuck in, knowing from last time that although it’s a concentrated effort it doesn’t last for very long and immensely satisfying once it’s all over!



The former Masonic Hall - a quirky architectural gem - quite deliberately has no "face". Bath Quakers love the Meeting House and want to present a Friendly face.

Don't forget The Bundle!

Don't forget *The Bundle*, the play put on by the Journeymen Theatre on **Saturday 8th July at 7.30pm** in Friends Meeting House.

You are welcome just to come on the night but you can reserve a seat by email info@BathStopWar.org.uk or phone 07807 923 178. Donations to Bath Stop War and refugee welcome campaigns.

Our vibrant Childrens' Meeting: what does it get up to?

A mystery solved.

Children are most welcome at Bath Quaker Meeting. For a period some years ago there was no Childrens' Meeting. Then it was often a meeting of one child, typically once a month.

Now thanks to the hard work of childrens' meeting co-ordinator Agnes Javor and the childrens' meeting committee our growing Meeting has a proper Childrens' Meeting every week.



Young Friends report back after a busy Childrens' Meeting with Aliya and Katy.

It takes place at the same time as the Sunday Meeting for Worship 1100-1200. Typical attendance is in reasonable single figures. The Childrens' Meeting is based on the same core values: peace, simplicity, equality and truth. Rooted in Christianity, Quakers are happy to draw on the wisdom of other faiths.

But what do they actually get up to? This can be a bit of a mystery. The adults upstairs sometimes hear cheerful scampering noises. Children rejoin us afterwards with mischievous grins. Sometimes they share cryptic accounts of what they've been up to. Often they produce pieces of art or craft as supporting evidence.

We asked Judith Eversley to give some examples of Childrens' Meetings earlier in 2017. Here they are (in reverse order):

May **Water part 3**, bringing in Air and Fire (Judith, Hilary and 3 children). We read the poem *From a Railway Carriage* by Robert Louis Stevenson and looked at a Turner painting, *Rain, Steam and Speed*. We thought about train journeys we might like to go on and heard about Thomas Edmondson, a 19th century Quaker who realised that the old system of hand-written railway tickets was inefficient and invented a ticket-printing machine. We made railway tickets to the places we

wanted to visit. Mentioned (as for Darby in March) the fact that Quakers were active in trade and manufacturing.

April **Compassion, sacrifice**: Agnes, Sally and 3 children). Had some drama exercises, children heard a story about compassion and sacrifice. Attempted to write a communal poem using some cards as prompts. The final version had nothing to do with the story. Will be interested to find out if next time (provided the same children turn up) there will be traces of the messages of the story. April: **Spring** with Alex, Hilary and 5 girls. On growth and renewal, childhood as the 'Springtime of life'. Made paper flowers and pipe cleaner lambs

26 March **Water part 2** Judith, Sally and 7 children: bringing in EARTH - The Bridge built by Quaker Ironmaster Abraham Darby. We recapped part 1 because not everyone had been there on 26 Feb. We built bridges out of wood blocks then some of us went out to look at Pulteney Bridge (stone, but built on brushwood supports). On return we drew Pulteney Bridge and learned about the Quaker Darby family who worked out how to smelt iron ore cheaply and made it possible to build strong bridges out of iron.

19 March **Kites not drones**: Agnes, Laurie and 3 children. Had a few drama exercises to start our creative juices flowing. Talked about drones and kites and the countries where these figure. Looked at books of photos about Afghanistan and Syria. Used "Sometimes I feel like a motherless child" as an inspiration to create a piece of writing and/or drawing of what it might feel like to experience deadly drones appearing in the clear blue sky -- a condition which is otherwise ideal for flying kites. Tried to fly a mini kite in the small hall.



Chuckling rotten fruit at Friends in stocks: Bath children act out a story from the time of religious oppression.

12th March: **Spring** Alex, Alison with Sophia talked about the myth of Persephone, about truths and myths and alt facts, myths as having 'deeper' and varied meaning. Joined by William and talked the whole hour

26 February: **Water part 1** with Judith, Katy. We had a story about a bridge across a stream - a simple structure that brought two brothers together after they disagreed. We went over to the Victoria Art Gallery to find the painting of a bridge over the Kennet & Avon Canal (connection with John Rennie, Quaker supervisor of the canal).

12 February: **Fire** with Agnes and Hilary and 4 children. We built a small fire in a fire bowl under the arches and toasted marshmallows (great success), told the children a story about a destructive fire overcome by the individual effort, bravery, determination and faith of a small creature (children listened but not sure if the story made a lasting impression), finally tried to think of images of different kinds of fire (mildly successful) and drew images of fire.

