



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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 Publisher: Rachel Fardon  
 Distributor: Mary Brooks

March 2013  
 No. 466

**Quote for the month** comes from Swarthmore Lecture 1992 *Images and Silence*, by Brenda Clifft Heales and Chris Cook.

*... which released me from the omnipotent Old Man With a Beard and offered a God who in pure love cannot determine outcomes or falsify consequences - only suffer with us, and work with more energy and self-giving than we can begin to imagine, to bring the best out of all that happens.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> followed by simple lunch
Sunday 10 March	12noon	<b>Talk on Fairtrade</b> in Meeting House
Sunday 10 March	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 16 March	11.15am	<b>Regional Meeting</b> at Littlehampton, on Quakers, Business and Banking
Sunday 17 March	12.15 - 1.15pm	<b>Area Business Meeting</b> at Capel - see page 2
Sunday 17 March	1.45pm	<b>Elders and Overseers meeting</b> at Capel
Friday 22 March	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting House - see page 4
Sunday 24 March	From 12 noon	<b>Peace One Day?</b> in Meeting House - shared lunch and discussion
Monday 1 April	8.30-9.00pm	<b>Healing Prayer Group</b> in Friend's homes
Friday 5 April	7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> in Meeting House on discernment - see page 3
Sunday 14 April	Details in April	<b>Meeting walk</b> - see page 3
Sunday 14 April	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 20 April	Details in April	<b>Visit to Quaker Service memorial</b>
Sunday 21 April	Details in April	<b>Young People's Outing</b>
Saturday 27 April	9.30am to 4pm	<b>Woodbrooke-on-the-Road</b> in Meeting House - see page 4
Sunday 28 April	Details in April	<b>Leith Hill walk</b> from Capel Meeting House

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### Notes from Preparative Meeting

#### Collections:

**The collection during January and February** for Woodbrooke - the Quaker study centre in Birmingham - raised £91. **Midweek Meeting** have raised £100, to add to the Dorking Churches lent lunches fund-raising, for Christian Aid.

The collection in **March is for Campaign Against the Arms Trade**, as chosen by our Peace and Social Witness Committee.

#### Advices and Queries read during January and February:

Dorking - nos. 26, 38, 18, 42, 6, 33, 31 and 30; Leatherhead - none.

The **Meeting's accounts** for 2012 have been examined and, in the treasurer's absence, were explained by the examiner, Keith Poulton, and accepted. The copies of the accounts provided by

the treasurer were, unfortunately, mislaid but copies will be available later for those interested. Our overall financial situation at present is satisfactory.

You may remember the request for feedback in the January Grapevine on the idea of replacing the inner circle of benches in the meeting room by some comfortable **chairs**. Four letters were received, one in favour and three not wishing to see any change. There have also been opportunities for informal canvassing of opinion among Dorking Friends. There was little support for changing the seating so it was agreed not to take further action at this time.

Catherine Carr outlined the proposals of our **Outreach** Group, and these were approved – see her article below.

Jan Elias presented a report on recent activities of the Premises Committee. Some work is being done in the **garden**, and some proposed tree surgery may bring costs above the budgeted £700, so a revised budget may need to be brought to PM in May for approval. Premises were asked to make the installation of a **handrail** to the front drive a priority.

It was agreed that the Children's Committee will be renamed the **Children's and Young People's Committee**, which better represents the work it does.



Picnic in Meeting House garden in 2004.  
Photo by Colin Brewer

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## Outreach Plans

The Outreach Committee – Catherine Carr, Sally Elias, Lois Lodge and Alison Carlier – are proposing various activities this year. The national theme for this year is "Worship", and we hope that our plans fit in with promulgating the approach and values of Quakers.

One idea is to offer a mid-week evening meeting for young parents, to see if they would like an opportunity to meet socially, and have a talk and a brief Meeting for Worship. A light supper would be provided, and babysitting would be offered if this would allow both partners to come along. We would plan to try it out in the near future and, if it works out, hold it every few months. We hope that it might be a means to encourage other younger people to become involved with Quakers.

Another is to include an outdoor Meeting for Worship as part of the June walk – see below.

Lastly, for Quaker week, we propose to trial having a 'Bring a Friend to Meeting' Sunday, on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Catherine Carr (convenor Outreach Committee)

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## Area Meeting Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> – by bus?!

Under the new way of doing things in this Area Meeting, we are holding the March Area Meeting on a Sunday at Capel, and encouraging Friends to attend Capel Meeting for Worship beforehand – this is from 11am to 12am.

You could try out the number 93 bus from Dorking which now runs on Sundays – there is one at 10.05 from Dorking White Horse arriving Laundry Way, Capel (more or less opposite the Meeting House) around 10.35, so it fits in reasonably well.

After Meeting for Worship there will be a short break for a cup of tea, and then the new, shorter Area Business Meeting, to finish by 1.15pm. There is a bus back from Laundry Way to Dorking at 1.24 pm, but those wishing to could bring their lunch to be enjoyed, weather permitting, in Capel's lovely garden. In the afternoon there is a meeting of Elders and Overseers. The next bus back is 3.24pm, by the way!



