



Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

October 2020

www.brightonquakers.net

Issue 311

Women Workers' Training Centre

This month's Appeal is The Women Workers' Training Centre (WWTC) in the village of Nagalapuram in Tamil Nadu, South India, run by the Sisters of the Church of South India.

I have worked with WWTC since 2006 when I spent 6 months with them as a volunteer. I visited again on a number of occasions over the years and give support online several times a year. The project works with 67 villages doing outreach work such as teaching organic farming, supporting basic animal health care, supporting local midwives, running an annual eye camp, and supporting government health initiatives such as inoculation campaigns. Working with children involves training local women to run after-school day centres and a number of preschools.



Magilici Illam (Happy Home) is a girls boarding home for 50 girls at risk, which provides support throughout their childhood and on into further and higher education. The centre also runs an annual training programme for young women in their late teens and twenties, many of who are also vulnerable. Increasingly girls are being referred by Social Services as being at risk at home, possibly from sexual abuse. They learn typing, computer, tailoring and needlework skills, and have sexual health and awareness training; and they follow a bible study course. They obtain professional qualifications to allow them to work independently.

This year Covid-19 has meant that much of the work has been suspended or maintained in different ways. The village has fortunately had very few cases and at the end of September had no confirmed cases, but all the large towns around have significant numbers of cases. During lockdown all the children had to return to their homes in local rural villages, as decreed by the state government. The centre sent each child with a large sack of rice, masks, soap and hand-gel, and staff have maintained contact with all the children, initially by phone and later face to face. Sister Kasthuri, the Superintendent, reports that the children all seem to have lost weight as their diet at home will be mainly rice with a few vegetables. Their parents will all be daily labourers, i.e. signing up for work each day, so living a precarious existence.

This week the government is reviewing the school situation and intends that Standard 10/11 pupils (our equivalent of GCSE) should return to school, so these girls will return to the centre where they have been making appropriate preparations for their return. They hope in due course the younger children will return, however the rate of Covid-19 is so high this is still under review.



The centre is extremely well managed by Sister Kasthuri who trained in development studies; and they report to the Church of South India.

For details on how to make a donation please see Appeals on page 8.

Pictures - children at an after-school day centre, and a picnic on an outing

Helen Ledger

The Knots Prayer

Dear God:

Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.
Remove the have nots
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots,
may nots,
might nots that may find
a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all,
Dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.
Amen

Author Known to God

Submitted by Terrie Adams, found in an office in Claridge House.

Plugging the Financial Hole

If you attended, or have read the Minutes of our most recent Meeting for Worship for Business (BM), you will know that the closure of our Meeting House for several months has resulted in a significant loss of revenue from hiring out the Meeting House - not only while we were shut, but because there has been a falling off of many of our previous hirers for October, which is unlikely to revive any time soon. For details see Minute 86/20 (e) of BM. This is in contrast to the surplus we usually make at this time of year. George, our treasurer, reports that the estimated deficit for the year to the end of November is £45,000.

Therefore, we need to expand our thinking about how to generate income. We will be sending round a survey, asking your help in generating creative ideas to sustain our Meeting House with new ideas/customers, in ways consistent with our Quaker values. Of recent years we have generated a lot of our income by hiring out rooms; if we can no longer do that, due to circumstances beyond our control, we need to seek Leadings as to what to do to sustain our Meeting. Should we be thinking about changing our business model? And to what? How might we make more money from hiring out the garden space?

Finance & Property Committee (F & P) have already had some ideas, and they will be included in the survey. Please do take part, even if you think your ideas are too crazy or unimportant to contribute. Think of it as Ministry, and seek Leadings! Maybe the most unlikely idea will turn out to be our financial saving grace.

Meanwhile, if you have any thoughts you would like to share with F & P on this topic, please send them to fpconvenor.brightonquakers@gmail.com

We will discuss the outcome of the survey at F & P on October 15, and will invite all Members and Attenders to an online Awayday via Zoom on Saturday **October 31 at 11 am**. Please make a note of that date if you want to be involved!

