



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month is from an unknown source.

Human beings do not grow like trees, unfolding the potential contained in the seed. We grow by overcoming conflicts, heightening our awareness, struggling to overcome the opposites and to move into the realm of mystery.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday followed by simple lunch
Friday 6 Sept	7.30pm	Study Group – on worship
Sunday 8 Sept	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sunday 15 Sept	12.15 to 1.15 pm	Area Business Meeting at Ifield
Sunday 15 Sept	2pm	Fellowship event at Ifield MH – walks and table tennis
Friday 20 Sept	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Saturday 21 Sept	All day	Peace One Day Activities – see page 3
Friday 4 Oct	Evening	Sharing ways to deepen spiritual life- see page 4
Sunday 6 Oct	10.30 to 11.30	Quaker Week Sunday- invite a friend to Meeting
Monday 7 Oct	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group in Friends' own homes

Notes from Preparative Meeting

The collection in **August and September** is for **Quaker Homeless Action**. The collection in **June and July** for Britain Yearly Meeting raised £90. **Midweek Meeting** raised £150 for Quaker Social Action and £150 for Dorking Beatitudes.

Advices and Queries read. Dorking: July – Numbers 7 and 31; August – Number 18. Mid week Meeting: July – Number 5. None at Leatherhead.

Area Meeting is to be held **at Dorking on November 17** and we are asked to offer a **fellowship event**. Our idea to put on a 'pantomime nativity' (A Lad in a Manger) has not borne fruit so we welcomed a new suggestion that Friends from the Area Meeting are invited to bring along a few digital photos of their holiday and share them. Colin Brewer can provide the necessary equipment to project the photos.

We recorded the installation of the **handrail** beside our front drive, and Rachel Fardon was warmly thanked for her financial contribution towards this project. Now Overseers are looking into **difficulties** that Friends may experience in getting to Meeting **due to lack of suitable transport** - see their article on page 2.

We heard about activities organised by our Peace and Social Witness Group for **Sept 21, the International Day of Peace (Peace One Day)** – details see **page 3**. Churches Together in Dorking have paid for posters and flyers. Friends are encouraged to take part in the activities, and anyone able to help should speak to Lois Lodge the overall organiser, or, for the Peace Prayer Vigil, Anne Brewer. Before the day Martin Hunka and parents of children in the Meeting will be running assemblies at 5 Primary Schools and 2 Secondary Schools, and dove-making sessions at some nurseries and play groups. We approved a budget of £50 for the dove-making activities including craft materials and refreshments. Watch out for publicity for these activities, organised by Sally Elias, in the local press and on local radio.

Friends have supported **Leatherhead Night Hostel (now LeatherHEAD START)** for 20 years by providing a cooked meal for the 14 or so residents, initially every Monday, but for the past few years, every other Monday. The rota of Quaker cooks claims cost of the ingredients, if they wish, from Dorking Meeting funds but it is now difficult to find enough cooks able to join the rota. The nature of the work of the Hostel has changed recently – see **article on page 4** - but Friends were keen to continue support, so we agreed to welcome people from outside the Meeting to join the rota. We also agreed to have a collection annually to support the work of the hostel.

Thanks to Veronica Mills we are aware of the excellent work done by **Besom** in Dorking to support families in difficulties. Friends are encouraged to continue to contribute to the box Veronica keeps in the Information Centre, to collect tinned and dried foods for Besom. Rachel Hope is involved with the Trussell Trust, which is shortly to open a food bank in Leatherhead, and there are ideas to open one in Dorking. Overseers are asked to talk to appropriate people and put together a suggested package of ways that we could respond to local needs, if there is enthusiasm for this work.

Breakfast before Meeting was enjoyed by those attending as an opportunity to get to know one another better. It was agreed that another one should be arranged where it could be discussed whether to make it a regular event but probably not in the winter.

Dates of PMs in 2014. There are only four Area Business Meetings planned for 2014 but it was agreed we needed six PMs to keep on top of our Local Meeting business. To fit in with Area Meeting dates, the following dates have been selected for PMs: January 19, March 2, May 4, July 6, September 7 or 14 (TBC) and November 9.

