



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

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Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for June – 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 June	12 noon	Special Business Meeting
Mon 3 June	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)
Wed 5 June	1.30 – 4 pm	Quiet Garden afternoon at Blue Idol
Sat 8 June	12.00 – 4 pm	Sustainability Day at Blue Idol – see page 2
Sun 9 June	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)
Sat 15 June	10.30 – 4.00 pm	Regional Meeting (Guildford) – see page 2
Sun 16 June	12.00 – 12.30 pm	Enquirers' question/sharing time
Fri 21 June tbc	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sun 23 June	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Sat 29 June	10.30 – 4.00 pm	Retreat Day at Blue Idol MH – see page 2
Mon 1 July	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)
Sun 7 July	9 am	Prep meeting
Sat 13 July	tbc	Area Meeting and Workshop (Blue Idol) see page 2

JUNE'S COLLECTION is for Britain Yearly Meeting

Money donated to BYM supports all the very good work that Quakers do in many parts of the world – have a look at the website - <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work>

Sustainability Day at Blue Idol 12 – 4 pm Saturday 8 June

A chance to learn more about climate justice and how we can live more sustainably on our earth. There will be local businesses and organisations present including, for example, Sussex Green Living; West Sussex County Council Waste Management Team; Earthkind (organic grains, pasta, nuts, seeds, etc. to buy loose - bring your own containers!); Waste Not Want Not (selling household products and offering a workshop on small changes we can make at home). There will be a stall run by Friends in WWAM about Quaker action for sustainability. The day is for all the family and refreshments will be provided. You can book tickets to help give a sense of numbers, but this isn't essential: www.blueidol.org/calendar. For further information or to offer help (set up/ sitting on the Quaker stall with Audrey Garnett) please contact Eva and Sally at the Blue Idol: admin@blueidol.org.

Regional meeting 10 – 4 pm Saturday 15 June

The next Regional meeting, at Guildford Meeting House, is Neil Macdonald's drama "With Full Conviction", followed by shared lunch, discussion and contemplative exercise.

Retreat Day at Blue Idol 10.30 – 4 pm Saturday 29 June

Sustaining and Nurturing ourselves – an opportunity to take time out for yourself



The day will be facilitated by Chrissie McGinn & Richard Hewitt. There will be a short time for a guided visualisation, gentle discussion, and about three hours peaceful silence to reflect, read or write or colour, or to simply sit in the Meeting House and the garden.

Bring lunch to share. Coffee/tea and drinks will be provided. There is no charge but donations to the Blue Idol would be welcome. **To book a place or for more info** please email chrissie@wisborough.com

Workshop at Area Meeting Saturday 13 July



After Area Business Meeting in the morning there will be a workshop in the afternoon run by Kim Hope of Blue Idol Meeting and John Lynes of Hastings Meeting. The workshop will be a preparation for those planning to take part in the **Quaker 'Roots of Resistance'** action against the arms trade, alongside other faith groups, on Tuesday 3 September, at the Excel Centre, in London. There are three key elements to the action, Meeting for Worship, a collective Quaker 'craftivist' tapestry and protest singing. (<https://rootsofresistance.org.uk/>)

Bookham Open Gardens Sunday 16 June 10 – 5 pm

Our Friends, the Poultons, will be opening their garden as part of this community event. Do come along and enjoy their garden – and others – in the village of Bookham.

Impressions of Yearly Meeting

Anne Brewer writes: This is a personal response to Yearly Meeting 2019. I attended every session except, unfortunately, I had to miss the receipt of the epistles from Children and Young People's groups in the last half of the final session.

We were delighted to be joined at YM by our daughter Catherine, and see the supportive upholding she was receiving in her role as co-Clerk of the Book of Discipline Revision Committee.

The challenging parts of YM, which I will concentrate on, were the sessions on privilege, diversity, inclusivity and climate justice.

We heard how most Quakers have inbuilt, 'unearned' privileges – we are white, middle-class and educated – and this means most of us have had satisfying employment, comfortable housing and adequate finances. There was much talk of guilt and shame, but I felt this emphasis was unproductive. I preferred contributions suggesting that having realised the situation, it was our responsibility to use the 'power' our unearned privileges have given us, to address the factors which perpetuate the situation. For example we should support efforts to eradicate the underlying, often unconscious assumption, rooted in our colonial past, that somehow people with white skins are more intelligent, more worthy or more reliable than people of colour. Also we should support changing our economic system so that resources are directed towards those with less money rather than towards those with more.

