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Quote for the month is offered by Veronica Mills who invites us to hear the challenge of this Chuck Girard song.

Don't shoot the wounded, they need us more than ever. Sometimes we just condemn them, and don't take time to hear their story. Don't shoot the wounded, some day you might be one.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday followed by simple lunch
Sunday 12 May	12noon to 1.00pm	Area Business Meeting at Reigate MH
Sunday 12 May	1.45-3.30pm	Friends sharing experiences at Reigate Meeting House
Sunday 12 May	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 17 May	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Sunday 19 May	from 11.00am	Family Day at Horsham Park (see page 4)
Friday-Monday 24-27 May		Yearly Meeting at Friends House, London
Monday 3 June	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group in Friends' own homes
Friday 7 June	7.30pm	Study Group in MH on 2013 Swarthmore Lecture <i>Journey into life – Inheriting the story of early Friends.</i>
Sunday 9 June	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 15 June	11.15am	Regional meeting at Seaford LM on work of QPSW
Sunday 23 June	12noon-3pm	Picnic in Meeting House garden
Friday 5 July	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House on Fairtrade (see page 3)

Notes from Preparative Meeting

The collection in **April and May** is for **Claridge House**. **Midweek Meeting** raised £100 for the appeal by Médecins Sans Frontières for their work in Syria. Here is an extract from the thank you note: *Médecins Sans Frontières gratefully acknowledge the generous £100 donation. ... Donations such as yours ... allow us to remain independent from political, religious and economic interests, thereby ensuring our freedom to provide medical assistance whenever and wherever it is needed.*



At the end of March we sent our usual annual donation of **£5000 to national Quaker work**, and here is an extract from the thank you email: *Many thanks Friends for the generous contribution of £5,000.00 from Dorking LM for BYM. ... We value your support and ask you to uphold the work and consider finding out more about how you can get involved. The Annual Report is available from our website www/quaker.org.uk/annualreport.*

Advices and Queries read. Dorking: March no. 4, April 17,32,33,11,30,10. None at Leatherhead.

Premises committee reported on their plans. A handrail is to be erected beside the steep part of the front drive. This needs to be functional and in keeping with our building, and should be visible to reversing cars, to avoid damage to both cars and handrail. Premises are asked to bear these issues in mind. Cost is expected to be about £500 more than the £1500 we have been generously gifted for this project. It is time for the bi-parting screen to be inspected for the safety of its mechanism, at a cost of around £480. A number of other jobs are necessary to keep



the structure of our building in good repair, and estimates are being sought, which may come to as much as £1500. Finally, there is work needed in the garden. Concern was expressed about the gravel path to the gravestones, which has not been correctly constructed. A Friend kindly offered their services to help put it right. Quotes have been obtained for the removal of some trees, but there is debate in Premises over the necessity of removing all the trees earmarked, so the revised budget covers only the removal of the very large conifer (see photo) which, it is agreed, is now, in view of its size, too close to the building. All this proposed activity has prompted Premises to ask the treasurer to update the budget, so that Friends can see what impact it has on our finances.

The treasurer presented **the updated budget**, which shows, at the end of 2013, a surplus of income over expenditure of £437, rather than the £1875 in the budget presented to PM in October 2012. This means, taking account of the £9000 we will still owe to Area Meeting, we expect net assets at end of 2013 to be £13,295, rather than £15,170, a little below the level recommended by our trustees. However the treasurer said she had been cautious in her estimate of income, despite revising upwards, on the basis of the year so far, the expected figures for contributions and hirings. Friends accepted the updated budget.

