



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for February – 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 3 Feb	10.30	Seeded meeting – Equality
Sun 3 Feb	12.00 noon	Enquirers' Question Time
Mon 4 Feb	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)
Sun 10 Feb	12.00 noon	Discussion about Dorking Climate Emergency (see page 4)
Sun 10 Feb	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)
Fri 22 Feb	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sun 24 Feb	11.30 – 12.30 approx	Traidcraft
Sun 24 Feb	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch
Sat 2 March	11.00 – 15.00	National Day of Healing Prayer
Sun 3 March	9 am	Preparative Meeting
Mon 4 March	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group
Sun 10 March	12.30 pm	Area Meeting at Horsham

February's collection is for Friends School Ramallah
(see January's GV for information)

Notes from Preparative Meeting of 20th January

compiled by Anne Brewer

We were pleased to **appoint the following nominated Friends** – Jan Elias as an Overseer to join Tara and Margaret; Keith Poulton to join Premises Committee; Su Johnston as Safety Officer, a new role now required by law, to look into keeping all users of the Meeting House safe from hazards; and John Morris from Guildford Meeting as Independent Examiner.

Premises have been busy as usual! We have a **new fridge** – an energy efficient one - A** in fact. We had a long discussion about the **fire alarm system**, which has not been working properly and is due for replacement in a year's time. We agreed to cover the cost of replacing the system this year. (Note: Since PM, after quite a struggle, Colin B has got the present system working properly, so replacement can wait 'til next year - hopefully!) On the subject of **fire safety** we need to ensure that all our hirers have been shown what to do and have accepted delegated responsibility in the event of a fire. Colin B, as fire safety officer, will arrange this. We agreed that the **notice board** currently fixed to the outside front wall should be re-sited on posts at the top of the steps where it will be more accessible.

£120 was raised for each of the two **charities chosen by the children** for December 2018 – **Lumos** and **Plant for the Planet**.



Anne B brought to PM her concern about the terrible suffering caused by the bombing of civilians, for example in Yemen and Syria, and asked whether the Meeting would be willing to support Humanity and Inclusion's **'Stop Bombing Civilians' campaign**, by sending a letter to our MP. This was agreed with some minor amendments and additions to the drafted letter and it was also agreed that copies should be sent to the two Quaker MP's, Catherine West and Ruth Cadbury. The Clerking Team will sign the letter on behalf of Dorking Meeting. (A copy of the letter sent can be found on page 3).

Meeting for Sufferings is encouraging progress to becoming a **low carbon, sustainable community**, and suggests that at Local Meeting level we might choose at least one measure of energy consumption/greenhouse gas emission that we track for several years to monitor and motivate progress. On March 10th there will be an Area Meeting Fellowship session on this subject, and Anne B has written an article in the current West Weald Quaker Faith and Action newsletter. We plan to consider this complex subject at our next Preparative Meeting.

LETTER TO PAUL BERESFORD

January 2019

Dear Paul Beresford,

As a Quaker Meeting in your constituency we would like to draw your attention to Humanity & Inclusion's Stop Bombing Civilians campaign. Humanity & Inclusion (formerly Handicap International) worked with other groups, forming the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and this was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. Humanity and Inclusion also won the Hilton Humanitarian Prize in 2011 (see <https://humanity-inclusion.org.uk/en/our-history>). Their campaign is calling on the UK and all states worldwide to better protect civilians from the use of explosive weapons. Ideally of course we would rather such weapons were not used at all but sadly we realise this is probably not a realistic aim at the present time.

We understand that when explosive weapons are used in villages, towns or cities, 92% of all victims are civilians, and that over 31,500 civilians were killed or injured in this way in 2017. Also, of course, much infrastructure is destroyed, such as schools, hospitals, transport links, and electricity supplies, adding to the stresses on those who survive. You only have to look at Yemen for a vivid and heart-breaking example.

We encourage you to take action to press the UK government to improve its international involvement in this matter. The UK has, we are informed by Humanity & Inclusion, an informal lead role on the UN Security Council on the protection of civilians, yet it did not join 50 other states (including 27 European countries) who issued, in October 2018, a joint statement highlighting the need for urgent action, and an international declaration, on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

We would be delighted if, for example, you tabled a question in Parliament asking the UK government why it did not sign this joint statement and suggest that in future it looks constructively at any multilateral policy responses proposed to improve the protection of civilians from explosive weapons. Please let us know what you feel able to do to assist – we are sure you must be as concerned as we are about all the terrible suffering that is occurring as a result of unrestrained bombing of densely populated areas.

Yours sincerely, Frances Poulton, Clerk, on behalf of Dorking Quakers.

