



Editors: Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman
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 No. 489

Quote for the month was found by Anne and Colin, on the back of a bench in the Lukesland gardens in Devon!

*The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth,
 One is nearer God's heart in a garden, Than anywhere else on earth.*

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 10 May	After MfW	Traidcraft stall in Meeting House
Sunday 10 May	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 15 May	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Saturday 16 May	10.30am-12.30pm	Area Business Meeting at Reigate
	12.30-2.00pm	Fellowship and bring & share lunch – see page 6
	2.00-3.00pm	Elders and Overseers
Saturday 16 May	All day	Collection for foodbank in Waitrose - see page 4
Thurs 28, Fri 29 and Sat 30 May		Street collection for Nepal in Dorking – volunteers contact Anne Brewer
Sunday 5 June	7.30pm	Study Group at Meeting House

Preparative Meeting 3 May

The March collection for the **Ibanda Literacy Schools in Uganda** raised £92.50. The collection in April and May is for Claridge House (see page 4). Mid-week Meeting has given £150 to *Holiday at Home*, run by the URC in Dorking.

Advices and Queries read in April: Dorking - No. 33; Leatherhead – None.

Sophie Dodgeon drew attention to the request in a report **from Children and Young People's committee**, which had been circulated. They would love to have a wider pool of non-parents to help run the much-appreciated and flourishing children's meeting – either by facilitating if they have DBS clearance, or else by helping the facilitator. This would enable the parents to be able to stay in for Meeting for Worship from time to time, something they would very much appreciate. Contact the editor if you would like a copy of the full report.

Su Johnson gave us an account of proposals for an exhibition in the Meeting House over the **Dorking Heritage Open Days** – 10-13 September, and Friends were very happy to support these proposals. The article on page 3 gives details.

Sunday 19 July, from 2.15 to 5.00pm, there is to be a **garden party** at Richard and Christine Bass's home. Entertainments such as croquet, swimming and tennis will be on offer, and the Meeting's catering committee will be asked to organise afternoon tea.

Catherine Carr outlined plans for **Quaker Quest** week in September/October. The Quest sessions will be held on Friday evenings 9, 16, 23 and 30 October, with a full day training session on 5 September. A budget of £1500, mainly for publicity, has been agreed. It was

agreed that the Meeting pay £180+VAT for a 3-month series of business card size adverts in Vantage Point, Dorking edition, which is distributed to all 19,112 homes in RH3, RH4, RH5 and KT24 postcode areas. Catherine would liaise with Anne Brewer about putting a notice on the Area Meeting's Facebook page, and discuss with Sarah Freeman what publicity brought in the very good attendance at Reigate Meeting's Quaker Quest evenings. There was some discussion about follow-up events such as study groups, with invitations to those who attend the evenings – Reigate's experience would again be a valuable source of information.

As a result of the discussion about publicity for Quaker Quest, it was agreed that Alison Freeman would be asked to give a workshop on using Facebook and Twitter. Rosemary Elias will arrange this.

Another idea, to give publicity to the Meeting in general, was for Friends to sponsor a month's advert in Vantage Point. If 6 or 12 months are paid for, the cost reduces from £60+VAT per month to £50+VAT or £45+VAT per month. **Friends wanting to support this effort should speak to the treasurer (Rosemary Elias).**

It was noted that the PM on 3 May clashed with BYM and it was agreed that effort would be made to avoid such clashes in future.

News from Premises and Finance Committee

Drains

We were advised to get a survey of all the gullies (underground drains) to see if any work needed to be done, as it has been 6 years since the last CCTV survey was done. We are getting a quote for this. It seems we have 30 man-hole covers!

Kitchen

We would like Friends to tell us their ideas for the kitchen. These can range from the total redesign, to the cheapest re-arrangement of what is there. The latter stands more chance of implementation in the mid-future, but there is nothing against dreaming dreams.

