



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

(available on the web at: [www.dorkingquakers.org/index.php/newsletter](http://www.dorkingquakers.org/index.php/newsletter))

Editor: Anne Brewer  
 Assistant editor: Elizabeth Cooper  
 Publisher: Colin and Anne Brewer

October 2018  
 No. 526

### Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for October – in Meeting House, unless otherwise indicated

**NB:** There is a half hour Meeting for Worship (12.45 – 1.15 PM) every Wednesday followed by a simple lunch of soup, bread, cheese and fruit. All are welcome.

Mon 1 Oct	8.30 – 9 pm	Upholding Prayer Group ( <i>in Friends' homes</i> )
Sun 7 Oct	10.30 am	'Bring a friend to Friends' (See Sept GV page 2)
Fri 12 Oct	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sun 14 Oct	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW ( <i>Park House, Leatherhead</i> )
Sun 21 Oct	10.30 – 11.30	Seeded Meeting on Equality ( <i>led by the children</i> )
Sun 21 Oct	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Sat 27 Oct	10.30 am – 3.30pm	Regional Meeting ( <i>Horsham MH</i> ) – see page 2
Sun 4 Nov	9.00 am	Prep meeting
Mon 5 Nov	8.30 – 9 pm	Upholding Prayer Group ( <i>in Friends' homes</i> )
Sat 10 Nov	10.30 am tbc 1.45 – 4.00 pm	Area Meeting – Dorking MH Fellowship session – see page 3
Sun 11 Nov	6 – 7.30 pm	An Evening of Reflection

**Quaker week: September 29 – 7 October 2018- Room for More**

### Harvey Gillman Talk

The Blue Idol Meeting will celebrate Quaker Week on Friday 5 October with a shared lunch at 12.30, followed by a talk at 2pm from Harvey Gillman, on inclusivity in Quakers:

*The spiritual life is about hospitality. It begins with the self - that of God within; it extends to that of God in the neighbour - that of God between; it embraces the planet - that of God in all things. Quakers wish to be an inclusive society but what exactly does that mean for a religious community? We think we are welcoming, but can we be off-putting? Does including everyone and everything mean that we lose our distinctiveness, and fear conflict and muffle our message? And what is our message?*

For bookings and more information: [www.blueidol.org/calendar](http://www.blueidol.org/calendar)

## Midweek Meeting

This year Midweek Meeting have made donations totalling £1,100 altogether, to Dorking Besom, St Paul's Church - for their work with refugees in Calais, Dorking URC - for their Holidays at Home project, Quaker Voluntary Action, East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services, Claridge House Sanctuary project for refugees, Citizens Advice Bureau Dorking office and the Dorking Community Fridge.



Just a word about the last charity – **the Dorking community fridge** now have a second fridge in the community church on the Goodwyns estate, which opens for 2 hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The fridge serves two purposes – it saves waste food from the supermarkets and elsewhere going into landfill and helps out low income families who struggle to feed their families. I help there on Wednesdays and have been astounded by the amount of waste food that we are given. I could now

believe the astonishing fact from the Centre for Alternative Technology, which states that one third of the food produced globally is wasted. This is horrifying given that millions are starving and also that this waste food, when buried in landfill, releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas, making food waste the third top emitter of climate-change-causing-emissions, after USA and China. So please don't waste any food – though what to do about supermarkets over-stocking I'm not sure. Any ideas? I suppose we could look at the sell-by dates and take the oldest produce rather than the freshest.

Anne Brewer

## Regional Meeting

**Saturday 27 October, Horsham MH, from 10.30 am**

### **“Quaker Values and Social Media”**

**... public and personal electronic communication 2018 and beyond ...**

11 am to 1 pm: Talk by Jon Martin, BYM Ministry and Outreach Officer from Friends House on *Patterns and Possibilities in Digital Quakerism*, illustrated with film examples and followed by Q&A.

Bring & Share Lunch. Then from 2.00 to 3.30 pm contributions from concerned Friends for discussion. Please send any short (250 words) interesting ideas, problems or issues in advance to the Clerk ([judy moodystuart@msmjc.com](mailto:judy moodystuart@msmjc.com)) to help balance the programme.

