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Quote for the month is from Shunryu Suzuki, a Japanese Zen Buddhist priest (1904-1971).

We ourselves cannot put any magic spells on this world. The world is its own magic.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting 12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Saturday 10 November 10.30am	Area Meeting at Dorking
Sunday 11 November 6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 16 November 7.30pm	Meditation Meeting at Meeting House
Saturday 17 November 11.15am	Regional Meeting at Hall of Kings College, Southway, Guildford, with Paul Oestricher on <i>Could Quakers lead the movement to abolish war?</i>
Sunday 25 November	Amnesty greeting cards to sign after Meeting
Friday 7 December 7.30pm	Study Group at Meeting House
Sunday 9 December	Traidcraft after Meeting for Worship
Sunday 9 December 6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 14 December 7.30pm	Meditation Meeting at Meeting House
Sunday 23 December	Carols and mince pies after Meeting for Worship
Tuesday 25 December 10.30-11.00am	Christmas Day Meeting for Worship
Saturday 5 January 3.00-5.00pm	All-age party at Meeting House

Notes from Preparative Meeting

Collections:

October collection for Quaker Homeless Action raised £150.00.

November's collection is for Quaker Social Action and **December's**, chosen by the children, is for Reach for the Stars – Afghanistan (see page 2).

Advices and Queries read in September: Dorking - no. 19 Leatherhead - no. 31.

Arrangements were agreed for installing emergency lighting in the small and large halls – these will come on automatically in the event of a loss of the power supply to the lighting in the room due to fire, for example.

The appointments for service to the Meeting in 2013 were made. After the appointment of Elders and Overseers at Area Meeting on November 10, the full list will be compiled and attached to the December Grapevine, so that Friends know who is doing what!

The Meeting's copies of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade and United Nations Association newsletters are not being read so, on the recommendation of our Peace and Social Witness Committee, our subscriptions to these organisations will be cancelled. Individual Friends are encouraged to support these very worthwhile bodies.

Our Overseers have prepared a draft calendar of events for 2013. The calendar lists the Meetings for Worship, Preparative, Area and Regional Meetings, as well as some other activities. It will be finalised after the Area Meeting on November 10 when, hopefully, the new arrangements for Area Meeting are approved, including holding Area Meetings on Sundays. The programme was accepted, subject to the dates yet to be finalised, and will be issued with the December *Grapevine*.

Our Area Meeting needs to reorganise in view of the lack of officers for 2013 and the over-demanding nature of the present administrative processes. We considered the proposals for change made by a small group supporting the current AM Clerk, and are happy to accept these as a way forward. An important part of this is that documents and papers will be sent out in advance, thereby saving time at the business meetings. If this is to be done, it will be necessary to make better use of e-mails, so that sending papers by post can be kept to a minimum.

Reach for the Stars - Afghanistan

Children's choice for the December collection

'Astronomers without borders' is an American charity, which believes that the wonders of the night sky belong to everyone. They promote the idea that the night sky unifies all of humanity; as despite seeing a different part of the sky depending where you are on the planet, the night sky is a bridge between cultures and a source of inspiration that can change lives.

The charity has set up a project called "Reach for the Stars-Afghanistan", which aims to get children in Afghanistan interested in astronomy. They give schools, refugee camps and orphanages astronomy kits which they send free of charge. The kit includes pencils, pens and papers, which many children don't have, even in schools.



This project helps children in our meeting to empathise with children in Afghanistan, and as the link between astronomy and Christmas is possible for anyone, of any age, to visualise, it seems a fitting charity for the month of December.

For more information see the website at

<http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/projects/reach-for-the-stars-afghanistan.html>

Alison Carlier

Christmas food boxes for local people in need



Besom Dorking, the charity supporting local people in need, is making up Christmas boxes of food for the people it supports.

Friends are invited to bring along contributions to put in the ready-prepared, Christmas paper wrapped boxes that are ready and waiting in the Meeting House. There is a list of suggested foodstuffs with the boxes – Christmassy food such as mince pies would be good but do check the 'use by date' to ensure they are valid at least until January 1st.

Veronica Mills.

Appeals from your Premises Committee

Our first appeal is for help in **encouraging afternoon lettings of the Meeting House**. If you know anyone, perhaps a music teacher or therapist, who is looking for a suitable venue, then please encourage them to consider booking one of the rooms in our Meeting House for an hour or two on a weekday afternoon. We have introduced a new hourly rate to make the cost more attractive to those not requiring a full 3-hour session. Some letting brochures are pinned to the 'lettings' notice board in the lobby – please offer one to anyone interested and encourage them to leave a message for Denise on 01306 884020. She will get back to them to discuss details.

Secondly, a reminder about **secure use of the keysafe** for the back garden door - ours is quite like the one in the photo. Push in the right number buttons and the box can then be opened to reveal the back door key. After using the key to open the door, relock the door while it is open so that the red disk turns black, then **replace the key in the keysafe and close it**. Enter the building and close the door behind you. You can still open the door from the inside but it will be locked for anyone attempting to enter from outside. We will change the keysafe number from time to time for security reasons.