Area Meeting (AM) is facing a crisis, as AM Nominations Committee is unable to find Friends to replace the Interim Clerking Team of four Friends, who agreed to carry out this role until the end of May. Dorking already provides half of the Friends who are needed to service AM, and our nominations committee is finding it difficult to find Friends to serve locally in roles such as Clerk and Treasurer. The importance of nurturing our younger members, so that they might consider taking on service to the Society, when their life circumstances allow, was emphasised. Of the options proposed by AM Nominations, PM supported the idea that the AM Clerking Team carry out all business on behalf of the AM, and we abandon the current bi-monthly Area Business Meeting (ABM). This would relieve the Team of the job of Clerking ABMs, which is believed to be putting Friends off from agreeing to serve. PM came up with the suggestion that the AM holds one business meeting a year – an AGM. **Friends are encouraged to go to the ABM on Sunday May 12 at Reigate, to join in the discernment of the way forward.**

Finally, we considered the problem of finding **Friends to serve as Managing Trustees**. Only four will be in place, as things stand, after the end of 2013. A new Trustee from Dorking is needed in 2014, and it would help if Friends could indicate to the Local Nominations Committee if they might be able to take on this role, understanding that sometimes specific skills are needed and this has to be taken into account.

Two opportunities to help the needy

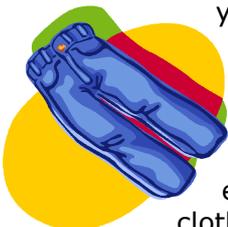
1. Dorking does not have a food bank so, to help those in the area currently experiencing times of crisis, **The Besom in Dorking are collecting staple food items to give to those in need.** Please bring items you can spare to the Meeting House and put it in the large plastic box in the information centre. Suggested foods are:



Tea, Cereals, Biscuits, Baked Beans, Tinned Tomatoes, Tins Fish/Meat, Coffee, Pasta, Sauces, Sugar, Jam, Soup - **please make sure they have a long shelf life.**

Veronica Mills

2. **Spring Clothes Collection for Gatwick Detainees.** What a late spring we've had! So maybe you have only just sorted through your wardrobe, and that of your loved ones, to decide what you're happy to be seen in this year! If you have any good quality men's clothes and shoes to off load, then we are collecting them once again for the Gatwick Detainees.



Sarah Freeman is going to store them, so please phone her on 01306 887738 either to arrange to drop them off at her house OR so that she knows there are clothes to collect from the Meeting House. It would help if you could place clothes etc in a black sack with a GDWG label clearly pinned to the outside. Thanks.

We haven't set a timescale this time, because we had more items donated after the collection deadline last time than during the official 'window of opportunity'.

Lois Lodge

Visit to the Quaker Service Memorial inauguration



On April 20th Lois, Anne and Colin and Anne (D) travelled to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire for the inauguration of the Quaker Service Memorial, which commemorates the work of the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and the Friends Relief Service (FRS) between 1939 and 1948.

It was an inspiring day with over 400 Quakers present and much moving

ministry during the Meeting for Worship held round the memorial.

For a comprehensive write-up of the event see The Friend of 28 April, or there is a good article about the memorial by Martin Wainwright in The Guardian of Tuesday 16 April entitled 'Rare memorial inspires contemporary Quaker work: Four stone benches quietly pay tribute to the service of conscientious objectors in the second world war (See - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/apr/16/rare-memorial-inspires-quakers-work?INTCMP=SRCH>).



One photo, taken by Colin, is of the memorial (with the backs of Lois and Anne D) and the other, taken by a helpful passing Quaker, is of the four Dorking Friends on one of those stone benches.

Anne Brewer

Fairtrade – study group Friday July 5



Our Quaker values require us to care deeply about the people all over the world – including people whose labour provides us with the food and drinks we enjoy and the clothes we wear every day. Yet try as we might, we often know little or nothing about the people, who grow, pick, pack, sort or stitch the products we buy.

Since the late 80s, an international Fairtrade certification system has ensured that we can buy ethically produced tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas and an increasing array of other products like rice, spices and cotton. It is heartening that the boom in Fairtrade has held up – and in

fact continued – despite the economic downturn of recent years. Not only that, but the UK is the world's biggest Fairtrade market.

But in the wake of the horrendous collapse of a garment factory in Bangladesh, and the discovery of horse meat in the 'beef' products of major supermarkets, few can doubt that unjust and unethical practices are rife in our trading system. What can we do in response?

