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Editor: Anne Brewer
 Assistant editor: Elizabeth Cooper
 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer

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Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for September – in Meeting House, unless otherwise indicated

NB: There is a half hour Meeting for Worship (12.45 – 1.15 PM) **every Wednesday** followed by a simple lunch of soup, bread, cheese and fruit. All are welcome.

Sun 8 Sept	9 am	Prep meeting
Sun 8 Sept	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (<i>Park House, Leatherhead</i>)
Mon 9 Sept	6.30 pm	Candlelit Vigil, Arms Fair, Excel.
Fri 13 Sept	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation/Spiritual Exploration
Sat 14 Sept	10.45	Area Meeting, Reigate (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sun 15 Sept	12.00 – 12.30	Enquirer's meeting (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat 21 Sept	10 – 4 pm	Heritage Open Day (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sat 21 Sept	10.30 – 4 pm	Regional Meeting, Eastbourne
Sun 22 Sept	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome

Saturday 28 September to Sunday 8 October – Quaker Week

Sun 29 Sept 6.30 pm Hosting Churches Together in Dorking (*see page 3*)

Sunday 6 October – World Quaker Day (*see page 3*)

Mon 7 Oct 8.30 – 9 pm Upholding Prayer Group



SEPTEMBER'S COLLECTION is for Quaker Homeless Action – see page 2

AREA MEETING Saturday 14 September

at Reigate Meeting House



Programme:

10.30 for 10.45 am to 12.30 pm

12.30 to 1.30 pm

1.30 to 2.30 pm

Area Business Meeting

Lunch (Bring and Share)

Fellowship session

In the **Fellowship session** John Cole and Sara Procter from the Blue Idol Meeting **will show their film** about the work done on the Blue Idol over the past few years, but not just about the restoration of the building. It covers also the process the Meeting went through in coming to discernment about having that amount of money spent on a building, what it was like meeting 'in exile' while the restoration was underway, and a little bit about what it was like coming back.

SEPTEMBER'S COLLECTION

Quaker Homeless Action – 'answering that of God in everyone'

'Working 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'

Projects include: **Mobile library** - Run by over 30 volunteers and lending over 1000 books to homeless men and women in London. **Christmas shelter** - Provides nearly 1,000 meals with an average of 26 people staying overnight. Run by volunteers on day, evening and night shifts.

To Donate see

<https://localgiving.org/quakerhomelessaction>

Don't have access to a computer? Perhaps you could ask a friend who has one to make the donation for you. Efforts to find out whether you can post a cheque haven't succeeded so far. If successful the information will be available at Meeting.

What your gift could provide

£8

toiletries for one guest at Christmas

£25

fuel for the mobile library van for 1 month

£126

tea and coffee at Quaker Open Christmas for the full week

Reminder: HERITAGE OPEN DAY – Saturday 21 September

10.00am to 4.00pm



An exhibition about the "Journey to Butter Hill" with an exhibition of old maps and photos, old and new, to show Dorking Quakers as they met together in various parts of the town.

Our bi-parting screen will be opened at 11.30 am and 2.30 pm.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Surrey have set up a Greener Future Task Group to focus on **Surrey County Council's** recent declaration of a climate emergency and the actions the council needs to take to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and are asking for residents and businesses to share their views.

To find out more and take part in the online survey visit <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/legal-and-democratic-services/surreys-greener-future-call-for-evidence/>. You can answer the questions on paper (ask Anne B for a copy of this) and post to Democratic Services, County Hall, Room 122, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DN. **Closing date for submissions: Sunday 15 September.**

WORLD QUAKER DAY

FWCC invites you to join Quakers around the world to celebrate the 6th annual **World Quaker Day on Sunday 6 October.**



The theme, **Sustainability: Planting Seeds of Renewal for the World We Love** draws us into our shared experience of earth care and the spiritual imperative to sustain life on earth. It is a chance to celebrate our wonderful diversity of expression, whilst at the same time offering an important opportunity to learn about Friends' experiences of climate breakdown in other parts of the world. Visit our website www.worldquakerday.org for resources, ideas on how to get involved and to share your story.

MEDITATION GROUP'S SECOND VISIT KOSMON SANCTUARY



Catherine Carr writes: On Friday 23rd August we had a second visit to the Kosmon Sanctuary Gardens at Walton on the Hill, which we had visited earlier in the year. This is a large garden with woodland areas, beautiful trees, an orchard and two labyrinths to walk. The sanctuary itself includes a church which has a focus on spiritual healing.

