

# QUIET WAYS

## SPRING 2022 EDITION

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*Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations? (A&Q 33)*

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### Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of *Quiet Ways*, the quarterly magazine/newsletter of Sussex East Area Meeting.

The invasion of Ukraine is a test of our Quaker pacifism. Put simply and dispassionately, it is a classic case of conflict caused by the misguided aspirations and paranoia of one country's leadership meeting the justifiable resistance and resolve of the invaded to defend their country.

The terrible events taking place arouse in us indignation and frustration at the injustice and senselessness of the invasion. We are sickened by man's inhumanity to man and cannot help but be angered by the suffering and trauma inflicted upon innocent people. We despair at the destruction and futility of it all.

And therein lie the seeds of our pacifism – an utter conviction that all war is wrong because of the suffering and destruction it brings. Yet, at the same time, we want justice to prevail – our Quaker sense of fairness and what is right is brought into play: a conflict within a conflict.

Wilfred Owen, for many the greatest of all war poets, described himself as a 'conscientious objector with a very seared conscience'. In the preface to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of his poems he wrote: 'My subject is War and the pity of War... All a poet can do today is warn'.

What we *can* do today is offer physically to welcome into our homes those who are displaced and/or make financial contributions to the organisations supporting refugees, for example (<https://www.dec.org.uk/>). Here lies our Quaker compassion and humanity: our desire to care for the oppressed and vulnerable – to try, in some small way, to mitigate the effects of terrible onslaught brought about in a country where our fellow human beings live; to pray for their safety and for those who are misled by propaganda. To pray above all that peace may come to Ukraine and other countries where there is conflict.

In this edition of *Quiet Ways*, amongst other items, we explore the risks of resistance, the journal of a Quaker teacher in Russia and a poem inspired by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, together with a celebration of the artistic talents of the late Mary Roslin. And don't forget to

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book the date in your diaries for the next **Area Meeting** on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> May** when Margaret Newton (AM Safeguarding co-ordinator) will be talking to us about this most important subject, following on from her introductory article in the Winter 2022 Edition of *Quiet Ways*.

Go well, Friends, and stay safe. In Friendship, *Sally Avis* (Editor)

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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of *Quiet Ways*. If your article was not included this time, it may appear in a later edition. Everything is filed away safely...

Articles for the next *Quiet Ways* (coming out July 2022) are always welcome – be it something light-hearted, deeply personal or of universal significance. Items should be sent to [editorquietways@gmail.com](mailto:editorquietways@gmail.com). Closing date for submissions: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### \*\*DATES FOR YOUR DIARY\*\*

### SEAM Programme for 2022

Day	Month	Subject	Venue	Time
SATURDAY, (please note change of date)	7 <sup>th</sup> May	AM Safeguarding followed by Business	ZOOM	10.00 – 12.00
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	July	Meeting for Elders and Overseers/Pastoral Care	On Zoom	19.30 - 20.30
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	July	AM Diversity in Meetings/Business	Lewes/blended	14:00 – 16:30
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	September	AM Business	Bexhill or on Zoom	13.30 – 16.00
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	October	Journeyman Theatre	Rye Community Centre (TBC)	14.00 – 16.30
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	November	AM Business	Zoom	10:00 – 12:00

**RM Programme for 2022:** 25/06/22 Vision of Where Quakers in Britain are going – Speaker Paul Parker (Dorking MH). 9/07/22 Joint Anglican/Quaker Service (Twineham St Peter’s 3.00)

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Photo © Sally Aviss 2022

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### Risks of Resistance: A personal perspective by Sue Hampton

During a recent Quaker Meeting, a wonderful woman called Marjorie, who is 91, ‘gave ministry’ about risk. She didn’t actually use the word, but she spoke of elderly Ukrainian women not only standing peacefully in front of Russian soldiers but talking to them, on behalf of their mothers.

