

Notes for Workshops for December Conference

The primary objective of the conference is to develop Quaker thinking on the issues of Energy Security, Conflict and Climate Change and their interconnections from the perspective of the role we as Europeans play in contributing to the problem and the steps that can and need to be taken in order to make us part of the solution.

In the words of John Woolman, what we are trying to do is to 'look upon our Treasures, and the furniture of our Houses, and the Garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these possessions or not'.

We will do this by considering the issues through the lens of the peace testimony and the testimony to simplicity.

There will be two workshop sessions on Saturday morning and we are going to be running five parallel groups.

We are experimenting this time by including two groups which will look at the issues through means other than discussion and talking. Please indicate on the booking form which workshop you would like to attend. Since the places are limited the allocation will be on a first come first serve basis.

Working with music

David Ferrard, a singer-songwriter and former Programme Assistant of QCEA will be at the conference and will perform for us on the Saturday evening. On Saturday morning he will run two workshops looking at the theme of the conference through music. These two groups have to be small to make them work; the room which will be allocated to these groups is quite small but has the benefit of being at a little distance to other workshop rooms so the volume of noise does not need to be restricted. There are a maximum of 10 places in each workshop. Participants should indicate what musical background they bring to this (this could be none at all - but it's better for David to know beforehand). For more information about David and his music, see his website: www.davidferrard.com

Working with art

Judith Bromley-Nichols, a Quaker and an artist will work with a group of up to 12 participants through both workshop sessions; so if you are interested in this approach, you will be part of this for both workshop sessions. The medium she will use will include clay (you should have clothes that can be easily washed and/or an apron with you).

Discussion workshops

The other three workshops will focus on the themes in a more traditional way, through discussion and interchange; there will be no main input from a speaker; each workshop will have a facilitator to get the discussion going; the material on which they are based is on the one hand the input from the Friday evening session and on the other your own knowledge and expertise.