Members of the group used part of the time to explore individually, some sat under the trees and enjoyed the peace and beauty, others walked around observing and appreciating the nature around them. Some walked the labyrinth and used the quiet and focus of slow walking to work on particular personal issues, which is one function.

We also had a discussion on a topic, taken from a quote from Psalm 95.4 "The strength of the hills is his also." And thinking about strengths – strength in nature – as in water wearing away stone and a tiny frail plant pushing itself up through tarmac. This allowed us to consider our own individual strengths, what they are, how we might work with them and what value we put on them.

HOSTING ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR DORKING CHURCHES

Sunday 29 September – 6.30 pm

The member churches of Churches Together in Dorking take it in turns to host ecumenical services and it is our turn. The service will be a Meeting for Worship but with a spoken introduction to explain the process.

REFLECTIONS ON THE ROOTS OF RESISTANCE PROTEST Tues 3 Sept

"We are called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars'"

Katy Nunn writes: On a grey, breezy Tuesday morning in early September several hundred Quakers sit in silence together. In the middle of the road. The gathered silence is punctuated by planes taking off regularly from nearby City Airport, by the whirring and clanging of police tools as they work to cut free some 'locked on' protesters, and by the occasional round of applause as each of these protesters is cut free and led away by the police.



As the Meeting for Worship draws to a close and we start to sing, the Anglicans arrive. Briefly, the morning takes on a rather surreal quality as the Anglicans and the Quakers appear to be

having a sing-off. It isn't long before the Catholics are here, followed by a silent Buddhist walking meditation group. Later in the day, the Muslims will lead us in communal prayer. Not, I would imagine, an ordinary occurrence in the old London Docklands. But we have come together compelled to show whoever might be interested that we have No Faith in War. And we intend to block the road.

Many people are unaware that next week Europe's largest exposition of the machinery of war comes to London. As it does every two years. Every two years, in our capital city, deals are made, billions of pounds exchange hands, and satisfied customers go away with the very latest in technologies designed to kill, maim and destroy. We are trying to disrupt the setting up of this murderous market place by blocking the lorries carrying these wares into the Excel centre.

A 'gentle, angry people'. Sitting peacefully, and lovingly, In. The. Way.



I got to the protest a few hours ahead of the brilliant group of 13 Friends that travelled up from our Area Meeting and they joined me for the second Meeting for Worship of the day. At this Meeting, just before the police moved in and started arresting protesters, who were sitting in the road, a Friend offered some ministry about his arrest at the protest two years ago. It was, he assured us, a wonderful experience (despite the fact it probably wasn't intended to be), but he closed his ministry by observing quietly that it "benefitted no-one but myself".

I didn't really know what my hopes were for the day, so I had decided to focus on the two periods of Worship, in the hope that, out of the silence, the right way forward for me would emerge. It still hasn't. As I sat by myself by the side of the road I was approached by a Friend who had noticed I was on my own and came to check how I was doing. "What is this?" she asked me, gesturing to the friendly banner-speckled crowd. There followed a conversation about why we were there and what we were hoping to achieve, in which I found myself a little lacking in answers.

And yet, I am glad I went. It still feels like the right thing to have done even though I could not help but feel it changes nothing. I do feel that our stance needs to be voiced; the children need to know that we don't have to just sit and watch. It did feel odd to be there while a little way away our democracy seemed to be crumbling, and yet so important that someone should be there to say "No. This isn't right".



And these are some of the things I learned. I am part of an amazing community, both local and national, of wonderful, caring, committed, brave, loving people. I find great joy in the respectful coming together of people of different faiths for a common cause. The details in the organisation of this event were delightful. Not only the fact that hundreds of Quakers were brought together from across the country, that a system had been put in place providing advice and support for everyone, in particular those who were arrested, but also little things like the fact that someone had thought to circulate with provisions of water and sunblock during the protest, and sweets during the arrests. And cake. It turns out that if a cup of tea is not available the next most British thing to offer someone in a tight spot is a nice slice of cake. We can support each other in numerous ways, and little things can make a big difference. The strength of the upholding, as we held hands and sang and clapped for those that were being arrested, was tangible.

Our action was clearly not going to stop the arms trade. But, while I may not fully understand why, I think it is still important that together, as a community, we stood and said 'No'.