

## PROPOSAL

This is a draft proposal for discussion, and does not imply that anyone mentioned has yet been able to make a firm commitment to the ideas in it.

# George Fox Centenary Project, 2024

Quaker Arts Network • Children's and Young People's Committee, Quaker Life

**Aim:** To encourage groups of Friends, especially Quaker Children's Meetings and youth groups, to make a short film relating to the life and message of George Fox and its relevance today. To provide opportunities for the results to be seen by Friends and others interested.

**Objectives:** (1) To encourage creative work by Quakers and their children.

(2) To mark a historical milestone and increase the understanding of the importance of George Fox, among young Quakers and more generally.

(3) To provide a resource for outreach.

**Approach:** Groups and Children's Meetings are invited to make short films and submit them. These could take different forms from the very simple to the complex. The only requirement is that the result should be in a movie format and play from start to finish continuously and automatically. There is no constraint on length, though we expect that most of them will not be more than about five minutes.

**Timing:** If they decide to adopt this idea, CYPC will consider whether they could issue information and guidance to Children's Meetings and other likely groups in the August 2023 *Journeys in the Spirit* mailing. They might suggest that the responses are sent in by the start of December 2023 for the opening of a QAN webpage "cinema" (see below). There could be an absolute closing point say one month before Yearly Meeting 2024, after which no further entries could be submitted. (This is a provisional suggestion as the date and format of YM2024 has not yet been decided).

QAN could arrange for similar information for other Quakers who might be interested, to appear in *the Friend* around the same time.

**Support:** CYPC hopes to discuss the idea with colleagues in Quaker Communications, particularly the video officer, to find out what help they can give. QAN may have members willing to assist.

**Making the results available:** (NB. We want to avoid any suggestion of running a competition.)

(1) Quaker Arts Network (QAN) would provide a webpage gallery ("cinema) similar to the Loving Earth Project gallery, where the results would be posted and viewed. CYPC cannot offer to do this on the BYM site, but would probably be able to put up a brief description of the Project, with a link to the QAN page.

(2) QAN could arrange a winter solstice or New Year 2024 on-line concert, as they did in 2022, with a varied programme, with some of the results of this project being shown as interludes between each item.

(3) The films could be shown onscreen on a continuous loop as part of CYPC's presence at YM2024.

---

*Information which might be included in the leaflet and web information to groups is overleaf.*

# George Fox Centenary Project, 2024

Quaker Arts Network • Children's and Young People's Committee, Quaker Life

**The fourth centenary of George Fox's birth is approaching, and we are inviting Quaker groups and Children's Meetings to make short films to celebrate this and submit them. These could take different forms from the very simple to the complex. The only requirement is that the result should be in a movie format and play from start to finish continuously and automatically. There is no constraint on length, though we expect that most of them will not be more than about five minutes.**

**The objectives of the Project are:** To encourage creative work by Quakers and their children; to mark a historical milestone and increase the understanding of the importance and contemporary relevance of George Fox, among young Quakers and more generally; and to provide a resource for outreach.

In our discussions, two main emphases emerged. One was to bring out the relevance of George Fox's life and thought to the needs of today. We tend to think of John Woolman as the Quaker prophet from the past with most to say to us, but there is much which we can learn from Fox also. The other point was to avoid putting him in a stained glass window; he had his faults and blind spots and is open to criticism. But most of that debate is not the concern of the children and young people for whom this Project is primarily intended. We are only one small part of a much wider consideration of George Fox in 2024. And since we are inviting a wealth of small contributions, we are clearly not trying to give an overall picture of him.

**There are many forms your film can take. A few suggestions:**

- o A recorded song, story or short drama, with some accompanying pictures.
- o A musical performance.
- o A set of jokes or riddles.
- o A photo slide show, with or without commentary or music
- o An animated or cartoon film based on a series of drawings.
- o A puppet or shadow-puppet drama.
- o A drama performance in costume.

**Technical:** You don't need special equipment. You may well be able to do what you want using a smartphone, or a digital camera. Movie functions on these devices will record sound as well as visuals. Cartoons can be made using drawings of people, perhaps using moveable limbs and jaws, and taking a series of photos; slideshow programmes and PowerPoint can run these with very fast transitions so they animate. They will also let you fit pictures to recorded sound. Many computers have facilities for simple film editing, such as cutting out mistakes.

Primary school teachers often use programmes to enable children to make simple movies for themselves, so they are good people to offer help. But if you can't work out how to get around a problem, you can write to **ADDRESS** for simple advice.

**Your film must feature George Fox in some way.** A few ideas to get you going:

- o *Stories (references to John Nickalls' edition of Fox's Journal):* Fox as a teenager (pp.2-7); interrupting a sermon (pp.39-40); threatened with a sword (p.49); sleeping rough (p.91); protected by a soldier (p. 129); healing a child (pp.171-2); meeting Oliver Cromwell (pp.199-200); in court (pp.243-4); caring for his horse (p.301); rough travels in America (p.661); letter to his wife (p.681); and there are many more to be found.
- o *Quotations:* Many of the quotations in Quaker Faith & Practice offer material (e.g. a quotation from Fox might be set against a modern story—he need not actually appear.)
- o *Epistles:* There are discoveries to be made in the epistles, but they are harder to access. Ep.5 is to his parents. Ep. 10 & !6, on the experience of worship. Ep. 145, avoid conflict in Meetings; Ep. 200, honesty in trade; Ep.391, to Friends being held prisoners in Algiers.

**Safeguarding:** Guidance needed here from CYPC, with special mention of how to use material which includes photos or film of children safely.

**When your film is almost ready,**

- o Give the file you submit the name of your group or Meeting.
- o Give the film a distinctive title too, so it can easily be found in the gallery. (E.g. “That of God” may not be unique, whereas “Countries, places, islands, nations” from the same quotation probably will be.)
- o Make sure it is in one of the followings formats: **Technical advice needed here. There are applications which can convert films from one format to another, so we can offer help – but we don’t want to be flooded with requests!**
- o Viewers should only need to start your film and let it run to the end. We may want to show it in situations where they wouldn’t be able to interact with it.
- o Make sure you haven’t used any copyright material, such as images and music, without getting permission.
- o **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING.**

**How we will use your film:** Quaker Arts Network will put it in an online gallery on their website where anyone can find and watch it. We may be able to run the series in the Market-place at Yearly Meeting 2024. We may use some films as interludes in a online New Year concert. We will look for other outreach opportunities.