

FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1155420

Details

Other names	FSSE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-01-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	30 Baileys Barn Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1BX
Phone	01904 762983
Email	clerk@fsse.org.uk
Website	http://www.fsse.org.uk/

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ARE:(A)TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF THE COMMUNITY AND IN PARTICULAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE QUAKER TRADITION, AND OTHERS WITH AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT QUAKERS;AND IN FURTHERANCE THEREOF:(B)TO ORGANISE AND PROMOTE EVENTS FOR THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MORAL BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY AND IN PARTICULAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AN INTEREST IN QUAKERS;(C)TO DISSEMINATE BY WHATEVER MEANS THE IDEALS OF TRUTH, NON-VIOLENCE AND EQUALITY WITHIN A QUAKER BACKGROUND; AND(D)TO PROMOTE ANY PURPOSE THAT IS CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DETERMINED BY THE TRUSTEES.

Activities: FSSE organises two week-long annual residential Quaker events in August: Junior Gathering (formerly Summer School, ages 11-14) and Senior Conference (15-18). These events advocate the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality and truth. They are significant in the lives of those who attend, building confidence, knowledge and supportive friendships which can last a lifetime.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£62,875	£59,871	-	-
2024-09-30	£55,673	£46,098	-	-
2023-09-30	£38,645	£49,240	-	-
2022-09-30	£39,026	£39,536	-	-
2021-09-30	£37,027	£34,284	-	-
2020-09-30	£1,564	£2,251	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kai Yang Dylan Sim	Chair	2022-11-12
Alex Skinner		2023-11-11
Candia Louise Dickerson Crosfield		2022-08-16
Imogen Hills		2023-11-11
Matthew James Winkless		2025-11-15
Oliver Waterhouse		2022-08-16
Polly Jane Louise Chatterton		2024-11-16
Rebecca Louise Kennard		2022-11-12

FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1155420

Accounts

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2025

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2025

FSSE (Friends Southern Summer Events) is a small Quaker charity, entirely run by volunteers, whose purpose is the advancement of the Religious Society of Friends through the provision of educational events for young people.

Objects and Activities

FSSE's objects are:

- a) to promote and advance the religious education of the community and in particular of young people, including those of the Quaker tradition, and others with an interest in learning more about Quakers;

AND in furtherance thereof:

- b) to organise and promote events for the spiritual growth and moral benefit of the community and in particular of young people with an interest in Quakers;
- c) to disseminate by whatever means the ideals of truth, non-violence and equality within a Quaker background; and
- d) to promote any purpose that is charitable according to the laws of England and Wales and for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined by the trustees.

FSSE usually runs two week-long events: Junior Gathering, for 11-14 year olds; and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds. The catchment area is southern England, though others are welcomed if there is space.

Public benefit statement

FSSE exists for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual nurture and religious education of young people including both those of the Quaker tradition, and those with an interest in learning more about Quakers and Quakerism. This benefits personally the participants who attend the events, and also benefits the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) more widely, through the spreading of Quaker ideas and ideals.

In carrying out these purposes, FSSE usually organises two annual residential Quaker events in August of each year: Junior Gathering (for young people aged 11-14) and Senior Conference (for older participants aged 15-18). These events benefit enormously the young people who attend them, by providing spiritual education through workshops which advocate the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality and truth. The events provide spiritual nourishment from new (and old) friendships, shared worship and activities including sports, games, drama, music and other creative arts.

Based on the feedback participants provide, we know our events are significant in the lives of those who attend, helping to build confidence, knowledge and supportive friendships which in some cases last a lifetime. We see young people wanting to come back year on year, and also those who want to give back some of what they gained by helping at the events.

Funding

FSSE is funded primarily through participant fees. Fee income is supplemented by grants and gifts from charitable trusts, Quaker Meetings and individuals.

Some participant fees are funded in part or in whole by a young person's Local or Area Quaker Meeting. FSSE's aim is to ensure that no-one who wishes to come to Junior Gathering or Senior Conference is prevented from doing so for financial reasons. Grants and gifts enable us to support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the full fees. Decisions to apply grants and gifts to support participation are taken by the bookings secretaries in consultation with the treasurer.

Achievement and Performance - Trustees' Annual Report

During 2025 our focus as trustees was supporting the work of the FSSE committee and considering the future plans for the organisation.

Bringing the organisation together as a Quaker community remains a priority for Trustees and a number of initiatives were undertaken and planned. We continue to work on what our calling is as an organisation and as a Quaker Meeting.

The better financial position this year gives us hope that we can also focus on the main challenges in growing the events past their current capacity limitations.

Throughout the year trustees were involved in the event support meetings that happened once a month, these served as the main operational decision making meetings alongside other committee communication channels (email/whatsapp).

This year we trialled temperature checks to speed up discernment online using consent based decision making and more traditional Quaker business method. This mixture of methods is representative of FSSE's decision making as a whole due to the high number of operational decisions needed vs the number of strategic decisions needed.

To improve the understanding of the operational and strategic domains a new living document has been created to clarify and document the institutional knowledge.

Trustees met regularly to provide historical context, policy advice, operational support, additional capacity, discernment and a number of ad-hoc tasks via the FSSE committee, such as liaising with the venue, volunteer recruitment and safeguarding training.

A particular challenge for us this year was discerning and improving the high level guidance around dorm allocation following a number of queries. We recognised the very difficult balance needed between ensuring the flexibility to meet the needs of all stakeholders and the needs for additional guidance.

To ensure the event plans were in accordance with FSSE's values, expectations, policy, legal compliance, good practice and were safe to run, a pre-event event assessment was carried out by trustees to determine that we were happy for the events to go ahead.

We have received excellent feedback from volunteers, young people and parents/guardians celebrating the creation of two very well run and successful events. We are glad to once again be alongside all those who heeded the call to service in 2025.

Signed on behalf of Trustees

Michael Wood

Clerk to FSSE Trustees

Junior Gathering Epistle 2025

To all Friends everywhere,

From the 23rd to the 30th of August 2025, 54 young people and 18 staff gathered at Leighton Park School, Reading for a week of exploration and reflection on the theme “Global Issues Regarding Conflict and Climate Change.”

This year we had internal and external speakers talking and sharing their own experiences about our theme. In Phil Wood’s session, we reflected on our thoughts about resolving conflict and positive and negative peace and how it affects people around the world. Jacqui Davis talked and educated us on the topic of climate anxiety and how we feel about what's going on elsewhere in the world. Lyndsay Burtonshaw workshop prompted us to express our feelings in creative ways such as drawing and describing creatures that represented our ideas about this year's theme. Finally, Caro and Sue Crosfield from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) shared their experiences working as a witness amongst people living in conflict zones. All of these speaker sessions were thought provoking and deepened our understanding of Global Conflict and Climate Change.

Each morning started with a Meeting for Worship where we collected our thoughts while drawing and reading topical booklets that prompted ministry from Friends. We also ended the evening with Epilogue where we reflected back on the day and wound down with candles and calming pieces of music. This year we held a few epilogues outside, under the stars which was greatly received by all.

We had a wide range of activities which made sure everyone found themselves in a session that they were happy and comfortable to take part in. These include sports like rounders and frisbee, many crafts and board games, with swimming making a popular return. After lunch, everyone took part in an afternoon group activity which featured a fête, a film and a construction activity which challenged us to create a crazy golf hole. In the evening, we collaborated with our base groups in the base group challenge, danced to a live band in the barn dance and many more fun activities. We also had lifelines where two members of staff shared the ups and downs of their life.

On Wednesday, we and Senior Conference (who we are sharing a site with) visited and explored the city of Oxford in small, chosen groups. As one of the highlights of each event, everyone enjoyed freely roaming and having time off site. We were very grateful to hold a Meeting for Worship in Oxford Meeting House where we met back afterwards. Many of our young people have appreciated being around Senior Conference again this year, seeing friends and siblings while giving fourteen year olds a better idea for what’s to come after Junior Gathering.

We found that this event allows us to meet other young quakers which many of us do not have the opportunity to do in local meetings. Lots of us appreciated how we could talk about deep topics whilst still having fun making friends and enjoying the event as a whole. We saw this especially in Base Groups which has been a highlight again this year. It gave us space to communally collect our thoughts, play games and get to know people we wouldn't talk to otherwise.

The week has highlighted to us that even when discussing the conflict and climate crisis and other such issues, we can still find a way to make connections and new friends. We found Advices and Queries No.21 to summarize this point: “Do you cherish your friendships, so that they grow in depth and understanding and mutual respect? In close relationships we may risk pain as well as finding joy. When experiencing great happiness or great hurt we may be more open to the working of the Spirit.”

In our Meeting for Worship for Business we discerned that Junior Gathering 2026’s theme will be “Young People's Involvement in Society” and the disco theme will be “Under and Over the Sea” We very much look forward to next year’s event and wish well to those moving up to Senior Conference.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Gathering 2025,

Clerks

Emily W and Martha S

Elders

Iris C and Seb

Senior Conference Epistle 2025

To all Friends everywhere,

“Love and justice require us to examine our own practices and behaviours, and to work for systemic change.” - Minute 27 of Yearly Meeting 2022

Between Friday 22nd and Saturday 30th August 2025, 65 Friends joined at Leighton Park School, Reading to create an intentional community. We leave with hope for the future, stemming from the clear desire expressed during the week for positive change and the possibilities for building better worlds.

Senior Conference offers us an opportunity to connect with amazing people, who work together to create an environment that is welcoming, open and committed to acceptance and valuing everyone's ideas and experiences. We come together to cultivate a space in which we can all try and be our true selves. This year's theme was 'Embracing Our Differing Truths Within a Community' and we explored this through the week with speaker sessions, meetings for worship and discussion. We also had Secret Friends, games and activity workshops.

Within the larger community we gathered in what we call 'Base Groups' to explore the theme through discussing the speaker sessions, playing games, making our costumes for the themed dinner and creating our contribution to the final night's talent show. In these more intimate settings we created smaller communities that became mini-families for us; allowing us to connect with people we might not necessarily become friends with otherwise and providing support for people who might be at the event for the first time. We also had the opportunity to connect with other base groups, allowing us to meet more people from across the event.

During the week we gathered in silent worship twice a day, in the morning for prologue and in the evening for epilogue. During the week we found that Friends expressed themselves through meaningful and insightful ministry and were willing and open to bring deep thoughts and feelings that helped us reflect, often in unexpected ways. We were struck by how many Friends ministered for the first time and this is something we found particularly special.

Our first speaker was Debby Flack, a member of the Britain Yearly Meeting Reparations Working Group and The Black, Brown and People of Colour Friends Fellowship. She spoke to us about Friends involvement in the Atlantic slave trade, including Quaker businesses that provided chains and shackles for slave traders. She also explained to us her concept of reparations, starting with an understanding of how and why Quakers were involved in the Atlantic slave trade and from there how we can make redress for our role in this historical injustice. We heard about the estimation of the financial impact of making reparations, how this would be in the trillions of pounds and she helped us conceive of how large of a number this really is. We were reminded that our Quaker values require us to tell the truth about historical and contemporary injustice, and how this commitment impels us to take accountability when we ourselves are or have been involved.

We heard from three of the Adult Volunteers (called 'The 22+ Team') who delivered a Lifelines session, in which they spoke about pivotal moments in their lives. They spoke about school experiences, family histories, neurodiversity, addiction, health and wellbeing. This session allowed us to hear about the struggles people can face on their journeys and the importance of perseverance. Through hearing these stories we took hope about how we can grow in the future through staying true to ourselves. Across all three speakers we heard of how much they had been supported by young Quaker events when they were our age and the place they held and continue to hold for them. The session helped us become a fuller community through building bridges between the 22+ team and participants, allowing us to better understand the hope the event gives us, how we carry this out into our lives and how this helps shape our futures.

Our next speaker was Lyndsay Burtonshaw, the Peace and Faith in Action Coordinator for Quaker Peace and Social Witness, who led an interactive session. We examined our differing truths through a 'body mapping' exercise in which we drew around our bodies and used this as a space to write down our own truths and examine what is important to us. We compared what we had written and saw the overlaps in people discussing their identities and values, others focusing on their experiences, likes and dislikes. We looked at truths that came easily to us, such as liking music, but also examining deeper meanings within ourselves that also brought us discomfort. Some of us designed our 'dream village' examining what we thought about labour and work; government and justice; land and natural resources; relationships, bodies and sexuality. While others did a Zine making exercise allowing us to explore where we are 'from', or creating creatures that embody our emotions. This session allowed us creative space to explore our personal truths, and in sharing them allowed us to find points of connection as well as what makes us unique.

Our final speakers were ecumenical accompaniers, Caroline and Sue Crosfield. They are a part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and have worked as human rights monitors in Occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank. They told us about the work they did: living in small, international teams monitoring human rights violations, preventing harassment of children walking to school and helping peace groups. They discussed how their presence in and of itself was powerful and a form of protection as they were there as witnesses. We had the opportunity to ask further questions to Caroline and Sue in the more intimate environment of base groups. Within the context of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, this session particularly sparked passionate and thoughtful discussions within this space and we held further creative listening groups afterwards. We found it challenging and productive to explore how we express our understanding of our differing truths within our own community.

