

Among Friends

No 144: Spring 2019

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Reflections of a year in post

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on my journey to Tampere to join with Finland Yearly Meeting as they gather together. Once again I am excited about meeting with Friends, some of whom I will know and others who will be new to me. It is a real privilege to be able to meet and worship with Friends around Europe and the Middle East in this way. It helps me remember what EMES is all about – connecting people.

I have been Assistant Secretary of EMES for just over a year now and have been learning constantly. I have attended 4 yearly meetings during the past year – each has its own style and way of working, a different age spread and different issues that they are grappling with. But at the same time there is more that connects them than separates them. We all want to build inclusive communities where everyone is welcome where we can work together trying to build a better world.

There are many highlights from my first year in service, including late night walks down to the fjord in the daylight at 11pm during the annual meeting in Bergen, meeting Friends at the EMES peace & service consultation and being inspired by



EMES executive and nominations committees

Photo: EMES

their work and co-leading (with Julia Ryberg) an outreach event in Kiev where we had participants from Ukraine, Russia, Poland & Georgia keen to develop their knowledge and experience of Quakerism and to build links between Russian-speaking Quakers. I am learning how EMES can support Friends around the region with its work and what my part in this can be. I'm open to suggestions of what I can do better!

The picture on this page is from a recent meeting in Birmingham – the EMES executive committee and nominations committee both met at Northfield meeting house to do their business in parallel. On the Saturday afternoon a joint session was held to thresh out a nominations process that will work for EMES.

I have a lot to look forward to in my next year too, and hope to meet many more of you at the Central European Gathering in Slovenia this April and of course at the EMES annual meeting in Budapest in May and at other events around the region.

Michael Eccles, Assistant Secretary, FWCC-EMES

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Peace and Service Consultation: Bad Pyrmont, Germany 16-18 November 2018

Reflections on Resource and Service Consultation

We met in the Quakerhäus set in the peaceful surroundings of the spa town Bad Pyrmont. The town had gone to sleep for winter and the first frost arrived with us, but the meeting house was warm and the hospitality of Leonie and her team was always attentive, and brimming with healthy food, (and plenty of cakes!).

Twenty Friends representing nine countries Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Switzerland attended and all were involved in peace and service gathered to consult on the theme of working together against the arms trade, on psychological trauma, and on civilian peace building

Our meeting was an opportunity for those working actively for peace to meet, learn and identify action needed to ensure that peace and service thrived in the wide variety of Yearly Meetings across Europe. Many Friends were old friends, some, like me, new to the game, but all participated in the rich and varied programme that our Clerks had arranged. Meeting together and in groups we clarified a number of perspectives and opportunities for the group – and peace – which chimed well with Gordon's beautiful refrain: 'Learn the songs that make you strong and carry them in your heart'.

Our programme

Four breakout groups of the same five participants were formed to meet in unplanned discussion following each of the four presentation sessions during the weekend. A final session on Sunday morning focused on 'what's next? Connecting insights, evaluating the weekend, and initial considerations for gatherings in 2019 and 2020.

Two presentations on Friday evening to begin the consultation were: **Stop Fuelling War** by Karen King, peace secretary for Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting speaking on action taken on Eurosatory, the huge biennial military weapons trade fair in France
www.stopfuellingwar.org/en/about-us

and **Northern Friends Peace Board** by Philip Austin from the Northern Friends Peace Board about action in Britain www.nfpb.org.uk

The first session on Saturday morning brought three presentations followed by the second round of small group discussion:

(1) QCEA's **Helping the Helpers project** by Kate McNally, QCEA Forced Migration Project Coordinator
www.qcea.org/work/human-rights/our-projects/helpers

(2) **Norwegian Quakers' cooperation with the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme**
www.gcmhp.com/en/default.aspx

by Rodger Cassidy, clerk of Quaker Service Norway
kveker.org/kvekerhjelp

who has also been involved with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel
www.eappi.org/en

to witness and document both sides in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and

(3) a Skyped-in presentation from Vukovar, Croatia by Charles Tauber of the **Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace**.
www.cwwpp.org

