



# Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

November 2021

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

Issue 324

## Flying Seagull Project

### Children's Meeting annual charity appeal

In recent months the children of our Meeting have been following the journey of Little Amal, a 3.5m high puppet walking from the Syrian border to Manchester in order to tell people more about refugees' real lives. Little Amal, a young Syrian refugee, set off from Turkey and has walked the 8,000 miles through Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium. One of the Meeting's children, Rowan, met her in Geneva.

Little Amal crossed into the UK through Dover and celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in London, arriving in Manchester on 3 November. She has been looking for her mother who went off to find food but never returned. On behalf of child refugees, she carried a message to those she met along the way, "Don't forget about us". You can read more about Little Amal in this [Guardian](#) article



Brighton Quaker children want to raise money for [Flying Seagull](#), which is a project that the Amal Fund supports. This charity brings play, fun and laughter to refugee children all over the world with clowns, musicians, entertainers and games. It's a small recognition of the way, that even when children get caught up in conflicts and world events, they still need opportunities for play and recreation (UN convention on the Rights of the Child article 31).

[Click here](#) to read more about the Flying Seagull Project.

Donations can be made via their website or through the Brighton Quaker Meeting treasurer, making it clear that the donation is intended for this month's good cause.



*Children's Meeting Committee*

# Nominations Committee adopts a new Recruitment Process

A new recruitment process for Quaker employees and some volunteers has been recommended by Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). This is in response to the experiences of children, young people and adults at risk who have suffered abuse within the supposedly safe environments of religious organisations. In September 2021 the Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) published their report 'Child protection in religious organisations and settings' and has recommended 'Safer Recruitment' practices as a means to better protect those at risk within our communities.

Brighton Nominations Committee discussed 'Safer Recruitment' processes at a special meeting in late October with Area Deputy Safeguarding Coordinators Mike Coote and Steve McMillan. They unanimously agreed to adopt the new process and are trialling it first with a new Pastoral Friend.

The full Safer Recruitment process applies to:

- Trustees
- Elders
- Pastoral Friends/Overseers
- All those who work or volunteer with children, young people and/or adults at risk
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checker
- Safeguarding Coordinators and deputies
- Wardens and office volunteers

Safer Recruitment involves:

- Provision of a role description
- Personal details form (including self-declaration)
- An interview where attitudes towards Safeguarding are discussed
- Provision of two references
- DBS check/update
- An Induction to include Code of Conduct, good practice, Safeguarding training and a probationary period.
- A review of all people in post after 6 months

Whilst not required to go through the full Safer Recruitment process, Clerks and members of Nominations Committee are expected to undertake a Safeguarding Induction and Safeguarding Training.

Many other volunteer roles, for example gardening, flower arranging and the welcoming rota etc, will continue to be nominated as before.

Of course, the Quaker Safeguarding policy involves more than the protection of children from sexual abuse. It addresses all kinds of abuse and seeks to protect children, young people and adults at risk. It is hoped that Safer Recruitment practices will go some way to achieving this aim.

The IICSA panel sought information from BYM regarding the numbers of safeguarding allegations within Quakers and were informed of only four cases that

BYM knew of. The inquiry noted that BYM had no system of central record keeping and therefore believed these figures to be an underestimation. A selection of case examples leading to prosecution are given near the beginning of the [IICSA report](#) and it makes sober reading for anyone doubting the need for such policies.

Documentation relating to Safer Recruitment, Safeguarding Policy and the IICSA report can all be found on the Sussex West Area Quaker Intranet and in due course will be on the Brighton Quaker Website.

To register for access to the Quaker Intranet please contact Michael Richardson on [bqoutreach1652@gmail.com](mailto:bqoutreach1652@gmail.com) who will send you a link.

*Steve McMillan*  
*Area Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator*

## Remembrance Day Ceremony – Sunday 14 November

Quakers are invited to join WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) at the alternative Remembrance Day Ceremony **at the War Memorial on the Old Steine at 2.00pm.**

White poppy wreaths will be laid alongside the red poppy ones laid in the morning.

White poppies were first produced by the Co-operative Women's Guild in 1933 to promote non-violent approaches to conflict and to challenge increasing militarism.

The [Peace Pledge Union](#) now produces over 100,000 white poppies a year and this initiative is supported by Quakers and other organisations around the UK.



People who wear white poppies share a desire to:

- **remember all victims of war, civilian and military**
- **symbolise a commitment to peace and to finding non-violent solutions to conflicts**
- **challenge attempts to glamorise or celebrate war.**

In this way they reassert the original message of remembrance, 'never again'.

