



# Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

April 2026

www.brightonquakers.co.uk

Issue 375

## Together Against the Far Right march

At the march held on Saturday 28th March I arrived with others looking for the 'group' that we planned to march with. Groups were lined up all along Park Lane as well as in another area in Hyde Park. There was a very welcoming and excited atmosphere. Time came for the march to start, and it didn't. During the waiting people began to move about and of course started to talk to people in other groups. The longer we waited the more talking and listening to each other. When on the march the groups began to fragment further there was a wonderful mix up of people, groups, interests etc....



This for me is Britain at its best!! Welcoming, inclusive and interested in each other. Of course, there will always be challenges, complexities and confusion and there must also be celebration and community.

Could we hold such an event in Brighton and Hove?

*Peter Wells*

## Congo Film and Free Amnesty Webinar

Thank you to the Friends who have donated to help Amos, our Friend in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), fund his masters degree studies. Thank you also to everyone who has donated to his NGO (CAAPD) previously.

If you would like to understand the complexities surrounding the current situation in the DRC, there is a fantastic film, **Story to a Coup d'Etat** that I highly recommend. Told against the backdrop of 1960's jazz and blues (and featuring some of the greats of that era) the film tells the story leading up to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba. This link takes you to the trailer for the rent and you can rent the full film from £2.49 (I found SD adequate).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4ijH8hO124> Also, free recorded webinar from Amnesty about how the situation in the DRC connects racism with batteries for smartphones, laptops and electrical vehicles can be found at <https://youtu.be/r0q1xIMkons?si=dajH9MIKuv3cU7bi>.

Our interests in the Congo as a local meeting sit well with the decision by Yearly Meeting (Quaker's national body) to start looking into reparations for the transatlantic slave trade.

*Jason Evans*

## Are you interested in joining the newsletter team

We are looking for a Friend to join the newsletter team to oversee and manage all technical and digital elements of the newsletter each month. If you are interested, please see the role description below:

### Overview:

The Brighton Quaker newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month, a few days after the Meeting for Worship for Business Meeting (BM) which usually takes place the first Sunday of each month. It currently goes out in digital form on email to over 180 Friends worldwide plus we also print 50 copies which can be picked up at Friends Meeting House, a form of outreach.

The new technical person will be responsible for:

- Formatting the digital version into a printable PDF version;
- Sending it out to those on the email list;
- Sending the PDF to the printer (the collection of the newsletter is taken care of).
- Maintaining the email contact list;
- Uploading the newsletter onto the QuakerApp and our website.

If you wish there will also be the opportunity to edit the newsletter at times.

We also welcome suggestions for how to make the digital newsletter more accessible in general.

If you are interested please contact either of us or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

*Jackie Robinson and Laura Fraser*

## Divine Justice

Lord, let the people I do not like or have wronged me be held in the Light.

Let that Light cause them to pause.

Let that pause grant them the possibility of a change of heart.

Let that change of heart grant them the opportunity to make amends.

This is God's kind of justice.

Not retribution or revenge, nothing punitive at all.

Just the possibility that the people I do not like think again.

And in thinking again choose a better path.

God's justice can't be less than the best we imagine.

The best we imagine condemns no-one.

*Jason Evans*

## Welcomer, Doorkeeper

If you are new to Quakers, or even if you have been attending for some time or are a Member, a great way to serve the Meeting that is not a big commitment is to offer your services as a Welcomer. A Welcomer is someone who greets people at the Meeting Room door as they enter at the beginning of the main Sunday morning Meeting at 10.30am. It is a good way to make a positive contribution to Meeting that is not a large obligation, where you can choose how often you want to participate. It is also a fantastic way to make new connections and also establish closer contact with people in the Meeting you've already met.

A Welcomer does not have to be a very experienced Friend, or even a full Member, all we are looking for is friendly people to meet and greet. Your main tasks will be to greet people at the door and show them into the Meeting Room. If someone is new you can show them the literature we have on display that they can peruse and also explain the process of Sunday Meeting to them.

