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Quote for the month is a Danish proverb from *The Fire of Silence and Stillness: An anthology of quotations for the Spiritual Journey* edited by Paul Harris

Pray to God in the storm, but keep on rowing!

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Saturday 8 Nov	10.30am-4pm	Exhibition <i>My Dear Auntie</i> in Meeting House
Sunday 9 Nov	12.30pm-3pm	Exhibition <i>My Dear Auntie</i> in Meeting House
Sunday 9 Nov	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 15 Nov	11.15am	Regional Meeting at Chichester – Helen Rowlands on <i>Leading with Integrity</i>
Sunday 16 Nov	1.00pm	Area Meeting at Horsham MH
Sunday 16 Nov	2.30-4.00pm	AM Fellowship session at Horsham MH - see page 4
Friday 21 Nov	7.30pm	Meditation meeting in Meeting House - see page 2
Sunday 23 Nov	after MfW	Amnesty International cards etc.
Sunday 23 Nov	after MfW	P&SW Shared lunch and talk by John Lampen
Saturday 29 Nov		First Aid training at Christian Centre – see page 4
Friday 5 Dec	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House - see page 3
Sunday 7 Dec	after MfW	Traidcraft at Meeting House
Sunday 14 Dec	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 10 Jan 2015	3.00-5.00pm	All-age party at Meeting House – advance notice!

Notes from Preparative Meeting ...

Sunday collection for August/September, for **Quaker Homeless Action**, raised £135.60. The collection for October/November is for **Quaker Social Action**.

Wednesday Meeting gave £200 to **Besom** in August and £200 to the **CAB** in September.

Advices and Queries read *Dorking*: No. 16 in September, and Nos. 33 and 1 in October.
Leatherhead: No. 32 in September.

Collections for 2015 were agreed as follows:

January/February	Woodbrooke
March	Peace and Social Witness Committee to decide
April/May	Claridge House
June/July	Britain Yearly Meeting
August/September	Quaker Homeless Action
October/November	Quaker Social Action
December	Meeting Children to decide

Keith Poulton reported on behalf of Nominations Committee on appointments for 2015. The appointments were approved, and a finalised list will be attached to your December Grapevine. We are very grateful to Sophie Dodgeon for being willing to serve a further year as Assistant Clerk, and accept that she is unable to serve as Clerk subsequently. This leaves us with a

problem of succession in this role. The new role of Besom Link was established, with gratitude to Veronica Mills, who has been filling this service over the past year and is willing to continue.

Romy Elias, as Treasurer, presented a budget for 2015. She would like to see our reserves higher than at present, so PM agreed that we should pay off the remaining £6,000 of the loan from AM at the rate of £3,000 per year, but decrease our annual donation to BYM in 2015, from the proposed £6,000 to £1,000. To compensate a bit we would assign the June/July 2015 collection to BYM. It was agreed to increase the budget for C&YP Committee from £50 to £200.

Lois Lodge presented the joint Outreach and P&SW programme for 2015. We are organising a hustings meeting next April (details in December Grapevine), Quaker Quest is planned for the autumn. We will continue to promote Peace One Day and use the WW1 commemorations to shed light on Quakers and what they stand for.

Colin Brewer, on behalf of Overseers, offered a proposed calendar of events for Dorking Meeting in 2015. Finalised copies will be circulated with the Grapevine.

Dorking Meeting Annual Report drafted by Richard Bass as Clerk, was approved and will be presented to November Area Meeting.

Romy commented on the slow progress with the Dorking Food bank – see article on page 3.

News from Premises – October-November 2014

We are dealing next with the **drain pipes** at the rear of the building. Unfortunately, the water butts have had the down pipes led into them directly, instead of with a by-pass to deal with overflow. This means, as you can see from the whitening of the wall behind, that the bricks have become damp. We are getting quotes for re-routing the down pipes.

Our sadly **blemished wall** in the Meeting House is another case of damp. A craftsman will be taking off the top layer of plaster to encourage drying. As this may take some months, we invite ideas as to a covering for the wall in the meantime, so it looks more pleasant.