I’d taken a risk that weekend by gluing myself to Barclays St Albans in protest at the ever-increasing funding of fossil fuels by Europe’s dirtiest bank, been arrested, strip-searched and charged with criminal damage (although superglue comes off with nail varnish remover). It was a risk I understood and a relatively predictable outcome.



I’m committed to such risk taking – emotional, financial and physical – in an attempt to protect Planet Earth and all its life. But most concerned humans are unwilling. Risk can be a powerful deterrent, and in XR we understand the potential cost of activism, which goes deep psychologically. For those of us who have always tried to be good and nice, approved and liked, through school and work and beyond, as a full-time business, there’s fear of losing that respectable identity, and a sense of loss once it’s been compromised by ‘criminality’ and ‘trouble-making’. I feel that loss, just a little, even after three and a half years, and being described by the Crown Prosecution Service as “of bad character” still hurts. I was the girl who had nightmares at school about the detentions I was never given.

There’s something bigger, though, and more powerful: the risk of broken relationships with those we love most. It must be exhausting and painful for anyone living with someone who doesn’t understand or agree with their commitment, or the level of it, or its expression. Someone who believes that the activist’s primary devotion is no longer to them – perhaps even that their marriage vows are being broken. Someone who considers their activism misguided, or dangerous. Too great a risk to that person they love, and the connection between them. I know Rebels in this situation and it must be acutely painful, a constant dilemma, a cause of friction and separation.

Would I risk prison? It’s almost impossible to answer, and I believe that risk both worth taking and beyond my personal capacity, with an outcome I fear but could also endure and survive. But what of Mum, 94? What of my beloved husband, older and more fragile? What of my children, who support me but for whom this might be a step too far, and my grandchildren for whom I will soon be caring once a week? What if my relationships with these people I love are weakened by my decision at their expense? What of my bowels; my vegan, gluten-free diet; my depression and need of company? What if I just cry through each day and night?

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Those protesting in Russia risk their liberty for peace. In Ukraine, the women talking to the ‘enemy’ soldiers about their mothers risk their lives. So here, however much as we regret the slide into authoritarianism evidenced by the Crime, Police and Sentencing Bill, we have it easy. How much risk we are prepared to take may depend on a number of factors, like age and employment, social status, health, our life experience, the information we’ve accessed, the attitude of our friends and family and, inescapably, our own individual temperament.

At Barclays on Friday, all bar one of our little group of Rebels identified as introverts, so shyness and lack of confidence are not apparently a barrier to action. None of the activists I know had been in trouble with the police before their first arrest with XR, so being a lifelong



law-abiding citizen does not in itself prevent people taking that first alarming step of arrestable activity. The question then is what, psychologically, differentiates the risk-takers from the bystanders, many of whom must also according to the polls be concerned, or very concerned, about climate change.

For a long time, I saw myself as a keyboard warrior, weaving eco themes and climate chaos into my fiction as an author, originally for children and YA. It wasn’t enough. Neither were the changes I made as a flight-free vegan trying to shop zero waste, bank ethically and use a renewable energy provider. One COP after another failed to deliver climate justice for those nations most at risk and least to blame, and pledges

proved empty. Desperation made me a Rebel willing to deal with arrest and the courtroom. Desperation and love. Because as Gail Bradbrook said and I like to quote repeatedly, “We can only protect those closest to us when we remember our love for those furthest away.” Desperation, love and faith as a Quaker who has always tried to follow Jesus.

There is no average Rebel and no obvious determining factor that overrides concerns to make us risk takers. We all modify our behaviour in the light of what those in our social circles say and do. The risks we will be taking in the Rebellion are tiny set against the courage of peacemakers in Ukraine and Russia. The risks we take are dwarfed by the risk to livelihood, health and life with which millions in the Global South already struggle thanks to climate change. The cost of protest has become less predictable and is already on the rise. But as humans we take risks anyway: falling in love, crossing the road, cycling or driving, becoming parents, eating a product past its sell-by date, quitting one job for another, relying on last-minute prep or revision, not making contact, delaying troubling the doctor, booking anything in advance. Saying yes or saying no. Unless enough of us really, actively try to save the world, by telling the truth and serving it, the consequences will be catastrophic.

