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January 2018
 No. 517

Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Meeting House Events for January

Sun 14 Jan	9 am	Preparative Meeting
Sun 14 Jan	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW at Park House, Leatherhead
Fri 19 Jan	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation Group (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat 20 Jan	10.30	Area Meeting at Horsham
Sat 20 Jan	2 pm	‘Digging the Dirt’ (<i>see page 2</i>)
Wed 24 Jan	2 pm	Discussion Group (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sat 27 Jan	3 – 5.30	New Year’s Party – all welcome!
Sat 3 Feb	10.30 – 4	Regional Meeting at Brighton (<i>see page 4</i>)
Mon 5 Feb	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group
Wednesdays 12.45-1.15	Midweek Meeting followed by simple lunch – all are welcome!	

MURIEL DALE August 1909 – November 2017

Muriel Dale was born in Kent and grew up on a farm and her family worshipped regularly at the local church. But Muriel was sent to a Convent school and it was the Christian teaching she received there that she carried with her throughout her life.

She came to Capel when she was about thirty years old and she met and married Jack Dale; who was also a farmer. Jack’s family were Quakers and Muriel started attending Capel Meeting. She raised six children and they were all taken each Sunday to Meeting from an early age. I don’t know exactly when Muriel became a member, but when I joined Capel Meeting forty years ago she was clerk and she went faithfully to Monthly Meeting. It was by going with her each month that my close friendship with her developed.



Audrey with Muriel, aged 106 years.
 Photo by Colin Brewer

Capel Meeting will remember Muriel for her frequent ministry which was often Bible based and always showed her shining Christian faith. Even in her last years, when one of her children would bring her to Meeting, she would offer sincere ministry. In saying goodbye to Muriel we have lost someone who was a member of our Area Meeting for more than 70 years.

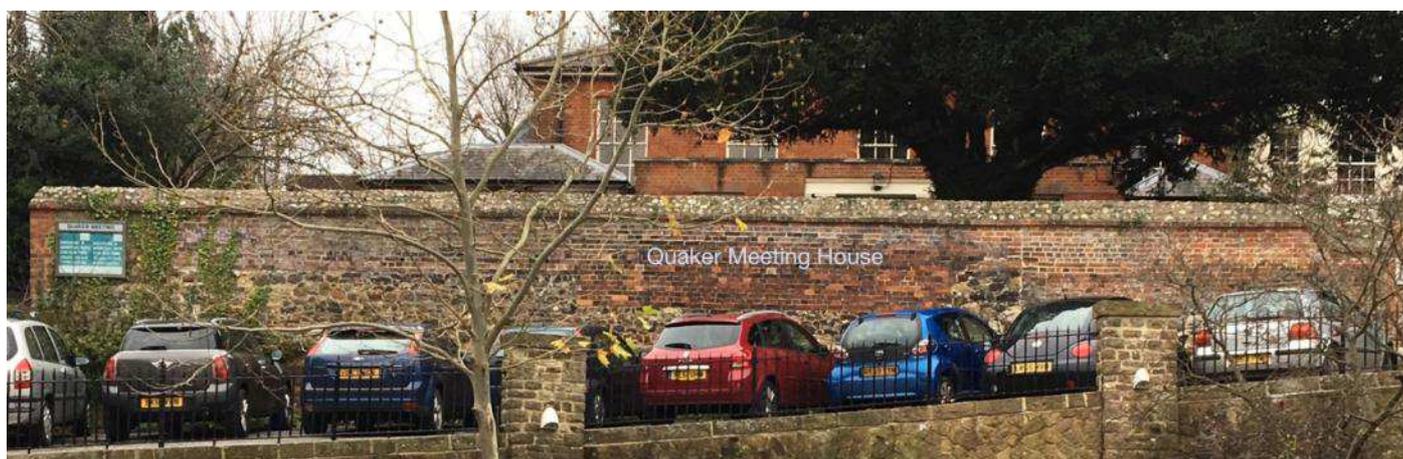
Audrey Garnett

THE SIGN!



On Sunday, 3rd December there was a 'Presentation Party' when Friends had the opportunity to view the options for the proposed new sign which will raise awareness of the presence of the Meeting House in Dorking. This sign will go on the outside of the front wall and there are now two options for Friends to consider. The sign will simply say **QUAKER MEETING HOUSE** and the letters will be individually cut in brushed steel and fixed carefully to the wall. They should not need any maintenance. The sign will not be illuminated as this is a conservation area,

but it will be legible from the other side of South Street. Please take a few moments to look at the two photographs and let the Outreach Committee (via Alison Carlier) have your thoughts. Friends' House has advised on the font and style – we just need to choose the best location – left or central position on the wall. This will be finally approved at Prep Meeting.



'DIGGING THE DIRT' a multi story theatre production

Saturday 20th January, 2pm at Horsham Quaker Meeting House.

This is a theatrical piece which weaves together two stories: a couple from a time past attempt to dig themselves a brighter future whilst a couple from time present face the repercussions of whistle-blowing. What do you give up in the name of freedom? How far do you compromise to protect your principles?

www.multistorytheatre.co.uk

A free performance followed by a collection.

Please book your place NOW!!

If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standards of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us in taking unpopular stands.

