



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month is by Rufus Jones:

Quakerism is both mystical and prophetic. Mystical in the sense of being rooted in worship, prophetic in bringing its Testimonies to bear on the political process.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting 12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Thurs 10, Fri 11 September 2-7pm)	Thank you Bim – heritage week exhibition at MH
and Sat 12 September 11am-4pm)	
Sunday 12 September 1.00-2.30pm	Area Business Meeting in Blue Idol MH
2.30-4.00pm	Fellowship – Blue Idol friends on Pilgrimage; book/DVD sharing; tea provided by Blue Idol Meeting
4.00pm	Elders and Overseers meeting in Blue Idol MH
Sunday 13 September 6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 18 September 7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Saturday 19 September 11.00am	Regional Meeting at Worthing MH – Woodbrooke-on-the-Road – 'Or Whatever We call it: <i>Quakers naming the mystery</i> '

NB Quaker Quest at the Meeting House on four Fridays in October (9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th).

Preparative Meeting 6 September

The collection in June and July for Britain Yearly Meeting raised £71.69. The August and September collection is for Quaker Homeless Action.

Advices and Queries read: Dorking – July none; August Nos. 3 and 5; Leatherhead – July none; August none; Midweek Meeting – July Nos. 10 and 17; August none.

We agreed to support the Overseers suggestion of a Tea Party for older Friends and their partners on Thursday November 5. Overseers will be sending out invitations.

We had a fruitful discussion on responding to the **refugee crisis**. Information for Friends on what is happening locally will be circulated by email and summarised in the Grapevine (**see page 3**). It was agreed that the Meeting would offer our office for use, perhaps by a refugee action coordinator, if Denise would still be able to cope with her office work. We will write to the local papers about what Quakers are doing. Peace and Social Witness Committee will be asked to take these matters forward.

Premises. It was agreed that work to repair and paint the kitchen windows and sash windows should go ahead using Dulux weathershield paint, as the environmentally-friendly paints had not lasted so well. We will hope for improvement in the durability of outdoor 'green' paints in the future, and note that for the indoor decorating proposed for 2016 we will expect to use 'green' paints. For security reasons it was agreed a fire bar actuated lock with no external keyhole would be fitted to the front lobby door. Premises Committee will look into ways of alerting the doorkeeper to late arrivals – a bell-push activating a flashing light was suggested. A fire bar is not suitable for the kitchen lobby door so that will be fitted with a special lock easy to open from the inside. However as this door is needed occasionally by incoming members of

some groups who hire our building, the lock will have a key for opening from the outside. A benefit of the new set-up will be that no-one need stay behind after meeting to lock up.

Sunday Collections. We agreed option 2 from the circulated proposals. **Friends are invited to contact the Clerk with suggestions for the 4 or so charities that we will support in 2016**, noting that we expect to support mainly Quaker charities, and that the nominator will be asked to provide leaflets with donation slips and actively encourage Friends to donate direct to the charity. The children's Christmas collection will be confined to 2 Sundays – the day of the carol concert and the Sunday before. The treasurer will then be able to process the collection before the year end. The Wednesday collection, largely for local charities, will continue as at present.

Publication of plays and stories by Joan Macalpine and plays by Charles Kohler. Now that stage directions have been added to the plays, by a professional stage manager (thank you to our one-time Dorking Young Friend, Martin Hope!), we agreed that it would be good to share them with other Quaker Meetings who may like to make use of them. The plays, one on environmental issues and the rest on Quaker history, are in electronic format, and Colin Brewer will be asked if he will put them on the Dorking and AM websites with brief summaries of each play and a note that they are the copyright of Dorking Meeting and that Meetings wishing to perform the plays should seek permission from Dorking Meeting (post meeting note – Colin has agreed). The material will be advertised through the Friend and the Quaker Life Network newsletter.

Appeal to those who knit or crochet



Would anyone willing and able to knit or crochet white poppies, with green, red and purple centres, please contact Lois. Patterns can be provided.

A display will be made of them, in support of the Quaker testimony to Peace, and the annual sale of white poppies.

Lois Lodge

... and to those who sew!

Anyone willing to make cheerful covers for the 4 remaining cushion inserts for use by the children please contact Anne. Material and pattern available.

Anne Brewer

Notes from meeting of Churches Together in Dorking

The meeting was held on Tuesday 14th July, and below are those notes from Lois which are still relevant.

- Paediatric first aid – Surrey Care Trust has contacted us with regard to offering first aid courses. We said we would like a children's first aid course to follow on from the adult one. Churches are going away to find out whether there is a demand and, if so, when.
- Prayer walking – next one is 7th November, gathering at 10am in the Christian Centre, and thereafter on the first Saturday of alternate months.
- Romy gave an update on the Foodbank, and was thanked for all her hard work.
- Inter-faith contacts – St Martin's has expressed an interest, and Rev Derek Tighe is to explore this with the diocesan inter-faith facilitator (who has already been to speak to CTD) Kauser Akhtar. She is the wife of the Imam at Woking, and is both very efficient and dedicated. Several parishioners know people who know people in the Muslim Centre (as per Sally) so hopefully one of these contacts will bear fruit.
- Future for Beatitudes – new owners of St Martin's Walk seem likely to put the rents up to such a level that Beatitudes will be looking for a new home.
- QuizAid for Christian Aid – Saturday 3rd October at the Christian Centre.
- All Souls Remembrance service – 3pm 1st November at St Martin's. All welcome.
- CTD AGM – Wednesday 27th January 2016
- Quaker Quest was introduced to Churches Together. Follow up publicity would be helpful for keeping it in mind.

