



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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September 2017
 No 513

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch.
Fri 8 and Sat 9 Sept	2.00-5.00pm	Heritage Days – MH open for 'Cogs, Companies and the screen.'
Sat 9 Sept	10.30am – 12 noon	Area Meeting at Reigate MH
Sun 10 Sept	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sat 16 Sept	11.00	Regional Meeting at Guildford MH on Addiction
Fri 22 Sept	2.30-4.00pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Tues 26 Sept	2.00pm	Ideas exchange at Su Johnston's house – see page 2
Mon 2 October	8.30-9.00pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group in Friends' homes
Sun 8 October	10.30am-12.30pm	Special MfW and peace rose planting
Sun 8 October	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead

Sat 30 Sept to Sun 8 Oct is Quaker Week.

Preparative Meeting Sunday 3 September

Advices and queries read during July and August: 26, 29, 31 and 33.

PM largely consisted of Premises and Finance Committee matters under the following headings:

- **Electrical repairs** resulting from the required 5-yearly safety check. We accepted a quote for £1040 for this work.
- **Repair of crack in retaining wall** on the right hand side of the steps down to Butter Hill. Consulting engineers identified the cause of the crack as lack of drainage – trapped water froze and split the wall. We agreed to accept the quote for £930+VAT to repair the crack, replace eroded bricks, and put in 'weep holes' to prevent the problem recurring.
- **Fire doors.** Installation of 2 fire doors was recommended in the last quinquennial inspection and Area Meeting Trustees have urged us to proceed with this task. A 1 hour fire door is needed between the cottage lobby and the ladies loos and a ½ hour door between the kitchen and the side lobby. Quotes have been difficult to obtain in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster as appropriate firms are very busy. 3 quotes all in excess of £2000 have been obtained and it was agreed we go ahead with the quote for £2326 from the carpenter recommended by Horsham Meeting- he installed their fire door recently.
- We agreed a slightly revised **policy on the use of our Premises**. Changes included: afternoon hiring sessions will be from 2-6pm rather than 2-5pm; political groups (so long as not contrary to our Quaker principles) can hire rooms for private meetings provided they are not advertised outside the MH; and organisations, which deserve special support, will still be offered special rates but these will not be advertised.
- We agreed **revised Terms of Reference** for Premises and Finance Committee. References to the warden were removed and a new section added on arrangements for letting the Friends Cottage.
- We agreed **new hiring rates for 2018**, including new rates for Butterhill Playgroup and the Embroiderer's Guild, for storage. The increases are quite small – for example the total monthly payment for the Playgroup will increase from £543 per month to £563 per month.

- Now that all the information materials have been moved to the Office the **new name for the Information Centre** will be Quiet Room rather than Committee Room as previously suggested.

The committee were thanked for all the work they have done. It was also noted that the library has been given a makeover and Elizabeth Cooper and Anne Brewer were thanked for their work on this.

Collections for 2018. These were agreed as follows:

Jan/Feb	Medecins Sans Frontières	(Anne Brewer)
Mar/Apr	Quaker Social Action	(Colin Hope)
May/June	Britain Yearly Meeting	(Romy Elias)
Jul/Aug	Quaker Voluntary Action	(Frances Harber)
Sep/Oct	Quaker Homeless Action	(Frances Poulton)
Nov	To be decided later	
Dec	To be chosen by the children	

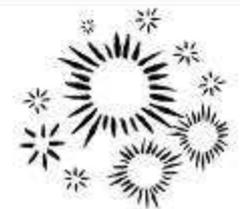
Music for Christmas carols Judy Johnson agreed to look into hiring or borrowing a keyboard. (Post meeting note – Gayle has a portable keyboard the Meeting is welcome to borrow)

Coming to our Kindlers workshop?

Hopefully everyone will remember we are hosting a Kindlers Workshop on Saturday 4 November (see flyers on table in lobby). **There are spaces and we would welcome more Dorking Friends and/or Attenders** – just contact Anne (01306 500187) or Eleanor (01306 882627) to book your place. So far we have 7 from Dorking, 6 from Epsom and 2 from Horsham.

