



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

(available on the web at: www.dorkingquakers.org/index.php/newsletter)

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Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer

December 2018
No. 528

Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for December – 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 2 Dec	after MfW	Amnesty card signing
Mon 3 Dec	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)
Sun 9 Dec	after MfW	Traidcraft stall
Sun 9 Dec	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)
Fri 14 Dec	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sun 16 Dec	after MfW	Carols and mince pies
Sun 23 Dec	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Tues 25 Dec	10.30 – 11 am	Christmas Meeting for Worship

Urgent! Please pay attention!

Colin (B) is desperately trying to get everyone to complete a GDPR compliant Data Consent Form. Why on earth is he doing that? Well new government regulations mean that unless you have signed one of these forms you cannot be listed in future Area Meeting Contact Lists. Friends then won't be able to get in touch with you as they won't have your address and other contact details.

If you haven't already signed one, then please ask for a paper copy or, preferably, an emailed copy to be completed on your computer, and get it done now before the new contact list is finalised ready for 2019. If you can't remember whether you've signed one or not then just ask Colin on 01306 500187 or colin.brewer@phonecoop.coop

REMEMBERING ALL THE VICTIMS OF WAR

Last month, because they are not often mentioned in the media, we especially remembered in the Grapevine some relatives of Quakers who had been COs in the last war. This month we thought we would remember all those who suffer in war and offer this poem by Anne and Colin's daughter Catherine, written at the time of the Gulf War in 1991, when she was 13.

VICTIMS OF WAR

By Catherine Brewer

Now we see the innocent victims of the conflict.

Caught, like leaves in a whirlwind,

In something beyond their control.

Oil pours into the Gulf waters.

Bombs rain down on houses.

Adults, children and wildlife are all caught in a slick of war.

And the soldiers, victims too, in a way.

Pawns in a conflict that is not truly theirs.

Merely doing the job they were trained for,

Though they have to shut out the images of their 'living targets',

Who may in turn shut out them,

Who, after all, are soldiers – humans like themselves,

Just born in a different place, in different circumstances.

All bravely give their lives for what they believe is right.

Will the time ever come when this sacrifice will not be asked of them?

This time the governments failed – Allied and Iraqi alike.

It is not the fault of one person only.

Next time, will we find a way of true peace?



Our Candle Lit evening on November 11, 2018 was an evening of prayer and reflection – considering how we can take the responsibility for peace forward in our lives and within our community. One Friend sent the following poem written in response to the event:

*Below is what the thoughts that began in your candle light on Sunday evening developed into.
In Friendship, Duncan (Sevenoaks Quaker Meeting)*

11.11.18

By Duncan Dwinell

The war is over! When does the peace begin?

Not when the baby drops to sleep nor the cat curls by hearth and fire.
Not at the going down of the sun nor the rise of the new crescent moon.
Not at the mountain's summit nor at the ocean's shore.

Not with well-meant handshakes nor a bashful 'I'm sorry too.'
Not when frightful walls torn down and fearing gates swing free.
Not with mundane laws and funds nor holy songs and prayers.
Not when guns go silent and all the treaties signed.

Peace begins with loving your neighbour whoever that might be.
Peace begins with thirst for communion and hunger for humility.
Each act of unconditional love gives Peace another chance.
Each act of sacrificial forgiveness grows Peace another branch.

For all of these there is price and cost: your effort and your care.
The prize of Peace? Your neighbours will have these to share.



UPDATE ON TRAIDCRAFT

Elizabeth Dobson will be joining us on the 9th of December for a final time this year. She writes:

You may well have heard the sad news that Traidcraft PLC, the trading company, will cease trading in its current form at the end of this year. The better news is that a remodelled, smaller company will continue - fuller details yet to come. However, there will inevitably be an adverse effect on the producers, many of whom depend greatly on sales to Traidcraft. The charity, Traidcraft Exchange, continues unchanged, but is now devoting its Christmas appeal to building funds to support these producers and help them find new trading partners (and you can find more at traidcraft.org.uk).



A YOUNG FRIEND WRITES

I had a great time at Junior Gathering this year and was very happy to see my friends again. The theme this year was 'Quakers changing the world' which was addressed with various speakers coming in and talking about different topics such as refugees, arms and prisons. Overall Junior Gathering was very fun and interesting and I am excited to go again next year.

Maddy Carlier

AND NEWS OF ANOTHER YOUNG(ish!) FRIEND



Elizabeth writes: Some of you will remember Catherine Brewer, Anne and Colin's daughter, who grew up in Dorking Meeting. She has just been appointed by Meeting for Sufferings as Co-clerk of the Book of Discipline Revision Committee. This is a very challenging task as Yearly Meeting has requested a brand new version of our Quaker Faith and Practice (the popular title for our Book of Discipline!) suitable for this digital age, but which all shades of Quakers, young and old, theist and non-theist, are happy with. The work is expected to take at least five years!

I am sure that the Meeting will want to uphold Catherine and the other members of the committee as they undertake this task.

AND MORE NEWS OF YOUNG FRIENDS ...

Friends might remember the letters that the children sent to the main supermarkets in Dorking about plastic bags. At least one – Waitrose – has taken action – well done, children!

The children are busy thinking about their choice for the **December collection** - which charity they would like us to support. No doubt they will tell us soon!

