

Brighton Friends News



A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

March 2019

www.brightonquakers.net

Issue 292

Break the Kill Chain

Demonstration against EDO MBM Technology Ltd.



Three Brighton Quakers joined the Break the Kill Chain demo organised by Brighton Against the Arms Trade on Wednesday February 20. The demo was not huge but was supported by people of all ages

What were we protesting about?

On September 4 2018 Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) granted planning permission to US arms company Harris Corporation subsidiary, EDO MBM Technology Ltd to expand its production of aircraft weapons release systems at its site on Home Farm Road in Brighton

(Reference BH2018/01868). This most recent decision to allow EDO MBM to expand comes less than 15 months after planning permission was granted for a two-storey side extension (Reference BH2016/05939).

Why EDO?

The EDO MBM factory has produced parts for weaponry sold to countries including Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey and the United States, allowing them to commit grave human rights abuses, in violation of international law. EDO components are being produced for UK-supplied Saudi Tornado and Typhoon warplanes. These warplanes are assisting war crimes carried out by the Saudi-led coalition forces in Yemen. The war in Yemen has caused over 60,000 civilian deaths and a widespread famine, with UN OCHA estimating that 8.4 million people are at imminent risk of starvation.

Further, EDO owns the VER-2 (Vertical Ejection Rack), the main bomb rack used on the Israel F-16, which has been used to bomb Gaza. EDO bomb release components are supplied to Israel, Saudi Arabia and US air forces certified for use with cluster bombs, contrary to the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act 2010.

In 2014, Israel's aerial bombardment and ground invasion of besieged Gaza killed over 2,200 Palestinians, nearly a quarter of them children. The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) reports that the VER-2 rack would be Israel's most likely aircraft delivery system for its nuclear weapons.

If there are future demonstrations it would be good to see more Quakers joining to protest against the weapons factory on our doorstep, and showing our commitment to the Peace Testimony and dismay at the expansion of the weapons factory in our midst in Brighton, which is supported by Brighton and Hove Council.

Sheila Boyer, Jane Rosenberg and Helen Ledger

Jeremy Hardy

I know there are serving soldiers who say that they shouldn't be in Afghanistan, to which my reply is: 'No, you shouldn't. And you shouldn't be in the army. And if you hadn't joined, you wouldn't be there. And Britain wouldn't be there because, if people like you didn't keep joining up, there'd be no one to send. Governments aren't going to go themselves, so they'd have to send our Olympic relay team or the scouts.'

But with the classic tendency to infantilise the working class, some on the left say: 'A lot of these lads join up because of a lack of opportunities, but they don't necessarily expect to get sent to war.' I'm sorry, but they joined the wrong thing, then, didn't they? If you join the Royal Horticultural Society or the Tooting Bec Lido Swimming Club and get sent to war, you can justifiably say that it was the last thing you expected. But the army's got a pretty poor track record on these things.

Jeremy Hardy, Comedian 1961 – 2019

Submitted by Susan White

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

A poem by Matt Harvey

– commissioned for Sidcot Quaker School's Peace Festival.

Something of God

a movement from the inside out
time to sit and room to doubt
they sit so quietly, so still
in silence that they do not fill
with words spoken for speaking's sake
no need for oaths whose words don't break
no creed to which one must subscribe
no vengeful god from whom to hide
but out of silence something grows
a Yes from all the many Noes
a trust we all know right from wrong
something of God in everyone

will act as consciences dictate
pacifists who punch above their weight
this is the flock that won't be fleeced
where everyone's a kind of priest
born of protest, in simplicity
no hierarchy, no liturgy
intoned by an automaton
something of God in everyone

a voice that's 'none of the above'
some call it God, some call it love
call it sometimes when sitting still
the human words that silence breeds
whose seeds take root, bear fruit in deeds
and no conclusion is foregone
something of God in everyone

and something in us all still glows
a love, a light embracing those
who are not virtue's paragon
something of God in everyone
the them in us, the us in them
no soul, however dark's condemned
a light, however dimmed, shines on
something of God in everyone.

Matt Harvey - poet

From A quieter voice article in Resurgence & Ecologist magazine

Submitted by David Fielder

On February 17 Elders and the Gender group held the first of a series of 3 workshops to allow free Quakerly discussion in a love-based approach to a potentially acrimonious situation. This was led by Edwina Peart, Inclusion and Diversity co-ordinator at Friends House. It started with a short opening presentation then we split into smaller groups to discuss two questions from the Quaker Life Gender Statement (still in draft). We were encouraged to actively listen, in a worshipful manner, to support our being reflective and respectful, and to discourage debate.

