



Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

November 2020

www.brightonquakers.net

Issue 312

Finance & Property Awayday

We had our Finance & Property (F&P) Awayday via Zoom on Saturday October 31, to consider how to address the financial crisis we are facing with the loss of income from hiring out our Meeting House (MH) rooms, under Covid restrictions. The event itself was generally felt to be successful, and generated some promising ideas. Almost immediately after that the government announced both a second lockdown, from Guy Fawkes Day, and an extension of the furlough scheme, now extended to the end of March. So, this report should be seen in the light of an ever-changing background of regulation and restrictions on our business! It was agreed that F&P would keep the Meeting informed through the monthly Meeting for Worship for Business (MfWfB), and the Newsletter. So, watch this space!

Details of the current financial position and staff matters are in the Minutes of our MfWfB of November 5. The MH will be closed until further notice, except for Wednesday mornings between 10 and 12, when it will be open for 'private prayer', and Terry will be there.



We started by looking at the question - do we want to restore what we have lost, or find a new way forward as a Meeting? Which led to, what do we think of as distinctive about our Quaker values? The most important thing to emerge from our discussions was the image of our MH and its garden as a place of peace, inclusion and acceptance for everybody, with an ever-open door; an oasis of calm in the middle of a busy city; an approach to life and spirituality grounded in the present, with a sense of a long history, and a concern for the future, including the future of the planet.

From there we looked at various possibilities for raising funds, or using our resources - buildings, garden, staff, Members, funds - to promote our values in the world, and serve our communities. Many of the suggestions, such as events or long-term bookings, or hosting the work of organisations that share our values, especially those who work with vulnerable people, have been made impossible, for now, by the new rules. But some ideas are not dependent on the MH being open, such as asking Members to increase their regular donations, or to work to produce a book or a video promoting our values. If you have any ideas, or would like to be involved with such projects, please get in touch with us at fpconvenor.brightonquakers@gmail.com. Our next meeting is on November 19.

Penny Cloutte, Finance & Property Committee

Soup Kitchen at Meeting House

We have been asked by a new organisation associated with Brighton & Hove Faith in Action if they can use our premises to serve food to homeless people for consumption in our cafe and lecture room on weekday evenings from 6-8 pm, indoors. The soup kitchens that were running pre-lockdown have not been able to restart, particularly those running in the evenings.

Sadly, there are more people finding their way back on to the streets and, with the onset of winter, it is vitally important to run a service providing a hot meal for those on the streets. An indoor space where people can be fed is good for their morale and self-respect.

This is the kind of project we would like to support, but we will not have the staff hours available to cover it, and we have concerns about cleaning and security. They are offering to provide their own people to serve and clean up, and have their own security firm. Negotiations are continuing, but we would need some members or attenders to volunteer to offer support on our behalf. If you feel moved to help in this way, please get in touch with Terry at admin@brightonquakers.net. The scheme would not start until December.

Finance & Property Committee

Meeting House during Second Lockdown

Meeting House is now closed for room hire and to visitors EXCEPT **Wednesday mornings between 10 and 12** when it will be open for individual worship - 'private prayer',

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

Sunday Meeting for Worship at 10.30am continues on Zoom. For details please email us at admin@brightonquakers.net

Inter Faith Contact Group

Monthly Interfaith Prayers are now being held on the last Thursday of the month via Zoom. We share inspirational poems and spiritual readings - Words of Connection.

The next prayer hour will be on **Thursday November 26 from 7 - 8pm.**

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

If you would like to join the prayer meeting please email bqclerk@outlook.com



Ramallah Friends Meeting



There has been an active and vibrant Palestinian Quaker community in Ramallah since the late 1800's. In 1910 this community built the Ramallah Friends Meeting House and later added another building that was used for community outreach.

The Ramallah Friends Meeting has always played a vital role in the community. In 1948 the buildings and grounds became the home to many Palestinian refugees. Throughout the years, the members of the Ramallah Friends Meeting organized numerous community programs such as the Children's Play Centre, the First Day School, and women's activities.

By the early 1990's the Meeting House and Annex, which housed meeting rooms and bathroom facilities, fell into disrepair as a result of damage inflicted by time, and the impact of conflict. So serious was the deterioration that by the mid-1990's it was impossible to use the building at all.

A further blow to the Friends and the wider Palestinian community was the high level of emigration brought on by the economic situation, and the hardships arising from the continuing Israeli military occupation. The Meeting House, which had served as a place of worship for the Friends in Ramallah could no longer be used as such, and the Annex could no longer be used for community outreach.

