



# 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

No. 550 October 2020

### MEETING FOR WORSHIP in the MEETING HOUSE

Starting on Sunday 13 September and Wednesday 16 September the Meeting House was officially open for Meeting for Worship for up to 22 Friends and 3 families on Sundays and Wednesdays. The risk assessment has been approved by AM Trustees and the opening of the Meeting House approved at a special business meeting for Dorking Friends. Here is a reminder of some of the things Friends need to bear in mind if they attend.

- Enter the Meeting House by the front lobby door. Wheelchair users may use the garden entrance at the back.
- Everyone should clean their hands with sanitiser on entering the building – there is a supply in the front lobby.
- Social distancing of 2 metres must be observed – it is clearly indicated where you can sit on the benches.
- Current government regulations say you should wear a face mask indoors at all times, but you can remove it for ministering if you wish.
- Bring your own Quaker Faith and Practice or Bible or any other reading material you might need. You can have a copy of QF&P on loan from the Meeting – speak to Colin Hope if you would like one.
- The toilet facilities are provided with clear notices and essential cleaning materials.
- The kitchen is not available for use so bring a bottle of water with you.
- Colin Hope and Betty Chamberlain have agreed to cover Sunday and Wednesday, respectively, to record who is present and keep the record safely for the official Test and Trace service.
- Those attending on Wednesday can bring a lunch to eat providing they do not share with each other.

One new piece of information. A poster has been put up in the front lobby so that those with the NHS Covid app on their mobile can record their presence in the venue and assist in preventing spread of the virus.

### DIARY

**Sunday meeting for worship (10.30 to 11.30 am)** Meetings on Zoom will continue while needed – contact [anne.brewer43@gmail.com](mailto:anne.brewer43@gmail.com) From Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September blended online and face to face meetings will take place so that we can all see and hear each other – **see page 4!**

**Wednesday Meeting for Worship (12.45 to 1.15 pm)** Friends can bring lunch to eat afterwards if they wish  
**Sunday Children's Meeting** on zoom. Contact [alison.carlier@icloud.com](mailto:alison.carlier@icloud.com) or [katy\\_nunn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katy_nunn@yahoo.co.uk)

Monday 5 Oct	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session for those in need.
Sunday 11 Oct	After MfW	Traidcraft stall in the MH
Friday 16 Oct	4pm	Meditation Group meeting on zoom.

October 2 to 11 is Quaker Week with Oct 4 being World Quaker Day. On Oct 4 you can if you wish join online worship with Quakers all over the world. For details go to <http://www.worldquakerday.org/resources>

## COLLECTION FOR SEPT/OCTOBER



RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL strives to be a leading educational institution in the Palestinian community. The Lower and Upper Schools were founded in 1869 and 1901 respectively.

As a non-profit institution, Ramallah Friends School relies on charitable contributions to fund their student financial aid program, teacher salaries, educational projects, and the maintenance of school facilities. Without this support, they would simply not be able to meet budgetary demands or alleviate growing financial insecurities. Dependence on the donor community is high as a result of economic constraints on parents dealing with military occupation and an ongoing economic crisis.

Your help will make a positive difference in the lives of Palestinian students by keeping educational opportunities at the Friends School available to all. Since 1869, the Ramallah Friends School has been serving the Palestinian community by providing high academic standards, while advocating key Quaker principals of tolerance, diversity, and respect. We believe that no child should be denied access to education due to an inability to pay.

To donate online: <https://www.rfs.edu.ps/en/page/giving?p=giving>

Or make cheque payable to Quaker International Educational Trust (QuiET), noting "Ramallah Friends School" on the back, and mail to: Quaker International Educational Trust, 5 Dene Terrace West, Wylam, Northumberland, NE41 8AZ

For Gift Aid, please send your address and specify Gift Aid with your donation.

Contact Averil Armstrong at [treasurer@quietcharity.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@quietcharity.co.uk) for more information on giving in Great Britain

## READ ABOUT LOCAL XR ACTIVITY

*Sarah Freeman writes:* I am more aware than I have ever been before that Friends have widely varying views about social issues that affect us all. Brexit, the pandemic and above all climate change challenge our relations with one another. It is hard to justify my membership of Extinction Rebellion (XR) to our local Quakers when I know that nonviolent direct action is a controversial topic among us. Being diffident in some ways, I am reluctant to provoke Friends by insisting on your hearing me. But I believe that basically we all respect the principles of truth, sustainability and simplicity that underpin XR so I would invite you to read an objective view.



Many of you will receive Vantage Point which is a small booklet delivered to all our homes. The October issue delivered this week has an article by Phil Kemp about 'Extinction Rebellion' and it is written by the journalist in such a way that there is no emotional charge nor bias. It is friendly, informative and engaging. It covers three pages of the magazine page 12, 14 and 16. If you don't receive the magazine you can also view it online and the following link takes you straight to this month's edition <https://online.fliphtml5.com/clcms/qxwu/#p=1>

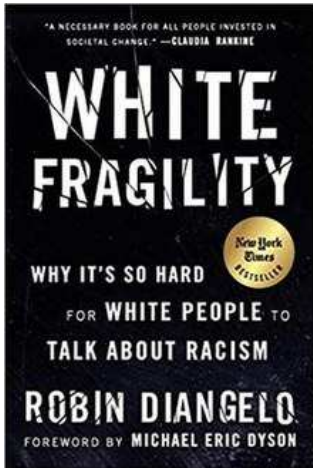
Do get back to me if you would like to know more about my involvement in XR and that of other Quakers.

