

Monthly Mailing – December 2015

for local meeting clerks or conveners



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

IMPORTANT! END OF YEAR UPDATES

Please note that notification of role changes for clerks at the end of the year should go through the **Book of Meetings updates form** which you should have received by post. You may post this back to the address given on the form or email to updates@quaker.org.uk. This will include any change in correspondence clerk and how they prefer to receive the monthly mailing.

NB: The next monthly mailing, for **February 2015**, will be sent out on 26 January 2015.

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



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



All PDF documents for this mailing are at <http://old.quaker.org.uk/mm-dec15>

Listings and press release for your noticeboard:

- **Books of the Month Seasonal Edition 2015** from the Quaker Centre Bookshop.
- **Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre: Upcoming events and courses December 2015**
Please display this list of upcoming courses and events. To book your 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 0121 472 5171 to book over the phone.
- **Friends World News 2015, Vol 1, No. 184** The latest bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation.
- **Among Friends, Issue 134** The latest issue of the regular journal of Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation.
- **The Young Quaker Magazine** The latest edition of this magazine produced by Young Friends General Meeting for young Quakers everywhere, containing news, comments, etc.

Reminder

Our Sustainability Commitment – Being a transformational community

18 – 20 March 2016, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

There are three themes to this conference: Practical change; Spiritual dimensions of climate change; Strengthening our communities. Each area meeting is asked to send at least one Friend. Individuals are also welcome. **The deadline for bookings is 29 January.**

For more information and to book visit: www.quaker.org.uk/events

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.

Governance

1. Goddard Inquiry

A letter and information sheet has been sent to area meeting clerks, clerks of AM trustees and AM safeguarding co-ordinators about the request from the Goddard Inquiry to keep records about safeguarding and child protection issues however old they are.

We wish to co-operate with the Inquiry.

Michael S Booth, Support for Meetings Officer, Quaker Life
020 7663 1023, michaelb@quaker.org.uk



Keep for reference.
Be ready to co-operate.

Courses and conferences

**Book at www.woodbrooke.org.uk, 0121 472 5171, enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ**

2. Managing Meeting Houses

Monday 18 – Wednesday 20 January 2016, Woodbrooke

Quaker Life recommends this course for all Quaker employers and their employees. It is good practice for managers and staff to attend together if possible to share learning from the event, which will include updates on employment legislation and developing good practice. It is appropriate to regard this as development training for employees who should normally attend in work time and be paid for by their employers.

Book online at www.woodbrooke.org.uk (search for Managing Meeting Houses)



Please bring this to the attention of the clerk to premises committee, your warden and any others involved with employment.

3. Finding the Spirit in the Melting Pot QCCIR Annual Conference with Woodbrooke

Friday 11 – Sunday 13 March 2016, Woodbrooke

A joint conference between the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (*Qf&p* 9.13) and Woodbrooke. It explores these pressing issues through the lens of Quaker work in the fields of inter-church and interfaith dialogue. It will look in depth at the serious questions such as 'can our internal theological diversity be a source of religious strength in an increasingly conflicted and violent world?'



Announce in notices.

World War I Centenary

4. 100 years of conscientious objection

2 March 2016

In March 2016 it is 100 years since Britain introduced the legal right to conscientious objection to military service. On Wednesday 2 March we encourage meetings to raise awareness of conscientious objection today and over the last century. Could your meeting take action? Take a look at the flyer or request more information from:

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



Announce in notices and consider how your meeting could take action.

Social Justice

5. Housing and Inequality – What canst thou do?

Saturday 20 February 2016, Friends House, London

A Day to respond to the housing crisis. A keynote speech given by Lord Robert Kerlake in the morning will be followed by workshops in the afternoon including on homelessness, being an ethical landlord, lobbying, and how individuals and groups can help in various ways. The day is open to all and is free. Bring your friends.

To register email: LQEvents2016@gmail.com

Fred Ashmore, 07976 299 721



Announce in notices, display flyer.

