



# Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

March 2021

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

Issue 316

**As Friends we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us. We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love:  
all our testimonies grow from this leading.**

*Quaker Faith & Practice 1.01*

## An Enquirers' Meeting

We are offering a short Q&A session for people new to our Quaker Meeting. Two people have kindly offered to talk about their life as a Quaker and there will be time for questions. The meeting will be at **9.30 until 10.15 on Sunday March 14.**

If you would like to join us please email Dave Hamilton, details in Contact Book, or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

*Dave Hamilton, Kate Mackrell and Susan White*

## How Meeting Works

I always think of Meeting for Worship (MfW) as the heart of our Quaker Meeting and I see Meeting for Worship for Business (MfWfB) as the head. We have all experienced the special quality of silence and community in MfW and there are many books and conversations that help us to broaden our understanding. You can join in worship with no previous knowledge, and for some people that is enough. Most people want to know a bit more about who organises the Meeting, who the Elders are and what they do, who funds this, who looks after this lovely building, what does membership mean, etc. etc.

MfWfB (also known as Business Meeting or BM) is a good place to start finding out about the mechanics of Meeting. Most people find that the more they get involved in the Meeting, the more they get out of the experience. As soon as we become more familiar with Brighton Meeting, we realise there are lots of other activities – Being Friends Together, Area Meeting, Children's Meeting, Information Group, Nominations (What on earth is that?!), Overseers, Clerks .... There are lots of acronyms and Quakerspeak to confuse the newcomer. Where do we start to unpick all this?

**On Saturday April 24, 2.15 – 4.30** we are running a workshop on Zoom to answer some of these questions. We will explain the structure of our local Meeting

as well as the wider context of Area Meeting and Quakers nationally. 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 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 to try clerking for real. Everyone starts as an Assistant Clerk and only clerks a MfWfB when they feel ready. Brighton Meeting has a Clerks Team who rotate, so your turn only comes around once or twice a year.

If you are interested in joining the workshops, please email [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto: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*

## With A Tender Hand

'The kind of community we aspire to create together as Friends is all of a piece with our spiritual lives and how we hope to make a difference in the world. This is an ambitious aim that calls for our attention and our care; such a community doesn't come about by chance.

'How can we make our Meeting a place where the Spirit thrives, where people feel included and cared for, and which nourishes outward ministry? Since the earliest days Friends have been asking these questions and creating workable answers that meet the changing needs of Friends'.

These words are from 'With a Tender Hand' by Zelig Gross, a resource book for Eldership and Oversight within our Quaker Meetings.

Each Sunday morning when our Meeting for Worship concludes, the Elder and the Overseer for the day are named. Most Quaker Meetings have Friends in these roles, to undertake particular duties, but they probably need some explaining to someone new to meeting.

Other Christian denominations have ordained clergy who offer spiritual leadership and pastoral support to their congregations. But from the very beginning of the Religious Society of Friends, which has no ordained ministers, both women and men have been appointed to provide this much needed spiritual and pastoral care for their communities.

Despite the possibly hierarchical titles, Elders and Overseers work to uphold and sustain the Quaker Meeting rather than officiate and preside over it. Elders and Overseers seek to work alongside everyone in the Meeting; we are all equal.

Part of the work of Elders is to support our Meetings for Worship and to encourage and nourish our spiritual life as a community. Elders seek to guide participants to a deeper awareness of our worship and our following of the Quaker way. They ensure our Meetings are held in good order and that all may feel fully welcome, included and able to join in as much as they can. Because of this you may occasionally hear an Elder interrupt ministry during a Meeting for Worship which

they discern to be inappropriate or too lengthy, or they may even ask for no more ministry at a Meeting when much has been spoken. The Elders meet regularly to support the Meeting in worship and spend time discussing how they can foster and care for the Meeting's spiritual life. Everybody is welcome at a Quaker Meeting and hopefully feels supported and upheld as they become part of the community.

