

Lewes Quaker Meeting Newsletter

May 2024

STOP THE PRESS !!!!

Opening events - and more - at Lewes Meeting House



6 May: Children's junk modelling workshop - 2 - 5 p.m. All welcome, especially families with children. Suitable for ages 7 - 107+. Creating imaginative artwork from recycled and found objects.

10 May: Tea party / Opening Event - 2 - 4 p.m. To welcome and thank Friends, architects, builders, funders, hirers, neighbours in Lewes, and everyone interested in the redevelopment of the meeting house. All are welcome! Volunteers are needed on the day; please speak to Drew Fisher as soon as possible, if you are able to help.

11 May: Sussex East Area Meeting Study Day (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) followed by a folk concert at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome at Area Meeting. The concert is a ticketed event -- £10 tickets are still available. Refreshments will be available at both events. **See Page 2 for details of**

Area Meeting, and Page 9 for details of the concert.

21 May: "George Fox at 400" - A Friendly lecture and discussion on the life and times of George Fox, to celebrate his 400th birthday. 6:45 p.m. start; followed by baked potato supper and Friendly discussion at 7:30 p.m. **See Page 8 for details.** All are welcome.

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. Tea and coffee are available after meeting, served at the hatch.

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

Evening meeting for worship is held once a month on the third Sunday at 6 p.m. for half an hour. The next evening meeting will be on 19 May, 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Parking: Limited parking is available behind the meeting house. Disabled drivers, please 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 after use. Thank you.

Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs (Business Meeting):

Sunday, 5th May at 12:30 p.m. at the meeting house. Please bring your own lunch; tea and coffee will be available. The agenda will include in-reach / outreach and upcoming events. ~ Business meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month, after meeting for worship and a lunch break. All Friends are welcome, although attenders should speak to a clerk beforehand if they plan to attend.

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

Especially for young people aged 11+

Young Friends at Lewes Meeting (aged 11+) meet on the fourth Sunday of each month, supported by volunteers. Their next meeting will be **Sunday, 26 May, 10:30 a.m.** in the library. Please do encourage your young people to come along to these Friendly gatherings, as the group is planning their own activities and learning for the coming months.



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 here: [Worship - Woodbrooke](#)

Lewes Meeting raised **£ 220** in March for Prison Phoenix Trust, the good cause chosen by Needlemakers and Wealden Circle.

Many thanks for your generosity, Friends.



Coffee Mornings at Lewes Climate Hub: Come along on Wednesdays, between 11 am - 12.30 pm, to the Climate Hub at 32 High Street, Lewes, for coffee and conversation (free, although donations are welcomed). All are invited to

this weekly event featuring guest speakers, with an opportunity to chat and ask questions about climate action. The Hub hosts a number of events in addition to coffee mornings, and Friends like to find out more. If so, just email info@lewesclimatehub.org with a request to receive regular monthly newsletters.

Sussex East Area Meeting will be held on Saturday, 11th May, at Lewes Meeting House [simultaneously on Zoom]: 9:45 a.m. for coffee, 10:15 a.m. start for a short business meeting. To be followed by a workshop on “**Community Resilience**”, led by a facilitator from Woodbrooke. All Friends are welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

As this event will be hosted by Lewes Meeting, Friends are asked to volunteer for hospitality / hosting duties. If you are able to help, please speak to Berta Busby or Karen Merrin as soon as possible.

New Zoom Circle

Lewes Meeting currently has four circles for pastoral care and support: Cliffe, Wealden and Needlemakers, Wallands, and Friars. In addition, we have recently established a Zoom-based circle, which is particularly aimed at those whose ability to attend in-person circle meetings is limited, e.g. for health reasons or because of other commitments.

The Zoom Circle will meet once month, for about an hour.

We have had a couple of successful initial meetings with a small number of participants (3 or 4). Each time, we've decided on a subject for discussion in advance of the meeting; we plan to continue with this approach.

The Zoom Circle won't take part in the monthly rota for preparing the Meeting House on Sundays, but members will be encouraged to assist other circles with this task if they are able to do so.

