



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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**Quote for the month**, offered by Bob Humphreys, is from Gerard Manley Hopkins's *Pied Beauty*:

*Glory be to God for dappled things –  
 For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;  
 For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;  
 Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;  
 Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow and plough;  
 And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 9 March	<b>1.00pm</b>	<b>Area Meeting</b> at Capel, followed by Fellowship session on membership – <i>Two sides of a coin</i>
Sunday 9 March	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 15 March	11.15am	<b>Regional Meeting</b> at Godalming MH – John Lampen on World War 1 commemoration and our peace witness
Friday 21 March	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting House
Sunday 23 March	After MfW	<b>Shared Lunch</b> to discuss plans for Peace and Social Witness (see page 2)
Friday 4 April	7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> on Lent and Easter (see page 3)
Sunday 6 April	After MfW	<b>Shared Lunch and workshop</b> on outreach (see page 4)
Monday 7 April	8.30-9.00pm	<b>Healing prayer Group</b> in Friends' own homes
Sunday 13 April	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 18 April	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting House
Sunday 27 April	1.20pm	<b>Leith Hill Walk</b> – Capel MH (see page 4)

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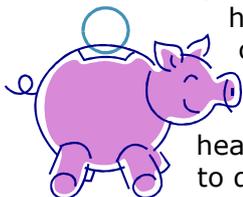
### Notes from Preparative Meeting ...

**Sunday collection** in January and February, for **Woodbrooke**, raised £182.51. The collection for March is for the Fellowship of Reconciliation – see page 2.

**Midweek Meeting** in February raised £200 for Pitstop, the Leatherhead drop-in centre for the homeless.

Advices and Queries read in January and February: *Dorking* none *Leatherhead* No. 8

Anne Brewer, as retiring treasurer, presented the **2013 accounts**. Although contributions and hiring income were slightly down on 2012, we managed to cover our expenses, pay off £6,000 of our loan from Area Meeting, contribute £5,000 to the work of Quakers nationally, and add £4,000 to our reserves. The reserves, at almost £14,000, are approximately half of our annual expenditure but, in view of the heavy costs of maintaining our building, we agreed to aim at increasing our reserves to double this amount. Even so, it was agreed that, as our contribution to BYM has been £5,000 for many years now, we will increase it to £6,000 a year from 2014.



Sophie Dodgeon outlined new arrangements suggested at a recent meeting of our **Children and Young People's Committee**. They would like the convenor of the committee to be a Friend, not

currently parenting young children, who would have oversight of the committee's responsibility for the spiritual development of our children and young people, but would not be expected to manage the rota, which ensures weekly cover for the children's meetings. Elders and Overseers were asked to find a suitable willing Friend. Parents on the committee, currently Gayle, Alison and Sophie, plus any other willing parents who regularly come to Meeting, will take turns to ensure cover for the children's meetings in six-weekly cycles. In this way a rota, for the whole year ahead, will be set up, with the intention that regular 'empty' slots will be available, so that non-parents can lead meetings as well. So, to enable parents to attend Meeting for Worship, **more Friends**, with quite easily obtained DBS clearance (the new version of CRB checks), **are needed to volunteer to help with the children's meetings.**



Photo by Gayle Banks  
taken at our New Year  
party

Su Johnston reported on **Premises matters**. Various leaks are being dealt with, and **cottage kitchen** refurbishment has been arranged. Strong wind and rain have damaged part of a wall in the Meeting Room. Damaged plaster needs removing, the bricks left to dry out, and the area re-plastered – to avoid delays we agreed Premises could spend up to £1,000 on the work. There was animated discussion about **trees in the garden**. Some Friends favour recently removed trees being replaced by more appropriate ones. Others suggested shrubs would be better, or trees could be planted elsewhere, as the Meeting House garden has limited space for large trees, and vegetation has caused expensive damage to our walls. It was agreed Premises should discuss the issue, bearing in mind the need to encourage biodiversity.