Pastoral care is especially offered by the Overseers. Regular meetings are also part of the Overseers' routine to hold the Quaker Meeting in the light and to discuss more fully how they may practically support the community as a whole, and also individuals within Meeting. Support ranges from being available as a first stop for those needing someone to speak to, and looking out for members and regular and new attenders. Support also includes contacting someone who has not been seen for a while, keeping in touch with a wide range of members/attenders, and being aware of any possible need such as arranging access to funds to go on a Quaker related course or to cover a financial difficulty. Overseers particularly have responsibility to advise attenders thinking about membership, and to ensure that any application is carefully handled.

Elders and Overseers are appointed for three-year terms and frequently each one does two terms before laying down the role for others to take up.

As a community it is important that we all support each other and this is summed up so well in a quote from Quaker Isaac Penington in 1667, *'Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.'*  
Quaker Faith & Practice 10.01

Currently the Elders are Angela Bargawi, Jason Evans, Christine Habgood-Coote, Dave Hamilton, Vivienne Ross, Susan White. Contact: [bjelders@outlook.com](mailto:bjelders@outlook.com)  
Overseers are Barbara Barber, Terry Byrne, Chris East, Stella East, Annie Lieberman, Kate Mackrell, Jane Rosenberg, Alan Stratford. Contact: [bqoverseers@outlook.com](mailto:bqoverseers@outlook.com)

## Inter Faith Contact Group

### **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 March 25 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 March 17 from 5:00 - 6:00pm.** All welcome of any faith or none. [www.interfaithcontactgroup.com](http://www.interfaithcontactgroup.com)



Please contact Sheila Boyer at [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com) for details of both Zoom meetings.

*Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger IFCG representatives*

## Chinese New Year – Year of the Ox

In the Chinese Zodiac the Year of the Ox is from February 12 2021 to January 31 2022.  
If you were born in 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, or 2009 this is your year.



The Jade Emperor called to the animal world  
"I am an Immortal, (as you must have heard).  
To join me here up on Mount Penglai  
You must cross the Great River that between us doth lie."

"By crossing the river you will each pass the test  
And a Year will be given to Twelve of the best  
The Lunar New Year tomorrow begins  
Sleep well and 'honour' to whoever wins."

Now the Cat, determined to join in the race,  
Asked the Rat to wake him, just in case  
He slept as usual all through the day  
And missed his chance of getting away.

But The Rat decided, deep in his heart  
To leave the Cat sleeping and head for the start.  
Which is why, you now find, wherever you go  
That The Cat, that was left, is the Rat's darkest foe.

The good natured Ox was soon at the river  
But the sight of his task sent him all of a dither.  
He plodded through life, took all in his stride,  
But didn't believe he could make the far side.

Now the Rat saw all this and thought of a plan.  
"Don't worry about it I'll help you, old man.  
I'll sit on your head, get the very best view  
And guide you across, you're sure to win through."

The Ox, he agreed "You have solved all my fears,  
Climb up on my head and sit twixt my ears."  
And there the Rat sat whilst the Ox swam across,  
But with seconds to landing he showed who was boss.

He leapt from his perch with an energy burst  
Making sure, of all animals, he was the First.  
The Ox shook his shoulders and as the Rat beckoned  
He ambled ashore - "Who cares if I'm Second."

The Tiger was Third, though far faster of course,  
But a very strong current had knocked him off course.  
The Rabbit was Fourth having clung to a log  
But he'd found the crossing a very hard slog.

And just when he thought no more strength could he find  
He was blown to the shore by a strong wind behind.  
Now the wind that was blowing to keep him afloat  
Had come all the way from the good Dragon's throat.

The Dragon was late, for that morning he learnt  
Of a village on fire, and to stop them being burnt  
He blew out the flames, then set off at a pace,  
Which is why this kind creature came Fifth in the race.

The Horse it was clear should be Sixth to arrive  
But the Snake round his leg had smuggled a ride  
And leapt for the shore like the rat did perforce,  
So, The Snake was the Sixth, and the Seventh the Horse.

