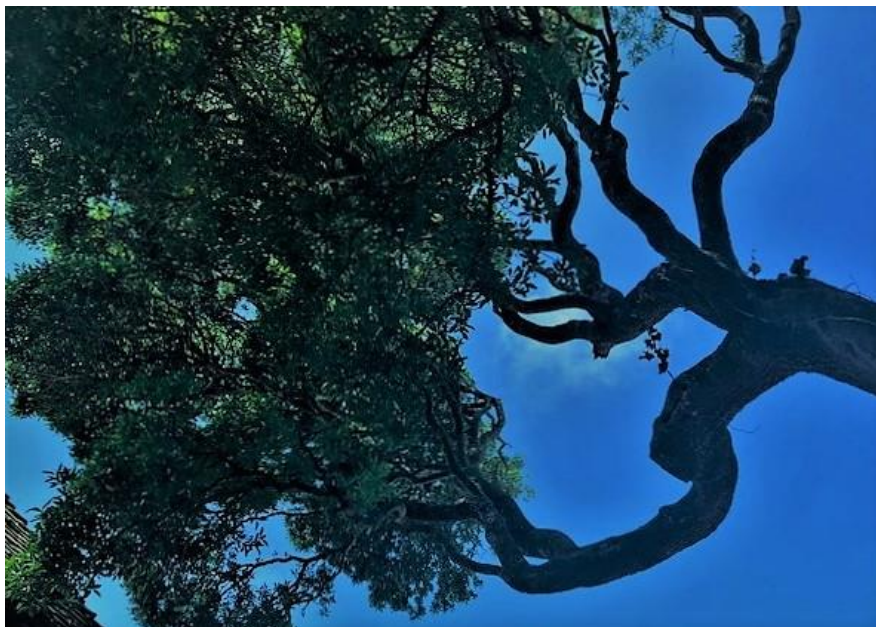


# Lewes Quaker Meeting Newsletter

## September 2023



“We seem to be at a turning point in human history. We can choose life or watch the planet become uninhabitable for our species. Somehow, I believe ... we will pass through this dark night ... to a new period of harmony with the God that is to be found within each of us, and that S/he will inspire renewed confidence in people ... to co-operate to use our skills ... wisdom ... creativity ... love ... faith - even our doubts and fears - to make peace with the planet. Strengthened by this fragile faith, empowered by the Spirit within, I dare to hope.”

- *Quaker faith & practice 29.03;*  
Pat Saunders, 1987

### Sunday morning Meetings for Worship

10:30 a.m. start. A blended meeting, in person at the Meeting House and on Zoom. Zoom link available from the clerks on request; it is the same week to week.

The meeting room is only accessible at weekends. Please do not enter any part of the meeting house apart from the meeting room, during building works. There is a port-a-loo in the garden. Two parking spaces are available on Sundays. Please give priority to those with mobility difficulties.

### Wednesday lunchtime Meetings for Worship

At The Open Door, 32 Church Twitten, Lewes. 12:30 p.m. Enter through the door marked “Thebes” and up the stairs to the first floor meeting room. Please bring your own drinks / refreshments. All are welcome.

Children’s Meeting is held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at The Open Door (32 Church Twitten). Start time 10:30 a.m. Children and young people join Friends at the meeting house for the last five minutes of meeting for worship. Please email Sara at [saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk) for details.

### **Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs (Business Meeting):**

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September - 12:30 p.m. at the meeting house. Please bring your own lunch and drinks, as the kitchen is not open. The agenda will include a finance report, annual report from Nominations Committee and an update from the business plan working group.

Business meetings are held on the first Sunday in each month. All members and regular attenders are welcome to attend, but attenders should let one of the clerks know if you plan to join the meeting.



Lewes Friends gather at **The Depot** on Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for coffee and a chat. No need to book; just turn up and join in fellowship with Friends.

**Area Meeting** will be held on Sunday, 10 September at Rye (Tilling Green Community Centre, Mason Road, Rye). **“Truth, Integrity & Discernment”**: business meeting and study session, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Friends are welcome to join meeting for worship at Rye, **starting 10:30 a.m.** All Friends are welcome to attend. See notices for further details.