Following a break, the next session on Saturday morning brought three more presentations followed by a round-the-room plenary:

(1) **Friends House Moscow** friendshousemoscow.org by Sergei Grushko, with mention of Soldiers' Mothers of Saint Petersburg
www.wri-irg.org/en/news/2001/smsp.htm

(2) **Quaker Peace and Social Witness** by Dick Stockford, QPSW Central Committee member. QPSW.
www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/275

(3) **School peace clubs & AVP (Alternatives to Violence)** in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe by Lee Taylor.
friendsofhlekweni.org.uk

In one of the sessions, we also received input from



Andrew Lane (QCEA) and Lee Taylor

Photo: Kate McNally

German Friends about the work of **Quäker Hilfe and the German Yearly Meeting Peace Committee.**

The rich mix we had generated swirled around us after lunch, on a walk, (led by Leonie), to a late C18th Quaker settlement on the edge of the present town. “They are honest people and can come as long as they pay their rent”, said the Prince in welcoming the new settlers. Interestingly, just prior to their settlement, the town had been host to two visits from König Frederick der Grosse, presumably to soothe his disruptive spirit, in this ancient spa town; he also worked in his own way to create a better world.

Our discernment.....

Our discernment was based on the powerful and troublesome words we heard from our speakers who described so movingly the problems of too little money, too few volunteers and so much intransigence:

- Considering these things, we recognised how important it was to meet, plan for the future and collaborate
- We recognised and discussed new words and phrases: interlock, theories of change, exit strategies, and different levels of stewardship and strategy and how they might help (or hinder) our work

- We recognised huge diversity between resources, outcomes and possibilities, and asked how we might help by networking what we had across Europe to raise concerns and demonstrate our resistance
- We recognised that sustainability was such an important implication in our work, (as it was in our lives), and discussed how this might be achieved in order to allow us to move forward to new programmes and locations
- Another song: “I didn’t raise my boy to be a soldier” reminded us that mothers have long been a major source of resistance to war, and in the front line of peace

What’s next.....?

So at last, we turned our attention to the future and agreed our strategy to support new or revitalised peace and service movements and agreed our meeting in Brussels next year (22nd – 24th November 2019), where there would be more discussion on how best to work together on sustainability of projects, changing decision making (and analysing failure), and making another attempt to impact on EU militarism by asking how best to respond to the new EU 7 year budget.

Stop Fuelling War

Karina Knight-Spencer, France YM, writes:

Christopher Hatton of Stop Fuelling War received a peace candle from Church and Peace as a recognition and encouragement for our peace work. We will try to keep it burning through the coming years. We would like to thank all the people who support us, come to Villepinte to protest and been with us in spirit, it is for you too!

With our small group of pan European Quakers we continue to deepen our faith and consolidate our outreach with a round table presentation in June at an event in Germany called Kirchentag where protestants meet, worship, play, listen and are inspired and challenge to look at their faith in the world. www.kirchentag.de/english. The organisers are planning for 100,000 attenders and performers in the city of Dortmund. Our event is on the 20th June and the room seats 500 so come along! Holly Spencer of SFW alongside Olivia Caeymex of QCEA and Anthea Bethge from EIRENE (International Christian Peace Service) and Wandela De Vries of Stop Wopenhandel and ENAAT will present the theme of Building peace by not fuelling conflict, How to shine a light on the arms trade!

Something you can do is to sign to save the peace project which addresses the EU to remain a peace project and not become a military power. www.forumzfd.de/en/save-the-peace-project/en



Christopher Hatton of Stop Fuelling War receiving a peace candle from Lydia Funk of Church and Peace

Photo: Karina Knight-Spencer

Other than the Kirchentag, in 2019 at SFW we are redesigning the website, working on a cartoon film, producing educational materials with Agir pour la Paix Belgium, fundraising - of course, keeping up our social media presence, discussing research projects, organising for 2020 and planning for an employee in Paris. We have fun along the way and are always seeking new members and here, thanks to Corien van Dorp, are two new faces on the team.