The Sheep and The Monkey along with The Rooster  
In order to give their attempt a good booster,  
Not liking the water they used lots of craft  
And crossed the great river upon their own raft.

But the squabbling began when they got to the shore  
There was pushing and shoving and all of them swore  
The Sheep came in Eighth, and by almost a length  
The Monkey was Ninth and The Rooster was Tenth.

Now the Dog was the first in the river that day  
But once in the water it wanted to play,  
Whilst the Pig had got peckish and decided to eat  
And after he'd eaten he needed a sleep.

So the dog when he got there at quarter to seven  
Discovered alas he was number Eleven.  
The Twelfth was the Pig, so disgruntled to find,  
That all of the others had left him behind.

Now each of the creatures have each their own year  
And once every Twelve years they each do appear  
And the Cat, without envy, whilst licking a paw,  
Said "You know, I really didn't want that kind of responsibility in the first place."

*David Fielder*

**... Since I was small I have had the Chinese attitude to time,  
that time passes imperceptibly and the joys of life are worth waiting for.**  
*Hilary Pimm, 1983 Quaker Faith & Practice 21.63*

## New Economy Group

The final booklet in the New Economy Series.

### **Booklet 7** - Review

The last session of our summer reading group was based on *Building the New Economy* and brought together the strands that we had been considering in the previous six sessions. The booklet asks how we bring about a just transition to a new economy. We looked at:

*Who built today's economic system? What principles make up this system and what impact does this have on our society and the environment? How do we build an economy based on Quaker principles? Why do we need a just transition? Who do we need to work with to get there?*

This meant looking at the history of neo-liberalism, the current economic system, and seeing its incompatibility with Quaker principles. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the task but we were reminded that it will probably take generations to achieve real change. We recognised that small steps taken with others have an impact and that the journey is as important as the destination.

*"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results from your action but if you do nothing, there will be no result." Mahatma Gandhi*

We considered building blocks for change:

- 1) Understanding ourselves – why are we called to this work and how do we understand our role? This means recognising our power and privilege.
- 2) Building the alternative – demonstrating another way of existing e.g. moving our money, working co-operatively and collaboratively, extending the gift economy.
- 3) Confronting the old – challenging existing systems through action, namely activism and campaigning.
- 4) Building the movement – supporting the right kind of leadership for this work and recognising that upholding others in acts of solidarity and support is as important as direct action.
- 5) Changing the story; who is speaking and what are they saying?

*Speaking out in the world is an essential part of our religious and social witness. Friends are encouraged to express their faith and values whenever suitable opportunities arise, and to use the media confidently for public comment on our concerns. (Quaker Faith and Practice 3.27)*

This booklet offers many practical and feasible ideas for action, such as

- Join a union
- Spend your money and invest in ethical businesses
- Support the Living Wage campaign
- Switch your energy supplier

- Challenge fracking and fossil fuel extraction
- Change your bank account
- Participate in time banks / alternative currencies
- Campaign against cuts, closures and privatisation of public services
- Support access to public services for migrants, non-binary people, women and people with disabilities.

We learned that we need to prepare ourselves for action by

- Embracing complexity
- Building trusting relationships
- Maintaining hope
- Working sustainably
- Allowing for discomfort
- Working with others – generous, inclusive movements.

We were encouraged to look at our Meeting's resources; financial, buildings, land, people, co-ordinations and infrastructure that we can offer.

*'Spiritual activism: Quakers can bring a values-led and spiritual narrative to social change. Non-violence and dignified peaceful conduct has a moral authority that can make a powerful contribution to wider movements. Quaker Activism is rooted in a spiritual practice that can uphold those engaged in frontline action.'* Page 25

We were reminded that Quakers have over 350 years of radical action - early Friends were accused of being "sowers of sedition" and "turners of the world upside down".

