



Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

April 2021

www.brightonquakers.net

Issue 317

Brighton Meeting House, March 1851

Census of Great Britain, 1851

CENSUS OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1851.
(13 and 14 Victoriae, cap. 53.)

A RETURN
OF THE SEVERAL PARTICULARS TO BE INQUIRED INTO RESPECTING THE UNDERMENTIONED
MEETING-HOUSE OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

I.			II.	III.	IV.	V.		VI.			VII.
Where Situate; Specifying the			When Erected	Whether a Separate and Entire Building	Whether used exclusively as a Place of Worship	Space available for Public Worship in Meeting Houses used on Sunday, March 30, 1851.		Estimated Number of Attendants on Sunday, March 30, 1851			REMARKS.
Parish or Place	County	District				Admeasurement in Superficial Feet	Estimated Number of Persons capable of being Seated	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
(1)	(2)	(3)				(4)	(5)				
Ship Street Brighton	Sussex	Palace	1805	yes	yes	On the Floor or Area..... 1,600 In the Galleries 700 Total ... 2,300	340 160 500	135	95		

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct Return to the best of my belief. Witness my hand this thirty first day of third month 1851.

Signed by special appointment. Name Richard Patching
Address 26 Duke Street Brighton

N.B.—The Particulars to be inserted may be written longitudinally or across the columns, as may be more convenient.
(For instructions, see adjoining Page.)

Submitted by Tony Tree

Brighton Meeting House, March 2021

We have had this lovely visitor to our garden. He is a handsome male pheasant who arrived on the afternoon of Monday 29th and stayed until lunchtime on Wednesday 31st. He seems well enough; no signs of injury, and I think he was just enjoying the peace and quiet, and having the garden to himself.

At least he had 48 hours undisturbed in the garden and on Tuesday afternoon he seemed to be sunbathing for hours in the lovely sunshine.

Terry Byrne, Warden



Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

At Regional Meeting this month we learned about the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG) which supports the detainees at the Gatwick Immigration Removal Centres, and were reminded of Quaker Faith & Practice 23.11. It was a very good meeting but much of what we heard was distressing. At the same time we heard about courage and resilience.

The session was introduced by Roger Baker from Ifield Meeting who was among the first to volunteer as a Visitor at the Detention Centres. There were two speakers – Anna, who's in charge of the Welfare Group, and a Ghanaian called Pious who was himself a detainee before he became a Volunteer Visitor. They both began with their own stories. Anna told us that her father came here on the Kinder Transport and that all his family had been murdered by the Nazis. He didn't speak of that but instead gave her stories about acts of kindness – someone offering him a seat on a crowded train when he was very exhausted. Pious told a story of a driver who helped him to escape from the traffickers that held him. An act of courage as well as kindness we agreed.

We heard of the Detention Centres - that there are no windows, two people share a room with an open toilet. There is no privacy, no air. In the Interview Room there are nice padded chairs and a panic button on one side of a table, and on the other side are plastic chairs stuck to the floor; all dehumanising. At any one time Gatwick can hold 700 people. There is no support for refugees/asylum seekers, who can be waiting there from 3 months to 11 years. Some are literally taken from their homes without warning, having to leave with no clothes, other than those they were wearing. Basically, it's worse than prison, where you have a timed sentence. The UK is the only country in Europe which detains refugees indefinitely. Asylum Seekers are detained indefinitely, while terrorists are held for a set time.

There is a lot of concern about health – many detainees are ill because their health needs are not attended too, plus there is concern for the mental health of detainees. Pious has joined a group which campaigns for a 28 day limit on being held.

We heard of the experience of the Volunteer Visitors. Some detainees are too depressed to speak; some have sudden outbursts of anger. There is no use in expecting change but nevertheless it is a place of hope. Pious spoke of his Visitor, Mary. At first, he didn't want to talk or see anyone but she was patient, kept coming, and they became connected. She didn't ask about his refugee status but gave him hope; she talked about things outside, like football. This made his stay hopeful.

Anna saw a boy about 14 – she found it hard to understand that the officer only saw a detainee and not a boy. It was the same for a man whose house had been burnt down and his feet badly burnt. He was refused crutches because they could be used as a weapon. In the same way, no detainee is allowed a pen – also seen as a possible weapon, (again people in prison can have a pen).

