



# 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

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### Quakers: Simple, Radical and Contemporary

Events for February – 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.

Sat 1 Feb	3.00 – 5.30	New Year Party 
Sun 2 Feb	10.45 – 11.30	Special session for Young Friends in addition to usual children's meeting. (See page 3)
Sun 2 Feb	11.45 – 12.30	Enquirers' Meeting, Quiet Room
Mon 3 Feb	8.30 – 9 pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group (in Friends' homes)
Sun 9 Feb	after MfW	Traidcraft
Sun 9 Feb	6.30 – 7.30 pm	MfW (Park House, Leatherhead)
Fri 21 Feb	2.30 – 4 pm	Meditation/Spiritual Exploration
Sun 23 Feb	12.30 pm	Shared lunch, followed by session on Assisted Dying (See page 4)
Sun 1 March	9 am	Preparative Meeting
Sun 1 March	10.45 – 11.30	Special session for Young Friends in addition to usual children's meeting. (See page 3)
Sun 8 March	12.15 (tbc)	Area Business meeting (Horsham MH)
Sun 8 March	2.00 – 3.30 (tbc)	Special session on future of Area Meeting (See page 3)



### FEBRUARY'S COLLECTION ...

... is for **Young Friends General Meeting**. Details were given in the January Grapevine and leaflets with how to donate will be available on the table in the small hall.

## Report of PREPARATIVE MEETING held 12 JANUARY

Frances Poulton spoke about **Nominations**. Some Friends may recall the list of proposed appointments for 2020 for the various roles within our Meeting. There were a number of gaps. Since then Romy Elias has agreed to be Treasurer together with John Carr who will do the accounts. Premises committee will cover the role of Fire Officer for the time being and Su Johnston has agreed to organise the periodic fire drill. Nesy Cole has had to withdraw from the role of librarian and a few other vacancies remain.

As the Minute made on this matter states: *Over recent years it has not been easy to fill the essential roles within our Meeting. For this reason while we have concentrated on finding Friends and regular Attenders for most jobs, we are also considering employing professional outside help in managing some aspects, such as letting our cottage, and using the Churches Conservation Trust to assist with some premises matters.*

**Premises** Committee brought four matters to our attention.

- We agreed to the spending of £1,100 to work on lead flashing round the chimney stack to deal with **water leaking through the cottage roof**.
- We agreed to spending £1280 to repair the **flat roof over the Meeting House kitchen** as this is also leaking.
- We agreed that Premises Committee should look into the possibility of employing a **caretaker** to take over the cleaning, currently done twice a week by a local firm, and to look after the many small jobs currently done by a few dedicated members of the Meeting who are finding it a bit 'burdensome' to quote the word used in the minute!
- Geoff Squire talked enthusiastically about the **garden** and it was agreed that he write something about his ideas for the Grapevine. (**See below**)

Anne Brewer spoke about **the garden memorial book** and it was agreed that it should be enlarged to include all longstanding Friends who have died and not just those for whom there is a memorial in the garden.

The Meeting was happy to endorse Anne Brewer's proposal for a group of Friends to **discuss the QPSW Climate Justice Briefing with our MP** to see if he was willing to actively support any of the suggested actions by the UK Government, and if so, whether we could be of help to him in any way.

Anne Brewer

## MEETING HOUSE GARDEN NOTES

I hope to place a few lines regularly in The Grapevine to draw attention to the Meeting House garden. It is of great importance and we are fortunate that so much work has been undertaken over many years to make it attractive and welcoming. We should not lose sight of the fact that there are gravestones, memorial planting and historic grid markings on two perimeter walls. As in all our gardens, Mother Nature insists we keep working to keep it attractive. Thanks to careful thought hitherto there is no need for great intervention, huge projects or major expenditure, just a little TLC. If you have ideas about the garden or wish to be actively involved, please talk to me or make contact by email or phone ([gmsquire@googlemail.com](mailto:gmsquire@googlemail.com) or 01372 457661).



One priority is to find ways of correcting worn areas of the lawn and if anyone has experience of solving this kind of problem, do please let me know.

Geoff Squire

## AREA MEETING 19 JANUARY 2020

It was a frosty Sunday on 19 January when ten Dorking Friends made the journey to Ifield to attend Area Business Meeting, where we were warmly welcomed by Ifield Friends. There was a long agenda, and the meeting started well, because we were all delighted when two of our Dorking attenders, Lucy Barford and Tony Hearne, were readily accepted into membership.



One of the main items related to **the future of West Weald Area Quaker Meeting**. This is a registered charity, so we have to appoint some of our members as trustees, who help and advise the Meeting on a number of important areas, particularly premises and finance. At present there are five trustees, which is really the minimum number, but two of these retire at the end of 2020, leaving only three. So, we have to find new trustees if the Area Meeting is to continue. Ideally, we could have two trustees from each local meeting, making a total of twelve, which would help to spread the workload more evenly, but we certainly need at least two or three more to replace those retiring. Romy Elias is a trustee (and also Area Meeting treasurer), so we are seeking another trustee from Dorking. **We do ask that you think carefully about this**, and speak to me or Romy if you can offer to become a trustee or would like more information about the role.

