

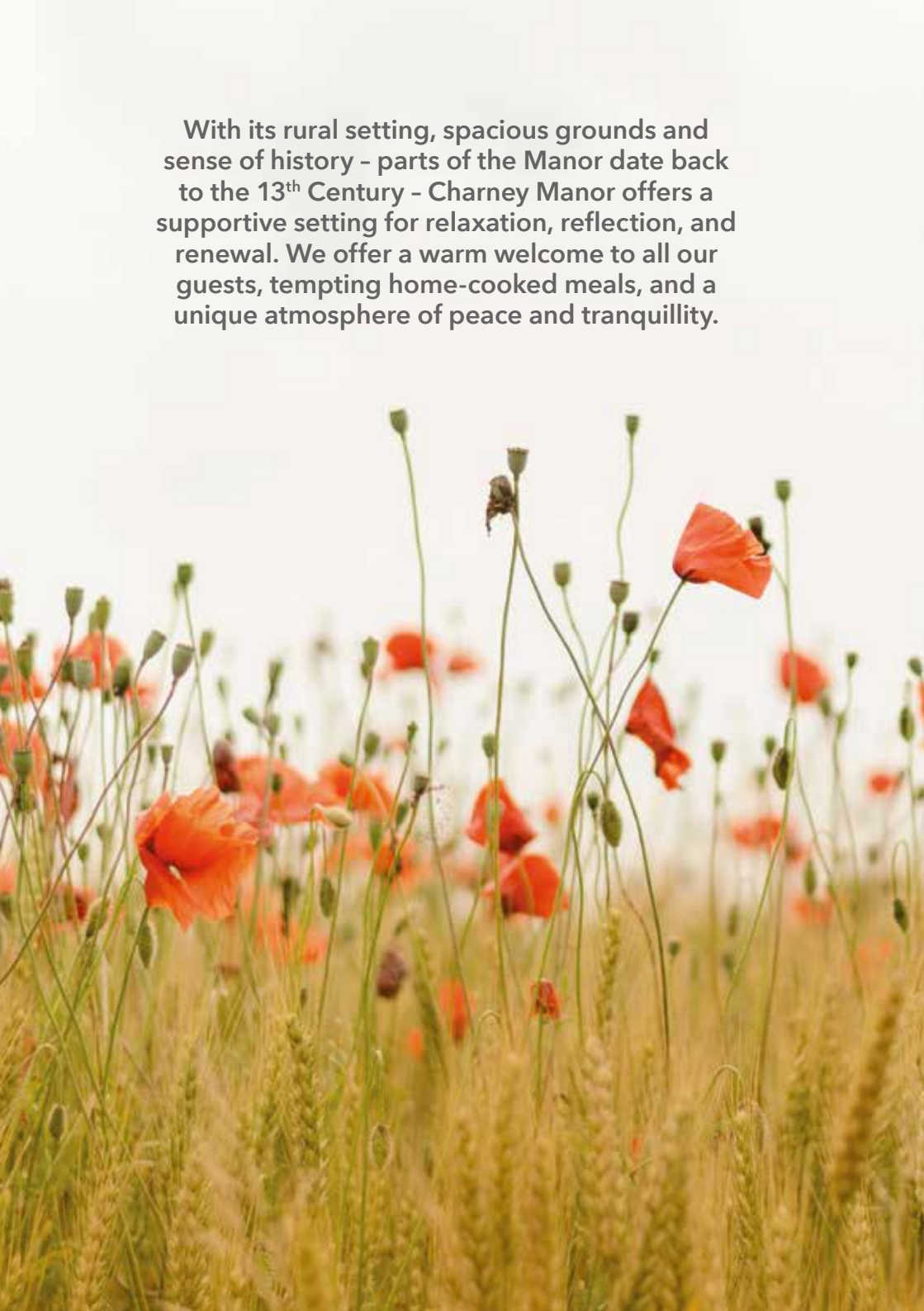
Charney Manor

A Quaker retreat and conference centre in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside



