



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Friends' Meeting

Editors: Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman  
 Publisher: Rachel Fardon  
 Distributor: Mary Brooks

May 2012  
 No 457

**Quote for the month** is from Thomas Berry, *The Great Work*, and was in *Quaker Voices* of November 2011:

*We must feel we are supported by that same power that brought the Earth into being, that power that spun the galaxies into space, that lit the sun and brought the moon into its orbit. That is the power by which living forms grew up out of the Earth and came to a special mode of reflexive consciousness in the human. That is the force that brought us through more than a million years of wandering as hunters and gatherers; this is that same vitality that led to the establishment of our cities and inspired the thinkers, artists and poets of the ages. Those same forces are still present ... we are not isolated in the chill of space with the burden of the future upon us and without the aid of any other power.*

### Dates for your Diary

|                                |              |   |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <b>Midweek Meeting</b>         | 12.45-1.15pm | <b>Every Wednesday</b> , followed by simple lunch                                     |
| Saturday 12 May                | 10.30am      | <b>Area Meeting</b> at Reigate  |
| Sunday 13 May                  | 6.30pm       | <b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead                                 |
| Friday 18 May                  | 7.30pm       | <b>Meditation Meeting</b> at Meeting House  |
| Sunday 20 May                  | 12 noon      | <b>Creative Listening</b> at Meeting House  |
| Friday 25 May to Monday 28 May |              | <b>Yearly Meeting</b> at Friends House  |
| Saturday 26 May                | 10.00-4.30pm | <b>Area Meeting Study Tour</b> (book with Su Johnston)                                |
| Friday 1 June                  | 7.30pm       | <b>Study Group</b> at Meeting House (details page 2)                                  |
| Sunday 3 June                  | 9.00am       | <b>Preparative Meeting</b>  |
| Sunday 10 June                 | 6.30pm       | <b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead                                 |
| Friday 15 June                 | 7.30pm       | <b>Meditation Meeting</b> at Meeting House  |
| Saturday 16 June               | 11.15am      | <b>Regional Meeting</b> at Eastbourne   |
| Sunday 17 June                 | 12 noon      | <b>Creative Listening</b> at Meeting House  |
| Saturday 23 June               | 10.00-4.00pm | <b>Collection of clothing for Gatwick Detainees</b> at Meeting House (details page 4) |
| Sunday 24 June                 | 12.00-4.00pm | <b>Green Garden Picnic</b> at Meeting House   |

\*\*\*\*\*

### Notes from Preparative Meeting

#### Collections:

The **April collection**, for the Leavers, raised £76.

The **May** collection will be for Claridge House and the June Collection for Quaker Bolivia Link.

**Mid-week Meeting** collected £200 towards the new arm chairs for the Meeting Room.

Advices and Queries read - In March: At Dorking, number 34; At Leatherhead, none.  
 In April: At Dorking, none; At Leatherhead, number 8.

It was agreed that the treasurer go ahead with the application for a sustainability grant from QPSW to help towards the substantial extra cost we incurred by using sustainable materials – see page 4 for more information about this in the report by the Green Team.

The proposal by our Peace and Social Witness Committee to collect men's clothing for the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group during Refugee week (18 to 24 June) was approved, and the date of Saturday 23 June agreed. See page 4 for details.

We are not doing anything for Heritage Week this year and instead will concentrate on an event on 29 September, for the national Quaker Week, called *Who do you think we are?* See below for more details, and what you can do to help. Funding is particularly needed for publicity for this event, and it was agreed that our August collection should be in aid of this, to help provide the proposed budget of £200. Incidentally, we had received a letter from MVDC thanking us for our excellent efforts for Heritage Week over the past number of years, and saying they looked forward to our involvement again in the future!

Mary Brooks told us of plans for the Area Quaker Learning Day on Saturday October 13, when Alec Davison and Elizabeth Brown will be leading us in a workshop on 'spiritual practices'. We agreed to offer Dorking Meeting House as a venue for this event. Mary and Val Rowling will be visiting all our Local Meetings, to help us prepare for this event by discussing the newly released book *Deepening the Life of the Spirit (Resources for spiritual practice)*. They will be leading our study group on June 1 – more details below.

