



Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

June 2026

www.brightonquakers.co.uk

Issue 377

Dearest Friends,

Over the next few months, there will be a few marches taking place that will provide Friends with rich opportunities to honour the Quaker spirit of participating in, and contributing to causes close to our hearts.

On P.9 you can find out more about the upcoming *Carnival Against Fascism* and on P.2 *A Quaker Silent Walking Vigil for Peace* which will be happening in September. This month's *Profile of a Friend* is Sally Beamish on P.3 and we have two very special announcements on P.5. On P.6 Dido Walker offer reflections on this year's Yearly Meeting and on P.7 Susan White shares an overview of last month's Area Meeting.

Please note that if you're looking for ways to get more involved with Brighton Quakers there are a number of ways you can do this. From joining the Trustees, or helping out with refreshments after the Sunday Meeting, or being a part of the team helping out with this year's Pride. You'll find all of these details towards the end of the newsletter.

On Sunday, June 21st Summer Solstice occurs. Given how unique Quakers are in the world, in terms of how we choose to congregate, and also express our Faith - the singular essence that connects Friends across the world is the belief that Spirit is accessible to each of us. Solstice is traditionally the day that we move from the dark, towards the light, and so on this day, may everyone feel a strengthening of the light within to illuminate our next steps forward. This relationship to Spirit that we each have and nurture in our own ways, is a profound and powerful resource – and may it be one that brings light for us all.

With love,



A Quaker Silent Walking Vigil for Peace

Happening in Central London, Saturday September 19th 2026, 12 p.m. to 4.p.m.

The walk will be about 1.5 miles long and people are invited to join in for any or all of that. There will be a Meeting for Worship at the start and finish, and possibly somewhere along the route too. People of other faiths will be invited to join. You can register now to be a part of it, and see all the updates as they are arranged on the website: <https://quakervigilforpeace.org/>

The silent walking vigil is a positive, public witness for peace by Quakers, with an invitation to all who are supportive to join us. We want to show our solidarity and care for those impacted by violence, conflict and war. The date has been chosen for its proximity to the United Nations International Day of Peace.



The vigil will begin with a short Meeting for Worship in the Quaker way. We will be walking quietly at a slow pace. A walking vigil is an inherently peaceful activity: not a protest, not a march, not a demonstration. We will pause along the route for further worship. The walking vigil will conclude with a final Meeting for Worship, at the end of the route. In total the route is expected to be about one and a half miles. We will be walking quietly at a slow pace. You are welcome to join the walk for as long as you are able. We plan a pause, along the route, for a short meeting for worship. **The route is not yet finalised and details will be confirmed nearer the time.**

Helen Ledger and Susan White

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.

Profile of a Friend: Sally Beamish

Hello, can you tell us a little bit about yourself and when you first started considering yourself a Quaker? I'm a composer and viola player, and grew up in London, moving to Scotland after my first marriage, and returning to England in 2018, when I married Peter Thomson at Brighton Friends Meeting House. My grandmother Lucia Beamish became a Quaker in the 1920s, and remained deeply committed to Friends. I used to go to Hampstead meeting with my father, and to Oxford meeting with Granny, and loved the Children's Meeting at both, as well as the occasional weekend away with young Friends. My aunt, Anthea Webb, was also very involved, and I remember playing at her wedding at Cirencester Meeting House. I drifted away from Friends as an adult, but reconnected in 2002, when I started taking my 7-yr-old daughter to Glasgow Meeting. I became a member soon afterwards, and it has defined my life ever since. My daughter adored the Summer Shindigs, and Junior Yearly Meeting. I became a member of Brighton Meeting in 2018.

What is it that Quakerism brings to your life? When I rediscovered the Quakers in 2002, I remember that first meeting gave me a sense of coming home. Not having been to Meeting for many years, I realised that Quakers addressed all the issues that concerned me – the environment, homelessness, refugees, war. I felt it was a lived experience to be a Quaker, not a creed. It was to do with simplicity of living, acceptance of others, justice, and love.