The Welcomer stays outside the door of the Meeting Room until 10.45am, at which time the Welcomer will close and lock the side, corridor and front doors of the Meeting House (as detailed in Minute 4/26 from January 2026 Business Meeting).

There should be a notice clearly displayed on the front door explaining that the Meeting House is locked after 10.45am and that anyone arriving after that point is welcome to return to the Meeting House at 11.30am for Notices.

At 10.45am the Welcomer and any accompanying attenders waiting in the lobby who turn up for the Meeting after 10.35am can enter the Meeting Room at the same time, thus causing less distraction to the people already inside the Meeting for Worship.

If you are interested in becoming a Welcomer or have any questions about the changes to policy re: door locking, please contact me or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

*Sian Jasper  
Welcomers co-ordinator*

**We know the power of God's Spirit at work in the lives of people within the community of our meetings. These people may have been drawn into the community by a sudden conviction, a long period of seeking, or have grown up within it from childhood. We also know that we are engaged in a life-long growth into faith, and experience a continuing irruption of grace into our lives which demands and sustains a commitment to a life of discipleship. We recognise this power at work in people of all ages, races and creeds: a transforming power which can issue in lives of joy, humility and service.**

*London Yearly Meeting, 1986, Quaker Faith & Practice 10.02*

## Being a Quaker: a Guide for Newcomers

For years, Geoffrey Durham has been introducing people to Quakers, through Quaker Quest and now in [Discovering Quakers](#). On the book trolley, we have several copies of his book "Being a Quaker", which we were given to give away to any relatively recent newcomer who would like one. Friends who have been with us longer might like to borrow it from the library: his account of coming to the Society is useful for anyone looking at a newcomer, and wondering, how can I make this person feel welcome?

Geoffrey writes of the testimonies, which emerge from our immediate experience. He is an engaging writer with a twinkle in his eye, inviting people in.

Anyone might benefit from his personal insights on giving ministry, or what worship is. Rather than the question "Do you believe in God?" he prefers the question, "Do you encounter anything you might call God?" There is no form of words which captures or defines what we do, but this book is a way into experiencing the blessings we share.

*Abigail Maxwell*

## Ditchling Meeting House Diamond Anniversary

### **Saturday 18th April 2pm to 5pm**

Ditchling Quakers held house meetings from 1949 and bought the little Meeting House on 14th April 1966. Ditchling Meeting invites you to come and celebrate its 60th anniversary with us on Saturday 18th April 2026 between 2 and 5 pm.

There will be tea and cakes, an exhibition of historical material (any photos or memories you can contribute would be most welcome), activities for children, Quaker board games, a quiz, and Quaker songs.

After Meeting for Worship on Sunday, we plan to share memories and photos of those earlier Quakers who started our meeting.

Quaker Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling, BN6 8ST. A mile walk east from Hassocks station. Car parking is on B2116, Keymer Road – short walk towards Ditchling, turn left past the pond, right up Boddington's Lane and East Gardens is opposite you, across the main road. There is disabled access at the Meeting House. Do bring friends, family and children. All are welcome.

*Jan Shimmin*

*When I listen to love, I am listening to my true nature. When I express love, I am expressing my true nature. All of us love. All of us do it more and more perfectly. The past has brought us both ashes and diamonds. In the present we find the flowers of what we've planted and the seeds of what we are becoming. I plant the seeds of love in my heart. I plant the seeds of love in the hearts of others.*

*Julia Cameron, artist, author, teacher, filmmaker, composer, and journalist*

On 1<sup>st</sup> April I attended the Community Day of Action outside L3 Harris factory in Brighton. They manufacture carriage-and-release mechanisms for bombs and missiles which are currently being used in wars around the world. This inspired me to write this poem, a reflection on Good Friday.