Anyone who would like to be a member both of the Zoom Circle and one of the other circles is most welcome to do so. If you are interested in joining, please contact Tim Pitt-Payne on tpittpayne@yahoo.co.uk

Lewes Friends Reading

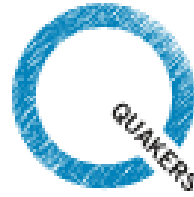
Group will meet on Wednesday, **22 May**, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Darke by Rick

Gekoski. Please join us at Lewes Meeting House, either in the community room or the library, depending on numbers. All are welcome!



The reading group usually 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 for details.

“What is the Quaker Way?” - monthly online sessions for newcomers to explore Quaker spirituality and community. Sessions include small group sharing and listening, led by staff from Quakers in Britain. To be held on Thursdays from 7.30 -8.30 pm on Zoom. You are welcome to attend one or more, and can join on any date. For further details, and to receive a Zoom link, please register here: [What is the Quaker Way? LINK](#)



Yearly Meeting 2024 will take place at Friends House, London, 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](#)

At Yearly Meeting 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, but if you plan to attend in person you will need to arrange your own transport and accommodation. Helpful details can be found here: [YM 2024 Programme BYM](#)

Yearly Meeting is for *all* Friends, whether members or regular attenders. If you have not attended YM before, why not make this your first experience? Any member of PaCET would be happy to speak to you about it further, if you have questions.

**BBC
RADIO**



Quaker Rhiannon Grant on BBC's “Pause for Thought” - Rhiannon recently shared her thoughts inspired by the ongoing revision of *Quaker Faith & Practice* by Britain Yearly Meeting, on “Pause for Thought” on BBC Radio 2. She focused on “those who kept their faith even when times were difficult”. The interview is now available online and Friends might like to listen. If so, just click on the link below: [Pause For Thought - R Grant: BBC](#)

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 please book in advance by emailing quakermeetinghouselewes@gmail.com



Please include which room you require, date, start and finish times, a contact

name and details. Please be aware you may not get your first choice of room, if another booking is already in place.

For anyone wishing to hire rooms for other purposes, your enquiries are also very welcome. Room hire charges are as follows:

- Meeting Room: £15 per hour**
- Community Room: £14 per hour**
- Library: £11 per hour**
- Corner Room: £10 per hour**

The Good Cause for May is EAPPI, chosen by Cliffe Circle

Yes - what a mouthful of a title; some people call it the E.A.P.P.I, others make it into a word "Eeappi". But I know from experience what a brilliant organisation it is, amazingly well run in the UK and Ireland by the Quakers - more particularly Quaker Peace and Social Witness. In fact it is largely due to my experience with the training and support we Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) received from Quakers that I am an (admittedly erratic) attender at Lewes Meeting.

EAPPI is an international English-speaking programme initiated by the World Council of Churches around 2002 in response to desperate pleas for help from church leaders in Jerusalem. It grew from the ground up,

responding to the needs in different parts of the so-called Holy Land. Their aim is to assist in bringing about the end of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories which began with the Six-Day War in 1967, in the hope of enabling the people of the land to find a way of living peacefully together or alongside one another.

Although it was set up by a Christian organisation, volunteers do not have to be Christian - to my knowledge, volunteers from the UK and Ireland have included Christians of many types, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, agnostics and atheists, across a wide variety of ages, walks of life and backgrounds.

Basically, EAPPI is a human rights observer project and takes a stance of 'principled impartiality - observing and reporting human rights infringements wherever they see them and whoever commits them'. Because of the care taken to avoid extreme statements and maintain good relationships across the board so far as is possible, the information they collect has become valued by organisations like the UN and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), as well as our own Foreign Office.



So, what do EAs do? Once they are trained and have got through Israeli security (not a given in these difficult days), there is a brief induction period in

Jerusalem and then they go off in small teams of 3 or 4 to placements. EAs usually serve in the field for 3 months. I was lucky to serve twice (Summer 2004 and Winter 2005-6 - the latter because someone had to drop out at short notice).

Specific tasks depend on the location of each team - they might provide a 'protective presence' to villagers threatened by extremist Jewish settlers (who these days may wear military uniforms indistinguishable from soldiers of the Israel Defense Force); they might watch a checkpoint and try to facilitate passage of Palestinians crossing in the early morning to work in Israel, counting numbers and noting the time it takes; they might accompany

school children who sometimes experience threats from settlers; they might meet with Palestinian and Israeli peace groups to learn about their work. They will probably make contact with diplomats from their home country and meet with them to talk about their observations. And so on, according to the needs.

