

Recharging the piggy bank

Methods for meetings to increase income



Raising money for the needs of local meetings can sound daunting when you are faced with a bill running into thousands of pounds. The problem and solution are often seen as the remit of the local Treasurer. Yet this challenge, insurmountable as it may seem, sees Friends at their best – pulling together as a community outside worship to work together, get to know each better and do a range of little things that make a big difference to increasing income for the Meeting both in the short and long term. The following is intended to give you ideas to consider that have come from the success gained in Meetings around our Yearly Meeting. You may be able to add to them – if so, please let us know so that we can help share this learning with Friends.

Hirings

- When did you last increase your hiring rates? Are your rates still comparable with others offering similar facilities in your local area? Would it be helpful to you and your hirers for payments to be made by standing order?
- Do you have any time slots not being used?
- How well are you advertising your available hirings opportunities within your locality? Is there anyone to whom you could recommend the space you have available?
- How good a service are you offering to your hirers to help them recommend you and stay loyal? Do you help them to increase their numbers by offering a 'hirings board' where they can advertise?

Donations

- When did Friends in your Meeting last review their giving by standing order?
- How many of your attenders have you spoken with to raise their awareness of the opportunities to give to your Meeting? Have you told them how to go about this if they are interested?
- How obvious and accessible are your collection boxes? Are they clearly labelled?
- Can you run an event at your Meeting and invite the wider community to attend and donate to your Meeting House?
- Are you in a position to capitalise on the needs of passing shoppers and the tourist trade to gain additional income?
- Is everyone that can and wishes to using gift aid?

Maximising space

- Are you hiring all the space available?
- Are you using all the space available to raise your income? Do you have space for a community project that would raise funds as well as service local needs? (e.g. drop in centre, tea room/child friendly facilities for families visiting the local prison, bookshop)
- Can you make your space more attractive to the needs of the local community by making a small investment in for example facilities for babies and young people, hanging rails for art exhibitions?

Giving with time and talents

- What are you good at as a Meeting? What is the history of your Meeting in this area? What old habits might you have lost that could be resurrected?
- What talents and skills do you have in your Meeting? Do you have artists who could produce pictures or postcards that could be sold?
- Can you run a business at your Meeting? Do you have catering facilities that could be used?
- Can you run a Yoga group? Can you run a course on conflict resolution for young people? Can you run a workshop to help adults learn new skills?

Increasing your membership

- Are you working to make your Meeting accessible to everyone in your community? Do you open your Meeting House and encourage people to experience what Quakerism is all about? Are you opening your doors for Quaker Week?
- Have you invited a friend to your Meeting?

Making savings

- Can you join with another local meeting to offer more for children and young people?
- Do you run a car sharing scheme in your Meeting?
- Are you cutting your energy consumption as a Meeting?
- Have you investigated if you can reclaim VAT for building work done on your Meeting House?

What can Friends House do to help?

We can help with any of the following:

- Have you considered booking a fundraising or giving workshop for your Meeting?
- Have you promoted legacy giving in your Meeting?
- Have you considered building a fundraising group in your Meeting?
- Have you built a fundraising strategy?
- Have you got someone who would like to do a sponsored event?
- Have you applied to the Meeting House fund for help in refurbishing your premises?
- Have you considered applying to trusts for grants?