



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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Quote for the month from Quaker faith & practice 23.64

Whichever sphere of activity we are involved in, we have to be responsive to the Spirit's leadings and try to put into practice our deepest beliefs.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 12 Oct	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 17 Oct	7.30pm	Meditation meeting in Meeting House
Sunday 2 Nov	9.00am	Preparative Meeting in Meeting House
Friday 7 Nov	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House
Saturday 8 Nov	10.30am-4pm	Exhibition <i>My Dear Auntie</i> in Meeting House
Sunday 9 Nov	12.30am-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
Sunday 16 Nov	tbc	Area Meeting at Horsham MH
Sunday 23 Nov	after MfW	P&SW Shared lunch and talk by John Lampen

Heritage week exhibition in Meeting House 11-12 September

More than 100 visitors came to see the exhibition *My Dear Auntie*, which Su Johnston organised in the Meeting House for Heritage week. The exhibition was based round the letters written to his aunt by a conscientious objector, Bernard Ireland Macalpine, or BIM as he was affectionately known. They were written during his time working with Friends' War Victims Relief in France between 1915 and 1918, and had been found amongst the papers of Joan Macalpine, the much missed member of Dorking Meeting who died earlier this year.

The exhibition was in two parts. First, displayed in the large hall, were several panels of photographs and associated information, accompanied by very effective background noises of the sort that would have been heard during these war years. Then, in the small hall, visitors could watch a moving sequence of appropriate photographs, accompanying a recording of Martin Hunka reading the letters.

It was fortunate that BIM had been an enthusiastic photographer and left such a wonderful visual story of the work that was done. Much of this work involved the construction of portable wooden houses, that could be taken anywhere they were needed. Vincent Joineries of Dorking had created a model of one of these portable homes, which could be put together by children attending the exhibition – see photo of our Sam busy at work putting the model together.



The exhibition will be on display again in November (see diary above for details).

Meeting's activities for International Day of Peace

During the week before the International Day of Peace, Sally Elias led secondary school assemblies on the subject of Peace.

Then, on the day, September 21, several members of Meeting enjoyed a shared lunch after Meeting for Worship, and they used worship-sharing to share their thoughts and experiences in connection with the Buddhist mantra/prayer on forgiveness. They found this process an excellent way to reach a deep and meaningful sharing, and they recommend that those interested in the process read section 12.21 *Worship sharing and creative listening groups*, in Quaker faith & practice (4th edition).

Meanwhile Anne and Colin Brewer joined the climate rally in London, concerned to impress upon the world leaders, due to meet in New York the following week, the importance of making peace with the earth. They joined about 50 Quakers from all over the country and the many thousands of concerned citizens on similar marches all over the world, with the biggest march of 400,000 being in New York. The rally in London, with around 40,000 participants, was far bigger than the expected 15,000.



The Quakers assembled with the interfaith groups, next to the Buddhists and Catholics, and all joined in a recital of the prayer specially written for the occasion by Desmond Tutu:

Creator God

You have called us to be keepers of your Earth;

Through greed, we have established an economy that destroys the web of life.

We have changed our climate and drown in despair.

Let oceans of justice flow,

May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth.

As they gather in New York City at the climate talks

May they negotiate with wisdom and fairness,

May they act with compassion and courage,

and lead us in the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children.

This was followed by five minutes' silence just before the march was due to begin. Due to the exceptional turnout, the entire route from Temple Station to the Houses of Parliament was packed with marchers, and the back end of the march, where the Quakers were, didn't leave Temple Station until after the rally at the Houses of Parliament was over! However, there was much to enjoy – chatting with lots of lovely people, appreciating the music and dancing, and the entertaining placards. Anne's favourite read *Croydon Real Nappy Group: saving the world from the bottom up!*

It seems the marchers' efforts reached the ears of world leaders. In his speech to the UN, Barack Obama said:

Climate is changing faster than our efforts to address it. The alarm bells keep ringing, our citizens keep marching. We cannot pretend we don't hear them, we must answer their call.

Quaker groups from around the world issued a shared statement. To see the full statement, go to www.quaker.org.uk/facing-challenge-climate-change. Here is an extract:

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

This week, we join the People's Climate March as members of this beautiful human family, seeking meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth, and the generations to come.

We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

Quaker response to the air strikes against IS in Iraq

(Your editor found this very current item of news, dated September 24, on the Quaker website, and many Friends may not have seen it, or may have been unable to access it.)

As Parliament is recalled to discuss the UK's possible involvement in air strikes against Islamic State (IS) in Iraq, Quakers in Britain have sent an open letter to the Prime Minister. The text of the letter reads as follows:

Quakers acknowledge with sadness the recall of Parliament to consider British military action.

