



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

Editor:

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## MEETING FOR WORSHIP in MEETING HOUSE GARDEN

Starting on Sunday 23 August and Wednesday 26 August the Meeting House garden will be officially open for Meeting for Worship for up to 17 Friends on Sundays and Wednesdays. The risk assessment has been approved by AM Trustees and the opening approved at a special business meeting for Dorking Friends.

Fortunately, the weather was kind on 23 August and 5 Friends enjoyed a wonderful meeting for worship.

There are some regulations to observe as follows:

- Enter the garden by the gate nearest the Meeting House and leave by the second gate near the top wall of the garden.
- Everyone should clean their hands with sanitiser on entering the garden – there is a supply in the garden shed
- Social distancing of 2 metres must be observed by individuals or bubbles – the benches and chairs are spaced accordingly. Bubbles/couples/family units may sit together on the same bench. There are markers to indicate where to place chairs from the shed. (See photo for layout)
- Current government regulations encourage you to wear a face mask.
- The Meeting House is closed – there are toilets in Waitrose if required.
- 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 in the garden providing they do not share with each other.



To ensure that the garden remains suitable for worship we are obliged to close the area to other visitors and there are notices in place on the gates to explain this to the public.

## DIARY

**Sunday meeting for worship (10.30 to 11.30 am)** Friends can now meet for worship in the garden. Meetings on Zoom will continue while needed – contact [anne.brewer43@gmail.com](mailto:anne.brewer43@gmail.com). Once the Meeting House re-opens (see next page) blended online and face to face meetings will take place so that we can all see and hear each other.

**Wednesday Meeting for Worship (1.45 to 2.15 pm)** Friends can now meet in the garden, bringing lunch to eat afterwards if they wish – see above

**Sunday Children's Meeting** on zoom will resume on 6 September. Contact [alison.carlier@icloud.com](mailto:alison.carlier@icloud.com)

Sunday 6 Sept	2.00 – approx. 3.30 pm	Prep Meeting on zoom. Link to be circulated
Monday 7 Sept	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session for those in need.
Tues 8 Sept	2.30 – 4.00 pm	Online seminar re revising QF&P 'boldly' – details <a href="http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/revising-qfp">www.woodbrooke.org.uk/revising-qfp</a>
Saturday 12 Sept	2.00 – approx. 3.30 pm	Area Business Meeting on zoom
Friday 18 Sept	Meditation Group meeting	Contact <a href="mailto:catherinemcarr15@gmail.com">catherinemcarr15@gmail.com</a> for details
Sunday 20 Sept	Enquirer's meeting	Contact <a href="mailto:anne.brewer43@gmail.com">anne.brewer43@gmail.com</a> for details
Saturday 26 Sept	10.00 – 12.30	Regional Meeting Online – <i>Maintaining relations in challenging times.</i> <a href="mailto:alistair.heslop@redmantle.net">alistair.heslop@redmantle.net</a>

## RE-OPENING OF MEETING HOUSE

The situation regarding the re-opening of the Meeting House is being reviewed. The risk assessment, agreed by Friends at a special meeting on July 16, is being updated and will be submitted to AM Trustees as soon as possible. Once approved by Trustees we will have a special business meeting to agree whether or not the Meeting House can now re-open. If the timing is right this could be part of the agenda for Preparative Meeting on 6 September, which will be held on zoom starting at 2pm.

## MEETING HOUSE GARDEN NOTES

It is two months since the last notes appeared and the circumstances which prevailed then are not much changed, we still need to be very cautious and observe Government Guidelines. But, in addition, it has been so very warm that all shrubs and flowers have suffered or gone over earlier than usual this year.



The sycamore tree and damaged wall

We have been compelled to attend to the fabric of the garden rather than the plants and, in particular, address a major issue, a matter of safety, which arose in the garden of the MH Cottage. A sycamore tree had established itself within the structure of our boundary wall, causing the wall to disintegrate and collapse down a bank, endangering people on the path below. Surveyors declared the tree should be removed as soon as possible, the wall dismantled and then rebuilt using as much of the original masonry as could be saved.

The arrangements to do this were complicated, not least by the fact that four telephone cables went through the tree and were stretched tight by the expanding branches. The cables had to be moved clear before anything could be done. We gained the approval of the local Conservation Officer, the landlord of the area beyond our boundary (the car park on South Street), the managers of the car park (together with their willingness to vacate the required parking bays for the tree surgeons machinery) and of our neighbours in Victoria Terrace! With everything in place, the sycamore has now been carefully reduced and the threat of the wall being pushed apart eliminated. The remaining work has not yet been scheduled.



Starting work from the car park side of the wall



Sycamore nearly gone



The size of the trunk!