Have there been any aspects of Quakerism that you've struggled with? I stopped attending after I felt called to minister when I was 18. The power of that experience scared me, and I resisted; then regretted not speaking. It put me off going back!

How much of a part of your life involves activities connected to being a Quaker? Apart from roles attached to my membership, such as being an Elder at Glasgow Meeting, and Hospital Chaplain here, I find that Quaker principles touch every area of my life, particularly my work. Much of my music relates to pacifism and to the environment.

If you could sum up what being a Quaker is in a general about to someone wanting to learn - what would you say? It's about questioning, and not about certainty. We're on a journey, and don't claim to have answers. There is room for ideas – for belief and non-belief. A richness of different views and lived experience.

Do you have a favourite book, or quote that sums up what being a Quaker means to you? My CofE mother gave me her copy of *The Practice of the Presence of God*, by Brother Lawrence, who approaches life with simplicity, love, humility and acceptance.

'he found it the shortest way to go straight to Him by a continual exercise of love'

Sally Beamish

To all Friends who would like to join Sally in celebrating her upcoming 70th birthday, there's going to be a special birthday concert for her, with Michael Collins, at St-Martin's-In-The-Field, on 11th June. All are welcome, and tickets can be bought at www.ASMF.org and search for "Sally Beamish concert."



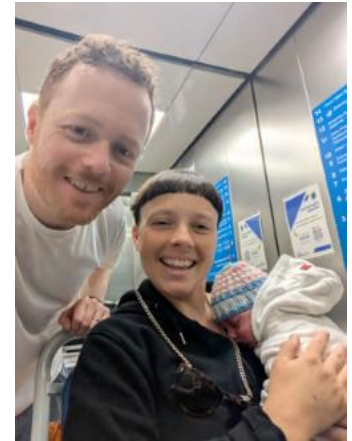
Two Special Announcements

This month, we are delighted to celebrate two births:

Hazel Joy Murgatroyd Burtonshaw,

Weighing in at 3.6kg she was born on 6th May 2026 to Lyndsay Burtonshaw and Sam Walton.

Sam shares that whilst waiting, he ran into Zoe & Eleanor doing laps of the maternity unit, and who came to say hi to Lyndsay and Hazel who were recovering. It was a brief but extremely joyful meeting. Zoe had a significant contraction and we held them in silence whilst Eleanor literally held Zoe."



Lyndsay and Sam

AND

Emilio Raffaele Humphrey Greenslade, known as **Milo** (to rhyme with kilo)

Weighing in at 3.2kg he was born on 8th May 2026 to Zoe Greenslade and Eleanor Humphrey. He shares a birthday with his mum Eleanor!



A note from Milo's mums:

He had a rocky start and was looked after brilliantly in the Trevor Mann Unit (NICU) in Royal Sussex but is now hale, healthy and (constantly) hungry. We are loving spending time together in these first few weeks, while Zoe heals from the birth and we begin getting to know Milo. Thank you for all the well wishes, see you soon!

Zoe and Eleanor

New Developments

I think that most people in the Meeting are aware that I am moving towards some kind of retirement in the next year or so. I've reached the state retirement age and am looking to reduce my working commitments, which started with a decrease in hours from the 1st of June. I'm planning to schedule my departure for the turn of the new year when I'm hoping we will be introducing the successor/s for Terry and myself.

As a part of my retirement plan, I've started working for Lewes Meeting House as their "Premises Administrator" for a handful of hours a week. I'm hoping this will be enough to keep me from getting bored in the next few years. Needless to say, it feels like a nice development from what I've been doing for 15 years at Brighton.

In the meantime, this is not a farewell missive, and I won't be disappearing from Brighton Meeting for many years to come - I've been involved here for longer than any other place since leaving home, so I'll be keen to stay in touch with a lot of good Friends.

