

Monthly Mailing – February 2016

for local meeting clerks or conveners

Welcome to your February 2016 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 or queries to Gaby Scott: gabys@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1045.

Please note that this month there is a separate sheet for items for **Children and Young People**. Please hand this to those working with children and young people in your meeting and to children's committee.

NB: The next monthly mailing, for **March 2016**, will be sent out on 23 February 2016.

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.

Courses, conferences and events

1. Abundant Life – Re-sourcing our Meetings

4–6 March 2016, Woodbrooke

Repeated 8–10 April 2016, Woodbrooke

A weekend conference providing a chance for Friends with responsibility for eldership and oversight to come together, exchange experiences and ideas and find support and inspiration which they can share in their meetings. Area meetings have been invited to nominate participants and there are some open places.

Book online at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses.php

or for more information contact:

Michael Booth, 020 7663 1023, michaelsb@quaker.org.uk

2. Annual Conference of Treasurers

17–19 June 2016, The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire

This conference will consider how meetings can use their money to further their witness or ministry. Area meetings are invited to appoint and pay the fees of Friends to attend the conference. We hope that local meetings will suggest names of Friends who might benefit from attending the conference. The conference is for treasurers and others with financial roles in area and local meetings.

www.quaker.org.uk/events/annual-conference-of-treasurers-2016

Kristin Skarsholt, 020 7663 1121, kristins@quaker.org.uk

3. Events for enquirers

8–10 April 2016, Charney Manor

Quaker Quest arranges weekends in the Oxfordshire countryside for people who know little or nothing about Quakers, and for those who have been around Quakers for a while and want to explore further.

Do you know someone who would like to find out more about core Quaker beliefs, discover Quaker worship and hear how Quakers live their lives? Encourage them to come along to a relaxed, enjoyable and informative event.

Charney Manor, 01235 868206, admin@charney.com

4. YFGM Gathering

21–23 February 2016, Bournemouth & Fordingbridge Quaker Meeting

Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) is a national community of young adult Quakers ages 18–30ish. We meet several times a year to spend time together, explore our faith and have fun! Our next meeting is coming up on Friday 21 to Sunday 23 February, and all are welcome.

To register, go to the YFGM website at yfgm.quaker.org.uk

YFGM, 020 7663 1050, yfgm@quaker.org.uk

5. Values in Education Conference

10.00am–4.30pm, Saturday, 30 April 2016, Friends House, London

A national conference for all interested and engaged in publicly funded education in Britain. Through speakers, discussion and workshops the conference will explore how Quaker values can stimulate and inspire a productive debate about the impact of government policy on our school system. It is organised by Quaker Values in Education (QVinE) a listed informal group. The cost is £15. Further details and booking online at qvineconference@gmail.com

World War I Centenary

6. White Feather Day

2 March 2016

Mark the centenary of the recognition of the right to conscientious objection by participating in White Feather Day. This could involve holding a public meeting for worship at a place associated with conscientious objectors, discussing Conscience's Taxes for Peace Bill in your meeting, or engaging local groups in a discussion around conscientious objection then and now.

Contact Elizabeth Payne for an information pack.

Elizabeth Payne, 020 7663 1158, elizabethp@quaker.org.uk

Quaker Life

7. Experiment with Light

Quaker Life recognises that for some Friends, Experiment with Light can be a powerful way of deepening their spiritual life. Experience has shown that the practice contributes best to the life of the meeting when it is undertaken in a group that is in the care of the meeting and supported by elders. To facilitate this, we are enclosing details

of opportunities in 2016 for learning more about the practice. Please share this with elders, overseers and interested Friends.

experimentwithlight@gmail.com, www.experiment-with-light.org.uk

Peace Witness: Events and Resources

8. Fly a Kite for Peace

Quaker Peace & Social Witness, working with partners, have produced a new resource pack 'Fly Kites not Drones'. The pack is full of ideas for exciting work with children and young people to explore the impact armed drones have on children living in countries such as Afghanistan. Join thousands of people around the world and fly a kite for peace for Nao Roz, Persian New Year, 21 March.

If you get involved with Fly Kites not Drones, it'd be great to hear from you. Contact Ellis Brooks at ellisb@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1009.

For more info see: www.flykitesnotdrones.org

9. Trident – 2016 is decision time!

27 February 2016, National demonstration, Trafalgar Square

Britain Yearly Meeting is co-sponsoring a national demonstration against Trident and supporting many other activities in the run-up to a parliamentary decision on Trident later this year. Please see enclosed leaflet and check BYM website for details. This is a year not only for letter-writing and protests but also for thoughtful and respectful conversations that can deepen our understanding of each other as well as of this important issue.

Tim Wallis, 020 7663 1067, timw@quaker.org.uk

New economy

10. Responding to the government's consultation on proposals to limit the ability of local councils to invest and procure ethically

Britain Yearly Meeting are submitting a response to the government's consultation on proposals to limit the ability of local councils to make ethical decisions when investing and procuring. We encourage Friends and local meetings to submit their own responses to this public consultation and to engage with councillors and councils to ensure they are aware of the proposals.

The consultation closes on 19 February 2016.

Jessica Metheringham, 020 7663 1107, jessicam@quaker.org.uk

11. Principles for a new economy webinar

In January Quaker Peace & Social Witness ran a webinar to introduce its New Economy project and visionary 'Principles for a New Economy' document. The project is one response to BYM's commitment to work for an economic system that works for both people and planet. It will support Friends to explore what a better economic system might look like. The 'Principles' document draws on input from Quakers across Britain to outline key principles and features of an economic system that would be compatible with Quaker values.

Cait Crosse, 020 7663 1035, caitc@quaker.org.uk

Grants

12. Adult Education Grants

Grants are available to help members and attenders entering further or higher education, particularly those equipping themselves to serve society and/or the Religious Society of Friends. Applicants should

be mature students or graduates (not school/college-leavers), either in membership of Britain Yearly Meeting or attenders of at least five years, and in need of financial support to undertake the course. The course should be of at least one academic year in duration, offered at a reputable institution within the UK. Application packs are available from January with a submission deadline of 29 April for courses starting in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Please download the application form from:

www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/grant-making/adult-education. Please email any questions to

grants@quaker.org.uk

Children and Young People

1. Workshops about working with children and young people

There are opportunities for meetings to request workshops on a variety of topics relating to working with children and young people. These provide the space for meetings to reflect and to develop knowledge and understanding of work with children and young people. The workshops seek to help meetings become more confident and equipped as worshipping communities.

The enclosed leaflet gives information about the workshops that are available and details about how to request these.

CYP Administrator, 020 7663 1013, cypadmin@quaker.org.uk

www.quaker.org.uk/cyptraining

2. Young Quakers Calendar 2016

The calendar provides information on resources, training, link groups and events taking place for young Quakers throughout Britain in 2016. It can also be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/yqc2016>

If you would like to order further copies to give to young Quakers please send details of how many you require and where you would like them sent to:

CYP Administrator, 020 7663 1160, cypadmin@quaker.org.uk