



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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 No 508

Catherine Carr offers for inspiration the poem *An Epilogue* by John Masefield.

I have seen flowers come in stony places
 And kind things done by men with ugly faces
 And the gold cup won by the worst horse at the races
 So I trust, too.

Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sun 12 March		Area Meeting at Ifield
	10.30-11.30am	Meeting for Worship
	12.15-1.30pm	Area Business meeting
	1.30-2.15pm	Lunch provided by Ifield Friends
	2.15-3.30pm approx	Talk by Paul Parker on <i>The Future of Quakers in Britain</i>
Sun 12 March	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Fri 17 March	2.30-4.00pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration (see page 3)
Sat 18 March	11.00am	Regional Meeting at Lewes Meeting House
Sat 18 March	11.00am-4.00pm	Day of Healing Prayer (see page 3)
Mon 3 April	8.30-9.00pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group
Fri 7 April	12.00-1.30pm	Lent Lunch in aid of Christian Aid (see page 4)
Sun 9 April	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Sun 23 April	1.20-5.00pm approx	Leith Hill Walk – starting from Chapel MH

Appeal for photos – please send a current photo of yourself to Colin Brewer (colin.brewer@phoncoop.coop) so the photo board can be updated!!

Preparative Meeting – Sunday 5 March

We recorded the death of **Pat Brown**, a member of the Meeting, who died on February 25.

Collections: The collection for March and April is for Quaker Social Action – see page 3. We had agreed the July-August collection to be for the Leaveners but, unfortunately, they are closing down, so we agreed to support LEAP Confronting Conflict instead. This started as a project of the Leaveners (LEAP = Leaveners Environmental Arts Project) before moving on to become a separate charity.

Katy Nunn gave a report on behalf of **Children and Young Peoples' Committee**. The Harry Potter themed party last month was much enjoyed and the committee were grateful for all the help from Friends in the Meeting. They have several events planned for 2017 including an outdoor meeting for worship and walk on Box Hill in May, a trip to a Pick Your Own fruit farm in the summer and a sleepover or camping in the autumn. The children also hope take part in the fellowship events arranged by the Area Meeting such as the Leith Hill walk and two went on the recent visit to Friends House.

Elders and Overseers have offered to organise a **Kindlers-on-the-Road workshop** for the Meeting if Friends would like this. The workshops need a minimum of 12 attendees. It was agreed that a piece about it should go in the Grapevine, with a request for expressions of interest. See page 6.

Rachel Hope outlined the recent work that has been done by our busy **Premises and Finance Committee**:

- All gutters have been cleaned and passed as sound
- The outside lights are to be fitted with sensors at a cost of £500
- The kitchen blind will be repaired at a cost of £105 + VAT
- Surveyors have inspected the damaged wall by the steps down to Butter Hill and recommended treatment needed. Quotes for this will be obtained, along with repointing sections of brickwork on the front Meeting House wall. Cost expected around £3000
- Colin Brewer (our Fire Safety Officer) did a Fire Risk Assessment in January. A Fire Safety Engineer from Preventafire has checked our equipment as we were not confident that our previous firm had done a good job. The emergency lighting has been checked and found to be in order.
- Our electrical systems have to be checked every five years, and arrangements have been made for this to be done soon, at a cost of £340 plus VAT.
- Three quotes are being obtained for internal Meeting House redecoration (excluding ladies cloakroom).

We had quite a long discussion about the **Information Centre**, which is very useful as a meeting place for our own committees and to let out to small support type groups. However it is a bit cramped. Premises Committee suggested replacing the large mahogany table by a smaller one, but this idea was not welcomed and they were encouraged to find other ways to make more room – perhaps by removing some of the shelving or finding a new home for the stacking chairs.

We agreed a **wish list** of items suggested by Premises Committee as requested in the minutes of our last PM – see below.

Premises Committee's **Terms of Reference** does not specify at what level of expenditure the Committee must obtain alternative quotations for work. We agreed that the Committee should only ask for three quotations for work costing £1500 or more (net of VAT).

Catherine Carr reported on behalf of **Outreach Committee** that the planned visit by the artist about the art installation using light, to draw attention to the Meeting House, had been delayed. They hope soon to obtain some suggested options from him and will bring these back to PM for discussion.

We agreed to go ahead with Su Johnston's suggestion for **Heritage Weekend 9 – 10 September 2017**, with scheduled opening and closing of our screen plus a small exhibition and some refreshments on offer. Su will go ahead with registering the event and entering the dates and times in the MVDC calendar for the weekend.

