

Friends Southern Summer Events



Junior Gathering Information Pack



“I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and sense of community”

Young Quakers ages 11 to 14 Leighton Park School 20 – 27 August 2016

“Great fun!”



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 **Truth and Inner light in Quakerism**. 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; **newspaper, discussion forum, music, drama, art** and **crafts, swimming, football** and other **sports**. There is also a day trip to Oxford, lively evening entertainments, discos 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 loved my base group, it was a good way of getting together and discussing things”

“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”

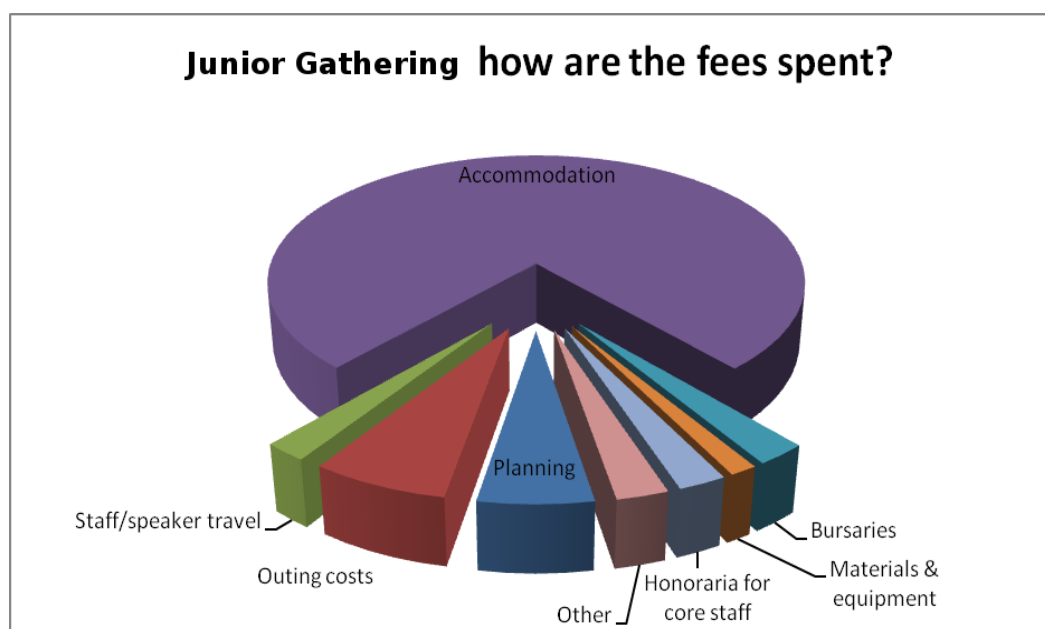
**“I liked meeting everyone and being part of a real
special community”**

We look forward to seeing you in August!

FSSE: Junior Gathering information 2016

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

<i>Coordinators</i>	Katie Ulrick and Michael Wood Email: c/o juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk
<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 afternoon 20 August to Saturday morning 27 August
<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 places</i>	Approx. 80
<i>Ages</i>	11 to 14 years old (must be 11 by 1 September 2016 and under 15)
<i>Theme</i>	Truth and Inner light in Quakerism
<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 20 August and to return there about noon on Saturday 27 August. Otherwise parents and participants are expected to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Leighton Park School



HOW TO APPLY

1. To apply for a place at Junior Gathering please fill in an application form. Parents and guardians will need to sign the form. See <http://www.fsse.org.uk/jg/apply> to download the form. We will need confirmation from a clerk, elder or overseer from your local meeting that you are connected with Quakers, which can be sent via email. If you are unable to do this for any reason, please contact us.
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 2016. Priority is given to people from meetings in the South of England (you'll find a list at www.fsse.org.uk). Then we offer places to those who were on last year's waiting list and also to those from meetings where there is no similar event during 2016.

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

If you give us your email address or send a stamped addressed envelope, we will let you know that we've received your form. This doesn't guarantee you a place at Junior Gathering.

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. The Medical & Consent Form should be returned together with your deposit plus part or full payment.

PAYMENT & BURSARIES

- In order to confirm your place you will need to send a non-refundable deposit of £50 within one month of receiving your offer of a place. You may also send full payment at this stage if it is easier.
- Full payment of £325 is due by 30 June 2016. In the event of you cancelling your place after acceptance, the deposit is non-refundable.
- Please make all cheques payable to Friends Southern Summer Events and clearly mark the (or for siblings, each) participant's name on the back of the cheque.
- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that full payment including any bursary from your Local or Area Meeting is paid by 30 June 2016. If you need help with the payment/bursary request process, please get in touch with the Bookings Secretary. FSSE are not able to contact meetings to collect bursaries on your behalf.

- Your Local or Area Meeting may well have funds available. The overseers at your local meeting are a good first point of contact.
- 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!

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

REPORT FROM 2015

Epistle Junior Gathering 2015

To all Friends everywhere,

On the 22nd of August 2015, at Leighton Park School, Reading, 76 young Quakers, aged 11-14 and 23 staff volunteers came together to investigate the theme 'Quakers in War'.

