



Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

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www.brightonquakers.co.uk

Issue 355

George Fox 400

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

George Fox, 1656, Quaker Faith & Practice, 1.02, Advices & Queries

Celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the birth of George Fox, the founder of Quakers, are taking place throughout 2024. The exact date of Fox's birth is not known; we chose to commemorate the occasion on Sunday 23rd June with an All Age Meeting for Worship.



To set the mood we borrowed hats and bonnets, and took our theme from George Fox's words *'to walk cheerfully over the world answering that of God in everyone'*.

The children made tracings of their feet onto paper and then cut them out. We asked them what big steps they had taken recently, such as changing schools, making a new friend; these events were transcribed onto the cutouts. The rest of the Meeting did the same. Helen Ledger will be making a display.

As prepared ministry, Helen Ledger and Nathaniel Lawson read respectively a children's version and an adult's version of George Fox's life. Caroline Kendall played guitar and led our singing of George Fox's song *Walk in the Light*.

No birthday celebration is complete without a birthday cake! The children carried in a big chocolate cake with '400' in three candles. We blew out the candles and the whole meeting sang Happy Birthday to George Fox. The Meeting enjoyed the cake at coffee time.

It was a celebration enjoyed by everyone - a happy day.

Annie Lieberman

Yearly Meeting 2024

Yearly Meeting 2024 takes place at Friends House and online over a long weekend, from Friday 26 July – Tuesday 30 July. Children and Young People are an integral part of our Yearly Meeting, which includes Children's Programme for 0–11s, Young People at Yearly Meeting for 11–15s (non-residential), and Junior Yearly Meeting for 15–18s, accommodated nearby.

Yearly Meeting 2024

26–30 July, online and at Friends House, London

Preparation sessions and Special Interest meetings will be held online from Friday 5 July – Wednesday 10 July, 2024.

For more information go to <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

All-Together Worship at Yearly Meeting on 28 July

At May's Meeting for Worship for Business, we agreed to take part as a Meeting in this exciting opportunity to 'live adventurously' at Yearly Meeting. Here's how it is described in the Yearly Meeting documents in advance (available from <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents>):

"This will be a huge meeting for worship, taking place across Britain in homes, meeting places and at Friends House. We will come together as a single loving, inclusive and all-age community across the length and breadth of BYM."

As well as individuals joining online from home, local Quaker communities are invited to take part via a live link. We hope those unable to connect online will either join others connecting online locally, or worship with us together in spirit. This meeting for worship for everyone together, all ages, online and in meeting houses, will include ways to settle into waiting stillness."

We will join the All-Together Meeting in our Meeting Room. Brighton elders and wardens will also be providing a separate **in-person only** Meeting for Worship in the Lecture Room for those who do not wish to participate in the Yearly Meeting. Our usual Zoom link will not work that week.

Jason Evans, Elder

Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Are you open to new light, from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?

Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No.7

History of Yearly Meeting

From Quaker Faith and Practice 6.01

'Our yearly meeting grew out of a series of conferences of ministering Friends, some regional, some national. We may think of that at Swannington in 1654 or Balby in 1656 (*the postscript to whose lengthy letter of counsel is so much better known than the letter itself) or Skipton the same year, or the general meeting for the whole nation held at Beckerings Park, the Bedfordshire home of John Crook, for three days in May 1658, and attended by several thousand Friends. This in some ways might be considered the first Yearly Meeting were it not for the fact that the 1660s, through persecution and pestilence, saw breaks in annual continuity. The meeting in May 1668 was followed by one at Christmastime, which lasted into 1669, since when the series has been unbroken. It is 1668, therefore, that we have traditionally chosen as the date of establishment of London Yearly Meeting. But many (though not all) of the meetings up to 1677 were select, that is, confined to 'publick' (or ministering) Friends: from 1678 they were representative rather than select in character. Minutes are preserved from 1672.'

For more information on this history please read Quaker Faith and Practice 6.01

*The Balby postscript - Quaker Faith and Practice 1.01

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

Although the corporate use of advices and queries is governed by more flexible regulations (1.05–1.07) than in the past, they should continue to be a challenge and inspiration to Friends in their personal lives and in their life as a religious community which knows the guidance of the universal spirit of Christ, witnessed to in the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

Advices and queries are not a call to increased activity by each individual Friend but a reminder of the insights of the Society. Within the community there is a diversity of gifts. We are all therefore asked to consider how far the advices and queries affect us personally and where our own service lies. There will also be diversity of experience, of belief and of language. Friends maintain that expressions of faith must be related to personal experience. Some find traditional Christian language full of meaning; some do not. Our understanding of our own religious tradition may sometimes be enhanced by insights of other faiths. The deeper realities of our faith are beyond precise verbal formulation and our way of worship based on silent waiting testifies to this.

