



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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 No. 465

**Quote for the month** comes from Swarthmore Lecture 2011 *Costing not less than everything* by Pam Lunn, and is attributed to Chief Seattle, chief of the Suquamis.

*What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b> 12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> followed by simple lunch
Sunday 10 February 6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Sunday 17 February	<b>Traidcraft</b> after Meeting for Worship
(Note: <b>Fairtrade Fortnight</b> Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March – see page 4)	
Friday 22 February 7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> at Meeting House
Friday 1 March 7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> at Meeting House
Sunday 3 March 9.00am	<b>Preparative Meeting</b> in the Meeting House
Monday 4 March 8.30-9.00pm	<b>Healing Prayer Group</b> in Friends' homes
Sunday 10 March 12noon	<b>Talk on Fairtrade</b> in Meeting House – see page 4
Sunday 10 March 6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 16 March 11.15am	<b>Regional Meeting</b> at Bognor on Quakers, Business and Banking
Sunday 17 March 12.30-1.30pm	<b>Area Business Meeting</b> at Capel
Friday 22 March 7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> Meeting House ( <b>changed date</b> )
Sunday 24 March from 12 noon	<b>Peace One Day?</b> in the Meeting House - see page 2

There is no **Preparative Meeting** in February but there is a bit of news on collections. Mid-week Meeting has sent £200 to the Christian Centre for work with local disadvantaged people, and £100 to the local branch of the NSPCC, which is setting up Child Help Lines in local schools.

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### The first new style Area Business Meeting

This was held on January 27<sup>th</sup>, having been delayed a week by the snow. (See photo by Colin of our lane!) How did it work out? As a member of the Interim Clerking Team, which planned the process, I took a keen interest. Attending Horsham Meeting for Worship was rewarding – I always enjoy visiting other Meetings! The Team was delighted that business was all done in just 70 minutes, and particularly that most of that was to do with welcoming six new members – four adults and two children! The afternoon session, on sharing our experiences of 'things that are eternal', was well received. One disappointment was that there were no more people attending than in the past and, apart from some Horsham Friends and one notable exception, it was the same familiar, but none the less very welcome, faces at ABM! We had hoped that other Friends might be enticed to come by the new format – perhaps the weather put them off, and maybe next time (March 17 at Capel) we will be inundated with new faces. Living in hope!



Anne Brewer

## Peace One Day?

### Invitation to a shared lunch and discussion, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Advice and Query 31: *We are called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars'. Do you faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your own way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God.*

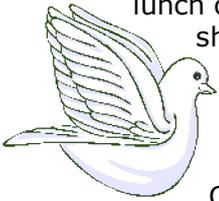
There is now an International Day of Peace (21<sup>st</sup> September), and this falls on a Saturday in 2013. The Peace One Day movement, which achieved the internationally recognised day of peace, has been challenged to show what difference it makes. They now run annual Global Truce initiatives with the aim of recording the greatest number of people making a stand for peace, and the largest reduction in violence, whether military or more close to home (e.g. bullying, domestic violence etc) in a day. Who better to become involved in this initiative than Quakers?



Peace and Social Witness Committee have chosen Campaign Against the Arms Trade as the charity for monthly collection in March, and this can be seen as a stance against war and the preparation for it. But there is more we can do **for** peace, and the Global Truce initiative gives us an opportunity to demonstrate this. The Outreach committee agree, and we jointly want to be initiating and running events, culminating on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

So, what to do? This is where you, your ideas, and your networks are needed. Come to a shared lunch on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, with a discussion and brain-storming session afterwards. We'll show you video clips from the Peace One Day/Global Truce website

[www.peaceoneday.org](http://www.peaceoneday.org), and have their toolkits available, and their ideas from previous years. Then it is up to us to convert this into do-able actions locally. And here is a taster of one idea – running a crèche at the meeting house on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, where the children make origami doves, under the banner One Day, One Dove.



Lois Lodge

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## What do our overseers do?

