

Friends Southern Summer Events



Information Pack

SOUTHERN SUMMER SCHOOL



Young Quakers aged 11 – 14

**Friends' School, Saffron Walden
18 – 25 August 2012**

WHAT IS SOUTHERN SUMMER SCHOOL?

Southern Summer School is nothing like school! It is a week-long Quaker gathering for young people aged 11 to 14. It is an exciting and busy week, packed with activities and a chance to meet new people and make friends, to have fun, and be together in a Quaker environment.

This year the theme for the week is **Quakers around the world**. We 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 worship and end with epilogue. In between they are filled with plenty of activity. There is a variety of fun, creative and active workshops, including music, art and crafts, swimming and other sports. There is also an afternoon out and a day trip to Cambridge, lively evening entertainments, discos and a bonfire.

Here are some things that people who have been to Southern Summer School before have said:

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

"I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and sense of community"

"Great fun!"

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

"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"

We look forward to seeing you in August!

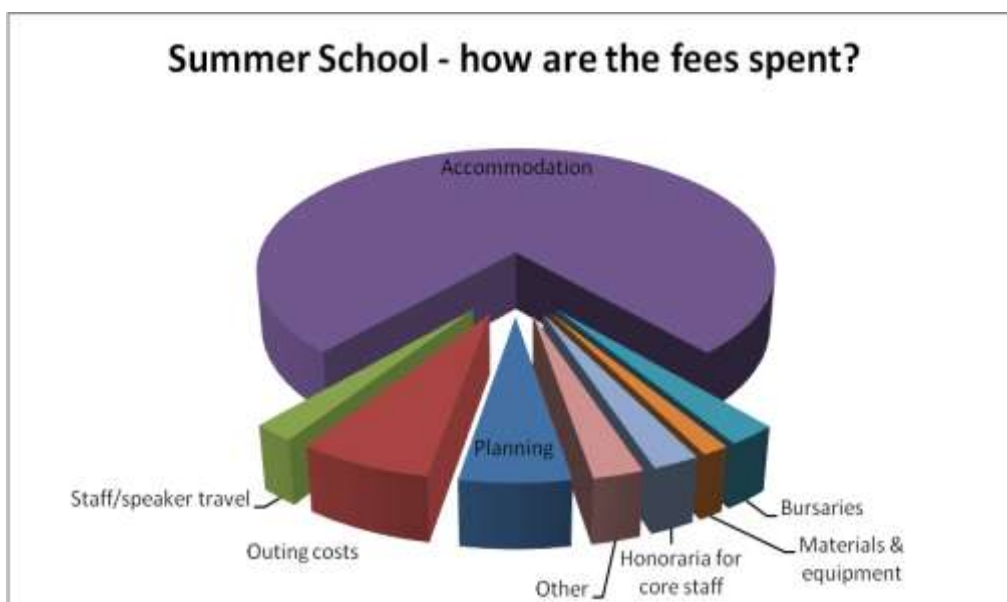
SOUTHERN SUMMER SCHOOL INFORMATION 2012

Two adult coordinators (one male and one female) are responsible for the running of Southern Summer School. They are assisted by a team of adult volunteers. In organising and running its events, Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) follows guidelines from Britain Yearly Meeting concerning the safety and wellbeing 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 disclosures from the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you have any questions about Southern Summer School please get in touch with the Coordinators. All forms and dietary/health information and payment should be sent to the Bookings Secretary.

Coordinators	Bethany (Boop) Aquarone and Oliver Waterhouse Email: summerschool@fsse.org.uk
Bookings Secretary	Alison Tyabji Email: summerschool@fsse.org.uk Telephone: 07758 458 817
Dates	Saturday afternoon 18 August to Saturday morning 25 August
Venue	Friends' School, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3EB
Costs	a) Southern Summer School fee £305.00 (including deposit of £50) b) Travel to and from Saffron Walden c) Pocket money (about £15 is recommended)
Number of places	80
Ages	11 to 14 years old (must be 11 by 1 September 2012 and under 15)
Theme	Quakers around the world
Meals	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).
Travel	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 18 August and to return there about noon on Saturday 25 August. Otherwise parents and participants are expected to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Saffron Walden.

