

# Lewes Quaker Meeting Newsletter

## April 2024



“The opportunity of full development, physical, moral and spiritual, should be assured to every member of the community, man, woman and child. The development of [one’s] full personality should not be hampered by unjust conditions nor crushed by economic pressure. We should seek ... a way of living that will free us from the bondage of material things and mere conventions, that will raise no barrier between [us], and will put no excessive burden ... upon [us] .... Mutual service should be the principle upon which life is organised.”

Extract from ‘*Foundations of a true social order*’, adopted by London Yearly Meeting in

1918; **Quaker Faith & Practice 23.16**. For further information, see website [link]: [Foundations of a True Social Order » Reimagining a True Social Order](#)

### Meetings for Worship

**Sundays:** 10:30 a.m. In person at the meeting house and on Zoom. Zoom link available from the clerks on request; it is the same week to week. Tea and coffee are available after meeting, served at the hatch in the foyer.

**Wednesdays:** 12:30 p.m. In person at the meeting house. Tea and coffee are available after meeting, at the hatch in the foyer.

**Children’s meeting** is held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, 10:30 a.m. in the community room. Children join Friends in the meeting room for the last few minutes of meeting for worship. Please email Sara for

details, or if you plan to bring your child for the first time: [saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk)

**Parking:** Limited parking is available behind the meeting house. Disabled drivers, please use the accessible spaces and display a blue badge. For those without a blue badge, please collect a parking voucher from the box file in the foyer, sign for it and return it after use.

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

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April** - 12:30 p.m. at the meeting house. Please bring your own lunch, although tea and coffee will be available. The agenda will include reports from the business plan working group and premises committee.

Business meetings are held on the first Sunday of most months, starting at 12:30 p.m. after meeting for worship and a refreshment / lunch break. All Friends are welcome, but attenders should speak to a clerk beforehand if you wish to attend.

**The young people of Lewes Meeting (aged 11+) plan to meet on the fourth Sunday of each month, supported by volunteers.** At their first meeting in March the young people came up with a number of interesting ideas for activities and learning; watch this space for details! They will meet again on **Sunday, 28 April, 10:30 a.m.** in the library. If you know a young person who would like to get involved, speak to any member of the Children's Committee for more information.



**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. All are welcome.

**Woodbrooke**, the Quaker study centre, hosts several online meetings for worship each week. Everyone is welcome. For a link and details, click on: [Worship - Woodbrooke](#).

**Christ Church Thinktank** will be held on Wednesday, **17<sup>th</sup> April**, 7:30 - 9:00 pm. A talk by Robert Vance on **“Artificial Intelligence: should we fear it or welcome it?”** Robert works for Uber, transportation and ride hire company. More details will be available nearer the time. All are welcome. Thinktanks are held at Christ Church and simultaneously on Zoom. Please email David Smith if you wish to need more details, or require the Zoom link to join online: [j.d.smith@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:j.d.smith@sussex.ac.uk)

### **Discussion group: all welcome**

Please join an informal discussion on **Sunday, 21 April at 12:15 p.m.** Discussion groups are held on the third Sunday of alternate months, after meeting for worship. These friendly gatherings are for everyone, new attenders and seasoned Friends alike. Please bring a sandwich or packed lunch. Tea / coffee will be provided; the session will start promptly at 12:15 p.m.



*In children's meeting, March 2024*

**Sussex East Area Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May**, at **Lewes Meeting House** [simultaneously on Zoom], **10:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.** All Friends are welcome to attend.

The Area Meeting workshop, starting at 11 a.m., will be on **“Community Resilience”**, led by a facilitator from Woodbrooke. As this event will be hosted by Lewes Meeting, Friends are asked to volunteer for hospitality / hosting duties. Please speak to Berta Busby or Karen Merrin with offers to help.

Also, **see Page 6** for an additional evening event planned for 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Lewes Meeting raised £394.55 in February for Medical Aid for Palestinians, the good cause chosen by Friars Circle.

*Many thanks for your generosity, Friends.*



### Continuing Explorers

This group is for attenders and enquirers, or those wishing to find out more

about Quakers. In these meetings Friends seek to answer questions and share experiences of Quaker faith and worship. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 17 April, at 7:15 p.m.** at the meeting house. For details, email John on [johnnashcroft57@gmail.com](mailto:johnnashcroft57@gmail.com)

### Lewes Friends Reading

Group will meet on **Wednesday, 24 April**, to discuss The Escape Artist by Jonathan

Freeman, a biography about a remarkable man

who “broke out of Auschwitz to warn the world”. The reading group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please join us if one of our books interests you, or if you would like to expand your reading. Email Jane on [janegoyder@msn.com](mailto:janegoyder@msn.com) for details. All are welcome.



**Friends, you are welcome to book a room in the meeting house for your circle group, committee**

meeting, social event, or other Quaker activity. There is no charge to use the meeting house for these purposes, but do

book in advance by emailing [quakermeetinghouselewes@gmail.com](mailto:quakermeetinghouselewes@gmail.com) Please include which room you require, date, start / finish times, contact name and details. Drew will let you know if your request can be met. Please be aware you may not always get your first choice of room, if another booking is in place.

