

Art Retreats Centre Quaker de Congénies 2020



Centre Quaker Congénies is the oldest Meeting house in continental Europe. Built nearly 200 years ago by French Quakers with support from Friends from America, the UK and Ireland it has welcomed many renowned Quakers including Elizabeth Fry. The Meetinghouse became an international Quaker Centre about 20 years ago and offers bed and breakfast, self-catering or camping stays for visitors from all over the world and hosts a range of events and retreats.

**Spring Retreat Friday 22nd May to
Monday 1st June**

**Autumn Retreat Friday 18th to Monday
28th September.**

Our retreats are facilitated by Quaker volunteers, Kath Humphreys and Kate Hale, who are established artists and teachers. They involve five facilitated sessions, followed by the chance to paint, draw, photograph 'en plein air' in a variety of locations. Kath and Kate have experience of helping and encouraging people at all levels whether absolute beginners or accomplished artists. We think you will find Centre Quaker a welcoming, relaxed and inspiring setting.



Our Facilitators



Kath Humphreys

Kath is our facilitator for the spring retreat. She trained in ceramics with a career in teaching Art and Design, encountering students of all ages and abilities, working in a wide variety of media. She retired to France and since that time has developed her own practice alongside other artists co-founding an association to highlight the natural, cultural and man-made heritage of the Haute Loire. Kath exhibits her work and run courses and workshops locally from time to time.



Kate Hale

Kate is our facilitator for the autumn retreat. She works with drawing, painting, textiles, mosaic, printing, recycled materials, 3D willow. Currently she uses multi-media to express political and social concerns alongside recycling clothing to create hooked fabric wall hangings. She has worked with different communities to facilitate the creation of large pieces art for their environment, involving everyone in the design and making process. Examples include a mosaic seat, rows of flags, willow sculpture, altar cloths and totem poles.

What's involved?

Introductions are followed by dinner on Saturday. The art begins on Sunday afternoon. The last facilitated session is on Thursday. Each week day there is a picnic lunch and a trip to a local place of interest. Or there is the option to explore the area independently or just relax in our beautiful garden. We have bikes available and the opportunity to go swimming. In the evenings we share a three-course meal and there is an optional evening activity. Our guests often stay on to continue making art or walk, cycle or go sightseeing. Each week day morning there is a short meeting for worship that some guests like to attend. All aspects of the retreat are optional. This is your retreat so you decide what you want to do and when you just want to relax, wander or work independently.

The Accommodation

We have 5 bedrooms, some are en-suite, some share bathroom facilities. Two of our rooms are located on the ground floor to ensure ease of access for guests with mobility problems and we have a shower room adapted for guests with disabilities. Guests can book either a private or shared room. We have a large attractive garden with many sunny and shady spaces.



The Food

We offer a buffet breakfast each morning from 8.30 am. At lunch time there are individual picnic lunches generally comprising of a salad, a quiche or other savoury dish, a dessert, fresh fruit and drink. In the evening there is a three-course meal with wine. Throughout the day there are a selection of teas and coffee available as well as biscuits and fruit. All our meals are vegetarian

To Book or Contact us:

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The Cost

Facilitated Programme: 6 nights - 695 euro private / 575 euro shared accommodation, includes all meals, transport to local sites, accommodation
Additional Days: 92 euro per day private / 68 euro per day shared accommodation includes accommodation, transport to local sites, breakfasts and dinners.

Deposit: 200 euro per person, balance payable 8 weeks before arrival. You can pay by euro currency cheque or bank transfer in euro or we can take a cheque in your own currency which we will hold and return to you in exchange for euro cash when you arrive.

For Transfers in euro:

An easy and inexpensive way to send your dollars or pounds to us in euro is to use transferwise <https://transferwise.com/>

For transferwise or bank transfers in euro:

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Deposits are non-refundable except in the event of the retreat being cancelled by Centre Quaker