We also heard about Refugee Tales, and I remembered that a group came to the Meeting House some time ago as part of their journey collecting tales. In Refugee Tales, poets and novelists retell the stories of individuals who have directly experienced Britain's policy of indefinite immigration detention. Presenting their experiences anonymously, as modern-day counterparts to the pilgrim's stories in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, the books offer rare, intimate glimpses into otherwise untold suffering. What we hear in these stories are the realities of the hostile environment; the human costs of a system that disregards rights; that denies freedoms and suspends lives. There are three volumes of Refugee Tales available to buy. We plan to buy all three for our Library.

Website for GDWG: <https://www.gdwg.org.uk/>
Refugee Tales: refugeetales@gdwg.org.uk

Vivienne Ross

We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party nor against the other ... but we are for justice and mercy and truth and peace and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our nation, and that goodness, righteousness, meekness, temperance, peace and unity with God, and with one another, that these things may abound.
Edward Burrough, 1659 Quaker Faith & Practice 23.11

How Meeting Works

I am offering two workshops on Zoom

On Saturday April 24, 2.15 – 4.30. We will explain the structure of our local Meeting as well as the wider context of Area Meeting, and Quakers nationally. What are Being Friends Together, Area Meeting, Children's Meeting, Information Group, Nominations, Overseers, Clerks? There are a lot of acronyms and Quakerspeak to confuse the newcomer. Where do we start to unpick all this? There will be opportunities to ask questions, break into small groups, and have a cup of tea - bring your own!

There will be a **follow up workshop on Saturday May 8, 2.15 – 4.30** which will look at Meeting for Worship for Business (MfWfB) in more detail and the role of the clerk. There will be an opportunity to try your hand at clerking in a small, safe space. There is no obligation to take this further but we hope that some people might be interested in trying clerking for real. Everyone starts as an Assistant Clerk and only clerks at MfWfB, also known as Business Meeting, when they feel ready. Brighton Meeting has a Clerks Team who rotate, so your turn would only come round once or twice a year.

If you are interested in joining either or both of the workshops, please email brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com and you will be sent the Zoom link in the week before the workshop. We hope to see you there!

Jane Rosenberg

Quaker Burial

The first Quaker Meetings for Worship in this area were held in 1656 in private homes in Rottingdean. In 1700 local Quakers took a 1,000 year lease for £105 on an area of land on the east side of (now) New Road. At the south end, on the corner of North Street, was a converted malthouse and this became the first Friends Meeting House in the area. The meadowland behind the Meeting House was known as Quakers' Croft, and a small section at the Church Street end was used as a burial ground until 1804, when we moved to our present Meeting House in Ship Street.

By 1790 the Royal Pavilion had been built by the Prince Regent. In the early 1800's he wished to expand his land and purchased the land behind our Meeting House. He then built his new Riding School on the site of the burial ground. Later this building became the Corn Exchange.

In 2017 major renovations were made to the Corn Exchange and 15 undisturbed graves were found along with 5 broken-up skeletons. They were believed to be Quakers. The remains were carefully lifted and taken to the Archaeology South East office where they were cleaned and looked at in detail by the osteological team.

On Tuesday June 26, 2018 the remains were reburied at Lawns Memorial Cemetery, Warren Road, Woodingdean. The Meeting for Worship was attended by local Friends, and representatives of Area Meeting, Brighton & Hove Council and the archaeology team. Vivienne Ross was Elder for the Meeting and read from Faith and Practice 22.95.

This stone was laid on the grave by Brighton & Hove Council with words that had been agreed by Brighton Meeting.



Jackie Robinson and Tony Tree

.... Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is omnipresent. In this divine glass, they see face to face; and their converse is free, as well as pure. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present, because immortal.

William Penn, 1693, Quaker Faith & Practice 22.95

Quaker Peace, Social Witness and Equality Group

Background

This is an initiative of an informal group (QPSWE umbrella group) of Friends in Brighton Local Meeting that is open to participation from all Friends and attenders in Sussex West Area Meeting. It stemmed from the recognition that Friends across the Area Meeting are putting their faith into action in many and varied ways. The connections between peace building, climate justice, equality and social justice are clear, and Quakers have a distinctive contribution to make as individuals, members of Local Meetings, and through Quaker groups locally and nationally.

The Group's draft terms of reference were circulated to Local Meetings in January ahead of an open meeting held on Zoom on 13 February. These propose ways to support, encourage and coordinate activism by Friends and their allies across the Area Meeting. The aim is not to control, but to enable all to make their contribution, to reflect and develop what we can do. Individuals and Local Meetings will continue to follow their leadings, and the hope is that we will be stronger by supporting and learning from each other.