6. Principles for a New Economy

Webinar at 6–7pm on 14 January

QPSW is pleased to launch its New Economy project. The enclosed 'Principles for a New Economy' has been written by the Economics, Sustainability and Peace subcommittee based on input from hundreds of Friends. There will be an opportunity to discuss these principles and learn more about the next steps of the project at the webinar in January.

www.ustream.tv/channel/quakers-in-britain

Suzanne Ismail, 0207 633 1055, suzannei@quaker.org.uk



Promote sharing of 'Principles for a New Economy' document and participation in the webinar.

7. Quakers oppose cuts to welfare benefits

Quakers in Britain have signed up to a report called Enough which says the government proposal to change people's behaviour by changing their income, is immoral.

Quakers and major UK Churches warn that the Bill will break the link between what people need and the amount of support they can receive. Families with children will be hardest hit by this change.

Now is a good time to write to your MP.

Read the report <http://bit.ly/JPITenough>

The report is available online. If you need a printed copy contact: Ellie Roberts, 020 7663 1056, ellier@quaker.org.uk



Announce in notices. Read the report and consider writing to your MP.

8. Britain Yearly Meeting Housing Threshing Event

At Yearly Meeting 2015 there was a session on housing as a tested concern. This session recognised the Yearly Meeting's long history of involvement with housing and homelessness. As a result of the session at Yearly Meeting a threshing event was held at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre on the weekend of 11–13 September. A group of 17 Friends met to explore the issue. A Minute of BYM Housing threshing event held 11–13 September 2015, is the outcome of the weekend. It is offered to Friends to share as widely as possible around Quaker meetings.

Available as a PDF at <http://bit.ly/Q-housing-thresh-2015>



Announce in notices and share with those who may be interested.

Children and young people

9. Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting

28–30 May 2016, Friend's House, London

During Yearly Meeting the children's programme runs on Saturday, Sunday and Monday for children under the age of 11. There are expected to be two separate groups for under 5s and two separate groups for 5- to 11-year-olds. These will give children the opportunity to make friends, have fun, worship and to think about and explore their place in the Quaker community and the world.

Places must be booked in advance by March 16.

Mel Cook, 020 7663 1014, melaniec@quaker.org.uk



Please pass flyer on to parents of children under the age of 11 and support booking.

10. Young People's Programme at Yearly Meeting

Young People's Programme provides a residential programme during Yearly Meeting. The event is themed to explore current Yearly Meeting topics in age appropriate ways. Along with providing space for worship and engagement with issues of importance to Quakers, the weekend aims to be fun, challenging and exciting. 11- to 15-year-olds will be able to engage with the national Quaker community and their peers.

Lucy Sam, 020 7663 1160, lucys@quaker.org.uk



Announce and put flyer on the notice board.

Other items of interest

11. Quaker World Relations Committee New Factsheet

The new factsheet reflects the purpose of the Quaker World Relations Committee and explains new ways of working that have been developed over the last year. One of the new ways to connect British Friends with Friends worldwide is via the Online Quaker World Relations Committee Network. This Network aims to bring expertise of Quaker activity beyond Britain together as much as possible and to learn from one another. To join the Network contact:

Marleen Schepers, marleens@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1143

Further information at: www.quaker.org.uk/qwrc



Please announce in notices and put on notice board.

12. Job opportunity:

Vibrancy in Meetings Programme Co-ordinator

The role of National Co-ordinator for the Vibrancy programme will involve planning, managing, promoting, monitoring and evaluating the programme as well as managing regional development workers. Knowledge of project management and evaluation, and of community development and empowerment will be required. The work will be part-time with flexible working, including at weekends (particularly Sundays) and on some evenings. The position may be based at Woodbrooke, in a local Quaker meeting house, or could be undertaken from home and will involve travel throughout Britain.

For more information and an application form visit www.quaker.org.uk/job-opportunities/jobs

Sarah Griffith, 02076631141, vibrancy@quaker.org.uk

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/pages/vibrancy_in_meetings.html



Announce in notices.