



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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**Quote for the month** is from *The Living Spirit: an exploration in song of a Quaker meeting for Worship*. Words by Alec Davison.

*Where do I begin and Spirit end? Where does Spirit end and I begin? All is unknown and mysterious. I am irradiated by it, entangled in Spirit. And somewhere something unknown is doing something I don't know what...surprising ...confounding...amazing.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> followed by simple lunch
Sunday 10 Nov	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 15 Nov	3.00-5.00pm	<b>Party for older Friends</b> in Meeting House
Friday 15 Nov	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting House with speaker – see page 4
Saturday 16 Nov	11.15	<b>Regional Meeting</b> at Reigate on Quaker Garden Project
Sunday 17 Nov	12 noon to 1pm	<b>Area Business Meeting</b> in Meeting House
Sunday 17 Nov	1pm onwards	<b>Lunch and fellowship event</b> in Meeting House – see page 4
Sunday 24 Nov	9.00am	<b>Preparative Meeting cont'd</b> at Meeting House – see page 2
Sunday 1 Dec	after Meeting	<b>Traidcraft stall</b> in Meeting House
Monday 2 Dec	8.30-9.00pm	<b>Upholding Prayer Group</b> in Friends' own homes
Friday 6 Dec	7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> at Meeting House on Food Banks see page 2

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### Notes from Preparative Meeting

The collection in **October and November** is for **Quaker Social Action**. The collection in **December**, chosen by our Young Friends, will be for UNICEF UK - Syria children's appeal – see page 3.

Advices and Queries read. Dorking: Sunday: September No. 6 October Nos. 8, 12 and 42, and Wednesday: September none, October No. 3. Leatherhead: September and October none.

**Area Meeting (AM)** will be held at Dorking on Sunday 17 November. This means Friends from other Local Meetings will be joining us for Meeting for Worship, then, after a 30-minute break for refreshments, we will have the Area Business Meeting followed by a lunch. In the afternoon we are asking the AM Clerking Team to decide on the best activity – a slide show of Friends' holiday photos or a discussion of some sort. (See page 4 for the decision of the Clerking Team!).

Colin Brewer is the AM representative for Qlist, a Britain Yearly Meeting secure website ([www.quaker.org.uk/qlist](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qlist)) helping us to manage our contact information securely, and hopefully to produce our **contact list** more easily. We agreed to appoint him as our Local Meeting representative as well. So please let Colin have any changes in your contact details.

We agreed to hold a collection in January 2014 for Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and to decide on later **2014 collections** at our PM meeting on 19 January.

Overseers offered the draft **diary of events for 2014**. This was approved with a few dates still needing clarification. The final version will be distributed on an A5 card with the December Grapevine.

Colin Hope read our **Meeting's annual report to AM for 2013**. This was appreciated and approved with just one minor change. It will be presented to Area Meeting in November, and a copy will be distributed with the December Grapevine.

Our treasurer presented the **2014 budget** and the estimated outcome for 2013 – copies are available from Anne Brewer for anyone interested. Unexpected 2013 expenses of £660, due to the breakdown of the heating system in the past week, will come out of the 2013 contingency fund being held in case of essential work on some of our boundary walls. This work, if needed, will now be done in 2014 - we are awaiting a report from surveyors. Extra money is budgeted for the garden which has become a bit out of control – we hope to employ an occasional gardener to help us with this work. Concern was expressed that we replace the trees that have been removed in 2013 with new ones, and Premises Committee was asked to explore this possibility. It was also agreed that any further use of chemicals in the garden would be avoided as far as possible. Other major items in the 2014 budget include refurbishment of the cottage kitchen, decoration of the cottage lobby, ladies' toilets and the Meeting's office, and inspection of the drains. The budget was approved with the amendment which was agreed, in view of an acceptable level of reserves, to repay immediately an extra £3000 of our loan from AM and to aim to repay the final £6000 in 2014.

