



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

Guest editor: Elizabeth Cooper  
 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer

December 2017  
 No. 516

### Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

#### Meeting House Events for December

Sat 2 Dec	2 pm	Memorial MfW for Ruth and Gordon Little
Mon 4 Dec	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group in Friends' homes
Wed 6 Dec	2 pm	Discussion Group ( <i>see page 8</i> )
Sun 10 Dec	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW at Park House, Leatherhead
Thur 14 Dec	10.30 – 11.15 am	MfW at Broadford Bridge Drilling Site ( <i>see page 6</i> )
Fri 15 Dec	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation & Spiritual Exploration Group
Sun 17 Dec	9.45 am	Amnesty card signing event
Sun 17 Dec	11.30 am	Carols and mince pies after MfW
Mon 25 Dec	10.30 – 11 am	Christmas Day - MfW

Wednesdays 12.45-1.15 **Midweek Meeting** followed by simple lunch – all are welcome!

#### Eileen Lloyd

Eileen, a member of Dorking Meeting for 37 years, died on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 after a long, very brave battle with cancer. In recent years she attended Leatherhead meeting when her health allowed. Eileen had many interests – she was keen on wildlife, she loved her allotment, she wrote books, she was an artist, she danced, and she played her violin until illness stopped her. A funeral service to celebrate her life was held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.



#### Harold Ward

Harold died at the beginning of November. He was an Attender at Midweek Meeting for 14 years and he will be greatly missed. There will be a Remembrance Service for him at **1.30 pm, Thursday 7 December** in the Little Chapel, United Reformed Church, Dorking.  
 All are welcome.

#### Muriel Dale

Muriel was a member of Capel Meeting. She died on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017, aged 108 years. Funeral to be held in Capel Church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Time tba. Capel Meeting plan to arrange a memorial meeting in their MH – details to be announced.

## WALK ON THE EARTH GENTLY

As December approaches each year many of us feel uneasy about the commercialisation associated with Christmas, and the efforts by retailers to persuade us to buy gifts and food that we don't really need or want. These adverts and promotions promise us, that if we buy the right product, we will enjoy the perfect Family Christmas. Yet we know that our Food Banks will be stretched this winter and that many homeless people will be using shelters. And what of the waste – of the food that goes into bins, of the trees destroyed for wrapping paper and cards – and all those gifts that no one wanted? What is the real cost of Christmas?

As a counter to this unnecessary waste this month we are focusing on our testimony to Sustainability.

The 2015 Paris Agreement determined to keep global warming to below 2°C, but according to current trends the world is heading for at least 3°C of warming. At the recent Climate Conference in Germany leaders from a wide range of faith communities, including Quakers,



supported the launch of a new initiative for sustainable living: **Walk on the Earth Gently.**

The full text can be read at

[www.interfaithclimatestatement.org](http://www.interfaithclimatestatement.org) but here are some extracts:

*'... we come to you with an invitation to embark on a journey towards compassionate simplicity for the sake of the climate, the human family, and the community of life'*

*'... changes in three areas make the greatest impact: dramatically reducing emissions from our home energy use, adopting a plant-based diet, and minimizing automobile and air travel'*

*'... we look forward to creating a global community of conscience and practice in which we learn to put belief into action in relation to our own lifestyles'*

The sustainable living initiative – **Walk on the Earth Gently** – will be organised by GreenFaith – a multi-faith environmental group based in the US and is still in the early stages of development.

It is sometimes difficult, when faced with worldwide problems, to think what we as individuals can do. But Pam Lunn's Swarthmore Lecture in 2011 – *Costing not less than everything: sustainability and spirituality in challenging times* – reminds us that:

***'We are the people alive now, we are the people who know about the problem. Who else do we imagine is going to do what needs to be done?'***

and ...

***'To older people, perhaps feeling that you have moved beyond an exterior active life: remember that you have skills and knowledge that need to be passed on to subsequent generations; consider how you may be able to ensure that your knowledge, skills and experience do not die with you'***

**You do not have to change: survival is not mandatory**

W. Edwards Deming

## QUAKER MONEY AS A SPIRITUAL TOOL

This is the title of an article by Anne Brewer from 1998 – something I found when clearing out old magazines in the library. Anne wrote ... *‘money has a long reach and its wise use gives us opportunities for influence, on a local and global level, over peace, justice and the environment.’*

On an individual level we can recycle at home, choose to buy environmentally friendly products, grow vegetables, buy second-hand clothes and mend old ones, turn down the thermostat, cycle or walk when we can in the belief that every bit makes a difference. But many of us are faced with the challenge of a poor public transport infrastructure, relatives who live overseas, the need to keep warm, the enjoyment of varied foods from around the world throughout the year... we need to be gentle with ourselves and do what we can.