The **garden beds** are being cleared by Martyn Hird, and he is getting the plants which Friends wish to have in the garden. We are asking him for a list of care instructions. The hedge will be cut to a height that can be maintained by Friends. There was an idea for a beech arch over the gate, but as this would involve ladder work to trim it, it was thought better not to do that.

The **flat roof** over the cottage lobby is showing increasing damp; we had hoped that a temporary repair in March would fix it; but no. So lead flashing is to be supplied.

You will see from the **budget for 2015** that we will only be able to deal with running repairs and maintenance. The redecorating we would all so much like to do must wait, and Friends have decisions to make about where that money, and for the garden, is to come from.

Comments to Premises and Finance Committee please. Su Johnston and Keith Poulton

Meditation, contemplation and the search for spiritual life



The meditation group meets, usually on the third Friday of the month, from 7.30 to 9.00 at the Meeting House. Each year after the summer break we review if and how it meets the needs of those who come along – which in itself is a broad remit. Over the last year we have met most months and combined the exploration of a range of meditational practices with fascinating presentations by different people, followed by wide-ranging discussions about life, the universe and everything.....

At the September meeting we talked about what each of us looked for and how best to use the time. Recurrent themes are 'What is meditation and mindfulness?', 'How does it relate to Quaker practice?' 'How might we achieve a deeper spiritual awareness?'

We have agreed that we will use the time in structured meditation, discussion on a topic, and end with a period of silent contemplation. Next meetings are 21 November and 19 December (if not too close to Christmas).

Catherine Carr

Study Group on Meeting for Worship **Friday, 5th December, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm**

Most of us suffer from our thoughts wandering at times during Meeting for Worship. Should this happen to you, how do you bring your mind back to preparing for a gathered meeting? Raising this question recently among a few Dorking Friends uncovered a number of helpful measures. These included: making themselves conscious of their own breathing; silently repeating a favourite word; or focusing on some chosen feature of the Meeting Room. Another Friend was content to sit patiently in readiness for the spiritual Light while others found it helpful to quietly read passages from Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices and Queries, or the Bible. The question as to whether the occurrence of a Ministry helped, or hindered, their own efforts towards settling in silent Worship received mixed responses.

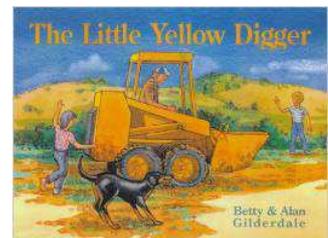
Grapevine readers may detect the influence of meditation techniques among the foregoing ideas, and this led to the query as to whether there are significant differences between meditating and participating in a Meeting for Quaker Worship. This should all make for an intriguing discussion at our next study group, when questions will be aired concerning how best to prepare oneself for Meeting for Worship. Please come and join in what should be an enjoyable and worthwhile study session. Your contribution will be greatly valued.

Bob Humphreys

Joan Macalpine's legacy and related artistic news

Joan Macalpine was a dearly loved member of Dorking Meeting. She died earlier this year and asked for her ashes to be buried in the Dorking Meeting garden. We hope to arrange this shortly and to plant a flowering shrub in her memory.

Apart from her thoughtful ministry, many Friends and particularly the children will have fond memories of the plays that Joan wrote and produced for us. We are pleased to have several new and younger children joining us recently, and some new children's books have been bought for them in memory of Joan. At least three of these include different stories about the "Little Yellow Digger". These will be kept with the children's books in the bookcase in the information centre.



The very popular Little Yellow Digger stories were written several years ago by Betty Gilderdale and illustrated by her husband Alan, who both worshipped with us in the Sixties.

Another of our talented artists, Jenni Hope-Jones, was actually a student of Alan's at the Reigate School of Art. Jenni has produced some wonderful Quaker illustrations which can be seen in the book *An Ocean of Love*, available from our Meeting library.

Dorking Meeting has benefited from having much literary and artistic talent over the years, and recently our Friend Alison Carlier won the first prize in the Jerwood Drawing Prize (2014) – for details see www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/jerwood-drawing-prize.

