

Community Champions

Just as we all have different experiences of the light, so we have different expectations of Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) – perhaps this year more than ever as we prepare to hold our gathering mainly online.

As we look forward to July, here are some options for getting Friends in your Area Meeting involved during YMG. We don't all have to do things in the same way, so please pick and mix from the ideas below, finding ways to suit your own Area or Local Meeting - and enjoy your preparation for the Gathering!

- Be an advocate and cheerleader for the Gathering by simply helping Friends to see the regular communications which will be coming out through Quake and The Friend. This would be by phoning Friends, putting reminders in notices, etc, to encourage people to participate.
- Coordinate groups of local Friends to work together on the spiritual preparation materials – and help with printing for people who need it.
- Initiate fellowship groups across your area meeting, in whatever form might suit you best – either meeting in person or online, so that people can share their experiences during the Gathering. This could include worship sharing, local epilogues, discussions, shared Zoom lunches
- Use your Meeting's Zoom account to host a coffee morning or a reading group to discuss the Gathering themes and choose one of the suggestions for spiritual preparation as your focus.
- Have conversations! Chat with Friends online and sit down with those who don't use the internet. Spread the word about the opportunities at Gathering for getting together as a wider community and meeting new friends.
- For people who might be unsure or struggling with technology or other aspects of meeting online, organise some basic support. You don't need to be a super techie – just giving confidence and tips about how to do things online can help us all.
- As we continue (we hope) to cautiously open up to more face-to-face Quaker activities, could you get together, for example, to watch the Swarthmore Lecture together in your Meeting House?
- Look for other face-to-face opportunities, for example running crafting sessions or participating in a society-wide art project. What about a picnic lunch in the Meeting House garden?