We were very grateful to receive a pre-recorded video session from Yuan Yang, a Quaker Labour MP for the new constituency of Earley and Woodley. Within this she brought up how it is harder to experience communities and human contact in the world today, due to the increase of easily accessible technology, for example self checkouts at supermarkets. Yuan spoke about the difficulty in finding communities from her work in parliament and how she tries to counteract this by starting her own. She invited us to think about what we can do to prevent this trend in our own lives. This made us appreciate this event as a space for real connection and community.

Every evening we had entertainments, which included; the Base Group Challenge offering a chance to bond with the group through completing funny collaborative tasks. We had a Disco which was themed as Heroes and Villains, giving us a chance to dress up and have fun; a Barn Dance led by a professional folk band; a lively Quiz night; movie night, hunt the committee and the final night's talent show. These vibrant sessions were an opportunity to share laughter and joy, building new connections and memories.

We are struck by the openness, love and joy of this community, how we meet only once a year and become close friends with each other, for the first time, or again. For those of us returning year on year, it has become something we have come to expect from Senior Conference; the inevitability of a safe and welcoming community, one in which everyone is friends with everyone else. While many of us are sad to be moving on, we are reassured that the spirit that we have nourished here will be carried out into the world in the coming days, weeks, months and years.

We express deep thanks to everyone who is involved in making this event so special – the Arrangements Committee (drawn from our participants), which is made up of our Clerks, Elders, Ents, Universal Friends, Base Group Facilitator Coordinators, Base Group Facilitators, and our 22+ team. We also thank Leighton Park School for hosting the event. Finally, we thank all participants for taking on, supporting and engaging with the event and creating this beautiful community. We end this epistle with some words from A. A Milne – “how lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

Signed in and on behalf of Senior Conference 2025,

Kiri A-S and Laura L
Clerks 2025

FSSE Annual Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends Southern Summer Events (charity no. 1155420)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 2 March 2025

Name: Paul Whitehouse

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: None

Address: 1 Slate Cottages
Manor Lane
Abbots Leigh
BRISTOL
BS8 3RX

Receipts and payments to 30 September 2025

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2025

Consolidated

	2025	2024
Receipts		
Grants & donations	2,398	14,829
Participant fees	60,413	40,790
Bank interest	64	55
Total receipts	62,875	55,673
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	490	313
Planning expenses	1,893	2,153
Skills development	791	823
Total pre-event	3,174	3,289
Event		
Accommodation	48,242	36,752
Staff event travel & services	2,541	2,069
Group event travel & services	3,760	2,050
Speakers expenses	0	525
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	32	-100
Materials & supplies	548	544
Minor equipment	409	84
Total event expenditure	55,531	41,924
General		
Management meetings	408	144
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	306	289
Insurance	392	392
Bank charges	60	60
Total general	1,166	885
Total payments	59,871	46,098
Receipts less Payments	3,004	9,575
Balances brought forward at 1 October	22,903	13,328
Balances carried forward at 30 September	25,907	22,903
Prepayment	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand	24,763	23,479
Less payments not cleared at year end	325	758
Plus deposits not cleared at year end	1,040	181
Reserves (Note 1)	25,478	22,903

Notes

(1) Included in the Reserves for 2025 and carried forward into 2026 is £343 being the unspent portion of a grant of £4,000 from the Sir Thomas Reckitt Charity in to provide bursary support to young participants.

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2025
Junior Gathering

	2025	2024
Receipts		
Grants & donations	0	0
Participant fees	30,509	16,917
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	30,509	16,917
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	801	473
Skills development	557	0
Total pre-event	1,357	473
Event		
Accommodation	24,705	16,171
Staff event travel & services	1,339	1,101
Group event travel & services	1,768	1,025
Speakers expenses	0	525
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-23	-22
Materials & supplies	114	252
Minor equipment	117	70
Total event expenditure	28,020	19,123
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	29,377	19,595
Receipts less Payments	1,132	-2,678

Notes

(1) 2025 fee income reflects 54 participants (2024: 40).

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2025
Senior Conference

	2025	2024
Receipts		
Grants & donations	0	0
Participant fees	29,904	23,873
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	29,904	23,873
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	1,092	1,681
Skills development	234	823
Total pre-event	1,326	2,503
Event		
Accommodation	23,537	20,581
Staff event travel & services	1,201	968
Group event travel & services	1,992	1,025
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	54	-78
Materials & supplies	435	292
Minor equipment	292	14
Total event expenditure	27,511	22,801
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	28,837	25,305
Receipts less Payments	1,067	-1,432

Notes

(1) 2025 fee income reflects 52 participants (2024: 57)

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2025
General Income & Expenditure

	2025	2024
Receipts		
Grants & donations	2,398	14,829
Participant fees	0	0
Bank interest	64	55
Total receipts	2,462	14,883
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	490	313
Planning expenses	0	0
Skills development	0	0
Total pre-event	490	313
Event		
Accommodation	0	0
Staff event travel & services	0	0
Group event travel & services	0	0
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	0
Materials & supplies	0	0
Minor equipment	0	0
Total event expenditure	0	0
General		
Management meetings	408	144
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	306	289
Insurance	392	392
Bank charges	60	60
Total general	1,166	885
Total payments	1,656	1,198
Receipts less Payments	806	13,685

Notes

(1) In 2025, donations were received from Dorset and South Wiltshire Area Quaker Meeting (£2,000) and Cambridge Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting (£234). Personal donations were received from one anonymous donor and two other individuals, totalling £164. No grants were received.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30 September 2025

The charity had no material assets or liabilities at the end of the period other than the net Reserves (£25,478) reported under Receipts and Payments.

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.

Restricted funds

As referred to in Note 1 to the consolidated statement of financial activities, a grant was received in 2024 from the Sir James Reckitt Charity for the purpose of providing bursaries to participants who otherwise could not attend. A portion of this remains unspent and is carried forward into 2026.

	2025	2024
Opening balance	2,130	0
Grant received	0	4,000
Bursaries paid	1,787	1,870
Closing balance	343	2,130

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Details

Name: Friends Southern Summer Events, known also as FSSE.

Charity registration number: 1155420

Governing Document: FSSE is governed by its constitution, a copy of which may be found on FSSE's website at <http://fsse.org.uk/files/FSSE-CIO-Constitution.pdf>

Contact address (at 30 September 2025): 47 St Ladoc Road, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2DR

Trustees (at 30 September 2025): Candia Crosfield, Imi Hills, Rebecca Kennard, Anya Moore, Kai Sim, Alex Skinner, Oliver Waterhouse, Michael Wood

Clerk to trustees (at 30 September 2025): Michael Wood

Clerk to management committee: David Holtam

Treasurer: Matthew Baker

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Appendix 2: Reserves and Investments Policy

Reserves

FSSE requires reserves for normal operational reasons, as follows:

1. cash flow during the year;
2. planned additional expenditure in a particular year;
3. expenditure higher than expected;
4. income lower than expected.

We understand that it is normal practice for a charity to hold 25%-50% of annual expenditure as an operational reserve. With experience of our cash flow requirements, we agree that we will budget to hold between 30% and 50% of the previous year's expenditure.

Investment

We will hold our reserves as liquid assets to support the operations of FSSE, in a manner in keeping with Quaker principles. If it is possible to keep some in a higher-interest bearing account without operational difficulties, the Treasurer is requested to do so.

FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1155420

Accounts

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2024

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2024

FSSE (Friends Southern Summer Events) is a small Quaker charity, entirely run by volunteers, whose purpose is the advancement of the Religious Society of Friends through the provision of educational events for young people.

Object and Activities

FSSE's objects are:

- (a) to promote and advance the religious education of the community and in particular of young people, including those of the Quaker tradition, and others with an interest in learning more about Quakers;

AND in furtherance thereof:

- (b) to organise and promote events for the spiritual growth and moral benefit of the community and in particular of young people with an interest in Quakers;
- (c) to disseminate by whatever means the ideals of truth, non-violence and equality within a Quaker background; and
- (d) to promote any purpose that is charitable according to the laws of England and Wales and for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined by the trustees.

FSSE usually runs two week-long events: Junior Gathering, for 11-14 year olds; and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds. The catchment area is southern England, though others are welcomed if there is space.

Public benefit statement

FSSE exists for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual nurture and religious education of young people including both those of the Quaker tradition, and those with an interest in learning more about Quakers and Quakerism. This benefits personally the participants who attend the events, and also benefits the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) more widely, through the spreading of Quaker ideas and ideals.

In carrying out these purposes, FSSE usually organises two annual residential Quaker events in August of each year: Junior Gathering (for young people aged 11-14) and Senior Conference (for older participants aged 15-18). These events benefit enormously the young people who attend them, by providing spiritual education through workshops which advocate the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality and truth. The events provide spiritual nourishment from new (and old) friendships, shared worship and activities including sports, games, drama, music and other creative arts.

Based on the feedback participants provide, we know our events are significant in the lives of those who attend, helping to build confidence, knowledge and supportive friendships which in some cases last a lifetime. We see young people wanting to come back year on year, and also those who want to give back some of what they gained by helping at the events.

Funding

FSSE is funded primarily through participant fees. Fee income is supplemented by grants and gifts from charitable trusts, Quaker Meetings and individuals.

Some participant fees are funded in part or in whole by a young person's Local or Area Quaker Meeting. FSSE's aim is to ensure that no-one who wishes to come to Junior Gathering or Senior Conference is prevented from doing so for financial reasons. Grants and gifts enable us to support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the full fees. Decisions to apply grants and gifts to support participation are taken by the bookings secretaries in consultation with the treasurer.

Achievement and Performance - Trustees' Annual Report

During 2024 our focus as trustees was on supporting the organisation to run its events. There were two strands to this: supporting the work to revitalise our finances and providing support to event coordinators to adapt the two events to run on the same site.

After many years of Senior Conference being based at Sibford School we were informed that this wouldn't be possible for 2024. Having evaluated other venues and options FSSE made the decision that it made the most sense to hold our two events – Junior Gathering and Senior Conference – simultaneously at the venue that Junior Gathering has been using since 2015 (Leighton Park School).

In practical terms this is a continuation of adapting our events in response to the changing boarding school landscape in the UK (reduction in available beds), new guidance on sharing sites with other groups (Keeping Children Safe In Education guidance), tighter shared safeguarding arrangements with the school and the increasing costs of running the events.

Throughout the year trustees were involved in the event support meetings that happen approximately once a month. These served as the main operational decision-making meetings alongside other committee communication channels (email/WhatsApp).

Trustees were represented on the volunteer teams for both events and met with coordinators regularly to provide historical context, policy advice, operational support and additional capacity, and supported specific tasks such as liaising with the venue, travel logistics, volunteer recruitment and safeguarding training.

Pre-event event checklists were reviewed by trustees to agree that the event plans were in accordance with FSSE's values, expectations, policy, legal compliance and good practice and were safe to run.

The very hard work of all volunteers in FSSE resulted in the events in 2024 being very well run and an all-round success. We have received excellent feedback from volunteers, young people and parents/guardians.

We are hoping to build on the learning from combining the two events onto the same site at Leighton Park to run the events similarly in 2025. Due to careful financial management and the generous response to fundraising efforts we are now in a much better financial position.

With this success we are now able to focus our energy on wider long term strategic challenges that need to be addressed to improve the sustainability of the organisation.

Michael Wood
Clerk to FSSE Trustees

Junior Gathering Epistle 2024

To all Friends everywhere,

From the 20th to the 26th of August 2024, 40 young people and 15 staff gathered at Leighton Park School, Reading for a week of exploration and reflection on the theme “Gender Equality”.

External speakers helped us to better understand and discuss our themes through interactive sessions, workshops, and talks. In Joe Holtaway’s session we spoke about gender stereotypes and inequality in the workplace. We also had Sarah Cosgriff who talked about identity and intersectionality - the crossroads of how we identify ourselves and how this impacts our experiences. Thomas Penny spoke to us about having difficult conversations, being empathetic, and remembering that both we and our views have the possibility of being wrong - “Think it possible that you may be mistaken” (Advices and Queries 17). Cassie Gates and James Brydon-Dickenson spoke to us about their experiences as trans people and shed light on the joys and difficulties of being a trans person.

Each day we started and ended with Meeting for Worship and held a moment of silence during meals. We enjoyed having engaging items to interact with in the morning, such as play dough and leaves. In the evening, it was nice to wind down after a long day, often with some music and candles.

To have an opportunity to get to know each other more, we were able to choose from some activities led by staff each morning, for example: swimming and various other sports, crafts, Chillin’ ‘n’ Spillin’, meditation, board games and creating a Junior Gathering Newspaper. In the afternoon and evening we did group activities such as an ‘escape room’, the disco and Ents – short for entertainments. Along with this, we had a construction activity which was a great opportunity to work as a team and listen to each other’s ideas. There was also Lifelines, where two staff told us about their life experiences and their highs and lows. It helped us to get to know these staff more and see different perspectives on growing up.

For the first time in many years our sister event, Senior Conference (for 15- to 18-year-olds), was held on the same campus as us. This was appreciated by everyone because people who had siblings or friends who had moved onto Senior Conference could talk to them. On Friday, we had a day out in Oxford which began with a Meeting for Worship with them at Oxford Meeting House. We then went out in individual groups of our picking to explore Oxford.

