

## Animated Singing Pantos and Youth Work Conference

Dear Friends,

You haven't heard from us for a while, so here's an update about all the different things we're up to over the coming months. First however, we want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone we saw at the Yearly Meeting Gathering in Canterbury this August! We had a fantastic time running workshops for Junior Yearly Meeting and the Young People's Programme – but the highlight of the week had to be the all day workshop on the Wednesday, when around 20 participants of all ages joined us to for a day of singing and drama. This culminated in an evening performance of everything we had rehearsed (including songs, movement and a short play) – and over 200 people squeezed into The Senate Lawn Tent to watch the performance. It was great to see so much support, and to meet and work with so many Leaveners, past and present, old and new!

It's difficult to believe it's September already, so naturally our attention has turned to all the exciting things The Leaveners have planned this Autumn – and there seems to be something for everyone! We've got art for tween/teenagers, theatre for over 18's and singing for the 14 plus. All the leaflets/booking forms are attached, plus information below, so take a look and see if anything appeals to you, a friend or family member. As always, if you have any questions about projects (or even The Leaveners work in general) just get in touch and we're happy to help!

Booking is open for all projects – if you want to come, simply print off the booking form and send it back to us with the fee/deposit. If you don't have access to a printer, simply call/email the office with your details and we'll send them out to you, for free, no problem! Motion/Animation is already over half way booked – so get in quick!

Finally, there are still places on the amazing FREE Quaker Youth Work Conference! Hugely successful last year, this year's topic is 'Internet Safety' and it promises to be an informative, interesting and enjoyable day. It's an opportunity to meet people who work with Young People - participants new to volunteering, and young people involved in planning and running events are particularly welcome! We'll be focusing on engaging young people safely with Facebook and other social networking websites, exploring the potential risks of using social networking sites and other user-interactive media, and considering how events and volunteers can use these safely and appropriately. The day will a great opportunity to explore these issues in a friendly, relaxed environment – plus free lunch and refreshments will be included! To reserve a place, simply email [bevelies@quaker.org.uk](mailto:bevelies@quaker.org.uk) by 24<sup>th</sup> October.

## **THE LEAVENERS CALENDER:**

### OCTOBER

- **MOTION/ANIMATION**

Think that Animation = Disney and needs expensive equipment? The Leaveners are here to prove you wrong! 'Motion/Animation' is an Arts weekend for 11-18 year olds set to explore the weird and wonderful world of animation. We'll be learning to make optical toys, creating instant films and using 2D and 3D animation techniques to tell stories and make art – and of course, the weekend will end with a film screening! No experience necessary – just bring your creativity and imagination!

**Ages:** 11-18 **Experience:** None necessary!

**When:** Arrivals after 6pm on Friday 21st October. Departures after 2.45pm on Sunday 23rd October.

**Where:** Leicester Meeting (Friends Meeting, 16 Queens Road, Leicester, LE2 1WP)  
We will be sleeping on the meeting house floor - bring sleeping bags, pillows and mats. There will be separate sleeping areas for males and females and all food will be provided during the project.

**Cost:** £30 (min) £50 (max)

### NOVEMBER

- **Quaker Youth Work Conference** (see above for details!)

**When:** Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 11am (10.30am for refreshments), finishing at 4.30pm.

**Where:** Manchester Central Meeting (Mount Street)

- **Big Sing! 2011**

Following the success of last year's project, the BIG SING is back! Whether you're a Leaveners regular, or completely new to us it's a chance to make new friends, relax, have fun and of course - SING! As a group we'll be singing old favourites and learning new songs and no prior experience is necessary. Anyone over the age of 14 is welcome, singers and musicians alike. The theme for the weekend will be 'Winter

Warmers' – we'll be sharing songs that make us feel warm inside, no matter the weather!

New to The Leavers, or know someone who might like to come along? This informal singing weekend is the perfect chance to get to know us and find out what we do! Plus, if this is your first project with The Leavers you receive a 40% discount off the fee so the cost is just £15 for the whole weekend.

**When:** 18th - 20th November 2011.

**Ages:** 14+ **Experience:** None necessary!

**Where:** Salisbury Quaker Meeting House, 51 Wilton Road, Salisbury SP2 7EP. We'll be sleeping on the Meeting house floor, so bring sleeping bags/cushions/blankets – whatever you need to get comfy and be warm!

**Cost:** £25 (£15 for first time participants)

## DECEMBER

- **THE 24 HOUR PANTO PROJECT**

Rehearse, produce and perform a pantomime in less than two days. Possible? Oh yes it is! Using a madcap mixture of improvisation, scripted scenes, and terrible puns, we'll be taking the mantra 'the show must go on' as read when we perform The Leavers' first ever pantomime on the Sunday afternoon at Croydon Quaker Meeting House, complete with songs, Dames and a Pantomime horse...

This is our very first residential weekend theatre project for over 18's, so it's a great chance to get back in touch with The Leavers – especially if you have already been involved with the Quaker Youth Theatre in the past. If you're new to The Leavers, this is a great time to join us as we start up a new branch of our creative work. Some previous drama experience would be useful, but the most important requirements are enthusiasm, energy and a sense of fun!

**Dates:** 9th-11th December 2011. Arrivals after 5pm on Friday night. Performance time TBC, with departures after 4.30pm on Sunday afternoon.

**Ages:** 18+ **Experience:** Some drama/theatre experience, particularly in improvisation is preferable, but not essential!

**Venue:** Croydon Meeting House, 60 Park Lane, CR01JE – We'll be sleeping on the Meeting house floor, so bring sleeping bags/cushions/blankets – whatever you need to get comfy and keep warm!

**Cost:** £25 per person.

... And the New Year will be bringing much, much more!

REMEMBER - Cost should never be barrier to coming on one of our projects, and bursaries are available. Simply email [paul@leaveners.org](mailto:paul@leaveners.org) to find out more!

Hope to see you at a project soon – and don't forget, we're always looking for caterers and volunteers, so if you're interested just get in touch!

In Friendship,

Lauren Parkes

Projects & Workshops Officer

The Leaveners

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The Leavers is a registered charity number 292499