



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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**Quote for the month** comes from G.K.Chesterton – I came across it in the book *Freedom of Simplicity* by Richard Foster

*There are two ways to get enough: one is to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> followed by simple lunch
Sunday 14 April	After MfW	<b>Meeting walk</b> – details page 4
Sunday 14 April	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 20 April	All day	<b>Visit to Quaker Service memorial</b>
Sunday 21 April	Postponed	<b>Young People's Outing</b>
<b>Wednesday 24 April</b>	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting House**
Saturday 27 April	9.30am to 4pm	<b>Woodbrooke-on-the-Road</b> in Meeting House
Sunday 28 April	Details page 4	<b>Leith Hill walk</b> from Capel Meeting House
Sunday 5 May	9.00am	<b>Preparative Meeting</b> in Meeting House
Monday 6 May	8.30-9.00pm	<b>Healing Prayer Group</b> in Friends' own homes
Sunday 12 May	After MfW	<b>Area Business Meeting</b> at Reigate Meeting House

\*\* Note changed evening for Meditation Meeting

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There is no Preparative Meeting in April, but here is a bit of collection news:

**The collection during March for Campaign Against the Arms Trade**, as chosen by our Peace and Social Witness Committee, raised £105.

**Midweek Meeting** raised £200 for the **Dorking and Leatherhead CAB**. In March, Midweek Meeting contributed towards the Lent Lunches collection for Christian Aid, and we had this message from Elizabeth Dobson, the organiser - *I'm delighted to say that donations passed the £800 mark this year, and in addition the Wednesday Meeting at the Quakers made a generous gift of £100, so a total of £917.53 is going to Christian Aid to further their work.*

The collection in **April and May** is for **Claridge House**.

Apologies for incorrect information last month about the April collection! Here is an extract from the Claridge House website ([www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk](http://www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk)):-

*Claridge House is a sanctuary available to anyone who is seeking healing, rest and renewal .... The emphasis is on spirituality and not on religion, so that those from any path are welcome to share in the peaceful life of the house in an atmosphere of understanding and love.*

*Stay with us for a relaxing break, join one of our courses associated with healing, including activities such as music, painting, crafts, yoga, and circle dancing, or join a led day retreat or arrange your own ...*



*Claridge House is now well into its second half-century. We need your support to ensure we can continue our valuable work.*

## Area Meeting at Capel

Capel Meeting House was full for the Meeting for Worship on March 17<sup>th</sup> and it was a joy to have Muriel Dale with us. She must be one of the oldest Friends around, being in her 104<sup>th</sup> year, and it was very special to have her minister to the Meeting. Her family has presented Capel Meeting with a pictorial record of her life, which is fascinating – do have a look next time you are there.

Not so joyful in the following Area Business Meeting was the decision to close down Oxted Meeting for Worship. We are all asked to uphold the members of that Meeting as they seek to find the best way forward on their spiritual journeys. Some are transferring to other Quaker Meetings, but others are giving their Quakerism a rest for a while. Our Elders and Overseers will ensure that care and support is available to those who need it.

Anne Brewer

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### Chris Elias

Friends have been saddened by the sudden death of Christopher Elias last month. He was an occasional attender at Dorking Meeting, but visited more often in recent years – often with his dear mother Nancy.

Chris was a hard-working lawyer who started his career at Tuck and Mann in Leatherhead. He worked for a number of firms, and for a time ran his own company, Elias Freeman, with offices overlooking the Thames in London.

Chris matched his legal skills with an eclectic mix of talents ranging from music to acting to writing. He was an accomplished guitar-player, and music played a big part of his social life when entertaining friends at The Shippen, the family home in Pilgrims Way, Westhumble, which was once owned by his grandparents, Edgar and Evelyn Harvey.

He was an active member of the Dorking Dramatic and Operatic Society, and earlier with the Westcott Players. He took great pleasure in writing, and recalled a happy childhood in his memoirs "Keeping It Bouncing", which he completed shortly before he died.

Above all else, Chris was a family man. He believed passionately in loyalty and closeness in family life. After a skilfully-engineered first meeting on a busy main road in Dorking, he married Marta Vernaza-Villegas in Colombia in 1978. They had two children – Rosana, now an environmental consultant in London, and Nicolas, a promising architect. They both delivered a moving eulogy at their father's funeral at St Michael's Church in Mickleham.

Chris was always at the heart of family celebrations. He was proud of his Dutch roots, and hugely enjoyed the South American connections built from his marriage to Marta. He loved to travel and boasted an almost obsessive knowledge of airlines, schedules, and flight paths of the planes that flew high over The Shippen.

His work ethic and his serious approach to business was evidenced by his smart weekday appearance. This was balanced by a real sense of fun. He was a great raconteur, and his joke-telling was legendary.

Chris was diagnosed with cancer only shortly before he died. After a brief spell in East Surrey hospital, he returned home to The Shippen. He died peacefully, literally in the arms of his wife and children, in the sitting room of his beloved home – with a roaring fire in the grate, and his favourite music filling the air.

Robin and Sally Elias

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### Recycling – stamps

Please continue to bring in used stamps – foreign or UK commemorative, but not the standard UK 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class - and put them in the box under the shelves in the Information Centre. Phyllis Russell is diligently trimming them as required and sending them up to Friends House, where they raise funds for Quaker work. You could also bring in your plastic milk bottle tops in preference to putting them in your green bin, as Phyllis collects these for a local scout group.



