



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

Editors: Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman  
 Publisher: Rachel Fardon  
 Distributor: Mary Brooks

July 2014  
 No. 480

**Quote for the month** is from Vaclav Havel taken from a selection of quotes from back issues of *Timeline* published by the Foundation for Global Community.

*The whole history of the cosmos, and especially of life, is mysteriously recorded in the inner workings of all human beings ... something that joins us together far more than we think. Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out.*

Please note there will not be an August issue of the Grapevine, so August dates are included below.

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 13 July	After MfW	<b>Area Meeting</b> at Ifield
Sunday 13 July	2.00pm	<b>Special Area Meeting</b> at Ifield
Sunday 13 July	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Sunday 20 July	After MfW	<b>Garden Party</b> at Meeting House
Friday 25 July	7.30pm	<b>Meditation meeting</b> in Meeting House
Friday 1 August	7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> in Meeting House
(August 2 to 9 <b>Yearly Meeting Gathering</b> at Bath – see note on page 4)		
Sunday 3 August	8.00pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> for prayer and reflection on centenary of outbreak of WW1– see page 3
Sunday 10 August	After MfW	<b>Traidcraft</b> in Meeting House
Sunday <b>17</b> August	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead – note this is the 3 <sup>rd</sup> rather than the usual 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
Sunday 24 August		<b>Esher Friends visit</b> - see page 3
Sunday 31 August		<b>Visit to Blue Idol Meeting</b> – see page 3
Friday 5 September	7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> in Meeting House
Sunday 7 September	9.00am	<b>Preparative Meeting</b> in Meeting House

\*\*\*\*\*

### Notes from Preparative Meeting ...

Sunday collection for April and May for Claridge House raised £127.82. The collection for June/July is for Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre (see page 4) and for August/September, Quaker Homeless Action.

Advices and Queries read in May and June. *Dorking*: 21 and 28 in May, and 7 and 28 in June. *Leatherhead*: none.

We recorded the deaths of Joan Macalpine on 14<sup>th</sup> May and Maria Brickwell on 4<sup>th</sup> July. A moving and well-attended Meeting for Worship to remember Joan's life was held in the Meeting House on 5<sup>th</sup> June, and £160 was given to the Meeting's funds in her memory. The date of Maria's funeral is not yet known.

Nominations Committee brought forward the names of the new **Children's Committee** – Alison Carlier, Sophie Dodgeon, Katy Nunn, Gail Banks, and Judith Martin, with Rosemary Elias as the Elder responsible for Children's Meeting.

We heard from Su Johnston, convenor of **Premises Committee**. They have had a quote for £440 to replace the water heater in the ladies' cloakroom. As this amount is outside the agreed budget, Friends were happy to leave replacement until 2015 and wash their hands in cold water for the time being. Concerning the damage caused by damp to the plaster on the wall of the large meeting room, we agreed that this should be repaired at a cost of up to £300, when dry enough to work on. Premises have arranged for a dehumidifier to help the drying-out process.

Regarding work on the **garden**, the ground elder is to be treated as last year, and we have been advised not to do any new planting until this and other persistent weeds have been eliminated. Then we could review whether we need to plant more trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife. There was discussion about the best time to mow the **wild flower meadow**, and Jan Elias will do this when the flowers have set seed. Two cherry trees are dying, and these will be felled in 2015. We have several **plants in memory** of Friends, as listed in the Garden Memorial Book. We agreed the Meeting should look after these, liaising with the relatives should the plant need removing or replanting elsewhere. When accepting future such plants, we should ensure that we are able to provide the right environment and suitable care for the plant offered. It was decided that we would employ a gardener for up to £100 per month for the rest of 2014 and review the situation in 2015.



Our wild flower meadow April 2011

We would like to have up-to-date **trained first aiders** available in the meeting. Lois will enquire whether Churches Together in Dorking are aware of courses, which our members could join.

On behalf of all Churches in Dorking, our Elders have organised a candlelit **Meeting for Worship for Prayer and Reflection** on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, the eve of the 100-year anniversary of the declaration of war by Britain on Germany (see below).

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August **Esher Meeting** will be visiting us, and on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August we have been invited to visit **Blue Idol Friends** – details of both these events are on page 3.

**Peace and Social Witness Committee** are pressing ahead with the programme outlined in the June Grapevine. Friends agreed to a budget of up to £200 to cover the expenses of the Peace One Day event (20-21 September) and the promotion of white poppies. The general election date has been set for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015. We agreed to support our Committee in their plans to organise a hustings meeting in the Meeting House, on behalf of Churches Together.

The **vigorous pruning of the laurel** has met with a mixed reception. Some Friends value the increased open aspect now it is much shorter, while others are concerned about the loss of a valued play area for the children of the Butterhill Playgroup who hire our premises. Premises were concerned to limit the expense of future pruning by reducing it to a size we could cope with ourselves. Letters from the Playgroup expressing their dismay were passed to the Premises Committee to respond to appropriately.

