



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month is from the sayings of Socrates.

True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday followed by simple lunch
Friday 28 June	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Sunday 30 June	12noon-3pm	Picnic - see below and note change of date
Monday 1 July	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group in Friends' own homes
Friday 5 July	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House on Fairtrade
Saturday 6 July	10am - 1pm	Woodbrooke-on-the-Road follow-up - see page 2
Sunday 7 July	9am	Preparative Meeting in Meeting House
Sunday 7 July	2.15-5.00pm	Meeting walk on Ranmore - see below
Sunday 14 July	12noon to 1pm	Area Business Meeting at Dorking (change of venue)
Sunday 14 July	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sat 20 to Sun 21 July		Away Day/Weekend at Claridge House

The collections in April and May raised £95 for Claridge House. The collection in June and July is for Britain Yearly Meeting.

Walks and Picnics

Two summer activities to enjoy:

A picnic in the Meeting House garden - Sunday 30 June, 12noon to 3pm.

There will be parachute games - weather permitting - and other fun activities for the children. Also ample opportunity for grown-ups to chat and enjoy watching the young ones. We have invited our playgroup families to join us if they wish. Contributions to the picnic would be very welcome - contact **Trish Humphreys or Anne Brewer**.

A walk around Ranmore Common - Sunday July 7, finishing with a picnic tea

The walk will start at 2.15 and tea will be at 4 - 4.15. All welcome to join us for this; we will be in the big field. If we are lucky we will see orchids on the slopes of the hill by the footpath. Please contact **Catherine Carr or Colin Brewer** for more information or to enquire about transport.



Photo from our May Meeting walk round Friday Street.



(People may have been wondering where I've been on a Sunday morning - I've been tending my bees in the apiary at Newlands Corner where they now live! There is excellent training there every Sunday morning, which meant missing Meeting. However, I've passed my basic exam and am currently working on breeding some additional queens, so it was worth it - Catherine Carr).

Family Day Fun at Horsham Park



A thoroughly enjoyable occasion was shared by young and old on Sunday May 19th in Horsham Park, a venue offering superb sports and leisure facilities for children and adults. Many of those attending started the day indulging themselves in the indoor and outdoor heated swimming and leisure pools.

Then, on returning to dry land, the swimmers soon bonded with the other families enjoying the extensive facilities in the Park, a haven of green space including a

lake, trees, sports fields and a maze. But what occupied most of the children's time was sharing in the large play area furnished with a vast range of enjoyable challenges. In



between their diverse exertions, offspring kept re-energising themselves by joining the adults in the shared picnic lunch.

To put metaphorical icing on the cake and rather contrary to forecasts, the weather was just perfect. If in some

way we could organize similar conditions for next year, should this hugely pleasurable get-together become an annual feature? In the meantime we hope to encourage more WWAM families to join us in what, by general consensus, was a most enjoyable event.



Bob and Trish Humphreys

Follow-up to Woodbrooke-on-the-Road visit – Saturday July 6

After the Woodbrooke-on-the-Road event at Dorking Meeting House on 27 April, Simon Ross, our facilitator, offered to return, without charge, to explore again and deeper, how we may individually and collectively respond with head and heart and soul to maintain the beauty and variety of the natural world.

In Simon's words:

I'd really just like to provide a space for Friends to further articulate their own spiritual responses, and for there to be some discussion around those to try and tease out as much as we can. I'd like this to focus on the positive, that which draws us deeper into the light. I have some questions that it may be helpful for Friends to consider in advance along the lines of:

1. *How do you face the pain of knowing how much damage we are doing to our planet?*
2. *What strength can you draw from your Quaker faith?*
3. *Do you draw inspiration from the Bible, God or Jesus Christ?*
4. *Are there other writings that move you?*
5. *How does the natural world help or inspire you. Do you see God at work here?*
6. *How does this flow through to your daily lives?*

Overall I hope the day may help us all to better understand and respond to the challenges we face.

All Friends are invited to join this follow-up session on Saturday July 6 in Dorking Meeting House from 10am to 1pm followed by a shared lunch. If you are interested in coming, please ask Anne Brewer for details of the proposed programme.



Area Meeting Away Day/Weekend

The Away Day is planned for **Saturday July 20th** at Claridge House with the following programme:

9.45am – 10am	Claridge House quiet time
10am – 10.30	Welcome and refreshments
10.30am – 12.30	A creative session on 'hands', from the Appleseed workbook, led by Anne Brewer
12.30pm – 1.30	LUNCH (either bring your own, or order lunch – see below)
1.30pm – 3pm	A workshop session on Living Lovingly led by Val Rowling
3pm – 3.30	Tea with cake



3.30pm onwards will be a time to talk, amuse ourselves, tell stories, play games, sing, dance

You can if you wish stay at Claridge House for the Friday night or the Saturday night or the whole weekend – see below for the various costs for these options.

Please give Su Johnston your name by JULY 1st if you are attending at all.

Tell David or Kathy at Claridge House if you are going to stay for Friday and/or Saturday night; or if you want to have vegetarian buffet at Saturday lunch time.