### **Good Friday's Human Gift**

**A temple of devils  
Preying on Sheep  
Reeking of Sacrifice and Extortionate greed  
Who dared walk in  
And demand it all cease ?  
Call out the corruption, the lies and the greed?  
Whether you see him as Human  
or like unto God  
He was real on this earth  
Fierce tongue like a rod  
That smashed through the lies  
Brought hope to the weak  
All humans are like him  
When for justice they speak  
Justice for one and Justice for all  
From penitent great ones  
Right down to the small  
The peace that he spoke of  
Is the real Holy Grail  
Whatever our opinions  
We can't let that fail  
The vanity of some men  
Is sickening to see  
But desire for true justice  
Quickens everywhere round me  
Justice for Moslems  
Christians Humanists and Jews  
For all faiths and persuasions  
For me and for you  
The earth It is groaning  
We must turn the tide  
Make this the planet  
Where peace and justice abide ..**

*Dido Walker*

# Interfaith Contact Group

## Interfaith Contact Group AGM and Debate

You are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Interfaith Contact Group at **2.30pm on Sunday 19 April** at The Friends' Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AF. The business part of the meeting will be very short and will include election of officers in which only members may vote. We will then proceed to a most interesting and participative session looking at the question **'Is Interfaith Dialogue Relevant in Troubled Times?'** Speakers at this event include Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah, Bishop Nick Holtam and Linda Lee of the Brahma Kumaris.



After the AGM, there will be a delicious tea catered by members of the committee. We are constantly struggling to raise sufficient money to continue our work. With this in mind, we ask, if you can afford it, for a £5 donation for tea and cake on the day. We are happy with cash and also have a card reader.

*Charlotte Gravestock  
Secretary Interfaith Contact Group*

- **Spiritual Book Club** Zoom Meeting April 13th 7pm
- **21st Joint Palestinian-Israeli Memorial Ceremony**, organised by the [Parents Circle-Families Forum](#) and [Combatants for Peace](#), will take place **Monday 20th April**.
- **Zoom Discussion on Faith and AI** Thursday April 30th 7.30pm
- **Time to Remember loved ones who have died.** Part of Dying Matters Awareness week. May 7th from 5.30. Second Floor Café, City Coast Centre, Portslade BN41 1DG.

For more information on all the above go to <https://interfaithcontactgroup.com>  
*Sheila Boyer, Helen Ledger and Jason Evans IFCG representatives*

**Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be your part. Faithfulness and sincerity in speaking, even very briefly, may open the way to fuller ministry from others. When prompted to speak, wait patiently to know that the leading and the time are right, but do not let a sense of your own unworthiness hold you back. Pray that your ministry may arise from deep experience, and trust that words will be given to you. Try to speak audibly and distinctly, and with sensitivity to the needs of others. Beware of speaking predictably or too often, and of making additions towards the end of a meeting when it was well left before.**

*Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No 13*

## The heart of the internet.com

### Does the internet have a heart?

Since the dawn of civilisation, a concern for the future of humanity has almost certainly been sitting at the centre of every community of faith and tradition.

Recently, and prolifically in the mainstream media, there's been a great deal of speculation which suggests human civilisation could now be on the verge of its greatest transformation since the end of the Ice Age.

Whilst global infrastructures, the internet and artificial intelligence (AI) have all become increasingly entwined, it's become increasingly apparent, that the all-pervasive internet has continued the locking of progressively entwined and rising percentages of our children's attention firmly into the fabric of its many fascinating spaces. And yet what do we see there at the centre of that massive machine, apart from growing numbers of shopping channels and some indelible instruction to return more riches for a handful of billionaires?

