



# Grapevine and



# Fellowship News



A special edition for The Coronavirus Lockdown, combining the Dorking Grapevine and West Weald Fellowship News – do you recognise all our Local Meeting Houses?

Editor: Anne Brewer

May 2020 (Dorking Grapevine No. 545)

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- What's happening about Area Meeting Business and ABM planned for May 10<sup>th</sup> at Capel?
- What's happening about the planned Fellowship session on assisted dying?
- Meeting for Worship opportunities around the Area Meeting
- Contributions from Area Meeting Friends to entertain and inspire

### Area Meeting Business

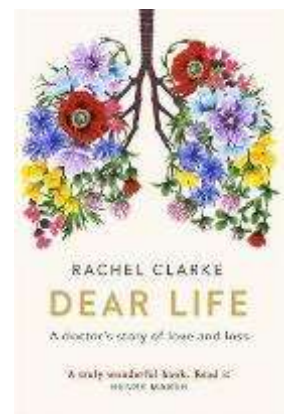
Our Trustees are meeting online on May 6<sup>th</sup>. If there is anything that Area Meeting needs to consider urgently then a special online ABM will be organised. Horsham Meeting have offered their Zoom pro account for such use. If an ABM is set up, Friends will be informed by email of the date and time and given the link with instructions how to use it.

### Fellowship session on Assisted Dying

Pat Entwistle who is facilitating this session, which was planned for May 10<sup>th</sup>, is happy for it to be held after November ABM on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> at Dorking, when hopefully we will be able to meet face to face again!

Meanwhile Friends might be interested in the book 'Dear Life: A doctor's story of love and loss' by Rachel Clarke (published in January 2020) which was recommended by a retired Doctor in Dorking Meeting, who thought very highly of it and bought 2 copies for Meeting Friends to read. The author now works in palliative care in a hospice and the book shares her thoughts and experiences in a very readable and moving way. I have read it and it greatly helped my thinking about death and assisted dying.

It is available from <https://agreatread.co.uk> at £12.98 or contact Anne Brewer if you would like to borrow one of Dorking Meeting's copies.



## Meeting for Worship opportunities

Not everyone can or wants to take part in online worship, as expressed in this extract from a letter in the Friend of April 10<sup>th</sup>, headed *Worshipping from Home*, from Barbara Mark of Ludlow Meeting: *I might be unusual, but I would find having a computer on, a distraction from the silence. I do believe we can be together in spirit without the need for anything but quiet and contemplation. ...*

However, many Friends are finding online worship helpful and worthwhile and here are the Friends to contact in the Meetings offering online worship, if you would like to join in one or more of their various Meetings for Worship.

**Blue Idol** – [eva.wrenwood@gmail.com](mailto:eva.wrenwood@gmail.com) MfW Sunday 10.30am. The Blue Idol find some Friends worship with them offline and then join them online after meeting is over, with a cup of coffee, to talk and catch up on news. This seems a nice idea!

**Dorking** offers Zoom Worship on Sundays from 10.30 contact Sarah Freeman [azdak@runbox.com](mailto:azdak@runbox.com) for adults and [alison.carlier@icloud.com](mailto:alison.carlier@icloud.com) for the children's meeting (see page 8). There is also fortnightly (next one May 3<sup>rd</sup>) a Sunday evening worship from 9 to 10pm for the parents and anyone else who wishes to join them, – contact Sarah Freeman [azdak@runbox.com](mailto:azdak@runbox.com) Dorking's meditation and spiritual exploration group now meet weekly online, on Fridays, and welcome newcomers. Contact Catherine Carr [catherinemcarr15@gmail.com](mailto:catherinemcarr15@gmail.com) (see page 6)

**Horsham** is offering ZOOM Worship on Sundays 10.30 (1h) and Wednesdays 12.15 (30 mins). Also, a sharing group from time to time. Contact [horshamquakermeeting@phonecoop.coop](mailto:horshamquakermeeting@phonecoop.coop). Helen adds that **Horsham Climate Cafe** (linked to the Repair Cafe) is also using their account This meets every Saturday 2-4pm with a programme of different themes and speakers. People from across the South East district as well as abroad joining in. Details and link (different from Worship & changes each week) through [www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk](http://www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk).