**Christ Church Thinktank: 20 September 2023, 7:30 - 9:00 pm** - Dr Sarah Pitt will give **“Reflections on COVID-19: Future management of infectious diseases”**~ Dr Pitt trained as an NHS biomedical scientist and worked for charities and the World Health Organisation. After gaining her PhD, she came to the University of Brighton in 2004 where she serves as Principal Lecturer in the School of Applied Sciences. Dr Pitt will speak about the response to the pandemic and what we have learned to guide management of infectious diseases in future. Thinktanks are held in person at Christ Church and simultaneously on Zoom. Please email David if you wish to join in: [j.d.smith@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:j.d.smith@sussex.ac.uk) . All are welcome.

**Surrey & Sussex Regional Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> September** at Chichester Meeting House and on Zoom. **“Quaker spirituality in a day”** - a Woodbrooke course led by Stuart Masters. 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. [Zoom start at 11 a.m.] See notices for further details and a flyer. All Friends, members and attenders, in Surrey and Sussex are welcome to attend Regional Meeting. If the cost of travel might prevent you from attending, email our treasurer for a claim form to cover the cost: [sussexandsurreytreasurer@outlook.com](mailto:sussexandsurreytreasurer@outlook.com). ~ Please bring your own picnic lunch; tea and coffee will be provided by the host meeting at Chichester.

**Ride & Stride - Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Friends, if you would like to participate in this annual event to raise funds through sponsorship, by riding or striding, please see the website below for details and to download a sponsorship form. 50% of funds raised will go toward our Meeting House and 50% to the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Alternatively, are you willing to act as a recorder at Lewes Meeting House, for an hour or hours between 9am and 5pm? If so, please contact Drew on [ajfscorpio@hotmail.com](mailto:ajfscorpio@hotmail.com), with a time that works for you.

See website for full details: [Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Restoration Repair of Historic Buildings. Ride & Stride.](http://SussexHistoricChurchesTrust.org.uk)



Lewes Friends Reading Group met recently to discuss The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier, the story of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Quaker community in a country economically bound up in

slavery. This novel followed the fortunes of a young immigrant caught up in the unfolding dilemmas of the 'underground railroad', the way to freedom for some slaves. Next month the group will discuss The Wild Silence, a second novel by the author of much-acclaimed The Salt Path, Raynor Winn. While the meeting house is unavailable, the reading group meets at each other's houses, with some Friends joining online. For details, speak to Jane Goyder or email her on [janegoyder@msn.com](mailto:janegoyder@msn.com).

## Meeting House Development Project: Dates for your diary

**Friday, 8 September 3 - 4 p.m.:** Another walk around the site to see how work is progressing. Members of the architecture and building teams, and the Project Group, will be on hand to answer questions and discuss aspects of the work so far.

**And Sunday, 24 September, 12.15 - 1.30 p.m.** An open session after meeting for worship, arranged by the Project Group, to receive updates from working groups as we look ahead to re-occupying the whole of the meeting house.

**The Good Cause for September is Quaker World Plenary 2024**, chosen by Cliffe Circle. Funds are needed to support those from disadvantaged parts of the world to attend, and for world-wide online participation for meetings, particularly by Friends in Africa, that do not have the equipment.



Chris Lawson writes, "In 2004 I had the chance to be one of Britain Yearly Meeting's

representatives to a world gathering of 300 Friends in New Zealand, arranged by Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). We were asked to send in our impressions afterwards. I wrote:

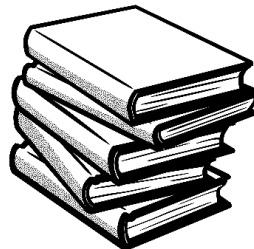
World family of Friends, made real for a week.  
Britain and Bware, Australia and Alaska,  
Chavakali and Cuba, Philadelphia and  
Philippines,  
Warmed with an Aoteroan welcome,  
Filled with friendship,  
Anchored in worship, bonded with sharing.  
Yet also disturbing with differences of  
expression  
Of bases of beliefs unexplored for what  
unifies,

And pains of peoples, through war and disease,  
shown but not solvable in the closedness of a  
conference.

Back home now, with stories to share,  
tasks to be tackled, witnessing to begin.

"Another world gathering has been arranged for 2024, to be held in South Africa. For the first time it will be open both to those who can go in person and to those who would like to join in online. Some of us in Lewes Meeting are hoping that interested Friends can join in some of the online sessions in our Meeting House.