Meanwhile, Mike our gardener has continued to tend to regular trimming and grass cutting. Although mowing has not been a regular necessity in the dry weather, it is now hampered by markers on the lawn to indicate two metres spacing for individual seats between the four benches. We are grateful to Mike who has continued to work, taking all the necessary precautions.

## BEING MINDFUL OF THE AIR WE BREATHE



The Quality of our air improved at the beginning of Lockdown but is gradually deteriorating again as more and more traffic piles back on the roads again.

A group of Dorking Extinction Rebellion members and sympathetic parents and children gathered in the rain last Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August. We met without disrupting traffic but rather informing traffic at Dorking's cockerel roundabout, which is the junction of the A24 and 25, in order to protest about the danger of our toxic air. Two of our protest group were Quakers and both of us (myself and Lucy) are very grateful to Ian who has provided an organising presence for all and has been keeping up with local media as well.

Encouraged by Ian, several of us have been measuring the amount of various chemical fumes and particles in the atmosphere for one week every month since April. The measurements take place for 7 days, 3 times a day. This is using a clever little app that you can download for free to your mobile phone. While it may not be high-end scientific equipment it is nevertheless opening up access for the ordinary person to find out more about their everyday environment. For more info please contact me, (although I won't be able to give you the detailed scientific insight).

The above photo (All permissions given) shows just how dense our traffic is, not even rush hour but about 10.45am in the morning.

Sarah Freeman

## REMEMBERING GWYNEDD



Gwynedd Merrett died peacefully in Bath hospital surrounded by her large family on Thursday 20 August, aged 90. Gwynedd trained as a nurse in London. Along with her husband John, she became a member of Dorking Meeting in 1975. Sadly, John died in 1984 leaving Gwynedd and their 5 children. A regular motherly presence at Sunday and Wednesday Meetings for Worship, Gwynedd served as an overseer for several years and is remembered by Friends for her love of classical music and her beautiful garden. She moved down to Somerset in 2006 to be near her family but unable to find a nearby Quaker Meeting she felt comfortable with, remained a member of Dorking Meeting

enjoying reading the Grapevine and keeping in touch by letters and phone calls.



## FEELING CREATIVE?

The Book of Discipline Revision Committee is seeking guidance and inspiration for its work, in the form of drawings and paintings, and words, both written and spoken. They would love to hear from Friends.

See <https://padlet.com/bdrc/OpenToNewLight> for examples of other Friends contributions.

Post creative contributions directly on to [www.padlet.com/bdrc/opentonewlight](http://www.padlet.com/bdrc/opentonewlight)

Email them to [opentonewlight@quaker.org.uk](mailto:opentonewlight@quaker.org.uk)

Or Send them via snailmail to Quakers in Britain, Book of Discipline Revision Committee (Open to New Light), 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

## STUDY GROUP ON RACISM

On Monday 10 August eight Friends enjoyed a challenging discussion on our experiences and feelings about racial discrimination. All of us felt racism was wrong but recognised that we had underlying prejudices, probably as a result of processing difference and also lifelong exposure to racist language and literature. The concept of ‘white privilege’ was raised and is something most of us had not taken on board. We were keen to find out what we as individuals and perhaps as a Meeting could do to help reduce racist attitudes. First, we thought it necessary to understand the issue especially from the black perspective and Lesley as our librarian has obtained some books recommended in the article in the *Friend* (26/06/20) by Bonnie Gibberd (a 15 year -old black Quaker). If you would like to borrow any of the following please contact Lesley – 01372 463158 or [lesleyhunika@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyhunika@gmail.com) and she will post it to you.

- *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F Saad
- *Women, Race and Class* by Angela Y Davis
- *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- *A Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela – Lesley has obtained a children’s version of this too.

If you prefer visual input then here are some films, also recommended by Bonnie and available on DVD or Netflix for example:

*When They See Us; Racial Wealth Gap; 13<sup>th</sup>; Who Killed Malcom X?; 12 Years a Slave; The Kalief Browder Story; Dear White People; Hidden Figures* (I’ve watched this one and found it very good – interesting and well done); *Roots; The Hate U Give; A United Kingdom; The Help; Race.*

Anne Brewer

## THE WEATHER

Recent weather extremes in the UK and globally are very worrying evidence of the continuing impact of climate change. I’m sure Friends are all doing their best but perhaps the following extract from an article in the A Rocha UK news by Andy Lester, A Rocha UK Head of Conservation, will help spur us to extra effort. (A Rocha UK (<https://arocha.org.uk/>) is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to mobilising Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.)



*... while the reports of extreme heat in the Arctic were more complicated than some headlines presented, we should be deeply concerned by the direction of travel and the speed at which our poles are warming and melting. Much faster international action is required to avert runaway climate change. As the UK prepares to host the delayed UN climate negotiations, COP26, in 2021, the British government has a heavy responsibility to galvanise action commensurate with the climate emergency. Major, visible and persistent*

*British public support for this is essential.*

Anne Brewer