I've been attending Brighton Meeting since the 1980s, and throughout all these many years I've been convinced that **unless we're endeavouring to seat, maintain & promote humanity [that of God, our species & its virtues] at the heart of the internet, then something else will be sitting in our place, and it will imagine nothing in the universe greater than itself.**

And it's almost driven me to total distraction wondering what one is supposed to do with an idea like that. I've even heard some Friends say that it's probably already too late now for us to make any real difference in that online world. But maybe this conundrum is not a hindrance but an opportunity. So, I began wondering whether some endeavour for us might be more effectively promoted through an arts project. And then another Friend suggested that this idea might work more effectively as an art installation, in some place like the Friends Meeting House (FMH) garden. And then, after praying for some further guidance on this matter, I was (almost immediately and unexpectedly) presented with a red paper heart by a little girl, handing them out after Children's Meeting.

If you'd like to get involved with this art project (planning, design and preparation – which might become a regular *workshop* in future months) then you could meet with me/us in FMH on any (or all) of these dates: Sunday **19 April**, after the IFCG AGM; Thursday **23 April**, at 6pm; Wednesday **29 April**, at 1.30pm. And then further dates would be posted in this newsletter in May.



*Peter Sharrock*

## An opportunity to learn what our clerks do

Saturday 11 April 10.30 - 1.00 pm at Brighton Meeting House. An opportunity to find out what the clerk does and how to do it! Please contact Brighton Meeting Clerk at [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com) if you would like to come.

*Jane Rosenberg*

## Weaving Trust between each other

### **Speed dating' with a difference!! Community rather than personal!**

An initiative of [Brighton & Hove Citizens](#).

*'When people come together across difference, share their stories, and listen to each other they experience democracy as it should be: relational, participatory, and rooted in shared dignity. Relating across difference begins with a willingness to have conversations with people who we wouldn't usually meet and we might not agree with.*

*Through meaningful conversation, assumption and judgement can be replaced with curiosity. Through this process, people grow more confident and interested in working with those who hold different identities and beliefs. Over time, these encounters can deepen our appreciation of the diversity of the places we live and strengthen our sense of belonging to one another and to our shared civic life.'*  
(taken from Brighton & Hove Citizens Weaving Trust).

The focus is intentional about what we are passionate about in our community. It is not a social or personal chat about our private lives.

On **Sunday 26th April** we would like to offer a session of Weaving Trust before the shared lunch. Those who want to take part gather in the main Meeting Room and for 30 minutes we will ask each other questions related to our community life. Each session will be only for a few minutes so we can meet a variety of people. We will try to organise a way in which parents can join in.

On **Wednesday 6th May 17:45 - 19:30pm** at the Sallis Benney Theatre, Grand Parade, the 25 groups in the Brighton & Hove Citizens UK alliance will be holding a city wide Weaving Trust session. An opportunity for us to talk and listen to others from our Universities, colleges, faith and community groups across our City. **If you are interested in attending Wednesday 6th May** please let one of us know, or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com) .

*Peter Wells & Helen Holtam*

“Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.”

- Albert Camus

## March Area Meeting (AM) reports

### **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

This was an extra meeting called to deal with the items left over from the January meeting. Under membership matters we learned that two people from Brighton have resigned their membership.

A Minute will be sent to Meeting for Sufferings requesting that one of our member's name be included in the Court and Prison Register. The Register is a record of individual Quakers who felt led by the Spirit to act in ways which involved breaking the law and suffering the consequences.

AM Pastoral Friends met and considered how we can welcome trans and gender diverse Friends in our Meetings. This is an important and complex issue affecting not only our Quaker communities but also within UK society at large which will take time, maybe years, to reach a conclusion. In our Quaker meetings, we try to approach these differences in a constructive and loving way but have to accept that some behaviours have not always lived up to that ideal. AM Elders and Pastoral Friends will meet together to encourage our continued sharing of experience.

AM considered the Discussion paper on blended meetings and how to improve the experience of all participants. This discussion will be continued and each Local Meeting will consider the issue and feed back to AM.

*Jane Rosenberg*

### **21st March**

All documents are available via QuakerApp. Friends needing assistance with this should contact Michael Richardson.