Racism is BAD!!



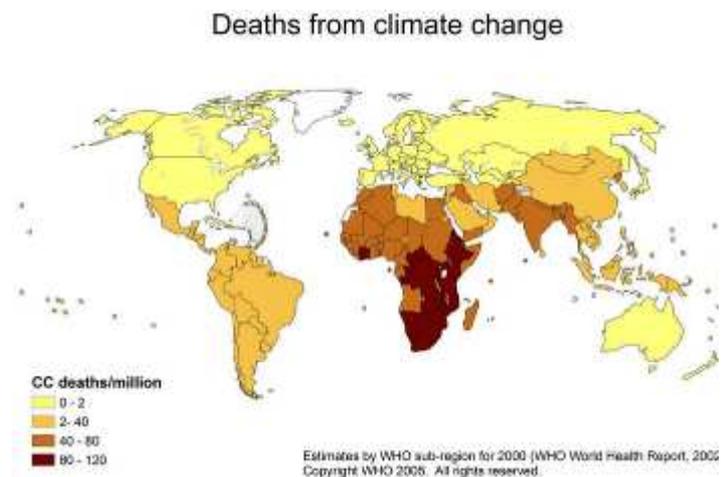
I'm Black, White, and Asian!!



Although climate change (or climate breakdown as some preferred to call it) was spoken of in connection with climate justice it was not addressed directly. As I think most of us have realised, we in the UK and elsewhere in the northern hemisphere benefitted hugely in the colonial era from exploitation of people and resources in the southern hemisphere, and we continue to benefit. Our resulting energy-intensive life styles have been one of the prime drivers of climate breakdown, but it is the people in the south who are now suffering the disastrous and growing impact.

So one thing we in the UK, and other wealthy countries, should be doing NOW is reducing the activities which contribute to climate change directly (e.g. travel – by plane especially, diet – eating red meat especially, buying unnecessary stuff, wasting gas and electricity) and indirectly through causing breakdown of the earth's eco-systems (e.g. plastic pollution, habitat destruction, pesticide use).

I realise I am a person who likes to take action and get on with things, which probably accounts for my regret that YM concentrated on the guilt and shame over the current situation being due to what we have done in the past. However there is Yearly Meeting Gathering in 2020 where the exercise will be continued and hopefully there will be more focus on what we need to do now rather than regret over the past.



Dorking Mothers Rise Up! Sunday 12 May

Our Quaker Mums – Sophie, Katy and Lucy – with their youngsters, joined the dozen or so families from Dorking on the train to London for the Mothers Rise Up march for climate action.

Sophie: My two were happy to go along (admittedly it doesn't show in the photo!!), and were really eager to make their first placards, reading 'Be a hero, get to zero' and 'Don't be a pirate and plunder our future'. They didn't quite make it to the end however, as they started to flag, stopped for some food, and then discovered the fun of climbing the bottom of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square...!

Asked what they thought of it looking back, **Christopher** felt 'there were way too many people' but **Samuel** pointed out 'that is kind of a good thing, it shows that a lot of people care about climate change.'



Samuel, Sophie and Christopher

Lucy: I asked my two what their thoughts were about the march and this is what they came up with: **Joseph** (8) I like the idea of saving the planet and being part of something and the march made me feel like that. **Rowan** (6) There were so many people there, it made me feel important about saving the planet.

Katy's boys came up with: **Ewan**: quite tiring, quite noisy too. There was quite a lot of signs. I saw one saying 'what are you up to? We've got get going?' We had to go to parliament square to talk about climate change, that was my favourite part. People came up and talked about what we should do about climate change. I'm glad I went because it's a good idea and I think it will help.



Ewan, Katy and Thomas

Thomas: it was fun. My favourite sign said 'cut methane, no more trump'. I still have the extinction rebellion flag up in my room to use on the next march.

Well done the Mums and young ones!!

June's Green Tip

Anne writes: Make your own toothpaste using a tablespoon or so of bicarbonate of soda, some sea salt and a drop or two of essential oil such as peppermint, clove or orange. The proportions of each ingredient can vary as you like. Put them all in a small dark-coloured glass pot and slowly add water – stirring with the handle of a wooden spoon or a wooden lollipop stick or toothpick works well – until you get a paste-like consistency – again this is not critical so long as some sticks on your damp toothbrush (hopefully with a bamboo handle) when you dip it in. There you are – no plastic, no artificial chemicals and no energy intensive manufacturing process. I've been using homemade toothpaste for months and the dentist hasn't complained at all!