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Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Meeting House Events for November/December

Sat 11 Nov	10.30 – 12.30 12.30 – 1.30 1.30 - 2.30	Area Meeting: Dorking Shared lunch Elders and Overseers
Sun 12 Nov	6.30 – 7.30	MfW at Park House, Leatherhead
Sat 18 Nov	10.00	Regional Meeting at Reigate with theatre performance (see programme inside)
Fri 24 Nov	2.30 – 4	Meditation & Spiritual Exploration Group
Sat 2 Dec	2 pm	Memorial MfW for Ruth and Gordon Little
Sun 3 Dec	After MfW	'Presentation Party'! (see explanation on page 4)
Mon 4 Dec	8.30 – 9	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group
Sun 10 Dec	6.30	MfW at Park House, Leatherhead
Wednesdays 12.45-1.15		Midweek Meeting followed by simple lunch – all are welcome!

Ruth Little

Our Friend Ruth died on October 8th and two days later her husband, Gordon, also died. Ruth had been part of our meeting since 1970. The funeral was held Thursday November 2nd and was attended by many Dorking Quakers. The family asked for donations, instead of flowers, to the *Alzheimer's Society* and *Practical Action* (using technology to challenge poverty in developing countries.)

www.alzheimers.org.uk
www.practicalaction.org

There will be a Memorial Meeting for Worship for Ruth and Gordon at the Meeting House on Saturday 2nd December, at 2pm with tea afterwards.

The photo is of Ruth on Firbank Fell in 2002, when the Meeting had a trip to 1652 country. It was taken by Colin Brewer.



And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.... Isaiah 2: 4

A Celebration of Peace

Sunday 8th October 2017

To celebrate 170 years of Quakers at Butter Hill and the 70th anniversary of the Religious Society of Friends being awarded the Nobel Prize we held a programmed Meeting for Worship on the theme of Peace, and planted a Peace Rose in the garden. A very simple but moving programme had been prepared by our Elders: there were readings from the children and Friends which were complemented by powerful ministry on the theme of Peace. Afterwards, there was a wonderful



expression of community and fellowship as Friends and visitors chatted in the Small Hall. (Photo by Sally Elias) Cakes and biscuits were on offer- including some dove shaped biscuits! Others looked at the exhibitions and displays and then we all gathered in the garden for the planting of the Peace Rose.

The Peace Rose was developed in France in the 1930s and, with the threat of invasion, cuttings were sent to rose-growers in Italy, Turkey and the United States to protect the new Rose. In early 1945 the adoption of the name 'Peace' for the rose was publicly

announced in the US with the release of two doves to symbolize the meaning of the rose. A statement was read: *We are persuaded that this greatest new rose of our time should be named for the world's greatest desire: PEACE.* And in 1945 the 49 delegates who met to form the United Nations were presented with a bloom of 'Peace' roses and the message:

We hope the 'Peace' Rose will influence men's thoughts for everlasting world peace

We were joined by Simon Ling, the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council, who spoke briefly to congratulate Quakers for so many years of working towards a peaceful world (Photo by Sally Elias.



He then placed the rose in the ground as we were reminded that *it is for the children of the future that we must become a conflict free world, so we must continue our work for peace.* Then one by one the children came to add earth and help plant the rose. (Photo by Colin Brewer) We stood for a few moments in silence, as in the background children quietly climbed and played in the Mulberry tree. It is for them and their children that we must work towards peace.



Many people contributed to this very special day – so we thank them all, but special thanks to the Outreach Committee and Elders for all their time spent planning and publicizing the event.

'The unarmed can only draw on sources eternal. The spirit alone gives victory'.

Arnulf Överland

'We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons'

George Fox, 1661

REGIONAL MEETING Reigate Meeting House, Saturday 18th November

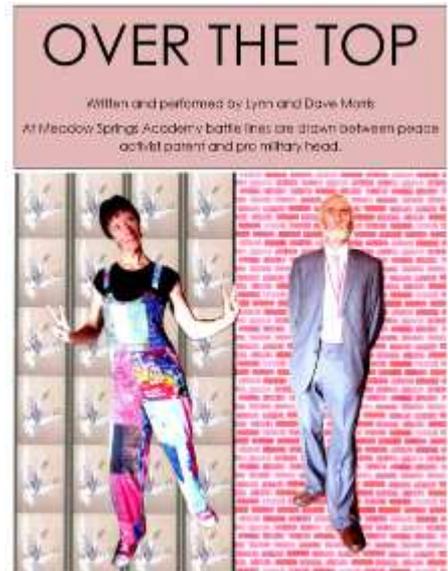
Programme for the day

10 am Gather and refreshments
11.00 Performance of *OVER THE TOP*

followed by discussion, and Bring and Share lunch.

