



QPSW Annual Spring Conference 24 – 26 March 2017



TO AREA MEETING CLERKS

Journeys of Witness

The 2017 Annual Spring Conference will be held **24 – 26 March** at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

QPSW invites you to appoint and pay for people from your Area Meeting to attend this event. Most AMs aim to send two Friends but if you would like to send more that's fine. We ask that you consider this matter as soon as possible.

New Booking process

We have been working to make the booking process simpler and reduce the workload of AM Clerks. Appointed Friends should now make ***their own booking*** online through <http://www.quaker.org.uk/events/2017-qpsw-annual-spring-conference>.

Once the booking is made, an invoice will be generated and can be sent directly to your AM Treasurer for payment. We hope that you find this new streamlined process simpler.

Who is the Conference for?

The QPSW Spring Conference is an ideal opportunity for:

- Fairly new* Friends/Attendees,
- Seasoned Friends who would like to learn about the work
- QPSW correspondents to deepen their knowledge and understanding of centrally managed work.

*We assume a certain level of knowledge of Quaker ways, so participants should have been attending meetings for at least 12 months. The Conference is *not* an introduction to Quakerism generally and therefore assumes a level of knowledge about basic structure and business method.

N.B. It is very important that participants can arrive in time for the Friday evening dinner as the agenda for the weekend is carefully constructed to take Friends on a journey and missing the beginning can make it harder to feel part of it.

Arrangements for Reporting Back

We encourage meetings to consider hearing a report of the conference. Many Friends write articles for their newsletters but we wonder whether it would be of benefit for newer Friends who don't attend Area Meeting and whose attendance is too recent for them to come to the conference, to hear a verbal report back.

Perhaps local meeting QPSW Correspondents could invite participants to local meetings.

Practicalities

The closing date for bookings is 27 January 2017, please respect this deadline. After this date QPSW will be charged for any unused places and cannot afford to keep on empty places for late bookers. If necessary, a waiting list for cancellations will be operated. Please note that if cancellations are received after this date and we are unable to fill the place from our waiting list, your meeting will still need to meet the cost of the delegates fee. **You are therefore advised to consider insurance for cancellations.**

The cost is £190 per person. This covers the cost of food and accommodation at Swanwick, plus part of the cost of organising the Conference. Please note that the AM is also responsible for travel expenses.

Local meetings have also been sent this information; I hope that they will be able to suggest some names of F/friends to attend. **Often the Friends most likely to benefit from attending the conference may not be known at Area Meeting level.**

Applications from individual Friends wishing to attend the conference are also welcomed. If anyone approaches you regarding this please encourage them to complete the booking form. Such individuals are generally liable for their own costs. If they would like financial help and the Area Meeting is not able to help I can give them information on a number of bursaries options.

Action required:-

- **Raise the conference at your next Area Meeting**
- **Ensure those appointed are aware of their responsibility to complete the booking form**
- **Ensure your Treasurer is notified of any appointments**

I do hope that your Area Meeting is able to benefit from sending at least one person to this event.

In Friendship,



Anne Wilkinson
Events and Committee Services

For queries and information, please contact:

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