Programme 2022

Charney Bassett • Wantage • Oxfordshire • OX12 0EJ
01235 868206 • admin@charneymanor.com
www.charneymanor.com



With its rural setting, spacious grounds and sense of history - parts of the Manor date back to the 13th Century - Charney Manor offers a supportive setting for relaxation, reflection, and renewal. We offer a warm welcome to all our guests, tempting home-cooked meals, and a unique atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

2022 programme at a glance

7-9 January The miracle of being here in meditation and yoga Sam Settle and Sandy Chubb	6
11-13 February Poetry workshop: moments in time Jane Spiro and John Daniel	6
11-13 February Finding ourselves in transition Alex Wildwood and Rachael Kellett	7
4-6 March Mathematics and spirituality Anne Watson and John Mason	7
8-10 April Mysticism, spiritual experience and Quakers today Rhonda Riachi and Jan Arriens	8
May - TBC Experiencing Shakespeare John Lampen	9
12-14 August Walking cheerfully in a time of darkness Harvey Gilman	10
4-6 November Dancing the circle of life Lilly Sell	10
2-4 December The wisdom of uncertainty Alex Wildwood	11

Facilities at Charney Manor

Conference rooms

Charney Manor has two large conference rooms, both upstairs: the Solar in the Manor and the main meeting room in the Barn (accessible by lift). Also available in the Manor are a library and a sitting room.

Accommodation

Charney Manor can accommodate 35 guests in one double, eleven twin and eleven single rooms. All ensuite except two bedrooms, which have their own private bathrooms. Nine rooms are in the Manor house itself, ten are in the Vokins building and four are in the Barn. One single room and one twin room in the Barn, both on the ground floor, are adapted for wheelchair users.

The Gilletts, a cottage in the grounds, provides self-catering accommodation for groups of eight in five bedrooms, or additional accommodation for conferences (see page 13 for more detail).

Catering

Residential groups are fully catered for, with arrangements made for guests with special diets. Every bedroom has facilities for making hot drinks.

Library

We have a small well-stocked library mainly focused on Quakerism and contemporary spirituality. Guests are welcome to borrow books during their stay.

Internet access

Wi-fi internet access is available throughout.

Garden and walks

While staying with us you'll be able to enjoy three acres of beautiful, peaceful gardens, orchard and paddock largely maintained by volunteers. We are increasingly moving towards a more sustainable, organic management of our land, improving habitats and planting more trees. We are also restoring the Manor's kitchen garden to provide more produce for use in our kitchens.

There are good walks locally and many places of interest nearby, including the Uffington White Horse, Wayland's Smithy and the Ridgeway, and Kelmscott Manor: the country home of William Morris.

The village pub

The friendly, family-run Chequers Inn is a short walk from us, and has a delicious home-cooked menu.



Programme useful information

The Charney Manor programme

This programme seeks to nourish the spirit through silence, discussion, listening deeply, and exploring chosen themes with both mind and heart. All are open to everyone, including those of other denominations and faiths or with no religious affiliation.

We also offer attendees an option to have a few extra days of relaxation on a bed-and-breakfast or fully catered basis.

Booking

To check availability and to request the specific booking form, call us on 01235 868206, or visit our website. To secure a place, we ask for a non-refundable deposit and completed form.

For a provisional booking, please contact the office: the booking will be confirmed on receipt of your deposit and booking form.

Payment

We accept credit card, debit cards and bank transfers. Please contact the office to make a payment or ask for bank details.

Bursaries

Bursaries of up to 50% are available (one bursary per person per year); please apply when booking. Regrettably no bursaries are available for the 'Experiencing' event.

Contact

Retreat administrator: Nicola Cooper.

Please contact us for further information: admin@charneymanor.com.



Programme in detail

7-9 January

**The miracle of being here in
meditation and yoga**

Sam Settle and Sandy Chubb

One of the greatest gifts of meditation and yoga is waking up to the extraordinary experience of being alive. This weekend is about arriving more and more into this miraculous now. There will be plenty of silence to allow the mind and heart to become quiet. Asana and pranayama sessions will be seamless with seated meditation. During the day there will be times to explore the beautiful landscape outside, and at night a chance to go out under the night sky and perhaps see the crescent moon and stars.