Open Meeting held on 13 February

Twenty three Friends from across the Area Meeting met to share ideas on what they were already doing and how we could co-operate and share ideas and skills.

A wide range of information and experience was shared from everyone present, under broad headings of asylum and refugee issues; peace and disarmament; environment; equality; homelessness; mental health training; hospice visiting, and craftivism. From this sharing, a rich variety of ideas about the collaborative ways of working together emerged. It was clear that many Friends present are actively engaged both within their Local Meetings and as members of national and local organisations. It was also evident that knowledge about what individual friends were doing was not widely known across the Area Meeting. It was noted that there is a reticence by many Quakers to talk about what we do and share with others as a way of encouragement. Some Friends present were wanting to listen to the experiences of others before committing themselves to getting more involved.

Conclusions

Some conclusions from the discussions were:

- The value of sharing expertise and supporting those who know little about, or are new to, an area of work
- An opportunity to reflect and share thoughts about campaigning and advocacy
- Some hesitancy in starting work for fear of being overwhelmed
- The value of thinking about sharing workloads and ideas, and of talking with other Local Meetings
- The importance of considering the spiritual under-pinning of all we do
- Reading, study and self-development are forms of activism too
- Our ability to use Quaker money and investments to further our testimonies.

Next steps

The umbrella group met again on 1 March and agreed the following:

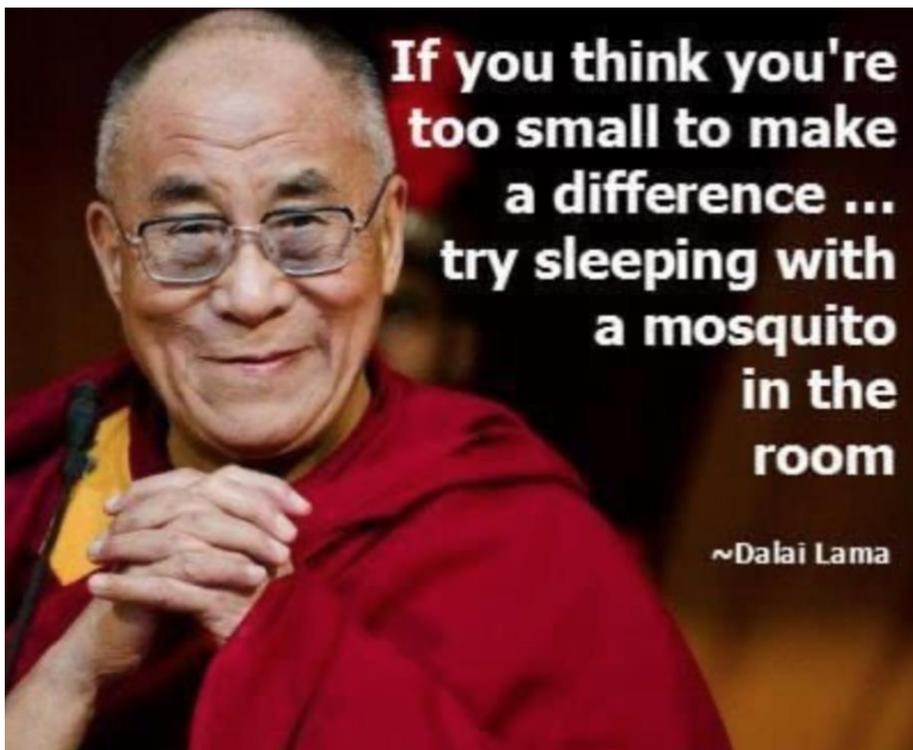
- Communications: to create links between groups throughout the Area Meeting by encouraging use of the Sussex West Intranet, and by an email alert system about urgent actions
- Full representation on the umbrella group: it was vital that all Local Meetings in Sussex West AM be represented on the umbrella group, and would be invited to do so. Some of the present group would step down to allow for new members.
- Support for the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21st March 2021 (marked in the UK on 20th March). The theme of this year's day was youth standing up against racism. Brighton Local Meeting wrote a press and media statement fully supporting this aim and emphasising that Equality and Justice is a core belief within our Quaker testimonies. This inspires us to try and change the systems that cause injustice.
- The next QPSWE meeting open to all Friends and attenders in the Area Meeting will be held in May.