I found these booklets and the discussion in the reading group very helpful and learned so much! Faced with the enormity of the challenges confronting us, it was good to be reassured that we can all do something; we don't have to do everything; we don't have to do it alone and we don't have to do it all at once! I would urge everyone to read the booklets and, if you can, get another reading group going.

*Jane Rosenberg*

The structure of the New Economy reading groups is set out at

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/new-economy>.

The booklets are well put together for individual reading, but discussion does add depth and insight. If there is interest in a second reading group, Zoom remains a good method. Please contact Mike Coote, details in the Contact Book or [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com) for advice.

## New Book from Harvey Gillman

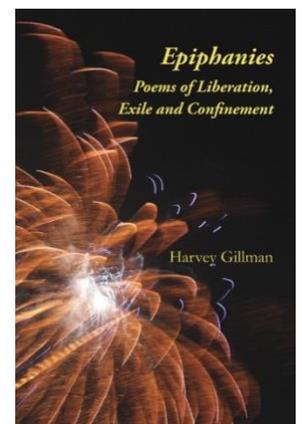
### ***Epiphanies***

*Poems of Liberation, Exile and Confinement by Harvey Gillman*

For Harvey Gillman, the quest for the divine is a search for the human. It embraces spirit, soul and body. This is the basis of his writings on spirituality and the inspiration behind his poetry.

£5.00 plus £1.53 postage (inland).

To order please email: [harveygillman@gmail.com](mailto:harveygillman@gmail.com)



## Nature, well-being, conservation, and spirituality

During the Covid-19 pandemic much has been said about the importance of nature for our well-being. I have walked and cycled to watch birds, and “bathe” in landscapes as much as I can during the pandemic.

Before the start of the 2011 lockdown, I regularly cycled to parts of the Sussex coast to watch marine birds and enjoy seascapes and estuary ecologies; seeing Lapwings, Turnstones, Redshanks, etc. The natural patterns of the flora and landforms of estuaries became very important for my well-being. When the lockdown regulations prohibited travel outside your local area, I felt bereft; and feared a decline into sadness (as I have had episodes of depression). However, I decided to make a virtue out of a necessity. The one journey that I have to make is from my house to Rottingdean (as I am my Mother’s carer, and she lives there). Before January 5th, my trip to Rottingdean was functional, not nature-focussed, although I noted the self-declaring “big nature” of the route; Herring Gulls, Great Black-Backed Gulls, and Black-Headed Gulls flying, and the distinctive calls of Oystercatchers, heard but not always seen, as I cycled along.

I decided from that point to attend more to what was on that route; it has been a revelation. By giving myself more time to stop and look, rather than just journey through the ecology of the undercliff, I have noted Fulmars nesting on the cliffs and flung out to sea (their flight pattern distinguishing them from similar-looking Herring Gulls); Pied Wagtails foraging on the beach; a single Rock Pipit foraging on the path at Ovingdean (which I see on every journey along the Undercliff); Little Egrets (with their huge yellow feet) fishing in rock pools, and even a majestic Grey Heron perching on an old groyne.

Various reasons are discussed in psychology as to why immersion in nature has well-being benefits, including:

- Reducing negative thoughts: attention to nature provides a distraction from troubling thoughts, which can be explained as a process of immersion/flow (being so absorbed in something that troubling thoughts do not occur) or mindfulness (a focussed attention on an object of contemplation, with conscious acceptance of, but non-engagement with, troubling thoughts)
- Joy: noting beauty promotes joy
- Meaning. Purpose and value congruence, i.e. identifying and deepening the value in an activity that you undertake. I record my observations - uploading them to the citizen science conservation projects e.g. Bird Track (British Trust for Ornithology).
- And for me there is also a sense of well-being that comes from feeling part of a bigger picture; a deep connection with nature. This could be conceptualised in a scientific way – feeling part of the interconnectedness of the eco-system of the Undercliff environment, or in a spiritual way – feeling part of the divinity of nature; both perspectives are compatible.