## We wondered ...

All Friends are welcome to join discussion groups at **Reigate Meeting House** based on questions raised by local attenders and members. The **first session, on Sunday 14 October**, from 12.30 to 2.30pm after Meeting for Worship and a short shared lunch, will explore the question ‘*How can I keep my focus on Quaker worship when I am in Meeting?*’ Let Sarah Freeman know ([azdak@runbox.com](mailto:azdak@runbox.com) or 01306 887738) if you plan to attend so she can bring sufficient hand-outs.

Dates for further sessions will be in 2019: 13 January, 31 March and 30 June. Contact Sarah if you would like to suggest a question to explore.

## Valerie Thompson

Valerie was a member of Dorking Meeting from 1991 onwards. In 2002 she master-minded our amazing tercentenary meal, using her excellent cooking and organising skills. Here she is talking to Rachel Hope who is wearing appropriate Quaker dress! Valerie moved away about 2003 and we lost touch until 2012 when we discovered she was in a care home in Guildford suffering from mild dementia. For the last couple of years she enjoyed regular visits from our Overseer, Margaret Lawson. She died in July this year.



## AM Fellowship - mental health issues in our Meetings

Saturday 10 November, 1.45 to 4pm in Dorking MH

We have a facilitator coming from the Quaker Life Mental Health group who will help us explore what mental health issues might arise in Quaker Meetings and consider what steps we might take to enable us to deal lovingly and effectively with them. This will be in the afternoon after Area Business Meeting in the morning, but you can come for any part or all of the day, as suits you.

Anne Brewer and Sally Elias

## White Poppies



Friends had an enjoyable Fellowship session after the September Area Meeting at Reigate making white poppies for the Collateral Damage Project – to create an installation at Friends House in October. People either knitted or sewed felt poppies adding decorations so that each poppy is unique. We

will send the collection off as a contribution from our Area Meeting.



## Do you have a story about conscientious objection?

Elizabeth Cooper hopes to record, in the November Grapevine, personal memories from West Weald AM members and attenders about the experience of themselves, or their relatives, of being COs in WW1 or WW2 – just a paragraph would be fine. If you would like to make a contribution please let Anne Brewer or Elizabeth know. If/when there are enough offers to make the effort worthwhile we will get in touch to encourage you to put pen to paper.

## Quakers highlight an extraordinary woman

An exhibition on the Kindertransport drew more than 60 visitors to Dorking Quaker Meeting House on Saturday 15 September. It was part of Heritage Open Weekend, which this year was themed 'Extraordinary Women', and centred on Quaker Bertha Bracey's role in the Second World War rescue of Jewish children.

The exhibition told the story of Birmingham-born Bertha's many years of work on behalf of refugees, from the 1920s at the Quaker International Centre in Vienna, where she focused on post-First World War relief and reconstruction, to the years after the Second World War, when she was part of the Allied Control Commission, working with refugees in Germany. Visitors learnt how she helped run Dovercourt Camp, a former holiday camp near Harwich that provided accommodation for newly arrived refugee children, and of how, as the war drew to a close, Bertha arranged for the RAF to fly 300 orphans – in a bomber – from Theresienstadt concentration camp in German-occupied Czechoslovakia to a reception centre near Windermere.



Visitors to the exhibition also saw images relating to the children who came to Britain with the Kindertransport, from the documents recognising their right to stay here, to the luggage they used, and the labels that marked them out as Kindertransport children. Asked why she chose to focus on Bertha Bracey, exhibition organiser Rachel Hope explained that she felt that many people, even some Quakers, were unaware of Bertha's work and that her story needed to be told.



Visitors to the Meeting House also saw its bi-parting screen in action. The 19<sup>th</sup> century screen is operated manually – as it opens the top half moves into the roof space and the bottom half into a brick-lined pit underneath. Members of Dorking Quaker Meeting believe that there are two other such screens in existence in Britain, and are keen to hear from anyone who knows of their whereabouts.

**Tara Craig**

**Photos: Judy Johnson**