Recommendations

Area Meeting is asked to:

- Note the formation of the QPSWE and its terms of reference
- Encourage all Local Meetings to be represented on the umbrella group
- Encourage all Local Meetings to include details of their Local Meeting groups on the Area Meeting Intranet, together with a name and email address of the person to contact for each group.

*QPSWE Umbrella Group
March 2021*



Brighton Quaker Children's Meeting

Since March 2020 the children have been meeting on Zoom every few weeks. One of the delights has been that we are not limited by geography; we have been joined by children with links to Brighton Meeting now living in Scotland, Sweden and Geneva, and children from other meetings in Sussex West Area Meeting.

During our last meeting of 2020 we looked back at some of the themes we have covered, and we thought that others in the Meeting might like to see what we have been doing, so we created a Power Point presentation which is available on the [Brighton Meeting website](#). We can only give a tiny glimpse and cannot show many of the activities, like playing African percussion music on instruments we made during the Zoom meeting, or the excitement of running around our houses counting numbers of toilets and taps. All of our meetings include some fun, an activity, some listening time, a focus on Quaker themes, and a few moments of silence. We've posted the powerpoint on the Brighton Meeting website and hope that Friends will keep the children in their thoughts.

Other children and families would be very welcome to join us; please contact Helen Ledger for the Zoom link, which changes very meeting.

Brighton Children's Meeting

Building up our soil

Soil, along with water, are two of the things on which we depend for our lives.

- Soil is now understood to be a highly complex living ecosystem if not treated with chemicals which disturb the balance.
- A single teaspoon (1 gram) of rich garden soil can hold up to **one billion bacteria**, several yards of fungal filaments, **several thousand** protozoa, and scores of nematodes.
- Rich healthy soil feeds the plants we eat.
- Plants grown in such conditions have stronger immune systems so are more resilient, less susceptible to pests and bacteria, and can usually survive without constant watering.

Such rich nutrient dense soil is called humus. With the unpredictable weather and swift changes in climate we need resilient edible plants.

I want to build up the soil in the garden where I live and I'm wondering if anyone would like to join me in 6 weekly Zoom sessions to share our knowledge and our experiences of building our soil ready for this year's growing season. Although it is now April it's never too late to work on our soil. And it's always good to pool our knowledge.

Please contact me if you're interested Details in the Contact Book or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

Susan White (Brighton Meeting)

Inter Faith Contact Group

IFCG have two monthly Zoom meetings:

Monthly Interfaith Prayers

We share inspirational poems and spiritual readings – Words of Connection, on the last Thursday of the month. The next prayer hour will be on **Thursday April 29 from 7 – 8pm.**

Fostering Friendships

On the third Wednesday of each month members of different faith groups talk about events and festivals in their own faith communities.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday April 21 from 5:00 – 6:00pm.**

All welcome of any faith or none. www.interfaithcontactgroup.com

Please contact Sheila Boyer at brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com for details of both Zoom meetings.

Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger IFCG representatives



Hypnotherapist in training

Friends might recall that I am studying for a certificate in hypnotherapy. Hypnosis is a natural state similar to that we all go through when we fall asleep at night, and hypnotherapy is – despite its name (and other associations with sleep) – a state of heightened awareness a little like mindfulness. In fact, US hypnotherapy entrepreneur Grace Smith describes hypnosis as “meditation with a goal”.

I am now almost half-way through my course and looking for opportunities to practice. If you have ever been curious about hypnosis or would just like to try a deep relaxation exercise, and would like to volunteer as a practice client, please get in touch. I can offer a gentle relaxation based simply on progressive muscle relaxation, over Zoom, to anyone in good health who I have already met in person. It is rather like being read a bedtime story! Just contact me in the usual way if you are interested.

Jason Evans

Accommodation Sought

Hello Friends,

Jesse and I are looking to rent some accommodation temporarily between now and September. It could be anything from a couple of rooms to a house, for between one and six months. Please contact me by email or mobile, details in the Contact Book, or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com if you might know of anything suitable. Thank you.

Caroline Kendall

A Quaker 'Brand' Experiment

We are planning to run some sessions on Zoom to explore what distinctive benefits Quakers may have to offer potential new attenders in the post-pandemic era. Deeper meaning? Enhanced human connection? Opportunities to be involved in collaborative action for social change?

To this end we will be looking at some current Quaker messaging in the context of how other organisations and brands in this area are responding to people's needs and aspirations at what could be a moment of profound transformation – or of return to the old 'normal' and more of the same.