Our diversity invites us both to speak what we know to be true in our lives and to learn from others. Friends are encouraged to listen to each other in humility and understanding, trusting in the Spirit that goes beyond our human effort and comprehension. So it is for the comfort and discomfort of Friends that these advices and queries are offered, with the hope that we may all be more faithful and find deeper joy in God's service.

Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided; and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

Postscript to an epistle to 'the brethren in the north' issued by a meeting of elders at Balby, 1656

Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages.

- Thomas Edison, inventor (11 Feb 1847-1931)

Goodbye Casey – Hello Paggy

**Sunday the 21st July
11.45am to 12.30pm**

We will be having an informal gathering immediately after Notices in the garden (weather permitting) or the Lecture Room, to say goodbye to one of our members of staff - Casey Crossland - and Hello to her replacement - Paggy Gacheva.

We will be providing some fizzy drinks and are inviting people to bake and bring a cake for the occasion.

*Jim Wallace
Warden*

Pride Garden Party

Pride returns to our city in August and as usual we will host teas, coffees, cakes and biscuits in our Meeting House garden on **Saturday August 3rd** from 1.00pm to 4.30pm.



It is a fun afternoon and offers of help are welcome as are donations of cakes and biscuits. We hope to have a short Meeting for Worship in the Children's Garden. It is a joyous occasion and if you can help please talk to either of us or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

Dawn Speck and Roseanne Wilding

Hiroshima Day 6 August

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

BRIGHTON, HOVE & DISTRICT BRANCH

WILL BE COMMEMORATING ALL NUCLEAR VICTIMS SINCE 1945

HIROSHIMA DAY, Tuesday 6th August.

In the evening we will gather at 8.15pm until 9.00pm by the lake in Queens Park, Park Street, off Eastern Road, Brighton.

We expect to have the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Councillor Mohammed Asaduzzaman to speak and a second speaker to follow.

After the two speakers we will have a silent walk around the lake followed by 2 minutes silence. All welcome

Citizens Brighton and Hove and one-to-one meetings

Friends will know that we have joined and paid for membership of Citizens UK, Brighton and Hove. The membership fee enables Citizens UK to be financially independent; they do not take government money. This allows them to challenge our elected representatives without fear or favour.



Citizens UK is a national organisation which, through community organising, builds people's power to lead change for the common good, developing community leaders and strengthening civic institutions. Started by a Quaker, Neil Jameson, they have campaigned to overcome injustice in many different areas. The Brighton and Hove branch of Citizens is an alliance of about thirty organisations including faith groups, schools, sixth form colleges, university students and unions.

Paris Palermo is the local paid CITIZEN community organiser. He recently came and talked to us Quakers at a shared lunch about how Citizens UK works. Since then we have had another meeting where he gave a basic introduction on how Citizens UK builds power for change. This is at the heart of what they do and what follows is an abridged summary of his talk:

"The main point is that if we are unhappy with society and want to make changes in it, we need power. We are not interested in power over others, we are interested in the power that comes from working with each other, from building relationships and a meaningful understanding of each other's backgrounds, motivations and desires. That way we can turn our private pains into public pains; recognise that the injustice we or our loved ones experience, are in fact experienced by many in our community. If we work together, we can overcome these injustices.

This process of building relationships that empower real change starts with a very simple one-to-one conversation. This isn't about small talk, it's about reflecting on who you are, what you care about, what has shaped your worldview, why you do what you do; it's about sharing all this with someone - the really meaningful stuff - and then asking them to share back in turn. If we make relationship building the dominant culture, we become a community, we become powerful agents in our districts and can start to influence the decisions that are made about our lives everyday by others with positional power over us. So really the first step of one-to-one's is to start to understand each other on a more meaningful level and it is this simple first foundational step on which all campaign activity is based."

Before the recent elections Brighton Citizens had small working groups made up from the alliance which engaged with local parliamentary candidates, setting out the issues which mattered to us, the kind of questions that would be asked at the assembly, and getting their agreement to commit to certain actions beforehand. This is vital preparation for the 'pre-election assembly' and candidates know pretty much the kind of questions put to them and what will be asked of them. This means that at the pre-election citizens assembly made up of local alliances,

candidates from all parties were able to make clear commitments to support Citizens in issues such as mental health in schools, the living wage, transport, unfair renting, support for refugees and more issues.