The EMES Spiritual Growth Fund

Sue Glover Frykman, EMES Acting Clerk, writes:

What was once called the Small Grants Fund is now the Spiritual Growth Fund (same initials!) to better reflect its aims (below referred to as strokes): to strengthen Quakers' shared identity, strengthen Quaker connections and bring Quaker values to the wider community.

Taking each stroke one by one, and starting with "strengthening Quakers' shared identity", here we like to support projects that will promote Friends' understanding of Quakers' shared history, theology and spirituality, to strengthen Quaker faith and practice. The second stroke, 'strengthening Quaker connections' is designed to help Friends to meet and network in order to learn with and from one another, to enable outreach to attract new members and for Friends to become more visible. The third stroke, 'bringing Quaker values to the wider community' is about encouraging Friends to take forward innovative and practical work that brings Quaker values and beliefs to the world around them.

Since the last report appeared in *Among Friends*, two applications have been received and approved. The first, in June 2018, was from Centre Quaker International (Paris), connected to France YM, for its archive project, which involved the preservation, listing and digitisation

of historical records of the Quaker collection: 1920-2000. The second, which we considered in September 2018, was an application from the Central European Gathering for travels costs/support/refunds for Friends in a role serving the Central European Gathering, for the period of one year.

SGF is open to Quaker Meetings, Groups and organisations in the Europe and Middle East Section, excluding those from and within Britain Yearly Meeting. The SGF is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. JRCT's experience is that Quaker projects are successful if they are the result of collective effort, in terms of carefully and prayerfully exploring and formulating the idea and plan of action and carrying out the project together. In the light of this, applications are therefore restricted to Quaker groups and organisations.

Is your Meeting or Group planning to do something together that reflect the strokes outlined above? If so, the SGF could be right for you! The closing dates for applications for grants from SGF are 30th June and 31st December each year. Application guidelines and an application form can be downloaded from the EMES website at www.fwccemes.org/emes/emes-small-grants-fund-sgf

Willy & Penn needs You!

Willy & Penn – the newsletter of the Europe and Middle East Young Friends (EMEYF) - has existed as a paper newsletter since 1990. In 1993 a contest was launched to determine the best title. The prize was chocolate!

When going through the EMEYF archives in 2017, prior to the launch of the Living Archives Project (LAP), it was clear that over the years EMEYFers had kept their community alive between meetings by writing to each other – with practical announcements, articles on topics of interest and written ministry.

So, EMEYF decided to breathe new life into *Willy & Penn*. No longer a cut and paste paper newsletter, the latest version is a website that allows everyone to receive each new article directly into their email inbox. Since its launch in January 2018, there have been posts about being a Quaker, learning Russian, how to support friends from a distance and inspiring poems. To show the breadth and diversity of the EMEYF community, *Willy & Penn*

does not limit itself to English-language updates. Most articles are translated into at least one other language and contributors are invited to write in their mother tongue. So far, there are articles in English, Dutch, German, French, Norwegian, Estonian and Russian. A few articles originally from *Willy & Penn* have already appeared in past editions of *Among Friends*!

The whole EMES community is warmly invited to delve into the articles, poems and images on *Willy & Penn*, and subscribe to be updated by email about new posts. You are also welcome to contribute in any language and in any form (audio file, video, images, poetry, written text etc.). This link – willyandpenn.com/contact – will take you to the contact page of the *Willy & Penn* website, through which the editorial team can help you to submit your contribution.

It really is as simple as that!

Climate Change – what does peace have to do with it?



Geneva Peace Week 2018 Sustaining Peace in an Era of Climate Change Photo: QUNO

Lindsey Fielder Cook, QUNO, writes:

When I was younger, working in humanitarian efforts in conflict zones, I knew nothing about climate change. But when my children were born, and I sat for hours with them in my arms, I began to read more, to listen and learn that something bigger was happening, something that could affect everything I cared about.

When Dutch Friend, Kees Nieuwerth, first explained to me that climate change was a peace concern, I went from confusion to understanding. I had lived in failed States, I could imagine how rising temperatures could destabilise societies. And when I told my husband I would return to graduate school to study climate change and sustainable development, he hid bewilderment as kind spouses do, while wondering what on earth his wife was thinking.

