



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

Editor: Anne Brewer
 Assistant editor: Elizabeth Cooper
 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer

May 2019
 No. 533

Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for May – 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 12 May	12.30 – 1.30 pm 2.30 – 3.30 pm	Area Business Meeting, Capel Meeting of AM Elders and Overseers
Sun 12 May	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)
Fri 17 May	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sat 18 May	2 – 4 pm	Workshop at Blue Idol (Imagining an equal world)
Sun 19 May	After MfW	Traidcraft
Sun 19 May	12.00 – 12.45	Discussion of YM theme (See page 4)
Sun 26 May	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Fri 24 to Mon 27 May – Yearly Meeting at Friends House, London.		
Sun 2 June	12.00 – 12.30pm	Enquirer's question time
Mon 3 June	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)

MAY'S COLLECTION is for Britain Yearly Meeting



Britain Yearly Meeting works on behalf of all Quakers in Britain to strengthen the Quaker community, speak out in the world and promote peace, justice, equality and sustainability. You can donate to support this work on line (www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/giving/give-money-3#heading-1) or by sending a cheque made out to Britain Yearly Meeting to C2019, FREEPOST QUAKERS including your name and address, and Quaker meeting.

NOTES FROM PM ON MAY 5TH

The article on page 3 headed EXTINCTION REBELLION (XR), explains how Sarah Freeman was involved in writing the statement, which came out of the Meetings for Worship held in the XR camp at Marble Arch. PM agreed this statement justified more publicity. **A minute was written to send to Area Meeting** on Sunday 12th suggesting that AM forward the statement to Meeting for Sufferings asking them to endorse it, so that the statement could be offered as an official Quaker one .

Traidcraft arrangements. We have no Traidcraft link person to liaise with Elizabeth Dobson. Frances and Keith Poulton will provide transport on Sunday May 19th. Rosemary and Jan Elias offered to cover August 18th and another volunteer will be needed for December 8th.

PM was delighted to learn that 10 year-old Thomas Nunn is **applying for membership**. He has read Advices and Queries and parts of QF&P and finds he agrees with it all. He has attended quite a few Young Friends events. His application will go to Area Meeting (AM) on May 12th. Overseers will find 2 suitable visitors to talk with Thomas about his decision and report back to July AM.

Premises and Finance matters. Keith Poulton gave us an update on Premises matters as follows:

- a. There are **damp patches** in the walls in the Large Hall and Ladies toilet. The source of the damp in the Large Hall is still being investigated. Once the cause is established the 2 areas will be re-plastered.
- b. Despite work to clear the drains, **the small toilet** is still getting blocked. The bamboo toilet tissue currently in use will be replaced by recycled paper tissue, to see if that improves the situation.
- c. **Replacement lattice fencing** has been erected in the back garden behind the play group's garden bed.
- d. **Mice** were discovered in the kitchen. The pest controller was called in and the mice have now all gone, their entrances having been blocked and new airbricks fitted. An in-depth cleaning of appropriate parts of the kitchen will now be undertaken.
- e. Input from members about **the garden** is welcome but no plants should be introduced without discussion with Premises Committee.
- f. Following the **cottage break-in** additional security items have been installed including lighting, and bolts on the back gate. The side gate and fencing will shortly be upgraded, and PM authorised expenditure of up to £600 on this.
- g. **Bi-parting screen.** Premises are undertaking a detailed study of the last four specialist reports to ensure full compliance with all health and safety requirements. The screen will not be opened often due to its age, but it will be opened twice for Heritage Day in September.

PM agreed to support 2 future **Outreach** events outlined by Catherine Carr.

- a. Churches Together in Dorking have asked us to host an ecumenical service on one of the 5th Sundays in the month and Outreach suggest Sunday 29th September. The service will be in the evening, in the manner of our normal Meeting for Worship.
- b. Another seeded Meeting this time on sustainability. Outreach will work with Children's Committee and Elders on the timing (sometime after the summer holidays) and content, and report back to PM.

Elders are arranging a **discussion on Privilege and Power, the theme of Yearly Meeting**, from 12 to 12.45 on Sunday May 19^t . See page 4.

Heritage Open Day will be on Saturday 21 st September from 10am to 4pm, and will be entitled "The Journey to Butterhill"

EXTINCTION REBELLION (XR) (Photos by Sarah Freeman)

Anne Brewer writes: Several members of Dorking Meeting, including Sarah Freeman and Lesley Hunka, joined in the activities of XR in London, alongside other members of the Area Meeting, including Imi Hills, who you may remember as a child in Dorking Meeting some years ago. Apparently the atmosphere was very relaxed and friendly.



My daughter, Catherine, said that a young man who attends her Meeting (Durham) was arrested and held for a while by the police, who chatted to him about what they should do about climate change!