Wish List

If you feel you could help the Meeting with a donation to buy any of the following items, please will you place a cheque or a promise in an envelope marked with what you would like to buy, and place it in our box on the lobby wall behind the front door. **THANKYOU**

£10	will buy 6 economy stacking cups and saucers
£7	will buy 6 economy 9" stacking plates
£6	will buy 6 economy 6.5" side plates
£20	will buy 6 bright coloured stacking mugs

Rachel Hope for Premises Committee



Our charity for March and April - Quaker Social Action

Quaker Social Action has been taking action on poverty in East London and beyond for 150 years. They have wonderful original projects, designed to meet the needs of people on low incomes in the community. So what do they do? Three of their current projects are:

Homestore

Providing and delivering second hand equipment at a fraction of normal prices, to people who may have been able to get modest accommodation but can't afford to furnish it.

Down to Earth

An average funeral costs £3600, which is way beyond the means of many people, so it becomes a major worry. QSA helps to figure out what is essential and work out a budget, then will liaise with funeral directors to secure the best price, and also find out what state or other benefits and funds are available.

Made of Money

Providing free workshops in East London to help families and vulnerable people to talk about money and develop skills to manage their money.



This is a brilliant charity and it makes me proud to see what QSA is doing in our name. We may not be able to give

practical support but, if we have some money to help this charity, it will be really well used.

One Friend was asked why they donate to QSA, and said "Because you are a small outfit, thoroughly accountable, feet on the ground, and yet brilliantly innovative". Our March and April collection is for QSA, and forms for sending to them with a cheque or bank instruction are in the Meeting House. I have some if you need one.

Colin Hope



A Day of Prayer – Saturday 18 March 11am to 4pm

Dorking Meeting is taking part in a National Quaker Day of Prayer for Healing. There will be a continuous Meeting for Worship from 11am to 4pm, which everyone is very welcome to attend for as long as they wish, at any time during that period. Light refreshments will be available all day.

The Friends Fellowship of Healing, who proposed the day, say: ...

Everywhere we look we see sadness, sickness, tragedy, starvation, homelessness, and conflict - add to that the damage to the environment and it would be impossible to deny that the world indeed needs healing.

The suggestion is that people come and pray, for as long as they wish, for healing for any or all of the following as they feel led: family and friends, our local community, the human race with all its current conflicts and stress, the environment and all life on our fragile planet.

More words from the organisers: *We are all blessed with the gift of healing ... we are talking about putting 'love into action', and creating a means of increasing the loving acts of kindness in our lives, which can impact on others, either directly or through 'distant healing', by asking to be used as channels for God's healing.*

We have invited people from the other Dorking Churches to join us if they wish. The Meeting's Healing Prayer Group have drawn up a rota to ensure a Quaker is present at all times.

March Meditation meeting

The February meditation meeting was cancelled as I was unwell on the day. So the next session will be Friday 17th March 2.30 to 4.00 at the Meeting House. The meeting will include a discussion about the article from Richard Holloway, former bishop of Edinburgh, on "Faith and Doubt" – copy available if required - and a musical meditation.

Catherine Carr

Quakers stand alongside victims of racist policies

Our Clerk, Colin Hope, read the following statement during Meeting for Worship on 5 February, and it is reproduced here for the benefit of those who were unable to be present at meeting on that day. The statement was drawn up by Meeting for Sufferings on Saturday 4 February and circulated to Meeting Clerks for them to share with friends.

'We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity' (Margaret Fell, writing to Charles II in 1660). Quakers in Britain see these values now under growing threat around the world, not least from recent developments in the United States of America.

We condemn all acts of government which set people against one another; which discriminate against people because of who they are or where they were born. We reject policies which condone suspicion and hatred; which turn away those who need and depend upon our help. We were not put on Earth for this, but to be a people of God, to live in harmony with each other.

There can be no peace without justice; no love without trust; and no unity without equality. Our faith urges us to welcome the stranger as our equal and friend, feed those who are hungry and shelter those who are homeless, needy and frightened.

Alongside Quakers in the USA, and their American Friends Service Committee, we stand with those whose lives are blighted by racist, discriminatory policies and those whose faith is denigrated by association with a tiny violent minority. We pray for the courage and steadfastness that will be needed as we uphold our testimony of equality, justice, peace, sustainability and truth. For us, prayer is inseparable from action.

Humanity needs leaders of integrity and conscience, ready to be held to account by individuals and institutions, national and international. We pray for those in positions of power. We call on them, as public servants, to work with all of good faith to build the world we seek, to fertilise the soil in which the tender shoots of peace, love and unity may flourish.

Friday Lenten Lunches



We believe in life before death

On Fridays during Lent you are invited to share a frugal meal of soup, bread and cheese, and give what you might have spent – more if you wish! – towards the work of Christian Aid.