Around this time, QUNO Geneva was exploring the relation of climate change to its work on human rights and refugees, global economic issues, and peace. In the QUNO governing Committee a poignant message emerged: “if we don’t pay attention to climate change, then everything else QUNO does may eventually become irrelevant”.

Exploring climate change as a peace and justice concern, QUNO first became involved in multilateral efforts to define legal protection for people displaced by natural disasters and climate change. When I joined in 2013, QUNO was initiating (still ongoing) quiet diplomacy with delegates at the international climate change negotiations. In 2014, we intensified climate justice work with a focus on rights-based climate action. By 2016 we were observers of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, advocating for more research related to emissions reduction through sustainable behaviour, economies and consumption. But peace?

Our peace work on climate change actually began with earlier QUNO research on ‘natural resources, conflict and cooperation’ by former Representative for Peace and Disarmament, Diane Hendrick. She was exploring peacebuilding approaches to help avoid violent conflict over natural resource stress. The work is founded in landmark agreements which focus on access to information, public participation in decision making, and access to justice in environmental matters.

In our peace work, we view a “rights-based approach” to climate action as central. The 2015 Paris Climate

Change Agreement commits States “to respect, promote and consider” a range of rights, including public participation, human rights, indigenous people’s rights, just transition, gender, food security, ecosystem integrity and protection of biodiversity, and intergenerational equity. Research shows that policies that are rights-based are more accepted by communities, thus more effective and successful.

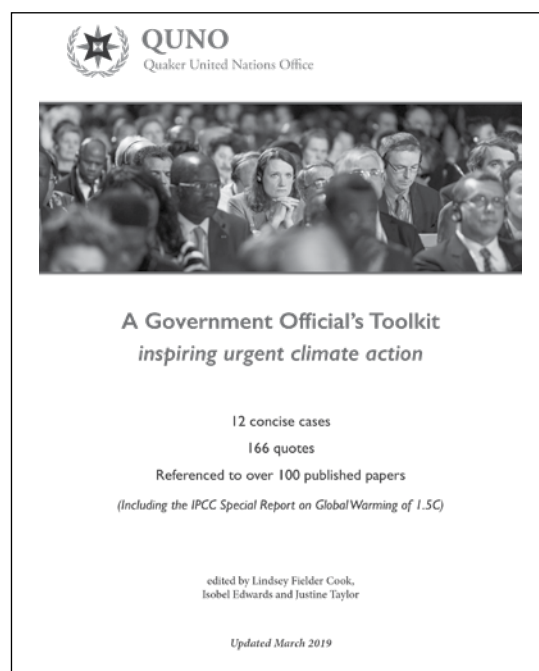
In November we took these messages to the Geneva Peace Week, a remarkable programme co-created by QUNO some years back. It is based primarily at the UN Palais des Nations to ensure strong diplomatic involvement. Our event was co-hosted with vibrant students from the Geneva Graduate Institute. It was the first event ever at Geneva Peace Week to address human security challenges due to climate change alongside environmental cooperation for peacebuilding. The room was overflowing, and the message from QUNO, UN Environment and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy was consistent: climate change is a threat multiplier, urgent reduction of emissions is essential, and climate policy that is rights-based will be more coherent, legitimate and sustainable for the communities affected. Former Programme Assistant Isobel Edwards also presented a QUNO paper focusing on a specific example the role of decentralised renewable energy in peacebuilding.

In January the UN Security Council discussed climate change, in hope that greater attention can pressure high greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters to act urgently. But a “climate change=war” narrative can lead to another direction – shutting borders and other ‘securitised’ responses, or funding yet unproven and potentially dangerous geo-engineering that distracts us from what needs to be done - rapid reduction of fossil fuel use, attention to unsustainable diets, land use and economic consumption, and respect for natural ecosystems, among other actions.

My children are young adults now and climate change, once a rare conversation, is regularly discussed worldwide. Yet our GHG emissions, and global temperatures, continue to rise. We have much work to do; may we be empowering, not fearful, may we help build healing and action in a time of fear.



