



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month is offered by Veronica Mills and comes from the book *Celtic Daily Prayer* from the Northumbria Community.

*If you want to live life free,
Take your time, go slowly.
Do few things, but do them well.
Simple joys are holy.*

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12:45-1:15pm	Every Wednesday followed by simple lunch
Sunday 13 January	6:30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sunday 20 January	12:30-1:30	Area Business Meeting at Horsham
Sunday 20 January	2:00-3:00pm	Area Meeting Learning Day at Horsham (page 4)
Friday 25 January	7:30-9:00pm	Meditation Meeting at Meeting House (page 4)
Friday 1 February	7:30pm	Study Group at Meeting House
Monday 4 February	8:30-9:00pm	Healing Prayer Group in Friend's homes
Sunday 10 February	6:30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead

Notes from Preparative Meeting

Collections:

The **November collection** for Quaker Social Action raised £150 and the **December collection** for Reach for the Stars: Afghanistan also raised £150.

The collection during January and February will be for Woodbrooke – the Quaker study centre in Birmingham – see page 3.

Advices and Queries read during November and December: Dorking – nos. 7, 13, 41, 28, 29
Leatherhead – none



We had an encouraging report on our **financial situation at the end of 2012** from our treasurer, Anne Brewer. Thanks to the generosity of Dorking Friends and the hard work of our warden, we had higher than expected income from contributions and lettings. Premises committee were restrained in their spending and at the end of the year we ended up with assets of just over £21,000, of which £12,000 are owed to Area Meeting in repayment of their loan to us. We agreed to make an immediate repayment to Area Meeting of £3000 and consider a further repayment later in the year. This brought a pleased smile to the face of Keith Poulton, who is now the Area Meeting bookkeeper!

Rosemary Elias gave us an interesting account of the **work of Elders** - what our Elders have been doing over the past year and what they plan for 2013. These plans include study groups on topics which Friends are encouraged to suggest, a book club probably based on one of the books recommended by the Quaker Book Shop each month, and **encouragement to everyone in Meeting to take part in the reading of Advices and Queries during Meeting for Worship.**

Our two Elders, Rosemary Elias and Rachel Hope, would value feedback on these proposals - both comments and suggestions.

Catherine Carr reported on the work of our **Outreach Committee**. They have two things in the planning stage for 2013: an event in Dorking to commemorate the opening of the Quaker Service Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, probably in April but the date is uncertain due to the recent floods at the arboretum; an event during Quaker week (28 Sept to 3 Oct) on the week's theme of worship. She also told us that the committee are keen to develop outreach through the parents involved in the Meeting and those whose children attend the Butterhill Play Group. Any suggestions for the outreach committee (Catherine Carr, Alison Carlier, Sally Elias and Lois Lodge) to consider would be very welcome.

We had a discussion about **Heritage Weekend** (14-15 September). Although we didn't plan any involvement in 2012 it turned out that Alan Brigham ended his tour of Rose Hill at the Meeting House as he has done over past years so the Meeting House was hastily opened and refreshments provided with a tour of the building! Rosemary Elias will liaise with Alan Brigham to see if he would like us to do the same this year, in which case we agreed that this should go ahead. Su Johnston suggested arranging a mini Meeting Houses tour of perhaps Blue Idol, Capel and Ifield. However as Heritage Weekend is intended to cover just Mole Valley it was thought it might be better to arrange this during Quaker Week which coincides with MV Arts Alive month and we could possibly take advantage of publicity for this if we can manage to link the tour to the Arts in some way! Su will investigate possibilities and we will discuss this issue at a later PM.

Next an item on our **seating arrangements**. Noting the heavy labour involved in clearing the benches for the party, Rosemary Elias suggested we consider replacing the inner circle of benches with comfortable stacking chairs as has been successfully done at Reading Meeting, for example. As a first step, Friends in the Meeting are asked for their opinions on this matter - see below.

Some Friends find **the starting time of 9:00 am for PM** rather early but it was agreed we wouldn't change it this year anyway as we have reduced the number of PMs to 6 and starting at 9:15 may make things too rushed.

The party on January 5th was much enjoyed by those who came and it was especially pleasing to have most of our young families with children present – see photo on page 3. Attendance was lower than usual and it was agreed the event could do with earlier publicity next time perhaps with a piece in the November Grapevine. It was also agreed the party would be held a week later on January 11th 2014 to avoid clashing with travel associated with New Year. On the subject of social events the **carols and mince pies** on December 23rd was felt to have been a very successful and enjoyable event and it was suggested this could be made into more of a party. Overseers were asked to consider the two events and come back with proposals.