In our community Dorking Meeting has worked hard for many years to be informed about environmental issues. We try to ensure that cleaning products are ethically produced, that Fair Trade and organic products are purchased and that we recycle as much as possible. Our recent redecoration of the Meeting House involved long discussions about how to spend a limited budget and to ensure that environmentally friendly (but more expensive) products were used. It was thanks to generous donations from Friends that the extra cost was met: an example of Faith in Action. *Grapevine* is printed on 100% recycled, post-consumer waste paper using electricity from renewable sources. The Meeting’s finances were moved to Triodos Bank to avoid supporting the nuclear industry and now the fossil fuels industry. Area Meeting is now working to divest from fossil fuels.

We have also recognised that we need to stand for our testimony beyond the Meeting House with a Meeting for Worship at Broadford Bridge drilling site (see November’s *Grapevine*). And at Meeting for Sufferings in February of this year it was minuted that Quakers acknowledge the *‘unsustainability of increasing fossil fuel extraction by non-conventional means.’*

***‘..there is no separation between the sacred and the secular: that all times, all places, all belonging, all actions, all thoughts, all intentions are in the realm of the sacred.’***



Kathleen Jannaway  
<https://spiralseed.co.uk/kathleen-jannaway-first-hand-first-rate/>

### Kathleen Jannaway

When sorting out the library I found some very old magazines called *New Leaves* published in the 1990s. Kathleen, who edited the magazine, was a member of Dorking Quakers for many years and lived in Leatherhead from where she ran the *Movement for Compassionate Living*. She wrote that *‘Compassionate living is about making connections between the way we live and the way others suffer, between development, consumption and the destruction of the planet. It involves a commitment to work non-violently for change, promoting life styles that are possible for all the world’s people, **sustainable within the resources of the planet ..’***

Kathleen wrote about the organic fruit and vegetables grown in her back garden in Leatherhead, and I loved to read that she was successfully growing quinoa there many years before it became fashionable in supermarkets. Her recipes may be a little frugal for those of us brought up in a world of international foods, celebrity chef television programmes, cookbooks and glossy food magazines - but I found much still of relevance and help in these little magazines.

Sadly, there is still a need for the *Movement for Compassionate Living*.

(Incidentally, did you know that the *Grapevine* heading was drawn by Kathleen’s husband, Jack)

## TURNING THE THERMOSTAT DOWN

If you are turning the thermostat down please remember the advice from Age UK: hypothermia is a very real danger to older people – the recommended temperature is 21°C (70°F)

### Keep Warm and Stay Well!

## DORKING COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Self sufficiency is all very well for helping to save the planet – but there are only so many courgettes you can eat when Waitrose beckons .... so it is great to know that Dorking now has its own Community Fridge. It is in the Christian Centre and the aim is to reduce food waste. Anyone can come along and take what they want or leave what they want. A great contribution to the community and to sustainability.

***‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has’***

*Margaret Mead*



## THE WOODLAND TRUST

This month Midweek meeting has chosen to support the Woodland Trust – which is a conservation charity helping to plant trees and protect woods. Why? **Because we need trees!** As Anne says on the page 6: **‘Go out into the woods ...’**

## REIGATE BEE KEEPERS

Midweek Meeting supported this project last month. Why? Well, **we need bees!!!**

Reigate Bee Keepers don't just keep bees, but they also raise the profile of bees in the community. They organize school visits and talks with an observation hive so that children can understand the complex world of bees and see them as essential for our planet's survival. They also give many general talks to adults, but also run practical evenings and lectures for bee keepers and .... they produce lots of honey! Whilst not everyone wants to have a bee hive in their garden, or has the necessary space, we can all try to support the bees by planting bee friendly flowers such as lavender, foxgloves, snapdragons, herbs– even on a window sill or balcony – and gardening organically; not using chemicals such as neonicotinoids



Perhaps we can fill our Meeting House garden with bee friendly plants and enjoy watching the bees arrive in the summer ....