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

Sandy Chubb is a British Wheel of Yoga (BWY) teacher and Zen Teacher with the Oxford Zen Centre. She served as the Director of the Prison Phoenix Trust from 2000 to 2010.

Sam Settle is a BWY teacher and a Zen student. He served as Prison Phoenix Trust Director from 2010 to 2020.

11-13 February

Poetry workshop: moments in time

Jane Spiro and John Daniel

We will play with the idea of poems as moments in time: our own memories, the spirit and story of place, and mindfulness in present time and in Charney Manor itself. We will think about the capacity of poems to heal and answer needs, and shall grow our own poems as 'spots of time' to share in a collective reading.

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

Jane Spiro is Professor of Education at Oxford Brookes University teaching writing development. She has co-run community poetry circles at her home for 20 years.

John Daniel appeared in Faber's '26 English Poets' introducing the concept of 'found poetry'. He has had several volumes published and won many prizes, including runner up in the National Poetry competition.



Programme in detail

11-13 February

Finding ourselves in transition

Alex Wildwood and Rachael Kellett

The past two years have made many of us aware that the only certainty is change, and that every change is a kind of death. This weekend is a chance to explore the process of transition as an opportunity for spiritual growth, looking at the stages of conscious change and honouring our recent life transitions in simple self-created ceremonies - while being aware of global changes affecting us and generations to come.

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

Alex Wildwood is a Quaker author and educator strongly influenced by Buddhist activist Joanna Macy. He has a long association with, and great fondness for, Charney Manor.

Rachael Kellett is a Gestalt Psychotherapist and group facilitator who works in an embodied, relational and creative way.

4-6 March

Mathematics and spirituality

Anne Watson and John Mason

This course is for anyone, whatever their mathematical knowledge. All that is needed is a spirit of inquiry. We hope to bring together two ancient ways of wondering about perceptions that appear to be both within and outside ourselves. As cognising beings we can perceive patterns and connections that may be beyond words, and which go beyond our finite world. Mathematics is one of the ways in which people bring infinite patterns into the scope of our sensory capabilities. We shall present tasks to be worked on together or alone interspersed with quiet discussion about the experiences and realisations that emerge.

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

John Mason and Anne Watson are retired Professors of Mathematics Education. They know that wondering about mathematical ideas is a natural human activity, informed by dwelling in the spirit.

Programme in detail

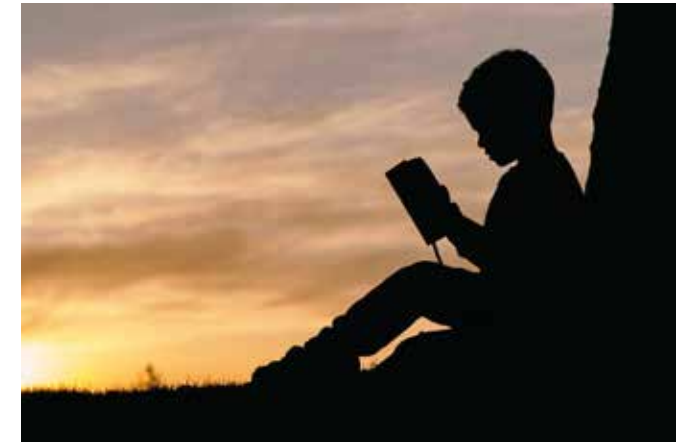
8-10 April Mysticism, spiritual experience and Quakers today Rhonda Riachi and Jan Arriens

Quaker faith is rooted in the transformative spiritual experience and witness of George Fox, Margaret Fell and many others. Like the early Quakers, we are invited to share the truth of the Spirit at work in our lives today, which may put us at odds with the prevailing materialist paradigm. This weekend offers an opportunity to explore how spiritual and mystical experiences can be integrated into our lives and give us strength to persevere in difficult times.

