



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer
 Distributor: Mary Brooks

March 2016
 No. 497

Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 13 March	12.15pm	Area Business Meeting at Ifield Meeting House
Sunday 13 March	2.15pm	AM Elders and Overseers meeting at Ifield MH
Sunday 13 March	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 18 March	2.30pm	Meditation Meeting
Saturday 19 March	11.15am	Regional Meeting on mental health at Hastings MH
Monday 4 April	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group – in Friends' own homes
Sunday 10 April	9.00am	QF&P reading group – Chapters 5,6,10 and 11
Sunday 10 April	10.30am	Forest School on the Nower – see page 4
Sunday 10 April	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 22 April	3.00-5.00pm	Spring Tea-party – see page 2
Sunday 24 April	about 1.20pm	Leith Hill Walk starting from Capel Meeting House

Notices from Churches Together in Dorking:

Final Lent Lunch for 2016 – Friday 18 March 12.30-1.30pm at Culver, Spook Hill, North Holmwood (RH5 4EG)

March 25 - Good Friday Walk of Witness followed by service in St Martins churchyard (inside church if wet). Assemble in car park behind Dorking Halls by 10.45am for the start of silent walk along High Street pavement at 11am. More volunteer stewards are wanted – please contact Peter Bruinvels. Any queries to 01306 887082 or 07721 411 688

Preparative Meeting 6 March

(PM Agendas and resulting minutes are circulated to interested Friends on email. If you are not on email, and would like copies, contact an overseer (Colin Brewer, Trish Humphreys or Frances Poulton) for help.)

Apart from details of advices and queries read, and appointment of representatives to Area Business Meeting on March 13th, this PM was devoted to discussion of our Premises and Finance Committee's proposal to deal with our financial problems. They had decided that selling the Meeting House was not a viable solution at the present time, so proposed that we increase our income by renting out the cottage at a commercial rate as a matter of some urgency, which would mean making the wardens redundant.

However, several Friends present were unhappy with this proposal. It was felt that we should take more time before rushing into action, both to look for other possible creative solutions to our financial difficulties, some of which might enable us to keep wardens in the cottage, and also to take the pressure off our present wardens, who will need time to find alternative accommodation and employment.

The outcome of the discussion is best summed up by the last paragraph of the PM minutes. For those of you that have not seen the minutes, here is a copy of the paragraph (on page 2):

We have had a long discussion of the proposals from Premises and Finance Committee. It is clear that Friends believe that there needs to be change but there is no unity on the way forward. Some Friends agree that we must proceed quickly with making the cottage available for rent at market values in view of our continuing reduction in our cash reserves. Other Friends feel that we need to take more time to explore other options, and that we may be able to discern a way forward if we give more thought and energy to this process. We will schedule another meeting on a Sunday afternoon after a shared lunch at a date to be arranged. This will be well advertised in Grapevine, in notices, and by email.

The aim is to have a 'visioning' meeting, giving all Friends the opportunity to come up with ideas for a way forward. It will take time to fix a date and find a suitable facilitator, but hopefully the details will be available for the April Grapevine.

Spring Tea Party

Recently some of us enjoyed an all-age and moderately energetic Barn Dance. Overseers are now planning a more sedate celebration for a slightly older age group, in the form of a tea party, to be held at the Meeting House on Friday 22nd April, from 3pm to 5pm, along the lines of the one held a couple of years ago. We are planning to send personal invitations to Friends and their partners, but please put the date in your diaries, and should we miss anyone don't hesitate to contact one of the Overseers (Trish Humphreys, Frances Poulton and Colin Brewer). We hope the afternoon will provide the opportunity of talking and relaxing with friends over a cup of tea and home-made cakes.

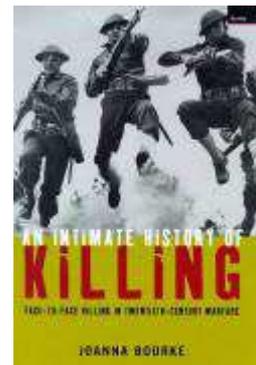


Frances Poulton for the Overseers

Three challenging books

Friends have recently kindly offered two new books for the Meeting library. As your librarian is currently reviewing the library stock in an effort to reduce the number of books to provide a more user-friendly display, and encourage greater use of the library, we have not yet catalogued the books. However, here are reviews of them both taken from the website www.goodreads.com. If Friends wish to borrow them please ask either Elizabeth Cooper or Anne Brewer.

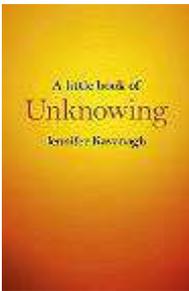
The two books are both by Joanna Bourke. In the first one, *An Intimate History of Killing*, she asks: What are the social and psychological dynamics of becoming the best "citizen soldiers?" What kind of men become the best killers? How do they readjust to civilian life? Using excerpts from letters, diaries, memoirs, and reports of British, American, and Australian veterans of three wars (World War I, World War II, and Vietnam), Bourke concludes that the structure of war encourages pleasure in killing, and that perfectly ordinary, gentle human beings can, and often do, become enthusiastic killers without being brutalized. This graphic, unromanticized look at men at war is sure to revise many long-held beliefs about the nature of violence.