Trish Humphreys told us about progress on setting up a **Dorking Food Bank**. Distribution sites and storage facilities have been found, and a steering group is being set-up – Rosemary Elias will attend as a Quaker rep. Horsham Meeting already acts as a distribution point, and a Quaker involved in this will be asked to come one Sunday after Meeting and share their experience. On the topic of work in the local community, we heard that in 2013 Mid-week Meeting raised £1,650, mostly for local community charities.

Lois Lodge reported on an inspiring **Clerking Course** she attended at Woodbrooke – copies of the full report are available from Lois. Of particular note was the stress laid on the need for Friends to support the Clerk, the Clerk to trust the Meeting, and the Meeting to trust the process.

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## **Peace & Social Witness shared lunch & workshop ...**

This year marks the commemoration of the outbreak of World War 1, and many millions of the population will be learning about it, and/or remembering family members who suffered and sacrificed so much because of it. We need to be alert to the sensitivities that will be present. But Quakers have a peace testimony, and when better to express it than now? Quakers lived their peace testimony in a range of ways through both World Wars, including fighting.

### ***So what have we to say, and how shall we say it?***

Come to the shared lunch, on **Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> after meeting for worship**, to help develop our distinctive voice for this special time. We will have available the QPSW Resource Pack (due for distribution this week), so we won't be starting from scratch! And your local P&SW committee have a few plans with which to update you.

It may be that we aren't sure what we want to say, in which case perhaps we'll need a study period or two, to discern things further. For example: Do you agree with Will Warren that "Meeting for worship is the only effective training in non-violence I have ever found"?

### **... and their choice for the March collection**

**The Fellowship of Reconciliation**, founded in 1914, in response to the horrors of war in Europe, is an international movement of people committed to active non-violence, in the belief that love and non-violence in action have the power to transform unjust political, economic and social structures. In its 100 years, the Fellowship has had six Nobel Peace Prize winners. The English branch, based at Peace House in Oxford, currently supports community conflict transformation projects overseas, educates about non-violent conflict resolution, and campaigns against the use of armed drones.



Lois Lodge

## Lent and Easter

*Chocolate Eggs and Other Things*  
Join the discussion 7.30pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.



Chocolate Easter Eggs are now readily available in the shops, and are greatly enjoyed by many. Fair enough, but it's a pity so few people give any thought to the meaning of Easter, or to the weeks preceding it.

Our next study group meeting, at 7.30pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, will go some way to rectifying this, by discussing the spiritual significance of Easter heralded by Lent, with its singular opportunity to reflect on our good fortune, and to focus on people in greater need. What do you think about these matters, and the special opportunity for optimism provided by the Easter period itself? Please come along on 4<sup>th</sup> April, and join the discussion. Your views will be valued.

Bob Humphreys

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## Traidcraft news: FairPalm and Real Easter eggs



Palm oil is an amazing substance, and one of the world's major agricultural commodities. You find it on every aisle in the supermarket (bar fresh meat and veg), in products from ice cream and biscuits to detergents, candles and toothpaste.

It is also a controversial crop, since over the past half-century vast plantations have been created in Indonesia, at the expense of the indigenous rainforest, to the extent that Indonesia now supplies the bulk of the world market, and there are fears that the rainforest will be totally destroyed.

However, the native habitat of the oil palm is West Africa, where it is grown on smallholdings, alongside other crops such as cocoa and vegetables. In a major new venture, Traidcraft has gone to Ghana and, in conjunction with local processors, has developed a fairly traded supply chain, using palm nuts grown by small-scale farmers (for whom the fairtrade premium will make a real difference), processed to oil by low-tech, sustainable methods in Ghana.

The first products to use this oil have just been launched: a range of cleaning products under the brand name Clean & Fair. Washing-up liquid, surface cleaner, laundry liquid and liquid handwash are already available, and bars of soap are coming very soon. They are all organic and biodegradable as well as Fairtrade, manufactured in this country by a company with the highest eco and ethical credentials, using only natural fragrances such as citrus and lavender. As well as the FairPalm palm oil, they contain Fairtrade coconut oil from India. And they are really effective at cleaning, so why not give them a go?