We are about to start the process of widening the one-to-one conversations and we ask all Friends to join us. The benefits of such a process are not just about supporting Citizens UK. It is about us as a Quaker community coming together and getting to know each other better as individuals.

So please start one-to-one meetings with others in Brighton Meeting. We suggest arranging a meeting up for 45 minutes to an hour, maybe in a café, or maybe somewhere more private.

If you want to learn more about Citizens UK, click these links

<https://www.citizensuk.org/>

<https://www.citizensuk.org/chapters/brighton-hove/brighton-news/>

Helen Holtam

You have to learn to say
no without feeling guilty.
Setting boundaries is
healthy. You need to
learn to respect and take
care of yourself.



Meeting House Environment

- the message it gives to newcomers

The Information and Outreach Group recently discussed the Meeting House environment and whether it accurately portrays the type of community that we are. Brighton Quakers is quite a vibrant community and it was thought more could be done to illustrate this in various ways within the entrance porch, public areas and possibly within the garden.

If you have thoughts either way about this and would like to join a small, time-limited group in taking this forward, please contact me or write to me at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

Steve McMillan

**If you are wondering what God may be,
Looking for a purpose in life,
Craving company, seeking solitude,
Come to our Meeting for Worship!
We shall not ask you to speak or sing,
We shall not ask what you believe,
We shall simply offer you our friendship,
And a chance to sit quietly and think,
And perhaps somebody will speak,
And perhaps somebody will read,
And perhaps somebody will pray.
And perhaps you will find here
That which you are seeking...
We are not saints,
We are not cranks,
We are not different -
Except that we believe
That God's light is in all people,
Waiting to be discovered.**

From Quaker Home, now Quaker Life.

Submitted by Sheila Boyer

Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us.

Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No.8

Interfaith Contact Group

Friendship Hour

July 24th 7-8pm at the Baha'i Centre, 19 Stanford Avenue, Brighton - the theme will be 'Work and Rest'.



There will be no Friendship Hour in August.

Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger, IFCG representatives

Pastoral Support - Staying in Touch with each other

Our Quaker community has a *Pastoral Friends* team who are available to keep in touch with members and attenders, and give comfort or support when it is needed. Our present age has many challenges – from living through coronavirus to worries about making ends meet, or anxiety over international tensions.

Please contact any of the Pastoral Team who are: Sheila Boyer, Lisa Compton, Annie Lieberman, Kate Mackrell, Hugh Parrott, Dawn Speck.

bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com

Brighton Permaculture Trust – July appeal



**BRIGHTON
PERMACULTURE
TRUST**

Brighton Permaculture Trust (BPT) was begun in 2000 by a handful of passionate people. Having only a few paid members of staff it relies on many dedicated

volunteers to achieve the impressive amount of work that it does.

There are many courses and workshops; about 50 orchards around here have been created and support is offered to the local volunteers; tons of otherwise abandoned fruit is collected each year to make juices and cider, jams and chutneys; and BPT is recognised as the holder of the National Collection of Sussex Apples by Plant Heritage.

Everything within the organisation is based on permaculture design principles. These were all determined after close observation of how the natural world organises itself, nothing is ever wasted, everything functions in several ways, everything adds value to the whole system so that it is self-sustaining, and thrives.

BPT's mission statement:

**Inspiring, connecting, learning:
for people and the planet to flourish.**

For more information go to www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk.

Susan White

Appeals

Now that we have blended Meetings some Friends cannot put donations in our Appeal Box at Meeting House. Our chosen charities could lose out on much needed donations. If you can, please make your donation through the appeal's website brightonpermaculture.org.uk/support-brighton-permaculture-trust/

Alternatively, you can send a donation via the Meeting Treasurer. Just send a cheque to Meeting House or do a bank transfer:

Account name: Brighton Quaker Meeting

Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account number: 65009567

Please do let the treasurer know which appeal the payment is for.

Community in Action

Fourth Sundays shared lunch

28 July, 25 August, 22 September, 12.30pm, Quiet grace

Vegetarian soup will be provided in mugs. Please bring food to share.

Seated around square tables. Please ensure everyone is welcome and feels included. Maybe sit with people you don't know. Let's encourage little people to sit up for the duration too!

Visitors welcome of course, without any contribution.

