



# Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

February 2021

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

Issue 315

## A Day of Hope to Celebrate

### - the possibility of a future world without nuclear weapons

Quakers and peace groups around the world celebrated the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) passing into international law on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

#### What happened in Brighton?

This wonderful banner was put on display outside the Meeting House giving a clear message of Quaker support to all who pass by.



St Luke's Church in Prestonville

rang out its bell at midday; the members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) carried a banner from New Road, via the Meeting House, and along the seafront to the Peace Statue; Peace doves, with personal messages about what this day meant to people, were hung from the Peace Tree in Queens Park, and Helen Ledger was interviewed on Radio Reverb about plans for the day.

Brighton and Hove Council, after working with the WILPF Brighton branch, have passed a motion to:

SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS TPNW: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) CITIES APPEAL

- 1) To declare its support for the obligations and full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
- 2) To call on the UK government to work for global peace in a world free of nuclear weapons by signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and working alongside other UN Member States for its full implementation;
- 3) To inform the Prime Minister, UN Secretary-General, Mayors for Peace and ICAN of the Council's adoption of this resolution.

In doing this Brighton & Hove are joining cities around the world such as Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford, Sydney, Melbourne, Geneva and many other cities, as well as the State of California and the County of Renfrewshire in Scotland.

This [wonderful little film](#) was created by peace campaigners to celebrate the day, the ICAN Can-Can, celebrating the nuclear ban treaty. And here is singer Peggy Seeger's special: [Carry Greenham Home](#)

It is almost 76 years since the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki with such horrifying effect, and almost 63 years since the first major Aldermaston march at Easter 1958. Quakers have been campaigning against nuclear weapons since then and still the work must continue. In 1955 Meeting for Sufferings said "We believe that no one has the right to use [nuclear] weapons in their defence or to ask another person to use them on their behalf. To rely on the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent is faithless; to use them is a sin." (*Quaker faith & practice* 24.41)

The passing of the TPNW is a significant milestone in the long campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons, with 122 countries signing the treaty and 51 ratifying it, allowing it to pass in to international law. But there is still a huge effort required to persuade the 9 countries armed with nuclear weapons and the 32 countries who endorse or host nuclear weapons to sign up to the treaty and disarm. There are believed to be +13,400 nuclear warheads in current world arsenals with 215 of them in the UK. None of the nuclear/supporting countries in the figures above have signed the treaty. We need to continue to lobby the UK Government to unilaterally disarm whilst working towards multilateral disarmament.

The new QPSWE group will be looking at ways to carry on this work, and offer suggestions for us to consider acting on. These will be made available in the February Newsletter. See page 5 & 6



*'Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. They violate international law, cause severe environmental damage, undermine national and global security, and divert vast public resources away from meeting human needs. They must be eliminated urgently.'* [ICAN website](#)

*Onwards and upwards.  
Helen Ledger*

Source of statistics: SIPRI Yearbook 2020, Federation of American Scientists.  
<https://www.sipri.org>

**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 12 to 2pm.

## More Good News

Justice at last for the Stansted 15,  
including our Friend Lyndsay Burtonshaw.

For more information please see [our website](#)

## Quaker Breweries

Quakers were very much involved in brewing. Although much concerned with the scourge of cheap spirits, brewing ale was considered acceptable. Barclay Perkins & Co was the main Quaker brewer, and was founded in July 1781 after chief clerk John Perkins and Robert Barclay (of the banking family) acquired the Anchor Brewery in Park Street, Southwark, from [Henry Thrale's](#) widow, [Hester](#). - for £135,000, to be paid over four years. In 1782, 85,700 barrels were brewed.



Hester famously wrote about the sale, "God Almighty sent us a knot of rich Quakers who bought the whole and saved me and my coadjutors (which included Dr Johnson) from brewing ourselves into another bankruptcy".

Historically, Friends were not originally teetotallers, and William Penn is known to have been a brewer. Taylor Walker, founded in 1730, was at one time one of the three Quaker-owned London porter giants, alongside Barclay Perkins and Truman Hanbury & Buxton.