One of the unique things about Junior Gathering is that people make friends of all ages, which young people don’t usually do in school. It is also nice to connect with other young Quakers as many of us come from areas where there aren’t many of them. Something that

again helps us to develop our connections and meet old and new friends is our Base Groups, which are small 'homegroups'. Here we played games, spoke about how we were feeling, and discussed the speaker sessions in more detail.

What the week has highlighted to us is the need to accept others and allow them to be the people they are.

In our Meeting for Worship for Business, it was discerned that the theme for Junior Gathering 2025 would be on the theme of global problems, particularly focusing on conflict and climate change. We also hope that Meetings for Worship and Epilogues in 2025 can explore different ways Quakers worship around the world. The 2025 JG disco theme is Sports.

Overall, Junior Gathering is a really positive and accepting event where everyone feels welcome.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Gathering 2024,

Laurie W & Harriet CS
Clerks

Nell C & Maddie M
Elders

Senior Conference Epistle 2024

To all Friends everywhere,
From the 20th to the 26th of August, 57 young Quakers and 13 adult volunteers gathered at Leighton Park School, Reading for a period of connection and reflection. This year we centred ourselves around the theme of "Using Our Beliefs to Construct a Hopeful Future" through speaker sessions that helped us to question preconceived notions of what a hopeful future looks like and the steps we, as Quakers, can take to help us achieve it.

To begin our consideration of the theme, three members of the adult volunteer team engaged us with their own stories about their beliefs and how these have affected the decisions that they have made through their lives. Following these speakers, participants joined small discussion groups to share how their beliefs and what they hope for relates to their own lives and experiences. This session established a good foundation to examine our theme more personally.

The next speaker was Ellis Brooks who works for Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW). In Ellis' session we discussed the effectiveness of nonviolent civil disobedience and learnt many surprising facts, such as that as few as 3.5% of a population need to become involved in nonviolent protest movements for it to be successful. A discussion about what constitutes violence inspired many thoughtful and passionate conversations. From this session, we took away the idea that nonviolent action from a diverse range of people is often more likely to be successful than violent action. There was space to share how each of us understands the complexity and contextual nature of each scenario that we explored.

Our final speaker, David Kikaya, told us stories of his experiences as a Kenyan Quaker and his involvement in organisations such as Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

and Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). These broadened our view as British Quakers and gave us a unique perspective of what a hopeful future looks like on a global stage. David's academic work in Peace Studies, and experiences of a childhood living under the propaganda of British colonial rule in Kenya, were an important reminder of how the actions of our government created huge levels of inequality and unfairness that continues today. David explained how he was drawn to Quakers because of their work putting their beliefs into action by engaging with other international organisations to create a better, more hopeful world.

In our non-themed sessions, we enjoyed a trip to Oxford with Junior Gathering, holding a joint Meeting for Worship before exploring the city. Evening Entertainments continued to create fun and laughter with events such as the Quiz, the Themed Disco, Hunt the Committee and the final night Ents. Base groups and Secret Friends created welcoming, familial spaces for participants to form closer connections. A quiet breakout space supported participants and sustained an inclusive atmosphere.

For the first time in many years Senior Conference has been sharing the same venue with Junior Gathering, which has strengthened the connection between the two events. Changing venues has been challenging; we adapted the event whilst maintaining the parts we think are special, such as the strong community and the responsibility and agency held by the Arrangements Committee.

Our morning Meetings for Worship and evening Epilogues maintained the spiritual closeness throughout the event. With guidance and support from the Elders, people were moved to give emotive and powerful ministry – some for the first time. Centrepieces helped to focus the worship as we shared our beliefs and hopes, as well as our worries, for the future.

We reluctantly leave a week of happiness, safety, and fun, but feel filled with love and hope for the future. We are now re-energised and inspired to take action.

Signed in and on behalf of Senior Conference 2024,

Freddie Fricker and Sam Bennett
Clerks

FSSE Annual Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends Southern Summer Events (charity no. 1155420)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 17 March 2025

Name: Keith Barnes

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: Fellow, CIMA

Address: 2 Beeforth Close
New Earswick
York
YO32 4DF

Receipts and payments to 30 September 2024

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2024 - Consolidated

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Grants & donations	14,829	1,666
Participant fees	40,790	36,918
Bank interest	55	61
Total receipts	55,673	38,645
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	313	291
Planning expenses	2,153	834
Skills development	823	2,270
Total pre-event	3,289	3,396
Event		
Accommodation	36,752	38,869
Staff event travel & services	2,069	2,010
Group event travel & services	2,050	3,260
Speakers expenses	525	286
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-100	-27
Materials & supplies	544	532
Minor equipment	84	14
Total event expenditure	41,924	44,944
General		
Management meetings	144	47
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	289	239
Insurance	392	554
Bank charges	60	60
Total general	885	899
Total payments	46,098	49,240
Receipts less Payments	9,575	-10,595
Balances brought forward at 1 October	13,328	23,922
Balances carried forward at 30 September	22,903	13,328
Prepayment (Note 1)	0	3,948
Cash at bank and in hand	23,479	24,837
Less payments not cleared at year end	758	17,457
Plus deposits not cleared at year end	181	2,000
Reserves (Note 2)	22,903	13,328

Notes

(1) "Prepayment" at 30 Sep 2023 was a deposit of £3,948 held by Sibford School. It was refunded in Jan 2024 as a bank transfer, so the reserves at 30 Sep 2024 include the cash equivalent of that deposit.

(2) Included in the Reserves for 2024 and carried forward into 2025 is £2,130 being the unspent portion of a grant of £4,000 from the Sir Thomas Reckitt Charity to provide bursary support to young participants.

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2024 -
Junior Gathering

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Grants & donations	0	0
Participant fees (Note 1)	16,917	16,180
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	16,917	16,180
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	473	449
Skills development	0	830
Total pre-event	473	1,279
Event		
Accommodation	16,171	19,816
Staff event travel & services	1,101	525
Group event travel & services	1,025	2,055
Speakers expenses	525	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-22	-1
Materials & supplies	252	0
Minor equipment	70	14
Total event expenditure	19,123	22,409
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	19,595	23,688
Receipts less Payments	-2,678	-7,508

Notes

(1) 2024 fee income reflects 40 participants (2023: 41).

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2024 -
Senior Conference

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Grants & donations	0	0
Participant fees (Note 1)	23,873	20,738
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	23,873	20,738
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	1,681	385
Skills development	823	840
Total pre-event	2,503	1,225
Event		
Accommodation	20,581	19,053
Staff event travel & services	968	1,485
Group event travel & services	1,025	1,205
Speakers expenses	0	286
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-78	-26
Materials & supplies	292	532
Minor equipment	14	0
Total event expenditure	22,801	22,535
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	25,305	23,760
Receipts less Payments	-1,432	-3,022

Notes

(1) 2024 fee income reflects 57 participants (2023: 56)

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2024 -
General Income & Expenditure

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Grants & donations (Note 1)	14,829	1,666
Participant fees	0	0
Bank interest	55	61
Total receipts	14,883	1,727
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	313	291
Planning expenses	0	0
Skills development	0	600
Total pre-event	313	891
Event		
Accommodation	0	0
Staff event travel & services	0	0
Group event travel & services	0	0
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	0
Materials & supplies	0	0
Minor equipment	0	0
Total event expenditure	0	0
General		
Management meetings	144	47
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	289	239
Insurance	392	554
Bank charges	60	60
Total general	885	899
Total payments	1,198	1,791
Receipts less Payments	13,685	-64

Notes

(1) In 2024, grants comprised: £5,000 from the Innominate Trust; £4,000 from the Sir James Reckitt Charity (supporting bursaries to participants who would otherwise find it difficult to afford the cost); and £1,000 from North East Thames Quaker Trust. Donations were received from Kingston & Wandsworth Area Quaker Meeting (£1,000), Mid-Thames Area Quaker Meeting (£500), an anonymous Quaker Meeting (£500), and Cambridge Jesus Lane Local Quaker Meeting (£189). Personal donations were received from two anonymous donors (£1,000 each), and sums from six other donors totalled £640.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30 September 2024

The charity had no material assets or liabilities at the end of the period other than the net Reserves (£22,971) reported under Receipts and payments.

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Details

Name: Friends Southern Summer Events, known also as FSSE.

Charity registration number: 1155420

Governing Document: FSSE is governed by its constitution, a copy of which may be found on FSSE's website at <http://fsse.org.uk/files/FSSE-CIO-Constitution.pdf>

Contact address: 47 St Ladoc Road, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2DR

Trustees (at 30 September 2024): Candia Crosfield, Imi Hills, Rebecca Kennard, Anya Moore, Kai Sim, Alex Skinner, Oliver Waterhouse, Michael Wood

Clerk to trustees: Michael Wood

Clerk to management committee (at 30 September 2024): David Holtam

Treasurer (at 30 September 2024): Graham Torr

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Appendix 2: Reserves and Investments Policy

Reserves

FSSE requires reserves for normal operational reasons, as follows:

1. cash flow during the year;
2. planned additional expenditure in a particular year;
3. expenditure higher than expected;
4. income lower than expected.

We understand that it is normal practice for a charity to hold 25%-50% of annual expenditure as an operational reserve. With experience of our cash flow requirements, we agree that we will budget to hold between 30% and 50% of the previous year's expenditure.

Investment

We will hold our reserves as liquid assets to support the operations of FSSE, in a manner in keeping with Quaker principles. If it is possible to keep some in a higher-interest bearing account without operational difficulties, the Treasurer is requested to do so.

FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1155420

Accounts

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2023

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2023

FSSE (Friends Southern Summer Events) is a small Quaker charity, entirely run by volunteers, whose purpose is the advancement of the Religious Society of Friends through the provision of educational events for young people.

Object and Activities

FSSE's objects are:

- (a) to promote and advance the religious education of the community and in particular of young people, including those of the Quaker tradition, and others with an interest in learning more about Quakers;

AND in furtherance thereof:

- (b) to organise and promote events for the spiritual growth and moral benefit of the community and in particular of young people with an interest in Quakers;
- (c) to disseminate by whatever means the ideals of truth, non-violence and equality within a Quaker background; and
- (d) to promote any purpose that is charitable according to the laws of England and Wales and for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined by the trustees.

FSSE usually runs two week-long events: Junior Gathering, for 11-14 year olds; and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds. The catchment area is southern England, though others are welcomed if there is space.

Public benefit statement

FSSE exists for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual nurture and religious education of young people including both those of the Quaker tradition, and those with an interest in learning more about Quakers and Quakerism. This benefits personally the participants who attend the events, and also benefits the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) more widely, through the spreading of Quaker ideas and ideals.

In carrying out these purposes, FSSE usually organises two annual residential Quaker events in August of each year: Junior Gathering (for young people aged 11-14) and Senior Conference (for older participants aged 15-18). These events benefit enormously the young people who attend them, by providing spiritual education through workshops which advocate the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality and truth. The events provide spiritual nourishment from new (and old) friendships, shared worship and activities including sports, games, drama, music and other creative arts.

Based on the feedback participants provide, we know our events are significant in the lives of those who attend, helping to build confidence, knowledge and supportive friendships which in some cases last a lifetime. We see young people wanting to come back year on year, and also those who want to give back some of what they gained by helping at the events.

Funding

FSSE is funded primarily through participant fees. Fee income is supplemented by grants and gifts from charitable trusts, Quaker Meetings and individuals.

Some participant fees are funded in part or in whole by a young person's Local or Area Quaker Meeting. FSSE's aim is to ensure that no-one who wishes to come to Junior Gathering or Senior Conference is prevented from doing so for financial reasons. Grants and gifts enable us to support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the full fees. Decisions to apply grants and gifts to support participation are taken by the bookings secretaries in consultation with the treasurer.

Achievement and Performance - Trustees' Annual Report

With COVID-19 still a recent memory, and the cost of living crisis still ongoing, Trustees are extremely pleased that both Junior Gathering for 11-14 year olds and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds were able to not only run, but run as successful, week-long, fully in-person events this year. We are heartened that both events are able to attract skilled coordinating teams, enthusiastic volunteers, and very special cohorts of young people who give as much to the spirit of our events as they take from it, and hopefully use their experiences to help them throughout the year, and in their lives.

FSSE's event coordinators, trustees and officers met on a regular basis in the months leading to the events. This was a very useful way of keeping in touch with each other, and for everyone involved to understand the tasks involved in running the events and the timescales required to achieve them, and to ensure all had the chance to express their ideas or any concerns. It meant all were aware of the numerous arising issues and challenges and could offer support, advice and suggestions where needed. As with previous years, it enhanced the links between the two events and the officers in cross-event roles.

We note that FSSE made a significant loss in 2023. This is due to a range of circumstances which coincided at one time. Conscious of our participants' families' financial situation, we had made the decision to raise participant fees by only 5% even though the venues raised their own accommodation charges by 22% (Leighton Park) and 17% (Sibford). Also, as per our policy that no participant should be excluded from not being able to pay the fee, we have been pleased to make a larger number of bursaries available than previously, as this is what the bursaries are for. We remain committed to ensuring no participants are excluded for financial reasons, and are pleased that our financial model allows us to do this.

