

# Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

## Issue 3: Autumn 2022



### Welcome to the Autumn issue!

Welcome to *Clerks Update*, a communication channel for clerks of local and area Quaker communities. You can view an archive of past messages on our website at [www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update](http://www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update). The following headings will be used each time to give a familiar shape and feel the newsletter:

- Support and guidance for Quaker clerks
- Events (in particular those requiring nomination)
- Youth, children and families
- Training and learning
- Grants and financial help

### Support and guidance for Quaker clerks

#### Quaker Week

We hope that any Quaker Week events or activities you may have held went well, and would like to remind you that there is lots of support for ongoing outreach [on our website](#). This includes the opportunity to add any upcoming outreach activities to our digital map so that people can find out about them. Please do complete our [Quaker Week evaluation form](#) to let us know how things went this year and how we can support you in future.



*The Friend* bumper Quaker Week special has a timeless theme, so why not use it throughout the coming year to welcome newcomers and explore spirituality within your own caring community? Special offer extended: 20 copies for £11.

Contact [subs@thefriend.org](mailto:subs@thefriend.org) to find out more.

### Governance Gold – Testimonies

Extra guidance has been issued about the written testimonies to deceased Friends that are prepared by area meetings. It can be found as [Governance Gold 11](#). That document also contains links to other guidance that is available in *Quaker faith & practice* and on our website.



Abbreviations: BYM – Britain Yearly Meeting; LM – local meeting; AM – area meeting; YM – Yearly Meeting; QLCC – Quaker Life Central Committee; FWCC – Friends World Committee for Consultation

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## Local Peer support networks

Do you have local peer support networks in place for role-holders? In regions where local development work is becoming established, workers are starting to set up or join in with existing peer support networks for a range of role-holders. Does your LM/AM have such a network for clerks and are you connecting with people outside your patch?

Find details online of [whether your region has a Local Development Worker](#), who they are and whether there are networks that they are establishing or can point you towards.



## Database to record property sustainability

If your meeting has taken steps to make your meeting more sustainable, then please consider filling in the [short questionnaire for the sustainability database](#) to help other meetings on their journey to becoming a low carbon meeting. Your help is urgently needed to develop this useful tool for Quakers in Britain. This work is part of Woodbrooke's Climate Crisis; spiritual nurturing and learning project funded by Britain Yearly Meeting.

## Cost of Living updates

### Government support on energy costs for charities and businesses

The Government has published details of the [Energy Bills Relief Scheme](#) for non-domestic customers. Discounts will be applied to energy usage for an initial 6 month period between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. The scheme will apply in England, Scotland and Wales. Customers do not need to apply as the discount will be automatically be applied to bills.

If you are contacted by anyone asking for bank details to apply discounts it is likely to be a scam. You can [report messages you think are suspicious](#).

### Living Wage Foundation announces increase

The [Living Wage Foundation \(LWF\)](#) has announced that due to the current inflation levels in the UK it is raising its rates by 10.1% with immediate effect. BYM encourages meetings that have employees to become accredited living wage employers.



See the news item about the rise in rates on the LWF website:

[www.livingwage.org.uk/news/real-living-wage-increases-£1090-uk-and-£1195-london-cost-living-rises](http://www.livingwage.org.uk/news/real-living-wage-increases-£1090-uk-and-£1195-london-cost-living-rises).

### Outreach and responding to the cost of living crisis

The outreach network sessions which run on Zoom each month will focus in October and November on how Friends are responding to the cost of living crisis. We will explore possibilities such as providing a warm space or hot meal, and ways of working in partnership with others. Some Friends are already using their meeting houses to provide this kind of welcome; others who don't have a meeting house are working with ecumenical or interfaith groups, or other charities, in order to get involved. You can sign up for the [lunchtime session](#) on Thursday 20 October from 12–1pm and/or for the [evening session](#) on Monday 24 October from 7.30–8.30pm.