[www.reigatebeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.reigatebeekeepers.org.uk)

## FAITH IN ACTION; WHY I AM A VEGAN

The Vegan Society is running a campaign called **Plate up for the Planet**. It was created 'to engage eco-conscious people who are unaware of the effect their diet is having on the planet'

Here we talk with Anne – who is vegan – and who explains why a plant based diet is part of her testimony to sustainability.



**Anne - when did you first become vegan and when did you first become aware of the environmental effects of a meat based diet?**

I became a vegan about 35 years ago. I heard that the average vegan needs 1/25<sup>th</sup> of the land space to produce their food compared with that required by the average meat eater. With millions of people going hungry and wildlife rapidly losing habitat to human agriculture, that was a good enough reason for me, alongside the farm animal welfare issues. So although not aware then of the large contribution of livestock farming to climate change I was activated by an environmental reason.

**The Vegan Society has produced lots of tables of statistics for their Plate up for the Planet campaign. i.e. Animal agriculture is responsible for up to 91% of Amazon destruction. I know you have a scientific background but for some of us statistics don't really mean much. Do you think this is useful?**

I don't think statistics touch many people's hearts and the heart is where the impulse to change comes from. However, once something has touched the heart then scientific and statistical evidence can bolster the intention to change. So I think all ways of presenting the reasons for reducing the consumption of meat and dairy are necessary.

**You've been looking at some of the Vegan lifestyle magazines that are now on the market. Being Vegan is now very fashionable, and retailers are adapting to a new market. How do we balance people eating more ready-made vegan meals as opposed to eating, for example, organically produced meat with the environmental impact of some of these ready-made products?**

It is difficult to compare different contributions to environmental damage – there are so many factors to take into account. My advice, if you are concerned about the environment, is to try as often as possible to prepare vegan meals from basic organically grown ingredients – unlike intensive agriculture organic agriculture helps reverse climate change rather than contributing to it. However, I appreciate the difficulties – sometimes time and/or energy run out. Actually it seems likely that those who buy ready-made vegan meals are likely to have bought ready-made meat meals and at least the vegan ones don't have the double bad impact!

**You've talked in the past about being an ethical consumer. Some of the vegan products are produced by companies that are part of bigger companies i.e. Linda McCartney foods is owned by Celestial Hain which also produces meat products. Does this matter?**

It is very hard to be perfect in this world! I try to buy from companies recommended by *Ethical Consumer*, to encourage sustainable and ethical businesses, but sometimes that proves impossible. I buy a few food items from Waitrose who produce meat products but on the whole they have a good approach to animal welfare so I don't worry about it. Others may have different priorities. The important thing is having done your best to be as sure as possible of the facts – you do what feels right for you.

**Does this also affect where you buy food – or other items?**

Yes it does! I buy my organic fruit and veg from the Riverford veg box scheme, and most of my other food stuffs from SUMA (the wholefood vegetarian co-op with excellent ethical standards).

**Many people are beginning to reduce the amount of meat and dairy that they consume – perhaps having a vegan meal two or three times a week. Do small changes like this make a difference and do you think that initiatives like *Meat Free Monday* or *Plate up for the Planet* are useful in helping people move towards a more plant based diet?**

Yes, I certainly think small steps are useful. That's how I did it. And national initiatives like *Meat Free Monday* can keep jogging people's memories that we need to do something and make it seem more of a community thing. We are, after all, social beings!

**Do you think that once someone adopts a plant based diet they might forget that there is still work to be done?**

I hope not! I haven't! Anyway, better to become vegan, or at least reduce your meat consumption, than do nothing. Hopefully with the warnings becoming more and more urgent, most people will realise that there is more they can and should do.

**One tip to help us take that first step for the planet ...**

Plastic bottles are much in the news lately so a good first step is to stop buying bottled water and take a re-used bottle of tap or filtered water with you instead. But for real motivation get your emotions involved!

***Go out into the woods or somewhere wild and stand still and look. Listen to the silent appeal from the trees, the flowers, the birds and the insects. Then go home and do whatever you feel inspired to do to reduce the damage you are doing to this incredible planet.***



[www.vegansociety.com/plateup](http://www.vegansociety.com/plateup)

(The Vegan Society has lots of online recipes with the associated carbon emissions calculated – so you can try out some great new food and see how you are helping the environment.)