We had also made provision for a larger than average staff team at Junior Gathering, as the previous year's team had been stretched, and also for paid-for volunteer training. These aspects were operationally necessary, but, mindful of the need to maintain our organisation's financial health, we will, in the next 12 months, increase our drive to source additional grant funding, and raise our fees. We are grateful for the large and small donations we receive to continue our work. We know many AMs and LMs support our participants, their families, and FSSE finances through part funding of participant places, and, in the context of universal price rises, are glad that this approach continues so robustly, and how well it represents our place in the Quaker community.

We pay careful attention to the safety of our events, with designated trained safeguarding team members. We carefully assess possible risks so that we mitigate them, and are prepared should we have an emergency. All event-based volunteers must have a clean DBS check in place prior to the event. Following problems the previous year with the Disclosure & Barring Service not returning checks of the type requested, we paid special attention to this in 2023 and the process was completed straightforwardly.

We run our events as two distinct, fully in-person, gatherings and we anticipate this pattern will continue for the future. We have learned, especially over the last four years, to be flexible to changing circumstances; regardless of what form future events take, we will continue to focus on increasing our participant numbers, as well as taking time over the next few years to scope out potential options for how we can meet the needs of our young people through the format of the events we run, and the venues they run in.

This year has been a particularly strong reminder that FSSE's events are managed by skilled, conscientious, committed and courageous teams. The planning process for both events, not to mention logistical issues at the events themselves, has not always been straightforward, but the willingness and ability of both events' planning teams, as well as those in supporting roles, to deal with significant, time-consuming external factors has been heartening to see. We are also grateful for the support we have received, individually and collectively, from other Quaker bodies and role-holders. We are not a set of distinct work-groups working in isolation, we are a group of people working hard to provide and oversee events which bring joy and inspiration to many. We would like to thank everyone involved wholeheartedly for bringing this ethos to their work.

In many ways, our capacity to deal with issues as they arise is a testament to the events. The continued willingness of former participants to give up their time and talents to run our events shows not only how important the events have been in their lives, but how the skills and approaches they developed as participants is put to good use in their wider lives. Our events give people the confidence to be themselves, and to know they are valued, and to facilitate this feeling in everyone they come across, in whatever walk of life. We are confident that, whatever our participants do with their lives once they leave our events, they will be working hard to make a difference to other peoples' lives, ensure all tasks they are responsible for are undertaken in the most positive, conscientious way, and find positive solutions to any challenges that arise. By continuing to run our events the way we do, whilst being mindful of the way the Society of Friends and indeed the wider world continues to evolve, we will continue to ensure our events remain a place for young people to grow and to pass their skills on to others.

It remains a privilege to be connected to this organisation, its events and the people who contribute to them.

Thank you.

James Barnard – on behalf of FSSE trustees

Junior Gathering Epistle 2023

To all Friends everywhere,

From the 19th to the 26th of August 2023, 41 young people and 19 staff gathered at Leighton Park School for a week of exploration and reflection on the theme of “The Past and Present of Quakers around the world”.

Both internal and external speakers helped us better understand and discuss our theme through interactive sessions, workshops, and talks. Debbie Fleck and Sue Crosfield came from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and spoke about their experiences of documenting the conflict in Israel and Palestine from a Quaker perspective. This helped us understand the extremes of what is happening in that area at the moment. Rhiannon Grant, from Woodbrooke, ran a very interesting session about the ways that different Quakers speak about their experiences of meeting for worship. The session helped us open up and have a conversation, learning a lot about each other and the diversity of our community.

Gwen Da Sousa Correa, a volunteer staff member at the event, spoke about how individual actions of Quakers in the past saved and helped many people during the Hungarian revolution, such as a man who drove resources and aid across the border. Gwen offered inspiring quotes from Quakers and others which got us to think about how we could take action and help improve the world in the future. Chris Skidmore spoke about Quaker myths and legends. We learned about the history of the Religious Society of Friends and how our collective values can be reflected in stories of past Friends, but also recognizing the more difficult aspects of where our understanding and misunderstanding of our history actually comes from, and questioning our sources.

At the event, our days started with Meeting for Worship and ended with epilogue. During our Meetings for Worship, we heard a range of meaningful insights and readings from young people. We shared hopes and fears and had a number of meaningful activities that helped us focus and connect. In epilogue, we had reflective music or quietness and candles which helped us wind down for the night and find focus.

Over the course of the week, there were many fun small group activities led by the volunteers, this included debate, domino toppling, Chillin’ ‘n’ Spillin’ (a chatting activity), and various crafts. As a whole, we came together to do group activities such as tower construction, an Alice in Wonderland puzzle activity and base group challenges. We also enjoyed sessions consisting of barn dancing, a ‘fictional characters’ themed disco and much more. Lifelines gave us a chance to hear about the experiences of the volunteers and the ups and downs of their lives so far. These fun activities helped us to connect better as a group of young Friends.

During the week we had the opportunity to leave Leighton Park for the day. We travelled to Oxford to share Meeting for Worship with Senior Conference and local Friends. We had the freedom to explore Oxford in our own ways and use the free time to connect with friends. We also had a lovely sunny afternoon in the Harris Gardens.

One of the best parts about Junior Gathering was the community that we all built together. One way we did this was in base groups, which gave us an opportunity to connect, discuss the speaker sessions, and play teambuilding games. We also all took part in 'secret friends' which was a way of creating connections throughout the week, leaning about fellow participants, and making their day with gifts and kind messages. Free time also gave us the chance to connect with friends, new and old, and giving us a time to reflect by ourselves. All of these things helped create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everybody.

One piece of ministry that we felt spoke to our theme was Ghandhi's quote of "be the change you wish to see in the world".

Overall, Junior Gathering's theme has helped our understanding of Quaker roots and how Quaker values can improve the world, even if we are not necessarily all Quakers or members of other groups instead. This week has given us an opportunity to practice putting Quaker values in action. We really look forward to next year's young Friends events.

In our Meeting for Worship for Business, it was discerned that the theme for Junior Gathering 2024 would be on the topic of understanding gender and sexual identities and equality.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Gathering 2023,

Clerks

Charlotte B and Fergus B

Elders

Ilana J and Rosa D

Senior Conference Epistle 2023

To all Friends everywhere,

From the 19th to 26th August, 55 young Quakers and 13 adult volunteers gathered together in Sibford School in Oxfordshire for a week of fun, friendship and spiritual growth. Through a variety of speaker sessions and time spent as a community, we explored the theme of "Simplicity and Sustainability in an Unequal World". We grew in our appreciation and understanding of the complexities of the world around us, and where we fit in it as young people and as Quakers.

Our first speaker session was the Black Lives Matter and climate crisis activist Queen Niche, aka, Nelly Adams. Nelly gave a powerful, challenging and occasionally uncomfortable talk on racism, identity and its intersectionalities. She spoke on her journey of self empowerment and finding her 'roar', including through poetry, and encouraged us all to speak out against injustice in our unequal world. We discussed the power of allyship, how what we say can make ripples that change the world, and how the first step must include recognizing White privilege, as well as embracing our diversities. We found the session to be engaging, thought provoking and inspiring.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness campaigns co-ordinator Anna Lewis gave us new insight into the importance of viewing climate change through the lens of justice, including Anna's work with the Make Polluters Pay campaign. Consideration of the continuing legacy of

colonialism, slavery and global power imbalances, and the resulting disproportionate impact of carbon emissions overwhelmingly produced by the West and the adverse effects of the climate crisis, led us to explore new perspectives on sustainability. We discussed reparations and the various forms they can take, looking towards building a just future as well as taking accountability for the wrongs of the past.

Our exploration of the theme took a creative and experimental turn with the third speaker Julia Dover. In her drama workshop, we used the power of imagination to turn chaos to simplicity. We celebrated the power, and the gift to those around us, of showing up as ourselves. It took us a step outside our comfort zones. In it, we embodied adversity, and explored how small changes inspired by the Light can completely transform our perspective.

Throughout the event, the sense of community and friendship was tangible, and extended through base groups: small family groups 'like their own planet', that met throughout the week for fun, discussion and dressing up. Secret Friends, bedtime stories and even a hug bandana helped create an inclusive, warm, welcoming atmosphere. The fun continued with many different workshops from sports to crochet and a trip to Oxford with Junior Gathering. In our adult volunteer "Any Questions" session, we shared in both laughter and vulnerability, and learned about important life lessons. Evening entertainments such as Hunt the Committee, the Base Group Challenge, disco, night walk, quiz and more offered an opportunity for new friends, experiences and fun!

In daily prologues and epilogues, the value of having safe spaces, and of being completely yourself was explored through powerful, fruitful and diverse ministry. In worship, including several meetings outdoors, we celebrated our connection to the natural world around us, and beautiful centrepieces grounded us and opened our hearts, resulting in rich ministry.

We leave the week feeling tired, but happy and fulfilled, with new and rekindled connections to each other, and a greater sense of our power to change the world.

Signed in and on behalf of Senior Conference 2023

Aidan A and Aspen S-E

FSSE Annual Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends Southern Summer Events (charity no. 1155420)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 4th April 2024

Name: Keith Barnes

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: Fellow, CIMA

Address: 2 Beeforth Close
New Earswick
York
YO32 4DF

Receipts and payments to 30 September 2023

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2023 - Consolidated

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	1,666	750
Participant fees	36,918	38,258
Bank interest	61	19
Total receipts	38,645	39,026
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	291	372
Planning expenses	834	442
Skills development	2,270	0
Total pre-event	3,396	814
Event		
Accommodation	38,869	31,779
Staff event travel & services	2,010	1,478
Group event travel & services	3,260	3,498
Speakers expenses	286	264
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-27	11
Materials & supplies	532	823
Minor equipment	14	95
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	44,944	37,948
General		
Management meetings	47	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	239	129
Insurance	554	549
Bank charges	60	96
Total general	899	774
Total payments	49,240	39,536
Receipts less Payments	-10,595	-509
Balances brought forward at 1 October	23,922	24,432
Balances carried forward at 30 September	13,328	23,922
Prepayment	3,948	3,948
Cash at bank and in hand	24,837	35,536
Less payments not cleared at year end	17,457	15,942
Plus deposits not cleared at year end	2,000	380
Reserves	13,328	23,922

Notes

(1) "Prepayment" is a deposit paid to Sibford School on a venue for Senior Conference 2024

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)**Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2023 - Junior Gathering**

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	0	0
Participant fees	16,180	18,860
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	16,180	18,860
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	449	126
Skills development	830	0
Total pre-event	1,279	126
Event		
Accommodation	19,816	17,152
Staff event travel & services	525	727
Group event travel & services	2,055	2,049
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-1	23
Materials & supplies	0	159
Minor equipment	14	47
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	22,409	20,157
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	23,688	20,283
Receipts less Payments	-7,508	-1,423

Notes

(1) 2023 fee income reflects 41 participants (2022: 50).

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2023 -
Senior Conference

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	0	0
Participant fees	20,738	19,398
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	20,738	19,398
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	385	316
Skills development	840	0
Total pre-event	1,225	316
Event		
Accommodation	19,053	14,627
Staff event travel & services	1,485	751
Group event travel & services	1,205	1,449
Speakers expenses	286	264
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-26	-12
Materials & supplies	532	664
Minor equipment	0	47
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	22,535	17,791
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	23,760	18,107
Receipts less Payments	-3,022	1,291

Notes

(1) 2023 fee income reflects 56 participants (2022: 52)

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2023 -
General Income & Expenditure

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	1,666	750
Participant fees	0	0
Bank interest	61	19
Total receipts	1,727	768
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	291	372
Planning expenses	0	0
Skills development	600	0
Total pre-event	891	372
Event		
Accommodation	0	0
Staff event travel & services	0	0
Group event travel & services	0	0
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	0
Materials & supplies	0	0
Minor equipment	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	0	0
General		
Management meetings	47	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	239	129
Insurance	554	549
Bank charges	60	96
Total general	899	774
Total payments	1,791	1,146
Receipts less Payments	-64	-377

Notes

(1) In 2023, grants, contributions and donations comprised: £1,000 from the CB & HH Taylor 1984 trust, £200 from Cambridge Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting, £94 from Friends House Quaker Meeting, £48 from NW London Area Quaker Meeting, and £324 from several individual donations. Donations particularly help FSSE support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the fees. In 2023, the bursaries provided totalled £2,517.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30 September 2023

The charity had no material assets or liabilities at the end of the period other than the net Reserves (£13,328) reported under Receipts and payments.

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Details

Name: Friends Southern Summer Events, known also as FSSE.

Charity registration number: 1155420

Governing Document: FSSE is governed by its constitution, a copy of which may be found on FSSE's website at <http://fsse.org.uk/files/FSSE-CIO-Constitution.pdf>

Contact address: 30 Lucombe Way, New Earswick, York, YO32 4DS

Trustees (at 30 September 2023): James Barnard, Candia Crosfield, Rebecca Kennard, Kit King, Kai Sim, Oliver Waterhouse, Michael Wood

Clerk to trustees: James Barnard

Clerk to management committee: Oliver Waterhouse

Treasurer: Graham Torr

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Appendix 2: Reserves and Investments Policy

Reserves

FSSE requires reserves for normal operational reasons, as follows:

1. cash flow during the year;
2. planned additional expenditure in a particular year;
3. expenditure higher than expected;
4. income lower than expected.