*Text and Photos © Sue Hampton (reproduced with permission). Sue Hampton is an author and activist. She became a Quaker in 2017. <https://www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk/>*

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### To my sisters and brothers

*As a child I was taught that the Russians and the Ukrainians had a long history of persecuting the Jews. My ancestors were refugees from Lithuania. My heart bleeds for the people of Ukraine and their supporters in Russia. And for the peoples of Palestine and Israel. For the persecuted and their persecutors.*

As a child I was taught whom to love,  
and, if not love, whom I must learn hate,  
at least to fear. They were kind, the older ones.  
They wanted me to live at least in partial peace,  
to survive a while on a bewildering earth.  
They gave me bricks that throughout my life  
I would learn to build large and wide and sturdy walls  
and so have shelter from a lowering world.

But there were other worlds within my mind  
so vast no walls could encompass. I had arms,  
could reach beyond my childhood's prison realm,  
embrace a stranger and a stranger's world,  
could flee across the frontiers of a given name,  
call the unknown my kin and yes be hurt,  
be loved, but gaze upon no face with fear,  
  
see no creature upon this earth my foe,  
pull down the walls each place I go.

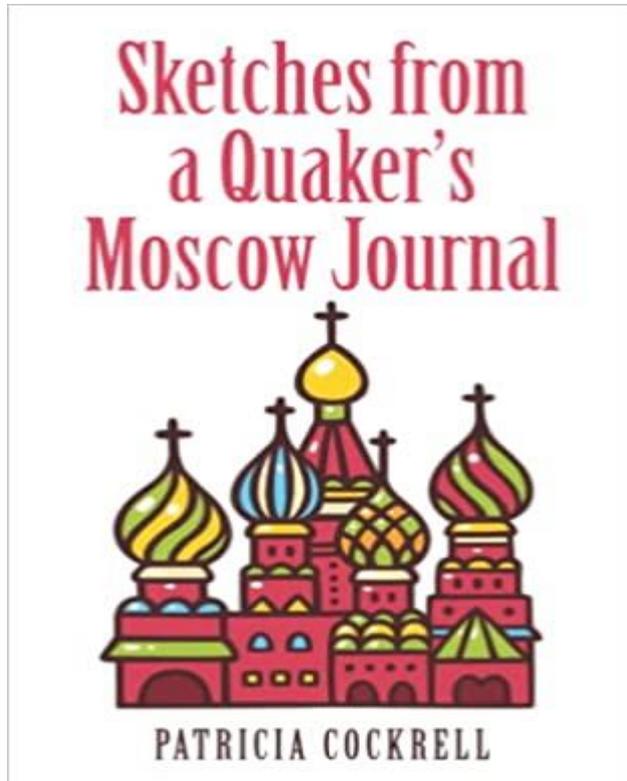
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### *Sketches from a Quaker's Moscow Journal* by Patricia Cockerell

#### A Review by Ann Cullen

Patricia taught Russian at two schools in Exeter and at last, in 1988, after writing to all prime ministers and to the presidents of Russia for 20 years, she succeeded in arranging an exchange with a school in Russia. This was at the time of 'perestroika' when friendly relations with people and organisations in the Eastern Bloc were becoming possible. This first, very fruitful exchange was followed by others, and Patricia began regular visits to Russia where she worked on a variety of projects which could be described as 'Quaker Work', in the broadest sense. The hospice movement was becoming established in Britain, and Patricia became involved in opening the third hospice in Russia, in Exeter's twin city, Yaroslavl.



