



Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

BULLETIN

March 2020

Welcome to...

Our news Bulletin from across our AREA MEETING!

Please send any information that you would like to be included to the Area Meeting Co-Clerks at:

amclerks@nottsandderbyquakers.org.uk

Please get it to us by two weeks before the next Area Meeting date and mark 'for inclusion in Area Meeting Bulletin'.



Anne de Gruchy, Co-Clerk (Minuting)
Paul Nicholas, Co-Clerk (Correspondence)
Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

FUTURE AREA MEETINGS 2020

- Saturday 16th May, 2 pm: Chesterfield (E&O am)
- Saturday 11th July, pm: Fritchley
- Saturday 12th September, am: Bakewell (Walk in afternoon)
- Saturday 14th November, pm: Nottingham (E&O am)
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YEARLY MEETING GATHERING

Saturday 1st August to Friday 7th August 2020. Venue: Bath University

Bookings for Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020 are now open and a brochure has been sent to meetings. This document contains practical information about the Gathering as well as material to help you prepare for Yearly Meeting. The information contained in the brochure is also available on the website www.quaker.org.uk/ym along with a PDF version of the brochure and a PDF version of the preparation materials.

The theme for the Gathering is *Listening, prophecy and reconciliation: allyship in a climate emergency*. This theme was discerned by young Friends on Junior Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee and their leadership has been welcomed. The suggested resources contained on the website and in the brochure include links to podcasts on allyship, climate change and activism as well as other written resources. It is hoped to build on these resources between now and the Gathering. Also available on the website is the draft outline timetable.

It is hoped to build a Gathering full of worship, fun, conversation, sharing, hope, games, learning, community and above all challenge.

NEW AREA MEETING WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE

Following a considerable amount of work by our Website Administrator, Judith Nilsen, we now have a new and much simpler Wordpress-based Area Meeting website. The content has been updated and each Local Meeting has been given a chance to redesign its own page. Where Local Meetings have their own website there is a direct link to this from the Area Meeting website. The new website can be found at:



<https://nottsandderbyquakers.org.uk/>

AREA MEETING EMAILS HAVE CHANGED!

You may have noticed that our new website has the same name as the old one, except that it now has a '.uk' at the end. In turn all of the emails for roleholders which previously ended in @nottsandderbyquakers.org will now instead end in @nottsandderbyquakers.org.uk. So, for all of the email addresses on Page 6 of the yellow Area Meeting Contact List, simply add a '.uk' at the end. In addition, Local Meetings have each been offered their own email address via our website.

Do make use of these email addresses! They are particularly useful to Area Meeting role holders who might wish to contact a large number of Friends on a regular basis – for instance to get in touch with all the Elders and Overseers when meetings are being organised, or to share information with the Local Meeting Clerks. Alternatively you might wish to publicise an event, send details of a funeral, ask advice from other meetings, or notify people of a new role holder or the cancellation of an event.

The email address links are updated when roleholders change, although for Local Meeting appointments we rely on Local Meetings to inform us of changes. Any roleholder changes - for instance Local Meeting Clerks, Treasurers or Safeguarding Friends - should be sent to Judith Nilsen and to the Area Meeting Co-Clerks.

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EVENTS WITHIN OUR AREA MEETING

Contact details for people and meetings can be found in the *Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting Contact List* – your Local Meeting Clerk has a copy.

- Meetings for Learning at Nottingham
Meetings for Learning take place at Nottingham Meeting House on the third Sunday of each month starting at 12.00 noon and finishing at 1.15 pm. All are welcome.
 - April 19th - Atheism and Faith.
 - May 17th - Loneliness of the Spiritual Journey
 - June 21st - The Bible - Is it still worth reading?

Assisted Dying Workshop

Quakers in Britain are being encouraged to further explore the issue of assisted dying, and dying and death more generally, recognizing that there are differing and deeply-held views. A workshop on this theme has been arranged for our Area Meeting.

The workshop will include the showing of a one hour film called *Love and Dying* produced by film makers David and Jill George from the Isle of Wight who are members of Newport Meeting. This is a very moving film outlining the experience of two families and with input from those involved with the organization Dignity in Dying.

The workshop will be facilitated by Maggie Lightowler-Cook and Anne de Gruchy.

Full details of the workshop are:

Date: Saturday 25th April 2020
Time: 1:45 for 2.00 – 4:30 pm
Venue: Bakewell Friends Meeting House
Chapel Row, Matlock Street, Bakewell DE45 1EL

Programme

1:45 Arrivals and tea/coffee
2:00 Welcome and context – Maggie Lightowler-Cook
2:05 Film: *Love and Dying*
3:05 Refreshments
3:20 Small Group Sharing – reflections on the film and our personal experiences.
3:45 Plenary - Worship Sharing and reflecting on what we've heard and the questions posed to us by Meeting for Sufferings.
4:10 Bringing it together - what would we like to feed back to Meeting for Sufferings?
4:25 Closing Worship

A separate smaller room and support will be available for anyone who needs 'time out' during this workshop.

Refreshments will be provided.