22nd January 2017: **Water** Alex, Hilary and 8 children. A shortened meeting as boiler not working. I bought a 2 litre bottle of water and some grapes. With the water demonstrated how many bottles of water each of us contained and talked about its uses in the body, then 2 stories, while the children ate the grapes, stopping before the end and asking the children for ideas to complete it, one a fairy tale about a witch whose tears sucked up all the water in a village, the 2nd a true account of water shortage in the world, with a map and pictures, and about causes, esp. Irrigation depleting water table. The grapes had grown in a country in Africa that is doing this. [I don't think the kids understood the point!]. No time for craft.

15 January: **Fire and warmth** with Judith, Hilary, Ella. The hospitality of Margaret Fell at Swarthmoor Hall in the early days of Quakers; looking after each other.

8 January 2017 **Months and seasons** Agnes and Alison and 8 children. I told the children a story involving the months, seasons and some elements (earth, water as snow and fire). Other themes were: overcoming hardships, generosity vs envy, kindness vs cruelty, joy and community. The children created some beautiful, intricate kite paper stars.

Upcoming theatre double bill: *Wings; His Peers*

Our Friend June Bianchi has been studying acting and production this year on the Theatre Royal Engage theatre course. June writes:

The course culminates in a double bill of plays: 'Wings' which deals with the impact of grief on the family and 'His Peers' which takes a female perspective on the famous '12 Angry Men' drama, questioning what is justice and what is its purpose.

4

TED Theatre School double bill week 1
featuring the TED Community Choir
directed by Lee Lyford

Wings
by Matt Grinter



*A powerful portrayal of the grief felt after
of the loss of a wife, mother, sister and
friend.*

His Peers
by Silva Semerciyan



*An all-female jury reaches a unanimous verdict
- but who is not telling all she knows?*

The Ustinov, Theatre Royal Bath 13th-15th July
Book online or call 01225 448844

4

June plays tattoo artist Loulou, foreperson in the jury in 'His Peers'. Both plays deal with moral and social issues of our time. Do attend! You can order tickets from the Theatre Royal box office: Bath Ustinov: 13-15 July.

“Great get-together” picnic in memory of Jo Cox

Several Bath Quakers took an active part in the Great Get Together in Bath's Walcot Open Space Sunday 18 June. On a blisteringly hot day, it was one of over 120,000 such events across the UK. They were organised in memory of Jo Cox MP, murdered one year ago at the time of the Brexit referendum.

The events were supported by the Jo Cox Foundation, which has merged efforts with The Big Lunch started in recent years by the Eden Project.



*"More in common than divides us": Friends enjoy a meaningful shared picnic.
Organised by Bath Labour Party, guests included our new LibDem MP.*

Enjoy a Day of Quiet on Kelston Roundhill: 2 Sept 2017

Katie Evans & Christine Goodgame-Nobes write:

Following the success of last year's quiet day we will be holding another quiet day at the Old Barn, Kelston Roundhill on Sat 2 September.



Come and enjoy the quiet (June 2017 photo by balloonist Darwin Peltan)

A quiet day is an opportunity for rest and spiritual refreshment, a safe space where we can move in and out of our own stillness.

We will offer some suggestions for 'paths' you might like to try as a way into silence, or you're free to follow your own way. The day won't be completely silent. There will be opportunities to worship and reflect together and share fellowship over lunch and coffee.

Practicalities:

- The Old Barn is just below Kelston Roundhill, between Bath and Kelston. See the website at: <https://kelstonroundhill.com> We will arrange shared lifts nearer the time.
- The day will be 10:00-16:00. Soup, bread & cheese lunch and tea/coffee will be provided.
- We're asking participants to make a contribution towards the cost of the day; suggested donation £20 per person. But please don't be put off by this – donate what you can afford.

Places are limited. Please let Katie know if you'd like to attend.

Can't get to Meeting? Meeting can come to you!

Katie Evans writes

If you are unable to attend meeting for worship for a while (eg due to ill health) but would still like to worship with Friends, we may be able to arrange a small meeting for worship in your home.



If you can't come to the Meeting House for worship ask elders or overseers if meeting can come to you. And send us a picture!

Please contact any of the elders or overseers: Christine Goodgame-Nobes, Claire Marrack, Katie Evans, Judith Eversely, David Kent and Diana Page.