In writing this account of her work to set up Friends House Moscow and her various trips and initiatives in Russia, Patricia has drawn on newsletters and articles she wrote at the time, which gives the book a vivid sense of immediacy. I sometimes feel, when looking through Quaker Faith and Practice, a sense that all the brave and pioneering Quakers who illuminate its pages have no contemporary equivalents – but this book proved me wrong. Patricia is part of the long Quaker tradition of working tirelessly to promote “Quaker values”, in the widest sense. (NB There are lots of funny bits, too...).

As I write this, the world seems very dark and relations between nations and ideologies have suddenly become

dangerously fragile. Reading Patricia's book reminds us that people of different nationalities are still working for peace and understanding, and we need to support them in whatever way we can. AC

*As a child of refugees, Patricia has always been disturbed by dislocation, violence and injustice and intrigued by identity. Victims of war, ecological disaster and desperate poverty are forced to migrate and to do their best to survive and sometimes to reinvent themselves. Fluent Russian gave her access to the richness and complexity that is Russia, as described in the Sketches, and a part-time study of Arabic at Sussex University allowed her to get by when serving as an ecumenical accompanier among refugees and displaced people in Palestine*

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and Israel. Reflections from this experience were published in *Olives and Barbed Wire*. *Perestroika* was a fertile time for the development of civil society in Russia: Patricia worked on hospice development and helped with the establishment of NGOs to support vulnerable people; she also organised workshops in peace education and management.

This was also a time of dislocation as large numbers of migrants fled from wars and persecution or returned home after years of exile and found someone else living in their houses. She negotiated some time off from family life and gave up her job in order to promote the growth of civil society in Russia. She retrained in conflict management, mediation, diplomacy and other skills and in 1993 was appointed to represent Quakers in Russia and to work with others to establish a Friends House in Moscow. Based in Moscow, Patricia travelled widely from the Caucasus to the Arctic working on Quaker concerns for peaceful relationships and for the sick, the vulnerable and victims of violence and war. Inspired by William Penn, an early Quaker, who said that our task is to mend the world, not retreat from it, Patricia continues to work for a cleaner, greener, fairer, more inclusive and peaceful world.

*Biographical details courtesy of PC*



Vladimir, or Volodymyr (early Slav languages had no vowels, and spellings developed according to accent), prince of Kievan Rus, sent envoys to report on world religions. He rejected Islam and Catholicism because Muslims are forbidden alcohol and Catholic priests are celibate; on the other hand, the Orthodox Church in Constantinople displayed such beauty of design, ritual and music that the envoys thought they were in heaven. Thus did St Vladimir accept Orthodoxy for Kievan Rus in 988. Muscovy, or Moscow, was not established for another two centuries. Many of the issues of the current conflict are echoed in *Sketches*: the closing of liberal TV and the distortion of facts; the conscientious objection work and the brutality of the police; the pulverised buildings in Chechnya, where I spoke to the cold and hungry Russian

conscripts and sheltered from the shootings in the street.

I now pray for three sets of friends: 1) those who risk arrest and a possible 15-year sentence by demonstrating against the war 2) other Russians I have worked with for 30 years who tell me there is no war: believing that Russia, by confronting the Nazis in Ukraine, is saving the world from fascism, 3) the Ukrainian friends I met at Woodbrooke who are helping with the resistance and living in a basement in Kiev. All are mentioned in *Sketches*. PC.

*Patricia Cockerell is currently working with BYM on peace education materials on Russia and Ukraine for schools.*

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MARY ROSLIN (27<sup>th</sup> October 1946 – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021)

### An Artistic Tribute

Mary was born and raised in the Somerset market town of Bridgwater. It was clear from an early age that Mary was bright and so to ensure she got the best education, at the age of 8 her mother sent her away to a local Catholic boarding school. Her memories of being there were a mixed blessing. Being put forward in academic years, and ultimately taking her O Levels early, didn't make her very popular with either her peers or her year group. But being a bit of an outsider meant she could focus her energies on doing creative things in the evenings so she would spend hours in the music or art rooms.



