

Minutes of WILPF Brighton Branch Meeting - 6th September 2022 at Brighton Friends' Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton

Attendance: Gail, Ann, Jenny, Valerie (and briefly, Roz on Zoom]

Apologies: Molly, Patricia and Helen

1. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- The Minutes of the last Meeting were agreed as a correct record.,.

- Jenny agreed to find out more about RISE's request for a speaker from WILPF on the 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- Anne will get an updated list of local members.

- The Meeting was pleased to hear that Rebecca has agreed she will work with the Environment Working Group on promoting the Fossil Fuel Treaty proposition to the United Nations.

2. Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer gave a brief report and will circulate a more detailed report with financial update before the next meeting. The meeting thanked Anne for her brief report.

3. Secretary's Report

- The Secretary reported that she had circulated a newsletter, together with the Minutes of the Last Meeting and the Agenda for the present meeting.
- Jenny had difficulties getting a speaker for the garden party but finally managed to get a a man from the Peace Pledge Union, Albert Beale. Those present congratulated her on finding such a good guest speaker for the Garden Party.
- Jenny had received many books from Jean Farebrother for people to take and make a donation if they wished to at the Hiroshima event in Queens Park. After the event Anne took them home and then to the garden party and some were taken and donations made. The rest may go to either the Friends Meeting House library or the Amnesty bookshop.
- The mayor, Lizzie Deane had been thanked for speaking at the Hiroshima commemoration and also Rebecca Johnson who had spoken about the progress of the TPNW.
- Albert had been thanked for his time and very entertaining talk at the garden party.

- The Meeting thanked the Secretary for her Report

4. Update on Previous Activities: Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day

- It was agreed that Hiroshima Day in Brighton had been successful, and that those who had been able to support Nagasaki Day in Worthing had found it well worthwhile.

Members present agreed that it would be good if this pattern of remembrance in Brighton and in Worthing could be repeated in future years.

5. Update on the Garden party As mentioned earlier the speaker was very good, the turnout was much higher than expected with some 25 or 26 people present.

- A discussion took place about the fundraising aspect - it was acknowledged that a small number of members had individually spent quite a lot of money providing items for the buffet, and that the takings did not take account of this.

We decided that before the next fundraising event where food is provided we need to discuss further.

6. Rally against the deportation of refugees to Rwanda

Jenny and Celia, [an interested non member] had spent several hours holding up the WILPF banner at a lively rally with some very good speakers and a few hecklers outside the High Courts in London where a case against the deportations was taking place, which is still on-going.

7. On line debate Jenny has been involved in a debate with a group of local charities and small groups regarding an advert on that platform for volunteers to work with children from the age of 12 years upwards to train as Air-force cadets. She made the point that children should not be 'militarised' and that it is a shame that schools welcome the military services but not peace promoters. The debate continues and many other members of the group have chosen to agree with the WILPF position.

8. Possible stall at the Level in Brighton during the London XR Rebellion protests? We discussed this but felt that as it will be on a Sunday it is unlikely to attract a large number of people and therefore we will not have a stall. Due to the complexity of commitments we are not planning to have any activities relating to the XR this time. [*This may change as the royal funeral has changed the XR dates for activities*].

9. Day for Peace 21 September -stall or other ideas? Unfortunately no one present felt able to commit to marking this day with a stall/vigil.

10 Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 26th September Not enough people at the meeting were able to make a definite commitment to this.

- Members present welcomed ideas, but as there had been no meeting during August, and only four members were at the current meeting, it was agreed after discussion that it would be too difficult to organise events at such short notice.

11 Climate Justice Group - Brighton Schools? It is hoped that a letter from UK WILPF that has gone to all members will bring about some information that may help us get our exhibition into schools and maybe even enable us to attend and take part in discussions.

Jenny has written to a community hall to ask about putting our exhibition up on their premises but had no reply.

12. Remembrance Sunday, 13 November 2022

It was agreed to ask if the WILPF's commemoration could start at Friends' Meeting House that afternoon, and proceed to wreath-laying at the War Memorial.

13. Listening to each others involvement in other groups

Anne suggested that we make space in our meeting to hear what each other do in other groups so we know what else is going on in the city. We all agreed, it would be good to get speakers from time to time so if anyone has contacts for us to contact then please let us know. Thank you.

.Actions agreed

All those able to- ring local members, to chase up better participation in monthly meetings and in events. It was agreed that this must be priority task for the Branch.

Jenny will ask Joyce Gould about the way/pricing the Fabians run their garden party which are also held in her garden.

Jenny will ask the Friends Meeting House re using them as a base for the Remembrance Day event, plans to be discussed at the next meeting.

Jenny will find out what RISE are planning to do for the 25th November International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th October at the Friends Meeting House 7pm and on line.

10.30am meet in the library for informal chat.

Agenda

Mins to be agreed

Treasurers report

Secretary's report

Fabians garden party prices

RISE re 25th November- International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Climate Justice progress

Remembrance Day plans

Stall to sell poppies before the Remembrance Day? Suggestion of the week before perhaps.

Member to talk about another group they work with.

AOB