But in many ways the most important part of the work is raising awareness back home, using blogs and speaking at meetings as well as in informal settings. In the UK EAs are given excellent training for speaking and I was encouraged that, in the short time between my two experiences of giving talks, people seemed to have become more aware of what was happening - responses the first time were on the lines of, 'Why aren't we told about this?', whereas the second time it was more, 'We knew there was a problem, thank you for explaining it more fully'. I do believe that change was partly due to our advocacy work.

Training and supporting EAs requires resources in terms of staff, premises hire, money for fares and living allowances in the field, etc. Please give what you can, it may be a cliché but it's also true - every little helps! You can give online or at Meeting.

Pat Price-Tomes

EAPPI is coordinated by the World Council of Churches, bringing people from around the world to the West Bank to serve as human rights monitors. The UK programme is coordinated by Quakers in Britain. You can find out more online here: [EAPPI | Quakers in Britain](#)



Eco Home Extravaganza

Are you interested in making your home more sustainable,

greener and warmer? All are invited to a free community event for ideas, inspiration and practical tips. You will have the chance to speak with retro-fit experts and local suppliers and get advice on how to save energy and money.

Whether you're on your way to retro-fitting your existing home, or interested in taking first steps, the Eco Home Extravaganza is not to be missed. Family friendly event with café. At Lewes Town Hall (Fisher Street entrance), Lewes BN7 2QS, on Saturday 18 May. Organised by OVESCO and funded by Community Energy South and the Greater South East Net Zero Hub. For further details see: www.ovesco.co.uk

A Friendly reminder: For the last month I have been responsible for tea, coffee and biscuit supplies at the meeting house. The amount required appears to fluctuate from week to week and I seemed to err on the side of either under- or over-stocking. What I did learn, however, is how costly it is to maintain these with prices as high as they are. It made me wonder how many times over the years I have stood at the hatch, chatting away to someone and gratefully received a cup of coffee and a biscuit without remembering to pop a contribution in the bowl. It is so easily done when distracted. The last month has acted as a gentle reminder to myself that we need to support meeting funds by paying what we feel able towards kitchen provisions.



Judy Lee

“Quiet Ways”: Contributions to the Sussex East Area Meeting newsletter are welcome at any time. Please email items to: editorquietways@gmail.com

Lewes Action on Poverty

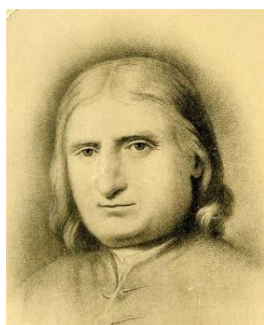
All are welcome to attend the following events taking place from 10.30 am - 2.30 pm at Christ Church Lewes on Sunday 12 May:

- 10.30 - 11.30 am - Church service based on Christian Aid resources and appropriate for all ages.
- 12 - 1 pm - LOAF Lunch: Soup, bread and cake using Local, Organic, Animal Friendly and Fairly Traded ingredients, with gluten free and dairy free options. No charge but donations are welcome, on behalf of Christian Aid.
- 1 - 2.30 pm - Make Act on Poverty banners and meet with local people involved in addressing poverty. Discuss how we can work together to act on poverty locally and globally.

You are welcome to come for all or some of the time. Please email lunt.liz1@gmail.com in advance, if you plan to attend.

“George Fox, in his own words”

Our Regional Meeting Clerk writes, “It won’t have escaped your attention that this year is the 400th anniversary of George Fox’s birth. Regional Meeting is marking it by holding a day workshop: *George Fox in his own words*.”



“Stuart Masters will be making a return visit to lead us, this time at

Brighton Friends Meeting House, and as always, the event will also be on-line.

“Everyone who is a member of, or attends, a meeting within Sussex and Surrey is welcome to take part in this free event on Saturday 22nd June. However, you must register in advance by advising if you wish to come to Brighton or join via Zoom.

“We may have to cap numbers, so please register early if you want to be sure of a place. And please remember, if you are coming in person, to bring your own picnic lunch. Although tea and coffee will be provided”

Deirdre Morris,
Regional Meeting Clerk

All are welcome. There is no charge for attending this event, or any regional or area meeting. But please email Deirdre at sussexandsurreymquakerclerk@outlook.com to register, if you plan to attend on 22 June.

