



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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**Quote for the month is** from the Dalai Lama in the March/April issue of Resurgence & Ecologist: *There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called Yesterday and the other is called Tomorrow.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> , followed by simple lunch
Monday 7 April	8.30-9pm	<b>Healing prayer Group</b> in Friends' own homes
Sunday 13 April	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 26 April?	10am-4pm?	<b>Special Meeting on future of our Area Meeting – see below</b>
Sunday 27 April	1.20pm	<b>Leith Hill Walk</b> – Capel MH (see page 4)
Friday 2 May	7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> in Meeting House
Sunday 4 May	9am	<b>Preparative Meeting</b> in Meeting House
Monday 5 May	8.30-9pm	<b>Healing prayer Group</b> in Friends' own homes
Saturday 10 May?	10am-4pm?	<b>Special Meeting on future of our Area Meeting – see below</b>
Sunday 11 May	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 16 May	7.30-9pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting House

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### Help!! ...

Our local Quaker family, known as West Weald Area Meeting, is in trouble. We are facing, at the end of this year, a situation where we have no one willing and able to take on the essential jobs to keep it functioning. Although some of its work is administrative, a well-functioning Area Meeting is vital for the life and vibrancy of the Local Meetings in its family. A very small Local Meeting can be dependent for its existence on the support of its Area Meeting.



Perhaps you didn't know that the Area Meeting is a registered charity? Well, it is, and as such it needs Trustees, proper financial accounts, a Governing Document and members. We have a Governing Document, and it says we should have a minimum of five Trustees – but at the end of this year we will probably have only two, or even none. We need to have occasional business meetings, but after July this year the Clerking Team, which organises these, will have no members. To produce proper financial accounts we need bookkeepers and/or treasurers – they are now very hard to come by. Yes, in Dorking we are OK at the moment in that respect, but we are the strongest Meeting in the family, and even we struggle to fill all our committee posts.

So what can we do? We need ideas, inspiration and some commitment from our members, and encouragement for those few who are struggling to hold things together and find a way forward. So we are planning to have one or more special meetings, held in Dorking Meeting House, probably lasting all day (10am to 4pm say), the first on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> or May 10<sup>th</sup>. We have asked Quaker Life for help, in the form of trained facilitators to help run the meeting. Details will be circulated as soon as they are finalised, but meanwhile we hope as many as possible will come to the special meeting, or find ways to feed in their ideas – you could just email or post them to me as Convenor of the current Clerking Team.

Anne Brewer

## Your poetical Clerking Team

Although a wee bit concerned about the future (see Help!!.. on previous page) your Area Meeting Clerking Team still manage to enjoy themselves! What follows is a recent email correspondence between 3 of the members – we hope by sharing their light-hearted fun you might be encouraged to volunteer for service in this obviously enjoyable role!

*Confession* by Tony.

Oh how on earth could I do it?  
I certainly know I will rue it,  
I've broken a key Quaker rule.

I've done it again and again,  
How could anyone be so insane.  
You'll think I am such a big fool.

*Reassurance* by Anne

Tony a rule he did shatter,  
But I doubt it really will matter,  
Replacing a slash with a dot,  
Won't alter the outcome a jot!

For three hundred years we have tried  
Our minutes each month to divide  
By a number that uses a slash.

But in the new system I've got,  
Each slash is replaced by a dot.  
Oh how could I make such a hash!!!!

Followed by *An outreach idea* by John

I am so pleased to see  
That Quaker poets there be.  
Maybe we can use this skill  
To contact people, who seek  
To make contact, in Quaker week.

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## Reminders of events mentioned in March Grapevine

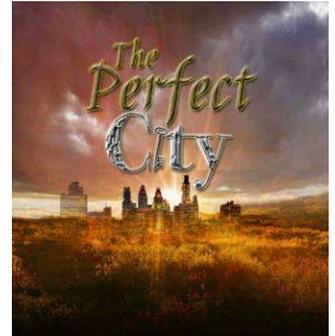
### The Perfect City ...

**Friday 23rd May, 7.30pm  
in Dorking Meeting House**

A musical based on the story of the Quaker, William Penn, who was driven to take his Friends to freedom in America in 1682 and what happened.

Tickets are £12 (£10 for children up to 16 – suitable for those over 12) are available from Dorking Halls or online at <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk> and will be available at the door if not sold out.

If you have any queries, please contact Martin Coslett on 0753 133 1813.



On the walk in 2013.  
Photo by Colin Brewer

### ... and the Leith Hill Walk

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

An historic walk from Capel Meeting House to Leith Hill. Energetic folk can walk both ways (about 8 miles) while the less energetic can walk there and have a lift back to Capel, or just come to tea, and help with transport!

Programme:	11am to 12noon	Capel Meeting for Worship
	12noon to 1.20pm	Lunch (Bring your own)
	1.20pm	Walk commences
	5pm onwards	Tea provided at Capel MH.

Contributions for the tea will be welcome – contact Audrey Garnett on 01403 260 077.

## Remembering a happy event!

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January, a wonderfully broad cross-section of the Meeting (it was especially lovely to see some Friends from Wednesday meetings) shook off the winter storms to enjoy an afternoon of merriment and excellent catering. As things kicked off, children of all ages (I'm sure I spotted at least one septuagenarian 'child' kicking a balloon!) found numerous ways to entertain themselves with balloons, while others acquainted themselves with a nice cup of tea, and settled in to view proceedings. I think everyone would agree that eco-balloons give one an awful lot more BANG for one's money!!