If you are not on the Clerk's email list and wish to join the Awayday please contact bqclerk@outlook.com and you will be sent the link.

We hope that this Awayday will lead to some proposals to put to Business Meeting on November 5 (no fireworks for us that night!)

Finance & Property Committee

Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship. Try to find a spiritual wholeness which encompasses suffering as well as thankfulness and joy. Prayer, springing from a deep place in the heart, may bring healing and unity as nothing else can. Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life.

Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 30

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

Building the New Economy

Booklet 2 is entitled "Good Work in the New Economy". It explores how employment and business structures could enhance human and non-human life - how we might organise work as if people and the environment mattered.

As the Quaker, Scott Bader, said: "the ultimate criteria in the organisation of work should be human dignity and service to others instead of solely economic performance".

Good work needs to be: safe and secure; properly valued; done in manageable hours; fairly distributed; meaningful and democratic. One of the aspects of good work is surely the scope for participation in decisions, for a role in shaping, as well as performing, the work.

The booklet goes on to explore: (1) what is wrong with the current system (2) future trends in unemployment and universal basic income (3) organisation and structure of business ownership. There are five case studies looking at different organisational structures.

The final section of the booklet delves into corporate power and work; re-imagining corporate governance; our power as investors; corporate power versus worker power, and state regulation and laws. This might sound a bit dry but talking about it together and bringing our own experience to bear made it much more personal and relevant.

The structure of the New Economy reading groups is set out in the link below, and all the material is available on line. 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, winter is coming and Zoom remains a good method. Please contact Mike Coote or brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com for advice.

For more information go to <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economicjustice/new-economy/new-economy-reading-groups#heading-1>

Gerard Rosenberg

Irony

"Before our white brothers came to civilize us we had no jails. Therefore, we had no criminals. You can't have criminals without a jail. We had no locks or keys, and so we had no thieves. If a man was so poor that he had no horse, tipi or blanket, someone gave him these things. We were too uncivilized to set much value on personal belongings. We wanted to have things only in order to give them away. We had no money, and therefore a man's worth couldn't be measured by it. We had no written law, no attorneys or politicians, therefore we couldn't cheat. We really were in a bad way before the white men came, and I don't know how we managed to get along without these basic things which, we are told, are absolutely necessary to make a civilized society."



John Fire Lane Deer, Seeker of Visions www.goodreads.com

Let This Sink In A Bit

Meeting for Worship for Business using Zoom

It can feel a little odd to conduct Quaker business over Zoom but we should remember that Zoom is just a tool...in the same way that a Meeting House is also simply a resource.... the meeting will be as centered, spiritual, inclusive and productive as we choose to make it!

The etiquette of Quaker business method is just the same as when we are gathered in the Meeting House:

- Come with heart and mind prepared
- Bear in mind that it is the responsibility of each of us to ensure right ordering
- If you wish to offer ministry, raise your hand and wait to be called by the clerk
- Accept that the clerk is trying to discern which Friends should be called to speak; this may not be you at this time
- Contribute once, and then not again until everyone else has had a chance to offer their ministry
- Do not repeat what is already in the minute or things which have already been said
- When someone else is ministering, listen attentively, seeking the truth within what they say..... don't spend the time preparing what you want to say next
- We seek the guidance of the Spirit, not the view of the majority; there is little place for comments like "The Friend speaks my mind"
- Allow some space for reflection between contributions
- When the clerk is writing a minute uphold them in silence and stillness
- When the minute is read to the meeting try to weigh whether you can unite with the minute or if it needs amendment; this is not the moment to raise new issues

I think Zoom meetings can be deeply spirit-filled, and our Quaker habits of stillness, listening and waiting can be adapted very successfully to Zoom. I suspect we will continue to meet electronically with Friends locally, nationally and internationally so it is worthwhile spending a little time adapting to this way of conducting Quaker business.