Over the last decade I have been privileged enough to be professionally involved in campaigns on trade justice and fair trade at organisations like Christian Aid and Traidcraft, so it has been suggested that the Meeting take a look at fairtrade for this July's study group on Friday 5th July.

Quakers have a rich history of socially responsible business which I hope we can draw upon in our discussion. We will consider questions like:

- What does 'fairly traded' look like?
- Are the growing array of 'Fairtrade' certified products in mainstream shops making a difference? What are the unintended consequences?
- What about the carbon footprint of these imports?
- And how might we as Quakers help build a world where producing goods fairly and sustainably is the norm, and not the exception?

I hope you can join us for a stimulating discussion!

PS Its Christian Aid week 12-18 May – see me if you are interested in helping with collecting.

Sophie Dodgeon

Invitation to Families



Pavilions in the Park Leisure Centre, Horsham Park.

Come and join our Family Day at Horsham Park! Parents and children from Dorking Meeting are getting together on Sunday 19 May at Horsham Park. It is a bring-your-own picnic and informal get-together. We'll meet at the Pavilions in the Park at 11am for a swim followed by a picnic in the park. After lunch the children can enjoy playing in the park which has a large play area and a maze - some families are bringing scooters and bikes. This is a fabulous opportunity for parents and children to meet up. Please contact Trish Humphreys if you would like to join us, or just know more.

Trish Humphreys

Response to Woodbrooke-on-the-Road visit

Twenty Friends from our Area Meeting were inspired and informed by our all-day Woodbrooke on the Road event, held at Dorking Meeting House on 27 April. Simon Ross, our visiting Woodbrooke facilitator, was responsive to the issues and concerns of those present. He led us sensitively into an exploration of the spiritual dimension of life, in relation to the greening of ourselves and our Meetings, and into a review of our relationship with the natural world.



There was much support for the idea that our Quaker Testimonies, including the recent one on Living Sustainably, grow out of our 'communion' with the Divine in Meeting for Worship and our times of personal spiritual practice. To explore further what this means in terms of strengthening our own witness in greening our lives and our Meetings, and also of how to encourage the wider world to take this matter with the seriousness it deserves, **Simon has offered to facilitate a further meeting free of charge, and this offer has been warmly welcomed by those who took part on April 27.** Details will be made available when they are arranged.

Meanwhile, to help build our links with the local community, to create a good foundation for sharing our concerns, it was proposed that we assign a notice board in the Meeting House to notices from community groups such as Besom and Transition Dorking, who are working on issues in harmony with our Testimonies.

Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman

Recent Walks

Six Dorking Friends enjoyed a beautiful walk round the Friday Street area on April 14, and about twenty Friends, from round the AM, enjoyed the demanding but satisfying 8-mile trek up and down Leith Hill from Capel on April 28th. Our youngsters did very well - 4-year old Thomas Nunn made it all the way up, and 8-year old Adam Brewer made it both ways and was back first! Thanks to Capel for the lovely tea on our return, and to Chris Kohler for leading the walk. Photos from these two events may appear in a later Grapevine - no room in this one!

Change of contact details

Please change Lois Lodge's email address in your contact list to: lois.lodge654@btinternet.com

Reflections ...

Simplicity

Two millennia ago, Marcus Aurelius provided what can be seen as a precursor for the Quaker testimony of Simplicity:

"Very little indeed is necessary for living a happy life"

In more modern times, *Qf&p 20.35* points out that if we think of simplicity as a spiritual quality which incidentally simplifies our life styles, then it has relevance. This kind of simplicity goes straight to the heart of things. It is needed to rectify our distorted values, and to help us accept changes in our pattern of living. As this simplicity grows in our hearts, and bears fruit in our lives, we may learn, and help others to learn, that the really abundant life is not to be found in the clutter of material complexity, but in simplicity.

Bob Humphreys (for the Elders)