Jim Wallace, Warden

Pathways of Light: Reflections on Yearly Meeting, 2026

Attending Britain Yearly Meeting 2026 for the first time felt both grounding and hopeful. This gathering marked the final Meeting for Sufferings before a new structure begins: four agenda meetings spread throughout the year, designed to help Quakers respond more quickly and practically to urgent concerns.

One theme that stayed with me throughout was the determination of Quaker communities to keep creating hope amid conflict and uncertainty.

At Brummana High School in Lebanon, a Quaker-founded, non-sectarian school, over 1,250 students from different backgrounds learn together in a society often divided by sectarianism. Trustees Julia Horn and Mark Bitel described the strain staff face amid ongoing Israeli bombardments and displacement, never knowing what situation awaits them at home each evening. Yet Principal David Gray and his team continue to nurture free thinking, freedom of speech, and mutual respect. Their perseverance felt deeply moving.

Another powerful account came from Nelson Ayala of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, who spoke about the worsening crisis in Cuba. Fuel shortages linked to sanctions and restrictions have left many struggling without reliable cooking, transport, medicine, or basic supplies. Families are leaving the country in increasing numbers. His words reminded us how political decisions are experienced in ordinary daily life: in hunger, exhaustion, and separation.

Alongside these difficult realities were moments of joy and fellowship. On the first evening, Friends gathered in the garden singing from the World Quaker Songbook. As we sang the Zulu hymn "*Siyahamba*" — "We are walking in the light of God" — members of the Zulu Quaker church unexpectedly arrived and joined us. The moment felt radiant with connection.

The Swarthmore Lecture by Stuart Masters explored the tangled spiritual roots of early Quakerism and its many transformations over time — from quietist to evangelical, liberal, and pluralist traditions. He reflected on George Fox's conviction that truth could be encountered directly through inward spiritual experience.

I left Yearly Meeting carrying both sorrow and hope: sorrow for communities living through war, displacement, and scarcity, yet hope in the quiet persistence of people who continue to educate, sing, witness, and care for one another. Those pathways of light still endure. The First Agenda Meeting will be in Manchester on **18/07/2026**.

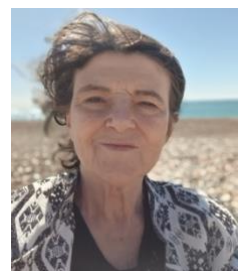
Useful Links:

<https://donorbox.org/brummana-high-school>

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/swarthmore-lectures/>

<https://fwccamericas.org/category/cuba>

Dido Walker



Report On Area Meeting 16th May 2026

My apologies for a long report but there are several very important issues being considered at the moment.

A new Ditchling friend was welcomed into the membership of Sussex West Quaker Area Meeting.

We were asked to reflect on the first of the Britain Yearly Meetings, held this May in London. The other two will be in July and November, each in different locations. The Epistle from the May gathering was read. The following thoughts were mentioned.

Those of us who had attended Britain Yearly Meeting either in person or online expressed huge gratitude for the event, especially for the Swarthmore and Salter Lectures. One comment was that there seems "to be a real hunger for language about being Spirit-led" so perhaps the video could be shown to our AM members. We were reminded that Meeting for Sufferings is now laid down after a very rich 350-year history.

One session asked if our collective funds are being used in the best way, so AM agreed that we would like to ask, while upholding them, if our trustees could consider this.

Our Trustees report will be sent out with the minutes of the meeting but there were two items of real urgency. 1. Would you consider becoming a trustee if you are a member? A role description will be circulated. More trustees are really needed.

2. We were urged to read and to comment on the documents being sent out from the South East Quaker Working Group on the collaboration and cooperation of six Area Meetings here in the South East.

We also agreed to ask the Trustees to consider the request from the Archive team for about £2000 to clean and repair many old documents. We hold records dating back to the mid 17th century.