The lunches are organised by Churches Together and the venues are different each Friday as follows:

10 March at St Joseph's Church, Falkland Grove	12.00–1.30
17 March at St Paul's Church	12.00–1.30
24 March at the Christian Centre , (St Martin's)	12.15–1.30
31 March at St John's Church, North Holmwood	12.00–1.30
7 April at the Friends' Meeting House, Butter Hill	12.00–1.30

Important notice for those using Meeting House rooms

If you need a room in the Meeting House for your Committee Meeting, Meditation Group, Study Group, Workshop etc., **please email bookings@dorkingquakers.org** so that we can make sure you have access and the heating is on.

Rachel Hope on behalf of Premises and Finance.

Refugee Support in Mole Valley: introducing the DORKING SIBLINGS 2017 INITIATIVE

If you wish to do something different to help refugees here and abroad, you may be interested in our new initiative: Dorking Siblings 2017: structured simply as a very informal friends club, we try to multiply occasions for mutual support and common activities with the refugees we meet and welcome through the existing local network of hosts and other resettlement schemes.

Isolation and loneliness are universal emotions. Luckily, so are their antidotes: friendship and mutual support, as well as hospitality, cultural curiosity, open mindedness and solidarity. We aim at allowing all those to spark and grow spontaneously, for the pleasure and wellbeing of both long term local residents and of our newfound friends, through shared events and activities such as good old tea parties, fun auctions and sales, workshops (sewing, cooking, gardening, music, dance...), film nights, language practice clubs, the proceeds of which go to supporting refugees in Greece and in Syria, as well as those who are already here.



For more details and information: please email us at info@dorkingsiblings.org.uk or phone 07393 584 397. Web address: <http://www.dorkingsiblings17.org.uk/> If you would like to take part, offer space, time, skills, friendship or just donate goods or funds, do not hesitate to get in touch. Many thanks, Connie, Keith and Kristin. (February 2017)

Message from our Besom Link

Just a short note this time to say a big thank you for the cheque received from Quakers recently. Some of you apparently didn't see the Thankyou card from Besom. I can only assume that Betty for Wed group has it with her records. Rest assured all donations to Besom are from everyone (Sun and Wed meetings) as a whole. Thank you so much for your support.
Veronica Mills

Women's World Day of Prayer

A photo taken on the day – you will recognise some of the faces! Also taking part in the service but not in the photo were Katy Nunn and Romy Elias, and not to forget Veronica Mills who was busy helping in the kitchen!

The service was written by the women of the Philippines on the theme *Am I being Unfair to you?*

Anne Brewer



Two Messages from Overseers and Elders

1. If you are feeling in need of some sympathetic care and attention or some practical help, or you are aware of someone else in the Meeting who is struggling, please tell one of the Overseers (Trish Humphreys and Margaret Lawson) or Elders (Anne Brewer and Eleanor Campbell). They will do their best to help.
2. Please complete and return the form below to one of us. Those having the Grapevine by email will have separate copy of the form as a .doc which they can complete and return by email.

Kindlers-on-the-Road



The Kindlers are an experimental group working to rekindle the power of Quaker worship, by renewing and deepening our spiritual practices. In 2017 they are offering to run workshops on a Saturday anywhere throughout Britain Yearly Meeting.

If Friends would like it, Elders and Overseers are willing to organise a Saturday workshop with Kindlers-on-the-Road. The Kindlers are offering a choice of 5 themes, which they aim to explore in an atmosphere of worship.

Prayer – explore the concept and practice of prayer. What does prayer mean to you?

Vocal Ministry – consider the varieties of vocal ministry against the background of deep silent waiting

Answering that of God – How do we discern and answer 'that of God'?

Deepening Quaker Worship – exploring the simple, radical and contemporary practise of Quaker worship

What does Love require of us? – How does love require us to use our gifts to heal the world and let our lives truly speak from serenity to wisdom. (Incidentally we have just got the Kindlers booklet with this title for the library so it is available to borrow.)

They ask Meetings to offer a choice of 3 workshop titles and 3 dates in 2017 in order of preference.

There is no point us going ahead unless we can be sure we would have a minimum of 12 Friends who would be keen to come along. The cost to the Meeting would be £200.

Please complete and return the attached form to Anne (B), Eleanor, Margaret or Trish.

I would/would not (*delete as appropriate*) be interested in attending a Kindlers-on-the-Road workshop. If you would be interested please complete the questions below.

Which are your preferred workshop titles in order of preference?

1

2

3

What month/s would suit you for holding the workshop?

Are there any Saturdays you know you could not manage?

Name: