



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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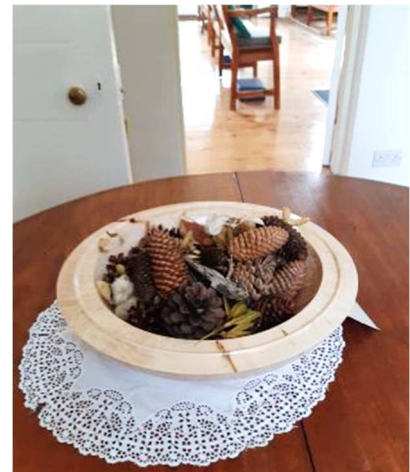
Photo of the month! On the table in the Meeting House lobby – the wooden bowl carved by Geoff Squire.



Inscription on the base:

'All that remains of the boundary wall sycamore. Geoff.'

(Photos by Sarah Freeman)



DIARY

On Sundays – Meeting for Worship (10.30 to 11.30 am) blended meeting in Meeting House and on Zoom.

On Sundays – Meeting for Worship for parents (9.00 – 9.30 pm) on Zoom

On Wednesdays – Meeting for Worship (12.45 to 1.15 pm) in the Meeting House.

Mon 5 April	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session for those in need. On Zoom if wished. Contact Anne (01306 500187) for link or to ask to be upheld.
Fri 9 April	3.30 – 5.00 pm approx.	Meditation and Spiritual Development Group meeting on Zoom – Contact Romy Elias for Zoom link.
Sun 11 April	2.00 – 2.30 pm approx.	Meeting on Zoom to discuss ideas for study group – see page 2.

Sunday Children's Meeting on Zoom. Contact alison.carlier@icloud.com or katy_nunn@yahoo.co.uk

NB. Please see page 4 for some guidance on ministering in blended meetings to enable good sound reception in both directions.

A reminder that the March/April Collection is for

QUAKER SOCIAL ACTION and QUAKER HOMELESS ACTION
Two for the price of one!



See March Grapevine for details of this charity's work.

You can send a cheque payable to Quaker Social Action to 17 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PJ. If you prefer to pay online, their website will tell you how to do so.

STUDY GROUP/ENQUIRER'S MEETINGS



At our enquirer's meetings we have been reading sections of QF&P and then discussing them and sharing relevant experiences. Sarah and I are wondering if Friends would like us to arrange for this to be open to everyone, enquirers and long-standing Friends – a sort of study group on QF&P. Initially it would probably have to be on Zoom but hopefully we will be able to meet in person at the Meeting House before too long.

I am arranging a short zoom session on Sunday 11 April at 2pm for the enquirers and any other Friends who would like to discuss this idea, if agreed then when and how frequent it could be (monthly/bi-monthly?) and maybe offer help in some way. The link will be circulated a few days before the date.

Anne Brewer for Elders

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR LIFE IN 2030?

Sarah Freeman has offered the following information she has received about joining other concerned Surrey citizens to discuss a vision for the future at an online People's Assembly on **22 April at 8pm**.

'How do you want things to be here in Dorking, in Mole Valley, in this area of East Surrey – 10 years from now?

Once the local elections are done in early May, the new or renewed councillors will be focussing on how they can deliver enough of their manifesto pledges to get re-elected next time around. At district, county and national level, politics is dictated by the election cycle. Yet our most intractable problems – whether economic, social or environmental – cannot be addressed with short-term, election cycle dependent policies.



Photo from <https://peoplesassemblysurrey.org/>

To help our local leaders raise their sights, we are planning a Visioning exercise. A pre-election, bottom-up exercise in participatory democracy addressing the question: *How do you want East Surrey to be in 2030?*

At the moment 'we' are members of the Dorking and Reigate & Redhill XR groups, but this is not seen as an XR event and we've been reaching out and are forming alliances with other organisations and individuals seeking change – whether in the local economy, community, education, culture, air quality and so on; others who are as frustrated as we are by the lack of ambition from local government.

As Citizens' Assemblies around the world have invariably demonstrated, 'the people' can come together to agree far more radical action than the authorities ever thought would be acceptable to them. We want to demonstrate this - this willingness to get behind more ambitious plans - to our local government, through an online People's Assembly held on the evening of 22 April, two weeks before the election.

To find out more, please visit peoplesassemblysurrey.org and then register your intention of attending and contributing to the vision.'

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Your Elders and Overseers have been discussing what social gatherings we might be able to organise as we come out of lockdown. The following ideas were mooted – note that outdoor occasions in person will be socially distanced according to the current official guidelines at the time.