And, speaking of chocolate, the Meaningful Chocolate Company has again produced a 'Real Easter Egg', which includes the Easter narrative. This year it comes in three versions: one similar to last year's, but with a new illustrated version of the Easter story and an extra bag of chocolate buttons, at £3.99; one designed for groups such as Sunday schools, which consists of 20 smaller eggs (similar in size to Kinder eggs) and 20 story booklets, at £20; and a 'Special Edition' egg at £9.99, that comes with a Palestinian olive-wood holding cross and a bar of chocolate. Please place your orders as soon as possible – 6<sup>th</sup> April will be the absolute latest to get delivery in time for Easter, assuming stock is still available at that point.

Elizabeth Dobson (01306 881479)

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## Younger Parents mid-week Meeting for Worship

On 6<sup>th</sup> February there was a pilot of an evening event, including a Meeting for Worship for parents who attend Dorking Meeting, to provide them with an opportunity to have a period of worship, and to talk about more spiritual matters, away from the needs of their children; this was hosted at Sally Elias's home. Those who attended appreciated this opportunity, and are keen to maintain this, with the plan to meet every 6 - 8 weeks in people's own homes.

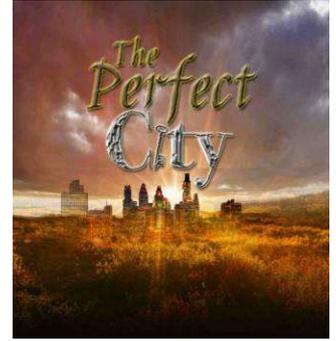
Catherine Carr

## The Perfect City

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May will see the arrival of a musical drama, at the Quaker Meeting House in Dorking, about the birth of a city... THE PERFECT CITY.

This true story (inspired by a Kate Price play "The Passionate Englishman") has been adapted by local musical dramatist, Martin Coslett, and tells the story of how William Penn was driven to take his Friends to freedom in America in 1682, and what happened.

Martin has formed Echo Time Productions with his co-writer Ross Clark, who writes for the Spectator and National Newspapers. The Australian director is Andrew Miller of Ocean Theatre, and the cast will consist of London West End performers.



The company is inviting people to invest £100 in the 6-venue production, with the chance of making a small profit. If you feel you would like to invest, or support this venture in any other way, such as sponsorship or programme advertising, please contact Martin on 0753 133 1813 or [martin@echotime.co.uk](mailto:martin@echotime.co.uk)

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### Leith Hill Walk – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Led by Chris Kohler, this is an historic walk for Area Meeting Friends, from Capel Meeting House to Leith Hill. Energetic folk can walk both ways (about 8 miles) while the less energetic can choose to do the walk one way and have a lift back to Capel, or just come to tea, and help with transport!

You are welcome to join Capel Meeting for Worship at 11am, and bring a lunch to eat afterwards. The walk will start at about 1.20pm. Tea will be provided at Capel MH from 5pm onwards. Contributions to this tea welcome – contact Audrey Garnett on 01403 260 077.



On the walk in 2013.  
Photo by Colin Brewer

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### Appeal from Devon for information on housing market in Dorking

We have received an appeal from a member of Exeter Meeting, whose son, and his fiancée, want to buy a house in the Dorking area. He wonders if anyone in the Meeting is selling a house, or knows of houses on the market. They want a 2/3 bed roomed house, up to £360,000, and have the cash, i.e. are not in a chain. They are getting info from estate agents, but any further thoughts etc. would help. Any responses to Gerald Conyngham in Crediton, [Gerald@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:Gerald@eclipse.co.uk), 01363 773000.

Colin Brewer

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### Outreach – Shared Lunch and Workshop

Speaking up and out with confidence!

More details of this event on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April will follow. Outreach Committee would like to support members of the Meeting in feeling confident to talk about Quakers and Quakerism, in preparation for Quaker Week 2014.

Catherine Carr

### Reflections from our Elders

This month's reflection is offered by Bob Humphreys.

*All the happiness there is in this world  
Arises from wishing others to be happy,  
And all the suffering there is in this world  
Arises from wishing oneself to be happy.*

Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, 'Eight Steps to Happiness', (2012 edn.), pp. 90-1.