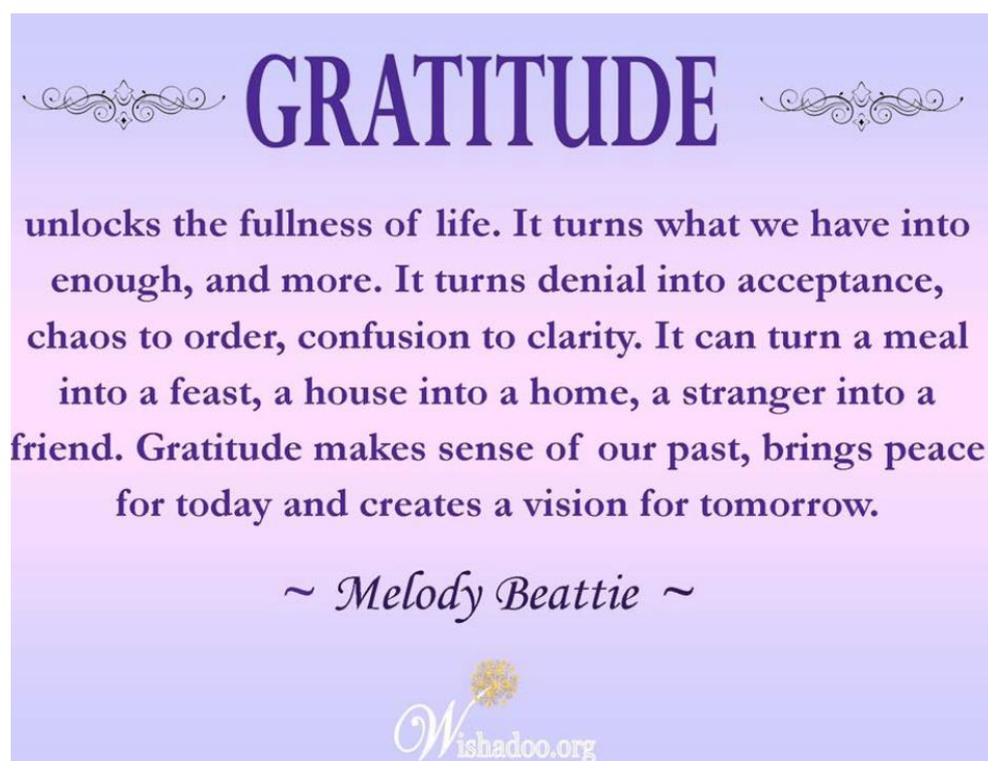
The aim of the sessions (3 X 2 hour workshops spaced a week apart) is to come up with some good new Information and Outreach ideas for Quakers in general and Brighton Meeting specifically. Ideas that will speak to potential new attenders, and particularly to a younger, more diverse audience. The workshops will be run using a creative methodology which has been highly successful in the branding world in recent years, and is now being rolled out for volunteers, activists, organisations offering a window into spiritual development, and positive world changers at large.

For more on the approach, please have a look at this link (and see more about the people who will run our workshop under Trainers).

<https://www.mrs.org.uk/event/training-courses/advanced-semiotics-masterclass-nov19>

If you would like to put your name forward for participation in the workshops or be involved in any other way please contact me (details in the Contact Book) or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

Malcolm Evans



Tuesday at Friends

In 1945, as the country began to recover from the ravages of the Second World War, Brighton Quakers established a centre for adult education in the Meeting House. Named the Friends Centre, the vision of the project was to build on the use of the building during the war, when soldiers stationed in Brighton and many townspeople came in to find companionship, support, varied educational activities and even dancing on Friday evenings.

In 1959, as part of the Friends Centre, our much-missed Friend Pat Norman set up a series of talks each Tuesday afternoon during term times. Speakers came from a wide range of backgrounds to talk on many different subjects, from dinosaurs in prehistoric Sussex, the lives of famous people, the night sky, birdlife on the South Downs, to the many people sleeping rough on the streets, and other important social issues. The range of talks was huge and each lasted one hour, with a presentation, and was followed by tea and biscuits. For some there was also the opportunity to do gentle keep fit in the main room afterwards when all the chairs had been cleared.