David Brown and Val Rowling, who are leading the Workshop, would be helped in their planning if you could consider the following questions, whether you plan to attend or not, and share your thoughts with any of us, so that we can email responses to David and Val.

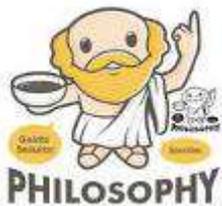
- Are there any burning questions in Meeting at the moment?
- Are there any topics that are causing tension?
- Are there any particular aspects of Worship that you think should be included?



Your Elders and Overseers

(Anne Brewer, Eleanor Campbell, Trish Humphreys and Margaret Lawson)

An ideas exchange



Our first gathering in July proved a friendly and interesting occasion and a second is planned for **Tuesday 26 September, 2pm, at Su's home** – The Brockham, 3 Nower Lodge, Hampstead Lane RH4 3DW. If the gates are closed, press button number 3 to alert Su.

The topics for sharing our thoughts on, are 'freedom' and 'life after death'.

Anne Brewer

Rotas and Dilemmas

We have a rota of Friends who prepare the refreshments for after Meeting for Worship, and most Friends see the job as including arriving early to set out the cups etc. On occasions the rota Friend has arrived early to find the cups etc already beautifully set out. Now while this is very kind and helpful of another Friend, it can be frustrating for the rota Friend, who is made to feel slightly superfluous! Hopefully Friends will be sensitive to this issue, and curb their helpful instincts until it is obvious that the rota Friend is going to be late, in which case they would no doubt be delighted to see that part of the job done!!

Watani-My Homeland

Wednesday 27 September 7.30pm to 10.30pm



I have sponsored a film for the Dorking Radical Film Festival called *Watani – My Homeland*. My friend Chris Shaw was executive producer of this amazing film about one family's struggle to survive the Syrian Civil War. It is both heart-breaking and inspiring, in that it explores the resilience of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable challenges.

Chris will be talking to the audience about the making of this award-winning, Oscar and Emmy nominated film, which stays with the family across three years, thus giving us, the audience, a real chance to learn what is the motivation behind people having the courage to leave their homeland in search of a safer life. Agencies who support refugees will be present to give an update on what we can do to help, should we choose to, after seeing the film.

Read more : dorkingradicalfilms.org/watani and this takes you direct to a booking link with the Dorking Halls, or call them on 01306 881717.

Sally Elias

Questions to consider from Quaker Life

Roger Baker, our Rep to Quaker Life Representative Council (QLRC), has asked Friends ponder the following questions and send any responses to him (rogerbk22@gmail.com) **by October 2nd**. He will then share the responses at QLRC, which is from Oct 13th -15th.

1. What changes to our models of worship, business and community might enable our Local or Area Meetings to flourish as lively and faithful communities, grounded in our faith and practice, yet open and imaginative in living them out?
2. Have you visited Quaker meetings in other parts of our Yearly Meeting or abroad in other Yearly Meetings? What spoke to you, inspired you or challenged you about other models of worship, witness?

Experiment with Light

Your Elders and Overseers have been exploring the spiritual meditation process *Experiment with Light*. Horsham Meeting have a Light Group, who meet together monthly to share this process. Helen, one of their members, came and did a trial session with us. We feel that the process might well appeal to some Friends, so we are offering to run some sessions for you to come and try it out. Here is a bit about it from the website (www.experiment-with-light.org.uk):



Experiment with Light is a Quaker practice which is based on early Friends' discoveries. It was devised in 1996 by Quaker and theologian Rex Ambler, following his study of early Friends' writings. At the core of the practice is a meditation that guides Experimenters through the following steps:

- *Mind the Light (pay attention to what's going on inside you, particularly where there's something that makes you feel uncomfortable)*
- *Open your heart to the truth (don't run away from anything that's difficult or that you don't want to face, but keep a little distance from it: 'be still and cool in thy mind')*
- *Wait in the Light (be patient, let the Light show you what is really going on, ask questions if what is offered to you isn't clear or you want to know more, and wait for the answers to come, don't try to explain)*
- *Submit (accept and welcome the information or images, and the insights, dreams and perceptions that may come later, and allow them to show the truth)*

We have the meditation on a CD and would welcome Friends' interest - please get in touch with one of us if you would like to join a session and we will try and work out a date/time/venue to suit everyone.