"The theme will be **Ubuntu**, a word with a wealth of meanings within the general sphere of interdependence. Three inter-related strands have been chosen: community; addressing historical and continuing injustice, and the environment. An article about this event was in last month's newsletter and more information is in *Friends World News*, some copies of which are available in the Meeting House. More about the gathering and Ubuntu can be found online at the FWCC website [FWCC HOME PAGE](#)."



### Books of the Month - from the Quaker Centre

Would you like to receive a monthly circulation of Quaker "books of the month" from the Quaker Centre at Friends House?

The books chosen make for interesting reading, and might inspire you to try something new. Email [joanag@quaker.org.uk](mailto:joanag@quaker.org.uk) to add yourself to the circulation list. Or to find out more about the Quaker Centre, visit this link: [Friends House | London Meeting Rooms & Conference Venue](#) . Recent recommended titles included:

[Sleepers Awake](#) by Nicholas Holtam

[Nice Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo

[The Living Fountain](#) by Benjamin Wood

[A Quaker Ecology](#) by Cherice Bock

All books are available to order online or over the phone by ringing 0207 6631030.



### A message from Homelink

Homelink's annual general meeting was held in May 2023. Lewes Quaker Meeting has been a long-time supporter of this charity.

The AGM was opened in prayer by Rev Bridget Banks. Chair Ros Toomey welcomed Deputy Lord Lieutenant Violet Hancock, Rev Bridget Banks, trustees and supporters to the meeting. She read messages of support from the Bishop of Lewes and the Bishop of Arundel & Brighton.

Homelink staff highlighted the fact that whilst many loans have been approved, large numbers of clients are still unable to find suitable and affordable rental accommodation. Fewer properties are available and rents have increased. As well as a lack of suitable accommodation, the situation is further hampered by a gap between the housing allowance rate and cost of private accommodation.

Nevertheless, there is reason to celebrate, as Homelink made 55 loans over the course of the year, supporting 120 people into housing. Signposting, guidance and emotional support are other vital services provided by the organisation, and feedback from clients is unfailingly positive.

Thanks were given to all supporters who enable the work of Homelink, including grants from Enjoolata and the Citizens Advice Bureau. Contributions enable Homelink to offer grants for household goods and food vouchers; 288 such grants were made over the previous 12 months.

Successful fundraising included two garden parties, a Christmas concert and a

nomination from Lewes Chamber of Commerce as the chosen charity for late night shopping in Lewes.

Andy Winters, former CEO of Brighton Housing Trust, gave an interesting talk on '*Changing Lives across Sussex*' and spoke about the importance of focusing on the full potential of clients. He emphasised that charities such as Homelink gain strength from local connections, including support from churches, and the value of 'speaking truth to power'.

More details can be found here: [Lewes Home Link | Lewes Home Link](#), including an opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause.



### Meeting House Development Update

The past two months have seen the walls and roofs of the new foyer being made.

This photo shows work in progress. The large gap in the timber framework in the foreground is for one of the roof lights which will bring daylight into the area below. (Photo by Valley Builders)



Progress in July and August: Workers with different skills have been needed for the foyer and corridor areas. Carpenters have had the trickiest job due to the tapering shape to the foyer and high section behind the Meeting Room. That part done, roofing firms are doing the rest. Merging the new section with the old also needs a lot of care, not least as some original materials have aged and need replacing. Once the rooves are finished, the inside will keep dry and work can proceed to

put a final concrete layer on the floor and finish door openings.

In the flat, the kitchen has been fitted out, doors completed, final decorating is underway and all is looking good. Members of the working groups have been involved in decisions over flooring materials and the foyer group is being consulted about lighting. The architects have kept the project group informed as they have new entrance gates and front door made.

Electricity Supply: UK Power Networks arrived in August to provide an enhanced electricity supply (needed for the larger building and air source heat pumps). They dug up the road, causing traffic difficulties, but left it in excellent condition. The connection to wiring in the building took longer, as Friends realised on the two Sundays without Zoom or the hearing loop, but is now well underway. The electricity kiosk is functional but will have a nicer door in due course.

Second walk-around: There will be another opportunity to see work done so far on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 3 - 4 p.m. This should help working groups to prepare for an open session after meeting for worship on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 12.15 - 1.30 p.m., when Friends will receive updates, as we look ahead to re-opening the premises. The hope for finishing by Christmas remains but roofing work has taken longer than anticipated so the date may be delayed.

