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November 2015
 No. 494

Quote for the month is from QF&P 21.67 and is by Rosalind M Baker in 1986:
I was terrified I'd break down. I did. It didn't matter.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Friday 6 November	6.30pm	Supper and Study Group at MH (details p2)
Sunday 8 November	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sunday 15 November	12.15-1.30pm	Area Business Meeting in Dorking Meeting House
	1.30-2.30pm	Bring and share lunch
	2.30-4.00pm	Fellowship – see page 7
Friday 20 November	2.30-4.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Saturday 21 November	11.15am	Regional Meeting at Guildford Meeting House
Sunday 29 November	9.00am	Reading QF&P group at MH (Chapter 23)
Friday 4 December	7.30pm	Study Group/Book Club at MH (details p2)

Preparative Meeting 1 November

The collection in August and September for Quaker Homeless Action raised £176.49. The collection in October and November is for Quaker Social Action.

Advices and Queries read: September Dorking – Sunday 27, 28; Wednesday 2, 6; Leatherhead – None; October Dorking – Sunday 10,28; Leatherhead – None.

Collections in 2016 – there will be no cash collections for charities after Meeting. Instead Friends who have nominated a charity will speak to it one Sunday in the designated month, and bring along leaflets and donation forms so that Friends can support the charity directly if they wish. The following charities were nominated – Peace Direct (January), Quaker Social Action (March), Cape Town Peace Centre (May), Howard League for Penal Reform (July), Quaker Homeless Action (September) and Britain Yearly Meeting (November).

Budget for 2016 – the circulated budget was approved after the removal of the £5000 proposed for internal redecoration, in view of the predicted large fall in the Meeting's assets at the end of 2016. Redecoration would be reviewed after the size of the essential expenses arising out of the quinquennial inspection was known. We will ask trustees for the quinquennial to take place as early in the year as possible. It was hoped there would be enough money available to at least paint the internal doors. In view of the problem of paper towels blocking our drains, premises committee were encouraged to pursue the idea of providing 3 electric hand driers at a probable cost of around £1000, being part of the £3000 budgeted for building repairs and works. **Please note the appeal from our treasurer on page 8 (the back page!)**

Nominations for 2016 – Only 2 Elders and 3 Overseers are nominated for 2016 instead of the usual 3 and 4. They will work together to ensure the essential pastoral and spiritual care of the Meeting and it is recognised that loving pastoral care is undertaken by many Friends not officially serving as Overseers. Premises and Finance Committee could do with more members but no willing Friends have yet been found. No nomination was made to replace Rachel

Fardon’s excellent work in the Information Centre – it is hoped to have a discussion at January PM on how best to run this facility. Nominations Committee suggested Peace and Social Witness Committee be laid down and the Meeting would respond to peace and social issues raised as concerns by individual Friends, such as was the case this year for the Food Bank and Collections for Refugees. However it was felt important for Quakers to have a visible witness in these areas so it was agreed to list the Committee with the sub text – Friends or groups of Friends as the need arises.

Annual Report - the circulated report was agreed with 2 minor changes, plus a rewrite of the paragraph about the work of Premises and Finance Committee – copies available from the Clerk.

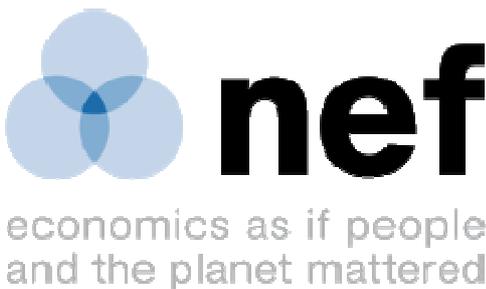
(Apologies for any inaccuracies, but I’m having to write and print this before the minutes are out as our printer will be packed for moving on Tuesday)

Meeting and Eating - Supper and Study Group

Friday 6 November from 6.30pm to about 9.00pm in the Meeting House

Simple supper followed at about 7.00pm by an illustrated talk from Alison Freeman on

Common Cause – Why People Are Organising Around Values Quakers Hold Dear



Alison works for The New Economics Foundation. Here is what its website says of **Common Cause**: *How, then, do we go about finding solutions to the most important problems facing us – widespread and persistent poverty, climate change, isolation and loneliness, human rights abuses, inequality, biodiversity loss? What values help create today’s social norms and institutions, and what, in turn, shapes these values?*

There will be plenty of opportunity for questions to Alison, and to discuss how people work together in a common cause.