**Reigate**. To join their MfW 10.30 am Sunday, contact **Andrew Cutting** [andrewcutting100@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcutting100@gmail.com) or 07887 795534 for details.

## Contributions from AM Friends

**A big thank you for all the contributions that AM Friends have sent me for this newsletter.**

First, **a message from our AM Clerk:**

*As a single person I am used to being on my own for periods of time. I am taking the opportunity of the situation to do some much needed sorting cupboards and drawers, reminiscing over photos and albums. However, I am sad that I have been told I can no longer give out food parcels, even though the delivery has changed to avoid personal contact. I am also fortunate in having some younger friends who have offered to bring me food etc the trouble being that they do not accept payment, because of social distancing! My family have also kept in touch.*

*I think a great deal about those in difficulties and hold many in my thoughts and pray we can all come through this strengthened and with a greater awareness of the needs of others and of our planet.*

*If we as a country can show such a determined united effort to overcome this disease, perhaps we can do the same to face up to an equally dangerous situation - climate change. PERHAPS SOME GOOD WILL COME OUT OF IT.*

Keep well, keep safe, Love and Friendship, Roger B

## A Poem by Sara Proctor of Blue Idol LM– written in March 2020

### Awakening

As Covid-19 swept the planet  
And the roar of jet engines fell silent  
And the idle chatter ceased  
And they stood apart from one another  
And some became ill and died.  
As they trod the rough path of uncertainty  
Of loss,  
Of vulnerability,  
As their sure foundations crumbled  
And they glimpsed their fallibility  
And for one moment of clarity  
Saw they were not kings  
But lately invited guests,

Then....  
then....

The birds sang in exuberant celebration,  
The creatures drank in clean, fresh air,  
The fish swam free in clear waters,  
The trees shivered their branches and wept for joy.  
The earth itself breathed a deep sigh  
And as its deep wounds began to heal  
It thanked the humble, primitive strands of DNA,  
The virus  
Who crippled a tyrant  
And restored the balance of things.

## A message from Anne and Bill Williams of Dorking LM with paintings by Anne

During these lock-down weeks Bill and I have spent much time in our garden, either weeding or just relaxing and enjoying the peace.



We are very conscious of our good fortune in that we are able to keep safe and accept the offers of help from our family and kind neighbours.

I have a heightened awareness of nature and appreciation of our lovely surroundings, particularly the birds. I have been painting some of these delightful visitors to our feeders in the garden.

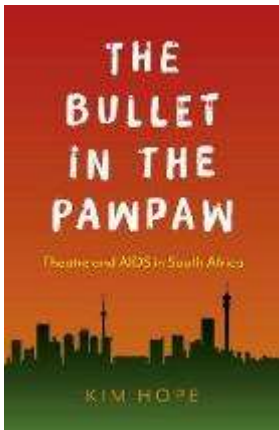
With all good wishes and love to all our Friends.





## Looking for a book to read? How about one written by Kim Hope of Blue Idol LM

I ordered this fascinating book from Waterstones online and it arrived 2 days ago! I am already halfway through and it is certainly living up to the enthusiastic reviews by Geoffrey Durham and Terry Waite amongst others. I would strongly recommend it to anyone who is wanting something inspiring to read at this time. It is of course extra interesting because of knowing the author!