In 2002 a committee consisting of members of the Religious Society of Friends in the US, and the Clerk of the Ramallah Meeting, began to raise funds for the renovations of the buildings and grounds of the Meeting House. By November 2004 the renovations were complete, and on March 6, 2005, exactly 95 years to the day after the dedication, the Meeting House and Annex were rededicated as a Quaker and community resource.

Friends meet every Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m. for an unprogrammed Meeting for Worship. Everyone is welcome to attend. <https://www.rfmq.org>

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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.

Book Review

Robin Wall Kimmerer - *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge & the Teachings of Plants* (Penguin 2013).

This book was warmly recommended to me by Ann Coote of the Blue Idol Meeting, and I soon realised why. At first sight the way in which it is organised might seem rather limiting, since each chapter is dedicated to a particular kind of plant. Far from being a botanical guide, however, the book outlines an interesting perspective on sustainability, in a thoroughly engaging way.

The key to the author's message is her ability to view the natural world from two different points of view. As a professor of ecology, she provides accessible explanations of why plants grow how and where they do. But as a member by birth of a Native American tribe, she is also able to interpret the plant world from a perspective entirely different from that of the sciences. Thus, although she fully appreciates the analytical power of science, she also underlines its blindness to aesthetic and moral questions. "Science can give us knowing, but caring comes from someplace else." Indigenous and scientific ways of knowing, she concludes, are complementary: "We see the world more fully when we use both".

Central to this indigenous vision is the idea of our 'kinship' with the rest of nature, not just with the living world but with the landscape as well. And all of these non-human parts of nature are regarded as 'persons' who deserve our respect since without them our life on earth would be impossible. Exploitation of the land, therefore, is to be avoided at all cost: "Take only what you need, and use everything you take". And when drawing upon nature to meet your needs, consider the well-being of *future* generations of humans as well.

Furthermore, nature is a constant source of ethical instruction. This is nicely illustrated by the book's discussion of the ancient Native American practice of planting maize, beans and squash together (maintained over several thousand years, because in combination they produce more food than when each is planted separately). As an ecologist, the author explains this practice in terms of the ways in which each plant's form, developmental rhythm and soil requirements complement the others'. But as a Native American she also sees in the practice a moral lesson. "Individuality is cherished and nurtured because in order for the whole to flourish, each of us has to be strong in who we are ..."

Despite an occasional reference to degradation of the environment, this is not primarily a 'political' book. But the indigenous vision of nature which Kimmerer endorses inevitably prompts one to reflect upon the very different vision, largely taken for granted in our society, (that land and water are commodities to be bought and sold; that 'natural resources' exist to be exploited in the interests of 'progress'; that endless consumption is essential for growth). Among other things, therefore, *Braiding Sweetgrass* offers an unspoken critique of the most basic assumptions underlying our economy.

Jon Harwood

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Black Lives Matter – Worship Sharing

We will be having a special meeting via Zoom
on Black Lives Matter

Sunday November 29 at 2.30pm

It will be facilitated by Carrie Comfort, Kent, Sussex & Surrey
Local Worker, Local Development Team

Worship sharing and creative listening groups

"Some Quaker meetings have discovered the value of small groups in developing the art of listening to God, to others, and to oneself. Such 'worship sharing' or 'creative listening' groups can provide a setting where all who take part are involved in the process of learning about themselves as well as about others. Here silence, too, can heal and restore. For Quakers this approach fits in naturally with our experience of worship.

The terms 'creative listening' and 'worship sharing' are often used interchangeably, the difference between them being perhaps that the latter comes closer to a meeting for worship with a more pronounced emphasis on the worshipping atmosphere.

Careful preparation is needed to establish the basis of such groups, and there are several publications and sources which may give help. Advice may also be had from Quaker Life.

Good practice would normally include: ... beginning and ending the meeting in silence; the requirement of absolute confidentiality; allowing space between contributions; speaking from personal experience; not commenting directly on what another has said; listening with attention; not lapsing into discussion.

It may be that some do not contribute in spoken words. There is a need to respect the possibility that members of the group may not wish to discuss further what they have begun to share in the group. These groups can be particularly useful in allowing us to explore deep and personal thoughts and experiences in a supportive and safe environment."

Quaker Faith and Practice 12.21

Following on from the September Meeting for Worship for Business we have met with Carrie Comfort to discern a way forward around the issue of racism. Many of us have felt deeply moved by the events of this summer and have felt drawn to respond. We are all working towards being active allies of people of colour, but, some of us felt we needed to take action as soon as possible; while some of us felt that no action can be taken without due reflection on, and awareness of, the power and privileges held by many British Quakers (who are mostly white).

It feels almost inevitable that we will make mistakes in handling these difficult issues; we will need to "hold one another up with a tender hand" *.

Our sense is that it would be helpful to spend some time listening to one another; to our different perspectives on the issue of Black Lives Matter, and to any actions

we have a leading to take, either as a community, or as individuals. As a community we can look at what it means to have a concern or a leading. At the end of the meeting we might decide to draw up a minute; but it may be that the important thing is to simply listen to one another.

So that we come “with hearts and minds prepared” ** it may be useful to reflect on these resources:

- Paper by Mike Coote on Black Lives Matter which was brought to August Brighton Meeting for Worship for Business, and will be re-sent with the Zoom link.
- Quaker Faith and practice on concerns (13.02 – 13.07) and chapter 29 on leadings: <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk>
- *The language of leadings: A reflection on faith, action and concern* by Jane Pearn (Quaker Books 2017). “Jane Pearn draws on her interest in language and her 30 years as a Quaker to consider the meaning of concern in her own life and in the lives of others.”
- Toolkit for action: Owning power and privilege <https://bit.ly/3jsrtar>
- It is now widely understood that racism is a concept that was specifically developed by white people as a way to justify enslaving others for financial gain. Below is a link to a TED talk about this (15 minutes long): “The lie that invented racism” (John Biewen, TEDxCharlottesville)
<https://bit.ly/3jp2G7a>

* *Quaker Faith & Practice 10.01*

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

Christine Habgood-Coote, Gerard Rosenberg and Susan White

The Exploring White Privilege group

A group formed in mid-June to explore white privilege and respond to our growing awareness of systemic racism in the UK. We met from early July until late October.

Here are some impressions, and a link to a developing web resource. There is more to be said, which we will circulate in time for the Worship-Sharing meeting on **November 29**.

"I learned much about dimensions of experience, mainly, but not exclusively, those of black people, that were entirely new to me."

"Listening to voices on a topic that we're naturally biased towards avoiding was immensely fruitful, and we came out better for it."

The following gives links to books/articles/podcasts/videos etc. Please feel free to add or access resources. In case of difficulty please contact Kate – details in Contact Book. <https://bit.ly/2U66gZs>

Penny Cloutte and Kate Mackrell

Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)

CAAT has launched a [new legal challenge](#) to stop the sale of UK weapons for use in the war in Yemen.

Can you spread the word? Share this [story](#), or share on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). In July, the government resumed issuing arms export licences for use in the war in Yemen: an appalling and astonishing decision. UK rules explicitly prohibit the sale of weapons when there is a "*clear risk they might be used in violations of international humanitarian law.*"

There's no 'might' about it here.

Violations of International Humanitarian Law by the Saudi-led coalition have been reported since the first airstrikes hit Yemen in March 2015, and they continue now. The attacks have killed thousands of civilians and targeted food production, schools and hospitals. Yemen's devastating humanitarian crisis is also a direct result of the war.

This war is waged with UK-made weapons. Over half of Saudi Arabia's combat aircraft used for the bombing raids are UK-supplied and they are dropping UK-made bombs and firing UK-made missiles. CAAT estimates the value of sales to the Coalition since the beginning of the war to be at least £18 billion. Last year, as a result of CAAT's previous legal action, hundreds of millions of pounds worth of arms sales were put on hold. The Court of Appeal found government decisions to allow arms sales were 'irrational and therefore unlawful'. The government was forced to stop issuing new arms export licences for use in the war and review all its previous decisions to allow arms sales, in accordance with the law.

Yet **the government's review was a whitewash.** It concluded that any violations of International Humanitarian Law committed by the Saudi coalition were only 'isolated incidents' - despite the fact that hundreds of attacks on residential areas, schools, hospitals, civilian gatherings, and agricultural land and facilities have been documented. The government has resolved to return to business as usual, but this is a business with a terrible cost and we cannot let it continue. **Our action continues until we stop these sales once and for all.**

Read more in our [press release](#), and the story in the [Guardian](#) on October 27. In solidarity.

*Sarah Waldron,
Campaign Against Arms Trade*

We are called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars'. Do you faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your own way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God.

Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 31

Building the New Economy

Continuing our review of the New Economy Series of Booklets which a Brighton Meeting Reading Group studied during the summer months.

Booklet 3 is entitled *Energy in the New Economy* and looks at building a just and sustainable energy system in tune with Quaker testimony.

Energy is fundamental to all our lives, especially in the rich western economies whose wealth has been founded on the exploitation of fossil fuels in particular. To build equality and peace in our communities and a 'right relationship' with our living planet, we need not only to transition to low-carbon energy, but also to new ways of making, using and sharing energy resources.

In our reading group discussion of this topic, we looked at the current make up of UK energy and the increasing share that is now coming from renewable energy (approaching 50% on some days), despite the discouragement of government policies and their continued multi-billion subsidies to fossil fuel companies. The issue of nuclear power remains controversial as, although it is a 'low carbon' fuel and provides a steady 15-20% source of UK energy currently, it is nevertheless very costly, relies on unsustainable uranium extraction, and leaves future generations with an unresolved environmental, disposal and safety question mark.

We looked at local initiatives to generate renewable energy – mainly solar power. Brighton Energy Co-operative has been growing steadily over its 8-year life, and Brighton & Hove Energy Services Co-operative (BHESCO) has initiated projects with a range of different renewable energy sources, and also supported local people to make supplier and tariff changes to get out of energy poverty. Both these co-operatives have successfully raised funds from local people by setting a low minimum investment level of £200-£300. We noted that everyone has the choice of using a renewable energy supplier for all of their energy needs – e.g. from national operators such as Ecotricity and Good Energy. The challenge of moving away from dependency on fossil fuels, and reducing consumption, is enormous but has to be faced in order to at least mitigate the coming climate change.

If you are interested in joining a second reading group, please contact Mike Coote or brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com for advice. For more information go to <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/new-economy>

Alan Stratford

Mary Hughes RIP

Our dear friend, Mary, who was originally from California, sadly died on October 22, after a brave struggle with sepsis, following surgery for a broken hip. In spite of being confined to her flat, Mary never complained, and it was always a pleasure to visit, discussing American politics or swapping crime thrillers. In her later years, with the help of taxis and her portable oxygen cylinder, she sometimes managed to attend Wednesday Midday Quaker Meeting, and loved seeing old friends.

A simple Cremation will take place in Worthing on November 11th. Please hold her daughter Katy and her family in America in the light.

Ann Howard

Get Strong and Support Your Meeting House

A Pilates Matwork Course

I will to be offering a regular Pilates course at the Meeting House on Wednesdays from 6.00-7.00pm in the New Year, from **January 6**, provided that the lockdown restrictions are lifted. It will be a class designed both for beginners and regular exercisers, to develop strength, increase flexibility and reduce problems related to physical aches and pains. The only pre-requisite is that participants will need to be able to get down on to the floor. No previous experience is necessary and I am accustomed to, and have qualifications in, helping people who have had negative encounters with physical activity in the past. I will layer each exercise so the more experienced exerciser will feel challenged.

It will be necessary to limit numbers to either 8 or 10, depending on the room we use, due to the present restrictions. We will ensure that we stay safe, and for this reason participants will need to bring their own yoga mats or a towel to lie on. Loose comfortable clothing will be suitable.

If you would like to get a sense of the class and the way I teach, please visit my website www.exercise-for-all.com where, if you wish, there is the option to join us for weekly live zoom classes at a level that suits you. There is no expectation for participants to make a regular commitment; the classes are drop in and you are welcome to come as often as you like.

To signal an interest in the January class, and so I can keep track of numbers and send further details regarding the classes, and Covid safe guidelines, please contact me. My details are in the Contact Book, or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

There will be a minimum donation of £5 for the January class as a contribution to Meeting House funds.

John Rignell

Two Pianos Seeking New Homes

Jo Headley who lives in Brighton, but usually worships with Worthing Friends, has two pianos she would like to find new homes for as she is hoping to have some building work done. One is a very unusual kind, an 1822 square piano of the sort used by Beethoven when he stayed in London. It is really a restoration project in need of some serious TLC. Jo is willing to work with someone on restoring this, but needs to find new homes for both pianos. The other one is an upright in working condition and free to anyone who might have use of it. Friends who might be interested in either (or both!) should contact Jo for further details. Jo is in the Contact Book, listed under Worthing Meeting.