To assist with catering please let Rachel Hope (01372 454363) know if you plan to attend.

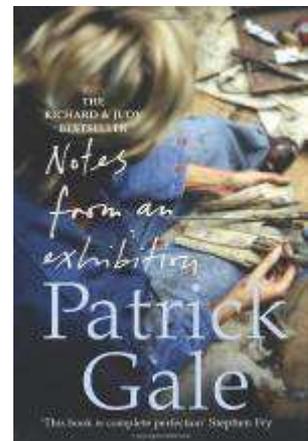
Study Group/Book Club!

Sharing thoughts on *Notes from an exhibition* by Patrick Gale

Friday 4 December at 7.30pm in the Meeting House

Rachel Kelly is a gifted artist and an enigma to her Quaker husband and family. This book intertwines Rachel’s story along with her husband and children who were brought up in the Quaker Meeting in Penzance.

This book was given a British Book Award and recommended by Richard and Judy’s book club in 2008. The Daily Telegraph described it as “thought provoking, sensitive, humane” and The Guardian as “an uplifting and immensely empathetic novel.”



An appreciation of Bob Humphreys

There was much ministry during the Sunday Meeting for Worship following Bob's death and, for the benefit of those unable to be present on that occasion, the essence of the contributions is recorded below.

We have a favourite passage from George Fox in our meeting ".....walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone." Bob did. He just did. I never heard him criticise anyone and he always supported people. I have been in the Society of Friends for a long time and Bob has only been one of our number for a few short years, but I learned a lot from him about being Quaker.



Rachel Hope

Bob Humphreys was a man who had experienced poverty as a child. He told me about life in Teeside as he was growing up. He said his mother would do the washing and hang it outside to dry. He felt so sorry for her because this was hard physical work and sometimes she would return to take the washing in and find it was dirty again as it was covered with spots from the local factory chimneys, and so she would take the washing in and re-wash it. It was just such hard work.

Perhaps it was the experiences he had in his early life that had made him such a champion of social justice and the relief of poverty and deprivation.

Bob had an unusual academic career having taught engineering at Birmingham University and then Economic History at the London School of Economics. He found himself teaching at LSE in later life because when he came to retire he took an Open University degree in Economic History and followed this up by studying for a Masters in Economic History at Birkbeck in London. He did so well that he then progressed to a PhD at LSE and so he ended up having a PhD in both Civil Engineering and Economic History. After completing his PhD at LSE he taught on the faculty and he told me how he really enjoyed LSE and had been up there a couple of days a week until fairly recent years. He said he found it such a wonderful place.

Bob had told me, when he heard I was walking across the sands of Morecambe Bay earlier in the summer, that I should look out for the chemical factory at Heysham, as his first job as an engineer after university had been as the project manager building the factory. I did see a square boxy building on the Heysham shore on that walk and I hoped that I had spotted the building that Bob had had built there.

Bob had met Trish when they were fellow volunteers at the Samaritans in Leatherhead, twenty or so years ago, and I had heard that their romance had been the talk of the Samaritans at that time. It was difficult to think of there not being a Bob and Trish as they did so much together.

Bob had been a wonderful Elder in the Meeting and it had been a pleasure to work with him in recent years. He had been very involved in organising the Study Group programme. He also attended the Mid-Week Meeting for Worship on Wednesdays with Trish and together they also attended the monthly Meditation Group at the Meeting.