Incidentally to **help our wardens keep the building secure**, please let them know you are planning to come to the Meeting House by leaving a message, if possible the day before at the latest, on 01306 884020, even if you are planning to enter using the keysafe. You will need to ask a member of Premises committee for the magic number to open the box!

Sharing our Quaker Stories

For our new series Su Johnston shares her experience of God.

It wasn't until I was 13 or so that I "met God", at the Confirmation classes while I was at boarding school. Before that, my parents appeared to have no views they wanted me and my sister to know about; though by the age of ten I was already thinking about philosophy and how one related to other people and Life.

By the time I was 18 and working abroad as a dancer, I had already been disillusioned – or, reality had struck – observing, as I sat in my London Church choir, that although there was silver plate on the altar, the choir boys were wearing gym-shoes or wellies, having no other footwear. But while abroad, I found I was pregnant without being married – and that was not something, in those days of early 50s, which you could even mention to your room mate. It was an agony time; but then I really experience the presence of a power that I knew would always be with me, no matter what. That has stayed as a belief and a concept of God.

From then until now is a long time. The journey of understanding has continued, changing with the years. A talk by a Quaker Humanist brought me to realise that I had to acknowledge how much of the Christian story I could honestly subscribe to. The answer was, not much, except the central essential tenet – that a loving, respectful and empathic relationship with my fellow human beings is definitely best practice for human beings: the golden rule, "Don't do to others what you would not like them to do to you".

But could I get rid of God? No. The concept has changed to that of a presence eternal and everywhere. I sometimes need to talk to "him" in words – a human necessity perhaps. But the best practice I aspire to, with what success you can imagine, is to listen to that of God, that deepness, in another person. And try not to swear at the motorists.

Feeling energetic?

St Paul's Church have asked us to say everyone is welcome to their **"Dance for Everyone"** event on Saturday 24th November 6 – 10 pm. With live band - ballroom, latin and country dancing. Tickets £10 with food, (16s and over) from 01306 743378. Not sure about your dancing skills? You are invited to prepare for the event by attending Friday evening dancing classes for beginners and those more advanced - 8.30 to 9pm in St Paul's Church.

The Children's outing

On 23rd August, a few weeks after the excitement of the Olympic cyclists, Box Hill had another special set of visitors - Dorking Children's Meeting.

A lovely sunny day greeted Tom & Ewan, Pippa & Theo, Imogen & Maddie, and Samuel and Christopher, plus mummies and Trish. Despite the best efforts of road works to thwart our route up to the National Trust car park, we all managed to get together for a leisurely picnic, and, courtesy of Trish, some lovely madeleine cakes. While adults finished their lunch and the babies were fed, a lively game of chase was had, as well as some jumping off tree stumps.



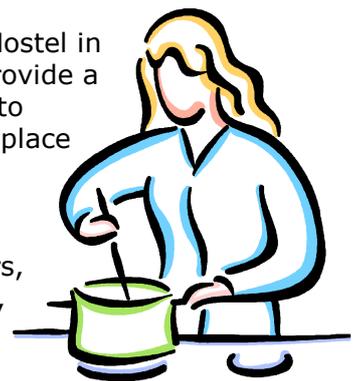
We then made our way to the start of the National Trust's children's nature trail which uses branches, tree trunks, logs and woven willow to create tunnels, walkways, things to climb, and even a see-saw. Maddie, Imogen, Samuel, Pippa and Tom quickly got stuck in and had an energetic few hours exploring the many different possibilities of the trail, occasionally joined by Christopher, while Theo and Ewan snuggled with their mummies. The afternoon drew to a close with some busy building of tree shelters in the shady woods, and then a visit over to the enormous Olympic rings for those who still had some energy!

What did they enjoy the most? 'I liked the madeleine cakes!' (Pippa). 'I liked the trail!' (Samuel). Many thanks to Trish for organising such a fun-packed expedition. Plans for other outings in 2013 are already afoot.

Sophie Dodgeon

Wanted! Quaker Cooks

For nearly twenty years Dorking Meeting has supplied meals for the Night Hostel in Leatherhead, now known as LeatherHead Start. Initially we were able to provide a meal once a week, but now we cook alternate weeks. Soon it will be time to arrange the rota of cooks for 2013, and we need some new volunteers to replace those who have had to hang up their aprons, after preparing and delivering meals throughout the twenty years. **We are very grateful to them for their long period of service, and would welcome anyone who feels they would like to join our team.** Depending on the number of volunteers, the commitment is for twice or three times a year. If you would like to help, or would like more information, do please contact Frances Poulton on 01372 454323 or email poulkf@gmail.com.



Reflections ...

... this month is a quote from Elizabeth Barrett Browning:

*Earth's crammed with heaven
And every common bush afire with God:
But only he who sees takes off his shoes.*

Rachel Hope, on behalf of Elders.