



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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### Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for August and early September – 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.

Sun 11 Aug	12.00 – 12.30 pm	Enquirers' question/sharing time
Sun 11 Aug	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)
Sun 18 Aug	After MfW	Traidcraft Stall
Sun 25 Aug	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Sun 25 Aug	2.30 – 4.30 pm	Roots of Resistance at Horsham MH (see page 3)
Fri 30 Aug	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation/Spiritual Exploration at Kosmon Sanctuary Ask Catherine Carr for details.
Mon 2 Sept	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)
Sun 8 Sept	9.00 am	Prep Meeting
Sun 8 Sept	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)

### AUGUST'S COLLECTION

[www.qva.org.uk](http://www.qva.org.uk)



QVA enables participation in spirit-led volunteering that makes a practical and social difference. Their projects build community and work for a more just and peaceful world.

QVA organises working retreats in Britain, Europe and beyond. Volunteers participate in practical projects and reflective sessions that promote personal spiritual development with meaningful engagement in the world. A range of activities may include gardening, renovation, olive harvesting, decorating, sustainability and woodland management.

## NOTES FROM PM ON JULY 7<sup>th</sup> (and UPDATES!)

Friends will have seen in the July Grapevine that the Meeting sent a further letter to our MP about the bombing of civilians and PM minuted this to make an official record of the action.

Premises Committee reported on the following items: -

a. **Damp in large hall.** A leak in the external downpipe has been rectified, but work continues on identifying the causes of the large damp patch. Removal of the damaged internal plaster took place on July 15<sup>th</sup> and you will see we now have a large patch of bare brick.

b. **The Cottage.** New tenants were due to move in at the beginning of August and in fact they moved in on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some redecorating work was done before they moved in but some work still needs doing on the cottage. At PM we had a long discussion about the rotten bathroom window trying to find the best way ahead bearing in mind cost and environmental and aesthetic concerns. It was eventually decided to pay up to £600 for Dorking Glass to carry out this work, using uPVC woodgrain finish, and maintaining the same appearance as the original. This material is recyclable using “professional procedures”. The French doors which were damaged during a forced break-in may be replaced for about £3000 under our insurance – the AM Trustees are looking in to this. Meanwhile Premises plan to have them repaired by a local carpenter for under £300

c. **Fire Alarm System.** This needs replacing shortly, at a cost of around £6,000 and the matter will be brought up at the next Preparative Meeting, once further details are clarified.



d. Consideration is being given **to improving audibility** through improved technology in the Large Hall. **Meanwhile we are all asked to speak slowly and clearly.**



The Meeting has been actively involved in the **Dorking Area Foodbank**, set up in 2014 as part of the Trussell Trust Network. Rosemary Elias was the voluntary Project Lead for four years, before handing over to a paid person. She remains a trustee of Churches Together in Dorking, with special responsibility for the foodbank. The foodbank is now seeking additional funding from the Sir James Reckitt Charity, a charity which supports Quaker organisations and causes, to pay for regular advice from Citizen’s Advice. Rosemary asked that the Dorking Area Foodbank become an official concern of our Meeting, to facilitate this grant application and this was agreed.

We agreed that Sarah Freeman, our Area Meeting Safeguarding Coordinator, should run for us a **Safeguarding Awareness session** after MfW and a shared lunch on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

**Heritage Open Days and Quaker Week.** We shall be opening the Meeting House on **Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>** as part of Mole Valley’s Heritage Open Days, with two screen openings and an exhibition about the “Journey to Butter Hill”. (For details see page 3) The Meeting agreed to Rachel Hope’s request for funds to cover the cost of printing updated leaflets about the Meeting House. There may be additional minor costs nearer the time. We noted that Quaker Week follows, from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October.



## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Back in 1994, the year the channel Tunnel opened, Heritage Open Days (HODs) was launched as England's contribution to a European festival inspired by the French Journées du Patrimoine. This year celebrations are being held to celebrate its first 25 years. The Mole Valley joined the scheme right at the start, and Dorking Friends have opened our Meeting House most of the succeeding years. Over that time the overall numbers attending HOD each year has shot up from 250,000 to over 3,000,000.

As part of the celebrations HODs has produced a small book outlining what has been happening in various parts of the country. One section in particular caught our attention – see box!

This year we will again be taking part, with an exhibition of old maps and photos old and new, to show Dorking Quakers as they met together in various parts of the town. Only opening on **Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>** – don't miss it! There will also be a cuppa and biscuit; the garden; and, of course, the bi-parting screen will be wound open at 11.30 and 2.30: always a thrill!