Christian Aid Week: 12 - 19 May



Christian Aid provides humanitarian relief and long-term development support to poor communities throughout the world, while tackling

the causes of poverty and injustice. The charity helps those in need, of all faiths and none.

In the run up to and including Christian Aid Week (12 - 19 May) there will be donation envelopes available after meeting for worship on Sundays. Speak to Caroline Pybus for details.

You can also give to Christian Aid online at www.christianaid.org.uk, where you will also find ways to get involved to help make the world a better place.

Please be assured that your donations will go directly to trusted partners working on the ground. There is a robust process for evaluating partners and projects to ensure donated money is spent effectively. Thank you for your support.



The Chair and Trustees of Lewes District Churches Homelink warmly invite all Friends involved with this charity to join them at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and celebration of 25 years of helping people into housing in the Lewes District area. This event will be held on Saturday, 18 May 2024, at 5.15 pm at King’s Church, Brooks Road, Lewes. Refreshments will be provided.

Everyone who has supported Homelink in the last quarter century is warmly invited.

RSVP: admin@leweshomelink.org.uk



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, Safeguarding Deputy for Lewes Meeting, on 07736 962526 or helen.thomas62@btinternet.com.

In May, Cliffe Circle will promote the **Good Cause**. The rota for the following months:

June - *Friars*
July - *Needlemakers*
August - *Wallands*

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



Lewes Meeting Contacts

Clerks: John Ashcroft, Liz Brooks and David Martin at 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

Website editor: Drew Fisher

ajfscorpio@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Liz Brooks realgirltribe@gmail.com

Children's meeting: Sara at saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk

Safeguarding: Helen Thomas
helen.thomas62@btinternet.com

Circles for pastoral care & support:
Cliffe - Berta Busby, convenor
Friars - Veryan Greenwood and Anna Milner-Gulland
Needlemakers - Geoff Halsey
Wallands - Bronwyn Harwood

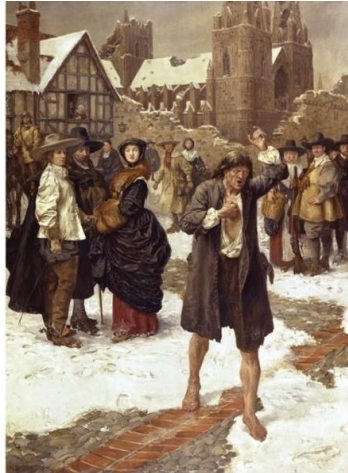
Sussex East Area Meeting Clerk: Sally Avis at sally.aviss@btinternet.com

Deadline for June newsletter:
30th May

Please send news, photos, items of interest and information on upcoming events to realgirltribe@gmail.com, for inclusion in the June newsletter.

“George Fox at 400”

**Evening sessions to learn more about him and share views
on his legacy for Friends in the 400th year since his birth**



Tuesday May 21st

in the Meeting House at 6.45 p.m.

introduced by Tim Pitt-Payne with an outline of Fox’s life and times

- with discussion and shared supper at 7.30 p.m.

This meeting will also be part of the ‘Continuing Explorers’ sessions
Further sessions to be arranged with topics suggested by those who would
like to attend them; dates to be agreed at the May 21st meeting

Shared supper for those who would like

organised by Zoe Endacott

Baked potatoes provided – bring toppings etc to accompany

Arranged by the Pastoral Care and Eldership Team (PaCET)
Further information from Chris Lawson, Tim Pitt-Payne or John Ashcroft

Picture is an evocation of George Fox declaiming his message

“Woe to the bloody city of Lichfield” in 1650.

The painting was done by Robert Spence in 1897 and is in the Lichfield Heritage Museum

- see <https://www.jonotourism.co.uk/george-fox-and-bloody-lichfield/>

Nudges & Winks

A personal look at Quakerism
through words and music.

Mark Waistell
Singer-Songwriter

*"Mark's voice is soft, clear,
smooth and distinctive; his
lyrics are evocative of a life's
experienceshis fingerpicking
guitar is sophisticated....the
understated playing is beguiling
and vocals as clement and
serene as a dappled golden
water-meadow. Beautiful !"*

Folkcast Review

**Saturday May 11th 7:30PM
Lewes Quaker Meeting
House
Friars Walk BN7 2LE
Tickets £10
from:margaretlandells06@
gmail.com
Tel: 07501889389**