

A Field of Wheat

The Collective Enquiry

On the website there is a section called *The Exchange*. This is where the on-line meetings and decisions between the collective will happen. The *Collective Enquiry* centres on *The Enquiry Text* which contains a quote and supporting text which we will send to you a week or so before the Enquiry. We would like you to respond to this with some writing and reflections of your own. The idea of this is to gather our collective intelligence or wisdom in a way that enables everyone in the collective to have an equal voice. There are a number of guidelines to support how you respond and these are set out below. On the Collective Enquiry 1 page you will also see how the previous enquiry worked and some links to further background reading.

There is no right or wrong way to respond. This is a space to share your thoughts whatever your levels of knowledge and experience drawing on your own feelings and contemplative insight as well as rational thought.

How does it work?

Firstly you will need to book a time slot. Please book in as soon as possible. You can choose time slots between 6am to midnight. On the doddle poll, scroll all the way to the right and press 'save' to complete you booking and make a note of your time.

On the day, use the 25 minutes allocated to add your response in the response box on the Collective Enquiry 2 page. You can write up to 2500 characters (around 400 words). At the end of the 25 minutes submit your reflections. Responses will appear online sequentially throughout the Enquiry every half hour. We invite you to try and dedicate time and attention to the Enquiry a little before your slot so you can prepare yourself (perhaps find somewhere quiet to sit or take a walk before sitting down to write) and read through some of the previous entries.

Ruth or myself will be online throughout the 18 hour period. You can email us at mail@fieldofwheat.co.uk at any time and we will contact you in advance of your slot to check you are there. If for some reason you are unable to make the slot you have chosen us you can contact us to see if another slot is available. We will do our best to accommodate you.

We also have invited a 'ponderer' from outside the project to reflect on all your comments and contributions at the end of the process.

The Guidelines and Ethics

The Collective Enquiry is inspired by Quaker systems for meetings. **Listening** is at the heart of the

Enquiry. You can find out more about our research and interest in this on the Artists Pages here. We will invite you to share feelings and contemplative insights as well as rational thought. Each Collective member will bring different experience, knowledge or wisdom to the *Collective Enquiry*. We welcome and value them all. Don't worry if your view or perspective is different to anyone else's.

Contributions to the *Collective Enquiry* should not be about winning an argument. We also ask you not to comment on or rebut anyone else's statement. Views that differ to your own may surface, the idea is that you are part of a larger shared response and you might learn something new. It might be worth remembering that humour can be useful to ease any tensions. You can also be present and contribute in silence or in few words or sentences. If you want to contribute in silence just submit your form with a note ie 'silent contribution'. The *Collective Enquiry* will be available to the public.

The *Collective Enquiry* involves being open to and trusting the process as an exploration of a different way of sharing knowledge. We are grateful to Quakers in Lincolnshire for giving advice on the format for *Collective Enquiry*. This is something new to explore for all of us.

Ruth & Anne-Marie, June 2016