Quakers were known to have such high standards of probity. Their measures were very good - decent beer was a good alternative to bad gin. Their beer wasn't watered down and there was no sawdust in their flour. They were regarded as very honourable.

There was a different problem with Mary Osborn of Brighton Meeting. She had attended the Meeting for more than twenty years, and as one sometimes appointed to attend Monthly Meeting, she had no excuse for not knowing the discipline. The Meeting was informed that Mary Osborn had been in the practice of intemperance in drinking, and appointed two women Friends to visit her thereon, and requested the men Friends assistance therein.

*Tony Tree*

**In view of the harm done by the use of alcohol, tobacco and other habit-forming drugs, consider whether you should limit your use of them or refrain from using them altogether. Remember that any use of alcohol or drugs may impair judgment and put both the user and others in danger.**

*Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 40*

## A WISH, PRAYER AND BLESSING FOR 2021

### Starhawk

- May the isolation, fear and loss we have suffered in this past year make us **more appreciative of our friends, loved ones and co-workers**; and make us **more aware of how vitally we need community**.
- May the callousness, irresponsibility and corruption we have seen in power holders make us **appreciate the value of truth, integrity and caring in our leaders**.
- May the barrage of lies, disinformation and conspiracy theories that flood the internet inspire us to **hone our critical thinking and strengthen our capacity for good judgement**.
- May the injustices we have witnessed and suffered **deepen our commitment to dismantle the systems of oppression**.
- May the fires, floods, hurricanes and disasters of this last year make us **more aware that we are subject to Nature's laws, and more determined to bring us into balance**.
- May this coming year be a turning point - **towards a world of more compassion, more caring, more integrity, more courage, more health, more regeneration, and more joy in being agents of justice and renewal!**

*Submitted by Penny Cloutte*

## Zooming for worship

We come with heart and mind and device prepared.  
We click. We wait. We test the sound. Await our fate.  
We gain admittance. Familiar faces, familiar places. We smile.  
Some sigh. Some close their eyes. Some mute.  
Alone together in a world where we cannot touch,  
we touch with heart and soul. Though mute we greet.  
Though "Internet connection is unstable", we are able to connect.  
Words and silences cross the space between. Some consolation,  
some anticipation of a life resumed, some reminiscence  
of how it used to be before and might well be again.

Exchanging news, we are reminded of the day  
when we could shake each other's hand, announce  
that coffee will be made, invite each Friend for this and that.  
We shall meet next week if we are spared, they used to say.

He said there was an ocean of night  
but even greater was the light,  
- more magnificent still  
the deeper sight of what will be again.

*Harvey Gillman 13/01/2021*

## Quaker Peace Social Witness and Equality (QPSWE)

We met on January 13 to explore how to set up a new QPSWE group in Brighton Meeting.

We considered another option of setting up a Build Back Better group, but on balance the feeling was for re-instating a QPSWE group, primarily because it links us directly with the main Quaker Peace and Social Witness group based at Friends House.

We agreed on the format being an umbrella group that would support any existing and future groups working on the issues of peace, social witness and equality.

The stated purposes of this umbrella group will be:

1. To support a reflective, action learning process within each of the groups
2. To coordinate resources for the groups
3. The umbrella group, working with each group, will be able to offer support in the assessment of what progress is being made.
4. It will reflect the basic unity of all the issues; the fact that one issue cannot in isolation be resolved without it affecting all the other issues of peace and social justice etc.
5. To liaise with the Information and Outreach group so that regular updates are disseminated through our social networks

We agreed to meet again on **Saturday February 13, 10.30 to 12.30** via Zoom.

We were excited by the idea of exploring whether our other Area Meetings would like to join us in setting up this new system to support our Area-wide Quaker activism.

This meeting, it was agreed, will be advertised throughout our Area via the upcoming Area Meeting, via each Local Meeting's clerks and via our Intranet.