It seems all the protest has borne fruit, as Parliament has now declared a Climate Emergency and climate change and biodiversity loss are now major topics of media attention.

Sarah has written in the West Weald Faith and Action Newsletter of her time with XR as part of the Dorking group – the photo is of this group’s banner on the first day (April 15th). Sarah was at the Meeting for Worship held in the XR camp at Marble Arch on Good Friday and was part of the group who drew up the following statement, which was finalised and agreed at a further Meeting for Worship at Marble Arch on Easter Sunday.

We are called here in a spirit of Peace, Love and Truth to bear witness to the pain of our planet. We must take heed of the warning of science, which is clear. Those children being born into the world today face a world of catastrophe, social collapse and mass extinction. This is a Truth we can discern ourselves: we see floods and wildfires, we see famines and wars and the displacement of peoples, we see the loss of glaciers and ice caps. We grieve at the loss of so many species and habitats. We uphold the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, who are at the forefront of the struggle for Climate Justice. All over the world, the poorest are bearing the brunt, but all of us will suffer. The next generation may be the last.



Quaker Meeting . Marble Arch 19 April

This is not our world to burn. "Where were you when I laid the Foundations of the Earth?" (Job 38:4). Where shall we be if we render it uninhabitable through greed and recklessness? This heedless destruction of the natural world must be halted. "We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life." (Advices & Queries 42).

As Quakers we remember and hold true to our traditions of non-violent resistance. From the start our testimony has been one of peace, of freedom of worship, and opposition to oppression and injustice. People have come together, in grief and in anguish, because the time to change is running out. We pay tribute to the commitment and bravery of Extinction Rebellion and the School Strikes for Climate. We are with you and part of you. To all those arrested, we hold you in the Light.



To governments and businesses, we urge you to act with urgency and vigour. Acknowledge the truth: this is an emergency. Act at once to reduce carbon emissions to net zero. Establish Citizens’ Assemblies to guide your actions.

To Quakers across the world, and to all churches and all faiths, we share this call for action and prayer. We all live under one sun. In the face of imminent global cataclysmic events, the time to act as one is now. As Ghandi said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

(This photo shows shows Jakki who was later arrested, and Helen Burnett, CofE vicar from Whytelyfe who joined Dorking group as no other affinity group was nearby.)

Yearly Meeting – Discussion of theme Sunday 19 May 12.00 to 12.45 pm

On Sunday 19 May after Meeting for Worship and Traidcraft shopping (!) there will be an opportunity to discuss 'privilege' – the theme of Yearly Meeting 2019. The concept of privilege – and the power that comes with it – is a sensitive subject, touching on inequalities that divide us. This includes differences in class, income, education, race and ethnic identity, gender, sexuality, age, the spectrum of disability, and personal well-being. We will use a short exercise from the *Toolkit for Action: Owning power and privilege* provided by QPSW. If you want to have a look at it beforehand it is covered in pages 3 to 6 of the Toolkit, which is available on line at <https://quaker-prod.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/store/2d220f5f64f9a3f7b9392f5fd74044aad1798e7353191eddab70f6f81f60>.

The Leith Hill Walk 2019 (Photos by Colin Brewer)



was 6 year old Ewan encouraged by his 10 year old brother Thomas!! Prevented from walking by my



Anne Brewer writes: The weather was kind, the blue bells were beautiful and 14 Friends enjoyed the annual walk from Capel to Leith Hill and, in the case of 8 Friends, back again!

The first back through the door of Capel Meeting House, having walked both there and back,

damaged ribs, I spent a lovely

afternoon at Capel with Audrey Garnett and Janet Berry-Clarke of Capel Meeting – 2 amazing nonagenarians. Many thanks to these Capel Friends for their hospitality, to Chris Kohler for leading the walk and to Martin Hunka for the wild and exciting story-telling before the walkers set off!



LETTERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

You may remember from the April Grapevine about the letters the Meeting's children wrote to Michael Gove and Claire Perry, about oil drilling and the earthquake. Well they had a reply! If you would like to read it ask Katy or Anne for a copy.

In the March Grapevine there was a copy of the Meeting's latest reply to our MP over the issue of - civilian bombing. We have now had a further reply from our MPs – a wee bit more sympathetic to our concern. Ask Anne for a copy if you can't find the one on the notice board in the Small Hall.

GREEN TIP

We desperately need to maximise our renewable energy sources. The government is not encouraging onshore wind, which could be a major contributor, believing it to be a vote loser. So the campaign group 10:10 are encouraging us all to write to our MPs to point out that three quarters of the public support onshore wind – and that over two thirds would be happy to live near turbines*. Lots of MPs don't know this – with over half of them believing onshore wind is ten times more unpopular than it really is**.

*Yougov polling on behalf of 10:10 (2018) **Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit (2018)