Afternoon: Regional Business Meeting planning programme for 2018.

OVER THE TOP focuses on the dilemma created when two contrasting views over the role of the military in our schools clash and come to a head-on confrontation. Kathy Wooton is a Quaker and a passionate advocate for peace whereas the Headmaster of her son's school, Dr Roberts, is a pragmatic man who can't see the problem and feels engaging with the army brings nothing but positive advantages to the school. The play is intended to promote discussion and exchange ideas. All are welcome.



If Friends want to read more about this topic there is a useful book in the Library in the Peace section : *Spectacle, Reality and Resistance: confronting a culture of militarism*. These websites also give some useful background material:

www.quaker.org.uk/documents/take-action-on-militarism-pack

www.quaker.org.uk>unseenmarch

www.ppu.org.uk>militarism>ref3

www.forceswatch.net

www.vfpuk.org (Veterans for Peace, UK)

CO-OPERATIVE RETREAT

Katy writes: for some years now I have been meeting with a group of Friends for what was first put to me as a 'co-operative retreat'. We originally met every six weeks or so, for a full day's essentially silent retreat. The idea is that whatever needs doing is shared out amongst the group such that everyone takes a turn in every role, from washing up to 'eldering'. The Elder on duty might share a reading but the day is for each participant to use as they wish, within the context of the retreat. I won't say much more here as the exact format, including regularity of meeting, timing of the day, lunch, etc. would be best determined by a group once it is formed, but I have been thinking of starting something similar here and I am wondering if anyone would be interested in joining me. If you are, or have any questions, please get in touch.

Katy Nunn

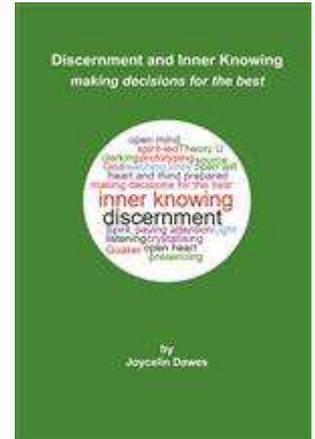
***Now let silence speak.
As that begins, we will start out***

Rumi

New library book

***Discernment and Inner Knowing: making decisions for the best* by Joycelin Dawes, 2017**

Anne writes: I was really impressed by this book and inspired to think again about how I make decisions and how our Meeting makes decisions. Joycelin is a Quaker and the book is a result of her research whilst an Eva Koch scholar at Woodbrooke. She studied a secular decision-making process called Theory U alongside the Quaker discernment process, helpfully comparing and contrasting the two. It may sound a bit dry but I certainly didn't find it so. Her writing style is relaxed and friendly, with many references to personal experience bringing the issue alive.



I think our Meeting sometimes struggles with a feeling that we are not in unity over decisions and, after reading this book, I feel that perhaps if we made full use of the Quaker discernment process that we might overcome this problem.

I do hope Friends will read this book and together we may be inspired. As Joycelin says:

‘The point about discernment is whether we can use it well so it helps us to listen to, and act from, the inner essence of Quaker faith.’

And she quotes Meister Eckhart:

***The outer work can never be small if the inner work is great.
And the outer work can never be great if the inner work is small.***

Anne Brewer

Prep meeting report

We have decided to trial giving only brief details of Prep meetings in the Grapevine. Friends can receive the full minutes by email, or ask for a printed copy.

It was good to hear from our treasurer that our finances are now in good order, so we could agree a budget for 2018 with our contribution to Britain Yearly Meeting increasing from around £6000 to around £9000.

Perhaps not so good was the news that nominations are having difficulty finding enough people to serve in 2018 on the proposed Clerking team. They have 3 names but need at least one more.

Our outreach committee are ready to involve Friends in deciding where lettering, saying *Quaker Meeting House*, should go on the front wall, provided it is confirmed that the lettering will need no maintenance.

Since Prep Meeting, Outreach Committee have announced that there will be a **‘Presentation Party’** after Meeting for Worship on Sunday December 3rd, for Friends to help decide where the lettering would best be placed on the wall.