Our Quaker Learning Group will be holding a discussion on the subject of the Swarthmore Lecture, online on Wednesday June 3rd at 7p.m.. Follow this link for a video of the lecture https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCInrgAf_ck#

Another discussion based on the Salter Lecture may be arranged. Click on this link to view the lecture <https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/salter-lecture-2026>)

The South East Quaker Working Group has produced four live documents that we can see on the Quaker App (search for Quaker App and register to view information on many different issues), and which will also be distributed via email. We agreed to leave this discussion until the July Area Meeting, noting the urgency, because it will be after the various discussion groups have met. These online meetings will be on Tuesday June 2nd at 7p.m. to learn the processes by which this work is being done and for a Q&A; then on Saturday June 20th, time and zoom link to be announced.

Susan White

Fundraising For Our Meeting

A sub-group of Finance and Property Committee met last month to consider how to increase income of the Meeting through grant awards and fundraising activities. A number of ideas were put forward, we agreed to host an evening of writing by members of our community, as well as a ceilidh to be our first events. We will, however, need members of the community to get involved. This can be on an event by event basis. This working group is time limited to December 2026.

Anyone interested please contact me, details in the Contact Book, or write to me at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and your email will be forwarded on to me.

*Michelle Roberts,
Fundraising Convenor*

Inspiration

Below are some quotes to inspire you throughout the month of June:

"We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

- John F. Kennedy, 35th US president

"It is time that Christians were judged more by their likeness to Christ than their notions of Christ. Were this sentiment generally admitted we should not see such tenacious adherence to what men deem the opinions and doctrines of Christ while at the same time in every day practice is exhibited anything but a likeness to Christ." Lucretia Mott, 19th-century abolitionist, feminist, and reformer

"The most courageous thing we will ever do is to bear humbly the mystery of our own reality, to trust our divine image and grow in God's likeness." Richard Rohr, from: *The Centre for Action and Contemplation*.



A painting by local artist
Yvonne Coomber,
'All The Wildflowers Dance With Love For
You.'

☕🍪 Tea, coffee, biscuits... and community! ☕🍪

We have been asked to help organise refreshments after Meeting for Worship on Sundays at Brighton Friends Meeting House. We are now looking for Friends who might be willing to join a rota team to help make this welcoming part of our community life happen smoothly and joyfully.

As part of this, we have also been asked to reconfigure the refreshments area back to the pre-Covid arrangement:

☕ Hot drinks will be served from the electric urn and a teapot in the cafeteria area

🍪 Milk, sugar, biscuits and other refreshments will be available in the dining – area change to Lecture Room.

This should help free up space, improve the flow, and make things more sociable and welcoming for everyone. We are looking for volunteers to help with:

☐ Setting up before refreshments

☕ Serving tea and coffee

🍪 Clearing away afterwards

🍽 Loading cups and dishes through the dishwasher.

Tea and coffee after Meeting are such an important part of Quaker community life — a chance to connect, welcome newcomers, and continue fellowship together.

So far, we already have four of us volunteers — thanks to Jennifer and Jo for kindly offering their help. ✨



If you would be willing to join the rota, please email:

terry@terrybrowning.com

We'd love to hear from you and help make this a warm and welcoming service for Friends.

*Tony Browning
& Andrew Cutting*



Carnival Against Fascism

On Saturday 13th June, at 11 a.m. on Queens Road, Brighton there's going to be a Carnival Against Fascism gathering which Friends who feel passionately that people of all nationalities should be able to live peacefully and safely in the city of Brighton, are invited to join.

Organised by the newly formed umbrella group 'South East Patriots', groups who call themselves 'patriots' will arrive in Brighton to protest against hotels housing migrant families and explicitly calling for mass deportations. Speakers will include the far-right CEO of Turning Point UK Nick Tenconi, and Ryan Bridge the co-founder of Raise the Colours who was recently arrested "on suspicion of causing religiously and racially aggravated harassment." (Guardian).

Brighton, and Quakers have a long-standing history of celebrating the rights of all people to flourish and thrive in our city. If you would like to join Carnival Against Fascism, please go to the Carnival Against Instagram page for more information.

