



(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 November – 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.

**NOTE:** This month there is no midweek meeting on Wednesday 13 November as it would coincide with Mark Chamberlain's funeral at Clandon Wood natural burial ground at 12.00

Sat 9 Nov	10.30 – 3.0 pm	Area Meeting – details in attached Fellowship News
Sat 9 Nov	10 – 2 pm	Refugees and Remembrance, Dorking Museum
Sun 10 Nov	11 am	Laying of White Poppy Wreath, Dorking War Memorial
Sun 10 Nov	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW ( <i>Park House, Leatherhead</i> )
Wed 13 Nov	No mid-week meeting	
Fri 15 Nov	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation/Spiritual Exploration
Sat 16 Nov	10.30 – 4.00 pm	Regional Meeting at Claridge House (see Fellowship News)
Sat 16 Nov	10.30 – 3.30 pm	Eco-Family workshop (see Fellowship News)
Sun 17 Nov	11.45 – 12.30	Enquirers' meeting
Sun 24 Nov	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Sun 1 Dec	11.30 am	Amnesty card signing
Mon 2 Dec	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group ( <i>in Friends' homes</i> )
Sun 8 Dec	11.30 am	Traidcraft



NB. Elizabeth Dobson, who brings the Traidcraft to Meeting for us, emails me a copy of the bi-monthly Traidcraft Bulletin. If you would like to see it, let me know and I can email the copy to you – if you are not on email ask me for a print out.

## Notes on Preparative Meeting – Sunday 3 November

Mostly matters of record this month with no major decisions to make. We sadly had to record the death of Mark Chamberlain on 28 October aged 90. The minute read:

*Mark, a birthright Quaker, was a much-loved Friend, warm and kind, whose Quaker values were an integral part of his life. He served as Clerk, and was a faithful and regular attender at our Sunday and then Wednesday Meetings until ill health prevented him from travelling. He was a constant, supportive presence in our Meeting. (See also page 3)*

We studied **Dorking Meeting's Annual Report**, which will be presented to Area Meeting on 9 November. It was gratefully accepted with thanks to Su Johnson who had the major role in putting it together. Copies are available – if you would like to have one ask Frances Poulton.

Keith Poulton reported on **Premises** matters. The new wireless fire alarm system is installed. Unfortunately the company who had started work on the damp patch in the large hall, revealing the interesting bare brick shape, have gone into liquidation. However, fortunately, we have taken up the Trustees' suggestion that the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) take over management of work on the premises. The CCT will deal with the 3 outstanding items of work: finding a new company to complete the work in the large hall, organising the rigorous testing of the lifting mechanism for the dividing screen, and supervising the work on damp in the ladies' loos.

Colin Brewer offered a **budget** for 2020. Income has remained stable over 2019 and expenses were largely within budget except for the expenditure on the item 'Safety and First Aid'. This was due to the cost (£6800) of installing the new fire alarm system. Due to the expected high cost of solving the damp problem in the large Hall and the £2,000 predicted for external redecoration, the budget predicts a deficit of £9,700 by the end of 2020. However we would still have a reserve of over £69,000 so our financial position is fairly secure.



Finally Rachel Hope on behalf of **Nominations** presented the proposed Meeting appointments for 2020, which were all gratefully accepted. A list will be circulated later when the gaps have been filled – names are still needed for Nominations Committee and Premises, for example. New arrangements are being made for the role of Treasurer as no-one has been found to take Colin Brewer's place when he steps down at the end of 2019. Meanwhile the meeting was pleased to hear that we have a Clerk for 2020 (Colin Hope) and some additional Elders (Sarah Freeman and Josephine Snell will join Anne Brewer) and Overseers (Alison Carlier will join Margaret Lawson, Tara Craig and Jan Elias).

Anne Brewer

### The November Collection – QCEA



**Quaker  
Council for  
European  
Affairs**

The **Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)** works to bring a vision based on the Quaker commitment to peace, justice and equality, to Europe and its institutions.

They currently operate two programmes focused on peace and human rights. The peace programme promotes non-violent conflict resolution based on the concept of "shared security", with a view to challenging

the idea that international security can only be guaranteed by military means. The human rights programme seeks to advance a more humane approach to migration and asylum in Europe, and focuses on less visible migration policy areas such as child immigration detention.

They rely on funding from Quakers to maintain their important work. If you would like to donate the following methods are available:

**Online** at <http://www.qcea.org/home/involved/donate/debit-gbp/> **Cheque:** payable to "British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs" and send to **1 Castle Mews, Maidenhead, SL6 1HP.**

Or for a **bank transfer** use the following account details: British Friends of Quaker Council for European Affairs, Account no: **00004748**, Sort code: **40-52-40**, CAF Bank

## MARK CHAMBERLAIN



**Mark Chamberlain** died on October 28<sup>th</sup> having coped stoically with a very long period of ill-health during which he was lovingly cared for by his wife, Betty.

He had been a loyal member of Dorking Meeting since 1947 when he transferred in from Thaxted Area Meeting. He was then 18 years old and received his call-up papers for National Service. He registered as a conscientious objector and served 2 years in the Friends Ambulance Postwar Unit, helping at orphanages run by the French Red Cross. Alongside the gardening, decorating and general maintenance he also played with the children, helping them to recover from their ordeals. It was typical of Mark that finding that some children were fascinated by the stamp collection he had taken with him, he generously left it with them.

He served the Meeting in many ways and will be remembered for his quiet, kind and friendly presence.