Finally we discussed an offer from a Simon Bond to talk to us about the work of Quaker Council for European Affairs, and decided that it would be better as part of an Area Learning Day, probably in 2013.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Spiritual Practice

Study Group. Friday 1 June at 7.30pm

How do we nourish our spiritual lives – both individually and in our Meetings? Recently some Quaker groups have been exploring this question, and a new booklet, *Deepening the life of the Spirit*, has been produced and circulated to all Meetings by Quaker Life. It gives short descriptions of different practices, and lists resources to help those wanting to learn more.

We shall be looking at this topic in our June study group. Two copies of the booklet are in our library, and photocopies of part of the Introduction and Contents are available. Do take one, and if any of it speaks to you, come along at 7.30pm on Friday 1 June, when we can share our responses and questions.

Mary Brooks

\*\*\*\*\*

The Quakers

## Who Do You Think We Are?

Saturday 29 September

This day is the first day of Quaker Week, and we are planning a day for enquirers at the Meeting House. We will need several Friends on the day, to participate in some Quaker Quest style presentations, facilitate discussion and share their own spiritual journeys. We hope to offer refreshments. This event will need a good deal of publicity, as our Meeting covers such a wide geographical area.

I am happy to co-ordinate our efforts for this event, but would really appreciate having a core group of Friends to help plan, organise and do the publicity. If anyone is willing to join a core group, or would be prepared to help in other ways, please contact me, Rachel Hope [rachelhope45@aol.com](mailto:rachelhope45@aol.com) or telephone 01372 454363



Rachel Hope

\*\*\*\*\*

## Changes of address

Veronica Mills to 6 The Almshouses, Cotmandene, Dorking RH4 2BW. 01306 898507  
Michael Brewer and family to 92 Rough Rew, Dorking RH4 2PB. 01306 500187

## Area Learning Day on Sustainability at Capel

a report by members of Capel Meeting

Prompted by Yearly Meeting's commitment in 2011, to our becoming a low carbon sustainable community, Capel Local Meeting initiated an event on sustainability, held on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012. We were given invaluable help from Dorking Meeting, by Anne and Colin Brewer in particular. People in the area, interested in the subject, were invited to participate, which led to an enthusiastic response.



Capel Meeting House

The day started at 10.30am, with a talk at the Meeting House. Our speaker, Sunniva Taylor from QPSW, was inspirational. After taking as her starting point Margaret Atwood's apposite story *Time Capsule on a Dead Planet*, she moved to the global and ethical implications of individual and governmental decisions, in areas such as wars, economics, reckless consumption, and destruction of natural resources. She believed, however, that these problems should be addressed positively, suggesting actions such as starting locally based projects; making our voices heard at social and political levels, or supporting campaigns. We were encouraged to take steps, however small, towards long-term goals. Practical advice followed, with questions and contributions from the floor. During refreshments there was a tangible sense of excitement in the Meeting House.

We then moved to the Village Hall, where the ladies of Capel Parish Church, ably assisted by Michael Fitz-Gibbon, provided us with delicious home-made soups, with organic bread from 'Crumbs of Capel'.

The stalls in the hall, set up by local groups, covered a range of sustainable initiatives. These were: Action Surrey, Transition Dorking, Transition Horsham, Crumbs of Capel, Village Greens, A Hand with your Land, Amnesty International, Fair Trade, Traidcraft, Freecycle, Temple Lane Allotments, Cafe Real, Ethical Investment and a Quaker bookstall. Later, each stallholder gave an interesting talk on his or her speciality.

We have already received kind offers of help to create a community orchard in Capel Meeting House garden, and we look forward to closer links with local people in furthering sustainable projects. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to such an enjoyable and productive day.

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Library Books

Here, with a brief review of each, are the five latest additions to our library.

*God Just Is – Approaches to silent worship* by Curt Gardner. An inspiring account of a Quaker's personal spiritual journey, in which he shares the spiritual practices he has found helpful to deepen and enrich the silent worship of the Quaker meeting.