Items on which Friends have been asked for feedback

For more details see relevant paragraph in notes above.

1. Requested by Elders (talk to Rosemary Elias and Rachel Hope)
 - a. What topics would you like to be raised in Study Groups?
 - b. Would you be interested in joining a book club if one was started?
2. Outreach (talk to Catherine Carr, Lois Lodge, Sally Elias or Alison Carlier)
 - a. Possibilities for celebrating the Quaker Service Memorial
 - b. Ideas for an event on worship for Quaker Week
 - c. Ideas for outreach events to involve families
3. Seating (talk or write to the Clerk or Assistant – Richard Bass or Colin Hope)
What is your view on having a circle of comfortable chairs in place of the inner benches?

Our party on January 5th!



Photo by Colin Brewer

Maddy says the party was 'great' and Imogen said it was 'good'. Going to the zoo proved fun and energetic, whilst pin the tail provided some engaging but quieter time. The hassocks really came into their own in Jan's game and provided interest for the very young whilst the rest of us enjoyed some fabulous story-telling by Martin Hunka!

Alison Carlier

Woodbrooke

Our collection during January and February is for Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre at Selly Oak in Birmingham. In a Georgian style mansion, the former home of George Cadbury, set in a lovely garden and grounds, Woodbrooke supports and nurtures the spiritual life of Friends and Meetings in Britain. They run an extensive course programme, On-the-Road events (such as the one to be held at Dorking on April 20th this year), a postgraduate programme, and conferences in association with other Quaker Groups, all aimed at meeting the needs of individuals and Meetings in both skills training and spiritual development.



They continue to improve Woodbrooke – building a small outside meeting space in the grounds, installing audio-visual equipment in the Quiet Room and installing photo-voltaic panels on the roof of the main building. A new Garden Lounge was recently completed, but £10,000 has still to be raised to meet the cost.

Photo from www.woodbrooke.org.uk

Please support Woodbrooke by contributing to our collection, but also support them by participating in one of the many courses and conferences they offer, and experience for yourself its special atmosphere.

Colin Brewer

Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal

The Area Meeting Learning session

Area Meeting will be at Horsham after Meeting for Worship on Sunday January 20th. That afternoon there will be a session on "The things which are eternal" starting at 2 p.m. lasting for about an hour, and Anne Brewer, Roger Baker and Ruth Hodgson have kindly agreed to talk to us before the subject is opened to general discussion.

The question we hope to address is: "In what ways do you believe in things which are eternal, and how do these beliefs influence your life?"

Tony Cocks, Horsham Meeting

Meditation Meetings

These takes place once a month normally on the third Friday of the month, from 7.30 – 9.00 at the Meeting House. We offer an introduction to meditation through using a range of approaches emanating from different traditions of meditation. As part of the use of time we also include readings and philosophical perspectives that seem to relate to meditation.

If interested please do just come along to one of the meetings, or, if your want to find out more in advance please speak with Catherine Carr (01483 283693) who arranges the meeting.

Dates for 2013 are:			
January	25th ***	July	19th
February	22nd ***	August	No Meeting
March	15th	September	20th
April	19th	October	18th
May	17th	November	15th
June	21st	December	20th
*** not the third Friday of the month			

Reflections ...

Oliver Burkeman in The Guardian in December explained the concept of "adjusting your defaults" by which you can change your habits.

Some years ago after a serious security incident, overnight my office adopted a "clear desk" policy. At the time I didn't think that I could adjust to clearing all the papers off my desk at the end of each day without feeling a daily ripple of annoyance at the inconvenience.

However, surprisingly quickly I preferred this calmer way of working as I started each day with a tidy desk. This new default position (of a clear desk) became normal to us all.

If you are struggling with a 2013 New Year resolution, perhaps taking yourself in hand and making the change you want, the new normal state may be easier as a Friend than you think. In Meeting for Worship we explore silence and reflection and this has become a default position at that time, as against the noise of the world. So take encouragement from knowing that, having adjusted one default, you really do have the resource to adjust another default in relation to the 2013 New Year resolution too.

Good luck then for the still New Year.

From Romy Elias on behalf of Elders