



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

Guest editor: Elizabeth Cooper
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Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for July – 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.

Sat 7 July	10.45 am	Area Meeting, Blue Idol (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun 8 July	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (<i>Park House, Leatherhead</i>)
Fri 20 July	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sun 22 July	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Sat 28 July	10.30 am	Regional Meeting (<i>see page 3</i>)
Mon 6 Aug	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group
Sun 12 Aug	11.30 am	Traidcraft, after MfW
Sun 12 Aug	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (<i>Park House, Leatherhead</i>)

JULY'S COLLECTION – proposed by Frances Harber

QUAKER VOLUNTARY ACTION (QVA)



QVA enables participation in spirit-led volunteering that makes a practical and social difference. Our projects build community and work for a more just and peaceful world.

QVA organises working retreats in Britain, Europe and beyond. Volunteers participate in practical projects and reflective sessions that promote personal spiritual development with meaningful engagement in the world. A range of activities may include gardening, renovation, olive harvesting, decorating, sustainability and woodland management.

NOTES FROM PREP MEETING

July 1 2018

Quaker week this year is from Saturday 29 September to Sunday 7 October. Outreach group are organising 'Bring a friend to Meeting' on 7 October and are obtaining new posters and information packs for the occasion.

Constance Nash of the **Dorking Refugee Support Group** is sending out a questionnaire 'What do you think about refugees?' to local churches and has asked the Meeting if we would be willing to act as a postbox for completed questionnaires. For practical reasons we decided that unfortunately we could not offer this service although we will of course collect and return any questionnaires completed by members of the Meeting.

Following the success of the **outdoor Meeting for Worship** at the Kosmon Sanctuary Elders and Overseers offered to arrange an outdoor MfW in the MH garden. Friends felt that the front garden might be most suitable being level ground and perhaps be a form of outreach. Elders and Overseers were asked to discuss the idea further and offer a date plus an alternative should the weather be unsuitable and arrange with children's committee how we might involve the children.

After a friendly discussion it was discerned that the feeling of the Meeting was that the **front door should be left unlocked during Meeting for Worship**. The inner door keeper would be alerted by anyone entering and if they don't recognise them they will go out and welcome them. It was noted that the back door however should be kept locked. To minimise disturbance it was suggested, but not minuted, that those arriving after 10.35 should wait in the front lobby and come into MfW with the outer door-keeper at 10.45 when the children leave .



Judy introduced **Premises's proposed work on trees** and requested agreement to the expected cost of £1000. The yew tree growing at the front between the cherry tree and the Butter Hill House wall is to be felled and the stump ground out. Various trees in the back garden need attention, also the tree growing near the cottage front door and ivy regrowth needs removing from the front boundary wall. Meeting agreed expenditure up to £1200.

The Meeting agreed that **Outreach** committee have a annual designated budget. They are planning a seeded meeting with the children's committee on the theme of equality but no date is set as yet. Elders and Overseers have agreed to support an evening candlelit meeting on November 11th to mark the end of World War 1 and remind ourselves of the need to work for peace. Members of other churches will be invited.

The **November collection** will be for the new project of QCEA involving quiet diplomacy to promote peace and human rights in Europe. This could be promoted at the November 11th evening meeting.

The current **clerking arrangements** will come to an end in December, when Su Johnston stands down and the clerking team ask all to consider carefully options for 2019. This will be a priority item in September's PM.



Area Meeting on Saturday 7 July will be at Blue Idol MH.

Programme:

10.30 foregather

10.45 am to 12.30pm Area Business Meeting

12.30 to 1.30 pm Lunch (Bring and share)

1.30 to 3.30pm Fellowship session (see separate box)

Fellowship session at Area Meeting on **Saturday 7 July, 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm**

Our Vibrancy in Meetings worker Carrie Comfort will come to support us in thinking about:

‘Where is the new life in our Area Meeting? And which way forward will allow it to flourish?’

The aim is

- For Friends to have a sense of areas of their life and ministry that are growing and ‘of the spirit’, and that they’d like nurtured by any possible ways forward. The new AM Faith and Action Group is an example.
- For Friends to have a sense of some different options for ways forward.
- For Friends to begin considering criteria they’d wish to consider against ways forward.
- A sense of the next step.

This session picks up from AM in March when Elders and Overseers met to consider ‘the future of West Weald Area Meeting’, which it hoped would ‘be followed further at a Fellowship meeting in July’; and from the report from trustees to AM in May, which asked whether, in view of the impending lack of trustees available to keep AM functioning as a legal entity, AM wished trustees to explore, among other things, the possibility of ‘laying down the AM with the transfer of its Local Meetings and its assets to such adjacent Area Meetings as are prepared to accept them’.

Kersti, who is organising the Fellowship session on Saturday July 7th at the Blue Idol titled *Where is the new life in our Area Meeting? And which way forward will allow it to flourish?*, has suggested some reading which might be useful preparation for the session. It is a blog about another area meeting going through a very similar exercise. It’s called, ‘Right, then, who’d like to be Treasurer?’

The whole post can be found at <https://weafish.wordpress.com/2018/06/11/right-then-whod-like-to-be-treasurer/>

REGIONAL MEETING, 28TH JULY

The Forgiveness Project

with Marina Cantacuzina, Lewes Prison staff, and Offender-Resettler ex-NOMS officer.

Lewes FMH

Westmeston Parish Hall

Lewes Road

10.30-4pm

WE DO NOT OWN THE WORLD ...

In May the children delivered letters to the managers of four large local supermarkets expressing their concern about excessive plastic packaging and the use of unsustainable palm oil. Their original letter is on their notice board. They have now received replies from Tesco (see picture for extract) and Lidl thanking them for their concern and explaining how the companies are responding to the threat of plastic to the world. These letters are also on the children's notice board ... Still waiting to hear from Waitrose and Sainsbury!!!!