Advice and Queries No. 38

DISCUSSION GROUP

This is the postponed discussion from December on Justice, and will now be on Wednesday 24th January at Su's house. Please let her know if you can join her. Thank you.

PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ...

We were very pleased to hear from Gwynedd Merrett – a member of Dorking Meeting who now lives in Somerset but still receives and enjoys reading *The Grapevine*. However, she was surprised to read in the last issue the comment that Jack Jannaway had designed our *Grapevine* heading and she set out to do some checking herself. It was as she remembered it Charles Kohler (another member of Dorking Meeting) had encouraged her daughter Frances to create the design when she was applying for a place in Art School. We are very pleased to make this correction – and to place on record that it is Frances' artwork. Thank you.



Gwynedd in 2002



... AND NEWS FROM THE NORTH

It was also wonderful to hear from our friend Lois who was an active Attender at this Meeting for many years. Lois was a keep supporter of Churches Together, the Peace Committee and the Peace One Day celebrations and we miss her contributions to the Meeting. Lois left Surrey for Skipton, and she sends her best wishes to the Meeting for 2018. She is also very pleased to announce that she is applying for membership – and acknowledges the support from Dorking Meeting that has led her to make that decision.

You might also have noticed Lois in *The Friend* (17 November 2017) dancing in the street with a giant brightly coloured Quaker Octopus. Skipton Friends joined the town's Puppet Festival Parade this year (with its theme *Dreams of the Sea*) as part of their outreach activities for Quaker Week. 'Our aim was to have fun and give a lively, affirmative view of Quakers. We wanted to subvert the image of them as sober and joyless and so wore Quaker Oats style hats decorated with sea related items.' Lois confirmed that it was a wonderful day and the photograph certainly shows everyone having fun!

NEWS FROM BROADFORD BRIDGE

Colin and I attended the Meeting for Worship at the Broadford Bridge proposed oil drilling site on December 14th. We travelled there by bike and train and arrived a few minutes late, but the eight Quakers already standing there in silence smiled their welcome as we joined them. During the 45 minute vigil the gate we were standing in front of was opened twice to let in vehicles and we all quietly moved aside – we were not there to be disruptive but to express our deep concern at the proposed drilling for oil. The guard on gate duty was very friendly and took the trouble to adjust the gates so that we were not at risk from passing traffic. We held up posters about the Quaker commitment to sustainability – we need to stop burning fossil fuels now to avoid the risk of a catastrophic collapse of human civilisation and we certainly don't need to find new sources of oil. Colin and I had to leave a few minutes before the end in order to get back to Billingshurst in time to catch our train home. But we felt it important to be there and to 'walk the talk' by using our bikes and public transport.

Quakers will be holding a vigil at this site on the last Monday of every month, from 10.30 to 11.15am. So the next three dates will be - Mon 29 Jan, Mon 26 Feb and Mon 26 March.

Anne Brewer

MEDITATION GROUP

The group has been looking at an article from *Friends' Quarterly* 2017 (issue 4, pages 19-31) and plan to consider it further at the next meeting. The article is by Carole Maulton- Hamby – *How do Quakers experience life in the Spirit* and is based partly on her research into Quaker worship. We now have a shared 'Drop Box' which allows longer articles to be available that are too large to scan in; please contact me if you wish to be part of this (whether or not you are able to come along to the meetings). Thank you.

Catherine Carr

CONTRIBUTING TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE
Regional Meeting. Saturday 3rd February 2018
Brighton Meeting House, 10.30 – 4pm

Programme

- 11 am An illustrated report from EAPPI Friend Keith Scott of Goldalming who has recently returned from Israel/Palestine
- 12 am One Voice Movement Director John Lyndon will give an overview of the conflict; its narratives, current status, possible solutions and organizational partnerships
- 1 pm Lunch: Bring and Share facilitated by Brighton Friends
- 2.15 pm Arthur Goodman, a long time lobbyist and campaigner
- 3.30 pm Wind-up, tea and depart by 4

- Brighton Friends have a long time association with the Palestinian village Tobas. This should be a very interesting and thought provoking day for us all.

In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?
Advice and Queries No. 32

AMNESTY ‘WRITE FOR RIGHTS’ CAMPAIGN

Frank, from Dorking Amnesty, joined us in December and we signed cards and wrote messages of support and solidarity to those whose human rights have been attacked. This year, among others, we wrote to **Azza Soliman** (a women’s rights lawyer facing imprisonment in Egypt) and **Esmail Abdi** (a trade unionist in Iran campaigning in the area of education). Over 30 cards were written and a donation was given to Amnesty. The scheme runs each year in November and December, and in 2018 we will be running the session at the beginning of December. The card signing was followed by the annual Meeting’s Carol Service – it was good to see Friends from Midweek Meeting joining us on a Sunday – bringing the Meeting together.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY COLLECTION

Anne introduces the collection for January and February:

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is the world’s leading charity delivering emergency medical and humanitarian aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics and natural or man-made disasters. They give this help without discrimination and irrespective of race, religion, creed, gender or political affiliation. MSF works in over 60 countries and go to places where others cannot, or choose not, to go, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.



- There will be a display on their work in the Meeting House with one-off donation forms and some forms for setting up regular monthly donations by direct debit.

Dorking Grapevine is printed on 100% recycled, post-consumer waste paper using electricity from renewable sources.