



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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A warm welcome to our new member! Judy Johnson was accepted into membership at Area Meeting on 17 September.



Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 16 October	12-4.00pm	Workshop <i>Deepening Worship</i> with Val Rowling at Horsham MH. Bring own lunch. (Update to Sept GV)
Friday 21 October	2.30-4.00pm	Meditation Meeting – see page 3
Sunday 23 October	After MfW	Shared lunch and Meet the Overseers – see page 4
Friday 4 November	3.00pm	Discussion about growing older – see page 2
Friday 4 November	7.00pm	Study Group cancelled – replaced by the above.
Sunday 6 November	9.00am	Preparative Meeting
Monday 7 November	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group – in members' own homes
Saturday 12 November	time tbc	Area Meeting at Reigate MH
Saturday 12 November	5.00-6.40pm	Concert and Readings for peace – see page 4
Sunday 13 November	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 19 November	11.15am	Regional Meeting at Godalming Woodbrooke on the Road – <i>Exploring QF&P</i>

Special Preparative Meeting – Sunday 2 October

This special meeting was called to discuss three items of expenditure, proposed by Premises Committee, which need to be undertaken before the next scheduled PM on 6 November.

1. Work on drains. In September 2015, drains that are our responsibility were blocked and overflowed into the public roadway. The blockage was cleared, but work to prevent a recurrence is needed. Premises Committee have accepted the proposal that root ingress into the relevant pipe is removed, the pipe lined to prevent further ingress, and the Croydon Trap at the end of the pipe is replaced by an inspection chamber, for a total cost of £3050 plus VAT. This expenditure was approved.
2. Fencing. Our agents recommend that a section of garden needs fencing off for the use of future tenants of the cottage. Premises Committee propose a five foot fence with an extra one foot of trellis on top. The fence will extend for five metres from the side wall of the cottage and then turn to reach the bank on the far side. It will not encroach on the old burial ground. There will be a gate in the fence but, for child protection reasons, arrangements will be in place to prevent the tenants having access when the play group is in session. The cost of £1715, which includes tidying up the bank, was approved.
3. Cleaning. Regular cleaning of the Meeting House will be carried out by contractors but they require the building to have a deep clean beforehand. The cost of £720, to include the sealing of some of the wooden floors, as well as thorough cleaning of floors, walls, carpets and paint work, was approved. Judy Johnson agreed to talk to the company about using environmentally friendly cleaning materials.

There was some discussion about the use of the cottage lobby, which is currently a fire exit for anyone trapped in the office or ladies loos by a fire in the main lobby. The door from the cottage lobby to the ladies loos will be kept locked for the tenants' privacy, but it was suggested that the key would be hung on a hook by the door, on the Meeting House side, so that it can still be used as a fire escape if needed. The door from the cottage lobby to the outside is secured by a Yale lock, which can always be opened from the inside. Colin Brewer, the Meeting's fire safety officer, will check with the County Council Fire Officer whether any changes are needed, in view of the change of use of the cottage.

Message from Catherine Carr, convenor of Nominations

Just to say thanks to all those people who have volunteered to assist with the task of running the Meeting. It has been heartening to receive such support. We are working through Nominations well so far, but if you are interested in a particular area or feel you have something to offer please do get in touch.

"Old age is not for the fainthearted"



You can't remember people's names. I'm saying "Oh, do you remember that actor? You know, the one who was in that film", and then you can't remember the film's name, and "You know, he was married to...." And you can't remember who he was married to. "You know, the one who had the dreadful childhood, and she was on that show" and you can't remember the TV show she was on. (Nina Myskow in Grumpy Old Women)

I thought growing older would make me more patient but I am less so. I am irritated with myself at forgetting names, and indeed events, though Nina Myskow's words do make me laugh. I am irritated at not being able to keep up when walking, and at the arthritis which is such a nuisance. Oh how many programme endings have I missed because I have nodded off in the chair!

And yet Advice 29 says that old age can bring serenity, detachment and wisdom. Clearly I am not old enough!

I have booked the Meeting House for **FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER at 3.00pm for TEA AND CAKE**, so that we may talk about growing older, and how we adjust to that. We may find that we can suggest some ways in which we can support each other, or changes which might make our Meeting House more user friendly for older Friends. I do hope that you can come.

Rachel Hope

Rainbow-coloured banners available for Friends to borrow

Jill Leslie of Horsham Meeting has made two very attractive banners for use at Quaker vigils or on marches etc. I saw them in use on 5 October, at the outdoor meeting for worship arranged by Horsham Quakers in the Carfax, Horsham, which Veronica Mills and I attended – see photo, which shows part of the back of one banner. Easily carried by one person, by means of a cane, they are rainbow-coloured pennants, one with the word PEACE in large letters and the other JUSTICE.



