

Creative Facilitators for a day with children and young people: invitation for proposals

Welcome!

We're looking for two professional arts practitioners – from any arts field – who will facilitate an inspiring day of activities with young people aged 6 to 16. To reflect the young people's diversity, **we especially welcome applications from artists or writers of colour.**

The day (**Saturday 23 April 2022**) is part of a 2-night residential weekend for Quakers from northwest London at High Leigh conference centre (just outside the M25). We hope the young people will make a powerful contribution to the theme of the weekend – “building our Quaker communities” – by creating artworks or a performance to express their experiences and views.

About Quakers

Quakers are a faith group committed to working for equality and peace.

Quakerism is almost 400 years old. It's the common name for the Religious Society of Friends. It grew out of Christianity and today we also find meaning and value in other faiths and traditions. We recognise that there's something transcendent and precious in every person. Different Quakers use different words to describe this, but we all believe we can be in contact with it and encounter something beyond our individual selves.

Quakers don't use traditional religious structures or paid ministers. We share responsibility for what we do because everyone has a valuable contribution to make.

Quaker meetings for worship can be held anywhere, at any time. Every meeting begins in silence. We use it to open ourselves to the wisdom that comes out of stillness. It enriches us and shapes us, individually and collectively. This is what we mean by 'worship'.

To find about more, visit www.quaker.org.uk, though the only way to understand fully is to go to a Quaker meeting.

About North West London Quakers

We are a network of 5 local Quaker Meetings – in Edgware, Golders Green, Hampstead, Muswell Hill, and at Friends House on Euston Road. Each Meeting has its own community of Quakers who gather to worship on Sundays, are involved in a range of other spiritual and social justice projects, and meet 6 times a year for worship and decision-making as North West London Area Meeting. <https://nwlondonquakers.org.uk/>

About the residential weekend

Every 2 years or so, North West London Quakers gather for a residential weekend at High Leigh conference centre in Hertfordshire: <https://www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh/high-leigh-conference-centre>

The gathering lasts from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime. It includes plenary and small group discussions on a theme, singing and other activity groups, social and free time, as well as Quaker Meetings for Worship. It is attended by about 80 people, including around 25 children and young people. Many of the participants will not have met each other before. Adults pay to attend, but it's free for under 18s, and generous bursaries make it accessible to all.

About the Children & Young People's programme

The CYP programme runs throughout the weekend, led by a team of volunteers drawn from the 5 Quaker Meetings. This year for the first time the programme is being co-ordinated by Tim Robertson, an elder at Friends House Meeting whose day job is at the Anne Frank Trust UK (which runs anti-prejudice education in schools).

The CYP programme aims for the children and young people to have fun and contribute to the weekend's overall theme, as well as giving their parents and carers a break from childcare. The children join the adults for meals, worship and some plenary sessions, and three rooms are allocated specially for the CYP sessions, one for each of three age groups:

- 3-5 years (under 2s can attend with their parents)
- 6-11 years
- 12-16 years

The rooms are furnished as conference meeting rooms; the CYP team will be bringing toys and materials. The rooms open onto High Leigh's grounds, which include big open lawns, flower borders, woodlands and a pond.

The plan for Saturday 23 April

This main day of the weekend, focused on the theme of "Building our Quaker Communities", is being led by Jon Martin and Simon Best from Woodbrooke Quaker Learning Centre <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>. Jon and Simon are experienced in running all-age sessions, and very keen that the children and young people are empowered to participate however they like.

As **creative facilitators**, you will run sessions to engage the young people in the theme, led as much as possible by the young people themselves, supported by volunteers from the CYP team. One facilitator will work with the 6-11s, one with the 12-16s – with probably around 10 young people in each group. The creative activities may be individual, in small groups or as a whole group. We hope the sessions will generate artworks or writing or a performance that will be presented to the adult sessions at the end of the day. But the final decision rests with the young people themselves.

The 3-5s sessions will be run by the CYP team volunteers, and we're expecting them to *play* as a community, rather than *reflecting on* being a community, but we hope as creative facilitators you may also be able to pop into these sessions to offer some extra stimulation.

The session after lunch (2-3pm) is free time for everyone, but we will also be offering some optional activities, including a guided tree walk round the grounds and a very informal all-age game of rounders on the lawn. We would like you as creative facilitators to offer an enjoyable all-age activity. This does not need to be related to the theme. It might be a participatory activity, such as an art workshop, or a chance for you to perform some music or read some of your poetry.

