

# Friends Southern Summer Events



# SENIOR CONFERENCE

## Information Pack



for **Young Quakers aged 15 – 18**

**Sibford School, Banbury  
21 – 28 August 2010**

# WHAT IS SENIOR CONFERENCE?

Senior Conference is a spiritual gathering and a Quaker conference run by and for young people aged 15 to 18, a place of friendship, laughter, and reflection, which builds a strong and supportive community over the course of the week, and friendships that last for a lifetime.

Senior Conference is organised and run by an Arrangements Committee of ten young people, who take on the roles of Clerk, Elder, Overseer, Base Group Coordinator and Entertainments. They are supported in the planning and organisation by a team of adult volunteers. The Arrangements Committee meet each morning during the event to plan the day, run the entertainments in the evenings, organise meetings for worship, and conduct the final Business Meeting. Each year's event is shaped by its Arrangements Committee.

Each morning, breakfast is followed by a short meeting for worship, and a meeting with your base group. Base groups are family sized groups of young people which meet twice daily to have fun, share ideas and to get to know each other better, and are also facilitated by young people from the Conference. On most days there is then a speaker session – speakers in the past have included author Philip Pullman, activist Moazzam Begg, and peace worker John Lampen. The conference then has lunch, followed by some activities inspired by the speaker. In the afternoon there are workshops with the over 20s, which include sport, a nature walk, creative writing, arts and crafts, mask making, and discussion groups. There are also chances to go swimming, and copious free time. In the evening, there is another meeting with your base group and a whole-conference entertainments session. The day ends with an epilogue (a meeting for worship) and evening drinks – and a desperate attempt to get some sleep before it all begins again! During the week we also have a visit to Oxford, DVDs, and some other special activities.

Accommodation is in single-sex dormitories and there is no drinking, drug-taking or sexual activity during Conference. Smoking is discouraged – and forbidden on the main site - but is allowed in a separate area for those who declare on their medical forms that they are smokers. All boundaries have been agreed by the Arrangements Committee and our experience is that they help to create an open and inclusive community. If you have any questions about this side of Conference, please feel free to contact us – details are given below.

If you would like to know more about Senior Conference, please visit our website at [www.fsse.org.uk/sc](http://www.fsse.org.uk/sc) There are also Facebook groups for each year's Senior Conference – search for "Senior Conference 2009" in Facebook and you will find the most recent one.

Here is what some people who have come to Senior Conference in the past have said about it:

*'I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and sense of community.'*

*'Base groups are a great way to get to know a few people very well and really fun!'*

*'The best place to reflect, relax, contemplate, discuss, and sort yourself at the end of the summer so you can cope with being thrown headlong back into the real world'*

*'I've never felt so free.'*

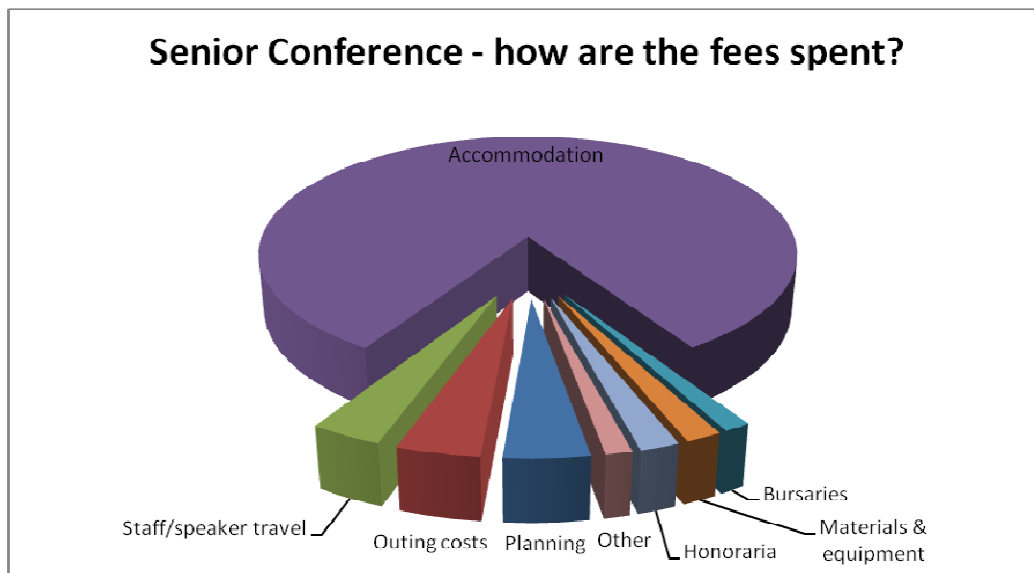
# SENIOR CONFERENCE INFORMATION 2010

Two adult coordinators (one male and one female) are responsible for Senior Conference, although the Conference itself is planned by the Arrangements Committee, which was appointed at last year's Conference. They are assisted by a team of adult volunteers, all aged over 22. In organising and running its events, Friends Southern Summer Events 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](http://www.fsse.org.uk). We require references for all new adult helpers when they join us, and all adult volunteers are required to have current, enhanced disclosures from the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of Senior Conference with the Coordinators please do contact them at [seniorconference@gmail.com](mailto:seniorconference@gmail.com). All forms and dietary/health information and payment should be sent to the Bookings Secretary.

<b>Coordinators</b>	Mat Paskins and FloraMay Waterhouse Email: <a href="mailto:seniorconference@gmail.com">seniorconference@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bookings Secretary</b>	Susie Paskins Email: <a href="mailto:seniorconference@gmail.com">seniorconference@gmail.com</a>
<b>Costs</b>	a) Senior Conference fee £305.00.(including deposit of £50) b) Your travel to and from the venue c) Incidental expenses (pocket money)
<b>Dates</b>	Saturday 21 August (afternoon) to Saturday 28 August (morning)
<b>Venue</b>	Sibford School, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX15 5QL
<b>No of places</b>	95
<b>Age</b>	15 years old by 1 September 2010 and no older than 18
<b>Theme</b>	Simple Riches
<b>Meals</b>	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).
<b>Travel</b>	Participants should make their own arrangements for travel to and from the school, but to help we will arrange for a coach to collect arrivals at Banbury Station (there are regular trains from London Marylebone) around 4pm on Saturday 21st and take people back there on Saturday 28th around 2pm. You will get exact times with the final mailing, once your application has been received.

## HOW ARE SENIOR CONFERENCE FEES SPENT?



## HOW TO APPLY

- To apply for a place at Senior Conference please fill in an application form. Parents and guardians of participants under 18 will need to sign the form.
- You will need to get the signature of a clerk/elder/overseer from your local meeting to show that you are connected with Quakers. If you are unable to do this for any reason, please contact us.
- **Send your completed form to Susie Paskins, Senior Conference Bookings Secretary, 60 Marney Road, London SW11 5EP** as soon as you can.
- **You should apply before 15 March 2010.** Young people who have been asked to help organise the event have guaranteed places. Priority is given to people from meetings in the South of England (you'll find a list at [www.fsse.org.uk](http://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 2010.
- For applications received after 15 March, any spare places will be offered on a first come first served basis – please contact us as we may have places available.
- 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 Senior Conference.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- We will write to you in April 2010 to offer your son or daughter a place (or to you if you are over 18) 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 Senior Conference 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 2010. 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 the parents/guardians to ensure that full payment including any bursary from your Local or Area Meeting is paid **by 30 June 2010**. 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.