Each time I make the journey from my home to Rottingdean I look out for 'Rocky' the solitary Rock Pipit (*right*) that forages on the cliffs, path and beach just before the Ovingdean café. I feel a deep sense of connection with this single bird. I recognize this Pipit; I get off my bike and look at him/her and photograph his/her behaviour. Sometimes the Pipit looks at me and I believe this bird recognises me, and this may not be magical thinking. Douglas J. Levey, et al., in a 2009 article in ["Urban mockingbirds quickly learn to identify individual humans"](#) (US Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences)



noted that "*Northern Mockingbirds (Mimus polyglottos) nesting on the campus of a large university rapidly learn to assess the level of threat posed by different humans, and to respond accordingly*". John Fitzpatrick, an ornithologist at Cornell University, was quoted by Jackie Grom as saying "*It's amazing what a bird brain can do... the[se] findings expose the subtle interplay between the natural and human world. Most people assume that birds are minding their own business, ... when in reality they are quite in tune with the people passing by*". That Bird Knows Who You Are, American Association for the Advancement of Science ScienceMag, May 18, 2009."

Animism beliefs (that animals have souls and personalities) were a key part of "primitive" religions and are central to many indigenous belief systems. Post-enlightenment rationalism has dismissed animism; but animism – or at least a deep connection to animals (individually, in groups or in general) – is a key motivation of pro-environmental behaviours. Developing an individual relationship with a wild animal (in a way that preserves the dignity of that animal and does not damage its habitat) may have global outcomes.

*Theodore Roszak identified loss of an animist sensibility as a significant cause of both ecological crisis and existential discontent. '[I] call for a democratic and dialogical ecopsychology capable of engaging with other-than-human agency as well as the full spectrum of human vulnerability, and [I] argue that contemporary animist responses to dualism and transcendental spirituality need to attend to extra-ordinary experience.'* Brian Taylor. The generosity of birds: Ecopsychology, animism, and intimate encounter with wild others. European Journal of Ecopsychology 6: 1-22 (2018)

If you want to read my blog posts on nature, conservation, well-being, and philosophy, they can be accessed at: <https://www.simelliott.net/>. You can follow my nature photographs, mostly of birds, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/simelliott-nature-photos/>

Sim Elliott

## A pilgrimage to prepare for COP 26?

The Climate Crisis is one of our Meeting's Concerns. There is to be a big international conference of governments, COP 26, in Glasgow in November. A [recent article in Quake!](#) has suggested that local Meetings could prepare to support this event by organising local "pilgrimages" in celebration of places that are sacred to us, to remind ourselves why the environment matters to us and to make links with others, of all faiths and none, who share our concern, so building towards action to defend the environment; and that we do it on the weekend of **10th/11th April**.

I love this idea; the climate crisis is such an all-consuming phenomenon, when you stop to think about it, that it is important to focus on small, local things we can do to keep our feet on the ground and not be overwhelmed.

We have a sacred space - the Meeting House Garden, such an oasis of peace in the middle of the city hubbub. And we could celebrate it by walking a Labyrinth there - we could make one in flour (or something similarly biodegradable) on one of the lawns, and walk it as a group.

The Labyrinth or unicursal (one-way) maze is an ancient symbol of a path through life. The earliest examples come from ancient Crete, dating back thousands of years, so sometimes it is called a Cretan maze. There are also some all over Europe, including in England, ancient and modern. There is a large old one in the turf in Saffron Walden, for example. Nowadays there are several modern examples, and they are used in different ways as a meditation tool by various spiritual traditions. There is one cut into the lawn in Woodbrooke, which I have walked more than once. An old English name for them is the Troy Town Maze.

This is a picture of one I made some years ago for my own practice. The shape is like life, full of twists and turns: you think you are getting near the goal, then suddenly find yourself thrown back out to the edge - only to come into the centre when you don't expect it. It is balanced - going in and coming out mirror each other. But if you put one foot in front of the other and don't worry about where you are going, and concentrate on each step as you make it, you will be led into the centre and out again, becoming disoriented in space and time as you do so, and so opening yourself up to Leadings of the Spirit...