Su Johnston 01306 640327; suj@f2s.com
David and Kathy 01342 832150; www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk

Costs:

Saturday only, bringing your own lunch - £10
Saturday only with vegetarian buffet - £25

If you want to stay at Claridge House, then:

Two-night stay (full board - 3pm Fri. to Sun. lunch) - £155
One-night stay Friday (full board – 3pm Fri. to 5pm Sat.) - £75
One-night stay Saturday (full board 10am Sat. to Sun. lunch) - £90

Su Johnston

Library News

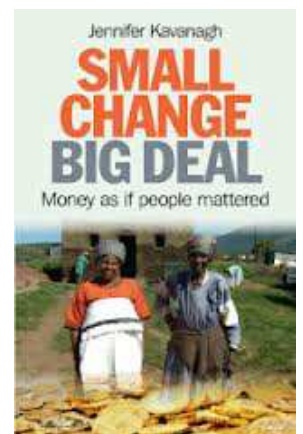
There hasn't been room in the Grapevine for library news for some time, so here is a list of books which haven't had a mention. Do borrow one and make your librarians happy!

We have bought the following:

New Light - 12 Quaker voices edited by Jennifer Kavanagh (SQ.89)
God and Decision Making - a Quaker approach by Jane Mace (RQ.124)
Small Change Big Deal - money as if people mattered by Jennifer Kavanagh (I.4.25)
Living the Questions - The wisdom of progressive Christianity by David Felton (RC.60)
Twelve Quakers and Truth by Quaker Quest 2013 (SQ.90)
Twelve Quakers and Faith by Quaker Quest 2009 (SQ.91)

And the following were donated:

The Quakers - The American Religious Experience by Jean K- Williams (HQ.74)
Women and Quakerism in 17th Century by Christine Trevett (HQ.75)
Two weeks in May - Concentration Camp; and FAU by C Barnard (HQ.76)
Listening for the Voice of Truth by Patty Levering (RB.48)



Rachel Fardon and Anne Brewer

Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting, 24 – 27 May

To all Friends everywhere,

We send you our loving greetings as we come to the end of our Yearly Meeting. We have gathered as a community of Friends of all ages, in worship, reflection, and relaxation. In our opening session, we were inspired by responses from Friends throughout Britain to queries about discernment; we now write to Friends throughout the world to share our explorations.

“Trust me, I’m a Quaker” was the title of the young people’s programme, and this phrase has challenged us all. Some years into major changes in the organisation of our Yearly Meeting, we have reflected on our Quaker decision-making processes. Discernment is a discipline; it requires time, effort, trust, and practice. To engage in it fully, we need to let go of our own notions and preconceptions and pray with humility, “not my will but thine be done”. In a culture that values speed, our Quaker methods may seem slow, but they enable us to listen to and follow the guidance of the Spirit. Do we exercise enough patience and resist our desire for easy answers? Patient listening eventually leads to a feeling of rightness as a decision is reached; bringing our uncertainties into the presence of God is part of the search for truth.

Trusteeship is an important and evolving form of service within our Religious Society in Britain. Being a trustee and working with the structures of trusteeship is often challenging. We have heard, and held tenderly, stories from Friends who have direct experience of this work. We are all entrusted with gifts and with different aspects of the Society’s life and witness. How can we best support one another in using our gifts for the good of all? How can we recognise and empower each other’s service? Together, how can we help to heal our fractured world?

Our processes are precious but also fragile, vulnerable and risky. They take time, they can cause discomfort, and they can frustrate us. We sometimes make decisions without fully knowing where they will take us. Sometimes we get things wrong, and we must be willing to learn from our mistakes. Our struggles with discernment may not easily be resolved, but these very struggles can bring us blessings. We need not be afraid of confronting issues where the way forward is not clear or where Friends are not in unity. We trust in that Spirit which guides us into all Truth. Thomas Kelly describes this trust as “walking with a smile into the dark”.

In large and small groups, and in our personal encounters with other Friends, we need to practise deep listening to one another and to the promptings of love and truth. Being open about our decisions, and being prepared to talk about them, makes it easier for those physically absent from our meetings for business to trust that we have been led by the Spirit.

In the Swarthmore Lecture, Gerald Hewitson told the story of his personal journey, which took him from the barren landscape of his childhood to finding God’s love and acceptance. This was the spiritually transforming experience of the early Quakers. In our business method and in our discernment, Friends are together on a pilgrimage of hope. We continue to follow our Inward Teacher, sometimes falteringly, sometimes confidently, but always in company with those who have travelled this way before us and those who are journeying with us now. As we go, we learn to see ourselves and our world through God’s eyes, the eyes of love.

Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting by Chris Skidmore, Clerk

News from Churches Together in Dorking

There will be a Churches Together in Dorking United Service on Sunday June 30. Gather for games and fellowship at 3.30pm at the Priory School followed by a time of praise at 5.00pm. Perhaps you could carry on enjoying things here after our midday picnic at the Meeting House – see page 1!

Lois Lodge

Reflections ...

A Friend told me this story. He was then a newcomer to Meeting. A seasoned Quaker was approached by an enquirer who said challengingly, “Well, was Jesus the Son of God then?” After a moment the elderly Quaker replied, “Yes, and so are you and so am I”.

... Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God. Advice no 22

Rachel Hope, for the Elders