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Farewell to our wardens

Our wardens will be leaving us sometime around the first week in October. Thank you, Denise and Adrian, for your nearly 20 years of wardening and we offer our very best wishes for your future!



Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Monday 5 September	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group – in member's own homes
Sunday 11 September	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 16 September	2.30-4.00pm	Meditation Meeting
Sat 17 September	11.00am-1.00pm	Area Business Meeting at Blue Idol MH
Sat 17 September	1.45-3.30pm	Fellowship – Alison Freeman talk on work of QCEA post Brexit followed by discussion –see page 3.
Sat 17 September	11.15am	Regional Meeting at Littlehampton on militarisation
Sunday 2 October	9.30am	Breakfast Meeting see page 4
Sunday 9 October	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sunday 9 October	9.00am	Reading QF&P – see page 3

Note also:

21 September **International Day of Peace**. Meeting for worship at Quaker service memorial, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire. Details www.qsmt.org.uk or ask Anne for leaflet.

Saturday 1 October to Sunday 9 October **Quaker week**.

- **Blue Idol Meeting special event on 9 October** - Meeting for Worship 10.30-11.30am. After 'bring-and-share' lunch, Jennifer Kavanagh, Quaker writer and speaker, will help Friends explore their faith on the theme of *Walking with a smile in the dark: living with unknowing*. As space in the Meeting House is limited, **anyone interested in attending email: charles@brownoak.co.uk no later than the 1st October**.
- **Horsham Meeting** plan an **outdoor meeting for worship in Horsham on Wed 5 Oct** at 12.30, subject to council permission. They hope Friends from other meetings will join them.

Sunday 16 October - Horsham Friends' fellowship session *Deepening Worship* led by Val Rowling. 1-4.30pm after Meeting for Worship and bring and share lunch. Friends from other LMs welcome for all or part of the day. Let Helen Whittington know if you plan to attend.

Preparative Meeting – Sunday 2 September

Advices and Queries read: Dorking Sunday: July No. 7, Aug No. 38. Leatherhead: None

We agreed that Dorking would host ABM in November 2017 on Saturday 11th as Sunday 12th will be Remembrance Sunday and some roads would be closed.

Nominations. Friends were pleased to appoint Katy Nunn to manage the Information Centre, or Reading Room as it used to be known, initially to the end of this year (31 Dec 2016).

Following *Caring for one another* by Lois Lodge in the July Grapevine, Friends have asked her to organise a meeting after a shared lunch one Sunday to discuss how Overseers carry out their caring role in our Meeting and, in view of the shortage of Friends able to undertake this role, whether there are other ways that this important service could be undertaken. Lois will agree a date with Overseers, probably in October.

On behalf of Premises and Finance Committee Rosemary Elias reported on the **proposed hiring charges for the various Meeting House rooms in 2017**. The charges for mornings (4 hour sessions) and evenings (3 hour sessions) to increase by £1 a session in line with the low rate of inflation. The hourly rate offered for afternoons would increase to be half of the value of the sessions. For example the hire charge for the Small Hall for 1 hour would increase from £8 to £10. Organisations would be charged a commercial rate (the session rate times 1.5) at the discretion of the Committee. These proposals were accepted.

Friends agreed a list of **charities to support in 2017** as follows:

Jan/Feb	Charity supporting refugees to be specified (Anne Brewer)
Mar/Apr	Quaker Social Action (Colin Hope)
May/Jun	Britain Yearly Meeting (Romy Elias)
July/Aug	Leaveners (Gayle Banks)
Sept/Oct	Quaker Homeless Action (Frances Poulton)
Nov	Leatherhead Food Bank - Trussell Trust (Rachel Hope)
Dec	Charity chosen by our Young Friends

It was noted that **Wednesday Meeting** is continuing its excellent work collecting for local charities (£100 for Riding for the Disabled in July and £200 for Dorking Beatitudes in August) and is now donating about half of its collections to Dorking Meeting funds. We do not know how much is raised by the Sunday promotion of charities but we think it is working well and the method has reduced the workload on the treasurer.

Looking forward - Nominations

It has been a difficult year for Dorking Meeting, and we have spent a lot of time in trying to find ways to keep our Meeting and our Meeting House going. We have had to make some very hard decisions, notably making our wardens redundant in order to rent out the cottage to give us funds to pay our way. So we will start to improve our finances, but no amount of money will keep the Meeting going unless we have Friends to fill the roles in our Meeting. We all have the same objectives – to develop a healthy and sustainable community so that we can worship and work together in a Quakerly way.

Quakerism has often been described as a do-it-yourself religion, where we all have to play our part, whether it is giving money or our time and skills. Perhaps Friends could think of what they can do rather than what they can't do, so that we can plan ahead in a positive way. Our Nominations Committee is already starting to think about roles within the Meeting in 2017, so are you able to help?

Attached with this newsletter is a more detailed paper outlining the roles and asking for you to consider how you might contribute (if you receive the newsletter by e-mail, the paper can be downloaded from <http://www.dorking.quaker.eu.org/resources.php> or a few spare copies will be available at the Meeting House.

If you want to talk about this please do contact Catherine Carr (Convenor) or Colin Hope (Clerk)

Catherine Carr



After 11 years as a voluntary local rep for Zaytoun and selling £17,000 worth of Zaytoun products to help Palestinian farmers, I have decided it is time to retire. So the olive oil bottle re-filling service is no longer available in the Meeting. You can however buy the Zaytoun products from Oxfam or from Elizabeth Dobson's occasional Traidcraft stall in the Meeting.