Fundraising: The fundraising group has completed grant applications. There will be a further opportunity for Friends to support the project; as mentioned above, we have a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September to hear updates from working groups. We anticipate there will be items of equipment that the working groups seek for various spaces. The project group will compile a list and encourage Friends to buy specific items for the refreshed building. For

example; would anyone like to buy a new kettle for the kitchen?

Thanks go to those who have donated to the development project so far. If you would like to contribute, please visit [www.lewesquakers.org.uk](http://www.lewesquakers.org.uk) or [www.justgiving.com/campaign/LewesMH](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/LewesMH). If you have ideas for fundraising you can discuss them with Patricia on 01273 474884 or David on 01892 663522.

**In June Lewes Meeting raised £300 for Money for Madagascar, the good cause chosen by Friars Circle.**

**In July the meeting raised £340 for Prison Family Support at HMP Lewes, chosen by Needlemakers Circle. Alice Field of Prison Family Support wrote to thank the meeting for our contribution, saying, "This is hugely generous and offers us the opportunity to continue our work."**

Many thanks for your generosity, Friends.

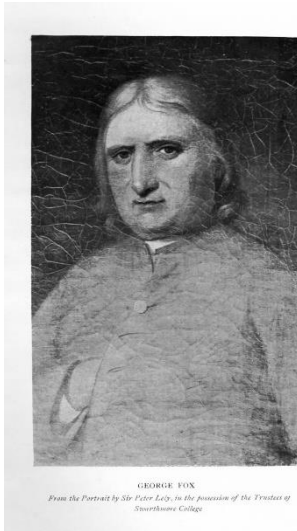
In September, Cliffe Circle will promote the **Good Cause**. The rota for the following months is as follows:

Friars - October  
Needlemakers - November  
Wallands - December

If you have an idea for a good cause that the meeting might support, please speak to your circle convenor.

### **"Quiet Ways"**

Contributions to the Sussex East Area Meeting newsletter are welcome at any time. Please email [editorquietways@gmail.com](mailto:editorquietways@gmail.com) with your items.



Tim Gee, of Friends World Committee for Consultation [FWCC] writes, “2024 will be the 400th anniversary of George Fox’s birth. You can download a pack full of ideas for ways to celebrate, including stories, song, readings and art here: . [George](#)

[Fox anniversary pack](#)

“Continuing on the theme of anniversaries, events to mark [75 years of Quaker work at the UN](#) have begun, with an evening in New York attended by, among others, former FWCC General Secretary Gretchen Castle. To support all this, our [annual print version of Friends World News](#) is now published. If you aren’t currently subscribed you can do so [here](#), or to request up to 25 to share with others (perhaps to help with World Quaker Day plans) simply reply to this email with your address, and we can get those sent off to you.”



At Tide Mills, Liz Brooks

### From other traditions . . .

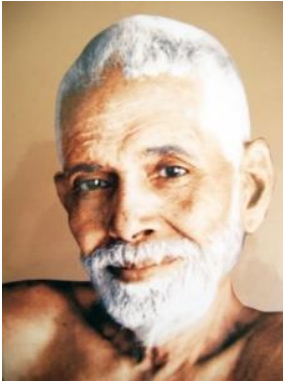
This month a new series begins, offering insights and inspiration from worldwide religions and faith traditions. Friends are advised in [Quaker Faith & Practice](#) that “[h]umble, meek, merciful, just, pious, and devout souls are everywhere of one religion; and when death has taken off the mask they will know one another, though the divers liveries they wear here makes them strangers.” [*William Penn 1693; Qf&p 27.01*].

I hope you find these offerings valuable. Please feel free to email me with suggestions on what to publish next.

Liz Brooks

**Student:**  
“How should we treat others?”

**Ramana Maharshi:**  
“There are no others.”



Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi [1879 - 1950] was a Hindu sage whose devotees regarded him as an avatar of Shiva. His practices centred on self-enquiry, self-surrender and bhakti (devotion).

**Deadline for October newsletter**

Please send events, news, photos and other items for the October newsletter to Liz at [realgirltribe@gmail.com](mailto:realgirltribe@gmail.com) by 28<sup>th</sup> September.



## Dispatches from Children's Meeting 2023

In recent months the children have been painting pebbles, watercolour painting, practising origami, decorating boxes and making dreamcatchers. Foodwise, we have enjoyed sandwiches, ice cream, popcorn and microwave mug cakes.

