

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Resources for Learning Co-ordinator(s)

General Context of the Role:

In the mid 1990s Quaker Home Service and the Rowntree Trust funded a national Resources for Learning Initiative. The Co-ordinator role arose when a network of correspondents was created to advance the aims of this project. A wide range of Resources for Learning booklets was produced for use throughout B.Y.M. These study booklets are still in print, although the Initiative itself was ended officially in the late 1990s.

The post of Co-ordinator in our AM is relatively new, with only one occupant to date. The principal method has been the arrangement of "Spiritual Adventure" days with input from well known speakers. These have been very successful and the experiences so positive that we wish the project to continue. To meet changing needs it may be necessary to develop new approaches. It may even become helpful for the role of Co-ordinator to be a shared responsibility.

Experience and qualifications sought:

No formal qualifications are required, but the Co-ordinator should have:

- the ability to initiate, organise and work closely with others
- prayerfulness, a sense of humour and patience — Friends can take time to respond!

Above all the Co-ordinator needs enthusiasm and a genuine interest in the learning and spiritual development of others, as well as of him/herself. It helps to be a Seeker ever open to new ways of learning and of nourishing the spirit in the modern world and not to be afraid of finding too!!

It also helps to be reasonably computer literate in order to transmit information and programmes. In the future access to e-mail will be an advantage, but not essential. If necessary AM will provide suitable support.

Main Responsibilities:

- 1 To encourage more people in AM to share in their learning and in the deepening of their spiritual lives by developing a nurturing and learning community of Friends and Attenders at AM and LMs.
- 2 To work closely with LM/AM Elders and others in sharing information and ideas, and in encouraging and supporting initiatives to achieve 1.
- 3 To liaise closely with key staff at Woodbrooke and Quaker Life on learning/nurturing developments and to keep Elders and Overseers informed.
- 4 To encourage meetings to respond to the needs of Attenders as they develop in the Quaker way.
- 5 To encourage Outreach among meetings so that their presence is known in their communities.

- 6 To liaise with LM librarians and to support them (with training if necessary) so that libraries are inviting and lively and their contents brought to the attention of all.
- 7 To keep AM informed by reports as appropriate on past achievements and future plans and opportunities.

In practice this means...

- 1 Visiting other LMs to understand their natures and needs. This involves meeting the Members and Attenders and establishing good working relationships with the Elders and Overseers.
- 2 Attendance at AM Elders' meetings when appropriate.
- 3 Being aware of the learning practices in other AMs and how these might be adapted to benefit our meetings.
- 4 Maintaining close links with Woodbrooke College to take advantage of its resources, courses, experience and expertise in learning.
- 5 Helping AM and LMs to establish/develop ways of fostering spiritual growth and education in Quakerism among all the members.

Rewards and satisfactions of the job:

Rather like those in teaching. Despite frustrations, there is a deep satisfaction in helping others on their way. Often the feedback is limited, but the delight of those who have found a new insight or strength makes it worthwhile.

The opportunity to meet so many more Friends and Attenders; to share the spiritual journey with them and develop oneself at the same time.

Kate Edge/Richard Lacock
Approved Nom. Com. 30-04-02

Updated 'monthly' to 'area' 02.11.2010 EMW