**White Poppies are now on sale at Brighton Quaker Meeting House.**

*Helen Ledger*

**Where any have received offence from any other, first to speak privately to the party concerned, and endeavour reconciliation between themselves; and not to whisper or aggravate matters against them behind their backs, to the making parties, and the breach wider.**

*Yearly Meeting in London, 1692, Quaker Faith and Practice 20.70*

## Interfaith Contact Group

### Monthly Interfaith Prayer Hour

On the last Thursday of the month at **7 pm** we share inspirational poems and spiritual readings

- Words of Connection

**25 November, 7 pm** via Zoom.

All are welcome, please.

### Fostering Friendships

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

**17 November, 6-7.30 pm** via Zoom.

Theme: Death. There will be someone from the Death Café and a death doula speaking. There will be time for discussion and questions.

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)

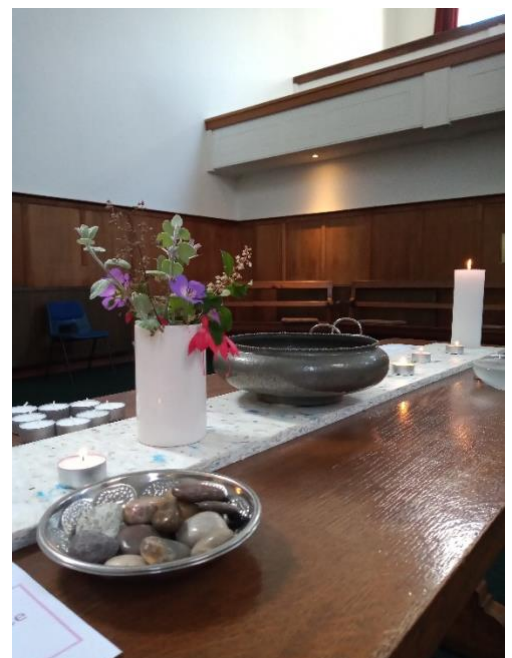


## Day of Compassion – 17 October

A Day of Compassion was organised by the Interfaith Contact Group in collaboration with the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, to honour the lives lost during the pandemic. It was also to thank all those people who worked tirelessly to support our city, the NHS and Care workers, shop workers, council employees, delivery drivers, transport workers, funeral directors and volunteers, and so many more who worked for our safety over the past two years and continue to do so.

In the afternoon there was a wonderful memorial Service of Compassion at Brighton Dome which was attended by many who had lost loved ones, and by key workers. The service was seen as a way to help with the feelings of loss felt by the bereaved, and to help with the process of healing, and to give thanks to the key workers. Music, singing, readings, prayers, films and individual testimonies from all age groups were combined to create a compassionate service, bringing people of Brighton and Hove together.

Other events were held throughout the city. A valuable session of creative reflection for children, to help them cope with loss, was held at Fabrica Gallery. A Death Café was held at the Unitarian Church and was followed by singing from Companion Voices. At the Friends' Meeting House a number of meditation sessions were held throughout the day. We also offered a place for silent reflection in the Meeting Room (see photo). Thanks to Terry, Vivienne and Penny who were at the Meeting House on the Day.



*Helen Ledger*



## Interfaith week is 14-21 November

### Two events at the Meeting House plus a Zoom Meeting:

- **Monday 15 November**, 10.30-3.30 pm (short breaks for lunch and tea). Anthea Ballam, Interfaith Minister will run an all-day workshop on **Reincarnation**. £15.
- **Tuesday 16 November**, 10.30-12.30 pm  
Peter Wells will run a 2-hour workshop on **Bereavement**. £10.

For more details of these two workshops please see page 2 in the [October newsletter](#).

For both these events bookings will be taken via the Meeting House, 01273 770258 or [admin@brightonquakers.net](mailto:admin@brightonquakers.net)

All proceeds will go to Meeting House: you can pay the Meeting House by BACS or credit/debit card. Staff will advise about payment when you book.

- **Wednesday 17 November**, 6-7.30 pm  
**Fostering Friendship** workshop on Zoom.  
Theme: Death. There will be someone from the Death Café and a death doula speaking. There will be time for discussion and questions.

*Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger, IFCG representatives*

## Eco Churches and Vegetarian diet

We have agreed as a Meeting to investigate the Eco Churches scheme, and a small group have already met online.

The first task for this group is to work on possible wording for a new advice in Advices and Queries asking Friends to consider a change in diet. If you would like to get involved please join us! Please contact me if you are interested (details in Contact Book) or via the newsletter [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).