We ask all existing groups to discuss, prior to the February meeting:

- What they may need to support them
- Who else from the other meetings would wish to volunteer to work with the umbrella group
- What groups locally are working on the issues that we are

At the meeting we plan to:

- Identify all the active groups and the lead Friend
- Identify resources
- Discern the aims of the groups
- Decide how often QPSWE will meet
- Decide on whether to send updates to QPSW

Other thoughts were:

- The umbrella group, initially, will be: Christine Habgood, Mike Coote, Helen Ledger, Sim Elliot, Colin Holliday, (Gerard Rosenberg) and Susan White.



- We agreed that we would welcome a two-way dialogue between the umbrella group and the working groups.
- We are very grateful to Ann Holliday for setting up the Area website and the Intranet, as this will be invaluable as we go forward with this idea.
- We agreed to make links with similar groups outside of our Quaker meetings so that we can offer a Quaker perspective to the issues that we are working on.
- And finally, a number of suggested actions offered by Friends House for the Build Back Better movement are ones that we can incorporate into our format: writing to MPs and councillors, inviting them to discuss issues with us, connecting with other groups in our localities, and hosting meetings (via Zoom or face-to-face when we can).

If you are interested in joining us for our next meeting, please contact Susan White, details in Contact Book or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com) and we will send you the Zoom link and agenda in February.

We look forward to seeing you on the 13th!

*The QPSWE umbrella group*



# Fair Trade

## Some general principles of trade



Fair Trade is, as it says, a fairer way of trading. The so-called 'free market' has import duties and taxes on goods coming from outside the EU (and since Brexit there are tariffs on some goods to and from there as well) so trade from poor countries isn't free. In fact, until recently many goods coming in from poor countries were charged duty and tax, whereas the imports from EU countries were free of these. This is only 'free' trade for our trading partners.

There is a system where you can apply for a GSP certificate of Generalised System of Preferences, which means that, in theory, goods from very poor countries can come in duty free, though in practice that requires a good level of knowledge of the importer, the producer group and the shipper, to come up with the right paperwork. In short – free trade really isn't free and appears to work to the benefit of wealthier nations who, in fact, do have a kind of protectionist model, even though they say they're opposed to it.

Fair trade is a different model of trade to 'business as usual'. It works to help producers earn a decent living through their work, supports them with training to build their skills and encourages a good dialogue of cooperation between producer and buyer.

Business as usual tries to maximise profits and minimise costs. Minimising costs often means cutting wages and we have seen many examples here of workers in the Global South being exploited. Even today there are still children working in cocoa fields in West Africa and these are supplying cheap cocoa to many large companies here. Chocolate used to be a luxury item but now most large brands sell too cheaply and that's because companies bargain down the price and the result is terrible exploitation of workers. Cheap, sadly, is very attractive to customers – witness Primark, BooHoo, and Amazon, but cheap is often destructive. Fair should be the norm.

Fair trade asks the customer to pay a little extra to guarantee that workers in the Global South aren't exploited. If goods are very cheap, there's usually a reason and that reason is often that the producers have been paid too little and asked to work too many hours.

Buying Fair Trade should put a happy smile on your face. When you buy Fair Trade you're making the world of work more positive and saying no to exploitation. Really, there should be a mandatory living wage worldwide depending on the cost of living in each country, but there isn't, so it's up to you as the shopper to use your judgement, to ask questions to find out who made it and how it's made. Don't support those companies that aren't playing fair.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year is from February 22 to March 7 and the theme is 'Choose the World You Want' - [here's a link:](#)

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

## Becoming a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers)

It has been a great delight to welcome so many newcomers to our Meetings for Worship since we started meeting on Zoom almost a year ago. We hope that they have found a spiritual home among us and we look forward to meeting in person, sharing food and friendship, when all these things become possible.

I wonder whether the unusual circumstances of 2020/21 have made some of those worshipping with us think about deepening their relationship with the Society of Friends. For some it feels right to continue to attend Meeting for months or years without exploring the idea of membership. But for others the commitment of belonging and saying "I am a Quaker" is a really important step on their spiritual journey.