It's rather an old-fashioned name, and some Friends must wonder what your Overseers actually do! Well, our main role is to make sure that no-one associated with the Meeting falls through the network of caring that we and other members of the Meeting try to provide. If you are unwell, depressed, struggling with illness of another family member or facing some sort of upheaval in your life, then Overseers are responsible for ensuring that you are being supported and, if necessary, will step in to provide that support themselves, or help you to find the appropriate professional care.



New Overseers are appointed every three years. Currently there are four - Trish Humphreys, Anne Brewer, Frances Poulton and Jan Elias. Dorking Meeting has a lot of members and attenders so, to make it easier to ensure no-one is left out, each overseer is allocated roughly one quarter of Friends to watch out for. Some Friends might like to know who their allocated overseer is, so that, if they feel in need of support, they can approach 'their overseer', who will be pleased to help as far as they are able. Just ask an Overseer, who will let you know whose list you are on. If you feel a particular affinity to an Overseer, and have been allocated to a different one, please let us know, and we will do a re-allocation!

We do our best, and hope no-one feels they have been let down. Please feel free to approach any Overseer if you are in need of support, and sense that a particular Overseer might have the appropriate skills for the problem you are facing. The allocation process is a helpful way to manage our responsibilities, but is very flexible in practice.

Above all, don't suffer in silence, ask an Overseer for help!

Anne Brewer (on behalf of Overseers)

## The Dedication of the Quaker Service Memorial



After a lengthy delay caused by last year's severe wet weather and problems obtaining the right stone, the Quaker Service Memorial, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, is nearing completion, and will be dedicated on **Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>**.

Many friends will already know about this exciting project from the visit to Dorking by members of the Quaker Service Memorial Fund last year. The memorial is dedicated to the work of the Friends Ambulance Unit and the Friends Relief Service, and will embody the Quaker Peace Testimony in a beautiful setting which receives 300,000 visitors each year.

The memorial consists of four simple stone seats enclosing a circular space, a symbol of unity and equality. These will bear brief inscriptions about the Friends Ambulance Unit, the Friends Relief Service, the 1947 Nobel Prize, information about Quakers, and the words of George Fox – "Let your life speak, answering that of God in everyone".

If you would like to learn more about the memorial, you can find details, including an illustration and detailed description, at [www.qsmt.org.uk](http://www.qsmt.org.uk).

Our Peace and Social Witness Committee would like Dorking Quakers to be represented at the dedication. There is a full and very interesting programme planned from 10.30am to 4.00pm, including an exhibition about The Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service, featuring recorded interviews by former members about their experiences. The dedication itself, at 1.00pm, will be in the form of a Quaker Meeting for Worship with prepared vocal ministry.

If you would like more details or if you think you would like to attend, please contact Sue Bond (01372-375039 or [susanebond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susanebond@yahoo.co.uk)).

Sue Bond

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## We hear from Iranian dissidents

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February two Iranian dissidents joined us in Meeting for Worship. Having suffered greatly at the hands of the current fundamentalist regime in Iran, they are now working with the Iran Liberty Association, based in London, on behalf of those unfortunate Iranians that are still suffering. They told us their story, and appealed for our support. They would mainly like us to spread awareness of the situation, but financial support is also needed. Incidentally, they both found Meeting for Worship a good experience.



The dissidents working with Iran Liberty Association appeal particularly to Quakers, as they are determined to bring about change in Iran by non-violent means.

Thirty-five years ago the fundamentalist regime in Iran began its persecution of anyone who opposed their views, and thousands of professional and liberal-minded Iranians were imprisoned, tortured and executed. Many eventually fled, and were given land in the desert by the Iraq government at the time. In the desert, by their own efforts, and earning their keep by selling pre-fabricated houses to neighbouring villages, they built a quite amazing city called Camp Ashraf, which even has a university and hospitals. From this base they tried to raise awareness in the outside world about what was going on in Iran. Unfortunately, following the US-led invasion of Iraq, the new regime in Iraq is sympathetic to Iran and, at the request of the Iranian regime, has twice attacked those in Camp Ashraf, killing dozens and injuring over a thousand of them. Following intervention by the UN, they were given asylum seeker status and offered relocation to Camp Liberty, elsewhere in Iraq, but this turned out to be a concentration camp, with no facilities, and under guard by Iraqi forces.

