



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month is from the Diary of Anne Frank

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch.
Monday 2 June	8.30-9.00pm	Healing prayer Group in Friends' own homes.
Friday 6 June	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House: <i>End of Life issues</i> .
Sunday 8 June	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead.
Friday 13 June	cancelled	Garden party – new date Sunday 20 July .
Sunday 15 June	After MfW	Traidcraft in Meeting House.
Saturday 21 June	11.30am-5.00pm	Regional Meeting at Hastings Meeting House: <i>Jesus – a Quaker Approach</i> . Woodbrooke-on-the-Road with Tim Peat
Friday 4 July	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House.
Sunday 6 July	9.00am	Preparative Meeting in Meeting House.
Monday 7 July	8.30-9.00pm	Healing prayer Group in Friends' own homes.
Sunday 13 July	After MfW	Area Meeting – details will be circulated later.

Joan Macalpine



Joan died peacefully on 14th May 2014 at Rose Hill Nursing Home.

Her cremation is to take place on Thursday 5th June at 2.00pm at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, followed, at 3.30pm at the Meeting House, by a Meeting for Worship to give thanks for her life.

Joan contributed a great deal to the life of Dorking Meeting including editing the Grapevine for 20 years (from Feb 1991 to Dec 2011) and, of course, her wonderful plays that we all enjoyed watching and/or acting. See the next page for an article about her life.

Change of contact details

Please correct your 2014 contact list details for Veronica Mills to 14 The Alms Houses rather than 6, and her telephone number has changed.

JOAN MARGARET MACALPINE

The older lady, stooped in the corner bench, with cushions at her back, and stick hooked on the back of the bench in front; this is the Friend whom latterly we saw each meeting for worship. Finally her absence, from infirmity, formed a Joan-shaped hole in our worship community.

Not always so. Her glory days were in the theatre: the Thorndike, and before that, in the old tin building in the High Street, a repertory theatre of the old sort – where health and safety, employment conditions, and leaks from the roof were all more or less cheerfully ignored.

Here Joan was a much respected director, especially of the Young Stagers. She directed them, she trained them and wrote plays for them, and made scenery and props, with performances in the Casson Room, and achieved a standard seldom I think seen in an amateur young company.

Of course, she had had the experience of an assistant directorship at the Scarborough Library Theatre, in the era when it was run by Stephen Joseph. He was a believer in taking theatre to the public; and many were the tales that Joan had to tell of bleak winter journeys in a lorry (over) loaded with scenery and lighting kit, to arrive and stagger with the equipment up two flights of stairs to a public hall. One vehicle had a floor under its pedals which was not a floor, but a thin bit of carpet. Once moved, you could see the road as it passed underneath.

But her writing was original, and many of her plays were presented in our own Dorking Meeting House. It was a privilege to be chosen (persuaded) to take part; and to be directed by Joan took you back to an old-fashioned fourth-form classroom. She knew what she wanted all right. She has had plays, adaptations mainly, performed in West End Theatres.

Of course, this area of interest was one she and I shared, and so we mainly talked of that; but as I gave her a hand with her books, when she moved from Monks Green to Dorking's Rose Hill, I realised that these titles, and those of her father, were ones I was extremely familiar with. They had been in my own father's bookshelves, and I had read the lot. How we enjoyed book-talk!

Joan came to Quakers, but it was some 20 years before she joined as a member of the Religious Society of Friends. Her parents were Baptists; but they had married in the Quaker Meeting at Manchester.

After Joan went to stay at Rose Hill Care Home, conversations turned to her father: Bernard Ireland Macalpine, always known as Bim. She told me she had – somewhere in the flat – her father's letters from when he worked alongside Quaker War Victims Relief expedition men and women, in the First World War. Thank goodness that her own mother had kept these 8 books of letters; and the hundreds of photos that went with them. It is a pity that Joan could not stay to see the coming exhibition of Bim's work with Quakers as a Conscientious Objector. But she did wish others to see what he had done.

Joan herself was a very private person. Very witty, learned and eclectic, with few friends but staunch Friends who saw her often while at Rose Hill. She has joined up now with her dearly-loved brother, to whom she was a rock, in his teenage years, before the blessings of chemistry made his mental condition liveable with. As she murmured in my last visit to her, "It will be better; it will be better."

Su Johnston

News of the Dorking Foodbank

I shall attend a meeting on 11 June on behalf of Dorking Friends, about progress in the setting up of the Dorking Foodbank. This meeting will discuss the Project Plan and update us on the position with the Trussel Trust. There is likely to be a town centre distribution point in the Crypt of St Martin's and a second distribution centre at the Harvest in Goodwyns. Negotiations are also going on to provide space in the town for volunteer training, food storage and packing preparation.

If Friends would like me to raise anything at the meeting or there is specific information that they would like about the proposed Foodbank, do get in touch with me. Friends may be heartened to know that Midweek Meeting already have funds set aside to make an early donation.

Romy Elias

International Conscientious Objectors (CO) Day, 15 May

I attended the International Conscientious Objectors Day ceremony, held around the memorial stone in Tavistock Square, on the 15 May. It was organised by the First World War Peace Forum, of which Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) is a member. There were a number of speakers, including Sam Walton of QPSW, followed by the Maria Fidelis school choir singing *The Ones who said No*.



Photo of memorial stone from peace.mariposo.com

In a moving part of the ceremony, the families of COs from WW1 were invited to come forward to name their relative, say a few words about them, show a photograph, and leave a flower on the memorial.