Despite her seemingly academic gift, Mary was intent on following her equally creative one of Painting and did her Fine Art Foundation Year at the Somerset College of Art. A school friend shared this memory: “Bridgwater had the first arts centre ever outside of London, and there was always so much going on. Before Notting Hill got going, we had the second-largest street carnival in the world after Rio. But there was so much else, hence the coffee bar, for which Mary painted a mural. We were so innocent we didn't understand the cultural significance of red lights and were puzzled by the unexpected clientele on opening night!”

Mary chose to study at Manchester University, initially Painting but at the end of First Year she attended an architecture end of year show and promptly decided “I can do this!”. And so she did. She transferred the following year and walked into an almost entirely male room without a care in the world. Going to a girls school certainly hadn't prepared her for the realities of such a male dominated profession but she wasn't fazed, qualified with flying colours and was approached at the end of her degree with job prospects within the exciting new development of Irvine New Town. A project that eventually won the Scottish Saltire architectural award.

In 1988, Mary moved to Sheffield, after being appointed senior lecturer at the School of Architecture. An old colleague and friend remembers: “The School had been looking for a

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person who had experience of green or sustainable architecture - i.e. an architecture that is reflected by energy conservation, ecological design and environmental technology - a subject in which Mary was well-versed. On arrival at the School, Mary became a tutor to first year students in the architecture course; in this she excelled, teaching the basics of architectural drawing and model making, and fostering imaginative ideas in design exercises. Remember, Mary came from a fine arts background, a course she was to return to in later life. She was also a good role model for an increasing number of female students and her calm disposition enabled students to relate to her with ease, unlike some of the more aloof academics.”



Retiring from teaching due to ill health, in the late 90’s Mary moved back to Scotland and in 2008 she set up her practice, with partner Sue Manning, EA Ecological Architecture. The practice soon became a pioneer of Hempcrete constructions and buildings that have been constructed with locally sourced materials. ‘The Big Shed’, a

community building constructed using green Sitka Spruce, sheep’s wool insulation and local volunteers, won a Low Carbon Building award and was short-listed for a RICS award in 2013. The latter involved attending a ‘black tie’ evening event in Edinburgh, which Mary greatly enjoyed of course”. The practice continues to be beacon of what is truly possible in sustainable architecture and continues to be a leader in ecological design.

Never giving up on her dream of being a painter Mary embarked on an MA in Painting in 2014. An unadulterated year of painting, creating, and being completely inspired by everything and everyone she met. Her course colleagues had this to say, “Mary was a great painter and I’m so glad that she had that creative time with us. She was a breath of fresh air and was very loved.” It was around this time Mary started thinking about moving South, to be near to family, so in 2016 she took the plunge and headed to Hastings where she also joined Hastings Local Quaker Meeting, where she was an active and caring member.

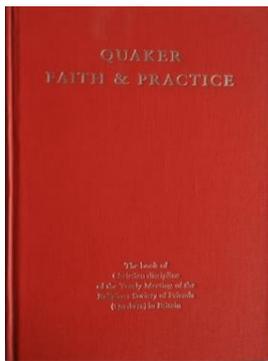
Mary found creative inspiration everywhere she went, even just looking out the window. Her art expresses her deep love for the world in all its awe and wonder, the spiritual qualities that arise in contemplation of the natural world and our need to protect it at all costs. Her subject matter mostly examines the sustainable world that is being created as well as expresses her despair and anger at the loss of biodiversity, the destruction of an ocean eco-system, the fragile inter-connectedness between humanity and the environment and the level of inaction at a political level.