For a start, how would Friends regard this idea, on the design principle that there should be a sequence of actions in a sequence of places? At present we can have the dirties on the right of the sink, and the drying-up to the left; further to the left, the plates and bowls have a new home in a cupboard under the urn. The cupboard to the left of all this is at present a broom cupboard, but could simply have shelves moved from the other full-length cupboard, and its door-opening side reversed, to make a cup and saucer cupboard immediately to the left of the urn. This would be reachable by all, from the shortest to the tallest! The brooms and mop could be accommodated in the remaining full-length cupboard.



The present cupboards that hold the cups and saucers and glasses could be moved out of its present, congested, corner – say to above the book-case shelves diagonally opposite.

All ideas, including comments on this one, are welcome to the committee, and we hope to receive lots.

Su Johnston, Keith Poulton, Romy Elias, Denise Davies

Honey, shaved heads and Nepal!

Thanks to all who bought my honey and/or donated to the Nepal disaster at Meeting on the 26th April. This raised £70! Also my daughter Melanie, who worked as a volunteer in Katmandu last summer, has heard that the pupils at the school/temple where she taught are all physically ok, but the temple has been partly destroyed and they are living and sleeping outside at the moment. She has had her head shaved to raise funds to support disaster relief. **Speak to me if you would like to support Melanie's effort.**

Catherine Carr

Heritage Days 2015

Su and a team of enthusiasts hope to put on another exhibition this year, taking advantage of Heritage Open Days and their publicity. It was great to have the help that Friends gave on the days – being stewards for an hour or two. I do hope that Friends can again feel that this is indeed a Dorking Meeting outreach, and support it in that way.

The following is how the exhibition would be described in the brochure, and the suggested openings would be Thursday and Friday, 10 and 11 September, from 2 to 7 pm; Saturday 12 from 11am to 4pm.

"Thank you Bim" - War Victims' Relief work in France, 100 years on

The story of 1915, a hundred years later. In France, a heritage remains of the Friends War Victims Relief work. Has it been remembered?

The 2014 Heritage exhibition, "My dear Auntie", told the story of Bim, the Conscientious Objector father of a Dorking Quaker Meeting Friend. In 2015 three Quaker Friends went to discover the descendants of families helped in 1915, in the Marne and Meuse districts of France. The families greeted us with open arms! We exchanged photos and letters with their own memorabilia of 1915. Warmly they described the way the portable wooden houses, the clothes, seeds, furniture, and the sheer concern of the workers, had helped French women and children survive life in cellars while the village burned above them. They told us stories their grandparents handed down to them. Bim's photos of 1915, and ours of 2015, represent the spirit of reconstruction that overcame the destruction of war. We met descendants who, but for this work, would not have been born.



Su, Frances and Keith with the mayor of Villers-aux-vents

An exhibition of the struggles of conscientious objectors in the Great War, in letters and images. Some of the villages and their people are featured in images, DVD, slide show and sound-scape. Children can assemble the model portable house and use carbon paper to copy letters and drawings as Bim did.

Thank you in advance – Su Johnston, 01306 640327, suj@f2s.com

Notes from Churches Together in Dorking (CTD) meeting, Friends Meeting House, 27 April

- CTD are content that Quakers continue to explore links with the Muslims of Dorking. The most positive member of the Dorking Ministers Fellowship in attendance seemed to be Father Tony, but other ministers weren't sure of the purpose or priority it should be given. There was advice to 'start from a natural space' and 'listen' which reinforces what we heard from Ayad (Chair of the Crawley Inter-Faith Forum) on 15 April.
- The Bishop of Guildford has invited people to an event called 'Living & Working Together in the 21st century' to explore how faith communities can engage better with each other. It is on Tues 30 June, from 7 - 9pm. **Let Lois know if you'd like to go.**
- There was considerable discussion about the relationship of the Dorking Ministers Fellowship with CTD, and what CTD could claim to be undertaking on behalf of the churches. There was particular concern to get authority and accountability right for the Dorking Area Foodbank, whilst not in the least intending to limit the initiative being shown by the laity of several churches.
- Churches are asked to do a risk assessment of their events if they wish them to be covered by CTD insurance.
- Juliette Fuller, chaplain of the Dorking Christian Centre, is to lead Prayer Walks. The next starts from the Christian Centre at 10am on Saturday 16 May.
- 'Holiday at Home', run by United Reform Church and allies, providing outings, activities, meals and social gatherings for those unable to afford a holiday away from home, is the last week of August.
- Further first aid courses, including a paediatric one, will be pursued by the CTD secretary.