The second book, *Wounding the World*, was mentioned in the December 2015 Grapevine. It investigates the ways that violence and war have become internalized in contemporary human consciousness in everything from the way we speak, to the way our children play with one another, to the way that we ascribe social characteristics to our guns and other weapons. With a remarkable depth of insight, Bourke argues for a radical overhaul of our collective stance towards militarism, from one that simply aims to reduce violence against people to one that would eradicate all violence. Her message is judicious and vital: knowledge about weapons

and the violence they bring has simply become too important to cast aside or leave to the experts.

I have read both the books. Challenging, certainly, and in my current frame of mind I found them rather depressing. However it would be good to hear the views of other Friends and also their opinion on whether we should include either or both of them in our library.



The third book is one Mary Brooks recently lent me – *A little book of Unknowing* by the Quaker, Jennifer Kavanagh. An easy read but thought-provoking and inspiring. Mary hopes other Friends would like to borrow it too and I said I would mention it in the Grapevine and offer to pass it on to anyone wanting to explore this aspect of the spiritual life. As it says on the back cover: *Unknowing is at the centre of the spiritual life. It is only by creating a space in which anything can happen that we allow God to speak; only by stepping back that we allow space for that unpredictable Spirit that brings us gifts beyond any of our imaginings.*

Please get in touch with me if you would like to read any of these books.

Anne Brewer

Anti-Trident protest

Seven Friends from Dorking Meeting met in Hyde Park on Sunday 27 February and, after finding the Quaker banner, joined a short Meeting for Worship with 50 or so other Quakers, before setting off on the march with tens of thousands of other people to Trafalgar Square.

According to the Quaker newsletter *Educate and Disarm* – “it was the largest anti-nuclear weapons rally in over thirty years, helped by Friends from Glasgow, Huddersfield, Exeter, Reading, Leeds, Penzance, Hull, Bury St Edmunds, Liverpool, Stevenage, Abingdon, Welwyn, Forest Hill, Swindon, Headington, Henley, Birmingham, Saffron-Walden, Bridport, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Halifax, Croydon, Wilmslow, Wanstead, Bradford, Edinburgh, Northampton, Dorchester, Hampstead, YFGM – and those are just the Quakers we bumped into!” Oh dear, Dorking didn’t get bumped into, so we are not on the list! Nor is the Blue Idol, but we did meet Kim Hope. I’ve since heard that Tas Cooper from Reigate was there too, with YFGM (Young Friends General Meeting) Friends. To prove we were there, here is a photo taken by Lois. Elizabeth Cooper was with us, but missed the photograph. We saw four other dogs, and were envious of the CND neck ties that two of them were wearing! At least our two were good as gold, and much admired and photographed.



Again, according to *Educate and Disarm*, “we are hearing that Prime Minister David Cameron is likely to postpone the vote on the renewal of the Trident nuclear weapon system until after the referendum on the United Kingdom’s membership of the European Union, anticipated on 23 June. In the meantime, elected representatives have been given another clear signal that nuclear weapons are strongly opposed by people of all faiths and none in Britain, but we need to keep reminding them! You can sharpen up your arguments with Tim’s [Frequently Asked Questions](#)”. For those interested, who have the paper Grapevine and so can’t access this link, please ask me for a copy.

We were sorry not to be back in time for the Meeting’s All Age Barn Dance – see next page for a report on that.

Colin Brewer

How was the All Age Barn Dance?



Despite the accidental clash with the anti-Trident march, a small but vibrant gathering of Friends, young and not so young, took place at the Meeting House on Saturday 27th Feb for our 'All Age Barn Dance'. We were trialling this in a bid to make the All Age party a bit more genuinely inclusive of all ages.

Our expert caller Su J did a fantastic job including those present in a range of dances from gentler circle-dancing to slightly more vigorous paired dances. A lot of fun was had by all dancers, and hopefully the spectators too – and as usual a splendid feast was served.

Those present seem to feel it was a format worth repeating – but turnout was lower than hoped. We would be interested to hear any suggestions, from Friends of any age, as to what sort of All Age gathering would most appeal to the wider meeting, and with what sort of timing (we moved it from Jan to Feb this year after suggestions that might help), so as to encourage more participants in future. We will of course try to avoid clashing with any major marches next year!! With many grateful thanks to Su (and Judy), Frances and Eleanor for their organisation of music, dance-calling and catering, all of which made it such an enjoyable afternoon.

Gayle Banks

Forthcoming events for children/young people (and young at heart)

Fun in the forest! We are delighted that Lottie and Charlie (and Luigi too) are available to run a **Forest School** for our young folk on Sunday 10th April, up on the Nower (this is a change to the previously advertised March date). All welcome, but please let us know if you're coming.



Please note this is in place of a normal children's meeting session at the Meeting House.

Ever wondered what happens in our Meeting House in the wee small hours? Do the teddies from the Information Centre have a picnic? Do secret mice come out for a ball? Sleeping bags at the ready; we may soon have the answers:

We are planning a **Sleepover at the Meeting House** in May – date to be confirmed. To find out more and/or register interest, contact any of the committee.

Children and Young People's Committee
(Katy Nunn, Gayle Banks, Alison Carlier, Sophie Dodgeon, Romy Elias, Judith Martin)

Reflection from our Elders

Quaker Faith and Practice 10.28 by Beth Allen, 1984

It is often hard to accept that other people have their own valid relationship with God, their own specialness and insights. We are not just disciples – we are disciples together.

Our vision of the truth has to be big enough to include other people's truth as well as our own. We have to learn to love difficult unlovable people. Accepting each other, and each other's relationships with God, let us continue to hold together at our deepest level. We are a forgiven community. Part of the cost of discipleship is living with the other disciples.

Rachel Hope