We understand that it is normal practice for a charity to hold 25%-50% of annual expenditure as an operational reserve. With experience of our cash flow requirements, we agree that we will budget to hold between 30% and 50% of the previous year's expenditure.

Investment

We will hold our reserves as liquid assets to support the operations of FSSE, in a manner in keeping with Quaker principles. If it is possible to keep some in a higher-interest bearing account without operational difficulties, the Treasurer is requested to do so.

FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1155420

Accounts

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report Year ended 30 September 2022

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2022

FSSE (Friends Southern Summer Events) is a small Quaker charity, entirely run by volunteers, whose purpose is the advancement of the Religious Society of Friends through the provision of educational events for young people.

Object and Activities

FSSE's objects are:

- (a) to promote and advance the religious education of the community and in particular of young people, including those of the Quaker tradition, and others with an interest in learning more about Quakers;

AND in furtherance thereof:

- (b) to organise and promote events for the spiritual growth and moral benefit of the community and in particular of young people with an interest in Quakers;
- (c) to disseminate by whatever means the ideals of truth, non-violence and equality within a Quaker background; and
- (d) to promote any purpose that is charitable according to the laws of England and Wales and for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined by the trustees.

FSSE usually runs two week-long events: Junior Gathering, for 11-14 year olds; and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds. The catchment area is southern England, though others are welcomed if there is space.

Public benefit statement

FSSE exists for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual nurture and religious education of young people including both those of the Quaker tradition, and those with an interest in learning more about Quakers and Quakerism. This benefits personally the participants who attend the events, and also benefits the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) more widely, through the spreading of Quaker ideas and ideals.

In carrying out these purposes, FSSE usually organises two annual residential Quaker events in August of each year: Junior Gathering (for young people aged 11-14) and Senior Conference (for older participants aged 15-18). These events benefit the young people who attend them enormously, by providing spiritual education through workshops which advocate the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality and truth. The events provide spiritual nourishment from new (and old) friendships, shared worship and activities including sports, games, drama, music and other creative arts.

Based on the feedback participants provide, we know our events are significant in the lives of those who attend, helping to build confidence, knowledge and supportive friendships which in some cases last a lifetime. We see young people wanting to come back year on year, and also those who want to give back some of what they gained by helping at the events.

Funding

FSSE is funded primarily through participant fees. Fee income is supplemented by grants and gifts from charitable trusts, Quaker Meetings and individuals.

Some participant fees are funded in part or in whole by a young person's Local or Area Quaker Meeting. FSSE's aim is to ensure that no-one who wishes to come to Junior Gathering or Senior Conference is prevented from doing so for financial reasons. Grants and gifts enable us to support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the full fees. Decisions to apply grants and gifts to support participation are taken by the bookings secretaries in consultation with the treasurer.

Achievement and Performance

2022 was a year of continued recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We report further in the trustees' report below and in the epistles of Junior Gathering and Senior Conference.

Trustees' Annual Report

In many ways 2022 represented a return to more traditional ways of working, following the COVID-19 inspired changes to our events in 2020 and 2021. Both Junior Gathering for 11-14 year olds and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds ran as fully in-person events and were, from the feedback received, highly successful.

The 2022 events were not without their inherent challenges. Owing to some particularly tragic circumstances, one of the Junior Gathering coordinators was left with no option but to withdraw from the event two months before it was due to take place. We focussed on finding someone suitable to fill the role on a one-off basis and we are grateful to Eduin Boater-Latimer for stepping in at short notice, supporting Olivia Sewell-Risley. We are also grateful to the entire staff team for supporting Olivia and Eduin through a planning process which we know was challenging at times.

FSSE's event coordinators, trustees and officers met on a fortnightly basis in the months leading up to the events. This was a very useful way of keeping in touch with each other, and for everyone involved to understand the tasks involved in running the events and the timescales required to achieve them, and to ensure all had the chance to express their ideas and any concerns. It meant all were aware of arising issues and challenges and could offer support, advice and suggestions where needed. It also led to stronger links between the two events and with other FSSE role-holders, than might have been the case in previous years. We expect these regular pre-event meetings will continue for future events.

We are grateful for the relationships we have with the schools we use to hold our events – Sibford School near Banbury for Senior Conference and Leighton Park School, Reading, for Junior Gathering. We have worked hard to meet both schools' expectations, and are aware of how fortunate we are to be able to use Quaker schools to host our Quaker gatherings. Our coordinators have worked hard to foster productive relationships with the schools, and we hope, even in the context of significant price rises due to the cost of living crisis, that these partnerships will continue.

Price rises are an ongoing concern, but Trustees are nonetheless confident that FSSE remains on a sure financial footing. With fewer transactions and decreased costs in 2022 – not least the savings made from the continued emphasis on blended and Zoom-based planning meetings – we were able to save money, and are grateful for the large and small donations we receive to continue our work. We know many Area and Local Quaker Meetings support our participants, their families, and FSSE finances through part funding of participant places, and are glad that this approach continues so robustly.

We worked hard to make our events open to everyone, regardless of means. In previous years this has included helping participants with difficulties find bursary funding locally where possible, and where not possible, providing bursary funding from FSSE's own limited funds. We remain committed to ensuring no participants are excluded for financial reasons, and are pleased that our financial model allows us to do this.

We pay careful attention to the safety of our events, with designated trained safeguarding team members. We carefully assess possible risks so that we mitigate them, or are prepared should we have an emergency. It is our policy for all event-based volunteers to have a clean DBS in place prior to the event; this became a concern this year, as not all checks came back from the Disclosure and Barring Service in the format requested, and we were still in the process of confirming volunteer status in the days leading to the events. We will continue to focus on this vital element.

Being able to run both our events as two distinct, fully in-person, gatherings means we anticipate this pattern will continue for the future. We have learned, especially over the last three years, to be flexible to changing circumstances; regardless of what form future events take, we will continue to focus on increasing our participant numbers, as well as taking time over the next few years to scope out potential options for how we can meet the needs of our young people through the format of the events we run.

This year has been another strong reminder that FSSE's events are managed by skilled, conscientious, committed and courageous teams. The planning process for both events was not always straightforward, but the willingness and ability of both events' planning teams, as well as those in supporting roles, to deal with numerous external factors has been heartening to see. We are not a set of distinct work-groups working in isolation, we are a group of people working hard to provide and oversee events which bring joy and inspiration to many. In many ways this collaborative working has been the stand-out element this year, and we would like to thank everyone involved wholeheartedly for bringing this ethos to their work.

It remains a privilege to be connected to this organisation, its events and the people who contribute to them.

Thank you.

James Barnard – Clerk to FSSE trustees

Junior Gathering Epistle 2022

To all Friends everywhere,

From the 20th to the 27th of August 2022, 50 young people and 16 staff gathered in Leighton Park school for a week of exploration and reflection on the theme of “Respecting all life and identities and understanding different opinions”.

Both internal and external speakers helped us better understand and discuss our theme through interactive sessions, workshops and talks. In Phil Wood and Lou Whalley’s session, we discussed how conflict and cooperation can co-exist and both are needed to expand our ideas and perspectives. Different opinions enrich us as a community. We also discussed how to deal with conflict and tensions, and how important it is to remember to not disagree with the person, but with the idea. We spoke about respecting differences, and how when differences in opinion arise, we can work together to achieve a win-win outcome, someone doesn't always have to ‘lose’. Furthermore, in Jamie Harris’s speaker session, we reflected on respecting and protecting all living things, including animals big and small. Through Peyton Lee's session we explored the feelings which arise out of both inclusion and exclusion, feeling that respecting all identities means including everyone. In Gwen Da Sousa Correa’s session, we debated and discussed topics, learning how to disagree respectfully. This led us to reflect that through working together to tackle ideas, we can achieve more.

As a Quaker event, our days contained periods of worship. During the week we found many ways to explore the spiritual side of Quakerism. For example, we began each day with worship in which we often had focus materials such as play dough, paper doves and readings from young Quakers. A particular reading that struck us was the story of the girl and the starfish from *Living our Beliefs*, which supported our theme of respecting all life. We also ended each day with an epilogue, with guided meditation, music and candles arranged in striking designs. Over the week we had many interesting ministries from both old and young friends.

Over the course of the week, there were many fun activities led. This included building and launching rockets, a plants themed disco, a visit to the Harris Garden, ents, a scavenger hunt, a fete and barn dancing. Barn dancing was particularly fun as we had an instructor and live band! We were also led through the staff’s lives in our life lines session. It was fascinating to see how they had pushed through their struggles. These fun activities helped us to connect better as a group of young friends.

Our trip to Oxford was a fantastic time to visit the Senior Conference and see the beauty of the city. The trip gave everyone a lot of freedom and a chance to connect with their friends more. Powerful ministry was given by all friends, which enhanced our spiritual selves.

One striking thing about Junior Gathering was the community. Everyone felt more accepted and included than they do generally in situations such as school. An easy place to connect and make new friends were base groups, led by brilliant base group leaders. In base groups we discussed speaker sessions and played games, such as mafia and two truths and a lie, which were really fun and bonded us together. We ate together at meal time allowing us to

share interesting conversations. After every meal we had a period of silence to appreciate the food and each other's company. Everyday we had free time, where there was a lot of music played on the piano and other instruments. We also played pool, table tennis, connect four, and shared laughter. We also had secret friends which were a really good way to feel included and appreciated within the Junior Gathering community.

One quote that we thought coincided with our theme is: "Through conflict handled creatively we can change and grow. I am not sure real change, either political or personal, can happen without it." Quaker Faith and Practice 20.71.

Overall, Junior Gathering is an accepting and inclusive place where everyone feels that they can be themselves. All Friends channelled a sense of belonging, community and love. We really look forward to next year's Junior Gathering, a week of fun and friendship.

In our meeting for worship for business, it was discerned that the theme for Junior Gathering 2023 would be: "The past and present of Quakers around the world."

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Gathering 2022,

Clerks

Pippa B and George S

Elders

Hayden K and Thomas N

Senior Conference Epistle 2022

Friends,

*"The poetics of the oppressed is essentially the poetics of liberation" –
Augusto Boal*

Our experiences are all connected; our oppression, our pain, and our privilege are all entangled in a web of power systems and hierarchies which make up our society. In order to be liberated, these systems which oppress so many must be deconstructed. However, it is not just systems which must change: we all have a part to play in society's evolution.

We bring you warm greetings from Sibford School, Oxfordshire, where 52 young people met between the 20th and the 27th of August to gather in fellowship and discuss our theme, "Intersectionality: Exploring Different Perspectives". An introductory session set the tone for the week by describing the concept of intersectionality, defined as: "the interconnected nature of social categorisations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage". The session encouraged acceptance and inclusion. People were called to express themselves without fear of making mistakes, but also to accept constructive criticism and challenge from others.

*"If you have come to help me then you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up in mine, then let us work together" –
Aboriginal rights activist group (Unattributed)*

This year's Swarthmore Lecturer, Helen Minnis, a professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, was our first speaker. She facilitated a conversation in which many of us shared our own exposure to marginalisation, silencing and stereotyping. There was a powerful feeling of vulnerability, and a sense that Conference is a community where we are able to share our pain and oppression, finding not only empathy but also solidarity. Although we greatly appreciated many participants' willingness to share their experiences, Helen also reminded us that no-one owes anyone else their lived experience of suffering, and that the responsibility is on those in positions of privilege to combat oppression.

We also heard from two of our adult volunteers, firstly on increasing participation in Westminster and secondly on Non-Violent Communication. Our first talk focused on the accessibility of politics. We were asked to guess statistics about the representation of marginalised groups in Parliament. When we were told the real numbers, there was audible dismay at how low these figures are. We were told about the barriers presented by the fabric of the Palace of Westminster itself and the resistance at the highest levels of our political system to addressing this. Despite the disheartening revelations about the centre of our democracy, we left determined to change things for the better, with the encouragement that we become more involved in politics.

The second talk in this session was about Non-Violent Communication, a technique pioneered by Marshall Rosenberg. It challenged us with the revelation that our everyday speech can often be unintentionally violent. The Rosenberg system aims to counter this, acknowledging each other's differing needs and experiences in order to come to a mutually enriching outcome. We were left possessing tools which we can apply in everyday interactions, for example at work or school, allowing us to assert confidence without aggression. We are very grateful for the generous offer of both our volunteers' time and energy. The passion with which they both spoke has increased our conviction to make positive change in our society.

Our fourth speaker of the week was Judith Moran, the director of Quaker Social Action (QSA). Judith described her organisation's approach to equity, diversity and inclusion, but it was the stories of QSA's work on the ground that we responded to most enthusiastically. One such project was "Down to Earth", a scheme to help those experiencing funeral poverty which elicited cross-party support in Parliament. The work they do in the poverty space is a glowing example of Quaker values in action. QSA can not, Judith said, solve every problem, and so the projects they run are intended to help a limited number of people in specific and practical ways. Its contribution to the battle against economic oppression is small in stature but huge in impact for those it works with. There was also an emphasis on treating those whom the charity seeks to support with respect, as opposed to patronising them. Like QSA, we must make every effort, however small, to fight any kind of marginalisation in our society.