Kim says: *It's available from the dreaded Amazon, but also from any bookshops which will do online orders. Or one can order it from Goodreads where there are a number of reviews - not the endorsements that are at the front of the book, but reviews from people (unknown to me) who have read it and decided to write a review of it. Of course, I would love it if people bought it from Amazon because if 25 people buy it from them and then write a (good!) review, it goes up their lists. But I think the same applies to Goodreads (which I don't believe is part of Amazon). And it might be available from World of Books, too.*

## From Jacinta White of Horsham LM.

Jacinta says one of the Dutch habits she never managed to let go is setting up an Easter tree. Here she is beside the one she made this year. She sends the following message:  
*Stay safe and brave everyone, do not give up. Lots of love, Jacinta*



## Poem offered by Alison Carlier of Dorking LM

This is the time to be slow,  
Lie low to the wall  
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let  
The wire brush of doubt  
Scrape from your heart  
All sense of yourself  
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,  
Time will come good;  
And you will find your feet  
Again on fresh pastures of promise,  
Where the air will be kind  
And blushed with beginning.



Poem by John O'Donohue ©  
Photo by Ann Cahill ©

## Message from Janet Lewin of Dorking LM

I am very much enjoying daily Spring walks, in the Polesden Lacey area, during this lovely weather. The skies are clear and blue, bluebells, wood anemones and violets contribute a splash of colour on the green background. The Beech trees producing their very pale green leaves remind us that there is new growth. I hope other Friends are benefiting from similar uplifting experiences, in the beautiful natural world.



Photo by Colin Brewer

## SONG FOR LOCK-DOWN 2020 Written by Su Johnston of Dorking LM

'Twas on a Monday morning the PM came to call  
He stood upon the podium, his fluffy hair and all;  
But we'd all seen folk standing close, in crowd and upon crowd,  
So Boris told us Stay at Home – to come out's not allowed.

'Twas on a Tuesday morning, the Minister of Health  
Said - better not go out to work, although you'll have no wealth,  
Can go to shop for food and pills, but other shopping's done;  
But film and too theatre is on TV – oh what fun!

'Twas on a Wednesday morning we saw the Chancellor,  
He had a deal of gravitas, was firm of eye and jaw;  
He gave us all some millions, without ever a sigh;  
He told us we'd have loads of cash – but not until July.

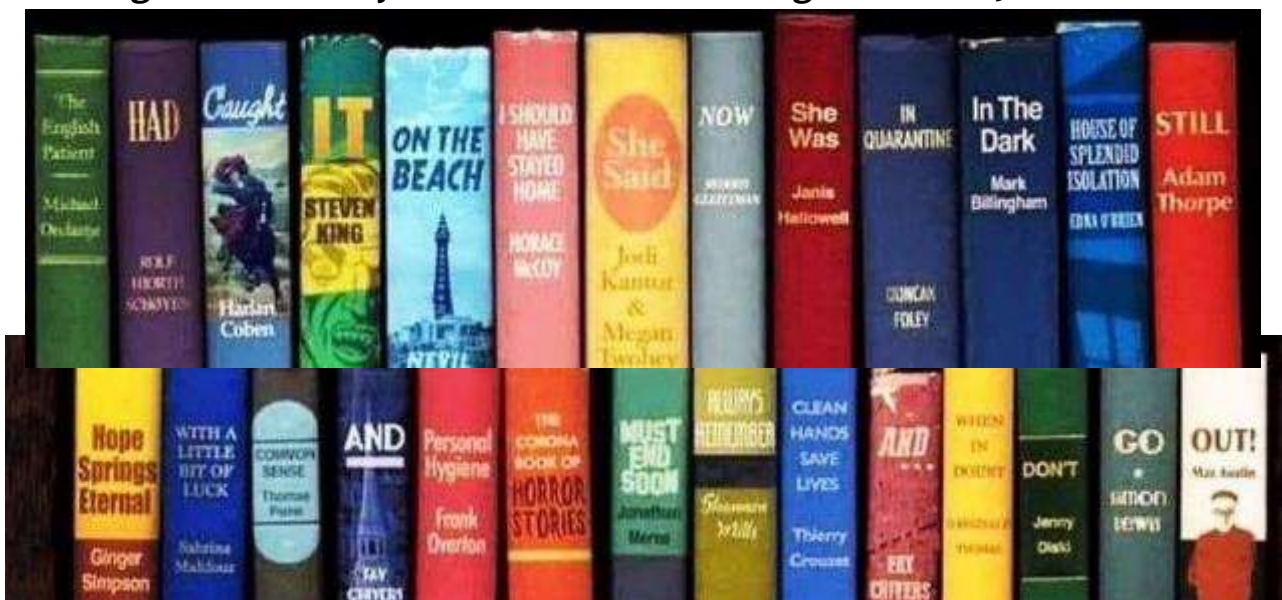
'Twas on a Thursday evening we clapped the NHS,  
They all need more of PPE, they all are under stress;  
We drew them lovely rainbows then we all went out of doors,  
We couldn't give them masks and gowns – at least we gave applause.

