

# Writing Retreat Centre Quaker de Congénies 2021



**Centre Quaker Congénies, located in a small French village between the Cevennes and the Camargue, is the oldest Meeting house in continental Europe. It was built almost 200 years ago by French Quakers with support from American, British and Irish Friends. It features in the journals and travel writing of Quakers such as Sarah Grubb, from 1780s onwards. Visitors have included Elizabeth Fry and her brother, Joseph Gurney.**

**The Meeting house 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.**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
2021**

Our retreat facilitator is Quaker volunteer, Kim Hope. She works with people of all ages and levels of writing experience. She offers encouragement through small group sessions exploring different aspects of writing. Each day there is a different stimulus including the chance to explore and write independently in a variety of locations. There are opportunities to read your work to the rest of the group. There is guidance, if you wish, to help you read 'in public'.

Feel free to bring something you are already working on: give yourself time and space to linger over it and let it develop. Or just come with an open mind and an empty notebook, and see where the week takes you.

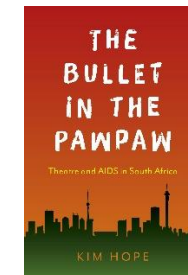


## Our Facilitator



### Kim Hope

Kim is a freelance theatre practitioner and creative workshop facilitator. She has had a "portfolio career" in journalism, public relations, education, writing and theatre. She uses her extensive experience to help you bring your work alive, and to encourage your voice to appear on the page. Kim's moving and fascinating account of her work in South Africa, *'The Bullet in the Pawpaw – Theatre, HIV and AIDS in South Africa'* was published last year.



## What's involved?

Introductions are followed by dinner on Saturday. The writing 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. 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 writing or to 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. Each room has a desk so that you can write or journal in privacy. 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:** 5 nights - 595 euro private / 475 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 or as a result of Covid-19.**