Memories of Yearly Meeting Gathering 2017

At YMG (Yearly Meeting Gathering) my group was called 'Light Explorers'. YMG was at Warwick University in Coventry. Our main focus was building a better world, using our head, heart, hands and feet. On Sunday we focused on 'heart'. We wrote how we thought we could make the world a better place. On Monday we focused on our head, and we painted a picture of a head. On Tuesday we focused on hands and made musical instruments (with our hands) to play to the 'fox cubs' (the group Ewan was in). We missed out Wednesday with the children's sessions because it was family day, so instead we went cycling in Birmingham, Northfields. On Thursday we focused on feet and we walked to the fox cubs to play them music with the instruments we made on Tuesday. On Friday, our final full day, we focused on our Spirit/Light and listened to stories about famous Quakers. My favourite bits were box making and children's programme, and evening sessions.

Thomas Nunn

The highlight of Ewan's week was definitely making a new friend, Leo. They have arranged to meet at the next YMG when they are eight! The box-making session was another favourite. Ewan's group, the 'fox cubs', also did some real-life discernment, and chose hunger and homelessness as the issue they were going to focus on. They gave out ribbons to the wider gathering to remind us of these concerns. The ribbons come with a song (sung to the tune of 'wind the bobbin up') which we enjoyed singing to the grown-ups of Dorking Meeting when we got home. For those of you who missed it, here it is:



Wind the ribbon up,
Wind the ribbon up,
Snip, snip, clap, clap, clap
Share the ribbon out
Share the ribbon out

Tie, tie, clap, clap, clap,
Food for the Hungry,
Homes for All,
We must remember,
THAT'S OUR CALL!

"We are called to return home, and to do something useful on the way"

The week before Yearly Meeting Gathering, the boys and I were at Sunday Meeting for Worship in Quaker House, Geneva. We've been once before – my family used to live in the area, my sister still does. It is a lovely old Geneva house with a beautiful, peaceful garden. It is also where the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) is based.

The following week I sat in a room in Warwick University listening to QUNO members of staff talking about "the spiritual inspiration for their work on peace, human rights, migration, food and climate change". I was deeply impressed. All the speakers spoke with such clarity, perceptiveness, intelligence and even wisdom about their role, not so much on the international stage, but backstage; about "quiet diplomacy" and the importance of creating space where people can come together, feel safe, talk, and be listened to. And about the spirituality that gives strength for such work.

That morning, in the main session, George Lakey had started with a story about witnessing a fight between a young couple in the street outside his home. Torn between the need to intervene and the desire for self-preservation in an area where many people carry guns, the first thing he had done was rush outside and from his porch shout "I'm watching you!" Several times. Having thus paused the conflict (due perhaps only to the couple being so perplexed they stopped fighting) he was still waiting for further inspiration when an older woman walked up, and with great poise, removed the female victim from the situation and admonished her attacker. Mr Lakey went on to talk about his role as a 'space holder' in that situation, an idea which resonated with me and which I returned to at various points throughout the week. We are perhaps not all called to be the ones who act, but this idea of the importance of creating, holding, influencing space such that people are enabled to speak to that of God in those around them, and to listen, was a powerful one for me.

And that was just Sunday. I think it will take me some time to sift through my thoughts and experiences from YMG, and many more gatherings to figure out what tactics to employ to make the most of such a rich and exhausting event, but I certainly have come away with plenty of food for thought as I continue to search for my answer to Elizabeth Fry's question, "what is my sphere of usefulness?"

Katy Nunn