Finally we discussed **Cornish Quakers' concern about UK drug policy.** We agreed to support Friends' work on this issue, which affects so many people's lives, with a minute both to Cornwall Area Meeting and to Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs (QAAD). We will also send a minute to AM suggesting that AM sends a minute of support and that a speaker on this topic is invited to one of our AM fellowship and learning days.

Getting to meeting – need help? Can offer help?

Overseers are aware that some Friends regularly or occasionally, experience problems getting to Meeting for Worship on a Sunday or Wednesday. Overseers try to help whenever possible. We don't want anyone to be left out, so do let an Overseer know if you find this a problem, and we will do our best to help you too.

Overseers would be pleased to know if anyone else with a car would like to join those Friends who already offer lifts. Maybe even running a sort of taxi service! Obviously fuel cost could be claimed for out of Meeting funds – Overseers can give you a simple expenses claim form for that purpose.



So if you need help or can offer it – please let one of us know!

Anne Brewer, Jan Elias, Trish Humphreys and Frances Poulton.

Nominations for Dorking PM

Your committee has reached the point when we are hopeful of bringing to November PM a list of those people who have agreed to serve this Meeting in 2014; helping it along with their time, love, and efforts.

On the other hand, we are looking for an Assistant Clerk – don't stop reading! Since there is the happy prospect of a Friend taking on this service in 2016, we would like to suggest you consider the following plan as a possibility – for you.

An Assistant Clerk appointment would be for 2014 only and then another one for 2015 only - just one year each. There are to be 6 PMs in 2014, and believe me, speaking as an Area Meeting Clerk for 3 years who never had an Assistant, you would be very well-appreciated by Richard, our Clerk. It is the consultation before PMs that is particularly supportive.

You would have the opportunity to attend – free – a course in Clerking, which would be so very encouraging for yourself both as Assistant and if you ever thought to be Clerk in the future.

Please do think deeply of this offer either for 2014 or for 2015, and contact Su Johnston, convenor of Nominations, to talk it over.

Su Johnston

Fairtrade

The July Study Group discussed Fairtrade, its achievements and the many challenges remaining. For those involved in producing Fairtrade crops, what farmers and workers value as much as the amount they receive is the reliability of the income from month to month. Because they get a steady price, they can plan ahead and pay school or health costs for their families, for instance, and the additional 'Fairtrade premium' paid to their community can fund essential needs like roads or clinics.



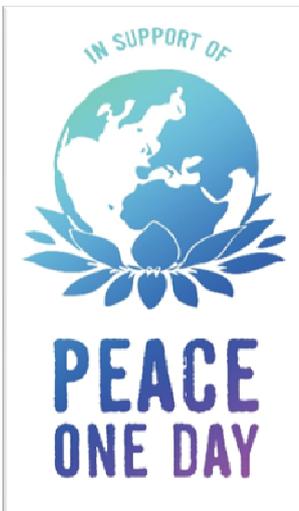
On the positive side, UK sales have held up despite the economic problems. However, while it is great that some Fairtrade products like tea or bananas are widely available in the big supermarkets, there is nothing to stop these powerful retailers selling these products at an unrealistically cheap price - thus giving consumers a very misleading impression of what it actually costs to grow bananas or cultivate tea, and to pick, pack and transport them, even if the product is Fairtrade-certified.

One bright light amidst this is that a new Groceries Ombudsman has been set up for the UK, and from this year that person will be able to fine retailers who abuse their buying power to squeeze their suppliers.

Many questions flowed from this discussion, with no easy answers forthcoming, but a lot of food for thought (forgive the pun!).

Sophie Dodgeon

Peace One Day activities in Dorking



Throughout the week 16-20 September, schools are being offered a Peace One Day storyteller for their assemblies. Some nurseries and playgroups are being helped with dove-making sessions.

On Saturday morning 21 September from 10am children with parent(s) are invited to South Street bandstand bus stop area (or Friends Meeting House depending on the weather) to **create paper peace doves**, which will decorate that area and surroundings (again this will be dictated to a certain extent by weather and the rolling programme of road closures for the cycle race).

We aim to start a **peace song sing-a-long** at the bandstand area from 11.30am onward, to serenade the supporters and the cyclists going through at 12.43 (yes, they are THAT precise!) It would be wonderful if you, and any organisation you are linked with, could join us for this.

There is a '**Peace Prayer Vigil**' between **2-5pm** in the **United Reformed Church (URC)**, West Street, to which anyone of any faith (or none) is invited for as short /long a period as feels comfortable for you.