This gave an opportunity for sharing of feelings and opinions. The discussions continued through lunch.

Two Friends who attended gave their accounts of the event -

"It is so important to have this opportunity to discuss and deepen our understanding of gender and inclusivity. The workshop provided the opportunity to begin these discussions together and I look forward to the future discussions when we can continue to be challenged and look more deeply into the subject and listen to and learn from other's points of view and experiences." *A member of Brighton Meeting*

"The Gender Workshop was a valuable and eye-opening experience and it was a joy to reinforce our commitment to the inclusion of everyone who feels led to explore the Quaker way.

I was privileged to be in a discussion group comprising a wide range of views and experiences but even when differences were expressed and difficult questions asked the deep listening from other Friends, and the willingness to learn was very precious and witnessed to the fact that time spent together, just getting to know one another, is so important when sharing difficult conversations. When hypothetical situations become the real-life experiences of people we know and care about the whole issue of celebrating our diversity becomes natural and achievable.

Worshipping together beforehand, and powerfully moving ministry during Meeting, prepared us to be open and honest with one another and, if the sessions move forward to include others who don't necessarily share our Quaker outlook, a time of silence together might be a useful starting point.

I'm really looking forward to future sessions - sharing, learning and making new Friends" *Maria Martin, Chichester LQM and convener of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity inclusion group.*

Vivienne Ross, Elder

Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us.

Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 8

Lendwithcare – Update



Last March I wrote about our Brighton Quakers lendwithcare team. At the time of writing, we have now lent £4866.54 to 987 entrepreneurs in poorer countries using the website set up by Care International UK. If you would like to join our lending team, all you need is an email address and a Paypal account.

You can contribute from as little as £15 towards a loan to one of the site's entrepreneurs. When they have raised the amount

required from lenders, the loan is fulfilled by microfinance organisations on the ground. The loans allow an entrepreneur to borrow what they need for their business and helps them to stand on their own two feet financially.

When they have received a return on the investment they repay the loan through the microfinance lenders who repay the lender through lendwithcare.org. You, the lender, receive your share of repayments and can either withdraw the money to your Paypal account, or re-lend the money to another entrepreneur, making the same money go around again, doing even more good.

I have set up a lending team at <https://lendwithcare.org/teams/brightonquakers> for Brighton Quakers. Once you have signed up to the site, you can choose to credit your loans to our team, and you can do this anonymously if you wish.

The same pot of money can go round again and again helping many people achieve self-sufficiency through their own hard work. At the time of writing 150 loans have been made, supporting an estimated 3688 family members. This is with just four lenders! Imagine what the whole of Brighton Meeting could do!

Jason Evans

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.

Brexit

Meeting for Worship

Quakers across Europe are holding a joint meeting for worship at the time of the expected UK departure from the EU – the evening of **March 29**. The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) is inviting all Friends to join as individuals or Meetings. Simply gather together at the same time wherever you are. For those who wish, you can connect online to a meeting for worship being held close to the European Commission. The meeting is neither pro- nor anti-Brexit, but recognises Brexit's significance for many people. To register to connect with the online meeting visit: www.QCEA.org/BrexitMeeting
For more information, please email events@qcea.org

Susan White has offered to host an hour-long Meeting for Worship at her flat at 7pm that evening. It will be a meeting for healing in the light; whatever happens around Brexit, let's sit together in the stillness to invite the best possible outcome for all, and for healing. **Space is limited to 8 or 9 people at the most so please contact Susan if you plan to attend.**

Two articles on Brexit

A blog by Jessica Metherington on 5 things we can do to put Quaker values into Brexit:

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/5-things-we-can-do-to-put-quaker-values-into-brexit>

A blog by Paul Parker on talking about, *not* talking about, and *just* talking about Brexit – and what Quakers can offer in this turbulent time:

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/i-m-tired-of-just-talking-about-brexit>

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.

Inter Faith Contact Group



Annual General Meeting

A short AGM will be followed by brief presentations from popular and trusted members of our community who will talk from the heart about their personal core beliefs.

For more information see the back page.

Friends Meeting House,
Ship Street Brighton BN1 1AF

Sunday March 24 2019

2.30pm – 5pm

Interfaith Prayers – April 3

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

Holiday Accommodation – Dieppe

Lynne Ivison was an attender at Hampstead Meeting for 15 years. She moved to live in the middle of Dieppe, close to the ferry from Newhaven and the coach to Paris (cost of trip €9). She has a spare room where she is happy to provide accommodation for 1 or 2 women.