'Twas on a Friday afternoon at 5pm to see  
The PM, Health and Chancellor – but they weren't on TV;  
Although they'd kept two yards apart – or that is what they said -  
All three had got the virus and were home alone, in bed.

'Twas on a Saturday morning the parks were hotching full,  
The cars were on the heaths and the police were talking bull;  
The grocers' queues were massive, and two yards apart was tried,  
But devil take the hindmost was the rule once you're inside.

'Twas on a Sunday morning, the Meeting House was closed;  
We wanted still to see our Friends, but meeting rules opposed.  
We had a new enlightenment, we each sat in our room  
And eyes shut we could see each other, courtesy of Zoom.

An amusing item sent in by Catherine Carr of Dorking LM - Covid-19 in book titles.



## From Catherine Carr and Gill Whitman of the Dorking Meditation and Spiritual Reflection group

Below is a **Native American Prayer** – from a book of prayers from around the world that Gill Whitman has produced with a friend, Sylvie. We read it at the Meditation and Spiritual Reflection Meeting held on Zoom on the 17<sup>th</sup> April.

At these meetings we normally include a topic for discussion in the middle of more formal meditation and mindfulness practices. This week we were invited to think about how our conditioning leads us to expect things to stay the same and, when this is challenged by events such as Covid 19 and its sequela, we can feel quite “lost”, disorientated and fearful; we then need to build up our inner resources to assist us so that we can cope better. This allowed us to share our experiences and also of how we are dealing in a positive way with our own unique situation and concerns.

But the Great Spirit Prayer is more than just a prayer to a transcendental God (or whatever word we might use). It reminds us that we need to be aware of and fully acknowledge our needs and vulnerabilities, and in doing so, often find that we already have the supports we need to connect with, internally and externally, spiritually and intellectually.

### Great Spirit Prayer

Oh, Great Spirit,  
Whose voice I hear in the winds  
and whose breath gives life to all the world.  
Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.  
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes  
ever hold the red and purple sunset.  
Make my hands respect the things you have made  
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.  
Make me wise so that I may understand  
the things you have taught my people.  
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden  
in every leaf and rock.

Help me remain calm and strong in the  
face of all that comes towards me.  
Help me find compassion without  
empathy overwhelming me.  
I seek strength, not to be greater than my  
brother,  
but to fight my greatest enemy: myself.  
Make me always ready to come to you  
with clean hands and straight eyes.  
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,  
my spirit may come to you without shame.

*- Translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in 1887*

### Our gardens – Photo from Anne Williams’ garden and piece about the Dorking Meeting House Garden by Geoff Squire

Unfortunately, this period of self-isolation and separation has prevented regular work in the garden. Fortunately, we did complete laying new turf on the second area of lawn beyond the Laurel and by now all the new grass appears well established. Before the distancing measure were put into place, we found a gardener who was able to remove all the ivy which had grown up and over the entire length of the South boundary wall. This was very timely as it revealed areas of the wall which were unstable. One of these has been corrected already, but the other less urgent work can be done at a later date.