(Stop Press! A reply has just been received – see March's Grapevine for details)

Spiritual Writing

Suzanne Stronge, who attends our Meeting with her husband Ian, is interested in spiritual writing. She says: *I have been looking for a spiritual writing group to join, but cannot find one. I have teamed up with a Church of England poet who is writing religious poems.*

Would anyone be interested in joining us every three months for a couple of hours to write or read for spiritual inspiration? If you're interested, please email me at: suz8lunch@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 10th February

Anne B will be holding a meeting after Meeting for Worship to discuss our contribution to this action. Please join us with ideas ...



THE PLANET NEEDS YOU!

Join Dorking's CLIMATE EMERGENCY WEEK

Today, 150 living species will become extinct. That's roughly one species **every** 10 minutes. That's around 50 while you slept last night. They will never be seen again.

5 of the last 6 years have been the hottest since records began.

The sea is rapidly warming, ice-caps are melting, deserts increasing and people starving.

We have 12 years to avert climate disaster (United Nations statement).

CLIMATE EMERGENCY WEEK aims to do 3 things:

EDUCATE people about the 'big picture' of the emergency

CREATE a positive atmosphere where imaginative solutions are welcomed

INSPIRE people to work together for change

It is strictly non-political: the CLIMATE EMERGENCY goes far beyond politics.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

From 24th Feb – 2nd March Dorking will host actions, events, music, singing, workshops, seminars, exhibitions, films and meetings to highlight our planet's predicament and work out ways forward.

We need YOU. And we need your groups and your friends – from activists to zoologists, from beekeepers to businesses - to take part in this. As an individual, a group, a business – whoever you are there's a place for you. Help a little, help a lot—do what you can.

Please step forward NOW and offer skills / talents / ideas / your feet on the ground / donations so that we can create a future beyond the next 12 years.

THE MORE HELP WE HAVE THE MORE WE CAN DO

VOLUNTEER: email: climate-emergency@outlook.com

or phone 01306 889278



Do you care about the environment.....

but perhaps feel a bit bewildered about what you can actually do to help? Well one way that you can definitely help to reduce food waste is by popping along to the
Community Fridge

Food that is approaching the end of its shelf life (often with a long time to go!) is donated by Waitrose, Lidl and Tesco amongst others. You are invited to come along and take what you fancy in return for a small donation, which goes toward the running costs. One fridge is at the **Christian Centre** and is open 10am to 8pm

The Community Fridge at Goodwyns is situated at the Harvest Community Church on Stubbs Hill. The fridge is open on **Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm (ish)**. And while you are there stop for a coffee and cake (£1) at our new café.

So, bring a bag, bring some change, and help to reduce food waste in this way at a local level!

(leaflet from the Community Fridge Committee)

(N.B. Our Wednesday lunch group have supported the Community Fridge financially. The organisers of the Fridge are planning to buy a refrigerated van so that they can give outlying villages a chance to participate. I help at the Goodwyns Fridge and am amazed at the enormous quantities of food discarded by the supermarkets, but I must say the residents of the Goodwyns estate really appreciate it! Anne Brewer)

The New Year Party –Saturday 26 January



The parachute games. Photo by Colin Brewer

The New Year Party went very well. Some 30 Friends attended. There were games (see photo), guitar music (from the husbands of two of the Meeting's young mothers), enthralling storytelling by Martin Hunka and plenty to eat and drink.

Photos needed for our new website

The Outreach committee, and Judy and Colin Brewer, are working away at our new website and are asking Friends for contributions – namely photos for the first page.

The first page you see when you visit the website should be inviting. What would “invite you in?”

Do you have any photos that you would like to find, as a first-time viewer, on the Dorking Quakers website?

Send them please to outreach@dorkingquakers.org
They need to be at least 1200x900 pixels.

Thank you in advance – we look forward to receiving many! And you have the next 3 weeks, until the end of February, to take part.

There will be an exhibition of all the photos, in early March, to be viewed on Sundays after Meeting.



Conscientious Objectors with connections to Dorking and other local Meetings

Last year, at the time of the Centenary of the ending of World War 1, a request was made through the Grapevine for stories of Conscientious Objectors connected to our Meeting or other Meetings in the area.

Four very fascinating and differing stories were forthcoming from Anne Brewer (her father Alfred Burgoyne), Val Rowling, (her father William Brown), Margaret Graham (her father Harold Goodwin) and Geoff Squire (his father Harold Squire). The information was mounted as a display at the time of our candlelit Meeting of Remembrance. So much detail in vertical form presented the reader with a challenge and it seemed a good idea to put the four accounts into a folder where they could be more easily read and given the attention they all deserve.

There are of course many hundreds of similar stories. If you have a connection with a CO in either of the World Wars, please consider sharing their story by passing it to Anne Brewer, Elizabeth Cooper or myself. It would be very worthwhile to enlarge the powerful testimony so far assembled.

Consideration could be given to placing the folder in the Library or Information Centre in the Meeting House in due course.

Geoff Squire

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