There was a report from Christine Habgood-Coote, our AM representative to Meeting for Sufferings on their final meeting in the current mode. After Yearly Meeting it will move to a format where we will retain AM reps but any Friend can attend a meeting. She also expressed her willingness to complete her triennium.

- Abigail Maxwell's name has been added to the Prison and Courts register in relation to her arrest last year. The withdrawal of Brighton Meeting's November 2025 newsletter's impact on our religious and spiritual life has been noted.
- Claire Dymion expressed a protest about her non-appearance on the Prison and Courts register.
- The Meeting thanked Christine Habgood-Coote for her work on our behalf.

There was a report on proposed changes to our organisational structure. Hilary Cook was a representative at a meeting held on March 28th to consider this with representatives of our Regional Friends and will report to the next Area Meeting.

There was a report from the working group on learning. Their proposal to have a series of learning activities was accepted following Ministry on learning across the Area.

There was a report from the Trustees. They considered how to move forward following the withdrawal of Brighton's November 2025 newsletter. There is a new format for editorial matters.

There was a presentation by staff from Britain Yearly Meeting on centrally managed work. We considered the questions 'What does it mean to support the wider community through giving and service?' and 'How do I discern how much to give?' in smaller groups. We were also informed that our AM is among the least generous givers to BYM.

*Michelle Roberts*

## Zoom Friends and Welcome Meeting

This is most particularly for Zoom Friends but for anyone who uses Zoom at times.

The wish of Meeting to include Zoom Friends as much as possible, we would like to offer those attending on Zoom on Sunday morning the opportunity to join the Welcome Meeting which runs 12 - 12.30 on all Sundays except when we have our Meeting for Worship for Business (BM).

We are suggesting this on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and will arrange to have it set up on those Sundays starting on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April (12<sup>th</sup> April being BM in April). We hope you will feel able to join us sometimes.

We also remind you that you are always welcome to join Connecting Friends, usually first Monday of the month but 13<sup>th</sup> in April due to Easter.

We have set up the Zoom weekly as that's easier than trying to do 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays but it won't be first Sunday of month due to BM nor 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday due to shared lunch.

It would be good to be able to talk with you as well as seeing you on screen.

Please note that as First Sunday in May is a Bank Holiday the May BM may be changed hence there may be no Welcome Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Connecting Friends may be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> not 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Sheila Boyer  
Pastoral Friends*

**Never bear more than one trouble at a time.**

**Some people bear three kinds -**

**- all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have.**

**Edward Everett Hale, author (1822-1909)**



Bernhard Baron  
Care Home  
Care Homes for Friends

## Trustee Vacancies

### Bernhard Baron Care Home

Bernhard Baron Care Home (BBCH), established in 1945 to provide care and support to older people, is a vibrant residential community. We offer residential care services in cottages and in our main building in Polegate, near Eastbourne.

We employ over 70 staff and about 20 volunteers and hold charity status. BBCH is run by a board of up to 12 Trustees, most of whom are Quakers. Our Quaker faith influences all of our decision-making and, although our staff are not Quakers, our Quaker ethos permeates all aspects of life at the Homes.

We are seeking additional Trustees to support BBCH in our strategic direction and our aim to achieve an 'Outstanding' rating with the Care Quality Commission. We are in particular need of Trustees with financial expertise and experience. You will need to be available for 4 Trustee meetings a year plus one strategy day and any committee work you might be interested in. It will be possible to attend some meetings remotely.

Please email Kate Fenton: [kate@bbch.co.uk](mailto:kate@bbch.co.uk) for more information or if you would like to visit the Home.