Lindsey Fielder Cook talks to EMES
Photo: QUNO



QUNO: A Government Official's Toolkit

quno.org/resource/2018/11/government-officials-toolkit

QUNO hopes this will help you engage colleagues on why urgent, rights-based climate action is to the benefit of all people. This is written to support government officials—at local, regional and national levels—who are concerned about the impact of climate change on their citizens, their country, and the planet. Decision makers face competing demands and priorities, and they may be more receptive to one case over another. The publication is organized into 12 concise cases, including approaches to effective and sustainable climate action policy. It connects you with research available at the international level. All points are quoted from, and linked to, the original, peer-reviewed papers.

Teachings of the Beloved

Kris Misselbrook, France YM, writes:

Early French Quakers – the ‘Couflaires’ of the 18th century, were the descendants, both physically and spiritually, of the Cathars of the 13th century. Called often ‘les bons chrétiens’, the Cathars preached peace, equality, simplicity, and carried a gnostic vision that saw beyond the physical realm. They were known to revere early gospels and manuscripts, especially that of John which was used in all ceremonies, but legend and rumour speak of a particular hidden treasure which has remained a mystery.

With the important re-discovery and publishing in English in 2010 of a beautiful and inspiring text - *The Gospel of the Beloved Companion*, we find their most likely treasure, one which has been secretly preserved from Cathar times, and before that from the times of the first Christian diaspora and the split of the early church. As David Lorimer commented in his review: “the narrative is simple and powerful, and conveys vividly the non-dual state from which Yeshua (Jesus) spoke and taught a momentous publication”. Of all the texts, orthodox and more recently discovered, it gives the strongest sense of the person and teachings of Jesus. This Gospel is shown to predate those of John and the gnostic Thomas, who both directly quote from it, but here the teaching is given in a wider context that plainly shows the Beloved Companion, referred to also in the canonical gospels, to be Mary, the Magdalene, “Apostle to the Apostles”, and not John.

This fits with the long strong tradition of this Mary in the South of France, where legend tells she lived and preached after his death, spreading the new insights Yeshua had shared so fully with her. A tradition that has survived the relentless attempts of the Roman Church to tame and shame her reputation, and violently eradicate any followers of her teachings. The Catholic church demanded faith, belief and hierarchical



Mary Magdalene
Photo: Kris Misselbrook

declaration of truth, whereas the Cathars, like the Magdalene, quietly shared, preached and practised a gnostic understanding and living in spirit; a reverence of the divine in both feminine and masculine forms, simple principles of an enlightened life.

In September this year, from the 8th to the 17th, a group will meet in the Aude, south of Carcassonne, to pilgrimage into the country and the vision of the Cathars, to share and explore, and then to partake in a special workshop given by the translator and editor of the Gospel of the Beloved Companion, examining the teachings and philosophy of the Gospel, its invitation to spiritual practice and its profound understanding of the “Kingdom of God” or “unitive consciousness”. In revisiting these evocations of the arts of divine love resounding across history, we also listen to the songs of the Troubadours, contemporaries of the Cathars, the music of “Amor”.

Join us in this pilgrimage of discovery!

Libby Perkins

Judith Roads, Britain YM and France YM, writes:

Elizabeth (Libby) Perkins was born in England in 1940 at the beginning of the Second World War, daughter of a Canadian mother and an English father. Her brother was born two years later. Her childhood was not at all spiritual. In her own words, she adored her horse. In her adolescence she was sent to an international school in Geneva where she met, for the first time a Quaker, who made a deep impression on her by the liveliness of his character. After her study of History, Politics and French at the University of Toronto and three years in Berlin, she returned to England where she worked as a librarian.

Remembering the boredom she had experienced when she was a youngster at the Anglican services, she took her son David to Westminster Meeting, London, where she appreciated both the silence and the warmth of the greeting from the Quaker community - two things which continued to influence her for the rest of her life. She said that with the Quakers she felt at home. Her work on the Quaker tapestry deepened her experience and understanding of the Quaker Way. She served as parent governor at Friends School Saffron Walden during the time that David was a pupil there. Her involvement with the wider family of Friends included service on international membership aspects of FWCC, and she was much involved in activities in the European Section beyond Britain Yearly Meeting.

