

Summer School Epistle 2006

Dear Friends everywhere,

From the 19th to the 26th of August 2006, young friends from all over the country, and even some from abroad gathered to attend a 'fantastic', 'marvellous' and 'spectacular' event. Friends' School Saffron Walden welcomed 80 well behaved young Quakers but also 25 members of staff. The theme for the week was Imagination, and this inspired creativity in all our activities. A number of outside speakers explored their experiences of imagination with us.

2006 saw more new members of staff and young Quakers than ever before, which made the week even more special. The exciting socials gave everyone a chance to get to know each other in a friendly, all-inclusive atmosphere.

The Friendly atmosphere gave everyone a chance to explore what they believed, with other Quakers just like them. These chances are rare because many of us are the only Quakers in our schools. It was nice to be reassured there are lots of other young Quakers.

The outside speakers were interesting, and thought provoking and got us thinking. Three chances to venture off the campus to visit Audley End, Saffron Walden and Cambridge gave us the opportunity to be with our friends. The epilogues gave a good chance for young people to minister, especially as they might not be comfortable at their own meeting, they were a really nice opportunity to relax, and be calm, and often they were quite beautiful.

This year we had a theme disco where dressed up as superheroes, we have chosen the theme of pirates and farmers for next year's disco!

The last night's epilogue was very special, as the community came together to spontaneously worship in song. The bonfire was a wonderful way to end the week, with us sharing songs, playing guitars and there was a particular feeling of love and community that evening. As it dawned on us that we were leaving this amazing place

many of us cried, because of the special place summer school has in our hearts.

For those of us aged 14 and not coming back to Summer School it was particularly sad, but we look forward to moving onto Senior Conference, for the rest of us we look forward to meeting again at Summer School next year, to explore the theme of Freedom.

James Cullum, Sam Sender, Emily Kelsey & Rosie Rowland
Clerks and Elders of Summer School 2006