



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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 No. 538

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.

Quaker week: 28th September – 8 October

Sun 6 Oct	10.30	Celebrating Quaker Week at the Blue Idol (see page 3)
Mon 7 Oct	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)
Sun 13 Oct	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)
Fri 18 Oct	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation/Spiritual Exploration
Sun 20 Oct	12 – 12.30	Enquirer's meeting
Sun 27 Oct	12.30 pm	Friendly lunch – all welcome
Wed 30 Oct	Evening	Singing workshop at Horsham MH (see page 3)
Sun 3 Nov	9 am	Prep Meeting
Sat 9 Nov	10.30	Area Meeting at Meeting House (see page 2)
Sun 10 Nov		Laying of white poppy wreath during armistice day service (tbc)

September/October Collection for QUAKER HOMELESS ACTION

We now have some non-digital contact details if you wish to contribute to this very worthwhile charity. Cheques can be sent to Quaker Homeless Action, 17 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PJ and bank Transfers by BACS to Quaker Homeless Action account; Sort code 08-92-99; Account Number 65229716.



They are also appealing for help with the **Quaker Open Christmas**, at The American International Church in Tottenham Court Road, from 23 to 30 December. To volunteer go to <https://www.facebook.com/QuakerHomeless/?eid=ARDistSpKag4WJIKloxJt12Yx187Atgd9qJWv5wYJGKOrBvTGKeeCQ5o6RAM6-Y8g4lq68-sCnkWccw> or presumably you can write to the above address.

NOTES ON PM HELD 8 SEPTEMBER

We agreed the **charities we would collect for in 2020**, and the supporting Friend, as follows:

Jan/Feb Young Friends General Meeting (Anne Brewer);

Mar/Apr Quaker Social Action (Colin Hope); May/June Woodbrooke (Romy Elias);

Jul/Aug Quaker Voluntary Action (Frances Harber to be asked);

Sept/Oct Ramallah Friends School (Rachel Hope); Nov – open for suggestion nearer the time;

Dec Children's choice.

Premises

1. **Managing our Meeting House** is becoming an increasing burden, partly because of all the technical, legal, health and safety requirements, resulting from legislation in recent years. Other Local Meetings are also struggling with this. Area Meeting (AM) Trustees have suggested we employ the Churches Conservation Trust to manage the maintenance and any necessary repairs of our properties for a one year trial. This has been successful in Norfolk and Waveney AM. Our AM will fund the project for the first year – the cost of the annual routine maintenance visit and the annual inspection visit to Dorking would be around £2,000 pa. Our Premises Committee will still have responsibility and control over the work but would receive expert support. The cottage would remain with Whites as Property and Letting agents. We agreed this proposal sounds well worth trying out, and will ask Trustees to initiate the project as soon as possible, as we have urgent work to do on the screen, when CCT support would be very welcome.



2. Our existing **fire alarm system** for the Meeting House and the cottage needs replacing. Quotes are being obtained and PM now authorised spending of up to £7,000 for this. (**Update** – the quotes are in and work should begin soon)

3. **Change in Terms of Reference for Premises and Finance committee**

PM agreed that the clause stating that the Treasurer is an ex officio member should be removed, to reduce the burden on the Treasurer. Clause 2.1 would then read “The Committee shall comprise a minimum of three members. The Committee shall select its own Convenor”.

PM agreed that the Meeting offer to take part in the **QPSW Climate Change Project**, through which three selected Meetings host a paid coordinator, whose role is to network with local organisations in working towards a just transition to a zero carbon society. Anne Brewer has approached environmental groups in the area and they have reacted favourably to the suggestion, as has Mole Valley District Council. If our Meeting is selected Anne has volunteered to lead a small group of Friends to be a link between the QPSW co-ordinator and the Meeting.

Ecumenical Service at the Meeting House - As part of Churches Together in Dorking we are to host this service on 29th September at 6.30 p.m. This will be a Meeting for Worship, with a spoken introduction by Anne Brewer to explain the process. Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

AREA MEETING AND FELLOWSHIP AT DORKING - SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER

On Saturday 9 November in Dorking MH after Area Business Meeting (10.30am for 10.45 – 12.30) and lunch (1.30 – 2.30) your Area Meeting Fellowship team invites you to bring along **something which is important to you** and in a few words share about why it is important to you. It could be, for example, a poem, a few words about a project you are buzzing with, an experience that has encouraged you or someone else, a reading, a memory humorous or otherwise, a song, or an object. We hope Friends will get to know each other a little better through this sharing. The session from 1.30pm to about 3.00pm will be facilitated by Sarah Freeman.



SINGING WORKSHOPS AT HORSHAM

Helen Whittington, warden of Horsham Meeting and a professional singer, is inviting Friends to two more singing workshops after the success of her first one in September.

Wed 30th Oct – Evening (Singing by candle light, perhaps ??)
Sat 30th Nov – Morning.



Helen says: No need to sign in, just reserve the dates for now. Nearer the days it would be useful to have an idea who is coming (contact 07941 338169 or 01403 252309). As before, these are open to anyone (not just Quakers – friends & family welcome) and will be simple enough for all levels of experience. We will revisit some of the songs we did before but probably add others. However no need to have been at the first one.

APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS COOKS

The Christian Centre opens on **Christmas Day** for all those who would otherwise be on their own. The Centre Managers are desperately seeking a **cook/cooks** who could come and prepare a Christmas meal for roughly 50 guests. The Managers are happy to source all food etc. beforehand, and help with any preparation. If this is of interest please contact them on 01306 886830, or email centremanager@dorkingmethodist.co.uk, for further information. Without this help they would be unable to offer this valuable invitation to the local community on Christmas Day.

QUAKER WEEK AT BLUE IDOL MEETING HOUSE



Friends at the Blue Idol are inviting people to attend their Meeting for Worship (10.15am for 10.30 start) on Sunday 6 October, followed by a shared lunch (12.15pm) and workshop (1.30pm)

For more information and to let them know you hope to attend see www.blueidol.org/calendar, email admin@blueidol.org, or phone 01403 740174

POPPIES AND DORKING MUSEUM

DORKING MUSEUM AUTUMN EXHIBITION
You, Me and Those Who Came Before

Delves into Dorking's response to refugee crises – past and present with the future in mind. A family-friendly display explores migrations of people, of knowledge and Dorking as home.

In a meeting of History and Art Psychotherapy we take you on a 'Journey of the Poppy' connected to healing and as a symbol of remembrance.

September 26th 2019 – January 18th 2020
Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am-4pm

Dorking Museum & Heritage Centre
62 West Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1BS
www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk 01306 876591

Dorking museum has three events relating to refugees, poppies and remembrance.

1. Exhibition 'You, Me and Those who came before' (see poster)
2. Creative workshop 'Refugees and Remembrance' (see poster). We have been invited to include some activity with white poppies and Nessie is working on this.
3. Thurs 14 Nov 'Playing with Words' – an evening of shared reflection, questions, answers and poetry. (Poster on MH notice board)

REFUGEES and REMEMBRANCE

Come and join us on
Saturday 9th November 2019 10am-2pm
In the Museum courtyard on West Street

Join Dorking Museum, The Poppy Collective and Dorking Refugee Support Group to create a Community Garden of Remembrance in the heart of Dorking. Led by art psychotherapist Sophia Cooke, the installation will change and grow throughout the day as creative contributions are shared. And through the 'Portable Studio' participants will be able to experience a taste of art therapy on the frontline.

Come and feel inspired, act inspired and inspire others in a creative process of poppy-making and poetry.

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01306 876591

DORKING MUSEUM www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk

JOURNEY TO BUTTER HILL

Colin Hope writes: So how did Dorking Quakers arrive at our Meeting House in Butter Hill? Just ask any of the many visitors who came to see us on Heritage Open Day on Saturday 21 September.

They were welcomed by one of our team of guides, then shown around the excellent exhibition which Su Johnston had prepared. This included maps, photos and narrative about Dorking Quakers over 300 years, from the first meeting in Clarendon House, then to a barn in West Street (where the floor eventually collapsed), to our present purpose-built Victorian Meeting House on Butter Hill.

Visitors were shown our meeting room and the garden, before enjoying tea, coffee and biscuits.



The screen was opened and closed twice during the day, which always amazes those who watch it.

The whole day was very successful, and we are grateful to our team who worked hard, both on the Saturday, and putting up and taking down the exhibition.

One of the visitors e-mailed us afterwards: “Many thanks for showing me around your Meeting House, and telling me about your worship and work in Dorking. I was very pleased to receive a Quaker welcome as well as a demonstration of your very special bi-parting screen”.

OCTOBER’S GREEN TIPS

Anne Brewer writes: This month I am letting Friends know of some of the opportunities available to learn about and/or take action on climate change.

Eco-Climate Fair: Saturday 26 October in Dorking Christian Centre 10.00am to 4.00pm. Climate Change is a challenge - how can we ‘cool’ our life styles and reduce the risk to the planet? Stalls, talks and demonstrations to help us on our way. Members of the Meeting are involved and would love to see you there!

Extinction Rebellion: part of a world-wide demonstration of public unease over lack of effective action by governments on climate change, starts in London on Mon 7 October and lasts for two weeks or more. Quakers will focus on Lambeth Bridge, the so-called Faith Bridge. There will be Buddhists, Muslims, Anglicans, Catholics, Bahá’is, Quakers, Jews and so on. For more details see <https://rebellion.earth/event/faith-bridge-at-the-xr-international-rebellion-uk/>. On Friday 11 October there will be a **Mindful Peace Walk for Compassion** starting at 10am from the Faith Bridge, led by the Buddhists of Plum Village. If you would like to be in touch with other local Quakers who are going on Mon 7 and/or Fri 11, contact Audrey Garnett - 01403 260077 or audreygarnett@btinternet.com.

A different sort of action – QPSW has issued a new briefing paper – see www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/sustainability/climate-justice-1#heading-1 or ask me if you would like a copy. It is intended to help you approach your MP to discuss what the Government might do towards reducing the UK’s contribution to climate change. Once Brexit is over and done with, I plan to send a copy to our MP. I will say that once he’s had a chance to read it, I will make an appointment to come and talk with him about the options, to see what he would feel able to support. **Is anyone interested in joining this initiative and coming along too??**

