



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

Guest editor: Elizabeth Cooper
 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer

February 2018
 No. 518

Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for February - in Meeting House unless indicated otherwise

Sat 3 Feb	10.30 – 4	Regional Meeting at Brighton
Mon 5 Feb	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group
Sun 11 Feb	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW at Park House, Leatherhead
Fri 16 Feb	12 – 1.30 pm	Lent Lunch (<i>see page 4</i>)
Fri 16 Feb	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration (<i>page 6</i>)
Sun 18 Feb	11.30 am	Traidcraft after MfW (<i>see page 4</i>)
Mon 19 Feb	2 pm	Ideas exchange (<i>see page 7</i>)
Wed 21 Feb	2 pm	Ideas exchange (<i>see page 7</i>)
Mon 26 Feb	10.30-11.15	Vigil at Broadford Bridge oil drilling site (<i>page 5</i>)
Fri 2 Mar	11 am	Women's World Day of Prayer at St Martin's Church (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat 3 Mar	11 – 3 pm	National Day of Healing Prayer (<i>see page 5</i>)

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

CLARIDGE HOUSE RETREAT CENTRE

Claridge House is a Quaker retreat in Surrey which runs a wide variety of courses as well as led Day Retreats. Friends might be interested in the **Focusing with Quakers** weekend, (March 16th – 18th). Madeleine Kay, one of the tutors, wrote about this practice in *The Friend*, 5th January. It is 'an approach to self-care and healing, accessing personal truth, and deepening spiritual experience used by many Quakers. Through pausing, going within, paying attention to the felt senses in our bodies, and offering compassion to whatever we find, we can grow in awareness, self acceptance, and peace.'
 There are still some places available so consider whether this weekend is for you.



Claridge House from its back garden. Photo by Colin Brewer

www.claridgehouse.co.uk

PREP MEETING REPORT

Two members of our new Clerking Team (Su Johnson and Frances Poulton) did an excellent job at Prep Meeting on Sunday 14th January, but they have contacted the Grapevine Team to say they omitted one important item and please would we include it – so here you are:

Thank you, Clerk!!

An era cannot pass without comment, and Colin Hope's long tenure as Clerk of Dorking Local Meeting cannot pass without a note of real appreciation from his trio of successors. Records passed on clearly annotated, and well-kept minutes and references, make the change-over so much easier, and signpost the way we hope to go. Much more, the memory of a presence so kindly, as well as efficient, is also our inheritance. Thank you, Clerk.

The decisions made at the meeting are as follows: for more detail see a copy of the minutes (available from one of the Clerking Team – Su, Frances or Trish).

- We agreed some changes to our bank account management to make life easier for our Treasurer
- In the January Grapevine you were offered the choice of two positions for the wording 'Quaker Meeting' on our boundary wall. As a result of input, and advice from the firm who will install the lettering, it was agreed to go for the central position. Here is the photo from the January Grapevine of the 'winning' position.
- An electric hand dryer will be installed in the accessible toilet.
- The floor of the Quiet Room will be sanded and polished – after removing the very old carpet!
- We agreed to try out a proposal from a group of Friends inspired by Lois Lodge's account of the very successful 'Friendly lunches' after Sunday Meeting for Worship at her new Quaker Meeting (see page 6).
- We heard that the children's December collection in aid of the Dorking Food Bank raised £158.29p, and cereal bars were purchased by the children in person at Waitrose – 5 bags full in fact (see the photo below taken by Trish Humphreys).

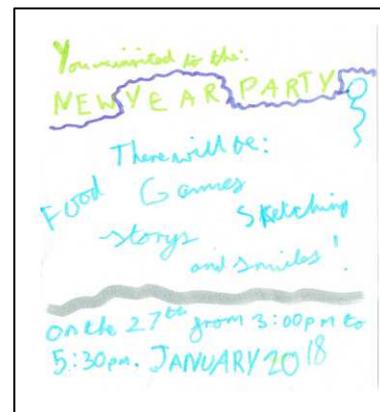


- As we now have no catering committee offers of help were invited for four events in 2018 needing some catering, and volunteer organisers were found for three of them. **Regional Meeting on 17th March still needs an organiser.**

Anne Brewer

BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR!!!

Hand-made invitations were issued, games were planned, food was organized and smiles were promised! Yes, it was Dorking's New Year Party held at the end of January! It was a well attended, joyful afternoon with, as promised, many games, sketching and smiles and the children were entranced by Martin's story-telling. And, of course, there was great party food including lots of ice cream! It was good to see so many people of all ages having fun together!



