



Editors: Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman
 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer

July 2017
 No 512

In the wake of recent tragedies, Paul Parker, the Recording Clerk, has made a statement on behalf of Quakers in Britain. He refers to Quakers response and says "Quakers lovingly uphold all those affected by the recent tragedies. People of all faiths should be able to live and worship in peace." You can read the full statement on the news page of our website www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-condemn-all-acts-of-violence

Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch. Not July 19, 26 or Aug 2 due to decorating. Aug 9 possible.
Sat 8 July	Area Meeting at Blue Idol MH	
	10.45am-12.30pm	ABM followed by Bring and share lunch
	1.45-3.30/4.00pm	Fellowship session with Kim Hope on Outreach
Sun 9 July	12.00 -12.30pm	Spiritual Preparation for YM (1)
Sun 9 July	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sun 16 July	12.00-12.30pm	Spiritual Preparation for YM (2)
Fri 28 July	2.30-4.00pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Mon 31 July	2.00pm	Ideas exchange at Su Johnston's house – see page 4
Sat 29 July – Sat 5 August		Yearly Meeting Gathering at Warwick University
Mon 7 August	8.30-9.00pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group in Friends' homes
	August Wed mornings – digging party in garden	- see <u>Anniversary Celebrations</u> page 2
Sun 13 August	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sun 3 September	9.00am	Preparative Meeting
Sat 9 September	tba	Area Meeting at Reigate MH

Preparative Meeting Sunday 2 July

Premises matters

Judy Johnson gave us a progress report on the recent work of Premises Committee:

- A **water heater** has been installed in the kitchen, in the cupboard below the sink and is working well. Let Judy know if any problems arise.
- The Meeting House now has **WiFi and full internet access**. There is a secure encrypted network – the encryption key is available from Judy. Also an open guest network which can accommodate 10 users at a time. The system has a limit of 4 Giga bytes per month – so no downloading of films allowed! The guest network is passworded so that passers-by in the street can't tap in and use up the download limit! The password is available from Judy and will be changed occasionally.
- The **office is now available for Friend's use** but let Judy know if you wish to use it on bookings@dorkingquakers.org or 07534 139502 as it may occasionally be let. A list of the month's bookings will be pinned on the office notice board.

Rachel Hope told us about upcoming work of the committee:

- **Interior decorating** of large and small halls will start Monday 17 July and take about a month. There will be a scaffolding tower in the large hall for 8 days and this will also be utilised by engineers Hockley and Dawson, to survey the **bi-parting screen** on 18 July. Wednesday lunchtime Meeting will not take place during the decorating but Sunday Meeting for Worship will take place at the usual time.

- Premises have a quote for £660+VAT for recommended repairs to the flat roof over the lobby. As previous work by the roofing firm has been satisfactory, Friends agreed to go ahead with this quote.

Lettings policy:

Premises and Finance Committee will be bringing a revised lettings policy and suggested new lettings rates to PM in September. Meanwhile they encourage Friends to give some thought to the names of the rooms which we let. Their suggested names were the large meeting room, the small meeting room, the kitchen, the committee room and the office. See **Names of Rooms** on page 3.

To help our finances, the committee are hoping to increase lettings. In the past Friday afternoon and evening and the whole of Saturday and Sunday were reserved for Quaker use. However Quakers are not often using the rooms on Fridays or Saturdays so it was agreed that rooms can be let on Friday afternoon after 2.30pm, on Friday evening and on Saturday **IF** the rooms are not needed for Quaker activities. Sundays are still for Quaker use only. However **anyone wishing to use the Meeting House at any time should let the bookings clerk know** – see **Bookings and the special birthday photo fun** below.

It was noted that there is the potential for the playgroup to extend their hours and we don't want to exclude this possibility. Premises and Finance Committee will report back when more is known about the playgroup's requirements.

Anniversary Celebrations:



2017 is the 170th anniversary of the opening of the Meeting House and the 70th of Quakers being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The outreach committee have planned an event on Sunday 8 October, the last day of Quaker Week 2017. They will invite Dorking church leaders, leaders of other faith groups, other 'significant' people and voluntary organisations which deal with peace issues. **Suggestions of 'significant' people you think should be invited to Catherine Carr please!**

It is suggested the event consists of a seeded Meeting for Worship, the planting of the 3 peace rose bushes at midday, followed by light refreshments. The site for planting the roses needs to be cleared and **Friends are invited to join a digging party on every Wednesday morning in August.** Contact Theresa MacIntyre for details.



Peace Rose (from Wikipedia)

Bookings and the special birthday photo fun.

Friends will probably know that Sally's planned photo fun and special birthday celebration with Friends, on Sunday 25 June had to be postponed. The reason was that an email checking that the Meeting House was free for the time required was sent to the wrong email address so the bookings clerk wasn't aware and agreed to hire the small hall and kitchen out that afternoon for a 6 year old's birthday party! To avoid such mishaps in future please make sure that:

- You book the meeting house for any event. This includes events on Sundays if they will extend beyond 1pm.
- Send your request for booking to bookings@dorkingquakers.org

As the cake that was to be served at the close of Sally's event was already prepared we celebrated her birthday with tea and cake after meeting anyway! The photo fun event to help towards refurbishment of the small hall photo board will take place sometime in the autumn.