### Forging European Links

As part of European Heritage Days, highlighting cross-border links and connections is an important part of HODs. Elegant, glamorous – and usually wholly off-limits – several European ambassadors' residences opened up for tours during 2016's festival, giving an insight into the world of diplomacy and our relationship with foreign powers. In Dorking, Surrey the success of an exhibition of Bernard Ireland Macalpine's 1915 war relief work in France, led to a trip across the Channel to forge a more lasting legacy. His records were digitised at the Archives at Chalons-en-Champagne.

Keith Poulton and Su Johnston

## ACTION AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE



'Roots of Resistance', a recognised Quaker group, is aiming to get 1,000 Quakers to two Meetings for Worship to be held on Tuesday September 3rd in the road leading to the Arms Fair at ExCel in September. This is the **No Faith in War** day, one of a series of actions over the week, coordinated by Campaign Against the Arms Trade – see <https://rootsofresistance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/No-Faith-in-War-Invitation-to-join-in.pdf>.

A group from Area Meeting, including some Friends from Dorking, is planning to go. Anyone interested in joining in, is encouraged to attend a special workshop run by Kim Hope, of Blue Idol Meeting, at Horsham Meeting House on **Sunday 25th August from 2.30 - 4.30 pm**. Contact Anne Brewer, Lesley Hunka or Elizabeth Cooper for more info.

*Kim Hope writes:* We will organise ourselves (when to meet, how to get there, what to bring, timings, possible activities, how to form an affinity group for mutual support, etc etc) as well as learning more about the day itself and the legal implications of being at these Meetings for Worship, which will block the road leading to the Excel Centre. We will also look at the question of which Friends might be prepared to risk arrest (it is NOT obligatory!)

There are some organic, fair-traded printed t-shirts for those taking part to wear – here is a picture of the front – pink or blue available. The back has the words: PEACE TRUTH EQUALITY SUSTAINABILITY. Cost £12 each if you want to buy one but I understand Area Meeting is happy to pay for them. Speak to me if you are interested.



Anne Brewer

# QUESTIONS ABOUT 5G

A young man called Matthew met Colin B and Geoff at the MH a couple of weeks ago. He was eager to talk about the dangers inherent in the widespread rollout of 5G wireless technology and he left a paper copy of the Appeal, which has been prepared to counter this development. Various members of the Meeting have seen this appeal and feel it should be given wider publicity. The Appeal has the following heading:

## INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

### Stop 5G on Earth and in Space

There are 134,458 signatories from 198 countries as of August 2, 2019.

To the UN, WHO, EU, Council of Europe  
and governments of all nations

*We the undersigned scientists, doctors, environmental organizations and citizens from ( ) countries, urgently call for a halt to the deployment of the 5G (fifth generation) wireless network, including 5G from space satellites. 5G will massively increase exposure to radio frequency (RF) radiation on top of the 2G, 3G and 4G networks for telecommunications already in place. RF radiation has been proven harmful for humans and the environment. The deployment of 5G constitutes an experiment on humanity and the environment that is defined as a crime under international law.*

For full text see <https://www.5gspaceappeal.org/the-appeal> or ask Colin Brewer for a paper copy. Friends might like to consider signing it as an organisation but as usual it is not straightforward. There is material on the web giving conflicting views. See e.g. :

<https://www.5gruralfirst.org/5g-safety/>

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/5g-dangers-5th-generation-wireless-technology-health-and-environmental-impacts/5663264>

<https://whatis5g.info/environmental-impacts/>

My preference is to take the precautionary approach and encourage the delay of the roll out of 5G until its safety is proven or otherwise. Meanwhile shouldn't we be focussing on climate change anyway? 5G won't be much use if we fail to halt climate change and effectively make our earth largely uninhabitable.

Anne Brewer

## GREEN TIP FOR AUGUST

Eat organically grown produce whenever possible!

See for example the following web sites or ask Anne B for a print out –

<https://www.soilassociation.org/news/2019/august/06/new-ipcc-report-on-climate-change-and-land/>

<https://greentumble.com/pros-and-cons-of-organic-farming/>

<https://www.thebalancesmb.com/environmental-benefits-of-organic-farming-2538317>

The **cons** according to the Green Tumble website, seem to be mostly about the impact on farmers – e.g. it is more work, specialist knowledge is required and it is arduous getting organic certification.



Here is a summary of the benefits **of organic farming** as given on the 3<sup>rd</sup> website:

1. Reduces exposure to pesticides, herbicides and fungicides;
2. Builds healthy soil;
3. Combats soil erosion;
4. Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and slows climate change;
5. Supports water conservation and helps keep water clean;
6. Discourages algal blooms;
7. Supports animal health and welfare;
8. Encourages biodiversity.