Enjoying tea in Capel MH garden.  
Photo by Colin Brewer

Anne Brewer

## Discerning Discernment

### Discussion on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Mention **discernment**, and some Friends recoil. While recognising it as the principle behind our *Quaker business method*, it is seen by some as the origin of indecision and inappropriate attitudes. Organisers of this year's *Britain Yearly Meeting* identify the continuing concerns on this subject, and suggest that we each attempt to answer the fundamental question 'What do Quakers mean by discernment?'



In an open discussion on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, the Dorking study group will attempt to answer why this subject remains such a dilemma. Among the alternative views discussed will be the proposition that use of the discernment technique is not unique to Quakers. For example, the peace activist and Tibetan Buddhist leader, the Dalai Lama, emphasises the crucial role of discernment in enabling us to 'translate our good intentions into good outcomes'. Again, among other spiritual leaders, Jesuit scholars recommend, after St Ignatius, that the practice of discernment is used as the means of fulfilling God's wishes. Some may recognise the use of discernment principles when a Conclave of Cardinals request God's guidance in selecting a Pope!

In seeking spiritual direction, are these other religious leaders appealing to the same guiding *Light* as are we Quakers? It is hoped that after considering such questions, together with other view-points introduced into our discussion, we will reach **discernment** as to why the very concept still seems to rankle among some Friends. This is a fascinating subject. I hope you can join the debate on Friday 5th April.

Bob Humphreys.

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### Walks 2013



The Meeting's bluebell walk in 2004  
Photo by Colin Brewer

We are planning a spring walk on the afternoon of Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> to see bluebells.

There will also be a summer walk on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June in the afternoon. As part of this we also plan to hold an al fresco Meeting for Worship, as well as a picnic tea, as part of Outreach. Venue to be announced nearer the date.

A walk in September will be organised later.

Catherine Carr/Colin Brewer

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### Peace and Social Witness Matters

First a reminder about the Peace One Day shared lunch on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March after Meeting for Worship, and the 21<sup>st</sup> April visit to the dedication of the Quaker Service Memorial. Please contact Sue Bond if you are interested in joining the latter.

Now for something different! Do you have any pink wool? Do you like knitting or crocheting?

Some female peace activists are planning an original and media-grabbing protest against Trident. The idea is to knit/crochet a 7-mile-long pink scarf and, on August 16th 2014, to spread it out between the Women's Peace Camp at Aldermaston and Burghfield (the other Nuclear Weapons Establishment site) in Berkshire. If you have access look at [www.woolagainstweapons.co.uk](http://www.woolagainstweapons.co.uk). Please bring in any pink wool you have, as we have volunteers to do the knitting – or ask me for details if you would like to do some of the knitting/crocheting.



Lois Lodge

## Meditation Meetings

The meditation meetings have had problems this year. Both the January and February meetings were cancelled due to the bad weather conditions and low temperatures. The next meeting is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, not the earlier date of the third Friday of the month, due to my family commitments, and I have just heard that my sister is getting married on the 20<sup>th</sup> April in Devon, so that date will need to be modified. I will get dates in the Grapevine for each month, but if anyone is not a usual attender, and wants to come, they can always contact me to check.

Catherine Carr

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### Woodbrooke-on-the-Road – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

**Greening the Whole Meeting: with head, heart and soul how do we  
'maintain the beauty and variety of the world'?**



Booking forms for this event are now available in the Meeting House, or from Anne Brewer. As there are only 20 places available at the event, which is for the whole Area Meeting, early booking is advisable. **Bookings should be in by 28<sup>th</sup> March at the latest.** Area Meeting has subsidised the event, but if the remaining cost of £12 is a problem then please speak to an Overseer, who can organise a bursary for you.

Whether you plan to come or not, if maintaining the beauty and variety of our world is important to you, perhaps you could find time to watch the DVD of last year's Swarthmore lecture, *Costing not less than everything*. This can be borrowed from our Meeting library – ask Rachel Fardon at the library table on Sunday. Alternatively the last chapter in the book of the same Swarthmore lecture is a good one to read, if you don't have time to read the whole book. Again you can borrow it from our Meeting library.

I also have a selection of relevant DVDs you are very welcome to borrow as follows: *In Transition 2* (about the Transition movement); *Vanishing of the Bees*; *The End of the Line* (Where have all the fish gone); *The Turning Point – a return to community* (about the Findhorn Foundation). I will leave them in our Meeting library, so again just ask Rachel Fardon.

Anne Brewer

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### Chris Elias

The Meeting offered its love and support to the Elias family as they came to terms with the unexpected illness and death of Chris Elias. We hope to offer a piece about his life in April's issue of the Grapevine.

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### Reflections ...

This month we have a paragraph from Quaker Faith and Practice.

10.18 To make a safe home for small children, to comfort one person in sorrow, to do one's work as efficiently as possible, to listen with understanding, to be gentle with the old and courteous to the young - these are the humble tasks to which most men and women are called. They build the home or the meeting or the community which is the first step towards the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. The second is to be aware of greater tasks and to be ready to be used in solving them - ready, not worried or anxious or envious, but content to wait, exercising a ministry of prayer to sustain the healers and the reconcilers already at work in their thousands.

Olive Tyson, 1966