The children meet at 10:30 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday of the month in

The Open Door events room. It is a beautiful space where the children can create ministry with their own vision. Here they can be creative and have a voice in how we do things. It is a space where they can be valued (and fed), and learn about Quaker values and practice in manageable amounts. [It is their Sunday and they don't want to feel like they're in school.]

I aim to provide high quality materials, combined with teaching relevant to Quaker themes. We also have fun! And after our meeting we join the grown-ups at main meeting and learn about their ministry, usually staying for notices too.

We are happy to welcome grown-ups from Lewes meeting to come and help. Contact me or any member of Children's Committee if you would like to be added to the rota.

Sara Todd

Chichester Quakers are pleased to present **"THE MISTAKE"** on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September.

This play is on national tour following success at Edinburgh Festival last year.

Tickets cost £10 plus booking fee, available through Novium box office, link here: [CHICHESTER BOX OFFICE TICKETS](#).

One day only, performance to take place at Chichester Meeting House. See flyer [opposite] for full details.

*Note: the flyer contains a mistake - 24<sup>th</sup> September is a Sunday, not a Saturday!*

**THE MISTAKE**  
By Michael Mears

AN URGENT NEW PLAY ABOUT THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB  
Performed by Michael Mears & Riko Nakazono

4pm, Saturday 24 September 2023  
Friends Meeting House, Priory Road, Chichester PO19 1NX  
Followed by Q&A session  
Tickets £10 (plus fee) from Novium Museum [www.novium.org](http://www.novium.org)  
Presented by Chichester Quakers Recommended for ages 14 and over



## Lewes Meeting Contacts

Clerks: John Ashcroft, Liz Brooks & David Martin at [quakerclerkslewes@gmail.com](mailto:quakerclerkslewes@gmail.com)

Pastoral Care & Eldership Team [PaCET]:  
Tim Pitt-Payne (Contact), David Hitchin,  
Chris Lawson, Caroline Pybus, Theresa Samms, Nancy Wall

Website: [www.lewesquakers.org.uk](http://www.lewesquakers.org.uk)  
Editor: Drew Fisher at [ajfscorpio@hotmail.com](mailto:ajfscorpio@hotmail.com)

Children's Meeting: Sara at [saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk)

Circles for pastoral care & support -  
Convenors:

Cliffe - Berta Busby  
Friars - Veryan Greenwood & Anna  
Milner-Gulland  
Needlemakers & Wealden -  
Geoff Halsey  
Wallands - Bronwyn Harwood

## Sussex East Area Meeting Clerk

Sally Aviss at [sally.aviss@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.aviss@btinternet.com)



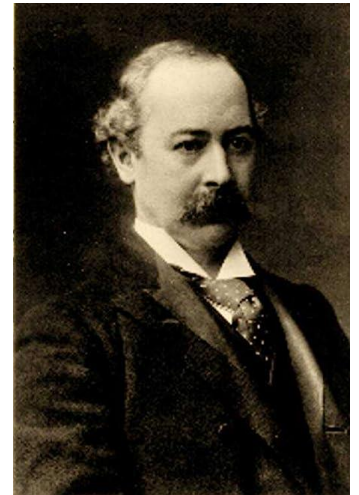
“Therefore, dear Friends, wait in the Light, that the Word of the Lord may dwell plentifully in you.”

*William Dewsbury, 1675; Qf&p 29.19*

## Part of a monthly series of interesting facts about Quakers ...

Not many people know that **Sylvanus Thompson** (1851 - 1916) wrote Calculus Made Easy which is still in print. It was promoted under the tagline ‘*What one fool can do, another can.*’

Thompson, an electrical engineer, wrote many technical and scientific books. His library of scientific works, consisting of 900 rare books and over 2,500 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century titles, is preserved at the Institute of Electrical Engineers.



Thompson was passionate about accessible technical education, recognising it as the means by which scientific knowledge is put into action. In 1878 the City & Guilds of London Institute for the Advancement of Technical Education was founded, and Finsbury Technical College [part of the Institute) welcomed Thompson as its first Principal and Professor of Physics. He devoted the next 30 years of his life to this work.

In his 1915 Swarthmore Lecture, “*The Quest for Truth*”, Thompson expounded on his belief in truth and integrity. He was an active member of the Religious Society of Friends throughout his life, and died in London after a short illness in June 1916.

David Hitchin & Liz Brooks