*Jason Evans*

**In worship we enter with reverence into communion with God and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Come to meeting for worship with heart and mind prepared. Yield yourself and all your outward concerns to God's guidance so that you may find 'the evil weakening in you and the good raised up'.**

*Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 9*

## What is your image of Quakers?

The Information and Outreach Group is gathering ideas and images from Friends and attenders (new and longer term) that express what stands out for us individually as the most important thing that draws us to Quakers.

Please help by providing us with the strongest image or thought that comes to mind for you. If you are able to provide us with a visual image that captures the thought this will be very useful for building a mosaic of images we can use in a workshop to spark new ideas and strategies for communicating more effectively what Quakers can offer to the wider community.

If one thought or image is too restrictive do feel free to provide us with more, up to a maximum of three. As we are looking for the mosaic to be genuinely collective we would ask please for no more than three.

Please put your thoughts/images in the blue box on the counter by the Quaker Notices board in the corridor in Meeting House. Alternatively, you can email them to the Information and Outreach Group at [bqoutreach1652@gmail.com](mailto:bqoutreach1652@gmail.com)

*Malcolm Evans*

## Peggy Henderson

I had the privilege of attending Peggy's funeral at the Brighton and Preston Cemetery on 18 October 2021. Peggy passed away at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and had been a resident at Conifer Lodge in Hove.

Peggy was very much part of our wider Quaker community in as much as she was a loyal attender for many years of Tuesday at Friends. She was befriended and nurtured by our dear Friend Pat Norman and encouraged to be part of her team (and latterly that of Alan Cooke's) in carrying out her duties as doorkeeper. Peggy was a very endearing character. She would come in early and many's the time Terry and I enjoyed a chat and a giggle with her.

Peggy was a member of a number of organisations - the Brighton Forresters (Friendly Society). She was a very keen historian and researcher of family history and was a member of the Sussex Family History Group of which Mick Henry is the Chair. Peggy was a very valued member of the U3A Creative Writing Group with George Dean. George tells me that they would all share their stories and inevitably Peggy's would end in a place close to her heart - the Isle of Wight. It was her happy place and her dream to live there.

Peggy was a devout Methodist and enjoyed worshipping for many years at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church where she had many friends. They hope to host a memorial for Peggy and other members of the congregation next year.

Peggy will be sorely missed. She always enjoyed reading the Newsletter that Terry sent her as she had a keen interest in our activities and lives.

May she be in a greater light.

*Lisa Compton*

## Buy Fair Trade for Christmas

Christmas is a great time for buying Fair Trade gifts as these give twice – once to your family and friends, and again to a Fair Trade producer in the Global South. Climate change is rightly encouraging us all to exercise restraint and buy less, but we all need to buy some things, and Fair Trade helps us buy more positively. Handmade is generally more sustainable as a production method and we can help balance social and environmental inequity – we in the wealthy North generally produce most of the greenhouse gases and those in the Global South generally suffer much more of the consequences.



At the Lovethatstuff Fair Trade shop at Brighton Marina we've got lots of gifts we think you'll like, from musical instruments to handwoven and block-printed clothing. Recently in is a range of hot and spicy condiments from Eswatini – formerly Swaziland, a country which is in financial crisis and has a high incidence of HIV/AIDS as well as low life expectancy.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13963463>) All Fair Trade products have a human story behind them.

Barbara Wilson [www.lovethatstuff.co.uk](http://www.lovethatstuff.co.uk)

## Welcome to Micah

Baby Micah Holtam-Flynn was born at home on the 21/10/21 at 1.20am and is doing well. His sister Heidi and brother Jack are helping to look after him and we look forward to introducing him to Meeting.

*Tim, Ingrid, Heidi and Jack Holtam*

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 and Queries No. 19*



## Contact Book

The Area Contact List of Members and Attenders is being updated for the end of this year. However, there will not be a re-print of the whole booklet but an update listing will be produced and will be available in the New Year.

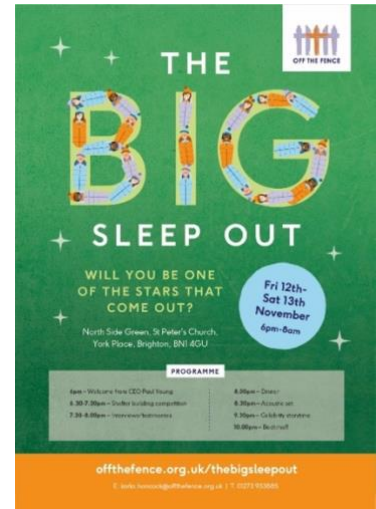
If you have any changes to your entries, please send them to [bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com](mailto:bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com) by the end of November.