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

Rhonda Riachi works with communities to promote healthy ageing. She is a member of the Quaker Fellowship for Afterlife Studies committee and of Headington Friends Meeting, Oxford.

Jan came to Quakerism in the mid-1980s, shortly before founding the charity LifeLines, whose members correspond with prisoners on death row in the US. He is the author of two volumes of all-age stories ('Journeys in the Light' and 'Seeking the Source') and a memoir, 'Living in the Mystery: Between Head and Heart' (2021).



Programme in detail

May - TBC Experiencing Shakespeare John Lampen

An opportunity to experience spring days at Charney Manor and Stratford-upon-Avon and enjoy seeing plays at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. At Charney there will be opportunities for worship and to explore the themes of the plays we shall see, celebrating how Shakespeare explores the human condition. The fee includes theatre tickets and coach fares.

Plays: dates in May 2022 TBC - please contact the office in November 2021 for details: admin@charneymanor.com.

Cost: £480 (deposit £240)

John Lampen teaches the creative handling of conflict in Britain and overseas. His books include 'Mending Hurts' and 'Findings: poets and the crisis of faith'.

Please note: the Experiencing Shakespeare retreat involves a certain amount of walking. If you are unsure as to your ability to participate, please contact Charney Manor at sales@charneymanor.com, or phone 01235 868206

Programme in detail

12-14 August Walking cheerfully in a time of darkness Harvey Gilman

We live at a time of political instability, climate emergency, and pandemic. Where do we go to gain strength to face these challenges? A weekend to explore our inner and outer resources, with music, poetry, meditation, lamentation, and rejoicing.

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

Harvey Gillman is a workshop facilitator and writer on the Quaker movement, language, and spirituality. His latest work is 'Epiphanies', an anthology of poems written over a lifetime. His life journey has led him to a holistic understanding of spirituality, psychology, and the arts.

4-6 November Dancing the circle of life Lilly Sell

Come and celebrate the different stages of life through the joy of uplifting circle dances to spine-tingling music from around the world. Beginners and experienced circle dancers are welcome. Dances are expertly taught in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The course will include modern and traditional dances from around the world. There will be a variety of pace and style, with some dances having just a few steps whilst others more complex. Some dances are lively while others are reflective, with perhaps some stories and poems along the way.

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

Lilly Sell is a highly qualified and experienced dance teacher and choreographer. She has taught extensively in the UK and abroad, running both residential courses and day or weekend workshops. About Lilly's teaching: "Lilly is amazing and has such a calm way of teaching which is very clear and makes it easy to pick up the steps".



Programme in detail

2-4 December The wisdom of uncertainty Alex Wildwood

This is a chance to explore conscious change as a spiritual practice. Change challenges not only how we live but who we think we are. The stages of life transitions invite us to be vulnerable, to learn to let go, to grieve what we are losing, to surrender to transformation and to celebrate renewal and new life. How can we embrace rather than resist change?

Cost: £220 (deposit £110)

Alex Wildwood is a Quaker author and educator strongly influenced by Buddhist activist Joanna Macy. He has a long association with, and great fondness for, Charney Manor.



Charney Manor

a quiet place to stay

Escape the hustle and bustle of city life and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside with a stay at Charney Manor. We offer comfortable en-suite accommodation with tea- and coffee-making facilities.

Special dietary requirements can be catered for.

The library can be used by guests, if it is available, as can the three acres of peaceful gardens, orchard and paddock.

Bed and breakfast

Including an for a continental breakfast.

Single occupancy: £55 per room per night

Two twins/doubles: £60 per room per night

Triple/family room: £80 per room per night



Special offer for Quaker Meetings

January - April, August and December.

Quaker Meetings are invited to experience Charney Manor's excellent facilities. Groups of at least 20 adults (aged 14+) can enjoy a two-night weekend or mid-week stay, including all meals, at a reduced price and with no charge for children aged up to 14 who share a room with their parents.