The process of applying for membership is not onerous – it is a process of exploration and growth, with the support of the Meeting. If this is something you think you might like to consider, we would encourage you to talk about it in the breakout rooms after Meeting, in a Being Friends Together group, with an overseer or elder, or by joining the Zoom meeting for enquirers and attenders being organized by Dave Hamilton and Susan White (details to be announced).

Whatever you have found in Quaker meeting, it continues to be a joy to have you with us on Sundays and we give thanks for all you bring us.

*Brighton Quaker Meeting Elders*

**Remember Jesus' answer to the woman of Samaria: 'Neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father... God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in Truth.' In the depth of meditation, in the gathered meeting we rise above all limitations. Gone are the concepts of Quakerism and Vedanta. Gone are the ideas of being a Christian or a Hindu. All these concepts are valid on their own level. They have their place, but they are transcended when we merge our minds in Spirit. I believe this is what Jesus and all the other World Teachers wanted us ultimately to do.**

*Swami Tripurananda (Jonathan Carter), 1979  
Quaker Faith and Practice 27.10*



# New Economy Group

Continuing our review of the New Economy Series of Booklets.

## **Booklet 6** - Ownership in the New Economy

This booklet asks how we understand ownership of the earth's natural resources in a sustainable and equitable way. What has happened to our land, oceans and atmosphere in the existing economy? How can we engage with the earth's resources fairly and with concern for our history and our future? How can we shift economic structures to support fairness and sustainability? And what steps do we need to take to get there?

We began with a reading from Richard Wagamese (*Embers*, 2016), an indigenous Canadian writer:

*ON MY OWN in the country of my people, and I feel the lure and tug of the land as insistently as a lover's grasp. This is where poems are born, where stories are nurtured within me, and it is here, among the cliff and stone and bush and waters, where I am most fully the creation that I am. I stand solid here. I am the moose and bear and pickerel. I am tamarack, pine and lichen. I am the rich brown of the earth and the eternal bowl of the sky. Home. Where I am articulated and defined in the context of geography.*

The problems are daunting, enormous and unwieldy, and have a world dimension. Some that struck us were the rape of the commons; the lack of money, control and leverage; the way knowledge/software/power is used for control; consumption choices; the lack of resilience in the system; the way the UK, with such high land values, is hung up on property. We agreed that people, not jobs, need to be protected, that pollution needs to be reduced and that the rich world needs to contract.

We agreed that we have much to learn from indigenous peoples and their relationship to the land, and that a good test of a decision is "what will it be like in 7 generations time". We loved the idea of acting right now by "hoisting our sails and waiting for the wind to change", and identified some of the assets we have as Quakers and in particular in Brighton Meeting. These include time, reputation, a community that is used to testing ideas, being rooted back to the 1600's, and a wonderful building.

We also came up with a list of organizations, mostly local, with goals in alignment with engaging with the earth's resources fairly (google the names to find associated websites).

Generic: Charter for Compassion (creating compassionate cities and other communities), Voluntary Human Extinction Movement

Housing: Diggers and Hedgehogs self-build housing co-ops, Brighton and Hove Community Land Trust

Food: Infinity Foods. HISBE alternative supermarket in Brighton and Worthing

Energy: Brighton Energy Co-op, Rampion wind farm, Octopus energy

Greening: Plant your postcode, CPRE, Shoreham-by-Tree (Adur) (talk to Gerard Rosenberg or visit <https://shorehamsociety.org.uk/docs/AdurArbor.pdf> )

Other community projects: Parents Unlimited (social group for parents with disabilities), Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project

Writing this report, I am excited about the way that some of our concerns and discoveries might feed into the new QPSWE group (pages 5 & 6)– undreamt of when we had this discussion in July!

*Kate Mackrell*

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.