### Report from Sussex East Area Meeting held on 10 March 2024

Several Lewes Friends were at Area Meeting [AM] in Eastbourne Meeting House on 10<sup>th</sup> March, where we were welcomed and given refreshments before and after the business.

The first part of the meeting had a number of matters for report and appointments. It was agreed that ... following the death of one of their members or attenders, a local Meeting [should record] a memorial minute to record their life and service. These would be kept regardless of whether the minute was developed into a testimony by AM.

The report from our representative to Meeting for Sufferings outlined proposals to be taken to Yearly Meeting to have a “continuing Yearly Meeting” rather than Meeting for Sufferings (MfS), now that much of the work for which MfS used to be responsible has been taken over by Trustees. This would be a more open body but would still have representatives of area meetings.

The second part of the afternoon was a look at the pros and cons of merging Trustees from several area meetings into one body. This would share expertise and reduce the number of people needed to serve as Trustees. We heard of the many responsibilities Trustees have, not least ones for safety, premises and finance, and of the experience of areas already doing or working towards mergers, including Yorkshire, Wales and London.

More details can be found in the AM minutes so do have a look at them.

Chris Lawson

**The Good Cause for April is the work of Quakers in Britain, chosen by Wallands Circle.**

Lewes Friends already contribute to the central work of Britain Yearly Meeting but we are aware that our meeting's contribution has gone down as our local costs have risen.

Unfortunately, costs have also been rising at Friends House, and the loss of income during the pandemic is still having an impact. During April we plan to remind Friends of the many areas in which the central work supports local friends. For example:

- peace work
- resources for children's work
- support for those undertaking eldership and oversight roles
- support for Quaker Chaplains
- support for premises committees

Ongoing national and international Quaker work in the areas of Peace Justice and Climate Change is of vital importance. Britain Yearly Meeting is also undertaking a substantial revision of Quaker Faith & Practice. And there is much more besides. Please click on this link to find out more: [BritainYearlyMeeting](https://www.britainyearlymeeting.org)

**“Our testimony to integrity and truth will be at the heart of Yearly Meeting, and our discernment will consider how Quakers have acted on previous Yearly Meeting commitments to equity and justice. Are we speaking and living our truth?”**

*From “Preparing for Yearly Meeting 2024”, full document here: [Preparing-for-yearly-meeting-2024](https://www.quaker.org.uk/preparing-for-yearly-meeting-2024) (quaker.org.uk)*

**Yearly Meeting 2024** will take place at Friends House and online between 26 - 30 July 2024. Bookings are now open. All members and regular attenders are welcome to attend. The calling letter has been sent to Quaker meetings in Britain, and you can read a copy here: [YM2024-calling-letter](#)

Friends will consider “Integrity and Truth”, and seek to discern Yearly Meeting's formal role in steering the Religious Society of Friends. There is no charge for participating in YM, but if you plan to attend in person you will need to arrange transport and accommodation. Helpful details here: [YM 2024 Programme BYM](#)

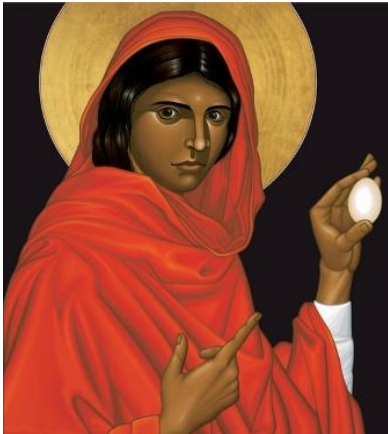
Local Development Worker Ruth Audus will host a preparatory workshop on **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom** for anyone interested in yearly meeting. This might be particularly useful if you are planning to attend for the first time. Ruth writes, “I hope we will be joined by Siobhan Haire, Deputy Recording Clerk and former Yearly Meeting Clerk, and Eleanor Brooks, co-clerk of East Kent AM and regular attendee at YM. All are welcome, experienced Friends or those new to Quakers. I look forward to seeing you.” Please contact the clerks on [quakerclerkslewes@gmail.com](mailto:quakerclerkslewes@gmail.com) for a Zoom link to this workshop.



**Tap here please**

An automated card reader for making financial contributions to Lewes Meeting is now in operation. It can be found on the table in the foyer. You can use your contactless card to make a donation, whether it is a small sum for tea / coffee, or a larger donation. Friends also hope visitors to our meeting house will make donations as well.

## From the Gospel of John



*“[Mary Magdalene] turned around and saw Jesus ... and did not know that it was [him]. Jesus said to her, “Woman,*

*why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing him to be the gardener, said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him....” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my father; but go to my brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my father and your father, and to my God and your God.’ “*

*John 20:14-17; New King James [Bible]*

There is a great deal of information available on the **Quakers in Britain website**, a resource for all Friends in Britain to use. Whether

you have been newly appointed to a role within the meeting, or are a seeker or new attender, or would like to find out more about the central work of Britain Yearly Meeting, simply click on this link to access the wealth of information available:

[Quakers in Britain RESOURCES PAGE](#)



*Two new benches were installed in the meeting house garden on 13 March. Many thanks to our Friend Jenni Williams for her generous gift to Lewes Meeting!*



## Homelink: fundraising opportunity in April

Homelink is undertaking vital fundraising in April, courtesy of runner Tom Hesmondhalgh and the Enjoolata Foundation. Tom plans to run the Brighton 10k on 7 April, and for every £1 donated the Enjoolata Foundation will match it. Therefore each donation, no matter how small, will help more people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in the local area.