There is a studio with kitchen and bathroom downstairs where the guest would be completely independent.

Costs:

- €25 a night
- £120 a week
- £90 a week for a stay of 2 months or more.

It would be an ideal way to learn French, write a book or do some painting - there is a studio on the 4th floor.

Warm welcome and possibility of Meeting for Worship. 2 cats!!!

Lynne will be away in March and May this year and would offer the entire house for rent for £400 per month – maximum 4 people. The low rent would be because of care of 2 gorgeous cats. References would be needed.

Please contact Lynne Ivison

brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

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

Stansted 15

This is an interesting article by Mel Evans, one on the Stansted 15. She looks back on the trials and tribulations of the last few months and explains why the fight is nowhere near won. <https://bit.ly/2UmS6l8>

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 – March 17, 12 noon.

Topic: 'Developments in Quakerism'

Speaker: Ben Pink Dandelion.

Ben, formerly of Brighton Meeting, is Honorary Professor of Quaker Studies at Birmingham University, and he also tutors the MA in Quakerism in The Modern World at Lancaster University. He is uniquely well qualified to talk to us about developments in Quakerism worldwide, as well as within Britain Yearly Meeting. In 2014 he gave the Swarthmore Lecture: *Open for Transformation: Being Quaker* (a copy is in the library). Hugh Jones (who recently completed the MA) says: "Ben's talk promises to be a major attraction for all Friends and Attenders. I thought I knew quite a lot about Quakerism, but Ben's MA course made me realise how little I understood and appreciated the diversity of modern Quaker beliefs and life, within continuing unity."

The workshop will start at 12 midday and be followed by bring and share lunch.

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.

Brighton Young Quakers

Brighton Young Quakers 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! We meet together for tea and biscuits, worship, and an activity.

We welcome all those who identify as young adults, although for safeguarding reasons the lower age is 18. Those who are Quakers, Quaker-ish and Quaker-interested are all welcome. For more information please contact me.

Matt Alton

Appeals 2018

Clocktower Sanctuary

£183.11

South India Women's Training Centre	£ 71.72
Campaign Against the Arms Trade	£ 89.09
Sussex Night Stop	£ 98.51
Seeds and Pennies	£158.87
St Luke's Advice Centre	£ 67.21
Children of the Jordan Valley	£ 86.11
Moulescoomb Forest Garden Project	£ 49.48
Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice	£194.43
Voices in Exile	£ 56.74
Brighton LGBTQ+Switchboard	£129.51
Anti Slavery International	£248.34

Many Thanks to all donors.

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.

March 17

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.

March 17

April 7 & 21

May 5 & 19

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 at sianjasper@yahoo.com

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.
- September 15 2019 – Film – War School – militarization of schools

Third Sunday workshop – March 17

'Developments in Quakerism' with Ben Pink Dandelion. See Page 8

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 three groups covering the Brighton area.

East Group – Tuesday **April 2** at 7 pm. Please contact Alan Stratford for more information.

Hove Group – meet on the third Tuesday of the month - **March 19** at 7.30pm at Helen Ledger's home.

Meetings for Quaker business

The next **Meeting for Worship for Business (MWB)** is on Sunday **April 7** at 12 noon. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **March 31**. **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 March 16	Chichester
Saturday May 18	Littlehampton
Saturday July 20	Ditchling

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

Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings in 2019

Saturday March 23 – Littlehampton MH – Work of the Quaker Council for European Affairs

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

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 **April** newsletter is **Friday April 5**. The editor has 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.

**Since things neither exist nor don't exist,
are neither real nor unreal,
are utterly beyond adopting and rejecting -
one might as well burst out laughing.**

tibetan nyingma master - longchenpa rabjampa - 14th century

World prayers.org

*Convictions, Ideology, Faith,
Outlook, Core Beliefs, Philosophy,
Principles, World View, Fear,
Trust, Thoughts, Uncertainties*

Popular and trusted members of our community representing the Pagan, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, Baha'i and Sunday Assembly tell us about their **core beliefs...** from the heart.

We invite you to meet and talk with them at our Annual General Meeting... Join us for a brilliant discussion, some lovely and lively music and a splendid and delicious tea. You will be warmly welcomed.

www.interfaithcontactgroup.com

The Friegds Meeting House,
Ship Street
Brighton
BN1 1AF
Sunday
March 24
2019
2.30pm to
5pm



Supported by