Christine Habgood-Coote, Elder

Approach old age with courage and hope. As far as possible, make arrangements for your care in good time, so that an undue burden does not fall on others. Although old age may bring increasing disability and loneliness, it can also bring serenity, detachment and wisdom. Pray that in your final years you may be enabled to find new ways of receiving and reflecting God's love.

Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 29

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

Inter Faith Contact Group

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE DAY. THIS HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

Monthly Interfaith Prayers are now being held via Zoom. We share inspirational poems and spiritual readings - Words of Connection. The next prayer hour will be on **Thursday October 29 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

Each week the Interfaith Contact Group produce four prayers and/or poems on their 'Words of Connection' Blog page. To read these, please go to:
<https://interfaithcontactgroup.com/category/words-of-connection/>

If you would like to be made a 'friend' of the Interfaith Contact Group (which costs nothing,) please drop a line to Anthea Ballam, Chair IFCG at chair@interfaithcontactgroup.com

Fostering Friendships

ALSO, you are invited to join the IFCG for this new monthly meeting, where members of different faith groups talk about events and activities in their own faith communities.

In the first meeting we heard from representatives of the Hindu, Jewish and Quaker communities. At the next meeting we will hear from Pagan, Lyn Baylis, talking about the autumn and equinox celebrations, and there will be a speaker from the Baha'i Centre.

The meetings will be via Zoom on the third Wednesday of each month. Next meeting will be **October 21 at 5:00-6:00pm.**

Please contact Sheila Boyer for details of both of these Zoom meetings.

Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger IFCG representatives

Christian Climate Action

When we look at our Earth, we can see that creation is suffering from the carelessness and greed of humans. We have caused unprecedented changes over the last 75 years.

Christian Climate Action (CCA) is a community of Christians supporting each other in acts of non-violent direct action and public witness, as a way of following Jesus Christ in the face of climate and ecological breakdown. We are the Christian branch of Extinction Rebellion, often taking action with those of other faiths.

'I am a Quaker determined to do what love requires of me, and serve the truth. It is my sacred duty to rebel.' *Sue Hampton*



'Christians are called by God to show to the world what the divine image looks like... CCA seeks to respond to that summons. In the face of impending environmental crisis, we need to encourage one another to grow more fully into the joyful responsibility we are made for.' *Rowan Williams*

In Brighton we have a local branch of CCA linked closely to XR meditators. Together we frequently support local XR actions with a silent presence: prayer/meditation/ vigil.

If you are interested please contact ruthurbanowicz@live.co.uk.

We try to meet up in Queens Park quiet/sensory garden (just north of the clock tower) for walking meditation and sharing once a month. Of course, we will have to split into groups of 6! Next one is **Saturday October 10 at 10.30 am**.

Ruth Urbanowicz

Science & Religion in Dialogue

World Congress of Faiths (WCF) - Younghusband Lecture, "One Mystery, Two Stories – Science and Religion in Dialogue"

There will be three speakers:

- Prof. Nidhal Guessoum (Muslim), Algerian astrophysicist and professor at the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- Swami Medhananda (Hindu), Assistant Professor and Head of Department of Philosophy, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, West Bengal, India
- Dr David Gosling (Christian), Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

The speakers will each reflect their personal interests in the 'Science and Religion Debate', as well as addressing general issues.

This will take place via Zoom from **4.00pm to 5.30 pm on Thursday November 12**. We will have contributions from people in time zones several hours ahead of the UK.

To register go to www.tinyurl.com/wcf-yhl

For more information go to <http://www.worldfaiths.org/contact-us/>

*Information received from Andrew Jackson, Anglican Lay Chaplain,
University of Sussex via Interfaith Contact Group*

Are you able to contemplate your death and the death of those closest to you? Accepting the fact of death, we are freed to live more fully. In bereavement, give yourself time to grieve. When others mourn, let your love embrace them.

Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 30

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

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,
bqoverseers@outlook.com

New Contact Book

Area Meeting is updating the printed Contact List of Members and Attenders. The new edition of the Orange book will be available in January.