What I am suggesting is that on the weekend of **10th/11th April** we gather and make a maze on the lawn of the Meeting House garden, and take it in turns to walk it. We can envisage the centre of the maze as a place where we can be in touch with Spirit, and seek leadings as to what to do about supporting the earth in its crisis, or what to do to support COP 26, as

individuals or as Brighton Meeting. We could start with collective worship, and hold the worship space inside as we walk the path. There are many ways of doing it, many concerns it could address.

Does this idea attract you? If so please get in touch. Because of COVID restrictions we may well be limited to doing it in groups of 6 at a time; but if a Labyrinth is constructed, several groups could use it over a weekend. It is an activity that children can join; we could keep it as an activity just for us, or we could invite passers-by to join in. But we need to plan for it!

As with any activity, it is important to agree beforehand what our objective is - to build our commitment to the environment? Or to prepare for activities related to COP 26? Or to build our relationships in our local Meeting and with others in Brighton?

If you are interested, let us start by emailing each other with ideas. I am familiar with drawing the shape and am happy to show others how to do it - even drawing the shape is a meditation in itself. Walking it as a group, in worshipful silence, is a wonderfully enriching and nurturing experience. I would love to share it with Brighton Friends and others, in the context of building our community locally, and supporting those forces, both political, and spiritual, that could turn the tide and start rebuilding our ravaged climate. My details are in the Contact Book or please write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

*Penny Cloutte*

**Do you uphold those who are acting under concern, even if their way is not yours? Can you lay aside your own wishes and prejudices while seeking with others to find God's will for them?**

*Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 36*

## Area Contact Book

The new Sussex West Area Quaker Contact Book is now available to Brighton Members and Attenders whose names are listed in it. A contribution of £2.50 is requested per copy.

Please contact Overseers to obtain a copy or enquire further, by email to [bqoverseers@outlook.com](mailto:bqoverseers@outlook.com) or write to the Overseers at the Meeting House.

## 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, Chris East, Stella East, Annie Lieberman & Kate Mackrell [bqoverseers@outlook.com](mailto:bqoverseers@outlook.com)

## New Correspondence Clerk

**Pease note that as of February 5 we have a new Correspondence Clerk – Michelle Roberts. Please be gentle with her while she finds her feet. [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com)**

**Clerks Team**

## 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 [bjelders@outlook.com](mailto:bjelders@outlook.com)

**Clerk's mailing list** - if you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact the Clerk at [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com)

## Meeting House during Third Lockdown

Meeting House is now closed for room hire and to visitors EXCEPT **Wednesdays between 12 and 2pm** when it will be open for individual worship - 'private prayer'. The garden will be open every weekday morning.

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

This, of course, may change with a change in government guidelines. Finance & Property committee will review the situation at their April meeting.

Sunday Meeting for Worship at 10.30am continues on Zoom. For details please email us at [admin@brightonquakers.net](mailto:admin@brightonquakers.net)

**If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions.**

*Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 38*

## **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.

## 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://brightonriseup.wordpress.com> 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.**

## Brighton Rise

Our **March** Appeal is for **RISE**, our local Domestic Violence Charity. We have often supported this local organisation, and as domestic violence has increased during this year of lockdown, it is very important to give your support again. Rise has provided services for women and their children for 26 years, including 2 refuges, a dedicated Helpline and outreach services for those with disabilities and older victims of domestic abuse.

Unfortunately, two weeks ago, Rise learnt that they had lost their Council contract and the funding to support these vital services. This was after a lengthy tendering process involving Brighton & Hove Council, East Sussex County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The new contract, worth five million pounds over the next seven years, is to be shared between Stonewater Housing Ltd and the charity Victim Support.

It seems that one of the reasons for this decision is that it was felt that the needs of heterosexual men and gay male survivors would not be met by Rise. The Council wanted a gender neutral and inclusive service. This is in spite of the fact that recent research shows that women make up 91% of all victims of domestic violence.

