

Brighton Friends News



A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

April 2019

www.brightonquakers.net

Issue 293

London Link

On March 15 - 17, 21 young people and 5 volunteers met for London Link Group Brighton 2019!



This event coincided with the international [climate strike](#) that was organised on Friday the 15th. We were all impressed to hear stories of this march and glad that members of London Link Group could help bring young Quakers together for it. We headed off to catch a train. A few snacks-to-boost-our-energy-levels later we arrived in Brighton Meeting House to the welcome of local Brighton Young Quakers, the Meeting House and dinner.

Our theme for the weekend was 'Welcome', so this not being lost on us... we welcomed everyone to the event! It was great to have a number of new faces with us. We didn't have long left of the day so we had an Epilogue (a short reflective evening Quaker meeting) and then a bit of free time and bed.

Saturday was full with a workshop based on [Becoming Friends Together](#) and some free time to explore Brighton. After lunch we heard from two young refugees who are being supported by [The Humming bird project](#). They spoke movingly about their journey to the UK from Syria and their experiences in the UK. Truly inspirational. Later we organised some games, then quieter games and practised

a song that we were invited to sing in 'All Age Worship' on Sunday. After dinner we had a fantastic 'open-mic' session. Finally, some hot chocolate then bed.

Sunday the sun shone into the Meeting House and we joined the All Age Worship which was also coordinated to be on the theme of 'welcome'. After this some participants and members of the meeting joined a workshop run by [Ben Pink Dandelion](#) about making our meetings accessible and focusing on things that are important.

Lunch time all too quickly lead to saying goodbyes as we left to journey home. As one participant said "One of the best trips ever; will enjoy channelling my new found inner Quaker whenever in need. Thank you so much".

Thank you to everyone who was involved and made it such a great weekend. You're more than welcome here.

Michael Wood, London Link

To read the full report and see more photos and videos go to <https://londonlinkgroup.org.uk/2019/03/18/brighton-v/>

Inter Faith Contact Group

Inter Faith Contact Group (IFCG) Report April 2019

Brighton Meeting has two representatives on this group - Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger.



We both find it a joy to serve on this committee which genuinely represents all faiths and none. We have representatives from Christians - both Catholic and Protestant, the Jewish Community, Muslims, Bahai and atheist. We actively seek to include Buddhists and Hindus although we have not so far found members of those faiths willing to serve on the committee.

The IFCG is active in the community. Throughout 2018 we ran an Angel project which brought together many people from the wider community including many

who have no specific faith or do not belong to a faith community. The project worked with school children plus many others of all faiths and none. A lovely film of the project can be seen here, <https://youtu.be/nMdPr6Ctxzc> and at www.interfaithcontactgroup.com If you do look at the film, it would be very much appreciated if you would complete a short evaluation and return it to Helen or Sheila. There are also plans to produce a book on the project.

We ran a social event at the Progressive Synagogue in September. This was attended by a wide variety of community as well as faith representatives. The annual IFCG service was held at St Peter's Catholic Church in Aldrington in November and was, as always, very well attended and a real joy.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Friends Meeting House, Sunday March 24, and was attended by invited guests, the deputy mayor of Brighton and the deputy Lieutenant of Sussex. The afternoon began and ended with some lovely singing from the Interfaith Choir. Following the opening singing there was a very short business meeting. The main part of the afternoon was a most inspiring session with seven speakers from various faith and non-faith groups - Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Baha'i and Sunday Assembly speaking on 'My Core Beliefs'. This was followed by a very lively open discussion and afternoon tea. The occasion appeared to be enjoyed by all.

In 2019, the IFCG plans to run a "Tree of Life" project with a special event on September 8 at the Progressive Synagogue. More about this to follow.

You can become a member of the IFCG for £15 per year and we would encourage Friends to join - ask Sheila or Helen if interested. We feel that the IFCG does really valuable work in bringing together communities, both faith and non-faith.

*Sheila Boyer, Helen Ledger
April 2019*

Interfaith Prayers – May 1

First Wednesday of the month, 6-7pm. All welcome of any faith or none.

The Baha'i Centre,
19 Stanford Avenue,
Brighton, BN1 6GA

Please note change of venue

www.interfaithcontactgroup.com

Quakers condemn terror attacks in New Zealand

Quakers in Britain are upholding and praying for all affected by the terrorist attack in Christchurch.

