



# 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 July – 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 7 July  | 9 am             | Prep meeting                                                   |
| Sun 7 July  | 10.30 – 11.30    | Seeded Meeting on sustainability ( <i>see page 2</i> )         |
| Sun 7 July  | 12.00 – 12.30 pm | Enquirers' question/sharing time                               |
| Sat 13 July | 10.45            | Area Meeting (Blue Idol - <i>see page 2</i> )                  |
| Sun 14 July | 6.30 – 7.30 pm   | MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)                                  |
| Fri 19 July | 2.30 – 4 pm      | Meditation/Spiritual Exploration                               |
| Sat 20 July | 2 – 4 pm         | Exploring Integrity (Blue Idol – <i>see page 2</i> )           |
| Sun 28      | 12.30 pm         | Friendly lunch – all welcome                                   |
| Mon 5 Aug   | 8.30 – 9 pm      | Healing/Upholding Prayer Group<br>( <i>in Friends' homes</i> ) |

### JULY'S COLLECTION – see page 4

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



# SEEDED MEETING on SUSTAINABILITY

Sunday 7 July

Prompted by the Meeting's children who have been considering the Testimony to Sustainability there will be some readings and probably ministry on the theme. There will be some input from the children's Meeting – the children will be with us, as usual, for the first 15 minutes but on this occasion they will also join us for the last 10 minutes or so. All welcome!

## AREA MEETING Saturday 13 July



**Area Meeting on Saturday 13 July** will be at Blue Idol MH.

Programme:

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10.30 for 10.45 am to 12.30pm | Area Business Meeting          |
| 12.30 to 1.30 pm              | Lunch (Bring and share)        |
| 1.30 to 3.30pm                | Fellowship session (see below) |

The Fellowship session on 13 July will be a workshop led by Kim Hope and Sally and Eva Wrenwood of the Blue Idol Meeting, about Roots of Resistance. This is a Quaker body set up to help Friends who would like to consider taking Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA) at the DSEI Arms Fair on Tuesday 3 September this year. The 'NVDA' will be in the form of two Meetings for Worship (one in the morning, one in the afternoon) held on the approach road to the Arms Fair. There is also an opportunity for Friends to contribute to a 'tapestry'.

All Friends are welcome to come and find out more, whether you are hoping to get to the DSEI event or not. Friends who are hoping to come to the action on Tuesday 3 September, will be invited to a further workshop to plan in more detail.

## EXPLORING INTEGRITY IN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY



Blue Idol Meeting House, Saturday 20 July, 2.00 – 4.00

*Come and listen to four speakers from the local community talking about how they have tried to maintain their integrity in healthcare, social media, politics and business. This is an opportunity to hear other's thoughts and to think about what integrity means to you today.*

*The event is free but space is limited so please go to [www.blueidol.org](http://www.blueidol.org) to book a ticket. .*

## REPORT OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING held Sunday 2 June

As most Friends will be aware, there is a large and growing **area of damp affecting the garden wall of our Large Meeting Room**. Premises have obtained quotes from specialists firms to investigate the cause and put it right and this special meeting was to let us know the outcome. The cost is expected to be at least £6,000 but hopefully not above £10,000. Most of the work would have to be done during the school holidays, when the Playgroup are not using the Meeting House. Friends agreed that the work should go ahead. Ask the Clerk if you would like to see a copy of the minutes of the meeting.

## SOME GOODBYES



### Trish Humphreys.

Trish and her late husband, Bob, became members of Dorking Meeting in 2008. Now, after many years of loving service to the Meeting, Trish has moved to be near her family in Wales. We thank her warmly for all she has given us, as overseer, Children's events coordinator, member of the Clerking Team and especially as a loving f/Friend always ready to listen and offer help when needed. We wish her joy and peace in her new home.

### Cecilia Kendall

Many Friends will remember Cecilia Kendall – a cheerful, motherly and loving Friend who attended our Meeting for several years, serving as an Overseer from 2005 to 2011 and becoming a member in 2008. Unfortunately over the past couple of years the onset of dementia prevented her travelling to Dorking. Instead she attended her local church in Brockham where she enjoyed singing in the choir. She died on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and some members of the Meeting who attended her funeral in Brockham Church on June 27<sup>th</sup> commented on how much she was also loved by people in Brockham village. They also heard about the very challenging situation she faced as a child, and marvelled at how she had become so happy and caring as an adult.