P.S. There will be a Public Meeting on 10th June at the Community Base, Queen's Rd which you are welcome to attend. All information is on the group's Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/carnivalagainstfascism>

If you're not on social media, you can also find more details here:

<https://www.findaprotest.info/event/brighton-and-hove/evt-50617585bf3457c0>

Helen Ledger

Tuesday at Friends

**At the Friends' Meeting House,
Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AF**

Telephone: 01273 770258,

email: brightonfriendsmeeting@gmail.com

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

June 16th: 'Brighton in the 20th Century - an illustrated record of events' with Chris Horlock.

June 23rd: 'The future of North Laine: Can community spirit survive in the 21st century?' with North Laine Community Association.

June 30th: 'Women Creatives of Brighton & Hove's Past' with Brighton Women's History Group.

July 7th: 'The World of Martha Gunn' with John Wingham and Gaynor Wingham.

July 14th: 'A Victorian School Teacher' (reading from the logbook of Rottingdean Infants School) with Sarah-Helen Snow.

More details of the talks in the leaflet available at reception.

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.

Committee and Postholders Board

At a recent Business Meeting it was decided to assemble a board that illustrates all of Brighton Quaker Committees and the postholders. This will be displayed at Sunday and other Meetings. It will not be for general public display. If you are a member of a committee would you be kind enough to send a photograph of yourself to peter.couchman@icloud.com who is in the process of assembling the board. Please endeavour to do this within the next two weeks. Thank you to those who have already submitted their photograph and to those who have submitted a text explaining the function of their committee.

Steve McMillian

Trustee Recruitment for Sussex West Area Meeting

Could you be a Quaker Trustee?

Short answer: you probably could! The following article will give several reasons why now is a particularly interesting time to consider it. You are certain to receive a warm welcome and a lot of support from your fellow trustees, as well as the satisfaction of knowing you are serving the Quaker community in an important role.

The Society of Friends is an unusual faith group - we have no priests or bishops to define our beliefs for us, and if we own our Meeting house or other property, manage financial bequests or employ staff such as wardens we usually have to do all that ourselves too.

The Society of Friends does receive support, though, from being a registered charity, like other established religious groups in the UK, which brings tax concessions and regulatory advice.

Under current UK law¹ all charities need Trustees to ensure good governance and right ordering, employ staff, hold property and manage (often substantial) funds for the trusts' stated purposes and for the public benefit.

Since most Quaker property such as local Meeting Houses is usually held by Area Meetings (AM), Sussex West Area Meeting is also a registered charity in its own right, currently with six Trustees (listed at the end) serving six very different local Meetings in West Sussex.

As you can imagine, all this can sometimes be challenging, even for Trustees with years of experience, but the qualifications for being a Trustee are in fact very simple: You only need to be:

- a Member of the Area Meeting;
- reasonably experienced with Quaker meetings and processes;
- at least 18 years old;
- a "fit and proper person"²; and
- you must not have any serious conflict of interest (or must declare any that may arise).

¹ At the time of writing, The Charities Acts 2011 and 2016.

² (eg not disqualified for bankruptcy or a conviction for dishonesty or fraud, or present on the register of sex offenders)

You don't need to be a saint (none of us are) or have years of experience managing property or finance. Quakers already have a reputation for truth and integrity, so perhaps the most important qualification is membership. Trustee meetings, like all other Quaker meetings (even on Zoom), start and finish with periods of silence to ensure that hearts as well as minds are open to leadings of the spirit to guide our decisions.

This matters, if only to protect Trustees from any personal legal or financial responsibility for their decisions. As long as Trustees keep clear minutes showing that they are acting reasonably and in good faith on Quaker principles and in accordance with the charity's governing document (following professional advice in matters of doubt) it is likely that any liabilities can be met out of the charity's own resources.

It is also worth bearing in mind that appointments as trustees are normally for no more than three years and could be for shorter or trial periods, with options to continue.

If you have read this far and feel a trustee role might be for you, trustees would be happy to hear from you and tell you more about our wide-ranging current agendas: from the welfare and vibrancy of local meetings to the ethical and sustainable management of Meeting houses and finances, the employment of wardens and others and safeguarding vulnerable Friends and visitors. All of which is being actively discussed with our neighbouring Area Meetings with a view to projected future collaboration and sharing of experience and scarce 'Friendpower'³.