Anne Brewer



Quaker
Council
European
Affairs

Fellowship on 17 September at Blue Idol

The Work of QCEA post Brexit



Alison Freeman, a member of QCEA British Committee, will lead a discussion on what Brexit means for pursuing Quaker values like peace and environmental sustainability in Brussels; and what lessons we can take for our own democracy.

Collecting for Refugees in Syria

Churches Together are supporting a collection in aid of refugees in Syria organized by John Pilkington. The collection is for **winter clothes and bedding**, medical equipment and such necessities as crutches and wheel chairs. The aid will go directly to the contact in Syria.

12 to 25 Sept

collecting at St Martin's Church

26, 27 and 28 Sept

volunteers needed to sort and pack in St Martin's.

Please call John on 07971 048656 or email jgpilk@gmail.com for further information

Thoughts from Reading QF&P chapters 13, 20, 26

Anne Brewer and I met on 7th August to share our thoughts on reading the above chapters of Quaker Faith & Practice (as per the monthly programme offered by those reviewing it). We both commented on how valuable it is to go back and read QF&P. There is so much wisdom there, if only we seek it (and do we, often enough?). There are 'how to' and 'responsibilities to/for' sections e.g. Concerns, Wardens, Libraries, Prison ministers – and that is just a selection from Chapter 13.

In Chapter 20 *Living Faithfully today* Friends attempt to put into words what it means to be Quaker, including Prayer (e.g. 20.08), and the testimonies of Simplicity & Equality, Honesty & Integrity. There is recognition of human frailty so sections on business and finance, and conflict are also there.

Chapter 26 *Reflections: experience of God* is a very beautiful collection of prose and could be used as recommended reading for a keen enquirer or attender.

The chapters of QF&P chapters programmed to be read in August and September are 7, 15, 8 and 28. You are welcome to join Anne and I on Sunday 9th October at 9am, when we will be sharing our thoughts on what has spoken to us as we read.

Lois Lodge

Study group - how to be more sustainable in our everyday lives

Thanks to Anne Brewer and Romy Elias, a small group of Dorking Quakers revisited Quaker commitments to conserving the environment from the degradation of climate change, and discussing how sustainable we can make our own lives.

Anne and Romy both provided plenty of interesting articles, as well as lists of advice for individuals and groups on how we might contribute to a greener future, drawn up at the 2016 Friends World Committee for Consultation gathering. See <http://fwcc.world/plenary-2016/consultationreports>.

From there we talked about the individual efforts we have all made and listened with interest to each other. It was a very refreshing and thought provoking evening.

Anne's fashionable pair of 'Athletic' sneakers (see photo) introduced the Ethical Consumer, which she consults before buying anything, in order to minimise both damage to the planet and exploitation of people. We were impressed that so many products of every sort can be manufactured in a sustainable way and Anne offered to make the relevant Ethical Consumer available to anyone wishing to check up on a product they need to buy.



Sarah Freeman

Vision Quest – what next?

One of the gems that came out of our Vision Quest was Fiona Harrison's kind offer of a classical guitar concert. We have snapped her up and will be hosting an **evening of candles, strings and beautiful things in the form of poems and readings on Saturday 12 November at 6.15**. Given the proximity of Armistice Day we will be making the focus Peace, Love and Conciliation. More details and poster to follow but as part of the aim of this event is outreach and fundraising (there will be a small charge) please spread the word amongst your networks.

And ...Updating our 'rogue's gallery!

Another event coming soon (date TBA) will be a chance to bring in both an up to date photograph for the board (some of them are a little out of date!) and a photograph from our dim and distant past! We thought we might have some fun with this and request that folks dig out an old baby/childhood snap and before we put the current one on the wall we will see if we can match them up. There is talk of doing some portrait drawings too if we can persuade our artier members to help us out. Start going through your baby snaps now.....

Sally Elias



Sayers Croft weekend

A very enjoyable time was had by 21 Friends aged 3 to 73, from Horsham and Dorking Meetings. Photos by Gayle – breakfast for the campers, the bronze age round house and a roman battalion!



Some comments. **Pippa**: The weekend was amazing and everyone was so kind. We did so many activities! My favourites were the round house, blindfold route, maze and playing round the fire with friends.

Theo : My favourites were low ropes, caves, maze and playing round the fire. **Thomas and Ewan** both said they liked the cave, but most of all they loved playing round the fire with the others, late into the night!

They were completely covered in soot by the end of the evening, quite a sight!

Imogen says she absolutely loved the caving most of all.

David Quorroll, member of Horsham Meeting and manager of the activity centre, made us very welcome and was wonderful organising activities for the children. He is retiring this month so sadly that will be the last time we can enjoy this free treat.

Anne Brewer

Breakfast with Friends



Why not come on Sunday 2 October at 9.30am and share breakfast with Friends before worshipping together.

Porridge, Toast and Marmalade, Orange Juice, Tea and Coffee



Rachel Hope

Reflection from our Elders

At the September Study Group we looked at practical approaches to Sustainability and countering Climate Change as Quakers are called to consider the effect of their lives on the world's limited resources, and to work together to build low-carbon, sustainable communities.

In 2011, Britain Yearly Meeting made the following statement, part of the Canterbury Commitment:

To individual Friends we issue a clear call to action to consider the effect of their lives on the world's limited resources and in particular on their carbon usage....We are grateful to those Friends who have responded in their own lives and who have encouraged and informed us... there is much more which may yet be done.

The *Sustainability Toolkit* you will find on the BYM site offers tools for learning, self-evaluation and practical action – as well as inspiration from Friends already facing the challenge – to support meetings in becoming low-carbon, sustainable communities.

Romy Elias (Elder)