## The Big Sleep Out – please sponsor

I am taking part in the Big Sleep Out in support of the work of [Off the Fence](#) working with homeless people in the city. I will be joining others sleeping outdoors near St Peters Church on **Friday 12 November**. This is a fund-raising event in support of the valuable work [Off the Fence](#) undertakes on a daily basis.

If you would kindly like to sponsor me please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/helen-ledger3>

Please contact me if interested (details in Contact Book) or via the newsletter [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).



*Helen Ledger*

## 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, Barbara Barber, Lisa Compton, Chris East, Stella East, Annie Lieberman, Kate Mackrell, Alan Stratford. [bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com](mailto:bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com)

## Get Strong, Support the Meeting House

### Pilates at Meeting House

Weekly drop-in Pilates classes at Meeting House on Wednesday mornings. I run three classes, for details go to [www.exercise-for-all.com](http://www.exercise-for-all.com). The classes are drop-in, so no long-term commitment is expected, and anyone who is Pilates-curious is welcome to come once in order to see if it is for them. I shall also be using Zoom for anyone who does not wish to participate in a face-to-face class.

*John Rignell*



## Quoted at Nelson Mandela's inauguration 1994

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

*Marianne Williamson in A Return to Love*

Submitted by Sheila Boyer

## Accompanying Friends or Companions

Coming to Meeting for Worship for the first time can be a daunting experience. It feels like a long way from the front gate to the big door, especially when you don't know what is behind it! We would like to offer newcomers the chance to meet someone from Meeting for a chat/coffee before they come for the first time. The Accompanying Friend or Companion could then arrange to meet and sit with the newcomer on Sunday if that is helpful. We are looking for volunteers who would like to do this occasionally. If you are interested, please let the Elders or Pastoral Friends know.



[bqelders@outlook.com](mailto:bqelders@outlook.com) or [bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com](mailto:bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com)

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

## Meeting to choose appeals for 2022

This will be held in via Zoom on **Thursday 11 November**. The link for this Meeting will be sent out to those on the Clerks' email list. If you have an appeal you wish to put forward please contact Angela Bargawi or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).

## 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://www.theflyingseagullproject.com>.

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 George know which appeal the payment is for.**

Please see **Page 1** for this month's appeal which is chosen by Children's Meeting.

## Brighton Meeting diary

### Meetings for Worship

#### Regular Meeting for Worship

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

If you wish to join the Meeting in the Meeting House you must book your place by phoning the office on 01273 770258 or emailing [admin@brightonquakers.net](mailto:admin@brightonquakers.net) Masks must be worn in the Meeting House but are not necessary when seated in worship in the Meeting Room.

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**

Starting **3 November**, we will also 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 will also be open to Friends from other meetings in the area.

#### Children's Meetings

To be held online from **10 – 11am** on **November 21** and December 19

We hope to arrange some in person meetings soon.

The Meetings are 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. . At Meeting House we move out to the garden for a chat.

## Meetings for Quaker business

**Brighton Meetings for Worship for Business (MWB) are returning to Thursdays at the new time of 6.30 pm as an online Meeting via Zoom.**

### Local Meeting for Worship for Business in 2021

**Thursday 2 December** at 6.15 pm, via Zoom.

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

### Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2021

**Saturday 20 November at 10.30.** It will be a **Blended Meeting** with Friends at Brighton Meeting House and others attending on Zoom. Tea and coffee will be available. Please bring your own lunch. This is not a shared lunch.

### Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings 2021

**Saturday 27 November, 10.30-4.00 pm** at Woking Meeting House.

'Outreach in the C21st?'. We hope this will interest many Friends and imagine it will be of particular interest to Overseers or those with Pastoral care responsibilities. There will be a very few spaces for people who want to come to Woking, although Geoffrey Durham and most if not all the workshop leaders will be presenting on Zoom. Please register as soon as possible.

See the back page for more information.

All members and attenders are very welcome!

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 **December** newsletter is **Tuesday 30 November**. 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.

## Sussex and Surrey Regional Quaker Meeting

### Outreach in C21st

Saturday 27th November on Zoom & at Woking Meeting House  
10.30-16.00

Introduced and facilitated by Geoffrey Durham

with a programme of workshops on

**Outreach on Zoom  
Welcoming disabled people,  
Inviting diversity**

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

To do so, please contact: [sussexandsurreyrmquakerclerk@outlook.com](mailto:sussexandsurreyrmquakerclerk@outlook.com) before Tuesday 23rd November, saying whether your preference is to attend in person (places limited) or on zoom.

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**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.