Balloons moved on to enthusiastic parachute games, and creative use of footstools...

Meanwhile others exercised their grey cells trying to resolve the anagrams posted around the big hall, or attempted to recognise Friends from photos taken in their earlier days. Coordinated games (the Pet Shop game got participants running around!) and numerous ways to utilise newspaper to music followed.



As any 6-year old will tell you, no party is complete without pass the parcel, so we had two. Then there was just time for some Christmas card puzzles before everyone tucked in to a splendid spread of sweet and savoury delights. But we still weren't quite done, for Su had us

finding musical talents we didn't even know we possessed in an orchestrated group rendition of 'My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean', before Martin told us a tale of three brothers – the message of which seemed to be it's good to be small and weedy... and KIND! A good message with which to wrap up proceedings.



Enrapt audience.

Gayle Banks (who also took the photos)

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## Messages from Churches Together in Dorking Easter Service on Box Hill ...

BBC Radio Surrey and Sussex are going to be broadcasting live from Box Hill on Easter Sunday morning, from 6.00-9.00 so it would be great to have a large crowd at the service. The website [www.fit4life.org.uk](http://www.fit4life.org.uk) has now been set up for people to register their attendance. The tab is 'Empty Tomb'. One person can sign on, noting number attending from family or group.

## ... and Street Pastors Update

Street Pastors have been operating in Dorking for four months and so far have been very well received by both pub staff and drinkers. Most people have had previous experience of Guildford Street Angels and are happy that there's now something similar in Dorking. Generally the streets are quiet but people are willing to talk and often curious why we're doing it, especially once they know that we're volunteers. After Christmas, we changed our patrol night from Saturday to Friday, and Fridays do seem to be busier.

We have enough volunteers for a team to go out every other week but, with six more recruits, we should be able to go out every week. We are starting training again on SATURDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL. Volunteers are more than welcome to come as an observer on one of the patrols or to meet me or any of our Street Pastors for a chat. We're keen to be able to cover every Friday - we meet at 10pm and are usually home by 2am, or 2.30 if it's busy. If anyone is interested, please could they contact Lyn Groves, 01306 898339.

(Editor: Sorry this is a bit late for the training date but I'm sure there will be other training sessions, so do get in touch with Lyn if interested.)

## Gayle's marathon

Four years ago I wrote in the Grapevine about preparing for my first (and intended only!) marathon - about how my ever-supportive husband Aidy had encouraged me to rediscover running after a promising childhood ability had been ruined for me by bullying. I can't remember if I ever wrote again to say how that run went (I meant to) - which was better than I could possibly have expected (3hours 39mins - I was hoping just to break 4 hours!), especially given Aidy was stranded in the Netherlands during it by the volcanic ash cloud. In fact it was only thanks to the amazing support of Judith, Freya and Phil Martin, of this Meeting, and Aidy's mother, looking after 2-year-old Pippa, that I was even able to run it! Despite the slightly fraught circumstances I really enjoyed the experience, but nonetheless I said afterwards I 'never need to do another'. Mainly because training takes so much TIME, that it's just not very fair on one's family.



However, fast forward a couple of years, child number two (irrepressible Theo!) was safely in the world, and darling Aidy says to me 'if you want to have the focus of another marathon to get fit again, I will look after the children while you train' and I found myself leaping at the chance he offered me! So my reason for signing up was initially quite selfish - I wanted to get fit again.

As it happens, my signing up coincided with a childhood Quaker friend going on the transplant list for new lungs. Anders has Cystic Fibrosis, and despite being told as a child he wouldn't live past his teens, he has defeated the odds thus far and made it to 35... but time has run out, and his lungs are now finished, meaning he can really do nothing except take a cocktail of medicines to keep infection at bay and hope for some

lungs to become available to give him a new lease of life.

So I've been holding him in my thoughts as I train, and I feel compelled to raise money for some of the organisations that are supporting him at this time. He suggested three charities - Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Live Life then Give Life and the Butterfly Trust. I have put a sponsorship form up on the Children's board in the Meeting House, if anyone feels able to help financially. The links for online support are: [www.virginmoneygiving.com/snayley](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/snayley) - there's a choice of two pages on here, one for Live Life then Give Life, one for CF Trust - or <http://www.justgiving.com/Gayle-Dower> for the Butterfly Trust

Incidentally Anders is feeling pretty battered just now, after 4 unsuccessful calls in quick succession (twice because he wasn't well enough for the op, twice because he was only on standby, and someone else actually got the transplant they needed - which he was pleased about). The trip from Glasgow to Newcastle is physically and emotionally demanding - so Anders is back in hospital for some respite care. If you feel able, please hold him in your thoughts and prayers.

Gayle Banks

### Reflection from our Elders

God's love is ministered to most people through the love of our fellow human beings. Sometimes that love is expressed physically or sexually. For me and my lover John, God's love is given through our homosexual relationship. In common with other people who do not have children to raise, we are free from those demands to nurture other vital things. This includes our meeting and the wider Society of Friends.

We both draw on our love a great deal to give us strength and courage to do the things to which God calls us... Our spiritual journey is a shared one. Sometimes the pitcher needs to be taken back to the fountain. In order to grow, I need my church to bless and uphold not just me as an individual, but also our relationship.

Gordon Macphail

22.29 Quaker Faith and Practice

It was in 2009 that Quakers welcomed the hope that we could celebrate gay marriage in our meetings but only now in 2014 that that hope can become a reality.

Rachel Hope