



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer, while Rachel Fardon is unwell.
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 No. 486



Congratulations and loving greetings to our Friend Joan Lampen who was 100 years old in January

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Friday 6 Feb	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House on religion and violence
Sunday 8 Feb	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 14 Feb	10.00am-1.00pm	AM Fellowship day at Horsham MH (see page 4)
Friday 20 Feb	12.00-1.30pm	Lent Lunch at Meeting House (see page 2)
Friday 20 Feb	2.30-4.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Friday 6 March	11.00am	Womens World Day of Prayer service at Dorking URC
Saturday 7 March	10.30am-12.30pm	Area Meeting at Capel
Saturday 7 March	2.00pm	AM Fellowship at Capel (see page 4)
Sunday 8 March	After MfW	Traidcraft stall in Meeting House (Last day of Fairtrade Fortnight)
Sunday 8 March	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead

Notes from Preparative Meeting on January 18

The October/November collection for **Quaker Social Action** raised £179.01. Midweek Meeting collected £381.60 for **Dorking Area Foodbank** and the *Special Appeal* in Sunday Meeting raised £735, so we sent a cheque to the Foodbank for £1,116.60.

The December collection, for the **World Land Trust**, raised £103.50 - see also page 4.

For the March collection, our **Peace and Social Witness Committee have chosen the Ibanda Literacy Schools in Uganda**. John Lampen has supported the Schools for ten years, and encouraged our support on his visit last year. The literacy school started in a refugee camp in Uganda in 2002. It has expanded from there so that 307 children and 364 adult learners were being taught on 6 campuses in 2014. They have been as self-sufficient as possible with local resources and volunteers. Our funding will go towards paying salaries to the teachers.

Advices and Queries read. *Dorking*: November no. 8, December none. *Leatherhead*: November no. 22, December: None.

The Calendar of Events for 2015 was approved and most readers will find a copy attached to this Grapevine. If you receive an electronic copy of the Grapevine you will find an A5 card calendar of events awaiting you at the Meeting House.

The following nominations were confirmed: Judith Martin to join Children's Committee and Sheila Bowers to be the Meeting's representative on Women's World Day of Prayer.

The main item in PM was participation in the national consultation on **the way ahead for Quakers in Britain, 2015 – 2020**. After a helpful introduction by Colin Hope the meeting focussed on two questions in the Guidance Notes. These were: (a) What is your vision of the ministry that your local meeting and Quakers in Britain are called to, now and in the future? and (b) how could Quaker structures and networks help Quakers in Britain to flourish?

The responses from the meeting have been circulated to Friends on email. Below is a slightly shortened version, for those not on email. Ask the editor if you would like the full version.

- Quakers should be "a voice for the voiceless", e.g. refugees and asylum seekers in Britain.
- Peace testimony seems less prominent now, while equality and poverty are pressing issues.
- We must try to get better at feeding Quaker views into national and international debate.
- More modern, action-focussed approaches to Quaker work, without losing sight of the spiritual foundations on which Quaker work is built.
- We need to work on the applicability of our Quaker testimonies to today's concerns, and how they can help us to be a more effective force for good.
- New worship groups should be established in areas where there is no existing Quaker Meeting, with eldership and oversight provided by a nearby Meeting. Unburdened by administrative systems, such groups bring real spiritual value to those who attend them.
- We should foster the "quiet processes and small groups" which have achieved so much over the years, and often work better than "top-down leadership".
- Taking care to preserve the best Quaker traditions, we should be more critical and consider scrapping outworn procedures and practices, and unnecessary committees.
- Meeting for Worship is at the centre of everything we do - a fountain from which we draw inspiration and encouragement for our work in the world.
- Much expertise and inspiration can be found within the family of Quakers in Britain. We only have to ask, but often don't.

A note from Premises committee ...

... about Kitchen Cupboards!

Friends and users will see that, at rather short notice, we have made an exchange of cupboards in the kitchen, with the Playgroup. I say short notice because as they offered to do the work, it was effected on the same day we talked about it! But I hope that Friends will find it useful and safer to have the plates etc. in the cupboards under the urn, than in that very congested place in the corner. We shall see how it works out, and any comments to the Premises and Finance committee will be welcomed.

Su Johnston



We are hosting the Lent Lunch of Friday 20 February, and

I am glad to say that Friends have already come forward to help, so that the basics are covered. They are, I have to say, "the usual stalwarts"! **If you can help, there is still stuff for you to do, so please let me know,** and you will have a warm welcome.

Although a total of 30 or more is expected to come for their simple lunch, between 12 and 1.30, they are unlikely to all come together – so our equipment will certainly be sufficient to cope, and it is good to have this opportunity to work with the other churches in Dorking. Of course, do come and have a sort of Wednesday meeting lunch yourself!

On Fridays during Lent you are invited to share a frugal meal of soup, bread and cheese at various Dorking churches in turn, and give what you might have spent – more if you wish! – towards the work of Christian Aid. See the noticeboard for a list of venues, times and dates for the remaining 5 Lenten lunches.

Su Johnston, 01306 640327, suj@f2s.com

The Besom Link

Many thanks to all who contributed to the food boxes at Christmas – along with all the other churches who gave so generously, we were able to give overflowing boxes to all. Besom will still be helping with food boxes for the time being as the food bank has been delayed yet again. I will leave a box out, but do look in both the small hall and the information centre as the box gets moved around to accommodate the Play Group and others.



Thank you from all of us at Besom. Veronica Mills.

Dorking Friends at anti-Trident demo



Romy, Su, Lesley and I joined thousands of other Anti-Trident demonstrators on Saturday and I think that we all felt that it was very worthwhile. We met many Friends from other Meetings including some from Reigate.

