




Junior Holidays 2020

Bronwen Alty



What are junior holidays?

- ▶ Short adventure breaks for young people aged between 7 and 13 from the Quakers in Yorkshire area.
- ▶ A chance for young people to meet together, get to know each other and spend time away from their family in a Quaker group.
- ▶ Obviously 2020 was a very different year and we were not able to manage any of our usual holidays. However thanks to the enthusiasm and expertise of Lee Lester, Youth development worker, we were able to run two virtual holidays via Zoom
- ▶ June, 12 children joined over 3 days of sessions
- ▶ October, 10 children joined over 2 days of sessions



What happens on a Zoom junior holiday?

- A chance to meet friends old and new
- Games and drama activities
- Sessions to focus on a theme
- 'Sharing' food (recipes circulated in advance for junior holiday favourites)
- Creative activities, both online and actual
- Book making
- Guest speakers
- Break out rooms for practising talents or just for chatting
- Talent show
- Epilogue / meeting for worship
- Bed time story



Holiday themes

June: Connections

Thinking about what connects us despite the physical distance

October: Safe harbours

What helps us feel safe and secure?



Guest speakers

Philosophy for children session with Jude Acton

- ▶ “Children were very engaged in this session and showed themselves capable of explaining very complicated ideas around nature and peace and the relationship between.”

Sing me on a journey by Leonora Davies

- ▶ “The songs and music were all brilliant, meaningful, manageable and challenging in a good way. There was a great variety with so much joy in the singing.”



Innovation

- ▶ Lee taught us creative ways to use zoom - letting the children draw and write on the shared screen board, giving us feedback questions we could vote for, then showing us the results on shared screen, using 'chat' for us all to communicate with friends or send messages to the group.
- ▶ Our cook, Becca, provided recipes for Dahl, brownies, tomato pasta and sticky toffee pudding so lots of us made these so we could eat together on the Saturday night.
- ▶ Games were brilliantly led by Rosa, Ash and Hayley, and they read bedtime stories, led the epilogue and provided heart to heart spaces for chats about difficulties under lockdown.
- ▶ The talent show on Saturday evening included playing of instruments, singing, poems, a sketch about a grandfather and granddaughter on zoom, funny art, all compered by Frank, aged 12.
- ▶ We had a quiet and centred time at epilogue, with insightful comments from the children, some drawn or written on the shared white board.
- ▶ We even managed to write our cosy glow books by sending our comments in private to Lee who put them together and emailed them out.





What did the children say?

- ▶ 'Being together and making friends' topped the zoom feedback poll.
- ▶ "I was worried it wouldn't be as the same as when we meet up in real life but it was amazing. I loved playing all the games and my best bit was the arts and crafts session when we were just listening to relaxing music and drawing pictures."
- ▶ "I loved it. I got to see my Quaker friends and just have fun. I really enjoyed the bedtime stories and having a shared meal together. I made me feel really happy. Thank you."




Epilogue poem

You light your candles,
and I light mine.

Our faces, in squares
across the screen, are
pools of illumination.

The glow between us
is as bright as a moon-lake.



2021



Provisional booking for Nell
Bank 4-6th June

Autumn holiday TBA

For further information
please contact
bronwenalty@gmail.com