The Iran Liberty Association, by holding rallies, protests, meetings and conferences, seeks to put pressure on the international community and human rights organisations, to take action to save those Iranians still trapped in Iraq, and to support the establishment of democracy in a free Iran.

For more details see [www.iranliberty.org.uk](http://www.iranliberty.org.uk), or there are some leaflets in the Meeting House.

Anne Brewer

## It's Fairtrade Fortnight – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb to 10<sup>th</sup> March!

We are a registered Fairtrade Church, and have received the *Church Action Guide 2013 – How will you go further for Fairtrade?* The idea is to encourage everyone to think about regularly buying one or two more Fairtrade products – beyond the usual tea and coffee. Did you know you can also get Fairtrade rice, nuts or spices?

As a Fairtrade Church we have committed to using Fairtrade tea and coffee, and to moving towards using other Fairtrade ingredients, such as sugar and biscuits (we've done this!). We are also committed to promoting Fairtrade during this special Fortnight.



Elizabeth Dobson is bringing her Traidcraft stall on February 17<sup>th</sup>, so that's a good start. Also Anne Brewer will be offering a selection of fair-traded Palestinian olive oil and dates etc on March 10<sup>th</sup>. On the same morning I will be giving a short talk about Fairtrade at 12pm. Do hang around if you're interested in hearing more about the issues behind our unfair food system, and the difference which Fairtrade can make.

Sophie Dodgeon

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### Lent Hunger Lunches

On Fridays during Lent you are invited to share a frugal meal of soup, bread and cheese, and give what you might have spent – more if you wish! – towards the work of Christian Aid.



15 February	at the United Reformed Church, West Street	12.00–1.15
22 February	at the Christian Centre (St Martin's)	12.00–1.30
1 March	at St Joseph's Church, Falkland Grove	12.00–1.30
8 March	at St Paul's Church	12.00–1.30
15 March	at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Rd,	12.00–1.30
22 March	at St John's Church, North Holmwood	12.00–1.30

Sponsored by Churches Together in Dorking

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### Action AWE (Atomic Weapons Eradication) Campaign Launch



An Oxford Quaker is encouraging us to join the launch of a 3-year campaign to try to persuade our government to cancel our Trident missile programme, when it comes up for review in 2016. The public launch will be held in The Kennet Room, Reading Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7AE on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 7.30pm

Dr Rebecca Johnson, Co Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, will speak on *Avoiding nuclear catastrophe: from local action to a global nuclear ban*, and Kate Hudson, CND General Secretary, will speak on *Time to Scrap Trident – how we can make it happen*. Plus discussion and what individuals and groups can do to support the campaign.

Reading is easily accessible by train from Dorking Deepdene, and the civic centre is just 10 minutes' walk from the station – is there a group from Dorking who would like to go along? Contact Lois Lodge if you are interested.

Lois Lodge

## Celebrating 25 years of Midweek Meeting

Here is an extract from the Grapevine of June 1989, written by Val Rowling:

*A small group of Dorking Friends met together for a Meeting for Worship. Then they shared lunch. It was the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1988. On that occasion Bobbie brought in soup, Betty the rolls and Val supplied the fruit and cheese. Since then, with a short break during August and over Christmas and Easter, the group has met every Wednesday at 12.45, supported by local Friends, the wizard baker from Bookham (i.e. Betty!) and others happy to travel to a midweek meeting.*

*The lunch provides an opportunity to get to know others, to talk over a wide range of issues, to share concerns – not all 'quakerly'. The numbers vary during the weeks – once just two, at other times fifteen.*

So Midweek Meeting for Worship and shared lunch began 25 years ago on 17 February 1988. Charles Kohler wrote an article about it for The Friend in 1992 – if you would like a copy there will be some on the library table. Some things have changed, although we have kept to the original concept. Friends who regularly provide the lunches usually choose not to be reimbursed, happy to give in a practical way to Quaker inreach and outreach, but of course expenses can be reimbursed. The 'pot' is placed on the table, and Friends usually pop in £3. Where else could one enjoy such a meal and fellowship for that? Sometimes we offer a 'take-away' for Friends who are unable to stay for lunch, but have come for worship. We miss the homemade bread and rolls, but always provide a variety of loaves to suit all tastes.