Anne Davies agreed to liaise with Elizabeth Dobson to ensure that we continue to have a **Traidcraft** stall in Meeting once every 3 months, provided Elizabeth is willing.

The Meeting is concerned about local levels of poverty and is exploring ways it might contribute to useful **work in the community**. The function of LeatherHEAD START (previously the Night Hostel) has changed in recent years, and Rachel Hope explained why the provision of meals, which we have undertaken for 20 years, is now not so important. We propose to reduce provision to one meal a month and to discontinue the effort at the end of 2014, but we hope to support Leatherhead START in other ways as it still performs a vital service in helping people back onto their feet. We will continue to explore how we might assist with the proposed **Food Bank** in Dorking, and Rachel Hope will tell us how she is already helping with the Leatherhead Food Bank (see below). (See also the piece about **Besom** Christmas boxes on page 4.)

We ran out of time, and the report from **Nominations** on those serving the Meeting in 2014 will be given at a continuation of this PM on **Sunday 24 November at 9am**.

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## Food Banks and December 6 Study Group

Thirteen years ago a concerned citizen in Salisbury became aware of food poverty in his city, and he started a food bank in his shed. Now The Trussell Trust has 380 food banks across the country, and it is not the only Charity providing food to those in need. Thirteen million people live below the poverty line in the U.K.

A year ago the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank of The Trussell Trust was started, and it is now running three foodbanks, the latest one in Leatherhead.



The next food collection for this will be at Tesco in Kingston Road on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. So why do we need a foodbank here? How is it supplied and how is it run? On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at our study group at 7.30pm at the Meeting House there is an opportunity to have answers to some of these questions and hear some of the human stories from our own area.

Rachel Hope

## December Collection- UNICEF UK - Syria children's appeal

Thanks to the efforts of the local Peace One Day group (which of course had a very strong Quaker element), all our children and young people were very much aware of the International Day of Peace this year, and they felt involved in the Peace One Day activities - those of school age also enjoyed seeing their mothers and Martin Hunka give assemblies on the topic.

One of the issues touched upon by that work was the effects of conflict on children and young people like themselves - not just those who die in conflict, but those who suffer the lasting effects of displacement/lack of vaccines/lack of sanitation/lack of education/lack of infrastructure. In particular the idea of having to leave one's home and belongings, sometimes one's relatives, and flee to who knows what/where, seems to have really struck a chord with our young people. Thus in our various discussions about which charity the children currently attending Meeting would most like to support this December, we seem to have come back each time to supporting children displaced by conflict in some way - which seems a fitting continuation of the Peace One Day momentum earlier this year. We recognise that there are a range of organisations working for Peace and reconciliation (including our very own QPSW), and particularly on supporting children through their experience of conflict and its aftermath, but with Syria so much in the news and our prayers, our children have opted to support UNICEF's Syria children's appeal this Christmas. We hope you will likewise feel able to support this appeal.



This little girl is one of over a million children who've fled violence in Syria. They urgently need our help. From [www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Emergencies/syrian-arab-republic-syria/](http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Emergencies/syrian-arab-republic-syria/)

In addition to donating in the usual way via the charity collection bowl on Sundays throughout December, we are resurrecting 'Change for change' jam jars! Some of you may be familiar with the concept - the children are hard at work decorating jam jars which will be available for anyone to take home in November. The idea is you keep your decorated jam jar somewhere you (and your visitors!!) can see it, and you put any spare change in it whenever you are passing or happen to have any. We will collect together all jam jars before Christmas, and add the total therein to the December charity total. Nobody should feel obliged to take, or fill(!) a jam jar, but it's a simple but effective way to increase our donation - and we hope that when you see our beautiful jars you will each be inspired to take one home.

Thank you! Children and Young People's Committee

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## Volunteer opportunity in January 2014



(Friends may remember that the Brigitte Trust was started by a member of our Meeting, Brigitte Watkins. The Trust is now looking for more volunteers and has asked us to give their appeal below some publicity.)