As the tragedies in Syria and Iraq unfold, Quakers in Britain again ask for military restraint.

Quakers acknowledge and deplore the extreme criminal behaviour displayed in the region. We, too, want the violence and suffering to end.

We remind those who make these decisions in Britain that it is often easier to start a war than to end it, and that additional violence itself fuels a bloody and destructive cycle. The bitterness and hatred created lasts for generations. Such violence threatens us all.

We stress that diplomatic channels must be used at all times, but especially when considering violence and war, particularly through the good offices of the United Nations.

Britain is a wonderful living example of the potential of multi-faith peace-making. We have many British citizens of Iraqi and Syrian origin who are in active dialogue with their families and friends in the region. It is those people who tell us how such criminality is created – by desperate people who feel they have lost everything to violence inflicted on them by the West, and that violence is their revenge. Desperation has a human face, and humanity is what we share.

Quakers ask that Parliament discuss whether this is an opportunity for Britain to export peace in a way hitherto unexplored – through our multi-faith and multicultural connections which spread across the world.

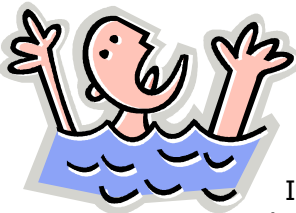
Quakers again ask for Government to take a further critical look at the role that the arms trade plays in promoting and increasing the likelihood of war.

We trust and pray that as Parliament makes these difficult decisions on our behalf, they are guided by love of humanity and the desire for peace for everyone.

signed

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain

An appeal



Do you feel like living adventurously, riding to the rescue, and helping your Area Meeting to survive? It is badly in need of Trustees and Clerking Team members.

If you have the slightest inkling that you could possibly manage to serve for just one year on the Clerking Team, please have a word with a member of the Meeting's Nominations Committee (Keith Poulton, Gayle Banks or Catherine Carr). If you want to know more about what's involved, speak to Lois Lodge or Anne Brewer.

Alternatively, if you think you might have the time and enthusiasm to be a Trustee, have a word with Su Johnston to see what's involved.

Another Appeal!!

This one from your library team. Now that the nights are drawing in, how about curling up with a book? There are lots of good ones in the Meeting library just gathering dust. Rachel is going to put out some suggested titles on Sundays, to tempt you.





Opportunity to work with the Brigitte Trust

The inspiration behind the Brigitte Trust was Brigitte Watkin, a member of our Meeting, who died some years ago. Several members of the Meeting have worked with the Trust as volunteers, and now there is another opportunity to be trained if you are interested in this very worthwhile work.

When a family member is diagnosed with cancer, or another life-threatening illness, it can be a lonely and frightening time. The Brigitte Trust, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, offers a free volunteer service of emotional support and practical help at home. It works closely with health professionals and hospices, complementing their service by offering clients, and their family members, time to share feelings and concerns, as well as practical help at home.

As people are living longer with life-threatening conditions, and many are enjoying long periods of remission, the service has adapted to being part of a network of support, to help people to remain at home, so avoiding admission to hospital, hospice, care or nursing homes.

The Trust is now recruiting for its next training course, to be held at Surrey Community Action in Burpham, starting in November 2014. Through the programme volunteers will be equipped with the skills to provide emotional support to people and their families facing the huge challenges of life-threatening illness.

To express interest in becoming a volunteer, or just to find out more, call 01306 881816 or visit the charity's website www.brigitte-trust.org. One current volunteer said:

The training course, which I attended when I first joined The Trust, together with ongoing workshops and supervision, has made me feel that I am part of a friendly and hugely supportive team, and I really enjoy my role as a volunteer. ... And the feedback we get from our clients endorses the fact that we really do make a difference.

Want some 'Love on legs'?

As some of you know, we have been looking after two very loving, well-behaved little Westies (aged 9 and 10), while their owner, Karen, is in Australia. Karen has now decided to emigrate and, sadly, can't take the dogs with her. We would love to have them permanently, but unfortunately our cycle-based life-style would make this very difficult. However, we would always be keen to offer Harvey and Monty a holiday home as the need arose.

Monty and Harvey are very special dogs. They listen to everything you say, understanding a lot of it. They are totally accepting and will enter joyfully into going for a walk or just lounging around. As their owner says, they are 'love on legs' and we would agree.



So, if you would like more company in your life, or know of someone else who might, here is a great opportunity. To express interest, or find out more, give Karen (07747 067 445) or us (01372 456421) a ring.

Anne and Colin Brewer

Reflection from our Elders

Quakers say: 'Each person is unique, precious, a child of God.'

'Respect differences and enjoy them as much as similarities.'

'Accept imperfections.'

These statements were brought into play at a Safeguarding Coordinators' weekend I attended recently.

Bob Humphreys