Bob will be missed for many things. He had a great sense of humour and will also be missed for his insights and intellect. He was well loved in the Meeting and was so supportive of so many. He and Trish had been devoted visitors of our older friends in failing health, in recent years regularly visiting Joan Macalpine, Rachel Fardon and more recently Gordon and Ruth Little. Bob and Trish also supported our young families and had a particular affinity with the children of the Meeting.

Trish and Bob had a large family which he really enjoyed and spoke lovingly about, and whose company he really thrived on.

God bless you Bob and thank you for all you did for the Meeting over the years.

Romy Elias

As a newcomer to Dorking Meeting, I had met Bob only a few times. He always gave a welcome expressing warmth and friendship.

Bill Williams

Advices & Queries number 7 begins, 'Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways...'

This reminds me of a time 18 months ago when I had had a difficult day at work in London. There had been some conflict between people and it had felt stressful. I was walking to Waterloo station, and I remember I had a really distinct thought - 'Where is God in my life? Where is the spiritual in my day?' I felt it was left out amid my busy working day.

I got to the station and usually I get straight on the train, but I must have been a bit early that day. I walked around and a voice called out to me. It was Bob, also waiting for the train, having been in London for his academic work. We got the train together and talked all the way back. I didn't burden him with my difficult day, but one thing I do remember is that he said 'The most important thing in life is to be happy.'

It may seem silly to say I thought 'Where is God?' and then I bumped into Bob, but I think God is with us through other people and meeting Bob that day was special. I also think Bob was happy. He was someone who cared passionately about injustice and inequality but he somehow managed to combine those serious concerns with being so warm and full of good humour.

Sophie Dodgeon

I find myself in Meeting this morning with a certain amount of anger rising. Bob, your timing is rubbish. This week our community lost a young man whose world was so painful that he took his own life. He didn't have the resilience that you had.

We need robust men like you at times like this.

A few weeks ago we did the training here in this Meeting House for Quaker Quest. You raised important questions, you even challenged some of the procedures – a rebel to the end. We need your strength, your wisdom and your humour for outreach work like this.

There are people in the world who are amazing, and because they are amazing they can cheer us up whilst we are in their company. You had the ability to raise our awareness of our own 'amazingness'!

Deepak Chopra said, when asked what he thought about being called a Guru, "I am no such a thing, unless that means that I wake people up to the notion of their own brilliance – as in G U R U! That, as a previous ministry from Sophie shows us, is exactly what you did, made us feel better about being ourselves.

One memory I have of you doing this was when you were taking over from me on the telephones at Samaritans. You were to be on duty with a rather nervous probationer who asked, "What if I say the wrong words." You looked her in the eye and replied, "You won't. You can't. You will be there with them through their silences and that will always be good enough." I saw her some weeks later and she told me how helpful and inspiring those words were.

Mr Bob Humphries - A most marvellous man – with rubbish timing.

Sally Elias

I think Bob would probably be quite amazed if he knew how deeply and personally so many people were feeling his loss.

Gill Whitman

Finally not said in ministry but a touching comment from Ewan Nunn who knew Bob well, as Bob and Trish often looked after Ewan while Katy was busy. When Katy explained why they were going to visit Trish, he said "I'll give Trish a cuddle and tell her not to worry, when Bob has finished dying he will come back home again". When Katy explained a bit more about the finality of dying he said "I sad. I loved Bob too."

Trish thanks all Friends very warmly for their loving messages of support in cards and letters. She finds much comfort from reading these each night.

Donations to Quaker Social Action in memory of Bob Humphreys

If any Friends have made or are intending to make donations to Quaker Social Action in memory of Bob Humphreys, and are able and would like to Gift Aid that donation, you may find that Gift Aid forms are not currently available on QSA's website. I do however have QSA's Gift Aid form electronically and can forward it to you, if you ask me. If you would prefer a paper copy please let me know and I can print one off for you.