If you do feel you could be a trustee, you won't be expected to be familiar with all this from day one, although it's quite possible that another Friend from your local Meeting may already be a Trustee, and can answer any practical queries or doubts you may have. And Woodbrooke (the Quaker college) has excellent weekend or online introductory courses for new Trustees, which AM funds will be glad to cover.

There sometimes may be much to learn, but you will never lack support.

Our current Trustees are: Roy Morris (clerk) and Paul Gibson (both from Littlehampton Meeting), Hugh Jones and Kate Wellard Dyer (from Brighton), and Cheryll Pitt (Treasurer) and Hilary Cooke (both from Chichester).

Hugh Jones

Quaker Resource:

Please check out: *The Quaker Toolkit for Action Engaging With Conflict Challenging Hate* online at: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/toolkit-for-action-engaging-with-conflict-challenging-hate>

"I am as much concerned with the human condition in general as with specific conflicts, which often represent only the tip of a pyramid of violence and anguish... I am concerned with all the pain and confusion that impede our unfolding and fulfilment." Adam Curle, 1981 Quaker faith & practice 24.35

(Quoted from the Toolkit).

³ As opposed to manpower or womanpower.

June's Appeal is for: CAAPD

CAAPD is *La Fondation Pour Coopération Agricole d'Actions pour la Paix et le Développement*, a non-governmental humanitarian organisation based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) led by our Friend Amos Malenga, a Congolese Quaker (<https://caapdfoundation.org/>). I met Amos through the Conflict Minerals Campaign and he is committed to working to make things better for the Congolese people.

The CAAPD Foundation works for food security, peace, trauma healing, humanitarian emergencies, climate change, support for people in distress, promotion of youth and entrepreneurship and carrying out actions for community development. I have been participating with the trauma healing programme as a volunteer, working remotely using Zoom.us, and the Congolese people love to share their stories.

The situation in DRC is still very serious. The area in which Amos operates near Bukavu in South Kivu is still occupied by M23 rebels, so is basically a warzone. You may also have heard that they've also had an Ebola outbreak, mostly to the North but it has reached nearby Goma with one confirmed death there at time of writing. There is as yet no vaccine for this strain, but UK researchers are actively working to develop one. Some reports of the outbreak were exaggerated, but it is still very serious, and only one of many challenges affecting the Congolese.

As a result of the rebel occupation of the area, banks remain closed. We think we have a method of transferring funds, and this has worked successfully recently, but we ask that anyone donating to this appeal agree that if a transfer cannot be made, the balance be donated instead to Quaker Congo Partnership (<https://www.quakercongo.org.uk/>), a UK-based Quaker Recognised Body whose aims are closely aligned with CAAPD.

Your support could make a huge difference to people in this very troubled part of the world. Please also get in touch with me if you would be interested in supporting Amos's studies towards a master's degree. Several Brighton Friends have already donated to this.

Jason Evans

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 www.quakercongo.org.uk/

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.

Pride Weekend Coordination

Our tradition is that on the Saturday afternoon of Pride weekend we host a garden party in the Meeting House garden, with beverages and baked goods by donation. We also hold a Meeting for Worship in the small garden. There have been musical performances in previous years.



At Business Meeting this month, we agreed to host this again this year. In order to do so, we need people to be prepared to coordinate before and during the event. We also need people willing to provide eatables and to act as host during the event. Any Friend willing to take part in this event, which is an amazing opportunity for outreach and inreach, please contact us, details in the Contact Book, or write to us at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and your email will be forwarded on to us.

Michelle Roberts & Rowan

A Thank You to all Friends for last month's Appeal

I wanted to write to say a heartfelt thank you for choosing The Clare Project as the charity for your May monthly appeal. In the current political climate it means a lot to know that we have solidarity from people beyond the trans community. The awareness as well as the funds raised are enormously valuable as we work to ensure that all trans, non-binary and intersex adults in the Brighton area are supported to live the lives they want to live.