\*\*\*\*\*



On the eve of the centenary of the declaration of World War 1  
Candlelit

**MEETING for WORSHIP for PRAYER and REFLECTION**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 8.00-9.00pm**

Quaker Meeting House  
Butter Hill, South Street, DORKING RH4 2LE

## Invitation from Blue Idol Friends

We are invited to Thakeham Village Hall (Storrington Road, Thakeham, Pulborough RH20 3EF) to join Blue Idol Friends on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August** for **Meeting for Worship 10.30am**. Followed by **lunch provided by Blue Idol Friends** and **discussion on the restoration and recreation of the Blue Idol community from 12.00 to about 2.00pm**

Roger Wilson, co-clerk of Blue Idol writes:

*"To explain a little of the background: while we are at Thakeham, we are setting aside time on the last Sunday of each month to think about the future and to celebrate our present fellowship. The huge effort in fund-raising, and the practical problems with the actual work (including the Cathedral Works Organisation liquidation) have led us to feel that we need to keep at the forefront of our minds the reason why we are doing it. A beautiful old building is all very well, but our primary purpose is spiritual, and the worshipping community is a vital part of that. This doesn't end when we return to our building, and it's important to nourish that perspective.*



Thakeham Village Hall  
<http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk>

*We hoped that some Dorking Friends might like to join us on 31<sup>st</sup> August, even though (or perhaps because) we will not be back at the Blue Idol for some months after that. Partly, we would value your perspective, and partly there is the feeling that more fellowship might be helpful for AM.*

*Nearer the time I expect we will ask for an approximate idea of numbers so that we can get too much food organised, as is usual!"*

**So if you are able to go please tell our Dorking Clerk, Richard Bass, so he can pass the numbers on to Blue Idol Clerk.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Visit by Esher Friends

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

Friends from Esher Meeting will be joining us for Meeting for Worship on 24<sup>th</sup> August and bringing food to share with any Dorking Friends who can stay on after Meeting for a picnic lunch and friendly chat.

**If you are able to stay for the picnic, please let our Clerk know so he can give an idea of numbers to Esher Friends.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Quaker Meeting for Worship at Farnborough Airshow

Information from Campaign Against the Arms Trade – see also [www.tinyurl.com/Quakers-Airshow](http://www.tinyurl.com/Quakers-Airshow)

Farnborough Airshow isn't just a day out for the kids. It's a shop window for the world's arm dealers. This is where buyers from repressive regimes come to choose weapons. Wherever there's a war or a dictator, there's a profit for the arms traders.

Join Quakers in a silent Meeting for Worship near the pedestrian entrance to the Farnborough Air Show on Queens Gate Road (Gate B). **4pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. Gather on the grassy bank shown on the map.



## Message from Yearly Meeting Gathering Team

Yearly Meeting Gathering is full!

If you are not booked please don't come. We have been delighted by the numbers of Friends who have booked for Yearly Meeting Gathering; we have 400-500 more Friends booked to come than at our previous residential gatherings. We have extended our capacity to fit the numbers booked, but reluctantly we can take no more day visitors or residents.

\*\*\*\*\*



### Collection for June/July

Quaker Peace Centre in Cape Town, South Africa, is a non-profit organisation dedicated to working towards building a safe, peaceful society by addressing the issues that contribute to a high level of insecurity and personal and institutional violence.

We operate mostly in schools in socio-economically challenged townships of the Cape Flats.

We have an historical and ongoing relationship with the Cape Western Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and, through them, are connected with Quakers worldwide.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Fossil Fuels

Friends may remember that Britain Yearly Meeting has disinvested from fossil fuel companies. It seems we are not alone. Here is some news from 350.org:

**"In a world-first, the British Medical Association has voted to end its investment in fossil fuel companies and re-invest more in renewable energy.** The BMA - a body representing UK doctors - has added its influential voice to the dozens of cities, universities and faith groups who chose to divest around the world recently. Momentum is building fast!

We know that the climate crisis will have profound implications for human health, so it feels particularly poignant that doctors are sounding the alarm over fossil fuel companies' reckless behaviour."

### Reflection from our Elders

#### 10.03 from Quaker Faith and Practice

The Religious Society of Friends is organised into local meetings each of which should be a community. It is our search for God's way that has drawn us together. In our meeting we can each hope to find love, support, challenge, practical help and a sense of belonging. We should bring ourselves as we are, whatever our age, our strength, our weakness: and be able to share friendship and warmth.

Some of us now live away from our families; some of us move house quite often. Although surrounded by others, we may be leading isolated and lonely lives. It is important that our meetings welcome newcomers warmly and that we include them in invitations to our homes.

Our sense of community does not depend on all professing identical beliefs, for it grows from worshipping together, knowing one another, loving one another, accepting responsibilities, sharing and working together. We will be helped by tried and tested Quaker methods and procedures, but the meeting will only live if we develop a sense of community, which includes children and adults alike. If all those who belong to our meeting are lovingly cared for, the guidance of the spirit will be a reality. The celebration and commemoration of life's great events draw us together as we share the occasion and rejoice or mourn with one another.

Our shared experience of waiting on God's guidance in our meetings for worship and for church affairs, together with careful listening and gentleness of heart, forms the basis on which we can live out a life of love with and for each other and for those outside our community.

Rachel Hope