*Deepening the Life of the Spirit (Resources for spiritual practice)* compiled by Ginny Wall for Quaker Life. Mentioned in Mary Brooks' piece on page 2 about the June Study group.

*Whispers of Faith (Young Friends share their Quaker experiences)*. A fascinating insight into the thinking of Young Friends today. Honest and sincere writing, in prose and poetry.

*The Friendly Guide to Quakerism*, produced by Ireland Yearly Meeting. A colourful and accessible guide to most aspects of Quakerism – worship, history, testimonies and faith in action. A few sections are focused on Ireland, but most of it is applicable generally.

*The Peaceable Kingdom (The Holy Experiment 1754-1755)* by Jan de Hartog. The second volume of this gripping historical novel focuses on the founding of Pennsylvania. The first volume, *The Children of Light*, about George Fox and Margaret Fell, is also in our library and an excellent read.

## Golden Gutters?

In view of the substantial extra cost (£7000) involved in using recycled aluminium rather than uPVC to replace our worn out cast iron gutters, the green team feel that an explanation is due!

Here are the quotes for the types of guttering: Cast iron - £14,045; 100% recycled Aluminium - £11,290; uPVC - £4,120, and here are the four major reasons for our recommendation to Premises and Finance Committee.



- Sustainability in use, or the expected lifetime of the product. Aluminium guttering is expected to last 40-60 years but uPVC only 20-30 years.
- Sustainability of the material – uPVC is a petroleum-based product and, although officially recyclable, is hardly ever recycled. When it is recycled, it is downgraded, whereas aluminium can be recycled indefinitely with no loss of quality.
- Now for something some people may not be aware of – the embedded energy in the product! This is the amount of energy that has been used to produce the material from its raw ingredients. Excessive energy use is causing a lot of our global problems. Recycling aluminium is relatively low energy and, for the same weight of material, uPVC has about three times more embedded energy. They are both lightweight, so this benefit of aluminium is a genuine plus for the environment.
- Finally, a major concern over uPVC is that its manufacture and disposal causes the production of dioxins, which are serious environmental pollutants and highly toxic (see e.g. info from the World Health Organisation <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs225/en/>)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Refugee Week activities

A Clothes Collection for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG) will be held on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 9.30am until midday**, with sifting, sorting, and bagging up taking place in the afternoon. We are inviting our friends from Churches Together in Dorking to make donations too. **Volunteers to help on the day would be welcome.**

### What is needed:

- Casual clothes for men, from size Small (or age 15 years upwards) to XXXL.
- Shoes - including flip flops and trainers.

Please note that the men are mostly young, and GDWG do not give out clothes in bad condition.

Friends at Dorking may not be an ideal age for donating clothes (!) but many have sons and grandsons they can ask. Just think how many unwanted pairs of Christmas present socks we might be able to put to good use!

If you are unable to bring your donation on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, then they could be left on a Sunday earlier in the month, and a P&SW committee member will take them away for storage. I'll ask Denise the warden to let me know if there are donations to remove, so that the Meeting House does not become cluttered. (But please bear with us if donations exceed expectations!)

### RefuTea

St Martin's, via Elizabeth Dobson, have agreed to run a RefuTea on the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> June, between 10am and midday, at the Christian Centre. If you want to know more about this way of raising funds for the Refugee Council, see [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/refutea](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/refutea).

We'd be delighted if anyone felt able to make a cake, buns, biscuits etc. to sell, and take them to the Christian Centre on the morning. It would be even more delightful if these were using a recipe from overseas, and came priced per slice/item. And if you aren't able to bake, then do pop in for your elevenses, perhaps after dropping your load of clothes at the Meeting House!

An area of the Christian Centre lounge will be set aside for story telling, from "far away and over the seas". If you know a storyteller, or have a story to tell, please let us know. 'Us' in the first instance is Lois Lodge, 01306 885250, [lois.lodge@btinternet.com](mailto:lois.lodge@btinternet.com), but the committee (Sue Bond, Lesley Hunka and Sarah Freeman) is all ears, to hear of offers for help and involvement in either/both the above events.