We felt a strong bond across the community, not only for the conferees, but also with the adult volunteers, who presented us with an entertaining and emotive 'Any Questions' session. Social activities allowed us to create and strengthen these bonds as we discovered more about each other's backgrounds and interests. Most importantly, we will remember the love and laughter we have shared, be it during anarchic organised social activities, base groups, or in private moments, sitting together between sessions in the airy foyer or at meal-times. It was evident that the Spirit was here. It may have been defined and expressed in different ways, but undeniably something moved amongst us. Ministry from our dear Friends was frequent, deep and moving. Shared worship with Junior Gathering, our sibling event, in Oxford saw us join with Friends younger than us in a spiritually rich meeting. We thank the members of Oxford Meeting for so kindly hosting us.

This week that we spend annually in each other's company is a constructive, joyous occasion where old friendships are rekindled and new ones sparked. Participants often observe that they can truly express themselves, a sentiment we rarely encounter in everyday life. A fellowship grounded in love and mutual acceptance is created which extends beyond the short time here at Conference. This year was no exception.

Signed in and on behalf of Senior Conference 2022,

Rozzie W and Edward R

Clerks 2022

FSSE Annual Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends Southern Summer Events (charity no. 1155420)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 6th June 2023

Name: Keith Barnes

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: Fellow, CIMA

Address: 2 Beeforth Close
New Earswick
York
YO32 4DF

Receipts and payments to 30 September 2022

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2022 - Consolidated

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	750	3,557
Participant fees	38,258	33,470
Bank interest	19	0
Total receipts	39,026	37,027
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	372	503
Planning expenses	442	98
Skills development	0	1,165
Total pre-event	814	1,765
Event		
Accommodation	31,779	28,014
Staff event travel & services	1,478	1,293
Group event travel & services	3,498	1,230
Speakers expenses	264	90
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	11	-61
Materials & supplies	823	828
Minor equipment	95	293
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	37,948	31,686
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	129	201
Insurance	549	544
Bank charges	96	88
Total general	774	833
Total payments	39,536	34,284
Receipts less Payments	-509	2,743
Balances brought forward at 1 October	24,432	21,688
Balances carried forward at 30 September	23,922	24,432
Prepayment for Sibford School	3,948	3,948
Cash at bank and in hand	35,536	34,447
Less payments not cleared at year end	15,942	13,963
Plus deposits not cleared at year end	380	
Reserves	23,922	24,432

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2022 - Junior Gathering

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	0	0
Participant fees	18,860	14,620
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	18,860	14,620
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	126	98
Skills development	0	95
Total pre-event	126	193
Event		
Accommodation	17,152	14,355
Staff event travel & services	727	682
Group event travel & services	2,049	630
Speakers expenses	0	15
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	23	-72
Materials & supplies	159	220
Minor equipment	47	257
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	20,157	16,087
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	20,283	16,279
Receipts less Payments	-1,423	-1,659

Notes

(1) 2022 fee income reflects 50 participants (2021: 38).

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2022 -
Senior Conference

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	0	0
Participant fees	19,398	18,850
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	19,398	18,850
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	316	0
Skills development	0	210
Total pre-event	316	210
Event		
Accommodation	14,627	13,660
Staff event travel & services	751	611
Group event travel & services	1,449	600
Speakers expenses	264	75
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-12	10
Materials & supplies	664	607
Minor equipment	47	36
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	17,791	15,599
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	18,107	15,809
Receipts less Payments	1,291	3,041

Notes

(1) 2022 fee income reflects 52 participants (2021: 52)

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2022 -
General Income & Expenditure

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	750	3,557
Participant fees	0	0
Bank interest	19	0
Total receipts	768	3,557
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	372	503
Planning expenses	0	0
Skills development	0	860
Total pre-event	372	1,363
Event		
Accommodation	0	0
Staff event travel & services	0	0
Group event travel & services	0	0
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	0
Materials & supplies	0	0
Minor equipment	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	0	0
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	129	201
Insurance	549	544
Bank charges	96	88
Total general	774	833
Total payments	1,146	2,196
Receipts less Payments	-377	1,362

Notes

(1) In 2022, grants, contributions and donations comprised: £500 from Mr & Mrs M Johnson, £155 from Cambridge Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting, and £95 from additional donors. Donations particularly help FSSE support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the fees. In 2022, bursaries provided totalled £1,380.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30 September 2022

The charity had no material assets or liabilities at the end of the period other than the net Reserves (£23,922) reported under Receipts and payments.

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Details

Name: Friends Southern Summer Events, known also as FSSE.

Charity registration number: 1155420

Governing Document: FSSE is governed by its constitution, a copy of which may be found on FSSE's website at <http://fsse.org.uk/files/FSSE-CIO-Constitution.pdf>

Contact address: 30 Lucombe Way, New Earswick, York, YO32 4DS

Trustees (at 30 September 2022): James Barnard, Candia Crosfield, Kit King, Oliver Waterhouse, Michael Wood

Clerk to trustees: James Barnard

Clerk to management committee: Oliver Waterhouse

Treasurer: Graham Torr

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Appendix 2: Reserves and Investments Policy

Reserves

FSSE requires reserves for normal operational reasons, as follows:

1. cash flow during the year;
2. planned additional expenditure in a particular year;
3. expenditure higher than expected;
4. income lower than expected.

We understand that it is normal practice for a charity to hold 25%-50% of annual expenditure as an operational reserve. With experience of our cash flow requirements, we agree that we will budget to hold between 30% and 50% of the previous year's expenditure.

Investment

We will hold our reserves as liquid assets to support the operations of FSSE, in a manner in keeping with Quaker principles. If it is possible to keep some in a higher-interest bearing account without operational difficulties, the Treasurer is requested to do so.

FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1155420

Accounts

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report Year ended 30 September 2021

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2021

FSSE (Friends Southern Summer Events) is a small Quaker charity, entirely run by volunteers, whose purpose is the advancement of the Religious Society of Friends through the provision of educational events for young people.

Object and Activities

FSSE's objects are:

- (a) to promote and advance the religious education of the community and in particular of young people, including those of the Quaker tradition, and others with an interest in learning more about Quakers;

AND in furtherance thereof:

- (b) to organise and promote events for the spiritual growth and moral benefit of the community and in particular of young people with an interest in Quakers;
- (c) to disseminate by whatever means the ideals of truth, non-violence and equality within a Quaker background; and
- (d) to promote any purpose that is charitable according to the laws of England and Wales and for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined by the trustees.

FSSE usually runs two week-long events: Junior Gathering, for 11-14 year olds; and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds. The catchment area is southern England, though others are welcomed if there is space.

Public benefit statement

FSSE exists for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual nurture and religious education of young people including both those of the Quaker tradition, and those with an interest in learning more about Quakers and Quakerism. This benefits personally the participants who attend the events, and also benefits the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) more widely, through the spreading of Quaker ideas and ideals.

In carrying out these purposes, FSSE usually organises two annual residential Quaker events in August of each year: Junior Gathering (for young people aged 11-14) and Senior Conference (for older participants aged 15-18). These events benefit the young people who attend them enormously, by providing spiritual education through workshops which advocate the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality and truth. The events provide spiritual nourishment from new (and old) friendships, shared worship and activities including sports, games, drama, music and other creative arts.

Based on the feedback participants provide, we know our events are significant in the lives of those who attend, helping to build confidence, knowledge and supportive friendships which in some cases last a lifetime. We see young people wanting to come back year on year, and also those who want to give back some of what they gained by helping at the events.

Funding

FSSE is funded primarily through participant fees. Fee income is supplemented by grants and gifts from charitable trusts, Quaker Meetings and individuals.

Some participant fees are funded in part or in whole by a young person's Local or Area Quaker Meeting. FSSE's aim is to ensure that no-one who wishes to come to Junior Gathering or Senior Conference is prevented from doing so for financial reasons. Grants and gifts enable us to support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the full fees. Decisions to apply grants and gifts to support participation are taken by the bookings secretaries in consultation with the treasurer.

Achievement and Performance

In 2021, FSSE achieved a notable recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We report further in the trustees' report below and in the epistles of Junior Gathering and Senior Conference.

Trustees' Annual Report

2021 was a very unusual year for FSSE but in many ways showed the organisation at its most dedicated, creative and collaborative. 2020, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, had seen us take the necessary collective decision that FSSE's events would not run as in-person events. Junior Gathering for 11-14 year olds did not run, and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds ran as a remote, technology-enabled event over the course of a shorter week than previously. The continued uncertainty around lockdown restrictions and social distancing left a certain amount of uncertainty around whether one or both events could run in-person this year.

To try and keep abreast of changing circumstances, and to forward-plan for their implications where possible, FSSE's event coordinators, trustees and officers met on a fortnightly basis in the six months leading to the event. Although prompted by the unique circumstances of 2021, this proved a very useful way of keeping in touch with each other, and for everyone involved to understand the tasks involved in running the events and the timescales required to achieve them, and to ensure all had the chance to express their ideas or any concerns. It is to be hoped that this style of working can be continued for future years, in some form.

We took on board feedback from FSSE stakeholders (participants, adult volunteers, parents and guardians) and made the decision that both Junior Gathering and Senior Conference should run as fully in-person events this year. We did so in full awareness of the risks involved, and planned mitigations where possible, at a time where many similar organisations, faced with this decision, had decided that their own events could not run safely. It would have been understandable if FSSE had come to the same conclusion; the arrangements teams' ability, willingness and commitment to the events and participants is inspiring. With careful planning, and appropriate additional health and safety measures such as the enabling of COVID 19 testing for all participants, no mid-week coach trips to Oxford and self-isolation for people who appeared to have developed COVID-19 symptoms, the events not only ran, but ran successfully. There being no positive test results was one indication of this; the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants, who

had missed the in-person nature of the events and the grounding they give to their lives, was another.

Trustees are similarly confident that FSSE remains on a sure financial footing. With fewer transactions and decreased costs in 2021 – not least the savings made from the shift to Zoom-based planning meetings – we were able to save money, and are grateful for the large and small donations we receive to continue our work. We know many AMs and LMs support our participants, their families, and FSSE finances through part funding of participant places, and are glad that this approach continues so robustly.

We worked hard to make our events open to everyone, regardless of means. In previous years this has included helping participants with difficulties find bursary funding locally where possible, and where not possible, providing bursary funding from FSSE's own limited funds. Although we had fewer bursary requests this year than in previous years, we remain committed to ensuring no participants are excluded for financial reasons, and are pleased that our financial model allows us to do this.

We pay careful attention to the safety of our events, with designated trained safeguarding team members. We carefully assess possible risks so that we mitigate them, or are prepared should we have an emergency.

Being able to run both our events as fully in-person gatherings this year means we anticipate this pattern will continue for the future. We have learned, especially over the last 18 months, to be flexible to changing circumstances; regardless of what form future events take, we will continue to focus on increasing our participant numbers, as well as taking time over the next few years to scope out potential options for how we can meet the needs of our young people through the format of the events we run.

This year has demonstrated once again that FSSE's events are managed by skilled, conscientious, committed and courageous teams. External circumstances, and changing legal requirements, meant this has not always been a straightforward process, but FSSE has been able to thrive in these conditions. The sense of joy and inspiration FSSE events bring seems, in many ways, to have been heightened in 2021, and it remains a privilege to be connected to this organisation, its events and the people who contribute to them.

Thank you.

James Barnard – Clerk to FSSE trustees

Junior Gathering Epistle 2021

To all Friends everywhere,

From 14th to 21st August 2021, 38 young people and 15 staff gathered together for a week to explore the theme of “Caring for ourselves and others”.

It’s a Quaker event and everyone, whether familiar with Quakers or not, enjoyed finding peace and reflecting when we met for worship every morning. To help us focus, we sometimes had things to fiddle with such as playdough, cat’s cradle, friendship bracelets, and paper doves to write our worries on before releasing them.

After meeting for worship, we went to our chosen activities such as tie dye, debating, creative writing and listening, arts and crafts, outside sports and musical options.

Speakers from both outside and inside the event helped us to explore our theme of caring for ourselves and others. Some covered familiar topics such as mental health that many of us had discussed at school and others spoke of their personal experience, for example of meditation which gave everyone tips on how to be centred. It also included one of our staff who talked about her work as a doctor in Accident & Emergency and how the Covid lockdown had affected her, her job and the NHS. During these sessions we had activities and discussions led by the speakers.

For lots of us it was our first time at Junior Gathering, and our daily meetings in small basegroups were an important space for us to really get to know each other and have fun.

In the afternoon and evening every day we had various light-hearted sessions. Some of the highlights were: trash fashion (where we made colourful hats out of oddments of different materials, wore face paint and paraded down the catwalk) and marble runs made in groups from scrap cardboard (which were then judged against various criteria).

Lots of us enjoyed dancing at the “Under the sea” themed disco. And we also got insights into the lives of our amazing staff members in “Lifelines”.

At the end of each day during epilogue we had singing and music from staff, guided meditations, the light display in the middle of the room, and the freedom of sitting or lying on the floor. We also valued the darkness, even if it made some people sleepy.

