

# Brighton Friends News



A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

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[www.brightonquakers.net](http://www.brightonquakers.net)

Issue 327

## Welcome to Penny



On the afternoon of Sunday 30 January around 30 Friends and family of all ages came together for a short Meeting for Worship to welcome our two year old daughter, Penny. This was an event that had been postponed from June 2020. During the Meeting, the children present - many of whom were Penny's cousins - coloured in a piece of paper with the words 'Welcome Penny'.

Afterwards we had tea and cake. The cake was the bottom tier of our wedding cake when we married in the Meeting House in August 2019. During the Meeting Kate read the Mary Oliver poem *The Summer Day*.

*Phil Holtam and Kate Monson*

**Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care. Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God's gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours. How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do you invite them to share their insights with you? Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?**

*Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No. 19*

## The Summer Day

Read at Penny's welcoming Meeting for Worship.

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean -  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and  
down -  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated  
eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her  
face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?

*Mary Oliver (1935-2019)  
Pulitzer Prize winning poet.*

## Tuesday at Friends

### **PROGRAMME – SPRING SEASON 2022**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 15 | <b>The Crown Jewels</b> - by Pat Kingshott  |
| February 22 | <b>Motor Car Manufacturing in Brighton – A Short History</b><br>– by Duncan Cameron           |
| March 1     | <b>Transports of Delight</b> – by Ian Gledhill  |
| March 8     | <b>Brighton &amp; Hove's Basement: rocks &amp; soils under the city</b><br>– by Geoffrey Mead |
| March 15    | <b>History of Lewes Workhouse</b> – by Matthew Homewood                                       |
| March 22    | <b>The Changing Fortunes of Kingston Buci</b> – by Trevor Povey                               |
| March 29    | <b>50 years of Seaside Entertainment</b> – by Brian Freeland                                  |

## Ruth Audus

Hello, I'm Ruth Audus, the Local Development Worker for Meetings in Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire Border, following in the footsteps of Carrie Comfort who has moved on to pastures new. My job is to support Quaker meetings to thrive, and I interpret that as a remit to listen, support and respond to requests for help from both Local and Area Meetings. That help might be anything from pointing you in the direction of resources, to walking alongside and/or facilitating whilst Meetings work through processes of spiritual discernment. I am here to support Friends, sometimes with a listening ear, sometimes in more practical ways. My input will be guided primarily by you – my email address is [rutha@quaker.org.uk](mailto:rutha@quaker.org.uk).



A bit about me...I was brought up going to meeting in Portsmouth and I'm now a member of West Weald Area Meeting, and although I didn't go to meeting for the first twenty years of my adult life I've always thought of myself as Quaker. I live in Horsham and until recently that's been my local meeting – however my partner lives in Brighton so it's been easier over the last nine months or so to attend in Brighton. You may have seen me sitting in the corner of the Meeting Room, or occasionally on Zoom.

In 2019 I was privileged to begin the two year Equipping for Ministry (EfM) programme at Woodbrooke. EfM is designed to give a solid grounding in thinking about what it is to be a Quaker in the world today, and how you are personally called to live out that ministry. I started out thinking I would learn about the amazing impact I was going to have on the world through whatever my ministry turned out to be, and soon discovered there was a whole lot more equipping to be done before I came anywhere near ministry! Although the pandemic meant that the programme didn't run in the way it was originally planned, I don't think I would be in this job now had I not done it.

I have two grown up children, Jonathan in his second year of a maths degree in Birmingham and Catherine living and working in London. Over the years they have both been involved with young Friends, including my daughter who engaged briefly with Brighton Young Friends whilst she was living at home a few years ago. The Quaker friendships they have both formed over the years are some of the closest they have and that feels like a precious gift to have given them.

I am looking forward to working with Meetings across the region and to getting to know you all a whole lot better.