Jason Evans

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Palmers Players

Dear Friends,

As you are aware, *With Full Conviction*, written by our Friend Neil Macdonald, is the *Palmers Players* drama project and this is a Concern of this Area Meeting. I had the opportunity to see it performed in Chichester Meeting House last autumn and was moved and much challenged by it, as well as the discussion that followed. That was before Covid-19 had emerged and this makes the play, which lends itself well to being presented using social media, all the more relevant in the present circumstances.

This offers a creative and important opportunity for outreach, and for engaging with those beyond the Quaker community. *Palmer Players* are currently raising money to develop their second play, and to take their presentations – which include a discussion and contemplative prayer time – to a wider audience, both here in the UK and in the USA.

You can find more information at

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/faith-based-theatre>

I do hope Friends and Local Meetings will feel able to support them.

In Friendship

Colin Holliday

Hypnotherapist in training

After seeking the advice of several trusted friends, and with the permission of my GP, and support from my keyworker, I have enrolled on a course to train as a hypnotherapist. Although something of a departure for me, it is surprising to me how well this fits with, and extends, my existing work with my weekday meditations, and complements my 'listening ministry' at the University of Sussex Chaplaincy.

Mental health remains a big issue on campus, especially so with coronavirus restrictions, and already I am able to offer a safe and accessible relaxation practice that just goes a little deeper than a conventional mindfulness exercise. In fact, US hypnotherapy entrepreneur, Grace Smith, describes hypnosis as "mindfulness with a goal" (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54263488>).

The course I am doing is very interesting and quite exciting, and I have just submitted my first assignment, and I am now looking for opportunities to practice. If you have ever been curious about hypnosis or would just like to try a deep relaxation exercise, and would like to volunteer as a test subject, please get in touch. I can offer a relaxation exercise based simply on progressive muscle relaxation, over Zoom, to anyone in good health who I have already met in person. Just contact me in the usual way if you are interested.

Jason Evans

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David's Adventures In Zoomland

Dear Friends,

I am considering hosting an hour or so of poetry, songs and stories over the Christmas period and wondered if anyone would like to join me in this adventure. Although it is planned at a festive time I think the event should be free from any particular theme or season. I am therefore putting out feelers to test the waters and see what interest there is.

The event would consist of

- 1) An eclectic collection of poems, recited by me, either of my choice and/or requests from Friends,
- 2) Friends reciting a favourite poem or a poem they have written themselves,
- 3) Friends singing a song, accompanied or not, as the case may be,
- 4) Myself or another friend reading a short story.

So, if anyone has requests or might find pleasure in participating, please email me with ZOOMLAND as the subject. My details are in the Contact Book, or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

If you wish to perform please give me a rough idea of the time span of your contribution.

My plan is then to collate the contributions into a Christmas collection, to be experienced on Zoom at some point during the evening of **Monday December 21**, with yours truly linking all the contributors.

David Fielder

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 - Ann Howard, Jane Rosenberg, Terry Byrne, Chris East, Stella East, Mary McCullough, Alan Stratford, Barbara Barber
bqoverseers@outlook.com

Message from Vivienne Ross

"I wish to thank all the Friends who've sent cards, texts etc with good wishes for my recovery from the knee replacement operation. As a result, I am doing very well and improving daily."

Vivienne Ross

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 below. Alternatively, if you prefer, 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.

Children of the Jordan Valley report, 2019-2020

We were very fortunate to hold a meeting of our group over coffee in the Mad Hatter Cafe, just before lockdown, on Saturday January 11. It was well attended and Amalia, a mature volunteer, gave us an enthusiastic, illustrated talk about her recent visit to the Valley, working in co-operation with local people and other internationals, on hands-on building and community ventures.

Since January I have learned from Judy, our Jordan Valley Solidarity contact in Brighton, that Rashid and the volunteers have set up and started to run a 'mini education project' in the North of the Valley. As we know, the Israeli authorities neither fund, nor even permit, the construction of any buildings, including schools or other teaching facilities for the Palestinians of the Jordan Valley, under their control.

Michael Richardson, of our Meeting, had visited some of the Occupied Territories while on holiday. He was impressed with the flourishing Friends' School and hundred-year-old Meeting House in Ramallah, but his intention of reaching the Jordan Valley was thwarted by the complications of taxi travel between Israel proper and the occupied Palestinian area around Jericho and the Dead Sea. Michael had been associated with our group before and after his trip, and we are very grateful for his input. He has now suggested he pass his place on to anyone else interested in helping the young people in this particularly deprived and politically neglected part of the Holy Land. I should be pleased to chat to anyone who may like to join us.