After 55 years, Pat retired from Tuesday at Friends in 2014 and her place was taken by Alan Cooke who built on her amazing work by expanding the range of speakers and increasing the audiences. A lot of people have attended the talks over the years and it has been a valued part of many people's lives. It has also been important to us to welcome them to our Meeting House which is open to everyone.

With the pandemic there have been no talks since March 2020 and Alan has now retired. Finance & Property Committee want to explore the idea of continuing the talks, possibly from January 2022, if not before. It may be an opportunity to continue a rich heritage of adult education in the Meeting House.

If you would like to discuss this and to find out more please contact me at admin@brightonquakers.net or ring 01273 770258.

Terry Byrne, Warden

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (I Cor 12:4–7)

It is a responsibility of a Christian community to enable its members to discover what their gifts are and to develop and exercise them to the glory of God.

Quaker Faith & Practice 3.22

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

Please make donations to the foodbanks in your supermarkets. Alternatively, you can bring donations to Meeting House on Wednesday mornings 10 – 12.

Sussex West Area Quaker Meeting – Intranet

Sussex West Area Quakers now have a new website and a new Intranet site. Both have been built on a template devised nationally by Quakers for Quakers.

The website can be found at sussexwestquakers.org.uk. Take a look at the beautiful layout designed by Annie Holliday from Littlehampton Meeting!

An Intranet is a website intended for a closed user group, in this case members and attenders of Sussex West Area Quakers. This currently holds Notices, a calendar of Area Events, a Discussion Forum and some documents including Area Meeting minutes. The Area is planning to make much greater use of this facility, and all ideas will be gratefully received.

Before you can view the material on the Intranet, you will need to register. This process is very straightforward. Members and attenders of Brighton local meeting should contact Michael Richardson, your local administrator mxrichardson06@gmail.com. He will email you a weblink which you can click on to take you to the registration site. You then enter your name, email address and a password of your choice. Tick a few more boxes, and that's it! Your request will be flagged up automatically to Annie Holliday who is running our Intranet on behalf of the Area Meeting. Provided that you are either in the Contact Book or are otherwise known to the Meeting, she will authorise your access and you will receive an automated email welcoming you. You can then use your email address and password to log on to the site using a web page which you will be given. Give it a try!

Michael Richardson

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

This is a reminder to send a letter to your MP encouraging them to work to eliminate these weapons of mass destruction which are now held to be illegal by the UN. A letter has been sent from Sussex West Area Meeting to the MPs but they are more likely to read and act on letters from individual constituents.

Sample template letters, along with instructions, were sent to those on BrightonMeeting's mailing list on March 24. They are also on the Area Intranet (Menu > Files > Area Meeting > Correspondence). If you do not have access to either of these please write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com, giving your MP's name and I will send you the relevant information. Please change the template to personalise your letter.

Jackie Robinson, Editor

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.

Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No. 1

Coronavirus - Staying in Touch with each other

Message from Overseers

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 Overseers. If finances are a problem we may be able to help as we have access to grants.

Overseers - Jane Rosenberg, Terry Byrne, Alan Stratford, Barbara Barber, Annie Lieberman & Kate Mackrell bqoverseers@outlook.com

International Conscientious Objectors Day - May 15

Brighton and Hove WILPF group (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) invite Friends to join them for this year's action in solidarity with Conscientious Objectors (CO's) past and present.

WILPF members will be in the Meeting House garden at a date in late April making banners and placards commemorating local CO's including Brighton Quakers. This will be filmed and sent to the Peace Pledge Union for a film they are making for International Conscientious Objectors Day. WILPF would be delighted for Friends to join us for this event and to hear from anyone about any relatives or others they know about who were CO's, as we wish to name them on our placards.

On **Saturday May 15** WILPF will hold a stall with the banners and placards and relevant information, outside the Unitarian Church on New Road; timings for this will be confirmed on 1st May.

For more details please contact me (details in the Contact Book) or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

Helen Ledger

Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Are you open to new light, from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?

Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No. 7

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

Please make donations to the foodbanks in your supermarkets. Alternatively, you can bring donations to Meeting House on Wednesday mornings 10 – 12.

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

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

Clerk's mailing list - if you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact the Overseers at bgoverseers@outlook.com who will send you a GDPR form to complete.

Meeting House during Third Lockdown

The Meeting House reopens for room hire from **April 12**, during daytime only, and we will continue to follow government guidelines.

The building will still be open each **Wednesday** for private worship from **12noon to 2.00pm**. The garden remains open each weekday morning.