*Ruth Audus*

## Quaker Sanctuary Group

### **Supporting Refugees and Migrants in Brighton and Hove**

The Sanctuary Group has begun to look at how we can join the support in the city for recently arrived refugees and migrants who have been housed by the Home Office in hotels in Hove. There are different hotels for unaccompanied young people, and for adults and families. The food they are provided with is basic and generally not of the best quality. Our group has recently joined the Brighton and Hove Migrant and Refugee Support Group led by Sanctuary on Sea who welcome our ideas.

At our February Business Meeting it was agreed that our group develop plans to give the refugees the opportunity to be able to cook food from their own home cuisine for themselves. We would support with shopping for food and learning to use our currency, and this would provide a social time while cooking. This would need to be in small groups of perhaps 6-8 people at a time.

There is a great deal to plan for including whether to host the cooking at the Meeting House or possibly working in partnership with All Saints Church in Hove where regular fortnightly drop-in sessions have begun. All Saints is much closer to where the people are housed and have big kitchen space but are investigating Health and Safety issues. Transport to the Meeting House would need to be considered but it would be good to use our own facilities and welcome guests to our Meeting House. Other considerations are:

- how do we fund the cooking sessions and bus fares to the Meeting House or could we find a way to transport people to Ship Street?
- frequency of cookery/social events
- number of people involved at each session
- who will run the sessions?
- translators, can we find people with the language skills needed?

We need support from members of Local and Area Meeting, and invite you to consider joining with us in this exciting project. To be more specific:

- there are two families with two-month old baby boys who need clothes to grow into and safe clean baby toys; clean second hand is fine
- a couple expecting their first baby in April need baby clothes and will need a pram/ convertible buggy
- a qualified minibus driver available on a weekday
- anyone with an ESOL/TEFL qualification or prepared to help by supporting people to learn English.

If you would like to be involved in planning, delivering or funding this project please contact me or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).

*Helen Ledger on behalf of the Sanctuary Group*

## Please Call Me by My True Names

by Thich Nhat Hanh (October 11, 1926 – January 22, 2022)

Don't say that I will depart  
tomorrow —  
even today I am still arriving.

Look deeply: every second I am  
arriving  
to be a bud on a Spring branch,  
to be a tiny bird, with still-fragile  
wings,  
learning to sing in my new nest,  
to be a caterpillar in the heart of  
a flower,  
to be a jewel hiding itself in a  
stone.

I still arrive, in order to laugh and  
to cry, to fear and to hope.

The rhythm of my heart is the  
birth and death of all that is alive.

I am the mayfly metamorphosing  
on the surface of the river.  
And I am the bird  
that swoops down to swallow the  
mayfly.

I am the frog swimming happily  
in the clear water of a pond.  
And I am the grass-snake  
that silently feeds itself on the  
frog.

I am the child in Uganda, all skin  
and bones,  
my legs as thin as bamboo sticks.  
And I am the arms merchant,  
selling deadly weapons to  
Uganda.

I am the twelve-year-old girl,  
refugee on a small boat,  
who throws herself into the ocean  
after being raped by a sea pirate.  
And I am the pirate,  
my heart not yet capable  
of seeing and loving.

I am a member of the politburo,  
with plenty of power in my hands.  
And I am the man who has to pay  
his "debt of blood" to my people  
dying slowly in a forced-labor  
camp.

My joy is like Spring, so warm  
it makes flowers bloom all over  
the Earth.  
My pain is like a river of tears,  
so vast it fills the four oceans.

Please call me by my true names,  
so I can hear all my cries and my  
laughter at once,  
so I can see that my joy and pain  
are one.

Please call me by my true names,  
so I can wake up,  
and so the door of my heart  
can be left open,  
the door of compassion.

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

## Vigil for the earth

We come together to sit in powerful silence in witness to the suffering of our earth, with compassion and hope for her healing, reminding those who walk past about the climate and ecological crisis.

A quiet, safe, reflective activity offering a 'held space' to sit with our frustration, fear, grief, and to model a new way of being in relationship with each other and with the earth.