### Peter Bacon



Peter was the long-standing companion of our Friend Jenni Hope-Jones, and in earlier times came quite often to Meeting for Worship in Dorking, although a member of Worthing Meeting. He was also often to be seen on our Meeting walks and other excursions. He died at the end of June after a long illness and there will be a reception on Thursday 11 July in the Meeting House, after his cremation at 2pm in Leatherhead, where his parents are buried.

Anne Brewer

## UNDER A CANOPY

In conjunction with the National Trust our friend, Alison Carlier, is offering two workshops and an audio event at Leith Hill Place. Please contact [banjohives@hotmail.com](mailto:banjohives@hotmail.com) for more details or to book.

**Tues 16 July 1 to 4pm – Drawing and Mindfulness in the Woods.** An introduction to mindfulness techniques and how these can be used when drawing. We will be spending time drawing outdoors in the Rhododendron Wood above Leith Hill Place (see picture). £25 includes all materials and a cream tea. Book in advance.



**Sat 20 July 1.30 to 4pm – Drawing and Mindfulness**

**Workshop.** This free drop-in workshop will give you a taster of mindfulness techniques and how these can be used when drawing on paper. Suitable for all ages apart from the very young. Materials will be provided. No booking required.

**Sun 21 July 2.30 to 3.30pm – Launch of the audio event 'under a canopy'** in the woods. Bring smart phone and head phones to listen.

## THE STATE OF HUNGER



The Trussell Trust network of foodbanks, which includes both the foodbanks in Dorking and Leatherhead, distributed 1.6 million emergency food parcels last year which was a 19% year-on-year increase in demand. In the face of this the Trussell Trust have decided not to build a bigger and bigger network of foodbanks but to address the reasons why so many people end up without money for the

absolute essentials.

On 12th June I attended the launch in Westminster of their 3-year research project: 'The State of Hunger' to be conducted by Heriot-Watt University, building on previous academic research. The project will act as a benchmark not just for the Trussell Trust but for the government and wider society to better understand the structural causes that sweep so many into poverty and destitution and then to use the evidence produced to address the causes. As they said at the launch, we often talk of 'food poverty' although the internationally accepted definition for lack of food is 'household food insecurity', but the reality is what we are seeing here is quite simply poverty, the lack of money to buy essentials, and this in one of the world's richest countries. The first data from the research project is due to be published in September.



We had a two hour special food collection at Waitrose on Saturday 22 June because our stocks were running low and we have the school holidays coming up when we will be providing food to families whose children lose their free school meals. Many people were very generous but several people when I asked whether they could buy one or two items for the foodbank from a shopping list I offered them said a curt 'no' and one man told me that he didn't believe there was any poverty in Britain, it was just the lack of a second car. I said that wasn't my experience.

*Romy Elias*

## REFUTEA



On Sunday 30 June we were delighted to have 9 children who, in their meeting, baked lots of lovely cakes and made chocolate tipped strawberries – see photo! We were all encouraged to eat them and make a contribution to their collection for the Refugee Council. They raised £109.10, plus gift aid on some donations. So well done!

## QUAKER VOLUNTARY ACTION

QVA enables participation in spirit-led volunteering that makes a practical and social difference. Our 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.



## DORKING LM WRITE AGAIN TO THEIR MP

You may remember that we have been having an ongoing correspondence with our MP (Paul Beresford) about the arms trade and especially the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia, which are used with disastrous humanitarian consequences to the people of Yemen. Here is the text of the latest letter, which was signed by our Clerk:



*Further to our letters to you regarding the bombing of civilians, dated January and March 2019 (your replies dated 21<sup>st</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> April). We realise from your thoughtful replies that this is a very difficult issue but we feel strongly that, despite the alleged disregard of other parties for the rule of law and humanitarian principles, someone has to stand up for compassion, humanity and good moral principles.*

*On the issue of arms to Saudi Arabia that we were discussing in our correspondence, we are delighted to hear that **the Court of Appeal has ruled today (June 20<sup>th</sup>) that UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen are UNLAWFUL.** Apparently the Court found that the government had failed to properly assess whether there have been breaches of International Humanitarian Law. This does at the very least confirm our deep unease over this sale of arms and our concern that Saudi Arabia is very probably breaching International Humanitarian Law.*