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain, said, "We condemn all acts of violence. We stand in love and solidarity with the Muslim community in New Zealand and around the world. We all have a role to play in challenging hate." Faith communities are showing solidarity today in London and across the country. Quakers are joining faith leaders meeting at East London Mosque to provide an important message: they will not be divided.

Quaker.co.uk March 15 2019

Report from Convenor of Nominations Committee

Most meetings within our Area Meeting operate with a core group of friends who do most of the work and bring recommendations to business meetings. In small meetings the core group amounts to most of the meeting which may not matter. In large meetings the core group friends risk becoming overburdened. In medium and large sized meetings there may be many more people outside the core group than inside it.

Attendance at Area Meeting is seen to be less of an imperative than in previous years. Usual attendance is about 30, i.e. less than 10% of those listed in the contact booklet. Friends and attenders appear to have more allegiance to their local meetings than to Area Meeting. A result of this is that there is reduced opportunity to form close supportive relationships between people from different meetings. This may result in meetings being isolated without any cross-fertilisation of ideas from different viewpoints. A new format, to address some of these concerns began a couple of years ago which has altered the balance between traditional business and topics/concerns where people can get to know one another.

The principal task of AM Nominations Committee is to 'discern' names of people to undertake roles within Area Meeting. Discernment is difficult without knowledge of the individuals concerned. The reduction in the number of people apparently available to undertake AM service makes it easy to tacitly accept a second triennium if the incumbent is willing. Some people feel unable to lay jobs down because there is no one willing to take it on, some carrying on for many years.

At the moment there are 100 jobs on the appointments register. Of those there are only 14 vacancies, although some of those are fairly critical to our organisation. 50 friends are doing their first triennium and 32 are doing a second triennium, and four doing a third triennium or longer. Most trustees are past their sell-by date!

However, these figures mask the fact that this is drawing on a limited pool of people who may be taking a succession of jobs, both locally and at area level. Some are also undertaking jobs at national level.

There are ten people who do a number of jobs at area level (one person does four) and it's a fair assumption that they undertake jobs locally too. If everyone only undertook one job at area level, that would increase the vacancy number to 30%

Not all jobs require the same time and energy. Some roles are limited to members, limiting the pool of people available.

Trienniums are recommended in QF&P:

- to encourage new people to take responsibility for the running of meeting
- to allow the power involved in posts to rest, and be seen to rest, with the role rather than with the individual
- to allow friends to take on roles knowing that they don't have to do the job in perpetuity
- to help newer friends to learn about Quakerism and how to live Quaker
- to help people to get to know each other
- to enable organic, bottom up, change.

We are about to embark on an exercise to look at the structures within our Area Meeting, within the framework of the Simpler Meetings project. I don't believe our structures are serving us well at the moment. If our triennium pattern is not working well, the answer is not for people to keep on keeping on for years or the same people doing all the jobs in rotation. If our administrative roles are becoming too burdensome, we need to look at alternative ways of getting the jobs done. The answer is to change the organisation and do things differently, or even not at all.

*Ann Holliday
Convenor of Area Meeting Nominations committee
11 March 2019*

Yearly Meeting May 24 – 27 2019

At Yearly Meeting 2019, at Friends House in London, we will examine our privilege (and assumptions of privilege). Privilege – whether we recognise it or not – fundamentally impacts on our ability to act on our urgent Quaker concerns regarding climate justice and sustainability, and inclusion, and diversity.



Registration is now open
<https://forms.quaker.org.uk/ym/>

For more information go to www.quaker.org.uk/ym.

The 'Preparing for Yearly Meeting' document is available online and on the Notices desk in the corridor at Brighton Meeting House.

The tragedy in the lives of most of us is that we go through life walking down a high-walled lane with people of our own kind, the same economic situation, the same national background and education and religious outlook. And beyond those walls, all humanity lies, unknown and unseen, and untouched by our restricted and impoverished lives.