Refugee Crisis

This is a summary of the email circulated by Sophie Dodgeon after PM on Sunday 6 September, to share what is known about ways in which people can respond to the refugee crisis, plus a few later additions. Dom O'Reilly is willing to help those without access to online information to join in Dorking-based activities he is involved with – contact him on 07775 568 836 or domoreilly@hotmail.com. There is an effort underway to persuade the Dorking Advertiser to publish information about all the local initiatives, to help coordinate activities, so keep an eye on that. Meanwhile if you have online access, a useful source of local info is <http://dorkingwelcomesrefugees.blogspot.co.uk/>, and there is a list of suggestions for action from Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network at <http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/category/what-can-you-do/>

1. Dom O'Reilly of Dorking Meeting has set up a **petition to urge Mole Valley Council** to offer shelter to 50 refugee families.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/refugees-welcome-in-dorking?source=facebook-share-button&time=1441379005>

He has since told us of another group: an organisation looking for people to foster refugee children who travel alone.

<http://www.homeforgood.org.uk/refugees>

2. A Dorking branch of the organisation '**Calais – People To People Solidarity**', organised by Dorking resident Gemma Clancy, is looking for volunteer help:

Gemma's Facebook page is: 'Calais~People to People Solidarity~Action From DORKING'

Through this page you can message her with offers to get involved.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1615641678693845/?fref=nf>

3. Ashcombe students are trying to coordinate a response in Dorking and have produced the blogspot mentioned in the first paragraph. Their aims are to:

- Persuade parents to pledge spare space and help for refugees from Syria (and other countries such as Eritrea, Somalia, Afghanistan)
- Find out ways to help until the laws change and it becomes possible to physically shelter and welcome people, e.g. what charities there are to help, what other local schemes there are, and where to give clothes and other supplies.

They also draw attention to a scheme started on Facebook by Ivan Tucker: one less beer per week for a year, and the money saved goes to the renting of flats in Dorking: people have already pledged £2,000 that way in just 3 days.

5. **Parliamentary Petition** to the Prime Minister – Accept more asylum seekers and increase support for refugee migrants in the UK – <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/105991>

6. Sarah Freeman reports that at **Meeting for Sufferings** on Saturday in London it was suggested that Quakers call for the government to take in the refugees from Europe, not just those from the Middle East that Cameron has announced, and this is something Quakers could write to their MPs about.

Extracts from: **We CAN choose loving and effective responses**

By Andrew Lane, Quaker Council of European Affairs (QCEA) (04/09/15)

Between January and September 2015 an estimated 2,400 people have drowned in the Mediterranean whilst trying to reach Europe.

A tiny proportion of the world's people have no choice but to flee oppression and war. We have seen many die and many more face mistreatment and violence. If our governments used the European institutions for what they are really for, they could solve this problem through cooperation.



Maher from Damascus, travelled BY BOAT TO Europe, and then on foot to Macedonia where he waits for a train. (Credit: Creative Commons, Stephen Ryan/IFRC)

The military response

Instead, governments of every EU country have unanimously agreed upon a military operation, called EUNAVFOR MED, the aim of which is to prevent people from arriving in Europe by boat. ...

Planning has begun for phase 2 (boarding boats at sea) and phase 3 (destroying boats). If the operation succeeds in reducing the number of boats crossing the Mediterranean, this will put the lives of refugees at further risk by forcing them to remain in countries where they are not safe.

From Brussels, QCEA Project Officer Tim Harman will be undertaking specific advocacy to try to persuade the EU to halt the operation, and to use peaceful alternatives. ...

Humanitarian visas: An example of an alternative policy

In November 2014 a group of organisations, including QCEA, published a proposal that, if implemented, would provide more safe ways for people fleeing conflict or oppression to travel to Europe. Whilst this proposal would not solve every aspect of the problem, it would help to save lives. One element of this proposal is to expand the use of humanitarian visas.

The humanitarian visa is issued at an EU embassy or consulate in a third country, such as Tunisia or Turkey. At present people are paying criminal networks large sums to travel to Europe. With humanitarian visas they could instead travel safely. If governments wish to, they could later refuse a person's asylum application, and return them to their country of origin. A similar system already operates in Switzerland, where a humanitarian visa lasts for 90 days. If a higher proportion of people obtained a humanitarian visa, such a system might allow EU governments to manage their arrival more effectively.

We CAN engage with European decision-making

- QCEA has heard from a MEP's office this week that there have been **very few letters or emails expressing compassion for refugees.**

(Note from editor: Here are 3 of the 10 MEPs for our area Catherine Bearder (Lib Dem), Annaliese Dodds (Labour) and Keith Taylor (Green) Address for letters: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, Altiero Spinelli 10G138, 1047 Brussels, Belgium. A full list of MEPs and facility to email them can be found at <https://www.writetothem.com/>)

QCEA is aware that this issue is being discussed within peace groups, within faith and interfaith organisations, and in many more places across Europe. We will now need to take action to show our governments what kind of Europe we want to live in.

Food bank update

Since the Dorking Area Food Bank opened two months ago, sufficient emergency food has been provided to feed 175 people (107 adults and 68 children). As a member of Churches Together in Dorking, we Quakers now regularly donate bags of non-perishable food including gluten-free items and other necessities. A big "thank you" to Friends who donate items in the Food Bank box in the Meeting House lobby. It is very much appreciated. Thank you all for your generous support.

Trish Humphreys

Eileen Scott

We were sorry to learn of the death, on August 8th, of Eileen Scott, aged 95. Eileen attended our Meeting from time to time in the past. She lived in Leatherhead and gave much time to the care of others through her homeopathy discussion group and therapy sessions.

Reflection from our Elders

However many holy words you read, however many you speak, what good will they do you if you do not act upon them? (The Dhammapada)

Quoted by The Kindlers, ANSWERING THAT OF GOD, by Peter Parr, p.32

Bob Humphreys, on behalf of Elders