

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading it



Events for June

Sunday 2 nd June	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line Zoom log-in:
Monday 3 rd June	16.30	Spiritual Review Course: The Quaker Way	Meeting House
Thurs 6 th June	14.00	Social Group	Issy's house
	19.00	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House
Friday 7 th June	10.00	Friendly Cafe	Meeting House
Sat 8 th June	14.00	Talk by Michael Gilson (our Warden) on Quaker Suburban Garden pioneer Richard Sudell	Meeting House
Sunday 9 th June	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line Zoom log in:
Thurs 13 th June	1400	Social Group	Issy's House
Friday 14 th June	10.00	Friendly Cafe	Meeting House
Sunday 16 th June	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line Zoom log-in:
Monday 17 th June	16.30	Spiritual Review Course: Quaker Way	Meeting House
Thursday 20 th June	14.00	Social Group	Issy's house
Friday 21 st June	10.00	Friendly Cafe	Meeting House
Saturday 22 nd June	10.30	Regional Meeting <i>George Fox in his own words</i> <i>Led by Stuart Masters</i>	Brighton Meeting House and on Zoom
Sunday 23 rd June	10.30 am	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line Zoom log-in:
Friday 28 th June	10.00	Friendly Cafe	Meeting House
Sunday 30 th June	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line

Future Dates

- Remember to go to Quaker.app (formerly known as QNet) for all Future Dates. For those Friends with no computer access, the Pastoral Team will keep you informed. The log-in for Quaker.app is: <https://quaker.app/>

(See also articles in this Newsletter about Chichester Festivities activities)



This month's charity is Red Cross UK appeal. To quote from their Website:

"Our frontline teams are as busy as ever, as they work tirelessly to support people across all our services — from responding to severe weather events, to helping people get home from hospital and bringing comfort and kindness to those struggling with loneliness.

There's been a huge rise in demand across the board – compounded by major staff shortages and sickness across our teams, and the agencies and partners we work with. It's an incredibly challenging time, and that's why we're asking for your help. There's someone out there who needs you. Your donation could change their life."

Donate here: [Red Cross UK appeal](#)

The Charity for July is Feeding Futures.



FUTURES

This is a very local Charity based in Westhampnett which we started supporting last year and there was an interview with the founder in the Winter Newsletter.

The focus of the Charity is on giving children in Kenya sustainable school meals. They work with a community for five years in a partnership so the community eventually takes on the whole responsibility.

During the month of March, the Charity did a bulk purchase of food grain for the school feeding program at Sidai Comprehensive School. This was aimed at ensuring that even when the grains are not available in the market, the feeding program would not experience hiccups. This was also aimed at ensuring purchase was made when prices were pocket friendly. With the ever-changing inflation in the country, this curbed the risk of purchasing while prices are high. They also emphasise the opportunity for good agricultural practice with an aim of supporting farmers in crop diversification with certified DK777 maize seeds and vegetables seeds such as carrots, cabbage, and spinach. The distribution was made equally during a group meeting whereby 112 farmers were supported.

It definitely feels a very worthwhile local charity to support – "feeding into the children's futures"

[Give Today - Feeding Futures](#)

Charity for August is Windle Trust International



**Windle Trust
International**

Sarah and John were fortunate in meeting one of the UK members.

Robin talked about their work increasing educational opportunities for girls in areas of conflict; currently in Sudan and South Sudan.

The organisation started with Dr Hugh Austin Windle Pilkington, who was an academic, working at Nairobi University in the 1970s.

He appreciated the importance of education and following his death in 1986, the Hugh Pilkington Charitable Trust was formed. In 2002, it was expanded and renamed Windle Trust International. It manages its programmes from its offices in Khartoum (Sudan), Juba (South Sudan) and Oxford (UK) whilst enjoying close relations with its affiliated charities in Kenya and Uganda.

The charity has shown that increasing the education of girls and women can result in reduced maternal and child mortality rates and improved health of all females. If a girl can remain in secondary school her future earnings are significantly increased. Their experience highlights that education is the only viable avenue for poor people who want to enter the top end of the labour market, with all its attendant economic and health benefits.

By supporting this charity, we help them achieve this aim. [Donate today — Windle Trust International](#)



David (Treager), Sue (Hibberd) and John (Simpson) all have special birthdays during the next three months. Enjoy your days!