## A book club with Canadian Quakers

You are warmly invited to join Hamilton Monthly Meeting Book Group to explore a book by an indigenous Canadian writer, *One Drum*, by Richard Wagamese. We will start the book on Sunday February 21 from 8-9 pm GMT (3pm in Hamilton). If you are interested please contact me, details in Contact Book or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

*Kate Mackrell*

## Weekday meditations with the Quaker Chaplain:

Monday - “Settle” : Settle awareness on the breath

Tuesday - “Experiment” : Experiment with Light meditation

Wednesday - “Ground” : Awareness of the body meditation

Thursday - “Focus” : Focusing meditation

Friday - “Rest” : Rest awareness with sound



Every meditation is at the same time (1-1.30pm) and will be held online using zoom.us videoconferencing software. Download Zoom for free before attending.

To join in, email the Quaker Chaplain ([J.K.Evans@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:J.K.Evans@sussex.ac.uk)) asking to join the email list. You will then receive a weekly reminder with the week’s Zoom links.

Come whenever you want: you can come to all of the meditations or none of them, or just when you feel like it – the choice is yours.

- Three different approaches to mindfulness (Monday, Wednesday, Friday).
- Two problem-solving meditations (Tuesday – seek spiritual guidance for whatever is bothering you, Thursday – tap into your body’s own innate wisdom).
- A meditation for you every weekday!

*Jason Evans*  
*University of Sussex Quaker Chaplain*

## Inter Faith Contact Group (IFCG)

**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 February 25 from 7 - 8pm.**

### **Fostering Friendships**

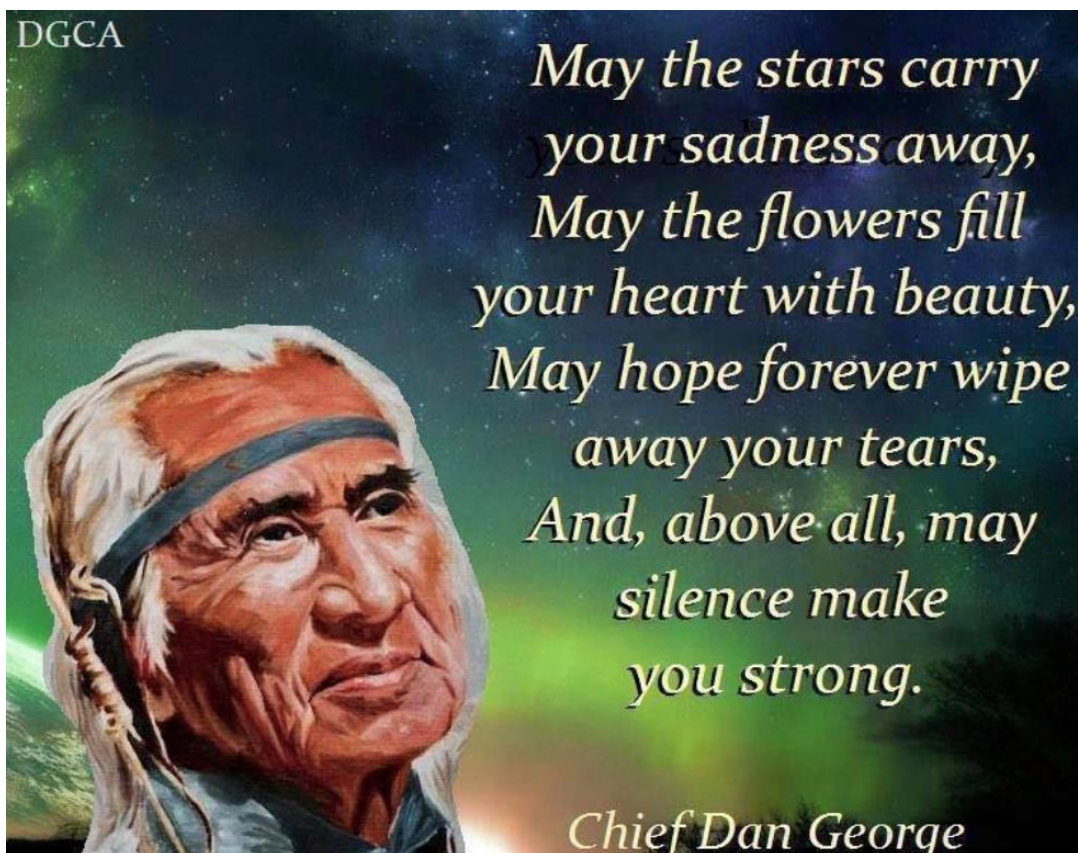
On the third Wednesday of each month members of different faith groups talk about events and festivals in their own faith communities.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday February 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*



## Another Poetry Evening – Oriental style

On **February 12** the Chinese New Year commences and we move from The Year of The Rat to The Year of The Ox. Please join me at **6.30pm for a 7 pm start** to an evening of oriental verse.