Daniel Bos came to talk to us about video games and popular culture, which everyone found they could relate to, as many participants have experienced military style games and how they turn war into entertainment.

Chris Venables an Ecumenical accompanier came to talk to us about his experience in Hebron, Palestine where he was observing the human rights situation for the UN. He talked to us about the perilous journey that the children there have, to get to school and how it compared to our own journeys.

Simon Colbeck showed us a film which Watford Quakers had made in response to the WW1 remembrance in 2014, this taught us about conscientious objectors and the ordeal that they had to go through to stick to their beliefs.

Noah who was a child soldier in Uganda and is currently still seeking 'Right to Remain in the UK' after living here for 15 years, shared his moving story. He was taken away by rebels and was forced to abduct other children and carry guns for 9 years before he escaped, however he was met with hostility by his government and was then put in prison and tortured for 5 years. His story made us realise how much devastation war causes.

Our last speaker was Elisa Weatherwax who came to talk to us about the militarisation of schools. She talked with us about the influence of the military in the form of cadets and the military ethos within schools. This talk was especially interesting as many young Quakers had experienced militarisation in their schools.

As well our workshop sessions we had a diplomacy simulation where we acted as roles in two counties where peace was needed. We had to try and achieve peace by bringing the two countries back together and by making compromises.

In our non theme sessions we had a super quiz, a drumming extravaganza, base group capture the flag, a barn dance, Charlie and chocolate factory disco and life lines from the staff. A new addition this year was our sunny summer fate with a bouncy castle, ice cream van, sack race, face painting, wheelbarrow race, guess the

sweets, egg and spoon race, fortune telling, slip n slide and a tombola. Finally on the last night we had very entertaining entertainments.

In the mornings we had many activities to choose from, including den building, drumming, sports, discussion groups, nail painting, costume making, music, dancing, sewing electronics, cooking and many other crafts.

This year the event was held at Leighton Park school, Reading where they welcomed us warmly to their greenalicious grounds and delicious food. This meant that our trip out was to Oxford where we met up with Senior Conference and held Meeting for Worship with over 200 people!

Base groups are our families for the week and help new comers to Junior Gathering find friends and always have someone to talk to. We play games and discuss the speaker sessions in our base groups.

Meeting for Worship and Epilogue enriched our spiritual understanding of each other and the world around us. A highlight as usual was our epilogue outside which prompted some very insightful ministry.

This year at Junior Gathering although the location changed everyone has kept the same feeling of kindness and inclusiveness, as well as maintaining Quaker values. We had an uplifting and inspiring week in which we thoroughly explored our theme of 'Quakers in war'.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Gathering 2015

Ailwyn Ellis, Anna-Tina Jashapara, Clerks

To give you an idea of what a week at Junior Gathering looks like here is **last year's** timetable:

Junior Gathering 2015 TIMETABLE

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug
8:15		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Lie in!	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:45		Dom tidying	Dom tidying	Dom tidying		Breakfast	Dom tidying	Dom tidying
9:15		Meeting for Worship [Main Hall]	Meeting for Worship [Main Hall]	Meeting for Worship [Main Hall]	Pick up packed lunches To Oxford	Meeting for Worship [Main Hall]	Meeting for Worship [Main Hall]	Meeting for Worship [Main Hall]
9:45		Activities	Activities	Activities		Activities	Activities	YP departures Coach depart 10:00am
11:00		Drinks	Drinks	Drinks		Drinks	Drinks	
11:20		Daniel Bos- War, video games and popular culture [Peckover]	Chris Ecumenical accompanier [Peckover]	Diplomacy simulation? [Peckover]	Leave Oxford	Noah - Child soldier [Peckover]	Elisa- the Military in schools [Peckover]	
12:20		Base Group	Base Group	Base Group		Base Group	Base Group	
13:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	
14:15		Social	Cole Museum of Zoology and Univesity Gardens	Simon Colbeck- Quakers in WW1, Conscientious objection, up to the present day		Junior Gathering Fete [Field, Sports hall]	YP Business/Meeting/Conference information	
16:00	Arrivals	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	
16:30		Staff Meeting	Staff Meeting	Staff Meeting	Staff Meeting	Staff Meeting	Staff Meeting	
17:00		Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal [BBQ]	
18:00	Welcome 1							
18:15								
19:15	Welcome 2 & Intro to theme	Big Quiz [Peckover Hall]	Base group Challenge- Capture the flag [Field, Sports hall]	Bam Dance (Saxon Drain) [Peckover Hall]	Life lines [Peckover Hall]	Disco [Peckover Hall]	Entertainments [Main Hall]	
	Social							
20:00	Base groups							
21:00	Activity sign up [School House]	Activity sign up [School House]	Activity sign up [School House]	Activity sign up [School House]	Activity sign up [School House]	Activity sign up [School House]	Ending celebration	
	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks		
21:20	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	
21:50	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime or Late Room	
22:30	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out		