Florence Luscomb. architect and suffraist (6 Feb 1887-1985)

FOOD BANK -- Please Remember -- FOOD BANK --- FOOD BANK

Ben Pink Dandelion's Third Sunday Workshop

"Developments in Quakerism, and Being Quaker" March 17

Although early Quakers were eloquent missionaries for 'That of God in Everyone', modern Quakers are comparatively reticent about discussing what they 'believe' (or don't believe) – the suggestion that perhaps we should talk about personal religious or spiritual experience a bit more was one of the many themes of Ben's inspiring workshop. As a former member of Brighton Meeting, now Professor of Quaker Studies at Birmingham University based at Woodbrooke, and a recent (2014) Swarthmore Lecturer, Ben attracted a large and enthusiastic audience to his recent Third Sunday Workshop on Recent Developments in Quakerism. Drawing on his many years of study and research into modern Quakers and Quakerism, Ben has a unique understanding of where Quakerism is nowadays as a very unorthodox 'religious' Society, and what 'Being Quaker' means in an increasingly secular 21st century.

In a wide-ranging talk (and even wider-ranging Q&A session) Ben's starting point was his Swarthmore Lecture *Open for Transformation: Being Quaker* (a copy is in our Library), which built on the reality of direct, personal 'religious' (or 'whatever') experience for Friends, how we nurture that experience through worship together, and how that experience leads us to live as Quakers in a modern world which often seems almost as turbulent and violent as the 17th century was for our predecessors.

Ben explained that one of the reasons for Quakerism's survival for 350 years, and its appeal to many seeking a spiritual home today, lies in its emphasis not on *what* we believe but on *how* we believe – one of the few doctrines we all share (together with 'That of God in Everyone') is that none of us has the absolute truth, but we all may seek truth together; memorably defined by Ben as a doctrine of 'the absolute perhaps'. This explains why those who believe in 'God' (however defined by us) can feel equally at home in the Society of Friends with those of different faith backgrounds, and nontheists who use different religious language altogether, but share our spiritual journey and cherish the peace and power of our silent Meetings for Worship (however we define that!).

These are interesting times for Quakers, already discussing *God, Words and Us* (also in our library), and about to embark on a new revision of our book of discipline *Quaker Faith and Practice*, which may take some years. Ben has already said that he would be happy to come and talk to us again, and help us to keep in touch with what 'being Quaker' really means today.

Hugh Jones, with thanks to Jane Rosenberg.

Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Are you open to the healing power of God's love? Cherish that of God within you, so that this love may grow in you and guide you. Let your worship and your daily life enrich each other. Treasure your experience of God, however it comes to you. Remember that Christianity is not a notion but a way.

Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No. 2

Cyclone Idai Relief

In my role as chaplain at University of Sussex I have met 2 students affected by the cyclone. Beatrice Savadye, MA in Gender Development Studies and Thompson Kanje, Journalism

Beatrice is collecting medicine, toiletries and baby products and has written to say
"Dear Friends

I need your help. My country Zimbabwe has been hit by Cyclone Idai. There are many fatalities, 65 people are reported dead and hundreds missing. ... (My countrymen) ... need all the help they can get to restore their lives."

To contact Beatrice please write her at B.Savadye@ids.ac.uk.

Thompson has written to say:

"I and my friends from the US have set up a GoFundMe account through which donations are being received. ... The link for the account is <https://bit.ly/2TUU7Ja> Thank you and may God bless you.

For more information: <https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/cyclone-idai-quick-facts>

Jason Evans, University of Sussex Chaplain

Brighton Young Quakers - Quancake Evening

Brighton Young Adult Quakers met up to enjoy vegan pancakes in the Meeting House on Tuesday March 5, Shrove Tuesday. A delicious savoury filling of mushroom, tofu and plant-based cheese was made by Tom & Hannah. The sweet highlight was an apple sauce made from the apples grown at the Blue Idol Meeting House and brought in by the resident Friends, Sally & Eva. Good times and tasty pancakes were had by all.



The group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and all those who consider themselves young adults are welcome to join. See page 10

Phil Holtham

Community in Action

Sunday Community Afternoon

We are hoping to encourage dialogue between the generations. We are organizing activities for the community to get together every other month at 12 noon, after Sunday Meeting. We hope to alternate between serious events and fun times. In the past we have been for a walk in Stanmer Park and foraged for edible plants; we had a shared lunch after Meeting followed by a Quaker Beetle Drive; we had a shared lunch followed by the film 'Living the Change' and then a discussion.

Third Sunday Workshop – April 28 & June 23rd, 12 noon.