If you wish to compose a Haiku, or a Tanka, please send it to me (details in Contact Book or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)) and let me know if you wish to read it yourself. Also, please send any other oriental-themed poetry requests you may have either for you to recite or to be recited.

A Haiku is a three-lined poem of 17 syllables. The first and third lines have 5 words each and the second line has 7 words. Traditionally they evoke images of the natural world.

I look forward to hearing from you. A Zoom link will be sent nearer the time.

*David Fielder*

## 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***



## Woolly Hats Needed

I saw a letter in the Friend (January 8) from Melanie Jameson, Malvern Meeting, who is the Co-Clerk of Quakers in Criminal Justice. She has been approached by the prison chaplains at HMP Wandsworth with an urgent request.



She writes: "The residents of this old, cold prison are exercising outside in tracksuits. Inside the central heating is described as ineffective. So the Chaplains have come up with the project of providing a hat for every man - 1,476 in total. These hats can be knitted, new or second-hand, so long as they comply with prison regulations: NO black hats; NO peaked caps; NO hats with ear pieces; NO hats with slogans. However, Beanies and Bobble hats are welcome. Please send hats to: Visitors Centre, Wandsworth Prison, London SW18 3HR".

So, if you have any spare hats or odd balls of wool do please help out.

*Ann Howard*

## 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 are not on the list and would like to be, please contact The Clerk at [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com)

If we have not quiet in our minds,  
outward comfort will do no more for us than a golden slipper on a gouty foot.

John Bunyan, preacher and author (1628-1688)

## 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 [Campaign Against the Arms Trade](https://www.campaignagainstthearmstrade.org/). 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.**



## Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)

### **WORKING FOR A JUST WORLD, WHERE CONFLICT IS RESOLVED WITHOUT THE USE OF FORCE**

An organisation with strong Quaker links, CAAT is committed to nonviolent action. It is a UK-based organisation working to end the international arms trade. The arms business has a devastating impact on human rights and security, and damages economic development. Large scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems.



In Autumn 2020 CAAT launched a new legal challenge to stop the sale of UK weapons for use in the war in Yemen. This action will continue until they stop these sales once and for all. Recently the USA announced that they will no longer support the war in Yemen nor sell arms to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The work of CAAT in influencing the UK Government to follow suit is increasingly important.

Donations can be made via our treasurer George Dean (see above) or via the CAAT website at <https://caat.org.uk/donate/>

*Helen Ledger*

**Do we need weapons to fight wars?  
Or do we need wars to create markets for weapons?  
Arundhati Roy, author (b. 24 Nov 1961)**

## 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)

# 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.

#### February 21

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.

### **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 Wednesdays 12 – 2.

## Meetings for Quaker business

The next MWB is on **Thursday March 4** at 6.30 pm. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday February 26**. 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** via Zoom

May 15 at Worthing

July 17 at Ditchling

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

All members and attenders are very welcome!

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. Please note that 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 **March** newsletter is **Friday March 2**. 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.

**Worship is the response of the human spirit to the presence of the divine and eternal, to the God who first seeks us. The sense of wonder and awe of the finite before the infinite leads naturally to thanksgiving and adoration.**

**Silent worship and the spoken word are both parts of Quaker ministry. The ministry of silence demands the faithful activity of every member in the meeting. As, together, we enter the depths of a living silence, the stillness of God, we find one another in 'the things that are eternal', upholding and strengthening one another.**

1967; 1994, Quaker Faith and Practice 2.01