- Garden party in July, August or September depending on weather and Covid situation.
- Quiz as a blended meeting if possible, otherwise on Zoom, in May or June.
- A long walk together in June or July.

Please get in touch with an Elder or Overseer with your thoughts on these suggestions, any other ideas and offers of help!

Your Es and Os: Anne Brewer, Alison Carlier, Betty Chamberlain, Jan Elias, Sally Elias, Sarah Freeman

Some of you won't have seen Betty or the Meeting House lately, so I've included a photo of her in the Meeting House by the daffodils she brought from her garden! Photo taken by Sarah.

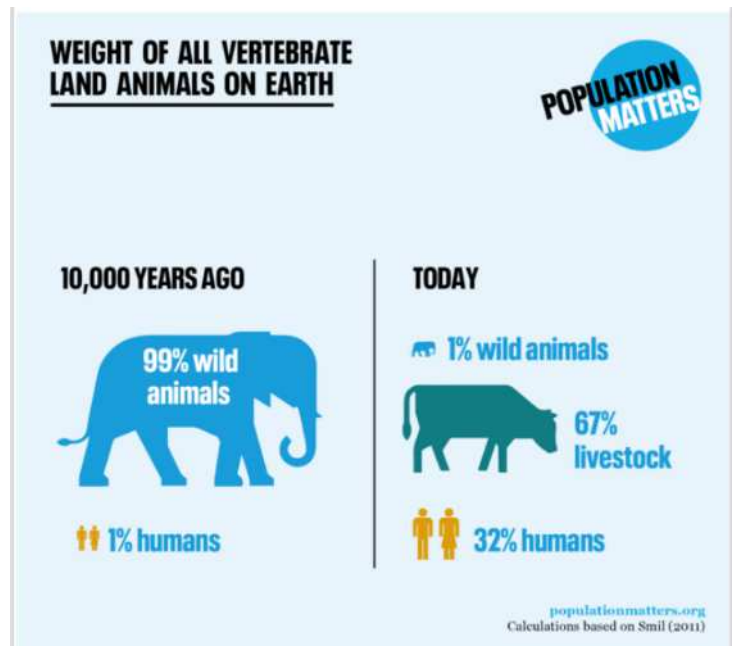
THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

QCOP (Quaker Concern over Population) have sent the Meeting an interesting and informative booklet titled 'Difficult Questions about Population' by Roger Plenty and other Quakers. You can download it at <http://qcop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/difficultquestions.pdf> or ask Anne Brewer to borrow the Meeting's copy. Some issues covered:

- Surely Nature can be trusted to solve the problem?
- Isn't it a question of Consumption rather than Population?
- Is concern over population racist?
- How can we possibly reduce the current population to 2 billion?
- Plus, comment on the greenest action you can take, depopulation, how Bangladesh reduced its birth rate and how the empowerment of women is fundamental to the solution, and much more.

There are lots of informative graphics like the one I have copied.

Anne Brewer



MOLE VALLEY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

I represent the Quaker Meeting on this forum, and we had an online meeting on 18 March. You probably know that MVDC declared a Climate Emergency, but they have now also produced a Climate Strategy and an Action Plan for 2021 to 2022. They are planning lots of mostly good things – if you would like to see copies of the papers then ask me and I can email or post them to you. Another useful item is the Going Green section on their website – see <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/home/community/climate-change-sustainability/going-green> for useful tips and information.

Anne Brewer

A FEW POINTERS ABOUT MINISTERING IN BLENDED MEETING:

Speak close to the microphone. By close, I mean, as close as you would be to another person in normal conversation, if you want to be heard and understood by them. So, in the case of those using laptops or tablets at home, where the microphone is normally located close to the camera in the screen bezel, that means just basically maintain the same distance from the screen as you would when typing (up to about 2, 2.5 feet).

In the Meeting House, we have a conference speakerphone. These are designed to pick up sounds from all around the room - therefore, the range is a bit wider than your normal microphone. However, as they are designed for conference rooms, not conference halls, they still require the speaker to be in a range of about six-seven feet from the microphone, so those seated on the back benches would be better served if they move up to the level of the front benches if/when they wish to speak.

Both at home, in front of the laptop (or tablet) and in the meeting house, we need to behave as if we were talking to a friend who is a bit hard of hearing – so remove the mask when speaking, enunciate clearly, speak without hurrying, and crucially, do not turn away. If we turn away, we project our voice sideways, and the microphone will not pick it up, or it will be much weakened, and our hard of hearing friend will not be able to hear us clearly.

I hope that all this will help us hear each other and communicate with each other more effectively.

Judy Johnson

A LOVELY MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MEETING

in the form of a poster which has been fixed up in the Meeting House.