I felt very welcome at the Meeting for Worship on Sunday and hope to return in the future. For more information go <https://clareproject.org.uk>.

August Reid

Community in Action

Fourth Sunday Shared Lunch

28th June, 26th July, 23rd August, 27th 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

Connecting Friends meet in the Meeting House on the first Monday of the month. 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 Elders are convening the July Meeting so please contact them at bqelders@gmail.com so we can organise a Zoom link and laptop. The next meeting is **Monday 6th July, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.** 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 meet together in the Meeting House on the third Monday of each month at 7-9pm to chat, worship, discuss and learn on Quaker themes, and enjoy a hearty shared meal. We're next meeting on **Monday 15th June**, and warmly welcome anyone between 18 and a very flexible 40ish years old who's interested in joining. We have an 'information only' WhatsApp group for logistical reminders - if you'd like to be added, please email brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and it will be forwarded on to me."

Here also are the dates for the rest of the year, all on the third Monday of the month: 20th July, 17th August, 21st September, 19th October, 16th November 21st December

Niamh Carmichael

Dates For Your Diary Brighton Meeting Diary

Regular Meetings 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

5.00–5.45pm in-person Meeting

For more information please contact bqelders@gmail.com

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

Children's Meeting

Children's Meeting is where Friends who are aged from birth to about 13 learn about Quakers and our way of life. Friends who are aged under 2 should be accompanied by a carer, carers of older children may stay if they wish. It takes place from 10:45 - 11:30 when carers are responsible for their child/ren. Each week there is a leader who is DBS checked and a helper. There is a need for more helpers to enable the Children's Meeting to happen. We do need a DBS check as well as volunteer registration forms. If you are interested, please contact the one of us, details in the Contact Book, or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and your email will be forwarded on to us.

*Arlette Bauza-Philips & Michelle Roberts
Children's Meeting Co-convenors*

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 5th July at 12 p.m. in the Meeting Room - blended

Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Sunday 28th June**. 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.

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 20th June, 10.30 a.m. Special Area Meeting to discuss South East England Quakers. For more information see the QuakerApp.

Wednesday 15th July, 7.00 p.m. at Brighton (online only?)

Saturday 19th September, 10.30 a.m. at Worthing

Thursday 19th November, 7.00 p.m. 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 10.30 a.m. 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. **The deadline for notices is Friday evening.**

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*

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, along with a profile photograph of yours, if you're comfortable to, to the Editor, Laura Fraser at laura@lfraser.com

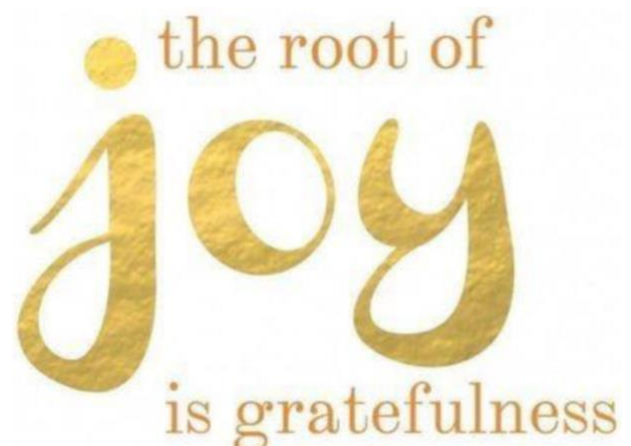
The deadline for the **July** newsletter is **Friday 3rd July** – always 2 days before Business Meeting. The editor has the right to edit contributions or hold them over until the next issue, particularly where this is necessary in order to avoid blank pages.

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 organization

We are looking into including a notice board section where Friends can share details to do with their work and activities. If you'd like to share something, please do send along to Laura's email above.

To receive the newsletter by email, and to comply with the GDPR law, please write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.



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