

# **Lewes Triennial Report for SEAQM, 2020**

## **Life of the meeting**

Meetings for worship are held regularly, at 10.30 – 11.30 on Sunday mornings and also, since 2019, in the evening between 6.30 and 7pm. Extracts from Advices and Queries, and sometimes from Quaker Faith & Practice, have been read regularly. Wednesday meetings, at 12.30-1pm, have attracted growing numbers of both attenders and members, often including newcomers.

During 2017-18, we held three 'After Meeting with Friends' sessions which were open to Friends from across the AM and were well attended by Lewes and non Lewes attenders. In 2019-20 we ran three Explorers' Groups. Each group had five or six participants.

The regular meeting for 'Holding in the Light' (prayers for healing) continued to be held at 9.30am, on the third Sunday each month.

The six pastoral circles have continued to keep Friends in contact within small geographical areas. They provide corporate oversight; circle convenors attend some EORG (Eldership and Oversight Resource Group) meetings in order to share oversight concerns. Shared lunches and breakfasts foster togetherness. Each circle takes a turn with coffee making and door-keeping.

Both the newsletter and the website help to keep the meeting fully informed. The newsletter provides valued readings as well as news. The website contributes to outreach efforts, probably accounting for the regular stream of newcomers.

## **Children's Meeting**

Until August 2019, Mary Perigoe, our Children's Worker, was a great help. We still had 25 registered children, but those actually attending were fewer in number and we decided to see how we might manage with a strong rota of Friends and parents. Leaders have planned a wide range of activities and interests, often with a Quaker emphasis, including various craftwork, discussions, fundraising and a successful all age meeting with the theme of light and hope, with music and readings followed by a shared lunch.

## **Resident Friends**

Lou Wright and Chris Walker (and their daughter Rosa) continued to play a significant part in the life of the meeting. They left in September 2019 and in December, David and Louise Tinsley moved in. Both have, as Friends, become very active indeed.

## **Outward concerns**

We continue to be members of Churches Together in Lewes. We open the Meeting House for Heritage Day and the local Ride and Stride event, both of which attract visitors. We continue to support the work of the Green Olive Trust (UK), a Quaker Registered Body, which provides educational opportunities for orphans and other disadvantaged children in rural Western Kenya. Three of its Trustees are members of the Meeting.

We also regularly support, with fundraising and activities, LOSRAS, the Lewes Organisation in Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, and Homelink which helps homeless people into housing

in the area of Lewes District Council. In addition the Meeting and the Children's Meeting, with the encouragement of Circles, support a variety of Good Causes.

## **Lewes Meeting House**

In 2017 we selected a firm of architects (Ecotecture Ltd) and worked with them to develop plans to make the Meeting House more accessible, sustainable and a more welcoming place for Quakers and wider community. During this process we discovered more damage to gallery end of Meeting House. We carried out repairs to make the Meeting House weatherproof and halt the deterioration.

We submitted plans for a two storey extension to Lewes District Council in early 2019, which were approved in December 2019. However Lewes Friends are concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed development and the architects are currently developing a set of alternative, more modest plans. We have begun fund raising.

Nancy Wall and John Thurley, Co-Clerks