Jill is very happy for Friends or Meetings to borrow and use these banners, so do bear that in mind if you are planning to attend any sort of public vigil or demonstration.

Anne Brewer

Meditation Meeting

The monthly meditation meeting has been in existence for a number of years and has evolved over time. Initially its main focus was to introduce people to, and support, meditation practices. However we have always included some talk time (impossible not to with Quakers!) and increasingly people have valued this aspect of the meeting. We have therefore decided to call the meeting "Meditation and Spiritual Exploration". Please do come along if you have not been before, to find out more!

Catherine Carr

Quaker Homeless Action



The Meeting's chosen charity for September and October is Quaker Homeless Action (QHA). The majority of funding for the work of QHA comes from donations from Quakers.

QHA's vision is for a society where homeless, marginalised and excluded people are empowered and supported to break out of exclusion, poverty, and isolation, to experience life in all its fullness. See <http://www.qha.org.uk/>. Its projects include The Quaker Christmas Shelter and The Quaker Mobile Library.



The Quaker Christmas Shelter, held annually in London, from 23 - 30 December, offers 26 beds each night, breakfast to 'all comers', whether homeless or impoverished, a packed lunch to take away and, in the evening, a 'home cooked' dinner for up to 80 'all comers'.

There is some Christmas-themed entertainment and up to 30 services (e.g. a doctor and/or nurse, a hairdresser, an optometrist, etc.). They also have the Pilion Trust on site to provide professional drug/alcohol/mental health counselling and outreach work.

The Quaker Mobile Library is an innovative library service in London, started in 1999, that provides books to borrow for people who would otherwise be unable to take books out of a library, due to having 'no fixed abode'. The Quaker Mobile Library London has approximately 1,000 readers every year who borrow books.



Both these projects are run mainly by volunteers and more are always welcome. Details and forms to apply to be a volunteer are on the website (ask a computer-owning Friend for help if needed!).

To make a donation:

- By *bank transfer* - sort code: 08-92-99, Account number: 65229716. QHA ask for your name, so that donors can be thanked. Treasurer's email is: mdgrichardson@hotmail.com
- By *Cheques/CAF vouchers* - make out to Quaker Homeless Action and send to the treasurer: Matthew Richardson, Flat 1, Ashton Court, 9 Elmwood Road, London SE24 9NU

TEDxDorking



The first ever TEDx in Dorking will take place on Friday 28 October, in the newly refurbished MV Council Chamber. This event is entitled: **Metamorphosis: Creative Solutions to 21st Century Challenges** and is showcasing a vast array of local and international talent. This is a ticketed event (sadly we could not get the location for free!) and it will be well worth the investment of £50. Failing that, the event (running from 10.00am until 4.15pm) will be live-streamed in a number of locations throughout the town (see www.ted.com/tedx/events/19403 for details). The speakers include Lottie Child, who has attended our Meeting with partner Charlie and little boy Louis!

There will be 3 sessions of talks, coffee and networking breaks, workshops, and the ticket price includes welcome refreshments, a delicious lunch of locally sourced food (with vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options), and afternoon tea with homemade cakes.

Sally Elias

An evening of Poetry and Spanish Guitar Music



To raise funds and, hopefully, do some outreach in Dorking, we are delighted to have Fiona Harrison and some guest guitar students playing for us on

Saturday 12 November
from 5.00 – 6.40pm

As it is close to Remembrance Sunday, the musical offerings will be interspersed with readings of poetry on the theme of Peace and Reconciliation. If you have a favourite poem you would like to include, please let Sally Elias know. There will be a break for locally produced nibbles, but the early timing means people can be home in time to cook their dinner! Posters and leaflets will be available shortly, and we hope Friends will be able to distribute these round Dorking.

Meet the Overseers to discuss Caring for One Another

Everyone is very welcome to come to the 'bring and share' lunch on Sunday 23 October and join in the ensuing discussion which has the following Aim and Objectives:

Aim

- To strengthen 'caring for one another' in the community of the meeting.

Objectives

- Hear from Overseers how they approach their role, and where they would like help, e.g. shared responsibility, prayer, practical action
- Hear from Friends who have been supported ('cared for/about'), and how this was good and/or could have been better
- Hear from Friends at the discussion e.g. questions, offers of help, ideas, thanks
- Recommend changes/enhancements to how we care for one another if/as necessary

Lois Lodge

A poem to fill the gap, chosen by Anne Brewer

The Bright Field by R.S. Thomas

*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you*

Reflection from our Elders

Advice number 29

Approach old age with courage and hope. As far as possible, make arrangements for your care in good time, so that an undue burden does not fall on others. Although old age may bring increasing disability and loneliness, it can also bring serenity, detachment and wisdom. Pray that in your final years you may be enabled to find new ways of receiving and reflecting God's love.

Rachel Hope