



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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 No. 499

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 8 May	1.30pm (tbc) approx 2.30pm	Area Business Meeting at Capel Meeting House plus Fellowship – talk by Patrick McIntosh on Water Aid
Sunday 8 May	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Tuesday 10 May	8.30pm	Meeting for Worship for parents at Katy Nunn's home
Friday 13 May	7.30pm	Study Group in MH – see page 2
Sunday 15 May	2.00-4.00pm	Vision Quest in MH – see page 2
Monday 23 May	8.30pm	Meeting for Worship for parents at Katy Nunn's home
Saturday 28 May (tbc)		YF sleepover in MH
Saturday 4 June	10.00am-12.30	Sale (cakes, produce, books) at Capel MH
Sunday 5 June	9.00am	QF&P reading group – Chapters 12, 17, 16 and 22
Monday 6 June	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group – in Friends' own homes
Sunday 12 June	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead

Friday 27 May to Monday 30 May - Britain Yearly Meeting in Friends House, Euston Rd, London

Preparative Meeting – Sunday 1 May

Advices and Queries were read as follows: Dorking Sunday: March: 27 and 42. April: 7, 10, 37 and 38. No Advices and Queries were read at Dorking Wednesday or Leatherhead Meetings

PM recorded with sadness the **death of Richard Bass on 15 April**. His funeral took place at our Meeting House on 28 April. Richard joined our Meeting about ten years ago when he moved to the area and made a major contribution to the running of our Meeting. (Note from editor: We plan to have an article celebrating Richard's life in the June issue of the Grapevine.)

Following concerns from about **our financial position**, we have held two meetings to consider what we need to do to rectify the situation. At our last meeting, Premises and Finance Committee said that we needed to act soon and suggested that we proceed with all the necessary steps to get the cottage earning rent at market rates. After consideration it was agreed that we needed more time to explore the options, and that a meeting should be scheduled for this purpose. That meeting was held on 17 April. It was very well attended. (If you have not seen the minute of report from this meeting please ask Anne Brewer for a paper or emailed copy.)

Possible ways of rectifying the financial position were again discussed at PM and it was agreed that the solution appears to be a combination of the following:

- Vacating the cottage and letting it at market rent. This would mean warden redundancy, so extra costs would be incurred in carrying out some duties presently done by our warden. The net additional income is estimated at £10,000 per annum.
- Increased contributions from members and attenders. At our meeting on 17 April a number of Friends indicated that they had not appreciated the poor financial position of the Meeting, and would be willing to make higher contributions.
- An increase in our letting rates, and an effort to find more hirers.

It was accepted that the wardens will have to be made redundant, but we need to do this in a caring and considerate way. Premises & Finance Committee will be asked to proceed, in

conjunction with Area Meeting Trustees, with the necessary steps for this to happen. Friends were concerned that we should give the wardens adequate time to prepare for their move. Our preferred date is 31 August.

Vision Quest – Sunday 15 May



You are warmly invited to join a Vision Quest with Members, Attenders and Users of our Meeting House, to share ideas about how to create a resilient future for our Meeting which is currently facing financial challenges.

Please do come to this important meeting to offer your thoughts and practical suggestions as to what can be done to save the Meeting House and a fixed abode for the Quaker community in Dorking. If you know of anyone who has been a hirer, user or who has once crossed the threshold and loves the building then feel free

to encourage them to come along to any or all parts of the meeting. This will be run as an informal, creative, kind space.

10.30am	Meeting for Worship
11.45	Tea/coffee/juice.
12.30pm	Bring- and- share lunch
2 until 4	The Vision Quest

"If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange apples then you and I still have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us has two ideas."
George B Shaw

Sally Elias

From our Treasurer

A Friend sent me a note recently with a very welcome cheque for Meeting funds. Their note asked: "Do we make it easy enough for people to know how to give and that we are a charity?" I hope the information that follows makes it clearer for Friends.

Contributions/donations to Meeting funds can be made by cheque made payable to "Dorking Quaker Meeting" which you should then pass to the Treasurer. Alternatively, you can make a payment direct (including standing orders) into the Meeting's bank account which is in Triodos Bank. The name of our account is "Dorking Quaker Meeting", the sort code is: 16 58 10 and the account number is: 01153901. If you are making a payment direct, please let the Treasurer know so that they can keep track of payments coming in and what they are for.

We are a charity (we are part of West Weald Area Quaker Meeting), and so if you pay income tax or capital gains tax in a tax year (6th April to 5th April each year) then you can Gift Aid your payment. The Meeting can then claim an extra 25% of the amount of your gift, at no extra cost to you. So, if you give, say, £500 to the Meeting, the Meeting can claim £125 from HMRC, so this is very useful extra income to the Meeting as a charity. If you are able to Gift Aid your gifts and have not already done so, please ask me for a Gift Aid declaration form, and then return it to me completed, so that the Meeting is able to claim the Gift Aid. It is not too hard a form to complete, but if you need some help, don't hesitate to ask me.