Friends already listed only need to contact the Overseers if they have changes or corrections.

Anyone else who would like to be included and has not signed a GDPR form please contact the Overseers at bqoverseers@outlook.com

Please contact Ann Howard via the email above if you require further clarification.

Appeals

In these strange times we cannot put donations in our Appeal Box. Our chosen charities could lose out on much needed donations.

This month please contact Helen Ledger to make a donation.

Alternatively, you can send a cheque to the Meeting Treasurer at Meeting House. Please let George know for which appeal the payment is being made.

Appeals for 2021

There will be a Zoom meeting on **Sunday October 18 at 1.30** to create a list of charities for our monthly appeals next year.

Friends are encouraged to send suggestions for local, national and international charities to Angela in advance of this meeting. We particularly want charities that Friends are involved in. If you are unable to attend on October 18 please send your suggestions to Angela Bargawi who will be convening the meeting or to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

Our Clerk will send out a link for this meeting a few days before. If you are not on the clerk's email list but would like to propose a charity for an appeal, please contact bqclerk@outlook.com

Community in Action

We are in lockdown but our community is still '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

Claridge House re-opened September 1 2020



Claridge House is the Quaker retreat near East Grinstead, run by Friends Fellowship of Healing.

Dormans Rd,
Dormansland,
Lingfield RH7 6QH

They offer a variety of retreats and workshops including Christmas Break and New Year Retreat.

For more information and to book, go to www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk

or call 01342 832150 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

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

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.

October 18

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 November 5** at 6.30 pm. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday October 29. 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 Meetings please email bqclerk@outlook.com

Regional Meeting

Saturday November 28 - 'Money and Tax Justice for the Common Good' with Justin Thacker and a speaker from Gower Initiative for Modern Money Studies. Meeting starts at 10.30 for 11.00 via Zoom.

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 **November** newsletter is **Tuesday November 3**. 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.

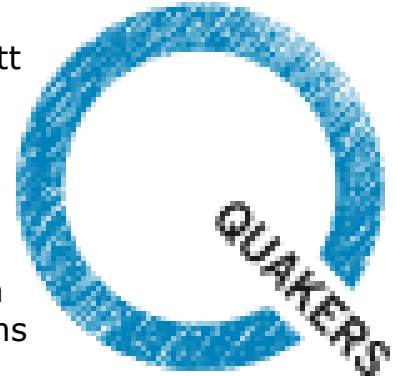
To receive the newsletter by email please write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com. This is necessary to comply with GDPR laws.



Annual Chichester Quaker Peace Lecture (Online)

'NO CLIMATE JUSTICE, NO PEACE':

On **Wednesday November 11 at 5.30pm**, Molly Scott Cato, Quaker, former MEP and Green Economist, will give an online presentation on the question of whether a truly peaceful international order can be sustained unless we first address the looming environmental crisis. From the coronavirus we have learned the reality of the global village, that as human beings we share a common vulnerability, and that if we do not solve our problems together they will remain unsolved.



How can we take that lesson forward as a motivation to take urgent action on the climate crisis and global injustice?

Each November Quakers in Chichester hold a Peace Lecture in the Meeting House, Priory Road. For us the important lesson to be drawn from the events of 1914-1918 is that ways should be sought to avoid such terrible conflicts happening again. It is not good enough to say that wars are inevitable. They are no more than a choice made by human beings; other choices are possible. This year, for the first time, our Peace Lecture will be held online because only a limited number could otherwise go. More people, then, should be able to hear Molly speak, as we hope to have 100 people participating.

Sign up for our Annual Peace lecture using eventschiquakers@gmail.com. You will be sent a link to sign into the presentation about a week before hand.



Molly Scott Cato's Wikipedia entry is here; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molly_Scott_Cato

Published by Brighton Quaker Meeting
www.brightonquakers.net
Registered as a charity in England: 1147831