If you look on the children's notice board in the Small Hall you will see a beautiful 'Thank you' poster from all the children to everyone who helped to make it a successful afternoon.

NEW HORIZONS

The first Quaker Meeting in Dorking was held in 1702. And we are now on our second meeting house, opened in 1847, which continues to serve us well. But what about the northern part of Mole Valley? Bookham, Fetcham, Leatherhead and Ashted expanded rapidly in the 20th century and now have a combined population of over 40,000 –much more than Dorking - but there is no Quaker meeting there. So we decided to rectify this. In June 2010 we held the first of our meetings, at 6.30 pm on the second Sunday of each month, at Park House, Randalls Road, Leatherhead. We rent the building from Mole Valley council and it is situated in the town centre adjacent to a car park and is close to the railway station. It is very easy to organise – we just have to collect the key in advance, arrive early to set up the room in the way that we want it, and to bring books, tea, coffee and crockery.

Leatherhead Meeting remains part of Dorking Meeting so we don't have to worry about finding a clerk, treasurer, elders, overseers or committee members, nor do we have to deal with cleaning or maintaining the building. So we meet to worship together, about ten or so of us, in a peaceful, warm room with comfortable chairs and good acoustics. It is usually a time of deep worship, with some occasional ministry, and we enjoy a social time afterwards talking together over coffee. A good number of those attending would not otherwise go to a Quaker meeting so we feel that it serves a very useful purpose.

But we do have a problem in publicising the meeting as we have no chance of putting up posters at Park House. We do need to get ourselves better known as a regular Quaker meeting for worship.

Rachel and Colin Hope

MURIEL DALE

There will be a Memorial Meeting for Worship for Muriel at 12 noon, on **Sunday 18th March** at Capel.

THE SAMARITANS – OPEN EVENING – 8th February

Our local Samaritans' Branch (Leatherhead) is having an information evening on Thursday, 8th February at 7.30 when you can discover that there are many ways to support this incredible charity as well as taking calls on the phone. Come along to a warm welcome, hot drink, even biscuits at: 7 Church Street, KS22 8AT. More information from Sally Elias or look at the website link:

www.samaritans.org/branches/samaritans-leatherhead-and-mid-surrey-branch/volunteer-recruitment-2018



We believe in life before death

FRIDAY LENTEN LUNCHES

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.

16 February	at the Friends' Meeting House, Butter Hill	12.00–1.30
23 February	at St Joseph's Church, Falkland Grove	1.00–2.15
2 March	at the Christian Centre (St Martin's)	12.30–1.30
9 March	at St Paul's Church	12.00–1.30
16 March	at the United Reformed Church, West Street	12.15–1.15
23 March	at St John's Church, North Holmwood	12.00–1.30

Sponsored by Churches Together in Dorking
Christian Aid UK registered charity number 1138851. Company number 5171525. www.christianaid.org.uk

LENT LUNCHES

On Friday 16th February we will be hosting the first of the Dorking Lent Lunches from 12 – 1.30. This will be a simple lunch of soup, cheese and bread and is always a popular event. This is a *Dorking Churches Together* initiative supporting Christian Aid, and is a great opportunity for fellowship with the other churches in Dorking. Su and Frances are organizing the catering for the day, but would welcome offers of soup or help on the day.

Please come along and join in – it will be a joyful time of friendship and good food.

Do you work gladly with other religious groups in the pursuit of common goals?

Advice and Queries, No. 6.

**TRAIDCRAFT – Sunday 18th February, 11.30am
– with Elizabeth Dobson**



Traidcraft has been working for trade justice since 1979 for growers and producers in the poorest countries around the world, and is a pioneer of the fair trade movement. It is an example of Faith in Action as, founded on Christian principles, it aims to fight poverty through trade. Its overseas development programmes aim to bring dignity and equality to producers. By purchasing from Traidcraft we can be sure that the producer has directly received a fair price. It is also Fairtrade Fortnight this month (26 Feb – 11 March).

Elizabeth always brings a dazzling array of cards, gifts, household items and different foods – nuts, grains, dried fruits, biscuits and chocolate – much of it organic and sustainable. So please remember to bring along some money and support this organization. You can also look at the website in advance to help plan your shopping.

www.traidcraft.co.uk

Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?