Last Sunday the children talked and drew about plastic waste and handed out small pieces of card with the word 'remember' for us to keep with us when we shop – we need to remember that we are only borrowing this world from them – we need to hand it back in a better state!



REJOICE IN THE SPLENDOUR OF GOD'S CONTINUING CREATION

Sunday 17th June is Bookham's Open Gardens Day, and our Friends, Keith and Frances opened their garden for the afternoon. The aim was to raise money for The Barn which is the centre of village life, and this year over £7,000 was raised. There were twelve private gardens to visit and it was also a social event as people worked their way around the



Dragonfly nymph about to hatch

gardens, seeing old friends, relaxing and enjoying the hard work of others, and picking up gardening tips from those who have learned the hard way (i.e. the space needed between raised beds!!). 493 people came to visit Frances and Keith's garden, but for everyone the highlight of the visit was the sight of a dragonfly emerging from its chrysalis on their garden pond. Many visitors had never seen this happen.



The emerged Southern Hawker Dragonfly

We live in turbulent times and many of us find watching the news or reading a newspaper too frightening or distressing – so this is a reminder of the enduring power of nature and the strength and patience of hope. We may feel paralysed in a world of increasing xenophobia and the dehumanisation of different peoples but, like the dragonfly, we can and we will emerge from this darkness into the light.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1: 5

**APPROACH OLD AGE WITH COURAGE AND HOPE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE,
MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CARE IN GOOD TIME, SO THAT AN
UNDUE BURDEN DOES NOT FALL ON OTHERS.**

(From Advice and Query Number 29)

Some of us in Meeting are approaching the 70s, 80s and 90s so your Elders thought it might be a good idea to offer an update on end of life issues.

- Dorking Quaker's funeral form now includes the following words: *This form will be used by the Elders to assist in making arrangements for your funeral, if their help is requested.* To obtain contact details for the current Elders ring 01306 884020.

In the past we have put the phone number of serving Elders or Clerks on the form but these will become out-of-date . There is now a message on the Meeting's ansaphone (01306 884020) giving the current Elders' phone numbers. This message will be updated when necessary so the relatives should have no trouble contacting an Elder for assistance. Those who have completed an earlier version of the form may wish to change the wording appropriately on their copy, stored with their Will.

- Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment (Living Will) and Lasting Powers of Attorney can be useful things to have arranged if you are approaching the later years of your life. Information, including the form to complete for a Living Will, is available from Compassion in Dying – <https://compassionindying.org.uk/library/advance-decision-pack/> or ask Anne for a copy.
- Dealing with bereavement. The Meeting's upholding prayer group will be pleased to offer its supportive prayer – speak to Trish, Anne or Eleanor. There are the following organisations offering support to the bereaved:
 - Cruse Bereavement Care: Mole Valley Branch email surrey.east@cruse.org.uk or call **020 8393 7238**. You will get an answer phone message asking you to leave your name and telephone number. A volunteer will telephone you within 24 hours and take some details. An appointment will be arranged for a Bereavement Volunteer to visit you when mutually convenient.

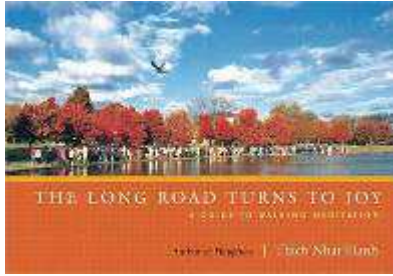
The name 'Cruse' derives the Old Testament passage about a widow's cruse, or jar of oil, which never ran out, thus signifying that support would be given as long as it was needed and there would always be a drop of comfort available. It is a non-religious organisation welcoming people of all beliefs and none.

- MASH – Men Alone Self Help. A group of men who are alone due to bereavement meet in the upstairs room at Burgundy and Black, a cafe in St Martins Walk, Dorking RH14 1UT, on each Thursday between 4 and 6 pm. If you would like to know more about this group then contact Tom on 01306 883961 or mashdorking@gmail.com or see their website: mashdorking.org.uk

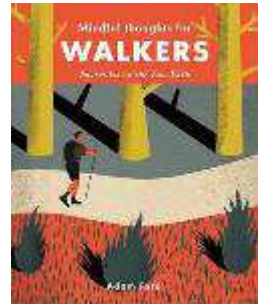
Do talk to one of us if you have any questions or concerns about the above.

Anne and Eleanor

MEDITATION GROUP



Catherine and John recently attended a course at Claridge House which involved a walking meditation. These are two books that they shared with the group:



The Long Road Turns to Joy - **A Guide to Walking Meditation** by Thich Nhat Hanh, and **Mindful Thoughts for Walkers** by Adam Ford

The first, unsurprisingly, is about walking meditation, but the second is more about meditating while walking.

FAITH AND PRACTICE GROUP

The first newsletter for this group has been distributed with interesting articles about buying green clothes by Anne B., ethical money by Audrey and fracking by Kim from the Blue Idol. A few printed copies will be available in the Meeting House.



Anne and Colin attended the vigil outside the court in Fetter Lane, London on July 3rd – see photo (you might make out Anne's blue trousers!). The court case was about an injunction by the UK Oil and Gas Company to prevent people protesting about oil and gas drilling – see the Faith and Practice Newsletter.

LEITH HILL



The group is running a training day on 22 September in Dorking for those who would like to be Legal Observers and support the Protectors at Leith Hill. The Quakers who were arrested at the Arms Fair were all supported by Legal Observers taking notes of everything that led to their arrest, and these notes supported their cases in court. Perhaps you know someone who would welcome this opportunity to learn these skills and support their community?

More information from: info@voiceforleithhill.co.uk