## Who will you make peace with?

About the Peace One Day initiative:

*"I was basically concerned about what was going in the world. I couldn't understand the starvation, the destruction, the killing of innocent people. I mean making sense of those things is a very difficult thing to do."*



Jeremy Gilley is an actor turned filmmaker, who in the late 1990s became preoccupied with questions about the fundamental nature of humanity and the issue of peace. He decided to explore these through the medium of film and to promote one day of peace every year across the globe.

Peace One Day, a non-profit organisation, was founded in 1999. In 2001 Peace One Day's efforts were rewarded when the member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted the first ever annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence on 21 September – Peace Day. By 2012 280 million people (4% of the world's population) knew about Peace One Day. Who will you make peace with in 2013? - Peace One Day aims to reach 3 billion people by 2016. For more about PEACE ONE DAY visit the website: <http://peaceoneday.org/>



**Dorking Quakers** met to explore what they might do on the International Day of Peace (21<sup>st</sup> September 2013), which supports the Peace One Day focus for 2013 of **Who will you make peace with?** Three themes emerged, and we (P&SW Committee and Outreach Committee) hope that future planning and negotiations can bring them to fruition.

### One Day One Dove

This revolves around running a workshop and crèche at the Meeting House on the morning of September 21<sup>st</sup>, to make origami doves. Afterwards we could do a Peace walk around the town, to hang the doves e.g. from trees. We're going to see how many other people, e.g. schools, nurseries, we can involve in this. And Martin Hunka is being asked to be the peace story teller.

### Faith coalition

We would like to work with other churches on praying for peace, and Lois is to take this idea to Churches Together in Dorking. It could also involve a Peace walk from one church to another, or to hang the Peace doves.

### Peace Meal

The idea of a peace meal is to share your way to a more peaceful world. Sally is discussing with Transition Dorking whether they would like to run one of their pop-up restaurants on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

There is obviously a lot more to do to make the most of these ideas, and we're going to need to get the right sort of publicity out in advance. So if you want to help or be involved, please let Catherine Carr or me know.

Lois Lodge

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## News from Meeting for Sufferings

who meet to discern the ways forward for all of Britain Yearly Meeting – that is all of our members. Members of Dorking Meeting are asked to pass the following questions through their minds.

- **How have you discerned the right way forward in your own life?**
- **What experience have you had of Quaker meetings being guided by the spirit when making decisions?**
- **What do you value about the way Friends work together?**

Meeting for Sufferings are aware that many of our ways of working/planning/worshipping for business are changing according to ongoing changes in our culture. This is not new – for example, our key book, 'Quaker Faith and Practice', has always been updated every few years to remain contemporary in its approach.

The above questions are important considerations for our local meetings and, in turn, Area Meeting to consider before Yearly Meeting (May 24-27) this year. Respond in person or by email ([azdak@btopenworld.com](mailto:azdak@btopenworld.com)) or phone (01306 887738) to Sarah Freeman by 7<sup>th</sup> May this year.

Sarah Freeman

## Two opportunities for walking with friends!

### A spring(?) walk - Sunday April 14th



The spring walk is usually to see bluebells but it is likely that this date will be too early given the cold weather. When I walked around White Down on the 1st April, the leaves were just emerging so we may find an alternative walk. We are planning to have lunch for those interested at the Abinger Hatch on Abinger Common (reasonable range of lighter meals) - booking advisable so please let Catherine or Colin Brewer know in advance.

Lunch would be at 12.45 at the pub; the walk would start at 2.15. Please let me or Colin Brewer know of your interest and we can keep you informed.

Catherine Carr

### And how about the 2013 Capel/Leith Hill Walk?

Sunday 28 April is the day – maybe the bluebells will be out by then! The walk remembers Edward Bennet (1831-1908), a Quaker who was a farm pupil near Capel and regularly walked to the top of Leith Hill and to every Monthly Meeting...

We've been walking from Capel Meeting House to the top of Leith Hill, and back, since the 1970s. It's a good day, and we'll provide lifts back from Leith Hill if you don't want to do there and back.

Bring your own lunch.

Approximate timings:

- 11.00 Meeting for Worship, Capel Meeting House
- 12.00 Lunch (Bring Your Own)
- 12.30 Announce Cars for Leith Hill
- 12.40 Cars leave for Leith Hill
- 13.20 Start walking
- 17.00 Tea and cake at Capel Meeting House.



Friends on Leith Hill walk 2004

Chris Kohler

## Reflections ...

### FRIENDS

The very early Quakers were initially called Children of Light but the word 'friends' was also in use from the very beginning.

It is thought that this usage may have come from John 15.v14. Jesus is speaking to his disciples, that band of his very closest friends, "This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.....You are my friends....".

So did the earliest Quakers think of themselves as friends of Jesus? After all, the disciples were a bunch of rough hewn men, full of faults and doubts. They scattered when there was a sign of trouble. When Peter was challenged, he denied that he even knew Jesus. Judas tried to force him to start a revolution against the occupying force, the Romans, by identifying him. They quarrelled among themselves as to who was the most important.

But knowing Jesus and absorbing his teachings transformed them, just as those very early Quakers were transformed by the belief that the light of Christ is within everyone.

Rachel Hope (for the Elders)