The event happened shortly after release from most Covid lockdown restrictions, and it was weird at first but we soon got used to it. It was lovely to see and be close to people in a non-academic space. During lockdown, almost no-one had slept outside their own home. It was difficult to adjust to, but we gradually made the Gathering our home.

Overall Junior Gathering was a welcoming and accepting safe space where everyone could be themselves. It was a great chance to meet new people and be away from home. Next time we’d like more time to shower and relax and socialise before bed!

As we come to the end of our week, we reflect on the friendships we've made and the fun we've had. We look forward to returning to Junior Gathering in 2022, hoping to explore the theme "Respecting all life, identities and opinions".

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Gathering 2021

Isabel P and Jojo J, clerks

Max H and Queenie K, elders

Senior Conference Epistle 2021

To all Friends everywhere,

From the 14th to the 21st of August 2021, 52 young Friends aged 15 to 18 and 11 adult volunteers gathered at Sibford School in Oxfordshire to explore the theme of 'Global Quaker Living'. This year's Senior Conference marked a return to form, as it was an in-person event, with only a few lingering pandemic constraints. Our time in quarantine had highlighted the importance of our wider Quaker networks; we decided therefore to explore the role of Quakers in different communities around the world as well as their different experiences of faith and living.

The first speaker was Colin South, who was the Director of Ramallah Friends School, in Palestine, from 2000 to 2004. He spoke about his experiences living and working in the school, talking about both the positive and negative elements of life in the West Bank in the early 2000s during the Second Intifada (Uprising). This was a period of intense violence in the region; however, the members of the school community came together to make the best of their situation. An example of their solidarity was when the students produced a play about national identity and perhaps most crucially, conflict resolution. This was in response to when a young member of the local community was harmed at the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) checkpoint on the way to school. Colin then also offered some reflections on the potential dangers of national identity.

The next speaker, Sergei Nikitin, was the head of Amnesty International Russia for 14 years. He talked about his experience being raised in the Soviet Union under an ideology of religious oppression, which limited spiritual options. He informed us of his work documenting Quaker relief work during the Great Famine between 1921 and 1931. This information had been repressed and was only known by a small number of people in the region; therefore, he published a book in Russian to help restore that knowledge to his compatriots. He then answered questions about his time with Amnesty International, primarily talking about his attempts to instigate human rights policy changes under the previous government, such as mitigating the brutality of the police force. He concluded by expressing concern for fellow Quakers at Friends House Moscow and all young people in Russia under the Putin administration. A specific quote that stayed in our minds when reflecting on how his life differed in England is when he said: "I no longer fear the knock on the door."

The fact that Sergei joined us on Zoom represented the changed nature of the event post-Covid; it worked well and we feel this is a positive possibility for future events. Additionally, the speakers highlighted to us changes we wanted to see in the world to contribute to a safer future, not only for our fellow Quakers but for humanity as a whole. Colin's speech included a particularly powerful and moving message on how the only thing we can do is try, even under extreme circumstances.

These sessions helped us to get a deeper grasp on the theme and the realities of those living among oppression – particularly the way in which the speakers maintained their faith in peace despite conflict around them. This was reflected in the 'Make a Country' workshop; a lively session in which we created fictitious countries and roleplayed conflict and negotiation between them.

We also used 'Chat Room' sessions, facilitated by the Arrangements Committee, to discuss global issues and the role Quakers play in UK politics, especially their involvement with peaceful protests. We looked at Quaker work abroad and how Friends work with those from all backgrounds and communities to contribute towards positive global change. These chat rooms incited lively, interesting debate whilst facilitating a safe space for participants to get to know each other, as due to the unusual circumstances of the past 18 months many of us were meeting for the first time.

Base Group sessions played a key role in fostering these relationships, with each consisting of 6-8 participants and acting as de-facto families, where newcomers could start to form bonds with other young Quakers. The Base Group Challenge acted as a catalyst for these bonds, as we had to face and tackle challenges together. We met several times a day allowing for some time to relax and talk in more intimate groups, as well as enabling us to look out for each other. Each participant was assigned a secret friend for the week: people would get fun surprises such as chocolate, kind notes and the occasional treasure hunt. This helped to establish a very caring atmosphere amongst all the delightful chaos.

The relationship between participants and the adult volunteers was also developed in a session called 'Lifelines', where three members of the 22+ team laid out their life stories using graphs to demonstrate the ups and downs of their lives, as well as offer insight into some of the challenges they have faced. Many of us found this to be a highly emotional and moving session, and we were very grateful that they shared their experiences and vulnerabilities.

Due to lingering Covid risks, the usual Oxford trip was cancelled. Not wanting to miss out on this key event, the spirit of Oxford was captured in 'Moxford' where the highlights of the trip were recreated in a satirical manner, akin to that of a summer fete. Booths ranged from 'Crymark' to 'MysTIKue's Fortune Telling', as well as a bouncy castle. Moxford was quite an affair, allowing us to procure costumes for the illustrious themed dinner. People dined dressed up as all sorts, from condiments to disciples, from monopoly characters to goths; but as in previous years we all looked sensational!

However, these costumes were merely a preview for the following night's 'Shrek' themed disco. People dressed in a highly creative and imaginative array of glamorous and sophisticated outfits and danced energetically and expressively.

Conferees this year left the event with a renewed and expanded sense of Quaker community, with old friendships rekindled and new ones forged. We reflected on historical and contemporary Quaker action and activism around the world, as well as how our lives of faith compel us to act. In the context of the last 18 months, we felt one of the most critical takeaways of the event was that we as Quakers should work towards fostering global communities of peace and togetherness, even in the most trying of times. We move out into the world with a greater sense of connection to that which is eternal in all of us.

Signed in and on behalf of all Senior Conference

Sammy G and Natalie A S; Clerks of 2021

FSSE Annual Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends Southern Summer Events (charity no. 1155420)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 12th July 2021

Name: Keith Barnes

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: Fellow, CIMA

Address: 2 Beeforth Close
New Earswick
York
YO32 4DF

Receipts and payments to 30 September 2021

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2021 - Consolidated

	2021	2020
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations (Note	3,557	1,494
Participant fees (for 2020, donations)	33,470	70
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	37,027	1,564
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	503	0
Planning expenses	98	981
Skills development	1,165	97
Total pre-event	1,765	1,078
Event		
Accommodation	28,014	0
Staff event travel & services	1,293	79
Group event travel & services	1,230	0
Speakers expenses	90	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-61	0
Materials & supplies	828	110
Minor equipment	293	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	31,686	190
General		
Management meetings	0	109
Trustee expenses	0	220
Subscriptions	201	120
Insurance	544	474
Bank charges	88	60
Total general	833	983
Total payments	34,284	2,251
Receipts less Payments	2,743	-686
Balances brought forward at 1 October	21,688	22,375
Balances carried forward at 30 September	24,432	21,688
Prepayment for Sibford School	3,948	3,948
Cash at bank and in hand	34,447	17,753
Less payments not cleared at year end	13,963	12
Reserves	24,432	21,688

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2021 - Junior Gathering

	2021	2020
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations (Note	0	0
Participant fees	14,620	0
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	14,620	0
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	98	249
Skills development	95	0
Total pre-event	193	249
Event		
Accommodation	14,355	0
Staff event travel & services	682	79
Group event travel & services	630	0
Speakers expenses	15	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	-72	0
Materials & supplies	220	0
Minor equipment	257	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	16,087	79
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	16,279	329
Receipts less Payments	-1,659	-329

Notes

(1) 2021 fee income reflects 38 participants (2019: 52).

(2) Junior Gathering was not held in 2020. (Payments related to pre-Covid planning plus a residual event claim from 2019.)

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2021 -
Senior Conference

	2021	2020
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations (Note	0	0
Participant fees (for 2020, donations)	18,850	70
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	18,850	70
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	0	732
Skills development	210	97
Total pre-event	210	829
Event		
Accommodation	13,660	0
Staff event travel & services	611	0
Group event travel & services	600	0
Speakers expenses	75	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	10	0
Materials & supplies	607	110
Minor equipment	35.97	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	15,599	110
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	15,809	939
Receipts less Payments	3,041	-869

Notes

- (1) 2021 fee income reflects 52 participants (2019: 83)
(2) Senior Conference was held online in 2020.

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2021 -
General Income & Expenditure

	2021	2020
Receipts		
Grants, contributions & donations	3,557	1,494
Participant fees	0	0
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	3,557	1,494
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	503	0
Planning expenses	0	0
Skills development	860	0
Total pre-event	1,363	0
Event		
Accommodation	0	0
Staff event travel & services	0	0
Group event travel & services	0	0
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	0
Materials & supplies	0	0
Minor equipment	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	0	0
General		
Management meetings	0	109
Trustee expenses	0	220
Subscriptions	201	120
Insurance	544	474
Bank charges	88	60
Total general	833	983
Total payments	2,196	983
Receipts less Payments	1,362	511

Notes

(1) In 2021, grants, contributions and donations comprised: £2,000 from Ruth Webb, £1,000 from the C B and H H Taylor 1984 Trust, £175 from Banbury & Evesham Area Quaker Meeting, £50 from Dorchester Quaker Meeting, and other personal donations totalling £332. The grant from the C B and H H Taylor 1984 Trust supported participation by three young people who would not otherwise have afforded the fees.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30 September 2021

The charity had no material assets or liabilities at the end of the period other than the net Reserves (£24,432) reported under Receipts and payments.

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Details

Name: Friends Southern Summer Events, known also as FSSE.

Charity registration number: 1155420

Governing Document: FSSE is governed by its constitution, a copy of which may be found on FSSE's website at <http://fsse.org.uk/files/FSSE-CIO-Constitution.pdf>

Contact address: 30 Lucombe Way, New Earswick, York, YO32 4DS

Trustees: James Barnard, Anya Nanning Ramamurthy, Kit King

Clerk to trustees: James Barnard

Clerk to management committee: Oliver Waterhouse

Treasurer: Graham Torr

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Appendix 2: Reserves and Investments Policy

Reserves

FSSE requires reserves for normal operational reasons, as follows:

1. cash flow during the year;
2. planned additional expenditure in a particular year;
3. expenditure higher than expected;
4. income lower than expected.

We understand that it is normal practice for a charity to hold 25%-50% of annual expenditure as an operational reserve. With experience of our cash flow requirements, we agree that we will budget to hold between 30% and 50% of the previous year's expenditure.

Investment

We will hold our reserves as liquid assets to support the operations of FSSE, in a manner in keeping with Quaker principles. If it is possible to keep some in a higher-interest bearing account without operational difficulties, the Treasurer is requested to do so.

FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1155420

Accounts

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2020

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) Annual Report

Year ended 30 September 2020

FSSE (Friends Southern Summer Events) is a small Quaker charity, entirely run by volunteers, whose purpose is the advancement of the Religious Society of Friends through the provision of educational events for young people.

Object and Activities

FSSE's objects are:

- (a) to promote and advance the religious education of the community and in particular of young people, including those of the Quaker tradition, and others with an interest in learning more about Quakers;

AND in furtherance thereof:

- (b) to organise and promote events for the spiritual growth and moral benefit of the community and in particular of young people with an interest in Quakers;
- (c) to disseminate by whatever means the ideals of truth, non-violence and equality within a Quaker background; and
- (d) to promote any purpose that is charitable according to the laws of England and Wales and for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined by the trustees.

FSSE usually runs two week-long events: Junior Gathering, for 11-14 year olds; and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds. The catchment area is southern England, though others are welcomed if there is space.

Public benefit statement

FSSE exists for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual nurture and religious education of young people including both those of the Quaker tradition, and those with an interest in learning more about Quakers and Quakerism. This benefits personally the participants who attend the events, and also benefits the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) more widely, through the spreading of Quaker ideas and ideals.

In carrying out these purposes, FSSE usually organises two annual residential Quaker events in August of each year: Junior Gathering (for young people aged 11-14) and Senior Conference (for older participants aged 15-18). These events benefit the young people who attend them enormously, by providing spiritual education through workshops which advocate the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality and truth. The events provide spiritual nourishment from new (and old) friendships, shared worship and activities including sports, games, drama, music and other creative arts.

Based on the feedback participants provide, we know our events are significant in the lives of those who attend, helping to build confidence, knowledge and supportive friendships which in some cases last a lifetime. We see young people wanting to come back year on year, and also those who want to give back some of what they gained by helping at the events.

Funding

In normal times (the COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 an exceptional year) FSSE is funded primarily through participant fees. Fee income is supplemented by grants and gifts from charitable trusts and Quaker Meetings.

Some participant fees are funded in part or in whole by a young person's Local or Area Quaker Meeting. FSSE's aim is to ensure that no-one who wishes to come to Junior Gathering or Senior Conference is prevented from doing so for financial reasons. Grants and gifts enable us to support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the full fees. Decisions to apply grants and gifts to support participation are taken by the bookings secretaries in consultation with the treasurer.

Achievement and Performance

The year to September 2020 saw FSSE amend its usual event structures to ensure it could meet its objectives despite the constraints of COVID-19, which would have made the events very challenging to run in the traditional way. We took the decision that Junior Gathering could not run this year, and that Senior Conference would take place as a 'virtual' event. Despite the challenges this change in approach brought, feedback from participants, parents and other stakeholders demonstrates the event was a success, and ensured we fulfilled our purpose.