When the restrictions allow, we will focus on the area around the further side gate and the worn paths that radiate from it. The garden looks particularly attractive with the spring colours and it was pleasing to find a family with three little children quietly enjoying it and having a picnic. Friday afternoons have proved to be a convenient time for several of us to work together with Mike our Gardener, please join us when conditions allow it.





## Compassion – from Chrissie McGinn and Richard Hewitt of Blue Idol LM

Everyone has been touched by the events and the news about the Corona Virus pandemic which has devastated so many lives. It has been a sombre start to the Spring, but what has been so striking is the response across the world. Differences have been set aside as never before, to meet the needs of those who are suffering. People from different races, cultures and religions have joined forces for the good of humankind. People's needs have become more important than doctrines or beliefs about who is right or wrong. Love has simply been offered in many forms.

Love has been offered with no expectation of a return on investment or a pay back in kind. It isn't my suffering or your suffering, but human suffering. It isn't my pain or your pain, simply a recognition of the pain to be met with much compassion for humanity

We wish everyone this blessing by John O'Donohue ©

*On the day when the weight deadens on your shoulders and you stumble,  
may the clay dance to balance you.*

*And when your eyes freeze behind the grey window and the ghost of loss gets into you,  
may a flock of colours, indigo, red, green and azure blue come to awaken in you a meadow of light.*

*When the canvas frays in the curach of thought and a stain of ocean blackens beneath you,  
may there come across the waters a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home.*

*May the nourishment of the earth be yours,  
may the clarity of light be yours,  
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,  
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.  
And so may a slow wind work these words of love around you,  
an invisible cloak to mind your life.*

## Some spare time? Have a go at this Quodoku! Sent in by Rachel Hope of Dorking LM

In the past Quakers could not go to university and could not train for the professions. Many Quakers went into trade, opening shops and producing goods. Joseph Fry sold medicines and cocoa. Then he developed chocolate and it proved very popular. Rowntree's and Cadbury followed. None of these firms are Quaker businesses anymore but some products still carry the Quaker names.

Fill in all the squares so that every row, column and line contain the letters **JOSEPH FRY**

if you want a larger version in .docx format rather than pdf so you can do it online, email [anne.brewer43@gmail.com](mailto:anne.brewer43@gmail.com)

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## More spare time? How about a free online course? From Jon Roberts of Dorking LM.

I came across this course on the early Quakers and thought Friends might be interested. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers> Supported by Woodbroke, BBC and the Open University.

## A message from Dorking Children's Meeting and their wave goodbye from zoom!

Alison Carlier writes: We had another lovely Zoom session this morning with 9 families present.

We found out what people had been up to during the week; planting seeds, learning to draw and learning to ride a bike were mentioned.

Then we talked about Loss; I read from QF & P 21:69 about sadness and then we shared what losses we could think of – to our lives, to the planet etc – as a result of the Corona outbreak. People said about losing time with friends or not going on holiday.

We then talked about Gain; and shared what we had gained, or the planet had gained. For example, playing more board games, having more time, doing more yoga, blue skies above Beijing and the return of some wildlife in Venice.



## Finally, a hopeful poem offered by Eleanor Campbell of Dorking LM

This poem was published on March 16, 2020, by writer Catherine O'Meara aka Kitty O'Meara. She posted her poem on a website called "The daily round". Claims on Facebook that the poem was written by the Catherine O'Meara, who was writing at the time of the Irish potato famine, are not correct!

*And the people stayed home. And read books, and  
listened, and rested, and exercised, and made  
art, and played games, and learned new ways of  
being, and were still. And listened more deeply.  
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.  
Some met their shadows.  
And the people began to think differently. And  
the people healed. And, in the absense of people  
living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and  
heartless ways, the earth began to heal.  
And when the danger passed, and the people  
joined together again, they grieved their losses,  
and made new choices, and dreamed new images,  
and created new ways to live and heal the earth  
fully, as they had been healed.*