

**PRESS RELEASE 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009..**

*Liverpool Quakers  
QUAKER MEETING HOUSE,  
22 School Lane,  
Liverpool  
L1 3BT.*

**NEW GARDEN IN THE HEART OF LIVERPOOL ONE-  
QUAKER COURTYARD PEACE GARDEN.**

If you walk through the courtyard lying between the Bluecoat on the one side and, on the other, BBC Radio Merseyside and Liverpool Quakers, joining School Lane and College Lane, you are in for a pleasant surprise.

This courtyard alley is an increasingly popular shortcut between Church Street and the new Liverpool One retail development. Until recently it has simply been a bare cobbled space. But not anymore! Now there are trees with benches beneath, sweet smelling herbs and all manner of plants to attract not only people but birds, insects, and maybe even bats back into the city centre.

All this is the work of Liverpool Quakers with the help and cooperation of Liverpool One, Radio Merseyside and the Bluecoat. It has been funded so far by Liverpool Quakers, the City's Year of the Environment scheme and Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services Trusts.

The themes behind the garden are based upon perhaps the most important issues of our time: sustainability and peace. The garden is intended to be a restful and sustaining place, made up of plants which are not only beautiful but also useful. All the materials used, the non-peat compost and the recycled plastic planters and seating, are planet friendly.

Schools and other community groups will be encouraged to add to the garden, perhaps with their own raised bed or planter, or with displays and exhibitions.

Those who visit the garden around lunchtime will also find the Quaker's QBreak Café adjacent to the garden, open several days a week.

Says a representative from the Meeting House "Liverpool Quakers believe that they and their Meeting House should be open to, and serve, the city in any worthwhile way that they can, and the garden is an extension of that principal. Although the courtyard is a public domain space, Liverpool One and our neighbours, Radio Merseyside and the Bluecoat, are very happy for it to become something more meaningful and useful than a pedestrian route. We hope that this will be one of many community-initiated gardens in Liverpool's regenerated city centre, balancing the retail and business cultures with nature's calm."

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