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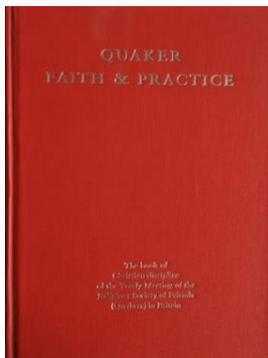
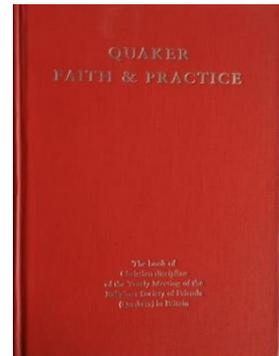
### Revising Quaker Faith and Practice - Chris Lawson

*Quaker Faith and Practice* is well used and valued but is 30 years old. Some of the formal arrangements in it have been updated but the only major rewrite is the chapter on marriage following the legal changes to same sex marriages. Yet much has changed in society and in the expressions of belief as well as emphases of witness amongst Quakers. It is not surprising, therefore, that a revision is underway. Nothing like this happens quickly, however, so a widely representative committee was assembled three years ago and encouraged to be 'joyful, prayerful, creative and bold' as well as involving all of us in the process.



Area Meeting in February was part of this process. Four members of the Revision Committee (aged from under 25 to over 70) informed and listened to us. They told us that they had already had 750 written suggestions from Friends for material to include or drop but were open to more – you can give them yours at [www.quaker.org.uk/qfp-idea](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qfp-idea). They are clear that it is not their job to decide what Quakers should be but to reflect where we are at present. There will be issues on which Friends are divided but these cannot be ignored if the book is to be an honest picture of Quakerism in the 2020s. Indeed, facing the differences proved an important part of the last revision.

The formal designation of a 'Book of Discipline' led to discussion of what we understand by 'discipline'. The Clerk's authority in guiding a business meeting, for instance, is given in trust by the Meeting for a limited time – it is not a status. For the right support of our worship and care of one another some need to be appointed as elders and overseers. Those very words, however, are suspect by now – for Scottish Friends 'elder' has stern connotations from their Church's past and we all accept that 'overseer' has associations with slavery. Yet the functions of these roles as detailed in QF&P remain, though these days the way they are fulfilled is very varied according to the size and needs of the Meeting. Taking note of all this is part of the Revision Committee's work.



The new book will probably be in two parts, one with the reflective material on Quakerism in general and one with the practical arrangements and formal details of how we organise ourselves. The latter have proved to require updating quite often so a loose-leaf style for that part may be best. There will be online versions of both and there may be supplementary material to allow for creative expressions. There are already submissions for this with art work and poetry. Sally Avis composed a short contemplative musical piece in one of our sessions to add to them. The website for all this creativity is [www.padlet.com/bdrc/opentonevlight](http://www.padlet.com/bdrc/opentonevlight).

The revision process will go on for some time – this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> version in my lifetime – and I trust that AM will give us further chances to stay in touch with it.

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**A Meeting Of Minds by**

**Martin Wimbush**

I'm going to be reviving my one-man show, *A Meeting of Minds*, a celebration of John Betjeman and Philip Larkin, with essays by Alan Bennett, at the Rye Community Centre on Saturday 23 April at 7.30pm.

It's a special charity performance for the Rye Community Centre. Tickets are £10 and can be ordered in advance from Grammar School Records, Rye High Street, Tel no: 01797 222752 or on the door.

I first did this show at the Rye Arts Festival in 2016 and then later at the Canterbury Festival in 2017. It proved very popular and I wanted to revive it again, but this time for the Rye Community Centre, which is going through difficult times. It's a wonderful community resource what better way to support it than to celebrate two of our greatest English poets, on St George's Day – it just had to be!



**A MEETING OF MINDS**

Compiled and performed by **MARTIN WIMBUSH**

**SATURDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL AT 7.30pm**

**RYE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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### Local Meetings News

From the Elders and Oversight/Pastoral Care reps meeting in March:

**Eastbourne** Jean Stock reports: Eastbourne LM is fortunate to have John and Joan Wilson who have been ‘wonderfully supportive on so many levels’. While there is still work to do on the Meeting House, Blended Meetings have worked well, though have not been as frequent of late.