**VIGIL FOR THE EARTH**  
**BRIGHTON WAR MEMORIAL (OLD STEINE)**  
Every 3rd Friday of the month  
10.30am til 12 noon  
18th Feb/18th March/15th April etc 2022  
In love and grief for our earth  
Space for reflection, prayer and meditation  
All welcome - any faith or none  
MORE INFO: [HTTP://EARTHVIGIL.CO.UK](http://earthvigil.co.uk)

Remembering that those who have done least to cause this emergency are suffering its worst effects.

*Ruth Urbanowicz*

**For a Quaker, religion is not an external activity, concerning a special 'holy' part of the self. It is an openness to the world in the here and now with the whole of the self. If this is not simply a pious commonplace, it must take into account the whole of our humanity: our attitudes to other human beings in our most intimate as well as social and political relationships. It must also take account of our life in the world around us, the way we live, the way we treat animals and the environment. In short, to put it in traditional language, there is no part of ourselves and of our relationships where God is not present.**

*Harvey Gillman, 1988, Quaker Faith and Practice 2020*

## The Foodbank is back

FareShare are coming back to Meeting House.

Please bring food donations to Meeting House on Sunday mornings as FareShare will be coming to collect them.



*Terry Byrne, Warden*

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

# Interfaith Contact Group

## Monthly Interfaith Prayer Hour

Prayer hour will continue on the last Thursday of the month when we share inspirational poems and spiritual readings - Words of Connection.

As in-person prayer hours have been less well attended than Zoom ones, the IFCG propose to have 4 in-person prayer hours per year with the remainder on Zoom.

**24 February at 7pm** on Zoom



The first in-person Prayer Hour this year will be in June and will look at the theme of Refugees, to coincide with Refugee week. The exact date and venue to be decided.

## Fostering Friendships

A time for members of different faith groups to talk about events and festivals in their own faith communities.

**Wednesday 23 February 5pm** on Zoom - the theme will be 'What does it mean to belong to a faith Community?'

To join the Zoom meetings, please email Sheila Boyer, [secretaryifcg@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryifcg@gmail.com). All welcome of any faith or none. [www.interfaithcontactgroup.com](http://www.interfaithcontactgroup.com)

## IFCG Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on **Sunday 24 April at 2.30pm**. We very much hope, depending on the Covid situation, to hold it in person at The Friends' Meeting House. If this is not possible, it will be held on Zoom.

There will be a very short business meeting followed by a session looking at the theme - Faith and Mental health. We hope to have several speakers followed by a session for questions and discussion, and then by tea and cake.

All are very welcome

*Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger, IFCG representatives*

# Coronavirus – Staying in Touch with each other

## Message from Pastoral Friends

Following discernment at Brighton Local and Area Meetings, Overseers are now to be known as Pastoral Friends or the Pastoral Team.

During this period of COVID-19 we are trying to keep in touch with each other in our Meeting. Some people may feel more isolated than others. If you do need help or would just like Friends to hold you in the Light, please contact the Pastoral Friends. If finances are a problem, we may be able to help as we have access to grants.

The current **Pastoral Team** is: Terry Byrne, Steve Brooks, Lisa Compton, Annie Lieberman, Kate Mackrell, Dawn Speck, Alan Stratford. [bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com](mailto:bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com)

## Quaker Peace, Social Witness and Equality

### **QPSWE Gathering Update on Activism**

#### **Sunday 27 February 4-6pm via Zoom**

Update and share ideas and plans on: Climate Justice work, Craftivism, Becoming an Anti Racist Faith Community, Acknowledging and Welcoming Gender Diverse People, Peace, Refugees.

This meeting will be on a new online platform [Gather.Town](#).

### **Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community**

**Sunday 10 April** a working group to look at what more we need to do, and what are the steps we can take? If you wish to join either meeting please contact me or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).

*Mike Coote on behalf of QPSWE arrangements group*

## Clerking a meeting

Have you ever wondered about what goes into clerking a Quaker business meeting? Who decides what goes on the agenda? How does the clerk write the minute? What does the Assistant Clerk do? Etc. etc.?!

If you'd like to understand more about clerking, there will be a short workshop in the Meeting House on Saturday 19 March from 2.30 - 4.45pm. There will be an opportunity to discuss what is involved, demystify Business Meeting (BM) proceedings and even have a little go in a small safe group.