Trustees' Annual Report

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, and the last 12 months has seen FSSE make changes to the way it runs its events. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we took the collective decision that FSSE's events would not run in the same way as in previous years. Junior Gathering for 11-14 year olds did not run this year, and Senior Conference for 15-18 year olds ran as a remote, technology-enabled event over the course of a shorter week than previously. Trustees believe that despite this new context, those involved in planning and running the event were able to ensure it served Quakers well, and was facilitated according to firm Quaker values. Although not an in-person event, Senior Conference remained, thanks to the work of the event coordinators, arrangements committee, team of base group facilitators and the support of the participants, a place where young people could gain spiritual input and learn more about Quaker values and testimonies.

Trustees are of the view that FSSE remains on a sure financial footing. The shift to our event programme consisting of one online event rather than the two residential events FSSE has traditionally provided saw an expected shift in our annual accounts, with income and payments greatly reduced. As reflects a longer-term, Young Quaker group wide pattern, not simply the different nature of the 2020 event, our reserves have fallen since last year. Our financial reserves would still just about enable us to meet the cost of one in-person event failing.

Regardless of what form future events take, we will continue to focus on increasing our participant numbers, as well as taking time over the next few years to scope out potential options for how we can better meet the needs of our young people through the events we run. Over time we expect that participant fees will need to rise, although we do not anticipate this happening in 2021. We know that many Area and Local Quaker Meetings

support our participants, their families, and FSSE finances through part funding of participant places, and are grateful for this.

We worked hard to make our events open to everyone, regardless of means. In previous years this has included helping participants with difficulties find bursary funding locally where possible, and where not possible, providing bursary funding from FSSE's own limited funds. For the 2020 event, the issue of access was not so much financial (we invited participants to make a donation in lieu of a normal fee) as ensuring potential participants were aware an event was still running. We have taken on board the learning from this year's successful event, and will ensure publicity campaigns happen earlier, in a highly targeted way, to ensure we reach as many potential attendees as possible.

We pay careful attention to the safety of our events, with designated trained safeguarding team members. We carefully assess possible risks so that we mitigate them, or are prepared should we have an emergency.

Comments from the adult helpers and parents, as well as participants' feedback from Senior Conference events, indicate that FSSE was very successful in meeting our objectives.

Since AGM 2019, Trustees have met five times, across the year, via video-conferencing services. Some of these meetings were also attended by event coordinators and people in other FSSE management roles, to help discern the most effective way to run our events, and their time and input is invaluable.

We would like to thank everyone who helped run and oversee our work this year, for the courage, tenacity, positivity and sense of purpose they have shown throughout a backdrop which none of us anticipated or would have chosen. We are grateful also to the Quaker meetings and other bodies whose bursaries were still able to help our finances. The sense of joy and inspiration FSSE events bring has not been diminished, and it remains a privilege to be connected to this organisation, its events and the people who contribute to them. Thank you.

James Barnard – Clerk to FSSE trustees

Senior Conference Epistle 2020

To all Friends everywhere,

From the 15th-19th August 2020, the first ever online Senior Conference was held. Twenty-seven 14 to 18 year-olds and ten adult volunteers came together from around the country (and beyond!) to enjoy five days of fun activities and exploration of our theme:

“Understanding our place as a religious society”. To address this theme, we heard from three speakers, examining both the theological diversity within Quakerism as well as the place Quakerism holds within society as a whole.

On Sunday, the first full day, we heard from Roger Warren Evans, a nontheist Friend and member of the Nontheist Friends Network. By sharing the story of his past, Roger explained his present standpoint as a nontheist Quaker, ultimately defining himself as an ‘evolutionary nontheist’. Roger shared that he grew up surrounded by vastly opposed theological views. Though attending a Quaker school, this conflict made him hesitate to take any strong standpoints towards the beginning of his life, keeping his head down religiously and generally “fudging the issue”. As a student, he was the secretary of the Cambridge Humanist Society led by E.M. Forster, whom Roger quoted as saying “tolerance is what’s left when love gets left behind”. This impacted Roger’s view that he could not simply be an atheist. Later in his life, Roger returned to Quakerism as he felt that it was a “genuinely open-minded culture”, a sentiment shared by many conferees. He concluded philosophically that he believes humans are a “malfunctioning species”, and that it is our actions which are most important. This is what can change the future.

Monday’s talk was from Mark Russ, a self-identified “Quaker-shaped Christian”. Mark asked us to consider what our understanding of religious experience is, and shared his own experiences with us. He explained how he sees religion as a set of practices, beliefs and stories, which all come together to form an individual’s experience of the world. One of the most famous Quaker quotations is from George Fox: “there is that of God in everyone” — and to some Quakers, in everything — however, many religious people experience periods of time when they are closer to God, or further away. Mark shared that through his years as a Quaker he has learned not to be hard on himself, or on God, for these periods of spiritual dryness. He also shared four turning points in his life where he felt as if he encountered God. The first, was Mark’s experience of coming out as gay age 17 and the subsequent “spiritual coming out” — a deep connection to God and the world. He also shared other experiences with us including comparing drag queens to priests for the gay community: “Drench me in that big, gay, glittery Holy Spirit”. Mark reminded us that religious experience is not always big and dramatic, but sometimes small or retrospective.

On Tuesday, for our final speaker session, Grace Da Costa talked to us about the other side of our theme — the place held by Quakerism in a sociopolitical context. As Public Affairs and Advocacy Manager for Britain Yearly Meeting, Grace talked to us about her role as a lobbyist, explaining how building strong relationships with influential individuals and groups can help bring about change in line with Quaker values. She also explained the reasons why faith groups, including Quakers, have such an important role in political environments, citing

that faith in action can often be powerful and elicit a more positive response among others than action taken in other contexts. Grace encouraged us to think critically and challenge the position of privilege that we all recognise British Quakers hold in society as a majority white, middle-class, Christocentric group. We were reminded to remain humble, listen to and learn from the opinions and voices of those marginalised in society as a whole and within the Quaker community — especially when their experiences are different from our own. We will continue to think analytically about our aims, action and audiences in every step we take towards a more equal future.

Building a strong community online over the course of five days was never going to be as simple as if the event were in person. A staple of Senior Conference is base groups — small groups facilitated by conferees — which provide a comfortable space for participants to make new friends and share experiences and worries. Despite not having the usual ‘hub’ of a base group room, ‘breakout rooms’ on Zoom provided the privacy and intimacy needed for the conferees to bond, discuss themed sessions, create comedy sketches and play a variety of online games. In addition to base groups, prologue and epilogue each day provided a sounding board of spiritual togetherness among participants and a place to get into and out of the Conference headspace. On Tuesday night, many 18-year-olds experienced their final Senior Conference epilogue, and this made for a typically atmospheric and emotional last evening in spite of the physical distance between us.

As always, the event was full of fun activities. The evening entertainment sessions allowed us to come together over Zoom even though we could not achieve the sessions’ normal physicality. Ents included a quiz (with questions well-designed to avoid any cheating!) and a ‘themed showcase’ during which each base group turned up in costume, accompanied by a pre-prepared video which was shown to the whole group. For the final night, we stuck to Conference tradition and had an online adaptation of the classic talent show. Conferees sent in a variety of videos showcasing their diverse skills. We ended the night having seen a Quaker rap, slam poetry and even some live fortune telling. Each night, one person volunteered to read a bedtime story after epilogue. These proved extremely popular and we heard tales from great children’s authors such as Beatrix Potter and Dr. Seuss. Though online, these activities helped create the wonderful sense of togetherness for which Senior Conference is so loved.

Conferees left this year’s event with a heightened understanding of the position of Quakers in both a theological and societal sense. As well as seeing first hand the diversity of beliefs within Quakerism, we learnt of the importance to recognise and understand the religious (or non-religious) standpoints of others. We know the significance of putting our faith into action and how, when combined with the willpower to change things, we can use this to make a positive difference in the world. Perhaps the most noticeable thing to be taken away from Senior Conference 2020 is the sense that, even in these difficult and divisive times, young Quakers can always come together as one.

Signed in and on behalf of Senior Conference 2020,

Jonathan H and Issy C-W, Clerks.

FSSE Annual Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends Southern Summer Events (charity no. 1155420)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 22 March 2021

Name: Keith Barnes

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: Fellow, CIMA

Address: 2 Beeforth Close
New Earswick
York
YO32 4DF

Receipts and payments to 30 September 2020

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2020 - Consolidated

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Contributions & donations	1,494	3,889
Participant fees (for 2020, donations)	70	46,491
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	1,564	50,380
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	427
Planning expenses	981	2,225
Skills development	97	600
Total pre-event	1,078	3,252
Event		
Accommodation	0	40,991
Staff event travel & services	79	3,344
Group event travel & services	0	3,035
Speakers expenses	0	309
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	160
Materials & supplies	110	595
Minor equipment	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	190	48,434
General		
Management meetings	109	559
Trustee expenses	220	649
Subscriptions	120	120
Insurance	474	543
Bank charges	60	66
Total general	983	1,937
Total payments	2,251	53,623
Receipts less Payments	-686	-3,243
Balances brought forward at 1 October	22,375	25,618
Balances carried forward at 30 September	21,688	22,375
Prepayment for Sibford School	3,948	3,948
Cash at bank and in hand	17,740	18,427
Reserves	21,688	22,375

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2020 - Junior Gathering

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Contributions & donations	0	0
Participant fees	0	17,341
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	0	17,341
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	249	944
Skills development	0	577
Total pre-event	249	1,521
Event		
Accommodation	0	17,958
Staff event travel & services	79	1,386
Group event travel & services	0	1,555
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	31
Materials & supplies	0	371
Minor equipment	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	79	21,301
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	329	22,822
Receipts less Payments	-329	-5,481

Notes

(1) Junior Gathering was not held in 2020. Payments in 2020 relate to pre-Covid-19 planning, plus a residual event claim from 2019.

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2020 - Senior
Conference

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Contributions & donations	0	0
Participant fees (for 2020, donations)	70	29,150
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	70	29,150
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	0
Planning expenses	732	1,281
Skills development	97	23
Total pre-event	829	1,304
Event		
Accommodation	0	23,033
Staff event travel & services	0	1,958
Group event travel & services	0	1,480
Speakers expenses	0	309
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	129
Materials & supplies	110	224
Minor equipment	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	110	27,133
General		
Management meetings	0	0
Trustee expenses	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Bank charges	0	0
Total general	0	0
Total payments	939	28,437
Receipts less Payments	-869	713

Notes

(1) The 2020 event was held online. Fees were voluntary.

Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 30 September 2020 - General Income & Expenditure

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Contributions & donations (Note 1)	1,494	3,889
Participant fees	0	0
Bank interest	0	0
Total receipts	1,494	3,889
Payments		
Pre-event		
Administration & marketing	0	427
Planning expenses	0	0
Skills development	0	0
Total pre-event	0	427
Event		
Accommodation	0	0
Staff event travel & services	0	0
Group event travel & services	0	0
Speakers expenses	0	0
Tuck shop deficit/(takings)	0	0
Materials & supplies	0	0
Minor equipment	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total event expenditure	0	0
General		
Management meetings	109	559
Trustee expenses	220	649
Subscriptions	120	120
Insurance	474	543
Bank charges	60	66
Total general	983	1,937
Total payments	983	2,364
Receipts less Payments	511	1,525

Notes

(1) In 2020, contributions and donations comprised: £1,000 from the C B and H H Taylor Trust, £127 from Cambridge Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting, and a £100 individual donation. The remainder represents cheques written out in the previous year which were never cashed, treated as donations back to FSSE.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30 September 2020

The charity had no material assets or liabilities at the end of the period other than the net Reserves (£21,688) reported under Receipts and payments.

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Details

Name: Friends Southern Summer Events, known also as FSSE.

Charity registration number: 1155420

Governing Document: FSSE is governed by its constitution, a copy of which may be found on FSSE's website at <http://fsse.org.uk/files/FSSE-CIO-Constitution.pdf>

Contact address: 30 Lucombe Way, New Earswick, York, YO32 4DS

Trustees: Katherine Anne Gibbs, Margaret Louisa Rose Lee, Bryony Helen Rowntree, Tessa Rosemary Brown, David Roderick Holtam, Bernard Paul Leeser, Anna Trethewey, James Barnard, Peter Slade, Gwendolen Da Sousa Correa, Michael Wood, Candia Crossfield

Clerk to trustees: James Barnard

Clerk to management committee: Oliver Waterhouse

Treasurer: Graham Torr

Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Appendix 2: Reserves and Investments Policy

Reserves

FSSE requires reserves for normal operational reasons, as follows:

1. cash flow during the year;
2. planned additional expenditure in a particular year;
3. expenditure higher than expected;
4. income lower than expected.

We understand that it is normal practice for a charity to hold 25%-50% of annual expenditure as an operational reserve. With experience of our cash flow requirements, we agree that we will budget to hold between 30% and 50% of the previous year's expenditure.

Investment

We will hold our reserves as liquid assets to support the operations of FSSE, in a manner in keeping with Quaker principles. If it is possible to keep some in a higher-interest bearing account without operational difficulties, the Treasurer is requested to do so.