

FSSE: FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS
JUNIOR GATHERING INFORMATION PACK 2017



A WEEK LONG RESIDENTIAL EVENT FOR YOUNG QUAKERS
AGED 11 – 14

LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL, READING

WHAT IS FSSE JUNIOR GATHERING?

FSSE Junior Gathering (formerly Summer School) is a week-long Quaker gathering for young people aged 11 to 14 run by Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE). It is an exciting and busy week, packed with activities and is a chance to meet new people and make friends, to have fun, and be together in a Quaker environment.

The theme chosen by last year's young people's meeting is Gender Equality. We will explore the theme with visiting speakers and through simulations, workshops and small group discussions. Everyone is part of a small supportive base group which meets each day to get to know each other, play games and talk about the theme (and many other things!).

Days begin with Quaker meeting and end with epilogue. In between they are filled with plenty of activity. There are a variety of fun, creative and active workshops to choose from, previously these have included music, drama, art and crafts, swimming, football and other sports. There is also a day trip to Oxford, lively evening entertainments and a last night festival.

Two adult coordinators (one male and one female) are responsible for the running of Junior Gathering. They are assisted by a team of adult volunteers. In organising and running its events, FSSE follows guidelines from Britain Yearly Meeting concerning the safety and well-being of those taking part. A copy of FSSE's Child Protection Policy can be seen on the FSSE website www.fsse.org.uk. All adult volunteers are required to have current, enhanced check from the UK Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Here are some things that people who have been to Junior Gathering before have said:

"The games were fun and the socials reinforced the friendly environment"

"There were lots of activities and they were cool"

"I've never felt so free"

"Worship was a really special time for me. The silence is beautiful, especially in epilogue"

"I made good friends and did loads of creative stuff"

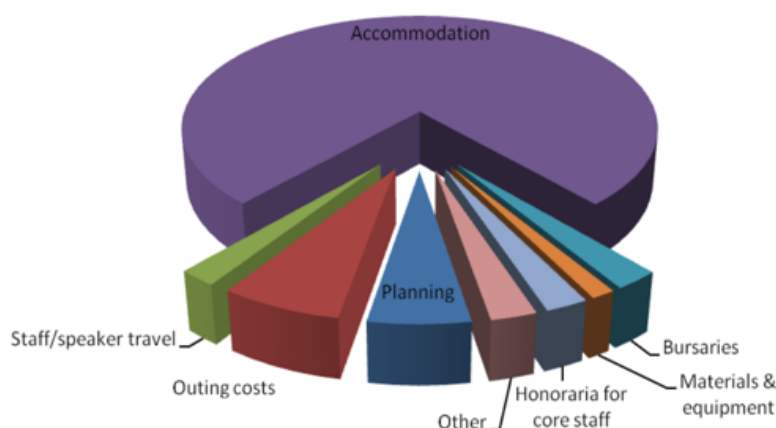
"I liked meeting everyone and being part of a real special community"

FSSE: JUNIOR GATHERING INFORMATION 2017

If you have any questions about Junior Gathering please get in touch with the Booking secretary.

<i>Coordinators</i>	Katy Oliver and Andy O'Hanlon Email: katystopp@gmail.com
<i>Bookings Secretary</i>	Trottie Kirwan Postal address on request Email: juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk Telephone: 07758 458 817 (leave message/text)
<i>Dates</i>	Saturday 19 August to Saturday morning 26 August 2017
<i>Venue</i>	Leighton Park School, Shinfield road, Reading, RG2 7ED
<i>Costs</i>	a) Junior Gathering fee: £325.00, including deposit of £50 b) Travel to and from Leighton Park School* c) Pocket money (about £20 is recommended)
<i>Number of Places</i>	Approx. 80
<i>Ages</i>	11 to 14 years old (must be 11 by 1 September 2017 and under 15)
<i>Theme</i>	Gender Equality
<i>Meals</i>	For all meals there will be vegetarian and meat options. Other dietary needs are also catered for (please indicate any dietary needs on your application form).
<i>Travel*</i>	Further details concerning travel will be sent if a place is offered. Subject to sufficient demand group travel will be arranged to leave a central meeting point in London at about 2.30pm on 19 August and to return there about noon on Saturday 26 August. Otherwise parents and participants are expected to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Leighton Park School.

Junior Gathering how are the fees spent?