At least 50 families did so. One was Lucy Baruch, daughter of Dr John Rickman of Dorking, who worked for the Friends' War Victims Relief Service in Russia. The COs had a variety of reasons for adopting their position, some religious, some political, some labour solidarity. In a period of silence, further flowers were laid for COs of every time and place. The choir ended the ceremony by leading the singing of *We shall overcome*. See <http://www.ppu.org.uk/coday/> for photos.

QPSW hosted a lunch for officials and families who laid flowers. There was an exhibition of photographs and rare artefacts in the Friends House library.

The event was well attended (over 300) and well organised. A 4-minute You Tube clip is available, which includes at least one family reporting that their loved one had been given a death sentence, later commuted to penal servitude. This was repeated often by other families. I hadn't realised that COs risked the death penalty, and this further defines their courage to me.

Lois Lodge

Circles South East appeal for volunteers

Lisa Welch recently joined Circles South East as Surrey and Sussex Co-ordinator. She writes: "Circles South East, a Registered Charitable Company, takes an holistic approach to tackling sexual crime, helping sexual offenders to reintegrate safely into the community and reducing the risk of their sexually re-offending. We achieve this through bridging the gap between communities, an offender and professional agencies so that the offender can be managed safely. We have provided a specialist resource to the Thames Valley, Hampshire, and Kent areas for 10 years, and recently we have expanded to the Surrey and Sussex area.

Circles was a Quaker initiative in the UK, and then Circles South East became an independent charity. Quakers have often provided venues for formal meetings between our Core Member and volunteer, for which we are very grateful – as accommodating meetings for sex offenders in the community can often be difficult. Given the historical links and support from Quakers, I am very keen for us to continue to work closely together.

A great deal of work is done by our amazing volunteers. We are new to Surrey and Sussex and need to recruit volunteers in the area. Please get in touch if you are interested in volunteering or if your Meeting would like a presentation on our work. For more details see www.circlessoutheast.org.uk

Lisa Welch
01235 816050
info@htvcircles.org.uk

Lakwetab Gaa (Child Of Home)



07827 811177, Flat 4, 5 Hampstead Road, Dorking)

A film from Summit Rural African Poverty - a Dorking-based group working to help rural African communities - can be seen at St Paul's Church, Dorking, on Sunday 29 June at 7pm. Set in the Kenyan heartland, the movie tells the story of one family living in an isolated valley. What do they do? How do they live? And just how much fun can it be living in rural East Africa? (Contact details for the group:

Yearly Meeting Gathering – Bath, 2 to 9 August 2014

The bookings are in, the draft timetable is in place, and almost two thousand Quakers will be descending on the University of Bath. Those who can't be there have just as much part to play as we consider the wonderful act of 'Spiritual preparation'. The document, 'What it means to be a Quaker today', is already in our meetings, and the time is right to gather together in our local communities and prepare our hearts and minds.

For two Yearly Meetings we have dwelt upon our spiritual journeys, and now we come to the final chapter – how does membership affect your journey? Quakers believe in sharing our deepest beliefs and promptings, since this is the way to true discernment. Membership may be one of the manifestations of our commitment, and it may involve deeper attachment or possibly a personal transformation. How does being a member enhance our spiritual journeys? The more we share our thoughts and reflections, the better we shall be prepared for Bath. It can be in whatever community you feel you belong, or online at our forum www.quaker.org.uk/ymforum.

Extracted from an article by Colin Billett – Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

Update on the P&SW and Outreach programme for 2014

Schools

Sally Elias is building on her contacts with secondary schools to further promote Peace One Day (POD) while Martin Hunka is available to work with primary schools in November, alongside our parents. We will provide POD and Quaker peace resource links, and offer to run an assembly with a WW1 theme. We want to make red, white and purple poppies with the children, and Martin is looking for a story that exemplifies the need for peace/avoidance of war.

Centenary of the outbreak of WW1

- Churches Together in Dorking (CTD) have accepted our offer to organise a meeting for worship on 3 August on their behalf. Our Elders are discerning a way forward.
- Dorking museum are willing to feature items about local Quakers and their work/response to WW1 in next year's exhibition.
- 2014 is an opportunity to promote white poppies, and we could start early – perhaps from 3 August. Friends might like to give a white poppy and leaflet to family and friends – the leaflet explains that 'It is a symbol of grief for everyone harmed by war but, more importantly, it represents a commitment to work for a world where conflicts will be resolved without violence and with justice'.
- We would like to add "How will you make peace?" to the "Who will you make peace with?" theme for the International Day of Peace celebration. The exhibition 'The Light that pushes me', featuring seven African Quaker peace builders, has been booked (see *Spring/Summer Quaker News*). It encourages thought about the 'How?' question, and the courage it takes to promote peace.
- John Lampen, long time peace activist and author of *Love Growing in Us*, has been invited to speak and is available in November.



Red and white poppies.
Lucycare.com

Outreach

Catherine Carr hopes to run a short session after Meeting for Worship on "Why is Quakerism important to you?" so that strap lines can be developed. She will build from this to a workshop on talking about being a Quaker (with suitable help from trained Friends).

CTD agree with the aim of running a hustings before the next election (7 May 2015), and they have asked Quakers to organise it.

Lois Lodge

Reflection from our Elders

As Edward Burroughs wrote in 1659 (QF&P 23.11):

We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party, nor against the other... but we are for justice and mercy and truth and peace and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our nation, and that goodness, righteousness, meekness, temperance, peace and unity with God, and with one another, that these things may abound.

Bob Humphreys