(Dorking Area Foodbank news is covered by the article on page 4)

Claridge House

The collection this month is for Claridge House, the Quaker healing and retreat centre at Lingfield, in our AM. Claridge House provides courses (mainly at weekends), retreats, and restful breaks. Courses are mainly therapeutic, but there is also the occasional course or retreat particularly relevant to Quakerism, such as the weekend retreat for those who are new to Quakers, on June 26th-28th. Anne (Brewer) has agreed to run a course on *Healing with Herbs* on June 5th-7th, as the original tutor is unavailable because of family commitments.



Claridge House is a large Victorian house, accommodating up to 18 residents. It was closed for two months early this year to convert two of the bedrooms to en-suite, when they also took the opportunity to install a new domestic water system and improve the bedside lighting in the other bedrooms. There are plans to convert more bedrooms to en-suite as time and finances allow.

A new programme of courses for Autumn and Winter this year has just been published, and copies are available from me, or see www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk. Please support Claridge House, by attending a course or retreat, booking a restful break, and/or supporting this month's collection.

Colin Brewer

News about the Dorking Area Foodbank

Matthew 25 v 35 : for I was hungry and you gave me food



Yes, the wait is nearly over and the question many of you have been asking "When can we start giving food" has its first answer – by going to **Waitrose on Saturday 16 May, where you will find volunteers manning a collection point** with the Dorking Area Foodbank's own shopping list. It's as easy as just adding an item (or more!) to your trolley as you go round and we will relieve you of it (or them) by the lifts. Of course this is just the first of many initiatives; other supermarkets are planning similar events for us and there will be other collecting points in churches etc.

Collecting the food is just one (in some ways perhaps the easiest) of the many steps necessary to have the Dorking Area Foodbank (DAF – nothing to do with the truck manufacturer but perhaps we will have enough to need one?!) up and running for its first clients on Tuesday 2 June. As we go to press, the DAF team is working flat out, matching volunteers' skills to needs, organising training on everything from manual handling to staffing the distribution point (initially twice weekly at the Christian Centre) and checking final details on the planned 'warehouse' – a rather grandiose title for where we will receive, sort and store food – and many other things besides. The really good news is that we have raised enough funding for the first year of operation.

Though there are legitimate questions about why foodbanks should be necessary in the UK in 2015, the point for now is that the Trussell Trust (with whom Churches Together in Dorking is in partnership for this foodbank) is providing a Christian-led response of compassion and generosity to a manifest need. This model of a foodbank is designed to provide *emergency* food aid based on vouchers from the local referral agencies, like CAB, whom we are signing up. Volunteers at the distribution centre will not (indeed *must* not) be judgemental about the thousand and one reasons why individuals or families find themselves in the position of coming to a foodbank; they are there to listen (while the food bags are packed) and, where appropriate, signpost to other sources of help and advice. Just before clients leave they are offered the opportunity for prayer; while foodbanks serve those of any faith and none, other foodbanks we have spoken to find few decline the offer.

You can see our shopping list on the DAF webpage at www.dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk

With thanks to Peter Bunn of St Martin's Church, Dorking.

Message from Besom about the Dorking Area Foodbank

Thanks to our link with Besom, Veronica Mills, we have been able to donate food through them, for people in need. Here's a message from Besom about the new arrangements:

We thank everyone who has generously given food to the Besom in recent years, to enable them to give to those in need.

We are delighted that the Dorking Area Foodbank is being opened (in partnership with the Trussell Trust). Like the Besom it is under the Churches Together in Dorking umbrella.

The foodbank opens on 2 June and in preparation for that, food collections will begin in May. During May, the plan is that food donations from local Churches will start to go to the foodbank and not to the Besom.