## SOME APPEALS FOR HELP

1. **Churches of Dorking Housing Association** Ltd (CODHAL) has, for nearly four decades, organised the housing of ladies who have suffered domestic abuse, in one house, and rehabilitated alcoholics in two other 'half-way houses'. However next year they are in danger of folding unless they can find a new **treasurer** (accounts apparently very straightforward!) and a **volunteer for the committee**. **Anyone interested contact Elizabeth Dobson ([emddh7@hotmail.com](mailto:emddh7@hotmail.com)) or Deborah Bunn ([codhal.pmj@gmail.com](mailto:codhal.pmj@gmail.com) or 01306 889008).**

2. **Holiday at Home** is a very worthwhile project run for a week in the summer holidays and aimed at those who otherwise would not have a holiday or summer outings. A copy of last year's brochure can be downloaded here: <http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk/holiday-at-home-2019/> Our Wednesday Meeting frequently makes a donation to this project. However a number of the planning team need to step back to some extent, or step down completely, over the next year. That means there are a **number of roles to fill** to ensure its resilience. **Chris Currie [chris.currie.dorkingurc@outlook.com](mailto:chris.currie.dorkingurc@outlook.com) would be very happy to chat through any details/questions.**

3. **Messy Church** at Dorking URC has been meeting once a month since 2006, with a regular attendance of between 60 and 80 adults and children. Each meeting has a theme and ten activities around that theme. Lots of families from around Dorking attend, some from other congregations, some from no congregation. They ask two things:

- Please let your children/families know about Messy Church: we always have room for more!  
[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=dorking%20urc%20messy%20church&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=dorking%20urc%20messy%20church&epa=SEARCH_BOX) it's always on the first Wednesday of the month from 3.30pm to 6pm.
- We are always looking for new helpers to sit at an activity table and oversee the task and speak with the children/adults, or to help with welcome or catering.

**Should you need further information please call Messy Leader Judi Currie on 07789 083343**

## RICHARD BASS



On Sunday 3 November, the Friends at Meeting gathered in the garden to watch the planting of an Amelanchier tree in memory of Richard Bass, a loved and active member of the Meeting, who died in 2016. His wife, Christine, and daughter, Harriet, did the honours and buried Richard's ashes in the prepared hole before planting the tree. The job done we had a few minutes silence in memory of Richard. A brief account of his life has now been included in the garden memorial book.



## PIPPA'S POEM

Back in October the children did a session on different ways of protesting and Pippa came up with this fascinating poem, which suggests that when others are protesting about something we shouldn't judge them, but try to understand what is bothering them.

She illustrated the poem with this intriguing drawing which, if you think about it, challenges some common prejudices.

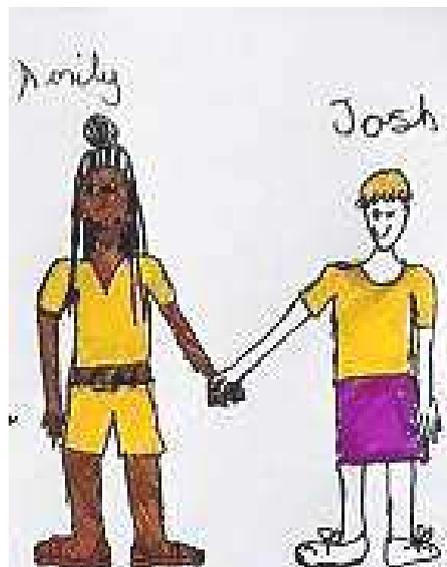
When people  
Hate others  
You need to

Show love  
How?  
Only try to  
Understand.  
Love and friendship  
Do that and

Interesting  
Times and friends appear.

Be on the  
Edge for friends.

Don't sit around  
On your sofa  
No, be outside  
Everyone should know more people



Don't Judge People  
Understand Them

## REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

On **Remembrance Day** (Sunday 10 Nov) the Meeting has been invited to lay a wreath of white poppies at the war memorial during the service organised by Churches Together in Dorking. Frances Poulton and Romy Elias have constructed a wreath and will lay it when appropriate during the service.

Meanwhile Nussy has been busy helping Dorking Museum with the event **Refugees and Remembrance** on Saturday 9 November, highlighted in October's Grapevine on page 3. This piece also mentioned the event **Playing with Words** at 7 pm on Thursday 14 November and Kathy Atherton from the Museum has confirmed that Sir Eric Reich will be attending this event. He was a refugee in Dorking in the 1930s after arriving on one of the kindertransports and was the model for the boy in the statue at Liverpool St station.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/04/kindertransport-man-to-america-let-in-3000-syrian-child-refugees> Hopefully he will be able to recount some of his experiences. We also have someone who was at school with Sir Eric coming, as well as the Dorking Refugee Support Group.

## NOVEMBER'S GREEN TIP

Join in the Dorking Climate Emergency's eco-family week events! Watch out for the posters around the town and on our meeting house notice board and see details on <https://dorking-climate-emergency.net/>. One event is a drop-in workshop here in the Meeting House on Saturday 16 November 10.30 to 3.30 organised by members of the Meeting – details on our website at <http://www.dorkingquakers.org/index.php/events-eco-workshop> and in the poster on our notice board. You can make your own simple, plastic-free, effective and sustainable toothpaste, laundry liquid, and simple herbal remedies – and enjoy a vegan lunch!

If you are wondering why some of us are trying so hard to become eco-friendly take a look at this - [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science\\_and\\_environment](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment)