Jan Elias

Dorking Foodbank update

The proposed Dorking Foodbank is still taking time to progress, following the Churches Together in Dorking (CTD) agreement at their September meeting to provide the financial accounting umbrella for the Foodbank. This was on the understanding it did not require CTD to fund-raise, which would be left to the Steering Committee. Funds, it is hoped, will come mainly in the form of grants from charities and other organisations. We do have an indication from the local authority and a local politician that they are supportive, which may or may not mean that some funds would flow from them. The Steering Committee is due to meet the Trussel Trust so that the Foodbank can operate under a Trussel Trust franchise; this is the current hold-up, on which I shall be progress-chasing. Accordingly, a start date is not imminent but hopefully not too far into the New Year once we have the advice and backing we are requesting from the Trussel Trust.

Meanwhile Dorking Besom and Leatherhead Foodbank support this area, but a fully operational Dorking Foodbank would provide more comprehensive cover to the south of Mole Valley.

Romy Elias

Fellowship session after ABM, November 16
*Sharing thoughts and visions on the way ahead for Quakers in Britain:
 contribution to 2015-2020 Long-Term Framework consultation*

Do you remember this document produced five years ago? It has provided inspiration and encouragement to many in Britain Yearly Meeting. Read it online www.quaker.org.uk/framework-action-2009-2014 or ask Anne Brewer for a copy.



We have been asked to contribute to the next five years, by joining the discussion on the contents for a framework for action 2015 onwards. Meeting for Sufferings are asking us to consider four questions (listed below), and we will be sharing our responses to them in the Fellowship session after Area Business Meeting in Horsham, on Sunday November 16. We hope to agree a minute to send to the relevant group at Friends House. **If you can't come on November 16 but would like to contribute**, please send your thoughts to Anne Brewer.

1. What is distinctive about Quaker work and witness, to us and to others?
2. What is your vision of the ministry that your local meeting and Quakers in Britain are called to, now and in the future?
3. What are we led to do together?
4. How could Quaker structures and networks help Quakers in Britain to flourish?

Anne Brewer

First Aid Training opportunity.

CTD have arranged for local church members, who are experienced First Aid trainers, to run a course on **Saturday 29 November** at the **Christian Centre**. The course will cover initial training and updating of those already trained (certificated training only lasts 3 years). It will not cover working with children, for which more time is needed. Costs will be minimal, as the instructors will work for free, but expenses and certification costs will apply. **If you are interested in being updated or training for the first time**, please see the Clerk

Lois Lodge

Hustings Meeting for 2015 Election – A Values Led Event!

There is agreement with Churches Together in Dorking that we should run a Hustings Meeting in advance of the 2015 election, at our Meeting House, as we have done in previous elections. Richard Bass has agreed to chair and will, I am sure perform this role as strongly and fairly as he did on the previous occasion.

We have a date set – Friday April 17. I have contacted Friends House, and Jessica Metheringham, Parliamentary Engagement Advocacy and Public Relations, was very helpful in reassuring me that our proposals were viable and having suggestions on how to take things forward. Nearer the time we need to work out with CTD the best way to publicise this event and how to agree on questions for the panel. **If anyone is interested in being involved**, please contact me.

Catherine Carr

Reflection from our Elders

The end of October was full of sunlight, and early November brought rain and more of the shadows of approaching winter. It is a time of colds and coughs and tiredness, also the sadness of news of serious illnesses and growing infirmities taking their toll. Q F & P 21.69 tells us "*We have many devices to protect ourselves from sadness - naturally enough it is a distressing feeling... And yet sadness... is a very noble feeling if we bear it with dignity.... To try to run away from the awareness of the pain of sadness is tantamount to thinking of light without shadow; or love without the anxiety of possible separation; or life without death.*"

Charles Kohler of this Meeting entitled one of his collections of short stories "Sunlight and Shadows" - including encouraging stories of the children of our Meeting.

May we all sustain ourselves and each other through any tiredness or illness of this season with the rays of sunlight viewed through the prism of the joys in each of our lives, including those of our children.

Romy Elias, on behalf of the Elders