This is aimed primarily at people who would like to try clerking, but there is absolutely no obligation to sign up. Most clerks start by assisting at a couple of BMs before clerking a meeting. In Brighton we operate a clerks team of up to a dozen people so the responsibilities are shared. Most clerks take a turn two or three times a year. We also have clerks' "eating meetings" a couple of times a year when we plan the rota and discuss any issues.

For further information or to sign up, please contact me or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).

*Jane Rosenberg*

## A few brief - but wise - quotes

\* The world will never starve for want of wonders, but only for want of wonder - *G.K. Chesterton*.

\* Without community, there is no liberation... But community must not mean a shedding of our differences, nor the pathetic pretence that these differences do not exist - *Audre Lorde*.

\* By three methods we may learn wisdom. First, by reflection, which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest - *Confucius*.

*Submitted by Veronica Grocock*

"The peace testimony is about deeds not creeds; not a form of words but a way of living. It is the cumulative lived witness of generations of Quakers... The peace testimony is not about being nice to people and living so that everyone likes us. It will remain a stumbling block and will itself cause conflict and disagreement.

...The peace testimony, today, is seen in what we do, severally and together, with our lives. We pray for the involvement of the Spirit with us, that we may work for a more just world."

– London Yearly Meeting, 1993  
*Quaker faith & practice* 24.11



## Community in Action

**Coffee Mornings** via Zoom on Fridays at **11.00 am**. If you would like to join please email the clerk at [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com)

### **Being Friends Together**

Being Friends Together is a good opportunity to get to know Friends better, learn more about Quakerism and share spiritual journeys. Three groups continue to get together regularly via Zoom. If you would like to join please contact the elders via [bgelders@outlook.com](mailto:bgelders@outlook.com)

**Clerk's mailing list:** If you would like to receive email information and Quaker news from the clerks, you need to have completed a GDPR Form (re data privacy). These forms are available from the Pastoral Team by contacting: [bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com](mailto:bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com)

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

# The Hummingbird Refugee Project

Brighton based, The Hummingbird Project began in 2015 in response to the plight of refugees trapped in Calais and unable to progress on to the UK. They worked out in Calais in partnership with Medecins Sans Frontieres, offering weekend medical assistance. They recruited over two hundred builders to build and maintain shelters for those most at need, and community spaces such as schools and safe spaces. As winter kicked in their volunteers ran a kitchen giving out thousands of hot drinks and snacks alongside their medical clinic, as people queued to be seen. A safe space for young people, one as young as 8 who had travelled alone from Afghanistan, were served by their Safe Space. Work stopped when 'The Jungle' was torn down by the French authorities. Since then the project has developed work here in Brighton, to become an award-winning service providing a wide range of Youth-centre activities, all run to provide young refugees with the care and support they need.



They have six main areas of work:

- 1) **Hummingbird Learning Space**, a Homework Club which is a weekly drop-in educational and language support session with qualified teachers, that runs before Global Social Club on a Monday.
- 2) **Global Social Club (GSC)**, where their team welcome young people aged 14 to 25 from around the city and around the world.
- 3) **Young Women's Group**, a safe space for young women to focus and build on their existing skills and knowledge. For Young Women aged 16 to 25 coming from a refugee background.
- 4) **Young Leaders**, the Young Leaders programme is run in partnership with [TEDxBrighton](https://www.tedxbrighton.com/), working with young people to develop their confidence & skills. Hummingbird Young Leaders frequently speak at events and collaborate with the media.
- 5) **Be Well, Be Heard**, Specialist 1:1 Support. They offer specialist support to young refugees who may have experienced trauma and/or have significant difficulties in their life.
- 6) **Advocacy & Campaigns**, they run a wide range of powerful campaigns, promoting the protection and rights of refugees and asylum seekers, from meetings in parliament to parading on the streets!

Hummingbird is a project which puts young refugees and their specific needs right at the heart of all they do. Read more about their wonderful work at [Hummingbird Project](https://www.hummingbirdproject.org/). To donate please see details below.