In the evening (7pm onward) there will be a **Bring & Share Peace Meal and Peace concert**, again at the URC. Before supper local musicians and singers are invited to contribute a song; after a shared supper there will be a performance of extracts from The Armed Man. Paul Gogh 07795 220847 is the music contact for the evening event if you felt you could contribute.

If you want to stay at home and join in, check out the Peace Concert being organised. This historic event, in front of the Peace Palace in The Hague, will form part of a 24-hour Global Transmission on Peace Day Saturday 21 September. Featuring The Feeling, Natasha Bedingfield, Kane and many others, this will make a nice mellow way to 'join in' with the celebrations.

For more information call **Lois Lodge 01306 885250** or **Sally Elias 01306 740394**.

Dorking Street Pastors

The Commissioning Date: **Saturday 28th September 2013 at 8 pm at The Christian Centre**. EVERYONE is welcome to join the Commissioning Service followed by a reception. (This will be the first night on duty). For further information contact Lyn Groves Tel: 01306 898339 (coordinator) - more volunteers are needed.

October 'Study Group'

We have not planned a study group for Friday 4 October. This is Quaker Week, and Outreach Committee hopes we will all invite newcomers to attend our Meeting for Worship on Sunday 6 October. New leaflets are available on the outreach table in the lobby about worship, so please take a handful to give to friends. As there is a free Friday now on October 4, Mary Brooks has agreed to join me in offering an evening to share how we might deepen our spiritual lives. This is not study or discussion, but an exploration, which is likely to come from sharing experiences of incidents, events or even texts, which have helped us. If you are interested, give Mary or me a ring, so that we can get in touch and make an initial plan for this evening.

Rachel Hope, for the Elders

LeatherHEAD START (formerly the Night Hostel)

Quakers have been providing meals for what started as the Night Hostel, for 20 years, initially once a week, but in recent years every fortnight. The hostel started as a Churches Together initiative and still receives financial and practical help from various local churches.

To-day the hostel continues to provide shelter for the homeless, but its focus has shifted to promoting independence and helping residents get back on their feet. Voluntary groups still provide hot meals for residents several times a week, but on other days the staffs, paid and voluntary, do the cooking, assisted by those residents who want to help. Funding comes from Mole Valley, through Housing Benefit, Surrey County Council, through an annual grant, and charitable contributions from churches, and presumably other sources. It is quite possible the SCC grant may be reduced, because of the current cutbacks.

Many of our current Quaker cooks have been providing a meal regularly since the start of the initiative, and in recent years it has not been so easy to replace cooks who have retired.

I have spoken to Angela, LeatherHEAD START manager, and she is very grateful for the support we have given over so many years. I asked what other kinds of help would be useful, and she said they would like to have volunteers helping on a regular basis with cooking a meal at the hostel alongside those residents who were interested. She pointed out that there would be no guarantee of interest on a particular day, and therefore volunteers might end up cooking the meal on their own. Financial help is always welcome, especially if SCC reduces its grant. Angela also mentioned another aspect of LeatherHEAD START's work, with a young female asylum seeker, originally from Ethiopia, who was placed at the hostel by the Red Cross, and remained there for a year, before being moved to London, where she is allowed £30 a week to live on, while waiting for an indeterminate time for her case to be reviewed. Staff from LeatherHEAD START visit her regularly and give her small amounts of money to help her survive. In this situation a modest sum can make a huge difference to someone's life.

Maybe the Meeting feels it is the right time to lay down this work and turn our attention to other projects, but perhaps we might consider offering some financial support to help LeatherHEAD START continue with its very valuable work with those who have so little in comparison to us.

Frances Poulton

(See PM decision page 2, to continue providing meals for the time being)



Reflections ... *Take Time*

Take time to THINK – it is the source of Power.
Take time to PLAY – it is the secret of staying young.
Take time to READ – it is the fountain of wisdom.
Take time to LOVE and BE LOVED - it is God's greatest gift.
Take time to BE FRIENDLY – it is the road to happiness.
Take time to LAUGH – it is the music of the soul.
Take time to DREAM – it is what the future is made of.
Take time to GIVE – it is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to be SILENT – it is the opportunity to find God.
 (Various sources)

Bob Humphreys, for the Elders