[www.bbch.co.uk](http://www.bbch.co.uk)

## Tuesday at Friends

**At the Friends' Meeting House,  
Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AF  
[brightonfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:brightonfriendsmeeting@gmail.com)**

**Telephone: 01273 770258**

**email:**

***Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm. Admission £2.50. No need to book.  
Tea and biscuits on sale afterwards. There is an induction loop for the hard of hearing.***

*Tuesday afternoon illustrated talks for everyone, of any age*

### **PROGRAMME – SUMMER SERIES OF TALKS**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> 'A walk in the High Weald: woods and lanes': with Dr Geoffrey Mead.**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> 'The impact of Brighton's growth and spread as a resort on the villages now within the City - part 1 1700-1840' with Dr Sue Berry.**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> 'The Magna Carta' with James Simister.** Discover more about this ancient, revered document.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> 'More Brighton and Hove Photos from the Argus Archive' with Andy Garth.**

**May 12<sup>th</sup> 'Amsterdam' with Tilo Flache.** The Dutch capital is more than tulips and bicycles.

If you would like to put forward yourself as a potential speaker, or know someone you would recommend, please let the organisers know on 01273 770258, via [brightonfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:brightonfriendsmeeting@gmail.com)

**Organisers - Brighton Quakers**

## Pastoral Support ..... and help while in hospital

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, Hugh Parrott, Dawn Speck and Peter Wells.

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

And... in case you are taken ill, or find yourself in hospital, please make sure that your family and friends know that they can get support from the Quakers. If they are not Friends themselves, they might not think of it.

Please call Brighton Meeting House on 01273 770258 or let the hospital staff know that you would like a visit from the Quaker Chaplain. The message will get to me and I can make sure you get a visit.

*Sally Beamish,  
Quaker Hospital Chaplain*

**Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.**

*Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No 1*

## Request for donations

Current members of our refugee cooking group are from many parts of the world. Please consider donating sanitary products, specifically sanitary pads as culturally these are more acceptable for most of the women. Donations can be left in the box near the automatic door into the Meeting Room. The women cannot afford to buy these necessary items on the weekly £9.00 they receive from the Home Office. Regular donations are particularly welcomed.

*Helen Ledger  
Sanctuary Group*

## Community in Action

### **Fourth Sunday Shared Lunch**

**26 April**, 24 May, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Join us for regular Friendly lunches at 12.30 - Everyone welcome. Vegetarian soups & bread provided, plus shared dishes. Edible or financial (£2-£3) contributions appreciated.

### **It's a team effort. Help is appreciated:**

- Setting up, heating up, and clearing away.
- Making newcomers feel welcome.
- Usually ends with a cup of tea to thank the helpers 🍷🍷

*Helen Holtam*

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

**Connecting Friends** meet in the Meeting House on the first Monday of the month (but not this May). It is a time to get to know each other. At present we take one item from Advices & Queries, each read it aloud in turn, and then reflect on it together in silence for about 15 minutes. We then share our reflections, spending about an hour together in our groups. Following this, we meet together as a whole group to share drinks and snacks – everyone is asked to contribute – and we break no later than 9pm. It is important that everyone understands that this is a confidential exercise, not to be shared outside our own group, either in person or on social media. Zoom Friends are invited. The Pastoral Friends are convening the February Meeting so please contact them at [bgelders@gmail.com](mailto:bgelders@gmail.com) so we can organise a Zoom link and laptop. The next meeting is **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 7-9pm**. Please arrive at the back door. Usually we have the whole building, so we split into small groups (of four or five people in each) and use different rooms.

**Young Adult Friends** have been enjoying meeting together in the Meeting House on the third Monday of each month to socialise, worship, discuss and learn on Quaker themes, and enjoy a hearty shared meal.

We look forward to meeting again on **Monday 20th April at 7-9pm** in Brighton Meeting House, and we warmly welcome other Young Adult Friends (anyone between 18 and a very flexible 40ish years old) to join us. The group is open to anyone who has attended Brighton Meeting and anyone they would like to bring with them.

We set up an 'information only' WhatsApp group so that we can send reminders through to those interested in attending the group. Please get in touch if you'd like to be added – Zoe Greenslade's contact details are in the Contact Book, or alternatively you could email [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com) and it will be forwarded on to me and Zoe.