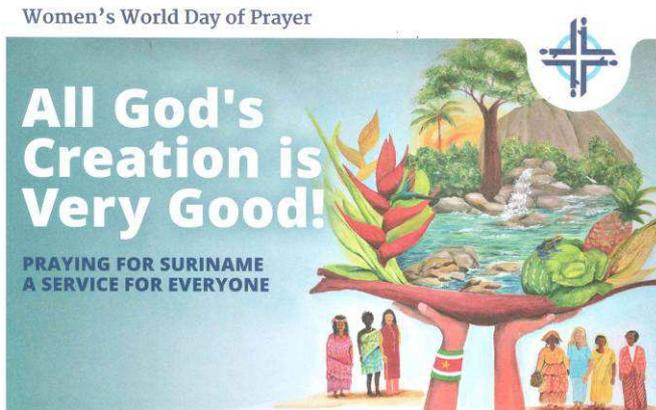
Advice and Queries, No. 41

BROADFORD BRIDGE

Quakers will be holding a regular vigil at the Broadford Bridge site on the last Monday of every month, from 10.30 to 11.15 am until further notice. (see last month's **Grapevine** for Anne's account of the December vigil). The next two dates will be Monday 26th February and Monday 26th March. Please speak with Anne or Elizabeth if you are interested and would like more information or to discuss transport options.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WWDP)

St Martin's Church, Friday 2 March 11am.



WWDP is a worldwide ecumenical movement which each year offers a service prepared by the women of one of the member countries. The service this year was written by the women of Suriname on the theme of caring for God's creation and is apparently quite challenging .

The service will be followed by a Lent Lunch at 12.30

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR HEALING – Saturday 3rd March. 11 am – 3 pm.



Dorking Meeting is again taking part in a National Quaker Day of Prayer for Healing. At least 44 meetings took part last year and over 1,000 Friends participated.

On March 3rd there will be a continuous Meeting for Worship at Dorking from 11 am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome to attend for as long as they wish and at any time during that period. Light refreshments will be available all day.

People can 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.

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

If you cannot physically join us then maybe you could spend some time quietly on that day and join us in spirit.

Healing Prayer Group
(Anne and Colin Brewer, Eleanor Campbell, Frances Harber, Lesley and Martin Hunka, Trish Humphreys, Veronica Mills and Jenny Whiting)

A PROPOSED SHARING GROUP



How have your life experiences shaped your beliefs and your reaction to the word 'God'? You may feel indifferent, positive or negative about the word. We would like to suggest that none of these feelings are 'wrong' – they are what our differing experiences have led us to so far. They are 'right' for us at this time.

So that we can better understand each other's reactions to the word 'God' we are offering an opportunity for listening to each other in a worship-sharing group. The idea is for the sharing of our own personal experience and for attentive listening rather than discussion. We hope this will help us get to know one another better 'in the things that are eternal' and also perhaps give us new ideas and approaches to reflect on – if we are feeling a bit stuck on our spiritual journey.

We suggest the sharing group is held in the Meeting House on **Friday 23rd March** from 2 – 3 pm, and are happy to try and arrange an evening meeting as well if there is a demand for this. Please let Anne or Eleanor know if you are interested in joining us but the date or time is not convenient.

Anne Brewer and Eleanor Campbell (Elders)

A NEW INITIATIVE: FRIENDLY LUNCHES

Impressed with Lois' account of the successful Friendly Lunches at her new Quaker Meeting in Skipton, we are keen to give it a try in Dorking Meeting. The idea is that on one specific Sunday a month those Friends who would like to, bring a picnic lunch and stay on after Meeting for Worship to eat it - and simply enjoy some time together chatting. Friends at PM were happy for us to give it a try and the 4th Sunday in the month was chosen as a suitable day. The first Friendly Lunch will be on **Sunday, 25th March** after Meeting for Worship. At least one of us will be there to take responsibility for clearing up and making sure the building is locked when everyone has left. All ages are welcome – including partners or those who don't usually attend Sunday Meeting for Worship. Just turn up – you will be very welcomed!!



Anne Brewer, Elizabeth Cooper, Trish Humphreys, Margaret Lawson and Theresa MacIntyre

MEDITATION GROUP

The January meeting listened to part of a talk by Rowan Williams on "Something Understood" about Storms and Settled times which led into an interesting discussion about how we might contrast our often peaceful lives with the more chaotic and difficult lives of others. We could all identify with some of the conflicts for and in us when considering how much to assist those in need.

The February meeting has no set theme but we did feel that the ability to use the internet at the MH allows us to access some interesting material that we would use in future.