HOW ARE SOUTHERN SUMMER SCHOOL FEES SPENT?



HOW TO APPLY

- To apply for a place at Southern Summer School please fill in an application form. Parents and guardians will need to sign the form.
- We will need confirmation from a clerk, elder or overseer from your local meeting that you are connected with Quakers. If you are unable to do this for any reason, please contact us.
- **Send your completed form by email or post to Alison Tyabji, Southern Summer School Bookings Secretary** as soon as you can (to find out Ali's postal address please email summerschool@fsse.org.uk or phone Ali on 07758 458 817).
- **You should apply before 15 March 2012.** 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 2012.
- For applications received after 15 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 Summer School.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- We will write to you in April 2012 to offer your son or daughter a place or indicate that they have a place on the waiting list.
- At the same time the Medical & Consent Form will be sent out to everyone who is offered a place. This includes the Summer School 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** as it is easier.
- Full payment of £305 is due by 30 June 2012. 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 2012**. If you need help with the payment/bursary request process, please get in touch with the Bookings Secretary. **FSSE will not 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.

SOUTHERN SUMMER SCHOOL EPISTLE 2011

To all Friends everywhere,

Between the 20th and the 27th of August 76 young people and 23 staff gathered at Saffron Walden Friends School to explore the theme of 'Dealing with conflict as a Quaker'.

Throughout the week speaker sessions were all valued for both their spiritual and emotional content. Paul Ingram's talk on his work with B.A.S.I.C was interesting and topical. Staff members Candia and Sam talked about nonviolence, being an activist and their experiences campaigning. James Bewsher talked about being a Quaker in the military. He shared his inner conflicts, and how the Quaker community reacted to his role in the military. Alan Pleydell talked about how conflict can divide communities, but how slowly divisions were overcome. The fact that the staff are so involved in the topic of dealing with conflict and making a difference in the world helped us relate to the topic this year.

Each evening we signed up for an activity these ranged from: Morris dancing, swimming, 'environmental art', making the Summer School newspaper, the Big Quaker discussion group, making bunting, nail painting, making costumes for the disco, face painting and footie.

Audley End was brilliant - everyone was spooked by the teddy bears and enjoyed the 'short walk' there. Another outing we went on was to Cambridge where it was sunny from the very start. We had an emotional meeting for worship in Jesus Lane Meeting house. Another aspect of Cambridge we all enjoyed was a community café with a 'Free Shop' which was closing down, where we acquired toasters, chairs and lamps. And then gave most of it back.

In the afternoons we enjoyed many social sessions including the space themed disco, the annual barn dance, and making friendship bracelets for the MPs in protest at the largest arms fair in the world held in London this September. We also took part in a bit of drama. In the Forum Theatre session the audience became 'spectacular spectactors' by intervening in scenes made from conflicts as we have experienced them to change the ending for the better. We learnt how to be an up-stander not a bystander, and to stop the conflicts around us in a nonviolent way.

Epilogue during the evening was a very special time for all of us. It gave us time to reflect on the day and gave people the opportunity to minister from their personal experiences.

Over the week friendships grew, overcoming age boundaries and the normal status quo was soon forgotten. The secret friends made everyone feel special and included in making Summer School a happier place. Mikey from the kitchen became a particular favourite, but was left alone after the polite restraining order issued by the staff.

This year people felt that Summer School made everyone feel included, and there was a great sense of community. Life-long friendships were made during the week.

At the business meeting it was agreed that the theme for Summer School 2012 will be 'Quakers around the world'.

Signed in and on behalf of Summer School

Gabriel Meurer-Wilde and Myfanwy Carville, Clerks
Olwyn Shorey and Dominic McGann, Elders