*Helen Ledger*

## Appeals

Now that we have blended Meetings some Friends cannot put donations in our Appeal Box at Meeting House. Our chosen charities could lose out on much needed donations. If you can, please make your donation through the appeal's website <https://chuffed.org/project/support-for-local-young-refugees>.

Alternatively, you can send via the Meeting Treasurer. Just send a cheque or do a bank transfer:

Account name: Brighton Quaker Meeting

Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account number: 65009567

**Please do let our treasurer George know which appeal the payment is for.**

## The Friend – an offer

I have copies of The Friend for the past year. I was about to recycle them but then wondered if anyone would like to read back copies. Many of the articles and reviews are not time specific and I'd be delighted to pass them on. Please contact me or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).

*Jane Rosenberg*

## Brighton Meeting diary

### Meetings for Worship

#### **Regular Meeting for Worship**

A blended Meeting for Worship is held on **Sundays at 10.30 am**.

We no longer need to book to come to Meeting, all are welcome. Masks must still be worn in the Meeting House and in the Meeting Room, but this is under review. If you are not on the Clerk's email list and wish to join via Zoom please contact [bqelders@outlook.com](mailto:bqelders@outlook.com)

**A new midweek Meeting for Worship** - We now offer a Zoom Meeting for Worship on **Wednesdays, 8.30-9 pm**. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to join. We hope that Friends will welcome this as a time of quiet reflection in the middle of busy weeks. The meeting is also open to Friends from other Meetings in the area.

#### **Private Worship**

On **Wednesdays from 10.00am to 12.00** a room in the Meeting House will be available as a place for private worship/prayer. There will be no formality, just a quiet space set aside for Friends to be restful and peaceful without disturbance.

#### **Sunday evening Meeting for Worship**

In the light of changing Covid advice this seems like a good moment to re-start Sunday evening meeting for worship in the Meeting House. Friends and attenders will be welcome to join us for worship at **5 - 5.45 pm on Sundays, starting on Sunday 6 March**. There will be no computer screen at this meeting - it is "in person" only. For more information please contact Vivienne Ross or [bqelders@outlook.com](mailto:bqelders@outlook.com)

Face coverings will need to be worn in the Meeting House.

## Children's Meetings

The next Children's Meeting will be on Zoom on **Sunday 20 February at 10am**. For more information and the Zoom link please contact Christine Habgood or [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com).

We hope to arrange some in person meetings as soon as Covid allows.

## Workshops and community events

### Open Meeting

At the moment we do not have Open Meeting in the Quiet Room after a blended Meeting for Worship but we can now have tea and coffee and sit socially distanced in the Lecture Room for a chat.

Those on Zoom have the opportunity to go into 'breakout rooms' with 3 or 4 other people to have an informal chat about the Meeting before going back to the main Meeting for final goodbyes.

## Meetings for Quaker business

### Local Meeting for Worship for Business (BM)

**Thursday 3 March** at 6.30 pm. via Zoom.

Items for BM must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday 24 February**. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before BM. Please email [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com), or write to the Clerks c/o The Meeting House.

If you are a newcomer or attender and would like to join BM for the first time, please contact the Clerk, who will be able to explain the procedures. If you are not comfortable with Zoom please contact the Elders at [bgelders@outlook.com](mailto:bgelders@outlook.com).

Face coverings must be worn in the Meeting House.

### Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2022

Dates for the diary for this year

- **19 March**, 21 May, 16 July, 17 September, 19 November.

### Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings 2022

To be advised.

For more information, email [sussexandsurreyrmquakerclerk@outlook.com](mailto:sussexandsurreyrmquakerclerk@outlook.com)

### Notices

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to [brightonquakernotices@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernotices@gmail.com). The deadline for notices is Friday evening. Notices are still read out at the end of the Zoom and Blended Meeting for Worship on Sundays.

## Newsletter Contributions

This newsletter should 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](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

The deadline for the **March** newsletter is **Tuesday 1 March**. 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 shared.

To receive the newsletter by email please write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com). This is necessary to comply with GDPR.