Lewes Friends have supported the local charity Homelink for many years. And by sponsoring Tom, you can help ensure its important work continues. You can find out more on the Just Giving page: [HOMELINK @ BRIGHTON 10K 2024 - JustGiving](#).

Homelessness has many causes; domestic abuse, relationship breakdown, redundancy,

mental and physical health issues can all contribute. With long waiting lists for social housing, private rental is often the fastest way to find a home, but finding the money up front to rent privately can be a challenge. This is where Homelink can step in - to provide an interest-free loan in advance. Loans are paid back at an affordable rate, agreed in advance.

Would you consider donating to Tom's run to help raise funds? It would be an encouragement to him, and to the charity supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Thank you for anything you can give, Friends.

To give today, click on the following link: [HOMELINK @ BRIGHTON 10K 2024](#)



*Baked in a recent children's meeting, March 2024*

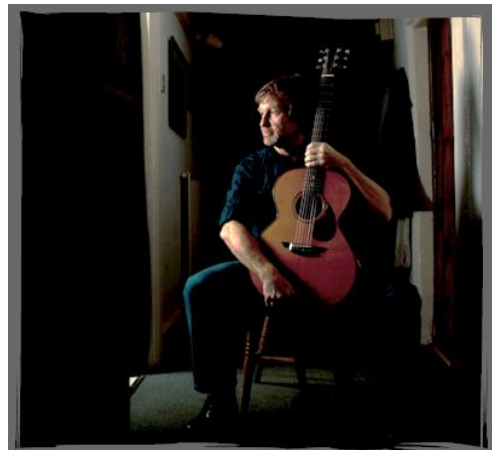
### Message from Pastoral Care & Eldership Team [PaCET]

At a recent meeting of PaCET with circle convenors, we had a long and worthwhile discussion on the organisational problems some circles face. Cliffe Circle has a regular monthly Sunday duty from approximately 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs takes place on the first Sunday of each month; and Wallands Circle is so small that Sunday duties fall on the same 3 - 4 people each month. To address this, we are exploring the possibility of returning to a separate coffee rota, which worked well in the past and included a number of Friends not necessarily taking part in circle

activities or who perhaps could not spare time for other roles.

When PaCET meets again on 11 April this subject will be discussed again. In the meantime, your thoughts are very welcome. Please speak to or email any member of PaCET with your ideas. Many thanks.

Caroline Pybus, on behalf of PaCET



### Folk concert: tickets available now

On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, a folk concert will be held in the evening at Lewes Meeting House; Mark Waistell will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at £10 each, via [margaretlandells06@gmail.com](mailto:margaretlandells06@gmail.com). [Or speak to Maggie Landells after meeting for worship.]

Due to capacity, numbers are limited, so be sure to book now if you haven't already!

Mark is a Quaker singer / songwriter based in Devon, who performs throughout the UK and internationally. More details can be found here: [Mark Waistell - Singer - Songwriter](#) .



Freshly painted twitten gate, March 2024



## Lewes Meeting Contacts

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

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

*Website:* [www.lewesquakers.org.uk](http://www.lewesquakers.org.uk)

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*Newsletter:* Liz Brooks [realgirltribe@gmail.com](mailto:realgirltribe@gmail.com)

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

*Safeguarding:* Helen Thomas  
[helen.thomas62@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.thomas62@btinternet.com)

*Circles for pastoral care & support:*

Cliffe - Berta Busby, convenor

Friars - Veryan Greenwood and Anna Milner-Gulland, convenors

Needlemakers - Geoff Halsey, convenor

Wallands - Bronwyn Harwood, convenor

*Sussex East Area Meeting Clerk:* Sally Aviss at [sally.aviss@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.aviss@btinternet.com)

**Safeguarding:** If you have concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult who might be experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation, please contact Helen Thomas, the Safeguarding Deputy for Lewes Meeting, on 07736 962526 or [helen.thomas62@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.thomas62@btinternet.com).

In April, Wallands Circle will promote the **Good Cause**. The rota for the following months is:

May - *Cliffe*

June - *Friars*

July - *Needlemakers*

If you have an idea for a good cause, please speak to your circle convenor in the first instance.

**“Quiet Ways”:** Contributions to the Sussex East Area Meeting newsletter are welcome at any time. Please email items of interest to: [editorquietways@gmail.com](mailto:editorquietways@gmail.com)

**Deadline for May newsletter:  
29<sup>th</sup> April**

Please send news, photos, items of interest and information on upcoming events to [realgirltribe@gmail.com](mailto:realgirltribe@gmail.com), for inclusion in the April newsletter.