Topic: Issues around Gender and Transgender.

A second one-hour workshop.

It will be followed at 1.00 pm by a 'bring and share' lunch. We will need two volunteers to organise the catering.

Brighton Meeting Elders

Tapestry

Our tapestry will be available to work on at 12 noon on the second and fourth Sundays. All are welcome to come and put in a few stitches. This makes it OUR tapestry, a community tapestry. When finished, it will hang in the café.

All are welcome to join in.

Treasurers' Concerns

Seeds and Pennies

It was reported in February's newsletter that January's Meeting for Worship for Business had given its backing to a more secure way of sustaining our Seeds and Pennies initiative through monthly or yearly pledges by Members or Attenders. Can I bring it to your attention again please with any enquiries being channelled through me or Chris East at.

Contributions

In my presentation of the 2018 accounts at Meeting for Worship for Business in March I asked for permission to remind all Members and Attenders about the Treasurer's letter which I intend to circulate after the first quarter's budget comparisons. In this I will be asking that we all consider a small increase on our monthly contributions, which may not have been changed for possibly a lengthy period of time. This arose from the fact that in 2018 we had not sent any donation to Britain Yearly Meeting and desired to do so in 2019.

Britain Yearly Meeting – Contributions 2019

Pursuant to my comments above, BYM are conscious of their reliance on Local Meeting donations and have decided to make a direct appeal. They have this week launched an initiative to raise £3m in order to assist in the funding of Quaker work in 2019. They have sent me Contribution forms which will facilitate payments direct to BYM. These describe things that we all can do to ensure the sustainability of Quaker life and work in 2019. I will make them available for your kind consideration. Thank You.

George Dean, Treasurer

Finding out about Quakers: Two events for newcomers

New to Quakers? Want to explore Quaker Worship? These events, run by Quaker Quest, are ideal for people who know little or nothing about Quakers, **and** for those who have been around Quakers for a while and want to explore further.

12–14 April at Charney Manor, Oxfordshire

Charney Manor admin@charneymanor.com 01235 868206

26–28 April at Glenthorne House, Cumbria

Glenthorne House info@glenthorne.org 01539 435389

Treasurers should consider how to provide financial assistance.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

GDPR is a new law relating to written permission to hold Personal Data.

This notice concerns Members & Attenders whose names are in the Area Meeting Blue Contact List Book and also any Friend or Attender who is on the Quaker Meeting Mailing List and who is not yet in the printed Contact Book. It relates to new Laws governing personal permissions.

The Law requires our Meeting to ask all people mentioned above to complete a form giving their written permission for Brighton Meeting and Sussex West Area Meeting to hold those personal details. For the next few weeks Overseers and Elders will have the forms available for signing after Meeting.

Elders & Overseers

Appeals

Our April Appeal is for Grassroots Suicide Prevention. Grassroots is a UK leader in suicide prevention. They help to create safe spaces in our communities for Real Talk about suicide. They support people in our communities to become ChangeMakers: to develop the skills and confidence needed to save lives through Real Talk. They teach suicide alertness and intervention skills, and raise awareness of suicide through the on-line link <https://www.prevent-suicide.org.uk>

Brighton Meeting diary

Meetings for Worship

Regular Meetings for Worship

Sundays	9.30–10.15am	Quiet Room
	10.30–11.30am	main Meeting Room
	5.00–5.45pm	main Meeting Room
Wednesdays	12.30–1.00pm	Quiet Room

All Age Worship - Every Third Sunday quarterly.

June 19

September 15

December 15

Children's Meeting

On the first and third Sunday of each month there will be planned activities. A crèche will also be available on those days for the very young children.

April 21

May 15 & 19

June 2 & 16

July 7 & 21

August 4 & 18

Welcoming

The rota for welcoming people arriving at the 10.30am Meeting for Worship is organised by Sian Jasper. Welcoming is an opportunity to serve Meeting and a good way of getting to know people. If you would like to help, please contact Sian.

Workshops and community events

Open Meeting is held every Sunday except the first and third Sundays of the month, at 12 noon, and is open to everyone – visitors, attenders and members. It is a chance to share how Meeting was for us and to discuss our Quaker faith in an open and informal way.