NW London Quakers residential weekend at High Leigh
Saturday 23 April programme

Time	Adults	3-5s	6-11s	12-16s
8:15-9:00	Breakfast	8.45am Creative facilitators arrive and meet the CYP team		
9:30-9:40	Introduction by Jon & Simon from Woodbrooke Quaker Learning Centre	In main adult session	In main adult session	In main adult session
9:40-10:30 am	What makes me feel Quaker? Individual reflection and groupwork	In 3-5s room or outdoors: Who am I? activity – self-portraits?	In 6-10s room or outdoors: Who am I? activity – with creative facilitator A	Small group in main adult session, or go to 11-16s room for first session with creative facilitator B – on my identity as a young Quaker
10:30-11:00 am	<i>Tea and Coffee</i>	<i>Break – parents pick up and drop off</i>	<i>Break – parents pick up and drop off</i>	<i>Break</i>
11:00am	Keynote address by Jon with Q&A	In 3-5s room or outdoors: a programme of joyful activities run by the helpers, with creative facilitator input, eg outdoor play, visual arts, music, dance.	Maybe in adult session?	In adult session to hear Jon
11:30-12:30	Response Groups (Worship sharing/ Discussion/Creative response) How can we find joy in belonging to a Quaker community? What does our community mean? How do we belong and what does that mean to us? How can we nurture our community and deepen our commitment to diversity?		In 6-10s room or outdoors working with Creative Facilitator A to create individual or groups responses to Jon's questions. Jon pops in when poss.	In adult sessions, or in 11-16s room or outdoors working with Creative Facilitator B to create a response to Jon's questions. Jon pops in when poss.
1:00-2:00pm	Lunch	<i>Lunch – parents pick up</i>	<i>Break – parents pick up</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00-3:00 pm	Relaxation and choice of activities including: all-age rounders; guided tree walk; Kenyan Meeting for Worship; all-age creative performances or activities with the two Creative Facilitators			
3:30-4:15pm	Gathering threads/Sharing/ Where's our community going?	In 3-6s room: imagining the future through art or storytelling.	In 6-10s room: continuing work with Creative Facilitator A, potentially preparing for presentation in next session.	In 11-16s room: continuing work with Creative Facilitator B, potentially preparing for presentation in next session.
4:15-4:45pm	<i>Tea</i>	<i>Tea – parents pick up and drop off</i>	<i>Tea – parents pick up and drop off</i>	<i>Tea</i>
4:45-5:30pm	Where's our community going? What do we need to do to get there?	Artworks or stories brought into the adult session	If the children wish: presentation to adult group of what they've created	If the young people wish: presentation to adult group of what they've created
5:30pm	Jon and Simon depart	Creative Facilitators depart		

Practicalities for the creative facilitators

- We welcome applications from Quakers and non-Quakers, people of any faith or none, as long as you support our Quaker values of equality and peace.
- Please let us know your proposed fee. We are envisaging this will be in the region of **£300 per facilitator**.
- Your fee needs to cover any preparatory work, including an online planning meeting with us (provisionally Tues 19 April 6.30-8pm).
- We will reimburse reasonable travel expenses from the Greater London/home counties area. We can also buy or reimburse you for arts materials needed during the sessions.
- You are welcome to join us for lunch and refreshments on the day. We can also arrange free overnight accommodation for you at High Leigh on Friday, Saturday or both.
- You are welcome to apply as a pair of artists, or as an individual and we will find the second facilitator to work with you.
- If appointed, we will need to see a recent DBS check or to carry out a new one for you.
- We will also need to see evidence that you are fully vaccinated for Covid or have a negative lateral flow test the day before the event.

Application process

Send us a CV with a covering email that includes:

- links to examples of your arts practice,
- your experience of creative facilitation with children and young people,
- a brief outline of your ideas for the sessions on 23 April,
- your proposed fee and any other relevant information.

Email **by Wednesday 23 March 2022** (6pm) to tim.robertson@me.com

We may then invite you for a brief online interview.

Enquiries

You are welcome to contact Tim Robertson, Children & Young People's Co-ordinator, NW London Quakers Residential 2022: tim.robertson@me.com 07949 170828