Catherine Carr

BRING YOUR OWN THERMOS, PLEASE!! ??

Friends – if everyone brought their own thermos of tea or coffee to Sunday Meeting for Worship then there will be no need for a Friend to come in early, set up cups, get the kettle ready, serve tea and wash up afterwards. Friends might also like to consider drinking their tea or coffee at home, instead, so that the building can be locked up earlier. This will greatly save time and work for everyone



But... tea and coffee after meeting is an opportunity for Fellowship, to sit with Friends, to listen, to explore ideas, to read notices, to browse through books or leaflets in the information room. It is a collective experience – and we don't want to lose it. It is also a chance to offer service – so please **step forward and add your name** to the tea and flowers rota, or the door rota. Your presence will enable Friends and strangers to feel welcomed as they arrive, or give them the opportunity to really get to know others in the Meeting. Thank you.

How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome? Advice and Queries, No. 18

LEATHERHEAD START – improving the lives of homeless people

Friends might remember that Dorking Meeting supported **Headstart** (the Night Hostel) in Leatherhead for many years with a hearty meal once a month. Several years ago, when the building was updated with bright rooms for clients and there was a new emphasis on self help, it was decided that providing the meals was not the best use of everyone's time and money – clients are now encouraged to cook for themselves and to become more independent. They can then take their skills with them when they move out of the community.

LeatherHead Start's Autumn/Winter newsletter details some of the recent achievements including an update on the **Out of a Pickle** products and some of the learning opportunities on offer to clients. Some copies of the newsletter are in the Information Centre – so do take a look and see how we can support the homeless in our area. You might, for example, be interested in becoming a Trustee...

www.leatherheadstart.org

FEBRUARY'S COLLECTION

February's collection will be for **Medicins sans Frontieres** (www.msf.org.uk)

In a week of bombings in Kabul, and the withdrawal of **Save the Children** because of the threat to their workers, **MSF** continues to be a vital medical aid to people in the worst hit areas of the world. Please consider sending a one-off donation or signing up for a regular donation – donation forms and more information available at the Meeting House.

IDEAS EXCHANGE

This will now meet for two days in the month to enable all to attend – Monday and Wednesday. Please let Su know if you are coming along. You can either drop in for one session - or you can attend both!

NEWS FROM HORSHAM MEETING

Just a sample of some of the activities mentioned in Horsham Local Meeting's Annual Report for 2017 to inspire us for 2018:



- A Sharing Group meets once a month to explore passages from **Quaker Faith and Practice** to deepen faith and worship
- A Light Group – which uses both 17th century and modern day prompts to wait for, and explore, the presence of the light and its personal relevance
- Two Shared Lunches were held - followed by discussions: 'Sustainability' and 'What does Christmas mean to me'
- The Meeting House was open as part of the **Ride and Stride** campaign in aid of the National Churches Trust
- A Meeting for Worship was held in Horsham Carfax
- Participated in the Christian Aid campaign **The Big Shift** by demonstrating outside Nat West Bank asking them to divest from fossil fuel investments
- The Meeting House is the venue for Horsham Food Bank – for two hours each week
- There is an Ecover Refill service once a month
- **The Repair Café**, in partnership with **Sussex Green Living**, shares knowledge and skills to help people mend and upcycle older clothes, repair electrical goods and introduce woodworking skills

DIGGING THE DIRT

Horsham was also the venue for January's Area Meeting – which was followed by a performance of **Digging the Dirt** by the Multi-story Theatre Company. This was a powerful performance by two actors who took on a multitude of roles to weave together two stories of people who stood up for what they believed to be right. It also explored the dynamics of protest. One was set in a 'world turned upside down' – England during the Civil War – focusing on two idealistic people who wanted to reclaim the common land, dig it, and grow crops to share with everyone – 'each to their need'. It was based on the experience of the Diggers and was brave enough to confront the challenges of community and to question 'where is true freedom'. Is it in the heart, or is it in ending inequality? The parallel story of a modern day whistle-blower was much bleaker – the individual acted alone and could not even speak to their partner about their actions. In both stories there was no happy ending, yet the actors wanted to illustrate that there is hope, and that although many people believe they have no power to change things or that they cannot make an immediate difference – there is flame of hope that can be handed on to future generations.

Gill and Bill – the acting team as well as the technical team – go around the country performing this play free of charge – they also take it into schools to Drama students as it is a stunning piece of theatre using a variety of dramatic techniques. Definitely worth catching next time round!!

Elizabeth

'If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito!'

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama