

South Belfast Eco Quakers

Friends

1st December 2021

Can you help?

We need volunteers to promote and host the [Loving Earth Project – Caring for the World We Love](http://lovingearth-project.uk) (lovingearth-project.uk)

Are We Flying Into Extinction?

This panel represents not just the decline in Common Swifts (*Apus apus*) but the decline of the entire natural world, which includes us.

I have been involved in the protection of the environment for many years.

It was in June 1966, at the age of 8, that my love of wildlife started when I witnessed the destruction of an Kent apple orchard with the wildlife being destroyed and the trees all being burnt. This was when everyone else was watching England win the World Cup.

I have tried to protect the natural world as best I can, here are a few things I have done

Planted many km of trees and hedges
Helped the British Trust for Ornithology with bird ringing schemes
Volunteered with Wildlife Trusts
Been a Tree Warden for 16 years
Been a vegetarian for 40 years.

And generally looking after the environment all my life.



Bees

Important as pollinators.

Endangered by loss of habitats and insecticides, also water and places to make a nest or hibernate.

I can make a nest or bee hotel, provide food plants and water, and stop using insecticides.



The Loving earth project is coming to Ireland in March and April 2022. We have also secured funding to support the hosting of the exhibition and workshops.

We have agreed 2 venues in Ulster Quarterly Meeting to date

South Belfast Meeting 21st- 28th March 2022,

The Playhouse Londonderry 4th April – 9th April

We are making efforts to secure a venue in the Armagh /Portadown area, 28th March – 3rd April this would be relatively convenient for Grange, Richhill, Moyallon, Lurgan and Bessbrook Meetings.

However, we need Friends to commit to promoting and participating in a rota to host the exhibition locally.

The exhibition of 50, A4 size textile panels has been made by Friends and friends, to celebrate the earth and to highlight how so many aspects of it are endangered by climate change.

More information is detailed below and you can follow the link to see more about it online.

[Loving Earth Project – Caring for the World We Love \(lovingearth-project.uk\)](http://lovingearth-project.uk)

The Loving Earth Project (LEP) is a textile project started by Quakers, celebrating people, places, creatures, and other things that we love but which are threatened by growing environmental breakdown. It offers a way to help people engage creatively and constructively with the issues. It started in Britain Yearly Meeting and has spread across the globe to other YMs and crafters and environmental groups.

Some Friends in South Belfast Meeting were introduced to this during lockdown in spring 2020 and several Friends including children and young people have made panels and contributed to the overall exhibition. There is a short video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxwURXkVW68&feature=youtu.be>

on the LEP web site, which gives an overview and features a young Friend from South Belfast.

The exhibition and workshops are ongoing, and have been on display at Cop26 in Glasgow, hosted by Glasgow Friends.

Loving Earth Project will be going to Cork for the second half of April and potentially to Dublin after that.

The exhibition is an opportunity to engage with the public, schools, craft groups, WI's, environmental groups and politicians and encourage conversations and commitment to change our habits and lifestyles, to prevent further damage and reverse climate change.

It would be ideal if we could partner with other environmental organisations and Eco Congregations to assist us in hosting and promoting. Now is a good time to bring this to the attention of the organisations you have links with and ask them if they would like to partner with us to help us promote and run this event.

We hope to have an online publicity leaflet prepared soon.

This is a great outreach opportunity both in terms of the environment and Quakers in general.

Please get in touch as soon as possible if you can commit to help. South Belfast Eco quakers will support as much as possible, but we need local people on the ground to make this feasible.

Bronwen Haire

On behalf of South Belfast Eco Quakers

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