

## Summer School Epistle 2007

Dear Friends,

From the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 75 young F/friends at Friends' School, Saffron Walden celebrated the theme of freedom. We explored freedom through different activities, workshops, speakers and discussion groups.

Every morning we had a meeting for worship where the spiritual space felt comfortable enough for many young people to minister. Each evening we also had an Epilogue lit by candlelight where we all reflected on the day that had passed.

We also filled our week with exciting evening entertainments, sessions and days out. These included a day in Cambridge and a visit to a miniature railway at Audley End. We also visited the local market town of Saffron Walden.

Several guest speakers shared their experiences on various topics related to Freedom. These ranged from slavery in the world today to freedom from addiction and outside pressures.

We had a themed disco of pirates and farmers which resulted in Wellington boots, farmer caps, pirate swords and make-up scars replacing the usual disco garb on the dance-floor.

The socials were evening sessions where everyone could have great fun and become a closer group in a sillier setting. We played games like The Sun Shines On, Stuck in the Mud and Watch the Finger and sang crazy songs about penguins.

In our discussion groups we had the chance to make new friends and share our own experiences. The groups became close throughout the week and many were sad to part on the last day.

On the final evening we had a bonfire which was a brilliant finale for a week which was unanimously agreed to be fantastic. The fourteen-year-olds who will not be attending next year will all miss Summer School tremendously and the younger ones look forward to returning next year!

During this year's Business meeting we agreed that next year the main theme will be Love and Peace in Different Cultures. The theme for the disco will be Fruit & Vegetables – let the carrot costumes commence!

Damian Gilbert, Lily Myall, Naomi Alderson and Liam Geary Baulch - Clerks & Elders of Summer School 2007.