HOW TO APPLY TO JUNIOR GATHERING 2017

1. To apply for a place at Junior Gathering please download and fill in an application form from <http://www.fsse.org.uk/jg/apply>. Parents and guardians will need to sign the form.
2. Send your completed form by email or post to Trottie Kirwan, Junior Gathering Bookings Secretary. Email: juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk (Please email for postal address)

Ideally you should apply before April 2017. Priority is given to people from meetings in the South of England (you'll find a list at www.fsse.org.uk). Then to those from meetings where there is no similar event during 2017.

For applications received after March, any spare places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- From end of March we will write to offer your son or daughter a place. If all 80 places fill fast, we will let you know where they are on the waiting list.
- At the same time the Medical & Consent Form will be sent to everyone who is offered a place. This includes the Junior Gathering boundaries – please note that participants are required to sign their acceptance of the boundaries.

PAYMENT & BURSARIES

- Full payment of £325 is due by 30 June 2017. Instructions for payment will be sent with offer of a place .
- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that full payment including any bursary from your Local or Area Meeting is paid.

It is FSSE policy that no one should be prevented from attending for financial reasons

- If you need help with the payment/bursary request process, please get in touch with the Bookings Secretary. FSSE are not able to collect bursaries on your behalf. Our expectation is that bursary help where required should come from Local/Area Meetings. However, if for some reason this is not the case, FSSE can grant a limited number of bursaries. If you are unsure, please contact us early!

- FSSE: Junior Gathering 2016

**TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT A WEEK AT JUNIOR GATHERING LOOKS
LIKE HERE IS LAST YEAR'S TIMETABLE:**

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Lie In!	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Tidying	Breakfast	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Clearing
	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Oxford Trip	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship
	Activities	Activities	Activities		Activities	Activities	Departure s
	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks		Drinks	Drinks	
	Quakerism Workshop	Protest Simulation	Inner Truth Workshop		Speaking Truth to Power	Truth and the Inner Light	
	Base Group	Base Group	Base Group		Base Group	Base Group	
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	
	Social / Art Attack	Inner Light Photo Exhibition	Visit to Cole Museum of Zoology		Carnival / Fete	Young People’s Business Meeting	
	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	
Welcome and Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal		
Intro to Theme	Olympics Challenge	Table Games	Barn Dance	Any Questions Talk Show	‘Under the Sea’ Disco		Ents
Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks		Drinks
Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue		Epilogue
Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime		
Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out		Bedtime / Late room

EPISTLE: JUNIOR GATHERING 2016

Dear Friends,

On the 20th of August 2016, 73 young friends and 22 staff from all walks of life gathered at Leighton Park School to meet with old friends, make new friends and explore the theme “Truth and the Inner Light in Quakerism”.

We enjoyed a variety of thought-provoking sessions: Susie Paskins talked to us about meeting for worship and about how we can get the most out of this time. She shared a few techniques for keeping focused during the silence and we spent some time experimenting with these methods and learning which ones worked for us.

Steve Whiting shared experiences throughout his life where he faced difficult choices and invited us to follow our inner truths. He also introduced the idea of multiple and subjective truths where two people have conflicting views but both are “true”.

Paul Ingram talked us through the concept of active listening in which you repeat back what you feel the person said. He shared how he used this process to encourage understanding between different political leaders on the subject of nuclear weapons. A simulation was led by the staff and was thoroughly enjoyed by the groups that took part. It involved protesters who were marching against the government cuts occupying the premises of a company that didn't pay its taxes. Both groups of protesters were eventually arrested but the second group were lured outside by the police before being taken away.

On a slightly less serious note the evening activities were much loved with something for everyone. From the crazy barn dance to the true sportsmanlike feeling of the Olympic base group challenge. The fabulousness disco set new precedents for costumes with jellyfish proving a popular choice. The suspense for the entertainments has been growing throughout the week with brilliant performers sharpening up their final act. This year's fantastic fete was held on an (almost) cloudless day with everything from hook-a-duck to a slip and slide and of course a suitably dressed fortune teller.

A huge range of activities were on offer from tie-dye and glass painting to swimming and woodland adventure and everything in between. These provided ample opportunity to have fun, bond with others and learn new skills. Our base group sessions were rewarding and offered a chance to reflect on the speakers and the week in general as well as providing an area where your voice can be heard.

Our meetings for worship were both varied and interesting with much profound spoken ministry on the subject of truth and inner light coming from many different people. Epilogue, a half-hour meeting before bed, was especially deep both with spoken, silent and musical ministry. On Wednesday we traveled to Oxford where we joined for worship with our friends from Senior Conference in a meaningful if crowded meeting in Oxford Meeting House.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Gathering

Clerks: Xanthe, James

Elders: Spencer, Lia