Fire Safety

Next time you're in Dorking Meeting House, take a couple of minutes to make sure you have read and understand the Fire Safety Procedure posted on the walls of the various rooms. We have a network of wireless-linked smoke alarms (and a heat alarm in the kitchen), so any fire should result in a loud alarm throughout the building, and give everyone time to make their way to the assembly points. There may be a practice soon!



Colin Brewer, Meeting fire safety officer

Names of Rooms

As reported in the notes from PM above, suggestions are invited for the names of our various rooms in the Meeting House. Most of them are perhaps quite straight forward but there was concern over the name 'Committee Room' for what used to be called the Information Centre. It is hired quite often by support type groups and is very suitable for this but perhaps Committee Room doesn't convey the right sort of impression. Please let Gayle, either of the Colins, Judy or Rachel know if you have an idea about this.

It is worth drawing attention to the encouragement in Quaker Faith & Practice to all members of a Meeting to take part in decision-making whenever appropriate – it does help to build up a Friendly community. Quaker Faith and Practice Chapter 3 and Advice and Query Number 15 are relevant. Many friends find it difficult to attend PM for various reasons so it seems good to offer Friends the opportunity to contribute to decisions in other ways when suitable.

Quaker Life appeal re mental health challenges

We have had the following message from Quaker Life. Please respond as an individual if you would like to - if you don't have access to a computer and would like to take part, ask Anne Brewer for a paper copy of the form.

Quaker Life would like to learn how meetings respond to the challenges that arise in Quaker meetings that relate to mental health or illness. Please respond as a meeting or as an individual. There is not a limit to the number of responses from each Quaker meeting and individuals are strongly encouraged to send in their own response as well as elders or overseers responding on behalf of the meeting community.

Please visit <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/ql-mental-health-survey> The form should take between 15 and 30 minutes to complete online

Oliver Waterhouse, oliverw@quaker.org.uk 020 76631007

While on the topic of mental health we have been invited by Crossways Community Baptist Church, in Junction Road, to attend a meeting on '**Learning to be a Dementia-friendly church**'. The meeting is on Tuesday 11 July, 7.30 – 9.15pm.

An invitation!

Many of you will remember Emily Hunka, a member of our Meeting who has done wonderful work using drama to help young people (9 to 19 year olds) who are experiencing emotional and social difficulties and mental health problems. (See www.theatretroupe.org). Here is an invitation to a performance by her latest group of youngsters – she would be really pleased if any Friends were able to go to the Monday 10th July event as she is afraid the audience there will be thin on the ground. Note the bit about bringing the invitation.

You are cordially invited to:

The Way to Optimistic Land

A play performed by the Treasure House Youth Troupe

Sunday 9 July, 6.30pm
Treasure House, Livesey Building
682 Old Kent Rd, SE15 1JF
Refreshments after the performance

Monday 10th July, 6pm
Arts Two Building
Queen Mary University London, Mile End Rd,
E1 4NS (Mile End or Stepney Green Tube)

Please RSVP to:
info@theatretroupe.org
phone or text: 07951 047015 (Emily)

Please bring your invitation with you

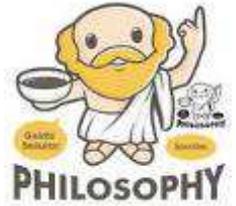
Another invitation!

An ideas exchange

Friends who are interested in having an exchange of ideas – Quakerly and philosophical etc. – in response to my last month's Grapevine invitation, have suggested me making a date to meet at my flat one afternoon. There would be tea and cake to refresh us, in exchange for ideas.

I have been interested in what people have in mind when we talk of freedom; the State; coercion and obedience; duty – and so on – or other topics as the fancy takes us. We never actually understand anything except our own thoughts – and sometimes, not even those! If you find this prospect interesting and not too daunting, please come along.

DATE: Monday July 31st at 2pm until we put the kettle on.
This is the suggested date and time. If it does not suit, please let me know.
Also, that you are coming along. 01306 640327; suj@f2s.com



Su Johnston

For Friends who started coming to Meeting after June 2014

As part of a research project on the changing face of faith in Britain, commissioned by the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR), a new online survey has been produced **aimed at those who first came to meeting in the last 3 years**. If you would like to complete the survey, please do so **by July 24th**. It can be found online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7NTL6KP>

Dorking Area Foodbank

Extracts from the Newsletter of June 2017:

It's now two years since the Dorking Area Foodbank opened its doors for the very first time. In those 24 months, we've provided over 2100 emergency food parcels – of which 890 went to feed children. We are seeing an increasing level of demand and have had some very busy afternoons in the Distribution Centre recently (as well as some quiet ones – the volunteers never know quite what to expect!). ...

An advisor from Citizens Advice now attends most sessions at the Distribution Centre and provides advice across a range of issues from benefit problems to housing. In addition, the foodbank is working with the local branch of CAP, a Christian organisation which has a great track record in helping people with debt problems.



Reflection from our Elders

From the Quaker Quest booklet *Twelve Quakers and Simplicity* (page 33):

Simplicity for me is not an action but an attitude, an intention on my part. It is not to do with what I have or have not; not with what I own or that which I want to acquire; nor is it the challenge to downsize and to embrace poverty.

Simplicity, for me as a Quaker, is the intent to give focus and attention to the right response to God; to be discerning and faithful to the divine promptings in my heart and then to live my life in response to this guidance.

Eleanor Campbell