We heard of the death of Sabine Price, who had been the Resident Friend at the **Oxted Meeting House**. The Meeting closed a few years ago, and following Sabine's death the building is now empty. We need to clarify some planning and other matters, but we expect to be able to proceed with the sale of the property quite soon.

*Colin Hope*

## YOUNG FRIENDS

We have a growing group of youngsters at Dorking Meeting and this is great news. With it comes great responsibility! There has been a request for a separate group for the older children to expand and explore their thinking (those now at secondary school and perhaps in the upper year of primary school).

**Suggestion:** an adult (or two) from Meeting would lead such a group (which is likely to be very small in the early stages) on a theme of their choice, to be shared and discussed and generally chewed over in the 10.45-11.30 slot. If 12 folks volunteered it would only be one session a year and it might well be very informative for all concerned. The suggestion has been made that this should be the **first Sunday in the month**. If you feel that this is something you would like to do I will be coordinating the programme so please sign up asap perhaps with a suggestion of a theme/Advice/Query/story from Quaker history that you would like to discuss, and also a suggested date. I will start the pattern in February. There will be a rota pinned on the notice board, please feel free to sign up. If you wish to discuss anything with me please don't hesitate.  
[sallysunflower2012@gmail.com](mailto:sallysunflower2012@gmail.com)

*Sally Elias*

## APPEAL FOR CAR DRIVERS HAPPY TO GIVE LIFTS

We have some Friends who are unable to attend Meeting because they live too far away and can no longer **drive**. **If anyone is able to offer a lift now and again, any Overseer would be delighted to hear from you**. As we regard enabling such Friends to attend as such an important service - we would hope to fully compensate for any time and expenses incurred.

Please make contact with any Overseer if you might be able to help and to discuss it further.

*Jan Elias*

(Note from editor: The current Overseers are Margaret Lawson, Jan Elias and Alison Carlier)

## AN INVITATION

Dear Dorking friends and attenders – on a solemn note... This is an invite to join others from our local meeting in two informal meetings, Quaker-style, about the solemn subject of **assisted dying**. When we have listened to one another and heard what are likely to be very different views, we will contribute our concerns through a minute and representatives to May Area Meeting who will, in turn, send a minute from West Weald to Meeting for Sufferings.

Our Elders and Overseers between them have read through notes, leaflet and a book about Assisted dying, which has become an urgent matter before the whole of the Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). Following one or two other churches we are compelled to take a formal position in relation to Assisted Dying, in the same way as we not long ago reached a whole-BYM position on gay marriage. The legalisation of assisted dying is still a burning issue in our society and although it was rejected by parliament nearly six years ago it is bound to return to parliamentary debate soon. Quakers are being encouraged to explore this, as well as dying and death more generally, recognising that there are differing and deeply-held views.

1. **Shared lunch and initial meeting, Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February**, after Meeting for Worship  
We are advised to hold an initial meeting of local Quakers to first consider what dying and death mean to the individuals, following A&Q30: **‘Are you able to contemplate your death and the death of those closest to you? Accepting the fact of death, we are freed to live more fully. In bereavement, give yourself time to grieve.’**

After our shared lunch we will ask you to consider these queries:

**What would be a good death for you?**

**How can you put things in place to enable this?**

**What barriers would prevent you achieving this?**

**What practical steps can you take to ensure a good death?**

2. A longer afternoon session from **2pm – 5pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April** to be held at Dorking Meeting House. We will consider the various specific issues about assisted dying. Starting by setting out the varying arguments for/against and partially for, we will then go on to give personal testimonies as to why we might support the introduction of legalisation or not.
3. Various local meetings will be represented in our Area Meeting discussion on assisted dying in Capel, on **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> May**. All welcome.

### **More Quaker reading**

- <https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-to-discuss-assisted-dying>
- **The Friend** Article, 11 December 2014, ‘Meeting for Sufferings: End of life issues and assisted dying’ by Trish Carn.
- **The Friend** Article, 17 October 2019, ‘Meeting for Sufferings: End of life issues and assisted dying’ by Joseph Jones.
- A powerful book produced after a series of Quaker discussions in Leeds AM: <http://www.assisted-dying.leedsquakers.org.uk/>



For more information/advice contact Sarah Freeman [azdak@runbox.com](mailto:azdak@runbox.com)

## LENT STUDY GROUPS

The theme for the Lent (26 Feb to 11 April) study groups this year is the Environment and Climate Change. Some Friends may like to attend the study groups organised by other churches in Dorking who will be offering sessions based on a variety of relevant courses. Details/dates of courses being offered are not yet available – a list will be pinned on the small hall notice board when they are.