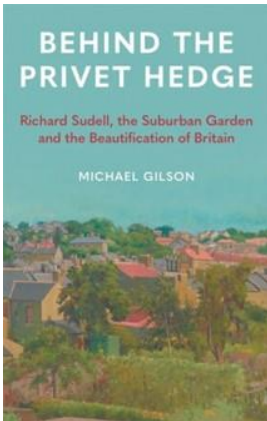


Remember the two events being organised as part of the Festival of Chichester

Saturday 6th July at 5.00 pm at MH

The Reality of Living in Jerusalem in 2024. Nick Papadopoulos spent Spring 2024 as an ecumenical accompanier in Palestine and Israel and will share his experiences. Free entry with retiring collection

Wednesday 10th July at 6.00 pm. **Explore Trees with Chichester Tree Warden in Priory Park.** Free (booking advised) with donations welcome



Saturday 8th June at 14.00.

Michael Gilson (our Warden) will have a mini book launch for his book:

Behind the Privet Hedge, Richard Sudell, the Suburban Garden and the Beautification of Britain

This book will be published in May. He will give a talk on this Quaker suburban garden pioneer.

Listen to Michael talking on the BBC Thinking Aloud podcast about his book:

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05



News from the Arts Group

A Summer outing is being planned for Thursday afternoon 4th July to the West Dean Summer Show. This will showcase original work by emerging artists including sculpture, installation, printmaking, painting, film, ceramics and textiles.



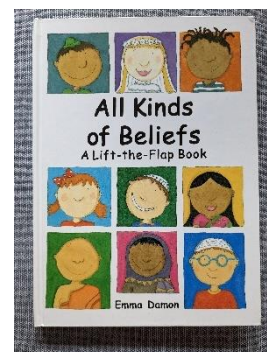
Always stimulating – good for discussion over a cup of tea in the restaurant, after looking around. Free entry to the Summer Show at the Edward James Studios. Everyone welcome.

Janet (Beckett)

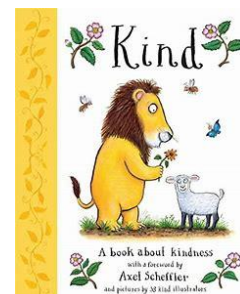
HELLO FROM THE CHILDREN'S GROUP



During the spring, there have been monthly children's meetings in March, April and May. The focus of the first two was on sharing a pop up book with detailed information about different world religions. This served as an introduction to starting work on our own booklets about the Quaker testimonies. We also talked briefly about Simplicity and enjoyed making simple flowers from modelling clay at the March meeting.



In May the meeting was on the theme of Kindness. The six children present learned a Welcome song and enjoyed Alex Scheffler's book Kind, before making and decorating a card for someone special to them, with a kind message in it.



Apart from the Sunday meetings, April was a very busy month for the three of us who plan the children's programme. Firstly on 21st, thirteen friends stayed on after meeting for worship to attend our third Sunday event. This focused on discussing a range of possible ways forward for the Children's Group that might help Chichester Meeting as a whole feel like a more inclusive and welcoming place for younger visitors. We very much hope that some of the points raised can be discussed further at future Business Meetings.

Later, on 25th April, Funtington School's Year 5/6 class of nine to eleven year olds visited the Meeting House with two members of staff. This was an opportunity for the children to find out more about Quakers as part of their RE topic on comparing different places of worship in the local area. After a question and answer session, we again focused on the Quaker testimonies with the children working on their own testimonies booklets. A popular snack time(!) with apples and chocolate brownies was followed by a five minute Quaker meeting with two selected 'elders' from the class shaking hands to end the meeting. The class of twenty seven seemed engaged throughout, so the morning felt like it had been a success.

Jill, Jenny and Fanny



Economic Justice and Sustainability Group

We know the climate crisis urgently needs addressing, and that banks must do more to stop financing fossil fuels. Each of us is part of a delicate, interwoven created world, and our actions are putting it dangerously out of balance.

The facts remain bleak: the latest [Banking on Climate Chaos](#) report is out, which the JustMoney Movement has endorsed. It shows that mainstream banks are still funding the climate crisis. Over the past 8 years the world's 60 biggest banks have poured \$6.9 trillion into fossil fuels. Barclays still comes out as Europe's worst fossil fuel banker, financing the sector to the tune of over \$235 billion since the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015.

At the start of May, JustMoney supporter Paul Regan, a Methodist minister, asked HSBC to better serve the needs of churches, including stopping the financing of companies behind fossil fuel expansion. He is still awaiting a response and also a follow up question about HSBC's financing of single use plastics, which contribute to climate change, pollution and disease.

JustMoney staff, Champions and supporters will be attending other bank and company AGMs this month – it's a vital campaigning tactic that can help hold these enormous corporates to account. Get in touch with JustMoney if you'd like to find out more about becoming a [JustMoney Champion](#) and the training and support they can give for a fairer, greener future.

