



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month from QF&P 24:34 - *A desire for peace without truthfulness is worthless and does not bring about peace; without love truth has no effect because it is not heard.*

### Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 10 July	2.00-5.00pm	<b>All-age garden party</b> at home of Christine Bass
Sunday 10 July	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Sunday 17 July	12.30-1.45pm	<b>Area Business Meeting</b> at Dorking MH
Sunday 17 July	2.15-4.00pm	<b>Fellowship after bring and share lunch</b> – see page 2
Monday 1 August	8.30-9.00pm	<b>Healing Prayer Group</b> – in member's own homes
Sunday 7 August	9.30am	<b>QF&amp;P Reading group</b> – chapters 13, 20 and 26
Sunday 14 August	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 27 August	All day	<b>YFs activity day at Sayers Croft</b> – see page 4

### Preparative Meeting – Sunday 3 July

**Advices and Queries** were read as follows: Dorking Sunday: May: 3, 8 and 26. June: 6 and 32. Leatherhead: May: 5.

Our Clerk, Colin Hope, explained that although we would normally expect to give our Meeting's **Annual Report** when we are hosting the ABM, that won't be the case this year. We are hosting ABM in July rather than the usual November because the normal pattern of ABMs has been disrupted by building works at some of our Meeting Houses. The AM Clerk has agreed we give this year's report in November as usual.

**The Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2015** had been circulated by email and some copies were available at the meeting. Our treasurer, Romy Elias, explained that the general trend in 2015 had been as expected with a small drop in both contributions and letting income and a rise in expenses to maintain the premises. Our reserves had increased by a small amount (just under £1300) due to some generous donations towards premises costs and paying less than we would like to Yearly Meeting. However Friends have since increased their financial support for the Meeting and ways are being found to cut expenses. For example we have reduced our electricity bill by joining the special tariff offered by Good Energy to Quaker Meetings. Hopefully we are now on the right track financially.

The Meeting approved the names brought forward by **Nominations** Committee - Lesley Hunka to serve as tea and flowers rota compiler to end of 2016 and Phil Hardy-Bishop to serve on Premises and Finance Committee, again to end of 2016. Nominations are still actively searching for additional Friends to serve on Premises and Finance, preferably those who have been in the Meeting for a substantial period of time. Friends interested in this service are asked to speak to Romy Elias or Judy Johnson. Other roles we need to find Friends to fill are AM Trustee, another member of LM Nominations and one on AM Nominations Committee.

The display of **photographs of Friends** on the notice board in the small hall has become out-of-date. Sally Elias's offer to update and maintain the display was gratefully accepted.

Anne Brewer's report of the results from her survey of Friends about the **information Centre** has been circulated. Nominations Committee will now try to find a Friend who is willing to take on the task of taking forward the suggestions arising from the survey. It was stressed that such a Friend would need to be pro-active in drawing attention to the information.

Sally Elias introduced a proposal arising from the **follow-up to the Vision Quest** held on 15 May. The idea is for a 'task and finish' group to organise an event in the Autumn probably built round Fiona Harrison's offer of a guitar concert and perhaps under the umbrella of MV Arts Alive festival, to raise funds for a project suggested at the Vision Quest (in liaison with Premise and Finance Committee), to help build up the sense of community within the Meeting and as a test of the energy and enthusiasm in the Meeting for running such events. If all goes well then further events could be arranged.

Judy Johnson for Premises and Finance Committee outlined three areas of proposed work:

- (a) **Treating the wooden floors** of the Small and Large Halls to improve their appearance and make them suitable for possible yoga or Pilates groups. An upper limit of £850 was agreed for the cost and the work to be carried out during August.
- (b) **Letting rates** – PM has already agreed that our letting rates need to be raised. The committee will continue discussions with the playgroup and agree new rates for them as the playgroup needs the figure before the end of term. The committee was asked to report to our September meeting on a suggested level of charges for other users, and to recommend whether we continue to charge a session rate or change to an hourly rate.
- (c) When our wardens have left, it would be better to have an **online/email system of booking**. As whoever looks after these bookings will need a dedicated email address, Judy has set one up ([bookings@dorkingquakers.org](mailto:bookings@dorkingquakers.org)). We also need to ensure that details of our facilities are readily accessible via websites that advertise rooms for hire in Dorking. Judy suggested that our current website is looking dated and it is a problem that information on it can only be updated by Colin Brewer. It would be possible to invest in a new one which could be updated by anyone.

