



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

Editor: Anne Brewer
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There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Wishing all readers a peaceful and joyful Christmas season, and all the best for people and planet in 2022.

(From a painting by Anne of a photo by Catherine Brewer)

DIARY

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

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

Third Sunday 10.30 am Children’s Meeting on Zoom. lucyjane73@hotmail.com or katy_nunn@yahoo.co.uk

I don’t plan to produce a January Grapevine, so the available January dates are added to this diary.

Sat 4 Dec	2.00 – 3.00 pm	Special Business meeting to discuss insulation of MH. Details and Zoom link will be circulated. See page 4 for summary of details.
Sun 5 Dec	After MfW	Special Meeting - see page 2
Mon 6 Dec	7.00 – 8.15 pm	Study group on ‘Doughnut Economics’ - zoom link from Anne Brewer
Mon 6 Dec	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session - on Zoom if liked– link from Anne Brewer
Fri 10 Dec	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development. Zoom link from Romy.
Sun 12 Dec	After MfW	Traidcraft stall in MH
Sat 25 Dec	10.30 – 11.00 am	Christmas Day Meeting for Worship on Zoom. Link will be circulated near the date.
Wed 29 Dec	10.00 am	Meeting with/for Young Friends. See below.
2022		
Mon 3 Jan	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session - on Zoom if liked– link from Anne Brewer
Sat 15 Jan	tbc	Area Business Meeting at Ifield or on Zoom depending on circumstances at the time.

MESSAGE FROM CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE

We are planning a meeting in the woods, on the Nower in Dorking, on the **29th of December at 10am** for the children to play together and do a litter pick. We would be delighted if any other adult Quakers wanted to join us. Please contact Lottie, Lucy or Katy for the exact location.

THE DECEMBER COLLECTION chosen by our Young Friends CENTREPOINT CHRISTMAS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

From the website - <https://centrepoin.org.uk/xmas/> :

Centrepoin is the UK's leading youth homelessness charity. Together with our partners, we support more than 14,000 homeless young people each year. We provide accommodation, mental health support and life skills to get vulnerable young people back into education, training and employment. We want to end youth homelessness in the UK.



This is no place for a young person to spend Christmas

This Christmas, far too many vulnerable young people will be forced to sleep in places not fit for them – nor anyone. We know from our own research that homeless young people face violence and abuse, right here on our streets. Can you take urgent action, and help provide a young person with a warm bed? Can you provide safety this year?

You can donate through the website or over the phone via their donation line on 0800 23 23 20.

REMEMBERING OLD FRIENDS

I expect several of you will remember Hilda Coupe – see photo. Her husband, Ray, died this year and he had asked for his ashes to be scattered in the Meeting House garden where Hilda's were scattered in 2005. A Hamamelis was planted on the site but unfortunately it has died – they do not like alkaline soil and ashes are very alkaline. The family have agreed to have a forsythia instead as this plant likes alkaline soil.

Observant Friends may have noticed there is a potted forsythia ready and waiting in the garden for the scattering of ashes, which is expected to take place in the early spring.



Hilda (on corner of bench) with Nancy Elias and Rachel Fardon at a Friendly Sharing Day August 2001

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

Good News from the Wednesday Meeting, which is now back to strength with from 5 to 11 Friends attending every week for the ½ hour Meeting for Worship followed by a provided lunch. Four of those who attend take it in turns to provide the home-made soup, cheese, bread and fruit, and Friends present contribute a donation for the lunch. So far, since returning to this pattern, they have raised £200, which they have decided to contribute to the Dorking Food Bank.

SPECIAL MEETING SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER

Su Johnston writes: There will be a meeting on 5th December, straight after Meeting for Worship, to discuss ways of running the Meeting's "Functions" so we can go on having a Quaker Meeting here in Dorking, in 2022. Eight Friends, who have said they are willing to think and act on this matter, will be meeting to give their thoughts about it. A report to Friends will follow.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Lunch will once again be offered on Christmas Day at the Christian Centre.
Book beforehand with manager Jeanette Masters on 01306 886830.
£5 donation for traditional turkey roast (vegetarian option available).

SOME FEEDBACK FROM COP26

Anne Brewer writes:

Members of Meeting took part in several ways in trying to head the COP26 process in the right direction. Sarah spent 2 weeks in Glasgow organising the XR Earth Vigil (see photo), Anne and Colin and Sue and Nigel joined the Global Day of Action march in London, and 10 Friends joined on Zoom our special upholding prayer session for COP26 on November 8th.

