



Development

Update

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News about the Friargate Project

Looking good!

The first part of our building work is finished. The exciting remodelling of our meeting house is on course as a welcoming Quaker and community building in the heart of York.

Thanks are due to the many users of the building for their patience during the unavoidable disturbance the first part of the work caused. Our builders were amazingly skilled in completing the work on a small and inaccessible site, without our having to close the building. We are also proud that our staff succeeded in managing issues for our users so satisfactorily, and in their usual cheerful manner.

- Garden-level rooms are extended and refurbished;
- A Quiet Room is now available;
- A new lift ensures full accessibility to all floors.



Our Aims

Maintenance

Tackle subsidence and damp issues.

Access

Make the building accessible to everyone.

Community

Improve facilities to meet varied needs.

Welcome

Provide a welcoming environment reflecting Quaker values of sustainability, openness and reflection.

A project of two halves

To enable the continued use of the meeting house, the overall project has been split into two parts, with a breathing space between for us to take stock.

We now hope to carry out the final works in 2015, starting in summer, a less busy time at the meeting house. Users should find Phase 2 of the works less noisy or disruptive than Phase 1.

The meeting house will remain open throughout, though access to particular areas will inevitably be limited for certain periods.

So far, the appearance at street level is largely unaffected. With Phase 2 the new look extends into the entrance area.

The next steps ...

An extra floor

A new upper floor will be created. Lift and access stairs are already in place.

New rooms

Four in all, including smaller interview and consultation rooms.

A fresher look

Creation of a seating and reading area, open for use all day. Cloakroom refurbishment.

Developing a meeting house for the 21st century

Taking stock ...

A garden level revisited

Our users have been praising the light and airy atmosphere of the extended and refurbished rooms, their integration into a re-designed garden area (especially in summer) and the improved kitchen and toilet facilities. Damp problems of the Woolman Room are now history and it's so inviting it has become one of our most popular rooms. People have also come to appreciate the flexibility of seating layouts in the new octagonal Garden Room. – And all the rooms are fully accessible via the new lift.



The Quiet Room

Quakers value stillness in their worship, so this room is a core part of the refurbished building. During daytime hours it's available to anyone for quiet reflection. In the evenings small groups can use it.

At the moment, access is via a temporary corridor. Opening-up the ground floor area will enhance its integration in the overall concept. Find out more about The Quiet Room on our website.

... and looking ahead

Open and accessible

One aspect of the remaining work will be immediately obvious: The ground floor area will be opened up and extended to the rear terrace. Not only will this ease circulation in our busy meeting house, but also increase the amount of daylight and provide an optical link with the outdoor areas. We hope that the new seating area will be an inviting space for reading and chatting.

Questions?

Before work starts there will be an *Update* about the many features of Phase 2. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, Natasha Heny, our Meeting House Manager, will be happy to help.

How you can help

As well as through donations, individuals can now support the project through interest-free loans. In the present financial climate, where savings attract minimal rates of interest, this may be an attractive way of putting money to work to support socially-useful work in the local community. If you might be able to help, please contact John Fieldhouse at Friargate Meeting House. (Tel.: 01904 289887, info@bfadesign.co.uk)



In Update 4: Phase 2 plans take shape

Update appears occasionally to provide information about the Friargate Meeting House Development Project. A leaflet with information about the project is available in the meeting house, on request from friargate@yorkquakers.org.uk, or can be downloaded from our website yorkquakers.org.uk.