The Besom will no longer store food, however they will continue blessing new recipients with a food box gift, made possible through the Dorking Area Foodbank.

Thank you again for all your support - it has made a big difference to many people and now with Dorking Area Foodbank we are hoping to help even more people in need.

Veronica says that the box currently collecting food in the Meeting House will now go to the Dorking Area Foodbank rather than Besom, and adds her thanks to Dorking Friends for their generous support.

Concerned about climate change?

Friends may be interested in hearing about a mass lobby of parliament on climate change, which I am involved in through my work. It is backed by Quaker Peace & Social Witness, as well as by many different NGOs and faith groups.

Where? Palace of Westminster, Central London.

When? Wednesday 17th June, 12pm-5:30pm.

There is more information at:

<http://fortheLoveof.org.uk/speakup/>



The idea is to meet as many of the newly elected and re-elected MPs as possible and to show them the depth and breadth of concern about climate change – given that this year will see the important UN talks in Paris in December, while at home the next UK government needs to make crucial decisions about energy and infrastructure to shift to a lower carbon economy.

Sophie Dodgeon

Christian Aid week – 10 to 16 May



There will be a selection of envelopes in the Meeting House, on a table in the main lobby, in case there isn't a volunteer delivering envelopes in your road and you would like to contribute. You can return the sealed envelope to the Meeting House and it will be passed on to the central collector – Elizabeth Dobson.

There will also be a pile of leaflets (ACT NOW Do Justice) with a detachable card that you can sign and return to Christian Aid, who will deliver it to the new prime minister, whoever that may be! It asks that they do everything in their power to protect the people and places we love from Climate Change, and suggests some ideas about how this might be done.

Area Meeting events past and future



The Leith Hill walk was much enjoyed by all who came along – the 8 young Friends were an especial pleasure, with the 6 oldest managing the walk to Leith Hill. It was also a treat to have with us Stephen Hope and his 2 girls, over here from Australia, who came with their Grandpa, Colin

Hope. 5 year old Sally Hope astonished us all by her boundless energy – she ran most of the way to the top of Leith Hill and got there first! The photos were taken by Colin Brewer and more will be on display in the Meeting House.



En route Pippa found a strange metal object which caused much discussion – what is it? Many possibilities were suggested but Gayle had an idea which Pippa liked, and here is that metal object upcycled by Pippa into a lampshade with the aid of some crepe paper (Mum has the fire extinguisher at the ready!)



A reminder of the next **Area Meeting Fellowship event** – the sharing of books and DVDs to raise funds for Ifield's essential repairs to their wall. Details were in the last Grapevine – in essence, please let Anne Brewer have **any books and/or DVDs** you would like to share, so they

can be loaned out during the fellowship/lunch break on **Saturday 16 May**, during Area Meeting at Reigate. Stick your name on the books/DVDs if you would like them back eventually, otherwise they will be passed to a charity shop.

Anne Brewer

Fire Alarm

May I remind Friends that, if they hear a fire alarm sounding on a Sunday morning at Meeting, they should react as though the building was on fire, although it may well be our fire marshals (Premises Committee and Overseers) starting our annual fire practice.



If you don't know what to do when you hear the alarm, have a look around next time you are in the Meeting House – you should see, in every room, an A4 notice headed FIRE PROCEDURE. This says that you should make your way immediately but calmly (i.e. don't run!) towards the nearest fire exit – these are clearly marked by the standard signs bearing little green men. Don't stop to collect your

possessions from wherever you left them. Assemble with everyone else on the grass at the front of the building. The fire marshals will ensure everyone has left the building and, in the unlikely event of it not being a practice, will take any action needed, such as contacting the fire brigade and utilising any appropriate fire extinguishers.

Colin Brewer

Reflection from our Elders

Quaker Faith and Practice 2.23: Harold Loukes 1967

... Prayer is not words or acts, but reaching down to love: holding our fellows in love, offering ourselves in love; and being held by, being caught up in love. It is communion, an opening of the door, an entry from beyond. This is the point where secular language fails, for this cannot be spoken about at all: it can hardly be known.

Rachel Hope (for the Elders)