Romy Elias, Treasurer

Study Group – 13 May

BYM has suggested that all Quaker Meetings might like to consider this query:

Do you talk to Friends in your meeting and beyond about how they are living out our faith in the world? Have you shared your own story with others? Could you make space for such conversations and think about recording how concerns have led to actions? Can you recognise the support that can come in small ways?

Romy is going to lead us on this theme in our study group on Friday 13 May. We meet at 7.30pm at the meeting house. There will be coffee and tea and biscuits too at the start.

Rachel Hope

The Tea Party



An enormous thank you to all those who helped, on the 22nd April, to organise and produce such a wonderful tea party for those of us who are not quite as young as we used to be. The sandwiches, scones and cakes were delicious, the waiters impeccable(!) and the noise level must have made it obvious how much we were all enjoying ourselves.

Muriel Dale at the age of 106 gave a splendid, well deserved, vote of thanks. Then Fred Meynen told us some interesting stories about John Wesley and George Fox and their connection to Leatherhead, and showed us his copy of George Fox's 'Journal' - a large tome in amazingly good condition, printed in the 1700s in a large clear typeface on thick paper. There must have been more than thirty of us there, and I had a great time catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. A lovely occasion.

Gill Whitman

2016 Meeting Contact Lists

Twenty copies of the 37-page Area Meeting Contact Lists, containing names of office holders (e.g. Elders and Overseers) within our Area Meeting, and the contact details of members and attenders, were put out for people to pick up at the same time as the April Grapevine. These copies have all been taken. I will print a few more, but anyone who is happy to use an electronic (PDF) copy can ask me for one.

I will also print some 13-page Dorking Meeting Contact Lists, containing the names of Area Meeting office holders, and the contact details of Dorking members and attenders, for those who don't need the full Area Meeting list. Let me know if you would like one.

Colin Brewer (colin.brewer@phonecoop.coop)

Claridge House Appeal

Claridge House, the Quaker retreat centre at Lingfield, within our Area Meeting, is currently closed for refurbishment – making bathrooms ensuite, transforming one of the ground floor bedrooms into a wheelchair accessible room, and decorating and recarpeting ten of the twelve bedrooms.

The house is due to re-open in August 2016, and the Trustees have made an appeal to Friends for financial support to enable them to carry out two items of further work before it re-opens: 1) refurbishing the Quiet Room and replacing the wired glass wall between it and the entrance hall with more soundproof material, with clear glass panels at the top to let light into the hall (cost £6,000), and 2) bringing the main staircase up to current health and safety standards, including making the bannisters higher (cost £4,360).



You can donate via the Claridge House website at www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk/support-us.php. Ask me for more details, or a donation form.

Colin Brewer

Request from CTD – opportunity for service

Do you love God and have a passion for working with people? Are you organised? The Dorking Christian Centre requires a **part-time Chaplain, lay or ordained**. The contract is for two years, 15 hours a week. Email shjamieson@hotmail.co.uk or ring 07743054327 for details. Closing Date 3rd June 2016

From our Young Friends

Forest School report:

Thomas: When we went to meeting for Worship on the Nower I liked scraping, banging and scooping on the dead tree with Samuel, Ewan, Theo and Christopher.



Pippa: I loved it!! It was exciting to be in the woods, I loved making up songs. It was fun cutting holly with secateurs so mama could twist them into a globe shape to make a piñata - I decorated it with leaves. We took it home but thought the kittens would break it so put it in the garden but the wind blew it apart anyway. The hammocks were fun and the potatoes were



yummy.

Theo: I loved the marshmallows! The best bit was making holes in the big dead tree. I cut my hand. I liked Thomas sending a bucket down the wire.

The Leith Hill walk report.



Pippa: I loved the bluebells and finding interesting things again - my favourite was the pheasant feathers, and our kittens love playing with them! I stopped at the car park again but at least that meant we could give Roger a lift [back to Capel], hopefully next year I'll get to the top.

Theo: I liked holding the dogs [leads]. papa only gave me a little lift, I walked a

long way!

Ewan: My favourite bit was eating ice cream ... but going back to the meeting house was not so exciting.



Reports by Pippa, Theo, Thomas and Ewan. Photos by Gayle, Katy and Colin.

Reflection from our Elders

Britain Yearly Meeting is on 27-30th May. It is suggested that all Meetings might join in the preparation for this by reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and therefore varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (RSV) and then verses 12-21.

And this by William Penn about early Friends in Quaker Faith and Practice:

19.48 They were changed men in themselves before they went about to change others. Their hearts were rent as well as their garments, and they knew the power and work of God upon them... And as they freely received what they had to say from the Lord, so freely administered it to others. The bent and stress of their ministry was conversion to God, regeneration and holiness, not schemes of doctrines and verbal creeds or new forms of worship, but a leaving off in the religion the superfluous and reducing the ceremonies and formal part, and pressing earnestly the substantial, the necessary and profitable part, as all upon a serious reflection must do to acknowledge.

More readings online at www.quaker.org.uk/ym.

Rachel Hope (for the Elders)