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## **The charity we are supporting in July and August 2016 The Howard League for Penal Reform**

The Howard League for Penal Reform is 150 years old this year. It is entirely funded by donations i.e. it accepts NO government funding. They campaign for "a society where more people live free from crime, victims find justice, and people who commit crime turn their lives around". They have been active in reducing prison sentences of less than a year, introducing restorative justice, getting the specific needs of women met, reducing the number of young people arrested or in custody, revealing the true levels of sexual violence in prison, and maintaining the supply of books to prisoners.

Quakers have long been involved in prison reform, and penal reform. You can give online at [www.howardleague.org](http://www.howardleague.org) or, if you'd rather, I donated my birthday this year to the Howard League and set up a JustGiving page at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lois-63](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lois-63)

Lois Lodge

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## **Fellowship sessions after ABM on 17 July at Dorking**

After ABM there will be a bring and share lunch followed by 2 Fellowship sessions.



First, Anne Simpson, chair of Claridge House Trustees, will be telling us about their recent refurbishment and appeal for extra funds to enable a few more improvements before they reopen this summer (see [claridgehousequaker.org.uk](http://claridgehousequaker.org.uk)).

Then Jacinta White and Maggie Weir-Wilson of Horsham Meeting, will be telling us about their experience representing Area Meeting at the BYM Sustainability Gathering at Swanwick in March. The theme was 'Being a transformational community'. This will be followed by a sharing of what our Local Meetings are doing and what we might all do in the future to live up to the Quaker commitment to become a sustainable community.



## **BYM Statement on the referendum result**

Building bridges after the referendum

The outcome of the EU referendum and the campaigning that led up to it have shown up and sometimes exacerbated divisions within and between our communities.

There is now a great need for bridge-building, for reaching out to one another in love, trusting that below the political differences lie a shared humanity and a wish for flourishing communities.

Inequalities run deep in society and some are exposed by the vote. Quakers in England, Scotland and Wales are committed to working together and with others - including Quakers across Europe - for a peaceful and just world. In the coming year our Quaker Yearly Meeting will focus on building movements with others locally and globally. We refuse to prejudge who is or is not an ally.

Turbulent times can be frightening, but the Spirit is a source of strength for all, guiding us in who we are and what we do. We take heart from the knowledge that with change comes opportunity. We will look for creative ways to find common cause, to listen, to influence and to persuade. As the status quo is shaken we and our neighbours must look to one another for support, wisdom and above all ways of healing divisions.

## **QCEA Statement on UK referendum decision**

Andrew Lane of the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) has commented on the result of the UK's EU membership referendum.

"The UK has decided to step away from an organisation which acts as a mechanism for dialogue, and which is a pillar of peace in Europe and the world. More effort is now needed find ways to keep peace in Europe and to preserve the positive. In particular we should endeavour to ensure that the UK does not withdraw from the European Convention of Human Rights

Europe, including the UK, will be in greater need of Quaker values as an antidote to an emboldened far-right and to increased division and volatility that will be felt worst by the most vulnerable.

The UK has voted to leave the EU, but cannot leave Europe, and nor can it walk away from very real global challenges. Without the EU, the UK needs to find other ways to work in an integrated way with countries in Europe and beyond to address war, poverty and climate change".