Sunday Community Afternoon

Plans for activities for the next few months - on every other Third Sunday:

- May 19 2019 – Foraging, location tba

- July 21 2019 - Support Whitehawk Community Garden by working there.

Third Sunday workshop – April 28 & June 23, 12 noon.

Workshop on issues around Gender and Transgender. We will start at 12 noon then at 1.00 pm we will continue the discussion over a shared lunch.

Brighton Young Quakers

Young adults, 18+, meet every first and third Tuesday of the month at 19:00 for 19:15 in the Quiet Room of Brighton Meeting House. If there is a fifth Tuesday we do something adventurous! For more information please contact Matt Alton on 07582825286.

Being Friends Together Groups

Being Friends Together Groups are a sociable way to find out more about Quakerism and to participate in discussion within the confines of a small group. They generally meet within each other's homes one evening per month. There are two groups covering the Brighton area.

East Group – Tuesday **May 17** at 7 pm. Please contact Alan Stratford for more information.

Hove Group – usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month - at 7.30pm at Helen Ledger's home. There will be no meeting in April. Next Meeting is **May 21**.

Meetings for Quaker business

The next **Meeting for Worship for Business (MWB)** is on Sunday **May 5** at 12 noon. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **April 28**. **The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB.** Please email bqclerk@outlook.com or write to clerks c/o The Meeting House.

If you are a newcomer or attender and would like to join us, please speak to the Clerk, who will be able to explain the procedures.

Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2019

Saturday May 18 Littlehampton

Saturday July 20 Ditchling

Saturday September 21 Bognor

Saturday November 16 Brighton

All Area Meetings start at 10.30 am and include a 'bring and share lunch'.

Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings in 2019

Saturday June 15 – Guildford MH - AGM in the morning. Play "With Full Conviction" in the afternoon.

Saturday July 27 – Twineham Quaker Burial Ground – Exchange of dues between Quakers and C. of E.

All Regional Meetings start at 10.30 am and include a 'bring and share lunch'.

Information

Copies of MWB and Area Meeting minutes, as well as other reports on Quaker affairs and concerns, are available on the information table in the corridor.

Notices

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to brightonquakernotices@gmail.com. The deadline for notices is Friday evening.

Newsletter Contributions

The editor wants the newsletter to reflect the diversity of thinking and experience of members and attenders. If this is to be your newsletter, we need your input: thoughts on the meeting, a passage that has inspired you, a book review, a drawing, something to share with others that might help us grow in community and spirit. Please send your contributions to the editor, Jackie Robinson at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

The deadline for the **May** newsletter is **May 3**. The editors have the right to edit contributions or hold them over until the next issue, particularly where this is necessary in order to avoid blank pages.

It is the responsibility of contributors to decide how much of their personal details should be given. To receive the newsletter by email or post, please contact the editor.

60th Anniversary of Tuesday at Friends



On Tuesday, February 5 after the humorous talk - 'Glad to be Grey' by Lady Constance Crabtree, a big crowd celebrated the 60th Anniversary with Patricia Norman by having a birthday party - a delicious tea with birthday cake.

Here is a short history of Tuesday at Friends. In the Autumn of 1958 Margery Sedgwick, Principal of Friends Adult Education Centre, was approached by Margaret Fyfield (Chair of what became 'Age Concern' Lewes) to ask if the Centre could provide an alternative interest group to complement the various bingo and whist clubs in Brighton. She had identified a need to cater for people who had more intellectual interests and concerns,

particularly retired professionals.

After a lot of planning thus was born the Senior Citizens Group in February 1959 (admission one shilling and sixpence!) Lynda Kinsella, Centre Manager later coined the name 'Tuesday at Friends', opening it up to anyone free during the day.

When Margery retired, Patricia Norman became organiser, drawing on a rich pool of talent in (mainly) Sussex - writers, artists, singers, pianists, scientists, historians, naturalists, explorers (both Universities provided speakers).

At the 50th birthday party in February 2009 we enjoyed a concert by the Twagger Band (playing unusual instruments) followed by an excellent tea provided by 'Dine', the catering wing of Brighton Housing Trust.

Patricia Norman continued until she retired at 90, when she handed over to Alan Cooke (Chair of Brighton and Hove U3A) who was to bring fresh talents to the group.

Patricia Norman and Lisa Compton

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

Quaker Faith & Practice 1.02 George Fox, 1656