Do you take part as often as you can in meetings for church affairs? if you cannot attend, uphold the meeting prayerfully’ Advice and Queries: 15

DEEPENING QUAKER WORSHIP

This was an energizing day brought to us by Val Rowling and David Brown of the Kindlers. We were joined by Friends from Horsham, Epsom, Capel, Ifield and Godalming and the day began by building a web of connections as we shared what gives us joy. It was a day of sharing thoughts and experiences about worship in small groups, as well as individual reflection. Several Friends also experienced the practice of Lectio Divina and Taize chanting for the first time.

The Kindlers publish many short books, including *Why silence? Revisiting the foundations of Quaker worship*, and these can be found on display in the Library.

Our thanks go to David and Val who led the sessions with much openness, honesty and love ... and to those who helped organize the day – Anne and Eleanor – and Frances and Su who provided soup, cake and refreshments throughout the day.

Other newsputting our faith into action

Many of Dorking Quakers are involved in other projects/actions that are an external expression of our faith. We will be focusing on some of these in the coming months, but here is a brief round-up of some of the work that Friends have supported in different ways.

‘for I was hungry and you gave me food , thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... ’ Matthew 25: 35

In the Dorking area, in the 21st century, there is hunger and poverty – with increasing demands on the local Foodbank. Our Friend Trish sends weekly emails suggesting donations and some of us will be able to contribute everything on the list, others of us maybe a small item. Some Friends send financial donations; others give their time to help and others offer their prayers. But every action counts and makes a difference

Ali Studly, the Volunteer Coordinator at the Dorking Area Foodbank writes to thank us for our support throughout the year – food, money, prayers. She reminds us that the food and help is essential so that they can meet their responsibilities this Christmas at the distribution centre, the Christmas Pop-up at the Children’s Centre on the Goodwyn’s estate and distributing Hampers and Christmas donations given out by local charities.

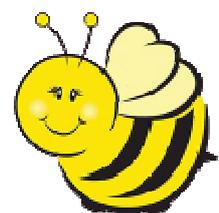
Their current prayer requests are:

- That those who need food would find us this Christmas
- For energy for volunteers in this busy season
- That we would be able to find the right way to get food to families who experience ‘holiday hunger’ during the school holidays when extra food has to be found to cover for school meals.

www.dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk

Midweek Meeting

Midweek meeting has donated £200 to Reigate Beekeepers (www.reigatebeekeepers.org.uk). There will be more information about this group in the next Grapevine – which will be focusing on our testimony to Sustainability.



The Besom in Dorking – sweep away suffering

Dorking Quakers have been supporters of the Besom project for many years – it provides a bridge between those who want to give and those who are in need.

Veronica updates us: Many, many thanks for all your support for Besom including your very generous cheques which always seem to arrive when it is really needed in the running of Besom. This year we have decided not to collect for Christmas boxes as the organization and delivery of fifty plus boxes was becoming too much for us to supply. The Food bank continues to be a great help to us with boxes of food when needed; also I hear that the Community Fridge situated in the Christian Centre is becoming very popular so that is all good news.

Elizabeth writes: when I visited earlier this month I was impressed by the dedication of the team: the carefully washed, pressed and labelled bed linen waiting for distribution; saucepans, crockery and cutlery neatly stacked ready for someone in need and I saw how white goods are cleaned and checked so that items looked as good as new. Besom helps support people who are in need, but respects their dignity. This is such a needed and worthwhile project.

www.besom.com

dorkingbesom@live.co.uk

mob: 07765598854

Meeting for Worship at Broadford Bridge drilling site

Louise Williamson of Blue Idol Meeting writes:

We were about 30 in all, lined up front of the gates, with local protestors joining 15 Friends - 8 from the Blue Idol, 2 from Dorking (Elizabeth Cooper and Anne Brewer – you can find Elizabeth in the photo but Anne is hidden behind the hat!), 1 from Horsham, 2 from Brighton, 1 from Friend's House and 1 who had cycled all the way from Oxted!

Kim Hope and Anne Brewer were our elders, with Kim giving an explanation about silent worship to start us off. Holding a long ribbon to symbolise our unity, and with Quaker Week balloons and placards decorating the gate, we experienced a deep silence which latecomers maintained as they joined us. One Friend ministered and the Meeting ended after 45 minutes.



A couple of local activists then spoke, updating us on new developments in the area and thanking local Friends for organising and attending the vigil. Several people took Quaker literature which was available afterwards.

And the sun shone! A good start to Quaker Week