The demonstrators circled the Ministry of Defence in Westminster with a 'peace scarf' to protest against the replacement of the UK's nuclear weapons system.

Quakers continue to oppose the Trident nuclear programme and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, which make our world more dangerous. Renewal of Trident is expected to cost over £100 billion, and sadly the decision to renew it is supported by most Members of Parliament whilst (according to polls) it is increasingly opposed by the majority of their constituents.

Jan Elias

A CTD "Values Based" Hustings Meeting

Friday 17 April 7 – 9.30pm

Help wanted

We are well organised for this event which the Quakers are hosting at the Meeting House, to bring all the candidates for the 2015 National Election to answer questions about their policies on key areas of importance to the religious groups in the neighbourhood. There may be up to 70 people attending. Members of the Meeting are obviously welcome to come along.

However it will be really important to have some additional assistance to help with the meeting

- to meet and greet at the door
- to steward those coming into building and going into the seating area
- to assist with the light catering provided at 8.45

If anyone is willing to put their name forward please contact anyone on Outreach/P&SW: me, Catherine Carr (catherinecarr@carrhome.plus.com), Lois Lodge, Lesley Hunka or Sally Elias.

Invitation from Peace and Social Witness Committee

Friends are invited to the P&SW shared lunch after meeting for worship on **Sunday 22 March**. We'll be putting flesh on the bones of some ideas we have had, discussing over lunch issues relating to Quakers and WW1 exhibition in the Dorking museum; 'rehabilitating' the White Feather at a worship sharing event and/or by storytelling in primary schools; adding to the Peace One Day activities, etc.

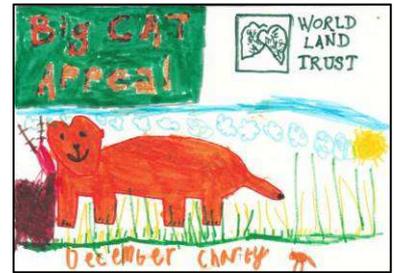
Report from the CTD AGM from Lois Lodge and Frances Harber

Five Friends from Meeting were present at the Churches Together in Dorking (CTD) AGM on 28 January. For the first time in its history the officers of CTD are all from the laity – significant or not? Here are some brief action oriented notes from an inspiring meeting. It was good to hear so much worthwhile work being undertaken by the churches working together.

- **Besom** is still accepting donations, and amazed how what they pray for promptly arrives!
- **Street Pastors** is going well. Maggie White the coordinator would like to be invited to speak about it (07771 962222).
- First aid – the course run for CTD was successful with 19 participants (4 Quakers)
- Plans for a **Food Bank** are progressing under the Chairmanship of Rosemary Elias. Funds are needed. Those who do not need their winter fuel allowance may be encouraged to donate it.
- There was a call for CTD to reach out to the Muslim community in Dorking. The CTD Chair was open to the idea of letters of greeting/friendship from individuals (first suggested at Meeting on Sunday) but further reflection is needed on who and how.

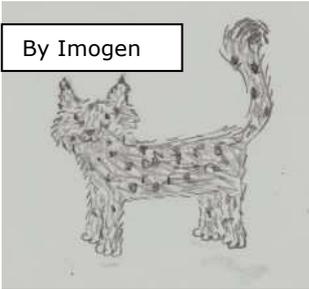
More about the Children's December collection

The children have received a certificate (see the children's notice board) and a very nice thank you letter from the World Land Trust. Here is a little extract:



By Pippa and Thomas

By Imogen



Very many thanks indeed for the donation towards the purchase and protection of tropical forest in Mexico. Thank you for sending through the lovely pictures ... we may well feature your fundraising efforts in our Hall of Fame and as a news story. See:

www.worldlandtrust.org/supporting/fundraising/dorking-quaker-meeting

The lovely pictures referred to were drawn by our children and some of them are reproduced here!



By Samuel

Gayle Banks

Fellowship and Tree-Planting at Capel

On Saturday 24 January a happy band of Quakers from Capel and Dorking, the Capel Church vicar and some Capel villagers, enjoyed the afternoon planting 10 fruit trees in the field belonging to Capel Meeting – 1 apricot, 1 damson, 2 pears, 1 or maybe 2 plums and the rest a selection of apples. Hopefully the trees will flourish under the care of the community to become a thriving orchard supplying locally-grown organic fruit!



You can admire their handiwork on **7 March** when Area Business Meeting will be held at Capel, followed, appropriately, by a talk on sustainability and Quaker involvement by Sunniva Taylor from Friends House.

Anne Brewer

Valentines Day at Horsham

We are invited to join Horsham Meeting for a fellowship morning on 14 February on the theme "Love" in all its forms – romantic love, friendship, nature, music, art, poetry, creativity, food... and not forgetting Advices and Queries "with the promptings of love and truth in our hearts". An informal, fun and creative morning from **10 am – 1pm**. A **pot luck lunch provided** afterwards. Everyone associated with West Weald AM plus family and friends are welcome. Feel free to come for all or part of the morning. An rsvp to Ruth Hodgson (01444 401 586) or horshamquakermeeting@phonecoop.coop would be much appreciated for indication of numbers.

Reflection from our Elders

27 January 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. One survivor, Irene Fogel Weiss, interviewed for The Guardian, said that she survived by keeping what was happening at a distance. She said that she had realised through her experiences in Auschwitz that the loss of faith in people is more devastating than loss of faith in God. This comparison of faith in people and faith in God, brought to mind how the strong link is between relationships with people and religion. As George Gorman wrote "*One of the unexpected things I have learnt in my life as a Quaker is that religion is basically about relationships between people.I do not think I am alone in my certainty that it's in my relationships with people that the deepest religious truths are most vividly disclosed.*" (Q F & P 10.20)

Rosemary Elias on behalf of Elders