*Niamh Carmichael*

## Appeals appeal

We have charities earmarked for all the coming months, except August. This was intentional as it was felt important to leave a space for any concern that might arise during the first part of the year. I would be very grateful if any suggestions could be emailed to me before the beginning of July. The sponsor of each appeal writes a short paragraph for the August newsletter and briefly introduces the charity after Meeting for Worship on the second Sunday in August.

Thank you!

Please contact me or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

*Hilary Armfield  
Appeals Co-ordinator*

## 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 [contact.org.uk/donate](https://contact.org.uk/donate).

Alternatively, you can send a donation via the Meeting Treasurer. Just send a cheque to Meeting House, via the card reader in the warden's office 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.**

## April Appeal

This month's appeal is for Contact (also known as Contact a Family). They

**contact** *For families  
with disabled children*

support families with disabled children up to age 25. They were founded in the 1970's as a mutual aid organisation. They do this by providing direct support to families, by being a resource for professionals supporting families, by influencing policy and campaigning and commissioning research, by supporting parent and carer forums, by running special projects and programmes, by being a training and consultancy service.

Donations can be made either directly at <https://contact.org.uk/donate>, via our treasurer, via the appeal box after Meeting for Worship or via the office card reader.

*Michelle Roberts*

## Brighton Meeting diary

### Meetings for Worship

#### **Regular Meeting for Worship**

**Sundays** 9.30–10.15am Quiet Room

10.30–11.30am Blended Meeting

If you wish to join via Zoom please contact [bqelders@gmail.com](mailto:bqelders@gmail.com)

5.00–5.45pm in-person Meeting

For more information please contact [bqelders@gmail.com](mailto:bqelders@gmail.com)

**Wednesdays** 12.30–1.00pm in person only in the Quiet Room

## Children's Meetings

Brighton Children's Meeting warmly welcomes all children to a weekly Meeting for Worship just for them. Children begin in the main meeting with adults for the first 15 minutes, then at 10.45am are guided to the lecture room by two DBS-checked adults (a leader and a helper). Children under two are welcome with a parent or grandparent.



We now offer a Children's Meeting every week and have unified the session that was previously split between younger and older children. Currently the majority of attendees are under the age of 8. Sessions often begin in a circle, sharing good things, before exploring Quaker themes in a safe, caring, and creative environment. Name badges are available and can be helpful.

At the end of Meeting for Worship, children rejoin the adults during Notices and may be invited to share their theme or handiwork.

We're always grateful for volunteers—whether you'd like to lead a session or simply be an extra supportive adult. If you'd like to be involved and be added to the WhatsApp Group (for coordinating the rota) or want more information, please email [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com).

*Helen Holtam*

## Workshops and community events

### Welcome Meeting

Welcome Meeting is held on the second, third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, at **12 noon**, 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.

## Meetings for Quaker business

### Local Meeting for Worship for Business in 2026

**Sunday 1 June** at 12 noon in the Meeting Room - blended

Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Sunday 25 May**. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB. Please email [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com), or write to the Clerks c/o The Meeting House.

If you are a newcomer or attender and would like to join MWB for the first time, please contact the Clerk, who will be able to explain the procedures.

## Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2026

We continue to vary the formats of Area Meetings to be more inclusive. Hopefully the changes will make these Meetings more accessible to younger Friends.

In the Meeting House and online unless otherwise stated

**Saturday 16 May**, 10.30 am at Ditchling

Wednesday 15 July, 7.00pm at Brighton (online only?)

Saturday 19 September, 10.30am at Worthing

Thursday 19 November, 7.00 pm at Littlehampton (online only?)

We will decide at a later date about the July and November Area Meetings being held online only.

All meetings will be in person and on Zoom starting at 10.30am with the option of an afternoon session as required.

## 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.**

## Newsletter Contributions

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

The deadline for the **May** newsletter is **Friday 1 May** – 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.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Brighton Quaker Meeting or any other Quaker organisation

To receive the newsletter by email, and to comply with the GDPR law, please write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com).