Libby left the UK to spend the next ten years near Paris where she ran a B & B, *Le Chêne et le Roseau*, where she



Libby Perkins and her new grandchild

Photo: David Perkins

practised sympathetic listening. This met a deep need for many of those who came as her temporary guests. She used to go early-morning swimming in a nearby lake – it was her morning meditation. At this period she was an active member of Paris Meeting and the wider Yearly Meeting, giving service in many roles. She always said she felt she was more of a Martha than a Mary. However, she had a gift in difficult situations for knowing when to call for a period of listening to the Spirit in silence.

Following the death of her partner Frank, she went to live in Congénies which had been her dream for a long time. She offered the ground floor of her house in the village as a shared home for Georges and Louise Elias, themselves long-time hardworking members of France Yearly Meeting. Such an influx enabled the burgeoning little Quaker meeting to grow and develop. This occurred alongside the major project to convert the *Maison Quaker* property back into a place for overnight conference and retreat guests, as well as a regular home



Libby Perkins Photo: David Perkins

for the growing local Quaker group. Libby, now an active member, worked very hard to make the Centre Quaker de Congénies a welcoming, truly international place. One of the rooms is named the “Libby Perkins room”.

Libby suffered from several chronic health problems and always knew she would go back to her UK roots in later life. The final part of her life took her back to the south coast county of Hampshire that she had known as a child and where her supportive brother still lives. Her son and his wife came to visit her frequently from their home in Egypt, and she had the joy of holding in her arms her first grandchild, just before her death in February 2019. Many Friends across Europe are grateful to have met, lived and shared ideas and love with Libby. Our lives have been greatly enriched through her generous friendship.

Libby lived out in her life her favourite quotation from the BYM Advices and Queries (number 27):

Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak. When decisions have to be made, are you ready to join with others in seeking clearness, asking for God's guidance and offering counsel to one another?



Libby Perkins Photo: David Perkins

News from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

Warm greetings from Woodbrooke!

As usual, we continue to offer training and support to Friends serving their Quaker communities throughout EMES, whether that is at one of our regional events, on-the-road at their local meetings, online or onsite at Woodbrooke.

January's **Being a Quaker Clerk: an online course for clerks around the world** was an opportunity for Quaker clerks around the world to learn together. Participants considered the clerk's role before, during and after a Meeting for Worship for Business and looked at the differing styles of clerking around the Quaker world.

At the time of going to press we are busy preparing for our partnership event with Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) in late March. As the United Kingdom prepares to leave the European Union after over 40 years of membership, **EU, Brexit and You** will be an opportunity to reflect on European cooperation, and give space to witness against the separation and isolationism which is on the rise across Europe.

Looking forward, in April our free MOOC, **Radical Spirituality: the early history of the Quakers** will look at the origins of the radical religious group that emerged in seventeenth century England. It is run in partnership with Lancaster University and Future Learn.

www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers

In May, **Towards a Quaker Response to Israel and Palestine** will take a look at the roots of this conflict and the role of cross border peace-making initiatives. It will challenge us by asking us to consider whether Friends could do more to promote reconciliation in the region.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/towards-a-quaker-response-to-israel-and-palestine

September's **Envisioning a world that is open to all: let us see what love can do** is a partnership event we are running with Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network, Quaker Council for European Affairs, Quaker United Nations Office and Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Over this weekend you'll hear from those who have

felt the impact of asylum and migration and consider how we might work together to create the change that is needed.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/envisioning-a-world-that-is-open-to-all-let-us-see-what-love-can-do

We'd also like to highlight September's online retreat **European Quaker Voices** led by members of the EMES team. Over six weeks, you'll engage with devotional and inspirational material by European Quakers and be invited to share your reflections and experiences along the way. This will be an opportunity to learn from the rich experience of European Friends. www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/european-quaker-voices-online