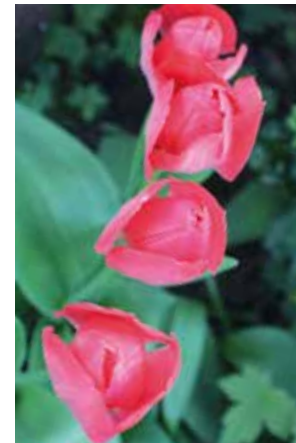
Cost: £200 per person for a minimum of 20 adults (aged 14+). Additional guests at £140 per person. Offer available January, April, August and December.

Terms and conditions apply.



Self catering

The Gilletts



The Gilletts

This charming detached cottage in the grounds of Charney Manor provides a quiet space for rest and relaxation. It is available for use on a self-catering basis by families and groups of up to eight people.

The cottage consists of five bedrooms (one twin, two twin/double and two singles), a living room with TV and DVD player, games and books. There is a separate dining room, fully equipped kitchen with a dishwasher, washer/dryer, shower room, bathroom and downstairs toilet. A lovely outdoor seating area overlooks our sheep paddock.

For further information, availability and prices please visit our website or alternatively contact Nicola Cooper on **01235 868206**, or email on **admin@charneymanor.com**.

Charney Manor Events

Charney Manor Events

Have you considered hosting a private event?

Charney Manor is the perfect location to host any event, from away days to family celebrations; from our historical Solar and dining room to our more modern barn and gorgeous marquee, we've got the facilities to suit your small or medium-sized event.



Charney Manor

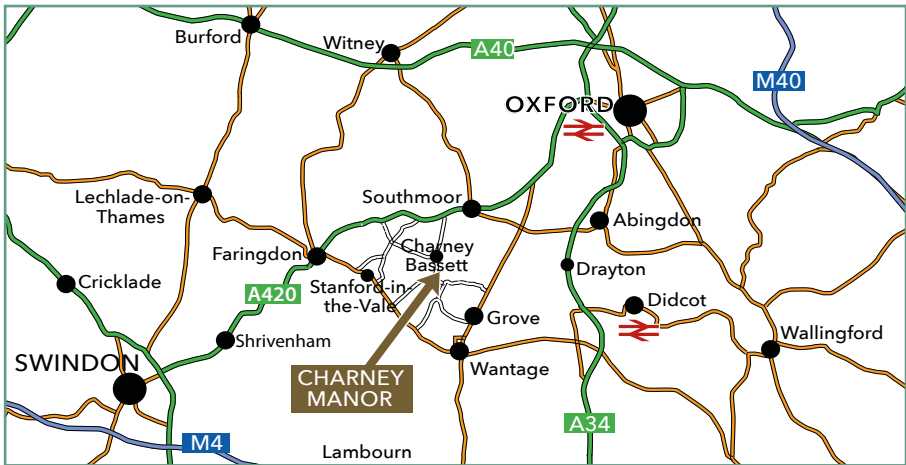
Charney Manor is used by a wide variety of organisations such as businesses, educators, charities and faith groups, who meet for conferences and training; by musicians, artists and writers, who seek a peaceful and inspiring place to work together; and by people involved in conflict resolution and international affairs, who need a quiet and private venue in which to talk.

To check rates and availability, please telephone or email

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Charney Manor is easily accessible by car from the M40 and the M4. It is 12 miles from Oxford and from Didcot railway stations. There are bus services from Oxford to Southmoor or Wantage. Taxis can be arranged to pick up from these destinations.

Charney Manor is a registered charity, owned by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). It is managed and run by a professional team of staff and supervised by an independent board of Trustees.

*Deb Arrowsmith - Burford Meeting
Stewart Jeffrey - Headington Meeting
Nigel Braithwaite - Burford Meeting
Robert Kyte - Charlbury Meeting*

*Katharine Nicholas - Oxford Meeting
Jill Green - Oxford Meeting
Catherine Hilliard - Oxford Meeting
Peter Wilkinson*