- This event is free but please let us know if you are coming so that we can manage numbers. Contact Maggie Lightowler-Cook to book a place.
- If you require or can offer transport to this event please let Maggie know and she will try to co-ordinate lift shares.
- Contact details are in the yellow Contact List (your LM Clerk has a copy)

Do join us as we begin a journey together exploring this important topic.

There is more information on this at:

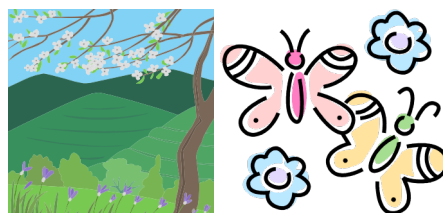
<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-to-discuss-assisted-dying>

Area Meeting Residential Weekend 2020

Our Area Meeting Residential Weekend has been arranged by Nottingham Meeting and will take place from 8th – 10th May 2020.

The theme of the weekend is 'Reverence for Life'.

Cost is £195 with bursaries available – please do ask if you would like to come but the cost would be a barrier.



Leaflets and booking forms have been provided to all Local Meetings and are also available from Rod Sladen.

MEET A FRIEND!

Introducing...

...well no-one has sent us a photo or any information this issue, but we would love to hear from you! We're hoping to get to know Friends from across the Area Meeting a little better by featuring different people in the Bulletin. Send a photo (if you wish) and tell us a bit about yourself – not just Quakerly stuff. Serious or funny is fine!

A BLOG WITH A DIFFERENCE

Rhiannon Grant, who is part of the Programmes Team at Woodbrooke and who previously came to Beeston Meeting, writes a wide-ranging blog that includes many Quaker themes under the name: Brigid, Fox, and Buddha.

Following the presentation at our last Area Meeting by Nottingham Young Friends which covered a range of **LGBTIQA+ Issues**, I thought Friends might be interested in Rhiannon's recent post titled: **Asexuality, aromanticism, and Quakers**.

After considering what these terms mean, Rhiannon writes:

So, is there anything which Quakers can say about these experiences? Firstly, I think it's important to say that the Quaker emphasis on personal experience and truth-telling means we start from a position of accepting people's accounts of themselves. Secondly, Quakers value diversity in community and see no reason to encourage everyone to be the same - the existence of sexual and asexual, aromantic and more romantic, people of all sexual orientations and none within our community is well documented, and if we are able to create an atmosphere of trust so that everyone can be open about their experiences we will be the stronger for it.

Rhiannon also considers the importance of valuing friendships. If you would like to read more, follow the link to her blog post below:

<https://brigidfoxandbuddha.wordpress.com/2020/02/20/asexuality-aromanticism-and-quakers/>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Wanted: Children & Young People's Advocate!

We currently have a vacancy in our Area Meeting for a Children and Young People's Advocate. This is an important role, and we would love anyone who is interested to get in touch with Jan Gentle, Convenor of Area Meeting Nominations Committee.



WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

Finding out about Quakers - A weekend event for newcomers

17th -19th April 2020

at Charney Manor, Charney Bassett, Oxfordshire OX12 0EJ

New to Quakers? Want to explore Quaker worship? This weekend is for people who know little or nothing about Quakers, and for those who have been around Quakers a while and want to explore further. Come and find out more about core Quaker beliefs, discover Quaker worship and hear how Quakers live their lives. You will be guided by experienced facilitators from the Quaker Quest team. They will encourage you to reflect, ask questions and share your thoughts with others - all in the tranquil surroundings of a welcoming manor house in the heart of rural Oxfordshire.

Cost : £212 (incl. £106 deposit), including accommodation and all meals.

How to book: to download the booking form go to www.charneymanor.com/events

Email: admin@charneymanor.com

Telephone: 01235 868206

An event arranged by Quaker Quest and Charney Manor

www.findingoutaboutquakers.weebly.com / www.charneymanor.com

Quaker Mental Health Forum

24th October 2020 at The Priory Rooms, Birmingham.

The Forum is funded by The Retreat York Benevolent Fund, meaning there is no charge to attend, but please book a place so they can ascertain numbers and any additional needs. Topic will be: ***Hope in dark times: responding to that which overwhelms us; holding hope for ourselves and for others.*** It is hoped that the day will offer space to reflect, to listen and to find strength. Follow this link to book a place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/quaker-mental-health-forum-hope-and-dark-times-tickets-94428930473>

Area Meetings have been encouraged to send a representative. Please contact the Co-Clerks if you wish to attend and feedback on behalf of the Area Meeting.



Peace Education Conference

4th –6th September 2020, Brussels

Are you interested in peace education? Would you like to meet Quakers from across Europe and share practice and ways to strengthen the call for peace education? The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) and Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) are organising a conference to enable Quaker teachers/youth workers/young adults and parents/carers from across Europe to make new connections and reflect in peaceful surroundings.

Accommodation and catering are provided but basic in order to keep costs down. The site is accessible but frequent movement around the site is required. Places are limited so please express interest as soon as possible. QCEA will confirm if you have a place.

Find the form at www.qcea.org/conference.

For more information contact Martin Leng at QCEA: martin.leng@qcea.org

CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19

At the time of production of this Bulletin all these events were due to go ahead to the best of our knowledge. However the advice re Coronavirus is changing all the time, so please do check with the event organiser if you plan to attend any of these events.