Romy Elias, Treasurer

Festive Hampers

THE BESOM

sweep away suffering



Make someone's Christmas, Make a Hamper

Imagine Christmas without presents, decorations or special food: this is still a reality for many. You can make a difference this year and bring a bit of sparkle to households who have so little.



Even if you can just afford to put a few extra items in your own shopping basket, these gifts will let those we have helped through difficult times know we haven't forgotten them.

Suggestions:

Christmas cakes, - mince pies
Soups, cereals, honey, jam
Tea, coffee, hot chocolate
Fruit juices, biscuits, chocolates
Please do not include alcohol, perishable or home-made items.

Christmas paper, decorations
Crackers, tree sweets
Paper table cloth, napkins

Washing powder, soap, shower gel
shampoo, bubble bath
Energy saving light bulbs, AA batteries.



It's especially good if the items are not from the value range as people are often only used to buying these.

You may like to include a 2016 calendar, playing cards, a small wrapped gift for adults and new toys/games for children.

Get in touch with us at Besom on 07765598854 or at dorking.besom@live.co.uk and once you have the details of who your hamper is for, please decorate a box with some Christmas paper and fill it with wonderful things. It can be delivered ideally during the 1st week of December.

Many thanks

www.besom.com/localbesoms/dorking

Besom – a bridge between those who want to give and those in need

I will put out two small boxes in the next couple of weeks. Many thanks from me and the Besom team.

Veronica Mills

The Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations with Quaker Peace & Social Witness

Conference on Interfaith Peacebuilding

See November Area Meeting papers for a fuller report.

Jane Clements – Director for the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ)

There is diversity of opinion in Jewish communities, and a huge feeling of insecurity.

Israel is precious to Jews in a way we do not understand (and they do not understand the Christian interest in Israel). Jews perceive the state of Israel as fragile.

Need face to face meetings to avoid misunderstanding.

We live our own narrative, but need a combined narrative (very difficult to create).



Mushada Shaikh – Community Heritage Officer, Kirklees council

Mushada is from Dewsbury, a Muslim wife, graduate, and activist. She has worked for Islamic charities and in women's empowerment. The 'Heritage' that she is protecting and promoting in her current work is mostly faith based. She is working on the "Tackling Peace in Diverse Britain" project of Northern Friends Peace Board.

From her experience she says:

- it takes a long time to build personal relationships
- look for common cause and multifaith representation

The government's PREVENT programme (to counter Islamic fundamentalism) encountered antagonism and conspiracy theories when it was delivered to young people in the statutory manner. Softer approaches, with space for dialogue, work well. Young people want to talk but not in front of teachers.

Young people's disaffection with religion – in part because the Imams used to come from the 'home' country and therefore weren't attuned to life in the UK. Nowadays they are mostly British grown, and relate better with Muslims (all, including women) and other religions.

Inter-faith through women – they are more likely to tell it like it is than men, who will think about how what they say will reflect on the community, and could therefore be more guarded.

Other learning from discussion and workshops

- Interfaith is every interaction with someone, every experience of them i.e. bearing witness.
- What about people of no faith? They are very important especially in peace building. The important thing is a sense of belonging. LISTEN – learn the techniques.
- Listening – ask yourself "who listened to you when you were young?"
- Why are people afraid of our peace loving faith? Ask yourself this question – and LISTEN
- Hot potato topics – passed on because they are too hot to handle!
- EAPPI – inter faith peace building. Half the EAs are of no professed faith. Those with faith are mostly Christian, but there are Jews and Muslims.
- EAs Apply 'Principled Impartiality', but speak up for human rights and the end of occupation, and a just peace.

Lois Lodge

Appeal for help

We have had an appeal from the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services which covers Mole Valley as well as over as far as Tandridge. They help children of the 'survivors' of domestic abuse, and also support a refuge in Reigate where mothers and children come in emergency situations. They are looking for dressing up clothes, puppets, a dolls' house, animal figures, human figures, magic trick and sports stuff such as beanbags, small bollards to run around, tennis balls, light footballs, and obstacle course type of things.

