



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month is from the Bible, Micah 6:8.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday followed by simple lunch
Sunday 14 July	1.15 to 2.15pm	Area Business Meeting at Dorking, after lunch provided by Dorking Friends (note change of venue)
Sunday 14 July	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 19 July	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Sat 20 to Sun 21 July		Away Day/weekend at Claridge House
Friday 2 Aug	7.00pm	Study Group - meeting and eating (see page 2)
Monday 5 Aug	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group in Friends' own homes
Sunday 18 Aug	9.00am onwards	Breakfast at the Meeting House (see page 2)
Sunday 18 Aug	After MfW	Traidcraft in Meeting House

Notes from Preparative Meeting

The collection in **June and July** is for **the work of Britain Yearly Meeting**. **Midweek Meeting** raised £200 for the work of the Dorking Street Pastors (See page 3).

Advices and Queries read. Dorking: May 12, 26 and 33. June None. None at Leatherhead.

We had 4 items to consider from **Premises and Finance Committee**:

Letting Rates for 2014. We usually raise our rates annually by approximately the rate of inflation. However, rates for 2013 were increased by substantially more than this, due to the decision to set rates in whole pounds and abolish fifty pence increments. We agreed with the suggestion that the rates remain unchanged for 2014, and our hirers are informed that rates will increase in 2015.

The Cottage Skylight is leaking and needs replacing. We agreed the request for a budget of up to £400 to carry out this work.

Access to the Meeting House. At the request of the Clerk, our Overseers carried out research into the needs and problems of elderly and infirm Friends with regard to accessing our Meeting House. The Overseers presented a minute summarising the results of their research, and after a long and Friendly discussion, we agreed that the provision of a handrail up the front driveway slope would be an advantage to Friends, visitors and users of the building. The Committee were asked to go ahead with the provision of such a handrail, and with the installation of improved outside lighting, and with the installation of a hard grid under the grass to enable cars to turn on the grass in all weathers. A total budget of £5,000 was agreed, and it was accepted that savings may need to be made by deferring some lower priority work in the maintenance schedule. There was some concern about car drivers negotiating the restricted space without damaging the cars or the handrail. However, the handrail could be placed in the concrete by the side of the tarmac instead



of in the tarmac itself, to give maximum room for cars. Warning signs could be erected and a notice to say that we cannot be held responsible for any damage to cars.

Playgroup. There are continuing problems with Playgroup parents arriving late by car and impeding access for Friends attending Wednesday Meeting. It was suggested that increasing the gap between the end of Playgroup and the start of Wednesday Meeting by ten minutes might largely solve the problem. However, Playgroup are unable to end any earlier due to funding being dependent on a minimum number of hours for the morning session, and after consulting those Friends who attend Wednesday Meeting, it is clear that a later start time for Wednesday Meeting would not work. So there is no solution to the problem yet.

Membership of the Living Witness Project In July 2012 we agreed to join the Living Witness Project for one year at a cost of £55, which was kindly paid by a Friend, and to review it again after twelve months. Much of the work of this project has been taken over by QPSW Central Committee, Woodbrooke and The Canterbury Commitment Group, and it is now focusing on how the Quaker view can be usefully shared with other groups working on sustainability. We agreed not to continue with this subscription.

Performance of *The Perfect City* Martin Coslett from Betchworth, who is not a Quaker, has written a musical called *The Perfect City*, about the dream of William Penn, reviewed in The Friend in March. He would like to stage the production in our Meeting House in May or June 2014. We agreed to offer the use of our Meeting House for one day free of charge, noting that the sale of tickets would nowhere near cover the production costs, and to ask Martin for advice on the issue of sale of tickets, licences etc.

A Lad in a Manger Subject to the approval of Area Meeting, we agreed to the suggestion by Su Johnston that at November Area Meeting, to be held in Dorking, we put on a 'pantomime nativity' called A Lad in a Manger, performed mainly by Dorking Friends. Su was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

A Friendly Breakfast and a Friendly Supper

After discussing it at a recent study group, we are going to give it a go – a 9am onwards **breakfast** for all-comers at the Meeting House on Sunday **18 August**. So, you can be at Meeting not only hearts and minds prepared but also having eaten with Friends beforehand.

Cereals, muesli, fruit, bread, toast, marmalade etc, teas, coffee and juice will be on offer, and if there are any other particular requests do let me know.

We'll see how it goes. If Friends enjoy a pre-Meeting breakfast, we'll do it again, perhaps in 6 months' time.

Then on Friday **2 August** Friends are invited to "meeting and eating". Sally Elias is going to talk about Transition Dorking. Arrive at 7.00pm for a **light supper**, and Sally's talk will start at 7.30pm over the coffee.

Romy Elias and Rachel Hope

Picnic Fun in the Meeting Garden

As a late arrival at the Meeting Picnic on Sunday afternoon, 30 June, I was absolutely enchanted from the moment I stepped into the garden.



Small children and babies were smiling and laughing and were enthusiastic about their picnic meals and playing with their parents, grandparents and other Friends. The sun was shining and there were all-age Quakers staying for lunch which meant a pleasant mix of conversation, napping, visiting and playing. Then the parachute came out and was used for all sorts of in-the-round games including running underneath and being wrapped up inside a rainbow parcel.

Eventually the heat got too much and children stripped off and played under the tap and in

improvised paddling pools. When everyone was sun-drenched or water-drenched, it was time to go home.

Thank you Trish, Bob and Anne for making the afternoon go so happily.

Sarah Freeman (Photos by Colin Brewer)



“Who will you make peace with?”

We’ve just had Armed Forces Day with a military parade through Dorking, and many other celebrations. So what are we going to do to redress the balance, and witness for peace? The plan is to mark the International Day of Peace (Saturday 21st September) by joining the Peace One Day www.peaceoneday.org efforts to prompt people to think about “Who will you make peace with?”

