

Monthly Mailing – May 2015

for local meeting clerks or conveners



Welcome to your May 2015 mailing.

Area meeting clerks have received the same material, numbered identically, to help you discuss it with them if you need to. Please send any feedback, mailing-list updates or requests to receive the email version of this mailing to Gaby Scott: gabys@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1045.

NB: The next monthly mailing, for **July 2015**, will be sent out on 30 June 2015. There is **no June mailing** as there is a break in the schedule after Yearly Meeting.



action required by clerk for meeting business



printed material is included relating to this item (number of sheets to right of icon)



this item is also relevant to area meetings

Listings for your noticeboard and books and magazines included in this mailing:

- **Books of the Month May 2015** from the Quaker Centre Bookshop.
- **Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre: Upcoming events and courses.** Please display this sheet on your noticeboard. To book a place on a course visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk and book online or download and print a booking form from www.bit.ly/wbform1 Alternatively call Woodbrooke on 0121 472 5171 to book over the phone.
- **Among Friends No. 132. Spring 2015.** News and views from Friends and meetings in Europe and the Middle East.
- **The Leavenings April Edition.** A biannual magazine published by the Leaveners. This edition features news about 2015 projects and events, and information about new workshops offered to Friends, meetings and other faith groups around the UK. Download for free at www.leaveners.org and sign up to mailing list. For further information: enquiries@leaveners.org or 0121 414 0099.
- **Encounters with mental distress: Quaker stories.** Compiled by the Quaker Life Network Mental Health in Meetings Cluster, this collection of stories gives an insight into experiences of mental illness and distress. A copy of the book has been enclosed for your meeting library. Additional copies are available to buy for £5 from the Quaker Centre Bookshop, www.quaker.org.uk/shop (see Books of the Month May 2015).

Many thanks to the Friends from Luton & Leighton Area Meeting who help to collate this mailing.

We suggest that some of the following items are read out as notices. Please pass enclosures to relevant members of your meeting or add to your noticeboard or newsletter where possible.

Children and young people

1. Facilitation and Leadership

2–4 October 2015, Woodbrooke, Birmingham

Facilitation and Leadership is an event for 15- to 21-year-olds. The weekend will explore the ways to work as a facilitator and lead groups. It will cover understanding groups and facilitation skills, equal opportunities and being a Quaker facilitator.

Cat Waithaka, 020 7663 1011, catw@quaker.org.uk
<http://bit.ly/1yAxcmi>



Please announce in notices and pass to those aged 15-21.

Conferences and events

2. Castle or community? Quakers' role in building the new Europe QCEA-QPSW Biennial conference

4–6 December 2015 at the Chant d'Oiseau Conference Centre, Brussels, Belgium

- What kind of Europe do we want?
- How do we work together to build the Europe we want?
- How can Quaker values and processes contribute to effective advocacy?
- How does our witness inform our advocacy and affect European policy?

Friends from all over Europe are invited to gather in Brussels and reflect on these questions together. Suitable for Friends involved in witness work which could have a European dimension, or would benefit from sharing experience with Friends in Europe.

We hope one of the outcomes of the conference will be increased networking of European Friends around specific issues.

Kristin Skarsholt, kristins@quaker.org.uk, 0207 663 1121
www.quaker.org.uk/qpsw-conferences-and-events



LMS (2 sheets):
Please share the flyer and forward the names of interested Friends to your area meeting.

AMS (4 sheets):
Please consider who you might nominate to attend this conference and share the information given.

3. QPSW Autumn Conference

A changing world: Changing the way we work

30 October – 1 November 2015 at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

- How is the work of QPSW changing?
- How can Friends continue to uphold the work done on their behalf?
- How can Friends become more involved in the work of QPSW?

Many Friends have long been supporters and upholders of the work of Quaker Peace & Social Witness. This conference aims to connect those Friends more closely with the work and with each other. We will look at the way we have been building links across the work at staff and committee levels and at how we have been changing the way we work in response to requests from Friends.

Kristin Skarsholt, kristins@quaker.org.uk, 0207 663 1121
www.quaker.org.uk/qpsw-conferences-and-events



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4. Catching Light – Outreach and witness conference 2016

12–14 February 2016, High Leigh Conference Centre, EN11 8SG

We are inviting participants from every area meeting to share, explore and deepen the links between our outreach and witness. This event, held once every three years, is an opportunity for Quakers in Britain to find out about how we are becoming outreaching communities.

Cost £210 per person, en suite room, fully inclusive.

Andrew McVicar, 020 7663 1119, andrewm@quaker.org.uk
www.quaker.org.uk



Ask interested Friends to keep the date, let AM know, and AM to tell us if they want to send participants.

5. Interfaith Peacebuilding

Saturday 26 September, 2015, Friends House, London

Area meetings are invited to appoint a Friend to represent them at the forthcoming conference on interfaith peacebuilding, which is jointly hosted by the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations and Quaker Peace & Social Witness.

It will take place on 26 September 2015 in the Large Meeting House. Formal presentations from experts in the field of interfaith relations will be given in the morning, with participative workshops in the afternoon followed by a summing up.

Graham Spackman, grahams@quaker.org.uk



AM Nominations to appoint a Friend to attend.

6. New Expressions Gathering

16–18 October 2015 High Leigh Centre EN11 8SG

This gathering is an opportunity to share ideas, insights and experiences around new and innovative ways of being a Quaker community and of connecting more widely with our local communities. This event is for those with stories to tell about what is already going on and for those who simply want to know more. The cost will be £155 per person; please speak to your local or area meeting treasurer about bursary support.

Andrew McVicar, 020 7663 1119, andrewm@quaker.org.uk



Encourage interested Friends to contact us if they wish to take part in the gathering.

7. Greenbelt 2015 – The Bright Field

28–31 August 2015 Boughton House, near Kettering

Good news! Quakers in Britain are an associate partner at this year's Greenbelt festival of social justice, faith and creativity. This means that, with Northamptonshire Area Meeting, we have a pitch in the g-source tent to share the Quaker Way, our faith, peace and social witness. There's a Quaker geodesic dome in which to celebrate "Kites Not Drones" making kites with family groups, culminating in a mass kite fly late Sunday afternoon; there's also a chance to meet Quaker activist Petersen Toscano and others; or simply experience meeting for worship in the company of the Corrymeela community and others.

andrewo@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1017
www.greenbelt.org.uk



Let Friends know about this event and ask them to let us know if they are going.

General Election

8. General election 2015: Quaker Vote

The general election is almost upon us and Quakers across the country have been engaging in the election process. As well as the election guide, sent to meetings in January, there is an election website www.quakervote.org.uk where you'll find useful information about the election as well as online webinars and an election blog.

If you'd like to contribute to the blog, request additional copies of the election guide, share information about Quaker parliamentary candidates or hustings you're involved with then please do get in touch. Email Jessica Metheringham and Elizabeth Payne at quakervote@quaker.org.uk or phone on 020 7663 1107.

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Please announce in notices.

Housing

9. Housing booklets

To help Friends prepare for both the general election and Yearly Meeting 2015, two seminal Quaker publications have been reissued by Quaker Housing Trust, Yearly Meeting's own housing charity. Both "Principles for a just housing policy" and "Housing: our spiritual concern" are still freely available. For A6 (pocket-sized) printed versions, contact Paula Harvey. A4 versions can be downloaded from www.quaker.org.uk/ym and www.quakervote.org.uk

Paula Harvey, 020 7663 1036, paulah@quaker.org.uk
www.qht.org.uk

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Please announce this in notices.