Visitors are always welcome, but unfortunately the Dorking Advertiser no longer publishes details of religious services and events, and we seldom enjoy the company of friends from other churches as in the past. Perhaps this is an opportunity to invite members of other churches to join us in our 25<sup>th</sup> year, knowing that when churches work together, so much more can be achieved for the local community.

Betty Chamberlain – along with Val Rowling (who was our warden in 1988), Bobbie Pitman and Charles Kohler – promoted the idea and has continued to support it faithfully ever since. She used to make the bread rolls, and still regularly makes the soup. This consistent support has ensured that present numbers are similar to those at the beginning.

Last year we raised £1500 and donated the money as follows: Leatherhead Samaritans £100; The Amber Foundation £100; Dorking Beatitudes £200; Besom (Dorking) £200; Dorking Meeting chairs £200; My Time for Young Carers £300; Family Line £100; Dorking Christian Centre £200; N.S.P.C.C. £100.

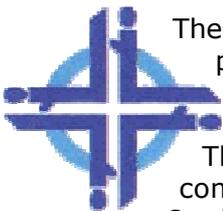
If you have never, or rarely, come to Wednesday Meeting, why not join us one day? We never know who will sit with us.

Frances Harber

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## Women's World Day of prayer

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 11am in St Joseph's Church, Falkland Grove, Dorking**



The theme this year is *I was a Stranger and you welcomed Me*, and the service was put together by the women of France. It deals with the situation of refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and immigrants, so is quite topical.

The service to mark this international day is organised in Dorking by an ecumenical committee of women from the local churches. Phyllis Russell and I represent the Quakers on this committee, and will be taking part in the service. It would be good to see some Quakers in the congregation if anyone is free on the day – men are welcome as well as women, despite the title of the day!

Anne Brewer

## Launch of Street Pastors in Dorking

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February in the Christian Centre at 7.30pm

Street Pastors is an ecumenical response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue. It was pioneered in London in January 2003 by the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now some 9000 trained volunteers, in around 250 teams, around the United Kingdom.



A comprehensive training programme is designed to fully equip new Street Pastors to respond to the needs of all the people that they engage on the streets, and will give them a full awareness of today's social problems, including drugs and youth provision.

Volunteers will need to commit to about 12 training sessions of six hours each, which can either be in blocks or spread over a few months, depending on what is convenient, and to being a Street Pastor for one Friday or Saturday night a month, for a period of one year.

If you are interested in this initiative, or would like to volunteer, then attend the launch meeting or contact Lyn Groves on 01306 898339 or email [lyngroves@talktalk.net](mailto:lyngroves@talktalk.net).

I think this would be a good initiative for Quakers to support. Even if we don't fancy going out on the streets, they are seeking prayer support partners.

Lois Lodge

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## Woodbrooke-on-the-Road Day Workshop

**Saturday April 27**

In Dorking Meeting House

### **Greening the Whole Meeting: with head, heart and soul how do we 'maintain the beauty and variety of the world'?**

*'Only shared, positive choices can ensure the wellbeing of the whole Earth community – the challenge is soul-sized. Building on our Minute 36 commitment, this workshop will help you explore and strengthen both the outer and inner aspects of this journey.'* Tutor: Simon Ross



Full details and booking forms to follow in March. A crèche and children's activities will be provided, so everyone will be able to join in.

### **Reflections ...**

#### **Going the extra mile**

This is a much used phrase. It comes from the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5 v 41  
 ".....and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles".

At that time it would have been very meaningful. Jesus and his followers lived in an occupied country. Under Roman rule, if a Roman soldier passed you he could tell you to carry his pack for up to one mile, although he could not force you any further.

What does this teaching mean today?

Does Jesus' teaching indicate going the extra mile only for those we care about? Or could Advice number 28 "Attend to what love requires of you...." mean going the extra mile for the modern equivalent of that Roman soldier?

From Rachel Hope on behalf of Elders