**Hastings** Alex Francis reports: After positive progress, the first, experimental, blended session was held successfully at the latest MfWfB. Grateful thanks must go to Phil Cooper for all his hard work in setting this up. The premises manager is now looking to restructure the lettings charges to account for the extra facilities. The 3 groups (MH, Zoom and house group) are keeping in touch. There have been a number of enquirers and names have been suggested for potential Elders and Overseers, of which the Meeting is in real need.

There will be an Exhibition of Mary Roslin’s paintings in Hastings Meeting House during the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September.

**Lewes:** Chris Lawson reports: At Lewes, there is a good blend of online and in-person Meetings. Good risk management with a variety of Meetings being held with masks/no masks to cater for everyone. The life of the Meeting will become more of a challenge with the forthcoming building works. Average attendance is 20 in the MH, 20 on Zoom. When the technical aspects of the blended meetings work smoothly all is well...

**Rye:** Martin Wimbush reports: Rye LM continues to meet on Zoom and in person at Tilling Green. The transition between the two is seamless and Rye remains a cohesive and supportive group, coming together for MfWfB on Zoom. Our first Business Meeting of the year takes place on Sunday 3 April – on the agenda, will be a financial report from Gaye Hardiman, a report from Harvey Gillman on Churches Together and Graham Ellis will propose a Study Session on Sustainability.

We look forward to receiving updates from Bexhill, Herstmonceux, Polegate, Seaford and Uckfield next time.



Compton Beach, Isle of Wight, in fading light

Photo © Keith Harcourt 2022

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### ‘Who’s Who’ serving Sussex East Area Quaker Meeting

<b>Clerk</b>	Peter Aviss (Rye LM)
<b>Assistant Clerk</b>	Sally Aviss (Rye LM)
<b>Membership Clerk</b>	Peter Bolwell (Hastings LM)
<b>Clerk of Trustees</b>	Patricia Cockerell (Lewes LM)
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Ashcroft (Lewes LM)
<b>Assistant Treasurer(s)</b>	Alex Francis, Phil Cooper (Hastings LM), Tim Reynolds (Bexhill LM)
<b>Clerk of Nominations</b>	Mary Elliott (Bexhill LM)
<b>Convener of Nominations</b>	John Wilson (Eastbourne LM)
<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</b>	Margaret Newton (Hastings LM)
<b>Convener of Elders</b>	Sally Aviss (Rye LM)
<b>Convener of Overseers</b>	Nancy Wall (Lewes LM)
<b>Meeting For Sufferings Rep.</b>	Peter Aviss (Rye LM)
<b>Alternate for MfS</b>	Sue Walton (Herstmonceux LM)
<b>Convener of Sustainability Group</b>	Jean Farebrother (Herstmonceux LM)
<b>Prison Chaplain</b>	Medhina (Lewes LM)
<b>QCCIR representative</b>	Kim Ashcroft (Lewes LM)
<b>QSPW representative</b>	Antony Webster (Seaford LM)
<b>Funerals and Cremations</b>	Tessa Brown (Lewes LM)
<b>Registrar of Marriages</b>	Nichola Lawton (Rye LM)
<b>Quaker Life representative</b>	Mary Elliott (Bexhill LM)
<b>Quarterly Newsletter Editor</b>	Sally Aviss (Rye LM)
<b>Local Development Worker</b>	Ruth Audus (for Kent, Sussex and Surrey)

#### Local Meeting Clerks or Co-Clerks:

**Bexhill:** Mary Elliott **Eastbourne:** John Wilson **Hastings:** Alex Francis **Herstmonceux:** Jean Farebrother **Lewes:** David Martin **Polegate:** Roy Payne **Rye:** Martin Wimbush **Seaford:** Margaret Brandram **Uckfield:** Theresa Buss, Deirdre Palmer