[www.ethicalconsumer.com](http://www.ethicalconsumer.com)

[www.riverford.co.uk](http://www.riverford.co.uk)

[www.suma.coop](http://www.suma.coop)

## BROADFORD BRIDGE

There will be another Meeting for Worship at Broadford Bridge drilling site on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Friends are invited to join other Friends from across the Weald. It is hoped to hold further vigils one Monday each month during 2018.

## LEITH HILL

Many Friends will be aware of the proposed oil exploration at Leith Hill. Europa Oil and Gas (UK) Ltd has been granted planning permission for exploratory drilling, but only once all permits have been obtained – one of which is an acceptable Traffic Management Scheme for lorry deliveries using Coldharbour Lane and other roads in Dorking. Surrey County Council's planning committee has twice deferred a decision on the Traffic Management Scheme over concerns that Europa had not adequately consulted with residents. Europa is planning to drill the exploration well at Bury Hill Wood in the first half of 2018 and has now issued a legal challenge to Surrey County Council. Concerned Friends might like to offer support to the Protection Camp, sign the petition, write to Surrey County Council, and keep themselves informed of developments here and in other parts of Surrey.



[www.voiceforleithhill.co.uk](http://www.voiceforleithhill.co.uk)

[www.frackfreesurrey.com](http://www.frackfreesurrey.com) (includes link to petition)

[www.leithhillnodrill.com](http://www.leithhillnodrill.com)

Twitter: #SaveLeithHill

**We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will.**

Advice and Queries No. 42

## NOVEMBER'S COLLECTION – Epsom and Ewell Foodbank



Rachel introduced this project – which she is involved with. It now includes Leatherhead, Tadworth and Banstead, and also offers second hand furniture, counselling and ... cookery lessons!

Planning nutritious and cheap food for the week – bulk cooking soups or casseroles and then freezing them, the creative use of left-overs – all of this requires knowledge, simple cookery skills, equipment and organization. Living on a tiny budget with debts is stressful and exhausting – it is often not possible to plan ahead – and many people's lives are chaotic – living from day to day, from meal to meal. Ready-made foods offer a quick and filling alternative. Simple cookery lessons enable people to begin to make small changes in their diet and take more control of their lives. Sadly, an article in the Guardian '*It's simply harder to eat well when you are poor*' resulted in many scornful online comments – reminiscent of Victorian and Edwardian attitudes towards poverty. ([www.theGuardian.com](http://www.theGuardian.com), Sunday 29 November 2015).

Epsom and Ewell Foodbank was set up in 2012 and has reported that this year there was a **9% rise in demand on previous years.**

## DECEMBER'S COLLECTION – THE CHILDREN'S CHOICE

This year the children have chosen to support Dorking Foodbank – this will be a cash collection, but we will still be continuing with the food collection as usual.

### DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2pm at Su's place

The starting point is the statue on the roof of the Old Bailey – Justice. What does this mean to us – the sword, the scales, the blindfold, the woman? And what do we understand by Justice, and do we or can we live in a just world?

Come along for an interesting afternoon with Friends – please let Su know if you are coming.



### And ..... A SPECIAL INVITATION .... From the Children!

At the recent Children and Young People's Committee meeting it was agreed that we'd like to try something that other children's meetings elsewhere in the UK report has been a good and fun way for adults and children to get to know each other: inviting adults not usually involved to be interviewed by the children as part of their Sunday morning meeting. This could be a



lovely way for members of the wider community to get to know the children, and vice versa, with the children thinking up some questions and getting the opportunity to hear more about the varied experiences of other people who come to meeting.

Please don't be shy and assume you need to have extraordinary tales to tell – we are quite sure that everyone has something unique and special to share.

If you are interested please talk with Sophie, Katy or Alison and we can plan the best time in the New Year. Thank you in advance.

### ADVANCE WARNING – KEEP THIS DATE FREE!!!

The date is set for the **New Year's Party**, and we would love to see as many of you there as possible. The children will be your hosts for an afternoon of games (all ages), good food and great company. So please do come to the Meeting House on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January from 3 – 5.30 pm to get the year off to a cheerful start. Anyone who has good ideas for games, or offers to contribute in anyway, please speak with Alison, Sophie or Katy. Thanks – and we look forward to seeing you there.



### FINALLY –

There is a **hearing loop** in the Meeting House. Friends with hearing aids need to set them to the appropriate setting or there are headphones for Friends to use. These are usually on the table in the front lobby. Please ask Colin Brewer if you would like help in using them.

***With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams it is still a beautiful world.***

***Be cheerful!***

*Desiderata*