Helen Holtam

Coffee Mornings via Zoom on Fridays at **11.00 am**. If you would like to join please email the clerk at 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. Two groups continue to get together regularly via Zoom. If you would like to join please contact the Elders via bqelders@gmail.com

Clerk's mailing list: If you would like to receive email information and Quaker news from the clerks, you need to have completed a GDPR Form (re data privacy). These forms are available from the Pastoral Team by contacting: bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com

Workshops and community events

Welcome Meeting – previously called Open Meeting

Welcome Meeting is held at **12 noon** on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, and is open to everyone – visitors, attenders and members. It is a chance to share how Meeting was for us and to discuss our Quaker faith. Newcomers are particularly welcome - come and chat with some friendly people about your impressions of Meeting or ask questions about Quakerism in an open and informal way.

Brighton Meeting diary

Meetings for Worship

Regular Meeting for Worship

Sundays 10.30–11.30am Blended Meeting

If you wish to join via Zoom please contact bgelders@gmail.com

5.00–5.45pm in-person only Meeting

The evening Meeting on the second Sunday of the month will be a Silent Peace Vigil. For more information please contact Vivienne Ross or bgelders@gmail.com

Wednesdays 12.30–1.00pm in the Quiet Room

For more information please contact bgelders@gmail.com

Children's Meetings

Brighton Children's Meeting welcomes all children and their parents to Children's Meeting and Creche. Children will have the opportunity to learn more about Quakers today and the roots of Quakerism, and to explore for themselves what this means for them in their own lives.

All leaders are DBS checked. One parent per family is asked to stay with babies and toddlers up to age 2 in the Creche. Creche is for our younger children and Children's Meeting for children over 5.

Next Meeting:

July 21

August - we do not hold Children's Meetings in August but there will be materials available for children to use should any come as visitors.

September – Children's Meeting will restart. Dates to be announced.

For more information please email brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

Meetings for Quaker business

Local Meeting for Worship for Business in 2024

Sunday 4 August at 12 noon in the Meeting Room

Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Sunday 28 July**. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB. Please email brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com, or write to the Clerks c/o The Meeting House.

If you are a newcomer or attender and would like to join MWB for the first time, please contact the Clerk, who will be able to explain the procedures. If you are not comfortable with Zoom please contact the Elders at bgelders@gmail.com.

Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2024

It was agreed at January's Area Meeting that to be more inclusive we should vary the times and dates of our Area Meetings. Hopefully the changes will make these Meetings more accessible to younger Friends.

The following dates for your diary:

- Sunday 11 August after Meeting for Worship at Worthing
- Saturday 21 September – 10.30 at Ditchling
- Saturday 16 November – 10.30 at Brighton

Sussex and Surrey Regional Quaker Meeting 2024

The following dates for your diary:

- Saturday 28 September at a venue in Guildford and on Zoom – Peace
- Saturday 23 November – TBA.

You are very welcome at any RM event if you attend or are a member of a Quaker meeting within SSRQM. (SSRQM is made up of Surrey and Hampshire Border AM, Sussex East AM, Sussex West AM and West Weald AM.)

sussexandsurreymquakerclerk@outlook.com

Deirdre Morris, Clerk to SSRQM

Notices

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to brightonquakernotices@gmail.com. The deadline for notices is Friday evening.

Newsletter Contributions

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

The deadline for the **August** newsletter is **Friday August 1** – always two days before Business Meeting. The editor has the right to edit contributions or hold them over until the next issue, particularly where this is necessary in order to avoid blank pages.

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

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

Stop the War

We joined forty local residents at the Stop the War 'Stop L3Harris Inter-faith Vigil' on the afternoon of June 25th. The L3Harris factory is in Home Farm Road off the Lewes Road in Brighton. They manufacture bomb release mechanisms for fighter jets. These are being used by the Israeli Defence Forces against the residents of Gaza, Palestine. The owners of the factory next door to L3Harris own the property and say they will not renew their lease with L3Harris once their agreement ends in 2027. Local anti-war groups want, on the basis of international war crimes, the lease to end now.



We heard from representatives of six different groups/traditions/faiths including Buddhist and Jews Against the Occupation who gave speeches, and there was space for reflection, quiet thoughts and prayers. Helen read a statement from Quakers in Britain.



The photo says that 16,000 children have been killed in the current war, but that was the number of children killed between October and January. The number has now increased significantly. For comparison, 16,000 is about the number of all the children in all the schools in Brighton and Hove.

The Brighton branch of the Stop the War has been creating a display of the names and ages of all the children who have been killed. Each child's name and age

has been written on white ribbon and they have been attached to long cords. Some of these cords can be seen attached to the gates. Over the next few weeks we at the Meeting will have the opportunity to remember the names and ages of 9-year old children killed in the war in Gaza by writing their names on more ribbons to create more displays.

It is planned to hold more interfaith vigils on a regular monthly basis .

Jackie Robinson & Helen Ledger

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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 Sundays.