*You pointed out in your reply of 24<sup>th</sup> April that indiscriminate bombing of civilians is already illegal under international law, a fact we were pleased to be made aware of. At the very least therefore, surely the UK should take great care to avoid supplying arms to countries which are breaking this law.*

*We note that you refer to Saudi Arabia being the world's third largest supplier of oil, implying that therefore we should keep on good terms with them, regardless of their behaviour. We suggest this is not a good argument – it is immoral.*

*Please let us know your response to the ruling of the Court of Appeal.*

Anne Brewer

## A MEDITATION TRIP TO KOSMON SANCTUARY



Photo of Quakers on one of the labyrinths by Anthony Deavin, a Kosmon Trustee, who welcomed the group to the Sanctuary.

Seven members of the Meditation and Spiritual Reflection Group went off site and visited the Kosmon Trust in Walton on the Hill on Friday 28 June.

We had a short talk about the Trust and in particular the history and significance of labyrinths. Members then were free to walk the labyrinths or to walk around the beautiful grounds as fitted with their interests and needs on the day.

This was not the usual meditation session but on a warm summer day allowed us to appreciate the natural world around us. There was interest in a

repeat and perhaps slightly longer visit later in the summer.

Catherine Carr

## CLIMATE LOBBY AND WALK OF WITNESS

Weds 26 June was the day of 'The Time Is Now' mass lobby of parliament on climate change, which had a strong interfaith and faith element. I was in a group from Dorking of two other local mums, one school friend with her 9 and 14 year old sons, and one with her two year old toddler. We first joined a Walk of Witness from Trafalgar Square to Westminster Square, and it was great to see flags and placards representing various Christian groups together with Islamic Relief. At Parliament we were delighted to discover there were in fact 18 of us to see Mole Valley MP, Sir Paul Beresford, who at a day's notice had decided he could meet us for half an hour. The group included people from Shere and Peaslake, someone from Surrey Wildlife Trust, members of Dorking WI and members of Dorking Climate Emergency/ Extinction Rebellion.



The questions to him were polite but challenging, firstly urging the government to strengthen the detail of its commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 – then ranging over local nature conservation, local drilling, the transition to a low carbon economy, halting overseas aid for fossil fuels and halting any airport expansion. The most memorable interventions were from those who spoke from the heart about the depth of their concern, urging our MP to use his power to respond to the climate emergency, highlighting the inconsistency in his responses, and pressing him to commit to taking action.

While Sir Paul did say he would answer the questions in more detail by letter after the meeting, the group – and the children – were deeply unimpressed with the tone and content of his responses. However, we all agreed the best part of the day was meeting each other. As one put it, our MP's attitude has in fact 'added fuel to our fire' and consolidated our collective need to take action on these issues – and new friendships have been formed!



After the meeting some of us joined the outdoor lobby queue of around 12,000 people, snaking over Lambeth Bridge to the south bank opposite Parliament, and it was lovely to see Quaker banners amongst the sea of people from all over the UK. All in all, an inspiring day!

Sophie Dodgeon

## JULY'S GREEN TIP

Lovely sunny weather has inspired me to consult the Ethical Consumer about suncreams/sunscreens. This is what they suggest you look for:

**Is it cruelty-free?** 80% of the world still permits animal testing for cosmetics, although it is banned in the UK. The Cruelty-Free logo means the company is not animal testing anywhere in the world.

**Is it organic?** This is a fail-safe way to avoid most of the nasty, artificial chemicals that are in so many products. And thereby also help to protect the environment.

**Does it have a SPF rating of less than 15?** The NHS advises that sunscreen should have a SPF of at least 15 and therefore gives adequate blocking to UVB rays. Avoid brands with an SPF lower than 15.

**Does it have a UVA rating?** Within the EU the amount of UVA protection is indicated in one of two ways, either by a 5 star system, indicating the ratio of UVA protection to UVB protection, or by the letters UVA inside a circle. Avoid brands without a rating.

Their Best Buy brands were: Odylique, Neals Yard, Badger, Green People and possibly Lush. If you are interested, ask me (Anne Brewer) for a copy of the complete article – it is quite informative!