Our mothers have asked primary schools where their children attend (or where they have contacts) for a peace assembly in the week running up to the 21st September, and they have offered to run dove-making as an activity at the nurseries where our children go. Martin Hunka has agreed to be a story-teller for the assemblies. This seems to be moving ahead nicely – we have been well received.



Some of our Young Friends with sample doves. Photo by Gayle

The basic programme for the day is as follows:

Timing	Event	Help needed
Morning	One Day One Dove – dove-making for children accompanied by a parent at the Meeting House, followed by hanging them in the town.	Come and help the children make doves, or make your own, and be part of the walk of witness to places the doves will be hung.
Afternoon	Peace vigil at the United Reformed Church (URC), being led and organised by Quakers.	Be a witness for peace & or help with the organisation of the vigil.
	A stand in St Martin’s walk where people can make a dove &/or write a post-it note about “Who will you make peace with?” (This has tbc as a venue)	Man the stand; talk to people.
Evening	Peace concert and shared Peace Meal at the URC. Concert in two parts – an open mic session, and then the singing of part of The Armed Man. The choir element is being organised by Paul Gough (minister for Crossways) and Judith Flint (wife of URC minister).	Offer your services for the choir. Invite musicians you know to perform at the open mic session. Come and help in the kitchen for the Peace Meal.

There are complications on the 21st because there is a stage of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race going through Dorking at lunchtime. But this may be a huge opportunity to reach lots of people, rather than a threat to our plans. Sally is doing our publicity, and she is sure to make the most of the potential on offer. Indeed she’s submitted the initial press release to The Dorking Advertiser.

Churches Together in Dorking are working with us, and we want to extend the invitation for involvement to other organisations and people.

If you aren’t around on the 21st September you can still spread the message to friends and family about Peace One Day (www.peaceoneday.org) and/or have your own peace meal, or watch the live Peace One Day concert on Youtube.

For more information, or if you want to be involved, contact Lois Lodge on 01306 885250 or lois.lodge654@btinternet.com. It would be good to know we have your support.

Lois Lodge

CTD News re Street Pastors (SPs)

Training of SPs, who will be out at night in Dorking to provide support to mainly young people on the street, has now commenced. There will be a commissioning service, probably on Saturday evening, 28 September. All are welcome to attend, and after this date SPs will join the nightlife of Dorking for the first time (in their capacity as SPs!).

Meanwhile, for anyone interested in the project, there is to be a picnic on Box Hill on Sunday, 21 July at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information phone Lyn Groves on 01306 898339.

Change of contact details

Nigel and Sue Bond's new phone number is 01372 229 125

A bit of history

Colin Brewer received a request through our website from Ontario, Canada, for a copy of a poem published in the Grapevine of May 1970!! He tracked a copy down - in Friends House library - and now has a copy of the poem to forward to Canada. I thought you would like to see it - it was written by Alice Seeley Harris on her 100th birthday. Alice and her husband are well-known for their work in the Congo, Africa, and this person in Canada is writing a book about her. Alice is buried in Ifield burial ground.

REFLECTIONS at 100

One Sabbath morn I woke at dawn
And silently I stole downstairs
Lest I should other folks disturb
Whose greater need of sleep was theirs.
I strolled along the garden paths
Sub-conscious I was not alone,
The flowers gave out a lovelier scent,
The birds a sweeter song.
I sat down on the garden seat,
Admired the distant view,
And then began to ask myself
What is this life about?
Why am I here? It's not my choice,
I did not ask to come,
But since you're here, my mentor said,
It is your choice which path you tread;
The broad, the smooth, the pleasant one;
With self-indulgence day by day.
Or life's steep climb with twists and turns,
Where some have fallen by the way,
'Twill be your lot to lift them up
And get them on their feet again.

And when your strength is not enough
I'll walk beside and bear you up.
You'll bind the wounds and nurse the sick
And ease the sufferers of their pain,
The memories of that Sabbath morn
Stayed with me down the years.
Full four score years have passed since then,
And as I look down life's long road
That selfsame voice still speaks to me.
"Twas not by your own strength you climbed
For oft you found it not enough,
But I stood by and bore you up;
From perils oft I rescued you,
Averted dangers threatening you;
So you may trust me to the end,
Your lord and saviour and your friend."

A.S.H

Reflections ...

Equality in Spirituality

On the Friday evening of Yearly Meeting 2013, Roy Stephenson spoke on 'Trust in Spirit'.

One thread running through this talk was that we all are equal in our spirituality and we should respect the insights that arise from others in discernment. He reminded us that "Everyone of us can hear God"... directly and that.. "we are at the core of our being all equal because [we are] equally loved by God..".

Roy applied equality to discernment saying that we needed humility and courage to lay self aside and make space for the Divine to do its work. He spoke about the discipline needed and a willingness to change, which he said was the recognition that there is a deep wisdom that all of us may equally draw upon. He said that trusting in the Spirit to make things clear as we worship is fundamental to our way of faith. It is part of our witness to the equality we say comes from and expresses God. He said if we did not do this we are not practising Quakerism. Roy challenged us further that "We cannot live adventurously together in the Spirit if we act as if we alone know to where the Spirit is taking us - that is neither equal, nor Spirit-led".

Equality is such an intrinsic Quaker value. I remember the British Quaker welcome for the anti-discrimination legislation enacted from the 1970s onwards, including the Race Relations and Sex Discrimination Acts. Treating others equally is to us so obviously morally and spiritually right, and - as Roy sets out - this principle applies just as much to how we nurture our spirituality together as a Quaker community.

Romy Elias, for the Elders