There has been a huge outcry about this decision, with a petition run via [Change.org](https://change.org) attracting over 26,000 names. Rise intends to carry on, at least with its Helpline and its Trauma Therapy Service for Women and Children - the latter funded by the Health Authority's Clinical Commissioning Group. Also, further grant money may be available via the Government, from funds concerning Domestic Abuse.

Please do give generously at this critical time for Rise.

Further details about what's been happening, with some vivid accounts from women who have been helped by Rise please go to\_

<https://brightonriseup.wordpress.com>

*Ann Howard*

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

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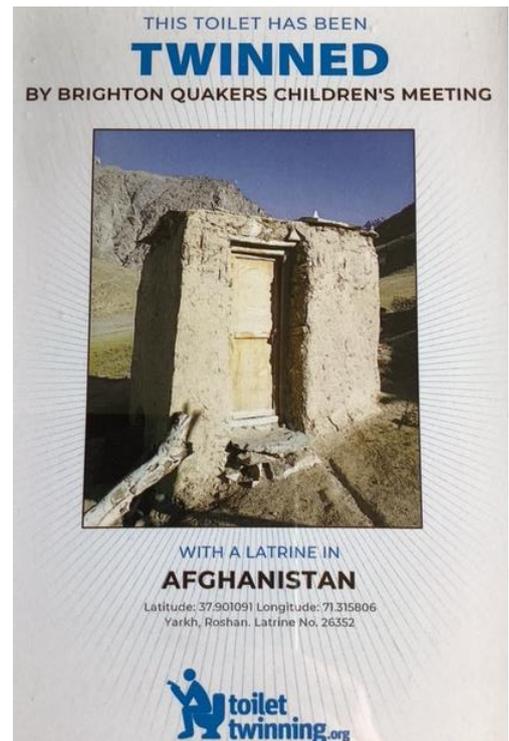
## Toilet Twinning Appeal Update

The Children's Meeting chose Toilet Twinning as the December good cause for monthly giving. They were pleased to see that enough money was raised for the Meeting to twin our toilets with two latrines. We are twinned with a latrine in Yarkh, Roshan near a lake on the far eastern side of Afghanistan.

The second latrine, twinned with the whole Meeting, is Bloc C, Lwama, Lwama in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The children were able to see the approximate location of the latrines when we looked on Google maps and Google Earth as the longitude and latitude coordinates are given with each framed picture. The photos will be displayed in the Meeting House.

*Helen Ledger*



## 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](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com) if you might know of anything suitable. Thank you.

*Caroline Kendall*

## 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 [bqelders@outlook.com](mailto:bqelders@outlook.com).

#### **Children's Meetings**

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

##### **March 21**

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](mailto: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 April 1** at 6.30 pm. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday March 25**. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB. Please email [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bqelders@outlook.com)

### Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2021 March 20 at via Zoom

May 15 at Worthing

July 17 at Ditchling

September 18 at Bognor Regis

November 20 at Brighton

All Area Meetings start at 10.30 for 11.00.

### Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings in 2021

**Saturday March 27** - 'Refugees and Asylum Seekers' 10.30 -12.30 via Zoom  
**For more detail please see the back page.**

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

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](mailto:sussexandsurreymquakerclerk@outlook.com)

All Regional Meetings start at 10.30.

### 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

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](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

The deadline for the **April** newsletter is **Tuesday March 30**. 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](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com). This is necessary to comply with GDPR laws.

## Sussex and Surrey Regional Quaker Meeting

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers: How to Be Welcoming in a Hostile Environment

Saturday 27th March 2021 10.30-12.30 on zoom  
(Join from 10.00)

Presented by:

**Anna Pincus,  
Director of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group,  
and a refugee**

Everyone who attends or is a member of a Quaker meeting within Sussex and Surrey RM is welcome to register.

To register, please contact: [keithsc\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:keithsc_2000@yahoo.com) before Tuesday 23rd March