## AN ECO-TIP



When interviewed on BBC News after his very successful foray into Instagram to spread his urgent message arising from his concern about the state of our planet, David Attenborough was asked for his advice on what individuals could best do to help save the planet. His reply – **DON'T WASTE!** He enlarged a bit on what not to waste – food, electricity etc – but it was clear you shouldn't waste anything, and think carefully about how to minimise your use of the planet's resources.

## 'WHITE FRAGILITY' BY ROBIN DIANGELO



Following on from our study group on racism (see September Grapevine) I have borrowed from Lesley Hunka, and read, *White Fragility*. This is one of the books recommended by Bonnie Gibberd, a 15-year old black Quaker girl from Exeter Meeting, in her article in *the Friend* of 26<sup>th</sup> June.

It has led me to completely overhaul my understanding of racism. Robin Diangelo writes in a very accessible style. She is a youngish white American woman from a financially poor background, who now leads seminars on diversity in the workplace often with a black co-leader. In the course of her work she has come to realise '*why it is so hard for white people to talk about racism*' – the subtitle of the book.

Racially motivated oppressive actions by one individual towards another is generally regarded as bad behaviour, but, the author has concluded, the real problem for black people is the underlying institutionalized framework which gives privilege to white people and is constantly reinforced throughout society. Most white people are unaware of this and would be horrified to know that they are unwittingly supporting a racist society. Robin Diangelo gives convincing explanations backed up by examples from her own experience.

It would seem that to tackle racism we need to do a lot more than 'be nice' to black people we meet. We need to address the underlying causes of racism from many angles while accepting that unfortunately we are all part of the problem. This is where the title of the book comes from – the reluctance of white people to recognise this, so that they react defensively if 'accused' of being racist.

Please contact Lesley if you want to borrow this or any other of the books that were listed in the September Grapevine

Anne Brewer

## SHORTHAND

This is a poem by a Quaker, Rosemary May Wells, from her book *Wells of Thought*, published in 2019 by Sarsen Press. It was read in ministry and several Friends have asked to have a copy, so your editor has consulted the author and she is very happy for it to be put in the Grapevine.

The word 'God' is a kind of shorthand,  
Not for an external being  
Who looks on and manipulates, saying  
'You and you and you  
Will do this, that or the other.'  
But 'God' is a kind of shorthand  
For an inner reality of love  
To which we all belong  
By virtue of our humanity.

We are drawn to each other –  
Those who seek, those who are finding,  
Those who have something to give each other –  
We are drawn to each other  
Through accidents, through coincidences,  
Through deliberate search,  
To a love that binds us together  
Which in shorthand we call 'God'.

Worship is the acknowledgement of this love –  
Particular and universal.  
Service is our response.

## MESSAGE FROM CATHERINE CARR

To let all at the meeting know my news. John and I are moving away from Surrey to Devon in the near future. I come from that area and have family in the area, we visit there a lot and John loves long distance walking on Dartmoor.

I first came to Dorking Meeting when my youngest child, Melanie was 4 years old and she is now 30, living in Wellington, New Zealand and getting into animal conservation with great enthusiasm.

I will miss the Meeting and the friends I have made there and will be returning at times I am sure.

## OUR FIRST BLENDED MEETING

*Geoff Squire shares his impressions:* On September 27<sup>th</sup>, three Sundays after the Meeting House was once again open, seven of us assembled for a blended Meeting for Worship. We were eager to see how this would work after much time, effort and expertise had been used to make it possible.

We sat well apart and masked with windows and doors open and were more conscious of the traffic outside than we were of the unusual sight of the screen. It is placed in a raised position facing down the Meeting Room toward the notice board at the far end. With the bi-parting screen open we could, once again, appreciate what a large hall we have at our disposal. Judy J sat close to the equipment to ensure there were no snags and, to her great credit, there were none.

It took only a moment for us to settle and centre down and we were perhaps somewhat surprised when a voice was heard with no one standing. It was, of course, the inconspicuous loudspeaker on the central table bringing us the first ministry from our zooming fellow worshippers, a reminder that we were not alone! After deep silence, others rose and drew attention to the resilience of Quakers over the years, particularly of local Friends, and how we should try to emulate this to see us through the current difficulties. We were reminded of the love that binds us whilst unable to be together, and of the need for patience until we are able to resume our unfettered gatherings. There was much to dwell on.



After joys, sorrows and notices we wound our way through the Small Hall to chat in the garden, mask free and socially distanced and we very much enjoyed each other's company and some refreshment.

*Anne Brewer shares her impressions:* I was one of the 18 Friends on the zoom side of the blended meeting. After the shared part of our meeting, while those in the meeting house chatted in the garden, we chatted on zoom, and agreed it had been lovely to be able to see the meeting room in the meeting house on our screens and hear ministry from the Friends there, although this was sometimes difficult for those with less than perfect hearing. Judy will consider possibilities for overcoming this problem.

I know some Friends wonder why those on zoom are not returning to the Meeting House now it is open and covid-safe. However, those with temporary or permanent mobility problems, health problems, or who live at a distance making travel an environmental negative (or impossible for our Friend who lives in Sweden!) find zoom a blessing which enables them to take part in a meeting for worship which feels loving and surprisingly gathered.

*In Su Johnston's words about our zoom meetings for worship:* Ministry has been rich and a real loving and thoughtful support. Friends who are isolated are asked how they are, individually, and our news – unremarkable as it may be – makes us all part of one-another. We always remember Friends who are worshipping in other places and feel the love and the individuality that binds us lovingly together.