## Denominational Ecumenical Officers: For Area Meetings in England

Quakers are members of [Churches Together in England \(CTE\)](#). Area meetings may like to appoint a Denominational Ecumenical Officer to represent them at county level. CTE is running a training event for ecumenical officers in January 2023 so this is a good time to appoint. More [information about the role of Denominational Ecumenical Officers](#) and the training, including one Quaker's experience, can be found on the Quakers in Britain website.

## BYM email Spam Filter

Please see below for information that was sent to LM and AM clerks earlier in the year.

BYM uses a spam filter called Barracuda to reduce the risk of users clicking on something they shouldn't, keeping BYM internal data shielded from cyber-attacks. Since email is commonly used to exploit users and their data, spam filtering has grown in importance and relevance. Spam filtering is essentially an anti-malware tool. Many attacks through email trick users into clicking on a malicious attachment, asking them to supply their credentials, and much more.

### *Who is this information for?*

- For local and area meetings using BYM email domain [@quaker.org.uk](mailto:@quaker.org.uk).

### *What is happening?*

- If an email is quarantined, you will receive a notification.

### *What do you need to do?*

- You will have three options to select from, deliver, allow list or block list.
- If the email is legitimate, always select allow list. This option will prevent the email from being quarantined again.
- If the email is spam; always select block list. This option will permanently block emails from that email address.

### *What do if you haven't received a legit email or notification?*

- If you are expecting an email and have not received it, the email was blocked, not quarantined please email [updates@quaker.org.uk](mailto:updates@quaker.org.uk).

## Events

### Trustee and Treasurers Conference (online)

**Saturday, 15 October 2022**

Quaker Life and Woodbrooke is running a conference for trustees and treasurers. The key speakers at the event will be introducing the changes that will be introduced as part of the Charities Act 2022. There will be spaces to explore issues with peers on subjects that are of interest to Friends with governance responsibilities in Quaker communities.

Find out more and book to attend the conference online, [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/trustees-and-treasurers-conference](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/trustees-and-treasurers-conference)



*Photo by Susan Q Yin on Unsplash*

## Youth, children & families (YCF)

### Junior Yearly Meeting 2023

We wrote to area meeting clerks recently with information about nominations. This can be found on the Quakers in Britain website at [www.quaker.org.uk/events/junior-yearly-meeting-2023](http://www.quaker.org.uk/events/junior-yearly-meeting-2023). Please do all you can to promote this event to any young people in your area meeting who are eligible.

Do get in touch with Mads at [madsj@quaker.org.uk](mailto:madsj@quaker.org.uk) if you have any questions.



## Training and learning

### Facilitation & Leadership 2022

**Friday 14 October to Sunday 16 October, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham**

Do you know a young adult (aged 16–21), who might be interested in exploring community and how to reflect Quaker beliefs, values and practices in their facilitation? Those new to facilitation and those who have previous experience are welcome.

★ Deadline for bookings 5 October.

For more information see the attached flyer or [www.yqspace.org.uk/FL2022](http://www.yqspace.org.uk/FL2022).

## Grants and financial help

### BYM grants

If you are aware of anyone in your meeting who might be in need of financial support please direct them to our Hope grants [www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants](http://www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants), or (for young adult Friends aged 18–35) our Young Adult Financial Relief grants [www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-relief-grant](http://www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-relief-grant).

For advice on making an application and information on other grants available, please contact Ann Pfeiffer, Grants Programme Officer [annp@quaker.org.uk](mailto:annp@quaker.org.uk).

### Hardship grants from the Pollard & Dickson Trust

The Pollard and Dickson Trust still has funds for Friends (attender/member) who can't meet daily living costs. It provides grants up to £1,500. Friends who have had grants from us in previous years, may reapply (Friends who received a grant before 16 December 2022, but continue to be in financial need in January 2023, may reapply then). Applications need to be supported by a letter (email) directly from a pastoral care Friend indicating the applicant is in “good standing” within the Quaker community and that the application represents a genuine need. Direct questions and applications to Augene Nanning [pollardanddickson@gmail.com](mailto:pollardanddickson@gmail.com) or [read the application guidance](#).