The outcome of COP26 was certainly not ideal but there were some positive aspects as highlighted in this contribution from Sarah.



Squinty Bridge XR Earth Vigil November 2nd 2021

Sarah Freeman writes:

The following statement was forwarded by someone called 'Loo' to the group at COP that is called XR Earth Vigil. It refers to many different groups that gathered at the Blue Zone during the day, but XR Earth Vigil were the group who spent from 11am to evening at the gates. I read parts of it in ministry last Sunday – this is the complete statement.

'I have a good friend whose company advises governments worldwide on what their policies should be in terms of protecting and conservation of the oceans.

We met last night, and she told me a little of hers and her colleagues' reflection on COP26.

Firstly, that she and so many others working in the blue and green zones were often moved to tears to come out of an incredibly hard day, to be met by a samba band, people singing, a candlelit vigil, by people holding banners and placards.

She said that having been to a great many COPs, there had never before been this level of protest and that it shouldn't be underestimated what a difference it had made. The people on the streets who had travelled far and wide to show how much they cared, ensured there was much more media coverage. The media coverage ultimately puts pressure on governments and their negotiators. She felt the gains that were made were influenced by this.

Yes, ultimately COP26 failed but within and outside the zones the temperature changed.

I think so many of those who advocate daily for us, for life on earth, feel they've been shouting into a void, to governments who are utterly invested in business as usual and a population who for the most part don't seem to care. There is a palpable sea change now and in amongst all the doom and gloom that is something to celebrate.

My friend wanted me to thank as many of the protesters as I could reach who went to Glasgow.

The fight goes on, has barely started, but last night's conversation lifted me. I know people who think and say there's no point in protesting, I always reply with there's absolutely no point in not.

With considerable love and rage

Xxxxx'

SUMMARY OF CENTRAL HEATING WORKING PARTY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The group working on heating the Meeting House has looked into ways to insulate the building but still allow sufficient ventilation to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid 19. The aim is to reduce our heating bills as much as possible and, importantly, to reduce our carbon footprint.

We have looked at the following possibilities:

- More Insulation in the Attic

This is the most effective way to reduce heat loss but our attic is difficult to access, so we recommend further insulation is considered in conjunction with work that is required on the screen and its chains, which can only be accessed in the attic. We have been advised against sprayed insulation due to concerns about chemical composition and sustainability. We would obtain quotes for loose fill systems (granular or blanket) when insulation and screen maintenance can be done together.

- Draught-proofing the 3 External Double Doors

Applying more draught proofing is a low-cost DIY job which we would undertake ourselves. Curtains in front of the double doors to be drawn when the weather is particularly cold and draughty, would be a fire hazard.

- Insulating the 7 Large and 4 Small Sash Windows

Double glazing our sash windows would be expensive (of the order of £29,000 including VAT) and unlikely to be acceptable in our Conservation Area. Secondary glazing would be acceptable. Black Knight Secondary Glazing Ltd offer two systems, both allowing access to the cords of the large sash windows, which open the upper sashes for ventilation. The system we recommend comprises two vertical sliding units for each window which tilt open for cleaning. The small sash windows would have similar vertical sliding units which, as at present, need no cords for opening them. Total cost would be around £9500 including VAT.

Two of the large sash windows need refurbishing to make them operatable whether secondary glazing is then installed or not. Cost probably around £1000 including VAT.

- Kitchen and Hirers' Lobby windows

These three windows can be replaced with double glazed units in wooden frames with openings as at present. Cost of the order of £5200 including VAT

- Quiet Room Ventilation

There are 5 vents in the Quiet Room, needed when a boiler was situated in the room. Closing the wall vents has been compromised by overpainting. We recommend blocking two of the wall vents – cost £180 inc VAT

We ask Meeting to approve the following:

1. Defer insulation of the attic until work on the screen is planned.
2. Further draught proof the external double doors as required
3. Accept the quotation to put secondary glazing on sash windows after refurbishing has been carried out where necessary.
4. Accept the quotation to double glaze the kitchen and hirers' lobby windows.
5. Block two wall vents in the Quiet Room.

SOME CLOSING WORDS FROM RUMI'S 'THE HIDDEN MUSIC'

First, lay down your head
then one by one
let go of all distractions.
Embrace the Light and let it guide you
beyond the winds of desire.

There you will find a spring and
nourished by its sweet waters
like a tree you will bear fruit forever.