If you have any of these things to give please get in touch with Dom (07775 568 836) to arrange collection or delivery. Dom O'Reilly

Mole Valley Poets.

The Meeting has received a complimentary copy of a small book of poems about Christmas, written by Mole Valley Poets and sold in aid of the charity CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young – in memory of Stevie Jivani, a daughter of a former member of the group of poets.

The poems are very attractive – here is a sample one by A A Marcoff:

<p>man of thorns the glow of an icon lit up by a star</p>	<p>born in a stable died on a tree this sadness of stars</p>
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Copies of the book are available for £3 from Tony Earnshaw, Mole Valley Poets, 6 Woodlands Close, Dorking RH4 3FW. Cheques payable to Mole Valley Poets.

Reading QF&P



Some Friends met on October 25 to share their responses to Chapter 21 *Personal Journey* in Quaker Faith and Practice. They will be meeting again on **Sunday November 29 (9.00am in the Meeting House)** to share their responses to Chapter 23 *Social Responsibility*, and anyone is welcome to join in.

We will also be sharing our responses to chapter 23 during Fellowship time at Area Meeting on **Sunday 15 November – 2.30 to 4pm**. Which passages we found inspiring and which we found challenging. It's a great opportunity to get to know our Friends in the other Meetings of our area.

During this session we will also be considering how we feel about accepting money from the lottery to help maintain our buildings – a modern sort of

social dilemma.

Anne Brewer

Quakerism - Newspapers - Coffee

It used to be suggested that you should think how much you value your Quakerism, is it more than or about the same as your newspapers weekly, or nowadays, perhaps a couple of coffees out a week? The cost of The Guardian and Observer weekly on a subscription is £10.99 a week and a couple of regular Cappuccinos at Costa is £4.90 a week, so where is the appropriate level of your contribution to the Meeting?

I have just had a letter from Britain Yearly Meeting asking the Meeting to contribute £150 for each Friend, or just under £3 a week, for Quaker work nationally. We used to be able to pay that, but not so in the last year. I would be grateful if those of you who have not yet made your contribution for 2015 could mull over what you think you could contribute, and let me have it, particularly as this is the time of year we review the Meeting finances for 2016.

If you need any forms, or help, do get in touch with me.

Romy Elias
Treasurer

Climate March

Sunday 29 November – Assemble 12noon in Park Lane, London

This march is part of a massive international effort by people of the world, to persuade governments meeting in Paris, from November 30, to come up with effective measures to prevent the possibility of catastrophic climate change. Check with Anne (Brewer) or Sophie for details, or view <https://www.facebook.com/events/516078015212179/>

Anne and Colin plan to go, so get in touch if you would like to travel with them – our new contact details below.

A change of address

As I have a bit of space left, having had to go to 8 pages for this bumper issue, here are the Brewers' contact details as they will be after their move on Wednesday 4 November:

53 Chart Downs, North Holmwood, Dorking RH5 4DF
Telephone (but not until after 19 November) – 01306 500187

Emails as before but again they will not be operating until 19 November. Meanwhile Anne's mobile is 07790 417 233, Colin's 07790 417 581 and Michael's 07583 376212.

Reflection from our Elders

We have just finished the quartet of Quaker Quest evenings, the third of which was on the topic of "Quakers and God" when three Friends explained their differing views on God.

Jocelyn Burnell, an astronomer, who some years ago was a member of Dorking Meeting, wrote in 1976:

"...I believe in a powerful, all knowing God, but a caring and a forgiving God. I believe he says to us: 'All right, you've got life, get on with it, live it! I am here behind to guide you, to help you live it; but don't expect me to interfere to make life smooth for you – you are old enough to stand on your own two feet!...." Q F & P 26.25

Do explore Chapter 16 and see the spectrum of views on God that are set out there.

Rosemary Elias on behalf of Elders