We continue to offer workshops to meetings throughout Europe through our **Woodbrooke-on-the-Road programme**. We have a number of courses ready-made or can develop something particular to meet your needs. See www.woodbrooke.org.uk/wotr for more information or please get in touch. Download our on-the-road brochure:

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/WoodbrookeOnTheRoad_DIGITAL.pdf

More Courses at Woodbrooke

Spiritual Activism 07 June - 09 June

Whether newly awakened to injustices or a seasoned activist, high profile or caring unnoticed for one person or place, spiritual activism offers ways of doing, being and understanding that can make you more alive to your deepest purpose.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/spiritual-activism/

Leadership Amongst Friends 14 June - 16 June

How does leadership work in our non-hierarchical Society of Friends, and what does it mean to take a lead when working in relationship with others? This course is for anyone interested in questions of leading and following in a Quaker context.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/leadership-amongst-friends

Experimental Worship 30 August - 01 September

How many ways are there of doing Quaker worship? This course will ask how we can enrich and expand our worship in ways that are in keeping with the Quaker tradition.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/experimental-worship



More Online Courses

Practical skills in non-violence 03 June –14 July

Dreaming of a more peaceful and just world? Join Woodbrooke and Turning the Tide as we share ideas, thinking, practice and real life examples about collective action through nonviolent means.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/practical-skills-in-non-violence

Introduction to Peace Education

18 September – 29 October

This introduction to the theory and practice of peace education draws upon the experience of Quaker Peace and Social Witness to explore how we can support the development of children's inner peace, help children to understand conflict and their relationship with it, and engage children with wider peace issues, from the ethics of armed drones to conscientious objection and human rights.

Explaining Quaker Theology

3 October –07 November

This course is an opportunity to engage with three theologians well known to Friends - Rex Ambler, Rachel Muers and Timothy Ashworth - who have all published work that explores Quaker understandings for a wider audience.

The Catchpool Fund exists to enable Friends and meetings from Europe (excluding Britain Yearly Meeting) to participate in Woodbrooke learning. It offers financial support for courses at Woodbrooke, online courses and for meetings having an 'On-The-Road' workshop. It can also help with travel costs.

For more information see:

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/catchpool

We look forward to exploring these themes and others, either onsite, online or where you are. Look out for our latest brochure for more details.

Diary Dates 2019

More dates for 2019 are available on the website: www.fwccemes.org. Please send items for inclusion in the diary to emes@fwccemes.org.

Woodbrooke offers two weekly **Virtual Meetings for Worship** on Wednesdays at 9:30am GMT/10:30am CET and Fridays at 1pm GMT/2pm.

(After 31 March 2019 until Saturday 26 October, both GMT and CET go forward one hour for Daylight Saving Time. After 27 October the clocks go back to GMT/CET by going back one hour):

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/online-mfw

12 – 15 April: Central European Gathering, Slovenia
jasminep321@yahoo.co.uk

24 April – 1 May 2019: Europe & Middle Young Friends gathering, near St Petersburg, Russia. More information from www.emeyf.org

25-28 April 2019: Ireland Yearly Meeting, Dublin,
office@quakers-in-ireland.ie

1-5 May 2019: EMES Annual Meeting, Budapest
emes@fwccemes.org

10-12 May 2019: Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting quakerclerk@gmail.com

10-12 May 2019: Netherlands Yearly Meeting,
secretariaat@dequakers.nl

17-19 May 2019: Church & Peace AGM, Berlin
www.church-and-peace.org

20-24 May 2019: Britain Yearly Meeting,
ym@quaker.org.uk

30 May – 2 June 2019: Sweden Yearly Meeting,
kvakargarden@kvakare.se

7 – 9 June: Switzerland Yearly Meeting,
symclerk@swiss-quakers.ch

27 – 30 June: Norway Yearly Meeting
kveker@kveker.org

Among Friends is the newsletter of Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation. We want Among Friends to reflect the diversity of Quaker life and experience across the Section and welcome articles, photos and news of forthcoming events.

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IBAN No – GB73CAFB40524000025578

Account Name – CAF Bank Ltd

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Account Number – 00025578

Sort Code – 40-52-40

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Deadline for Among Friends 145: 1 July 2019