The office will remain open and emails regularly checked, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Sunday Meeting for Worship at 10.30am continues on Zoom.

**Never be afraid to try something new.
Remember,
Amateurs built the Ark;
Professionals built the Titanic.**

Appeals

In these strange times we cannot put donations in our Appeal Box. Our chosen charities could lose out on much needed donations. If you can, please make your donation through the appeal's website <https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk>. Alternatively, you can send via the Meeting Treasurer. Just send cheques or bank transfer.

Account name: Brighton Quaker Meeting

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account number: 65009567

Please do let George know which Appeal the payment is for.

Quaker Tapestry - Appeal

The Quaker Tapestry consists of 77 panels and is a unique embroidered set which illustrates Quaker lives, experience, spiritual values, social history and concerns from the 1650s to the present. They are a great educational tool and needs your support to continue the outreach.

The Tapestry is permanently on display, along with many other Quaker exhibits, in The Quaker Tapestry Museum, which is in half of the Kendal Meeting House in Cumbria.

Like most museums their income has been greatly depleted in the past year. They need continued support to 'Revive, Survive and Thrive'. You can contribute in 3 ways:

- **Become a Quaker Tapestry Member** – [Annual subscriptions or Life Memberships](#) are available and you can gift Membership for a friend/family member.
- **Donate** by using [this link](#). Every donation, large or small, is important to them. Gift Aid makes your donation go even further!
- **Buy lovely things from** their [online shop](#).

Your membership, donation or purchases will help them to preserve and exhibit one of the world's largest community embroideries, and share its stories, history (Quaker stories and history), and stitches for all to enjoy.

For more information or to donate go to <https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk>

Jackie Robinson

Brighton Meeting diary

Meetings for Worship

Regular Meetings for Worship

Brighton Meeting House is temporarily closed but we have an online Meeting for Worship via Zoom on Sundays - 10.30-11.30 am. After Meeting we go into Breakout Rooms where we can discuss the Meeting and get to know each other.

If you would like to join online please email bgelders@outlook.com.

Children's Meetings

These will be held via Zoom from 10 – 11am on the third Sunday of the month.

April 15

May 20

June 17

The Meetings will be led by Mike Coote, Christine Habgood and Helen Ledger.

If you would like to join please contact Helen Ledger or

brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com

Workshops and community events

Open Meeting

We can no longer have Open Meeting in the Quiet Room but after Meeting for Worship via Zoom on Sundays, we have the opportunity to go into 'breakout rooms' with 3 or 4 other people to have an informal chat about the Meeting before we go back to the main Meeting for final goodbyes.

Meetings for Quaker business

The next MWB is on **Thursday May 6** at 6.30 pm. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday April 29**. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB. Please email brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com or write to clerks c/o The Meeting House.

If you are a newcomer or attender and would like to join MWB, please contact the Clerk, who will be able to explain the procedures. If you are not comfortable with Zoom please contact the Elders at bqelders@outlook.com

Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2021 May 15 via Zoom

July 17 at Ditchling

September 18 at Bognor Regis

November 20 at Brighton

Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings provisional programme for 2021

Saturday June 26 - 'Reaching Out to Russia' 10.30 – 15.30 at Dorking Quaker Meeting House

Saturday September 25 - 'We are all Quakers: a non-theist, a Christian and a Buddhist-Quaker explore what each can offer Quakerism' 10.30 -15.30 at Eastbourne Quaker Meeting House

Saturday November 27 - 'How do we reach and welcome people to Quakers in the C21st?' 10.30 -15.30 at Woking Friends Meeting House

All members and attenders are very welcome!

We hope to meet in person from June, public health situation permitting.

For more information email: sussexandsurreymquakerclerk@outlook.com

All Area and Regional Meetings start at 10.30

Notices

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to

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

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 **Tuesday May 4**. 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 please write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com. This is necessary to comply with GDPR laws.

St Finan's Bay by Zing

Through peat fires
on cold Irish evenings
reflections of the day
dash and flicker.

Yesterday, the beach,
golden against white surf.
Rolling inward, seaward, backwards and forwards.
Yesterday, the rocks of time,
Immovable, untouchable,
glisten in the spray, pounding and crashing.

Forever the island;
islands folk-less, sheep filled,
stand still touching strangers,
sparking the imagination.

Grey smoke curls
upwards toward night skies.
Hazy memories float
gently and lazily.
They've gone in a flicker,
Through peat fires, smoke returns
obscuring the memory's warmth.

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