

Quaker Life



The Library

With its origins dating from 1673, the Library holds the archives and records of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain from its beginnings to the present day, and an almost complete collection of printed works by and about Friends (including anti-Quaker literature).

Working with the library staff the Library Committee of Quaker Life is responsible to the Yearly Meeting for the care and use of the Library's collections, and helping local meetings look after their records and libraries too.

Playing a part in outreach

It is not only a library about Quaker history but about subjects that Quakers have been (and still are) deeply involved with particularly peace, relief work, penal reform, and anti-slavery.



The rich materials in the Library make up the documented memory of the Society revealing Quaker life, faith and thought. People use the library for a variety of reasons from academic research, picture searches for an exhibition, book or programme, or researching the history of a local meeting or Quaker family. Many users are not Quakers and so the Library helps to give a better understanding of Quakerism. Many users publish their research and that helps give wider access to the records of Quaker work and witness.

Supporting local meetings

The Library gives advice and information to local meetings about looking after their own libraries. We can give advice on how to catalogue and arrange a library, how to look after books, and suggestions on how to encourage use looking after the meeting's records. The Library Committee has published a handbook, *Your Meeting's Records* to help custodians of records, or you can contact the library for advice.

www.quaker.org.uk

Supporting the central work

Library staff run a records management service for all the central committees of Britain Yearly Meeting, and the library acts as a modern records centre.

We also advise on data protection and confidentiality issues specifically relating to archives, and on copyright law.

Britain Yearly Meeting owns the copyright on many Quaker texts, such as *Quaker Faith and Practice* and many pictures and images. Requests to use these and reproduce them elsewhere are dealt with by the Library.

How to use the library

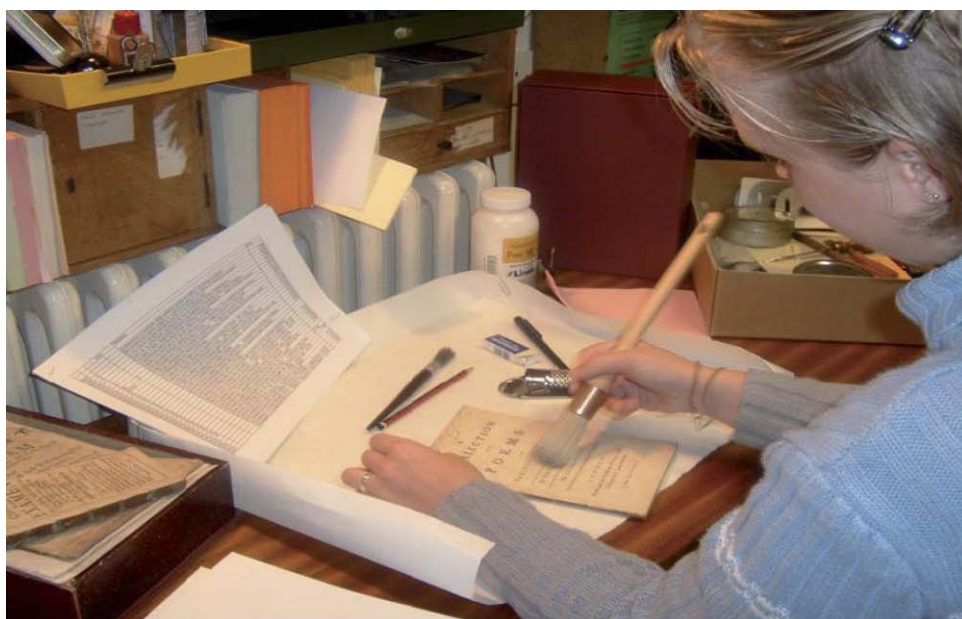
The Library is open to both Quakers and non-Quakers. You can write, email or telephone us with basic enquiries. If your research is in-depth you will probably need to visit us, and it's best to contact us first to make sure we can help you. See Contact details for how to get in touch with us, and our opening hours.

On your first visit to the Library you will need to fill out a registration form (downloadable at www.quaker.org.uk/library). Non-Quakers will also need to show proof of their permanent address.

As in most libraries with unique and rare materials we have a number of basic rules we ask readers to follow and instructions on document handling.

The Library has several user guides to help with researching particular subjects. They include abolition sources; Quaker Schools; and Quaker family history. All our leaflets and guides can be downloaded from the website at www.quaker.org.uk/library or you can request copies from the Library.

If you are looking for a particular book you can search the library catalogue on-line at www.quaker.org.uk/cat. This is the joint book catalogue of the Library and the Quaker Life Resources Room.



Quaker Life works with Friends in their meetings and with other local and national committees to help deepen experience of God's grace and its consequent expression in all our lives and in our meetings. It seeks to nurture the worshipping community of Britain Yearly Meeting, developing it into an inclusive community.

Quaker faith & practice 8.08

Get involved

Visit www.quaker.org/library to find out more about the Library

Consider volunteering in the Library. We always welcome offers of help - examples of things you could help with include:

word-processing indexes and lists; sorting and listing some of the archives; arranging and filing library materials.

If you have the right skills and the time then please get in touch.

If you or your meeting are publishing something about

Quakers, then let us know and if you can send a copy

to the Library.

Make a donation to support the work of the Library

– Friends House Library is funded solely by Britain Yearly Meeting's members and meetings. It has no external public funding for its core costs.

Library opening hours:

Tuesday- Friday
10am - 5pm

Contact

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