Another way action can be taken is by switching our own, or our churches' money away from dirty fossil fuel banks towards greener, fairer banks instead.

<https://good-with-money.com/2024/01/31/top-7-ethical-current-accounts/>

Barbara comments on this report by saying that several of the ethical current accounts are actually building societies, so constitutionally more ethical than High Street banks, and others are online only, which is a downside for many of us. We used to have a co-op bank in Chichester and it would be good if the merger with the Coventry means we get that back but don't hold your breath!

Barbara (Hayes)



SOGI **SEXUAL ORIENTATION &** **GENDER IDENTITY INCLUSION**

SOGII Picnic 14th July 2024

Please join us for our now traditional SOGII picnic in the grounds of Priory Park (opposite the Meeting House). Bring your own lunch and a SOGII cake and drinks will be provided. This meeting will follow Meeting for Worship at 10.30 at the Meeting House.

The Cass Report SOGII Meeting on 29th September 2024

'When words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from and what has nourished the lives of others.' Advices and Queries 17.

You will have noticed the recent publication of the Cass report about the provision of gender identity services for children and young people. We will summarise the report to better inform ourselves of its contents and discuss it from our own perspectives. This meeting will follow 10.30 Meeting for Worship at Chichester Meeting House. We will meet 12.30-14.30 followed by tea. Please bring your own lunch.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Sarah is always urging us to bring in our Stamps to the Meeting House – have you wondered what happened to them?



They go to Canine Partners This was set up locally and initially worked out of a place at Heyshott and one used to see them training in Chichester. Now they have moved more centrally to a place in Leicestershire. It makes sense as it is a countrywide organisation and having its HQ on the south coast doesn't make for easy access for those up north.

Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions on their Website:

How is the money raised from recycling stamps?

All donated stamps are sorted and graded, then separated into different categories; commemoratives, definitive & foreign to be sold to collectors.

How much money is raised through recycling stamps?

Canine Partners receives up to £6 per kilo, based on condition. Special stamps are valued separately.

Can I donate my first day covers, collections or albums?

Yes, we can accept donations of first day covers, collections and albums. We send these to a local specialist who provides a valuation to the charity, sells them at auction and makes a donation to Canine Partners.

We use a network of commercial partners who buy all the items that we accept for recycling.

[Canine Partners - Amazing Dogs. Transforming Lives.](https://www.caninepartners.org.uk/)

Did you know that there is a new research programme being carried out across the UK called



The UK's largest ever health research programme

Our Future Health is building a community of volunteers to create an incredibly detailed picture of the nation's health in partnership with the NHS. They are bringing together up to five million people to develop new ways to prevent, detect and treat diseases – helping everyone live longer and healthier lives.

“Today, millions of people spend many years of their life in poor health, suffering from common diseases such as dementia, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Too often, we detect and treat diseases only when patients start showing symptoms. Our goal is to revolutionise the way we fight disease by collecting information from millions of volunteers across the UK. Together we can help researchers find ways to prevent, detect and treat diseases earlier.”

When you join you are offered information about your own health, including your blood pressure and cholesterol levels. In the future you will also be offered information about your risk of some diseases. Every adult living in the UK is eligible to join Our Future Health, including people with pre-existing health conditions. By taking part in Our Future Health, you'll support new discoveries that will help everyone live longer and healthier lives. You'll also have the chance to find out more about your own health and future risk of disease.

And the good news is that there is a Future Health Centre here in Boots, North Street, Chichester so it is very easy and simple to join this important health project.

Here is the link to the Website to find out more:

[Our Future Health](#)

As a surprise General Election approaches a hymn (poem/song) –

If love is foremost in our faith

If love is foremost in our faith
we have a choice to make
on this and every other day,
for all else is at stake;
we see a world that's broken down,
where poverty and fear
are trampelling the weakest ones,
with hatred lurking near.

'Today', God said, I give a choice
where life and death compete.
The chance is now for us to take,
to finish, to complete,
the turning of the tables here
as Christ, one time, had turned
the temple tables, scattering greed,
to free those power had spurned.

Where selfishness can cripple lives,
or love can set them free,
what happens from this moment on
rests now with you and me:
if our audacious words of grace
can frame what we would pray,
then from this moment, in our time,
let love infuse each day.

by Andrew Pratt

Advice and Queries Number 34

Remember your responsibilities as a citizen for the conduct of local, national, and international affairs.
Do not shrink from the time and effort your involvement may demand.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook [Chichester Quakers \(Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends\) | Chichester | Facebook](#)