It's a sad fact that almost everyone has been touched by cancer – a family member, friend, neighbour or work colleague. It can be a weary, frightening experience and also very lonely at times when there is no-one at hand to share the fears and concerns that serious illness brings.

The Brigitte Trust can help with support at home from one of our trained volunteers. Spending time with someone diagnosed with a life-threatening illnesses, or sitting quietly together whilst a carer has a break – emotional and practical support is vital at a time like this.

**The Brigitte Trust needs volunteers in January 2014 to support people with cancer, Motor Neurone disease and other life-threatening illnesses. Our new year training courses will be based in Dorking and Tandridge and will give you the skills to make a real difference.**

The free training course focuses on listening skills, and when visiting families we ask for a commitment of three hours per week. Read more about the Trust, and the training course, at [www.brigitte-trust.org](http://www.brigitte-trust.org) or call Sharon today on 01306 881816

## Area Meeting – Sunday 17 November in Dorking

After lunch on the Sunday the AM Clerking Team are arranging a sharing/discussion session on 'Nourishing the Spirit in our Area Meeting'. There is a general feeling that the fire in our Area Meeting is burning most brightly in our Local Meetings, and your AM Clerking Team want to find ways to work, that best feed and nourish this Life. However we would like also, when the time is right, to give an opportunity for that Life to be shared more widely, and to develop the sense of a wider Area Meeting family. This may mean simplifying our processes at AM level to reduce the business aspect for Friends, and to build up the Fellowship. We have some ideas to start things off. Please come along and share your thoughts.

Anne Brewer for the AM Clerking Team

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### Besom Christmas boxes



Again this year Besom Dorking is making up Christmas boxes of food for the local people it supports.

Friends are invited to bring along contributions to put in the Christmas paper wrapped boxes that are ready and waiting in the Meeting House. There is a list of suggested foodstuffs with the boxes – Christmassy food such as mince pies would be good but do check the 'use by date' to ensure they are valid at least until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please bring your gifts by the end of the first week in December.

Veronica Mills

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### News from Peace and Social Witness

If Friends are having an autumn clear-out, then the P&SW Committee are available to collect men's **clothing and footwear for the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group** (mostly young men). Contact Lois on 01306 885250 or [lois.lodge654@btinternet.com](mailto:lois.lodge654@btinternet.com) to arrange this.

For a good write-up of Dorking's activities for **Peace One Day** effort, see:

[http://surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/fileadmin/content/information/2013\\_Newsletters/SFL\\_Newsletter\\_November\\_2013.pdf](http://surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/fileadmin/content/information/2013_Newsletters/SFL_Newsletter_November_2013.pdf) or ask Anne Brewer for a print out.

P&SW recommend the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) website [www.qarn.org.uk](http://www.qarn.org.uk) for an understanding of the present desperate plight of asylum seekers. There is a page for QARN and Quaker statements [www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/qarn-and-quaker-statements/](http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/qarn-and-quaker-statements/) and one on destitution [www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/category/destitution/](http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/category/destitution/)

Lois Lodge

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### Special Meditation session on Friday 15 November

*Glimpsing the Light : a Buddhist retreat at Quaker Woodbrooke*

You are all invited to come and explore different belief systems - Martin Hunka will be talking about his experience of a retreat at Woodbrooke and drawing links between Buddhism and Quakerism at the Meditation Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm at the Meeting House.



### Reflections

*I ask for daily bread, but not for wealth, lest I forget the poor.*

*I ask for strength, but not for power, lest I despise the meek.*

*I ask for wisdom, but not for learning, lest I scorn the simple.*

*I ask for a clean name, but not for fame, lest I condemn the lowly.*

*I ask for peace of mind, but not for idle hours, lest I fail to hearken to the call of duty.*

Inazo Nitobe, 1909  
Quaker f&p 20.01