To donate via PayPal go to <http://jordanvalleysolidarity.org/donate/donate/>
OR by bank transfer to Brighton Jordan Valley Solidarity:
Sort code 08-92-99, Account number 65263895 and please put the reference 'Children'.

Angela Bargawi

Looking for an unusual present?

One of our wardens, Julian Cloran, is offering affordable items at his online art shop at

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/JULIANCLORANART4ALL>

Please check it out.



Quaker composer receives OBE

News of Brighton Quaker Meeting Member, Sally Beamish.

Sally, a composer and patron of The Leaveners, has been awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to music.

For more information go to <https://thefriend.org/article/quaker-composer-receives-obe>

Congratulations, Sally

Along the paths of the imagination the artist and mystic make contact. The revelations of God are not all of one kind. Always the search in art, as in religion, is for the rhythms of relationships, for the unity, the urge, the mystery, the wonder of life that is presented in great art and true religion.

Horace B Pointing, 1944 Quaker Faith & Practice 21.32

Community in Action

Coffee Mornings via Zoom on Fridays at 11.00 am. If you would like to join please email bqclerk@outlook.com

Brighton Young Quakers are a group of 18-30ish year olds who are Quaker, Quaker-ish or Quaker-interested. As we are unable to meet in person we will meet every Tuesday at 18:30 on Zoom, for some worship and a catch up. For details and to obtain the Zoom link, email brightonyaf@gmail.com. You can find the link on our Facebook group or our WhatsApp group, which can be joined via this link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IqONGmLatpx9pWJtKPdDEa>

Matt Alton

Being Friends Together

The East and West groups continue to get together regularly via Zoom.

A third Being Friends Together group started recently but it is not too late to be part of the group. Being Friends Together is a good opportunity to get to know Friends better, learn more about Quakerism and share spiritual journeys. If you would like to join please contact the elders via bqelders@outlook.com

Clerk's mailing list - if you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact Sheila Boyer at bqclerk@outlook.com

Brighton Meeting Elders

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Brighton Meeting diary

Meetings for Worship

Regular Meetings for Worship

Brighton Meeting House is temporarily closed but we have an on-line Meeting for Worship via Zoom on Sundays - 10.30–11.30 am.

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

Children's Meetings

For the last three months of the year the Children's Meeting will be held via Zoom on the Third Sunday of the month, 10 – 11 am.

November 15

December 20

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

If you would like to join please contact Helen Ledger or bqclerk@outlook.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 December 3** at 6.30 pm. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday November 26. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB.** Please email bqclerk@outlook.com or write to clerks c/o The Meeting House.

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

Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2020

Saturday November 21 at 10.30 am via Zoom

If you would like to join the above Business Meeting please email bqclerk@outlook.com

Regional Meeting

Saturday November 28 - 'Money and Tax Justice for the Common Good' with Justin Thacker, Director of Church Action for Tax Justice, and David Brown, author of "*The Modern Money Tree – How Money Really Works*".

Meeting starts at 10.30 for 11.00 via Zoom. There will be time in small groups to formulate questions for the speakers. 40 places are available. Everyone who attends or is a member of a Quaker meeting within Sussex and Surrey RM is welcome to register.

To register, please contact: sussexandsurreyrmquakerclerk@outlook.com before Tuesday 24th November.

Notices

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to brightonquakernotices@gmail.com. The deadline for notices is Friday evening. Please note that Notices are still read out at the end of the Zoom Meeting for Worship on Sundays.

Newsletter Contributions

The editor wants the newsletter to reflect the diversity of thinking and experience of members and attenders. If this is to be your newsletter, we need your input: thoughts on the meeting, a passage that has inspired you, a book review, a drawing, something to share with others that might help us grow in community and spirit. Please send your contributions to the editor, Jackie Robinson at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

The deadline for the **December** newsletter is **Tuesday December 1**. The editor has the right to edit contributions or hold them over until the next issue, particularly where this is necessary in order to avoid blank pages.

It is the responsibility of contributors to decide how much of their personal details should be given.

To receive the newsletter by email please write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com. This is necessary to comply with GDPR laws.

And finally, Friends, in these times – Brexit, pandemic, US election, wars, and BLM - let us remember this Advice.

**Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships.
Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journeys of others. Do you foster the spirit of mutual understanding and forgiveness which our discipleship asks of us? Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God.**

Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 22