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## **Volunteering in Calais**



A newsletter from St Pauls church in Dorking has some very interesting accounts of their recent trip to the refugee camp in Calais. A copy is available by email – please ask Anne Brewer if you would like one. The newsletter also outlines their plans for another trip on 28 August and they are hoping members of other churches will join them. Jonathan Papworth, the chairman of the World church group at St Pauls writes:-

*Our hope is that people from many churches will work together to help the situation that refugees find themselves in. Personally, I feel the need for extending the Christian hand of love to foreigners in need to be even more vital following the vote last week and the xenophobia that some people in this country are showing. We are calling our next visit a "Church Convoy to Calais" rather than St Paul's convoy because we are trying to encourage other churches to be involved.*

Anyone interested just needs to let them know on [worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk](mailto:worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk)

There is a lot of useful information about volunteering at the camp in Calais on [www.calaidipedia.co.uk](http://www.calaidipedia.co.uk)



## Dorking Area Foodbank – One Year on

Some extracts from their newsletter of June 2016. See also their revamped website at <https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/>

- Over 900 food parcels providing over 8,000 meals
- Over 50 local organisations (churches, schools, surgeries, charities and businesses) have donated food or money as have lots of generous individuals
- Over 80 people are active volunteers
- Over 30 referral agencies have been signed up

No one knew quite what to expect when the Dorking Area Foodbank opened its doors for the first time on 2nd June 2015. The opening was the culmination of months of hard work by a team of determined volunteers set up by Churches Together in Dorking. It was achieved with help from Mole Valley District Council, Dorking's supermarkets, churches in Dorking and the villages along with generous donations of time, money and lots and lots of tins from local people. Thank you everyone. It is a sad fact of modern life that the foodbank is needed and the past year has shown that there is genuine need for it locally.

In the 12 months since the foodbank opened, the distribution centre has opened its doors to clients 105 times, countless cups of tea have been offered and 942 lots of 3 day food parcels have been provided – for 581 adults and 361 children. Behind the scenes volunteers have collected and sorted thousands of tins of food as well as toilet rolls and toothpaste!

Richard Bass who was a valued member of the Dorking Area Foodbank Action Team died suddenly in April 2016. He was instrumental in the drive to set up the foodbank and was also responsible for liaison with the referral agencies. He is sadly missed and we send our condolences to his family.

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### Caring for one another

Anne Brewer and I have been following the monthly reading of a chapter from Quaker Faith & Practice, as per the programme suggested by the team considering whether it is time to do a re-write of it. Recently we were reading Chapter 12 *Caring for one another*, which includes guidance on being an Elder or Overseer. I was struck by how potentially onerous and daunting (to me) and overwhelming the job of Overseers is. And then I thought "When, where and how does the meeting inform enquirers, attenders and other Friends about the role and expectation for caring, how we might help, and how do we review how we're doing?" And the answer is "I don't know", and many of you may not either.

I'd like to suggest that we have a "Meet the Overseers" session, perhaps after Meeting for Worship one Sunday, to look at my question. It implies absolutely no criticism of Overseers, but instead wishes to recognise and value their work. I'd also like to offer them help in their role as/if appropriate, and you may wish to join in this *caring for one another* across the meeting. The Overseers have been approached about this idea and are supportive of it.

If you are interested in Meeting our Overseers (Trish, Frances P, Colin B) please contact me by phone, or email and we'll get on with finding a date.

Lois Lodge



### Sayers Croft – 27 August

Just a quick reminder about the fellowship day at Sayers Croft on Saturday 27th August. A number of our families will be taking part in an activity packed day, with some of us (weather permitting) also camping over night. Any friends who would like to try their hand at activities such as abseiling, archery, caving, pottery would be very welcome to join us!

Alternatively, if anyone would like to come and watch and join us for lunch and/or tea, it would be lovely to see as many of you as can make it! Lunch will be a bring-your-own BBQ, and any contributions towards tea will be gratefully received! We also hope to be joined by some friends from Horsham. If you would like to join us please let me (Katy) know.

Katy Nunn