We're all invited on the Circuit of Bath Walk 24 Sept

Julian House has written to Bath Quakers with an open invitation to the Circuit of Bath walk on 24 Sept. It's a spectacular and popular event, in aid of Bath's homeless charity. Walkers and runners can choose anything from a two to 20 mile stretch of the circular route around Bath's beautiful countryside.



[Circuit of Bath walk photo from Julian House web site.](#)

This year the Julian House's Circuit of Bath Walk is part of the inaugural Bathscape Walking Festival 16-24 September. Julian House is one of Bath Quakers' supported charities.

For further details or an entry form contact Cathy Adcock on 01225 354656 cathya@julianhouse.org.uk

Some thank you notes from charities we supported

Bath Quakers have had some thank you letters back after making some small charitable allocations. Our treasurer Sally Haris writes:

[Quaker Asylum & Refugee Network](#) is one of our Quaker charities for 2017. I have sent them £60 (our set amount for 2017) and they have written back to thank us saying "Money coming in is used to keep QARN moving forward, it does not go towards the running of projects that provide direct practical support (such as City of Sanctuary). Thank you for your enthusiastic interest."

I have also sent £60 to Britain Yearly Meeting to support the work of [Quaker Peace & Social Witness](#) and had a lovely reply, thanking all of you and going on to say "Britain Yearly Meeting relies on financial support from Quaker meetings, but money alone does not make our work possible. Quakers are a do-it-together church, and Friends across the country give their time freely in so many different ways – governing, facilitating, participating, and keeping our central work open to inspiration and guidance from the Spirit. I hope you'll pass on my thanks to Friends in your meeting, not only for this gift but for all that they are doing to keep our religious society strong and to live out our faith in the world."

And [Young Friends General Meeting](#) simply say "Many thanks for your £60 donation!"

Diary dates

Location is Friends Meeting House unless shown otherwise

Diary dates 2017:

Sun 25 June 1245-1345 **How Quaker Meetings take decisions**

Th 29 June 1900 **Quaker History Group meeting**

Th 29 June- Sun July 2 [5x5x5's International festival of childhood](#), University of Bath

Sun 2 July 1000 **Healing meeting**

Sun 2 July **Business Meeting** Ali Packer Clerk, Diana Jeater Co-Clerk

Sat July 8 **The Bundle** theatre performance at FMH

Sun 16 July 1100 **All age worship**

Sat 29 July – Sat 5 August **BYM 2017** University of Warwick

Mon 28 Aug (Bank holiday) 1400-1700 Celebration in music and food of the legacy to Bath of the refugee H.I.M Heile Selassie at **Kelston village fete**, Kelston (entry £3)

Sat 2nd Sept 1000-1600 **Quiet day** at the Old Barn, Kelston Roundhill

Sun 10 September **Business Meeting** Diana Jeater Clerk, Lin Patterson Co-Clerk

Sun 1 October 1300 **Area Meeting** Bath

Sun 5 November **Business Meeting** Lin Patterson Clerk, Ali Packer Co-Clerk

Sun 3 December 1300 **Area Meeting** Frome

Area Meetings 4th June: Devizes; 1st Oct: Bath; 3rd Dec: Frome - 1300

Friends are encouraged to attend Meeting for Worship at the host venue, if possible. It is good for everyone in AM to experience worshipping together, getting to "know each other in the things that are eternal". It also builds an understanding of difference, which Bath meeting is exploring as a concern.

Further ahead:

BYM 2017: 29 July – 5 August 2017, University of Warwick.

BYM 2018: 4-7 May 2018, London.

BYM 2019: 24–27 May 2019, London.

Worship

Sunday	11:00-12:00	FMH York St
Tuesday	19:00-19:30	FMH York St
Wednesday	10:30-11:00	FMH York St

Regular Events

Every Sunday	11:00-12:00	Children's Meeting	FMH York St
1 st Sunday of Feb, Apr, May, July, Sept, & Nov	13:00	Meeting for Worship for Business (Preparative Meeting)	FMH York St
1 st Sunday	10:00-10:30	Friends Fellowship of Healing	FMH
2 nd Sun even months	13:00	Favourite Passages from the Bible and Quaker Faith & Practice	FMH York St
2 nd Sun odd months	13:00	Poetry Group	FMH York St
4 th Sunday	13:00	Shared lunch	FMH York St

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Remember: every day is a web site deadline. Please submit photos also.

Aug newsletter items to us by Tue 18 July please.

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