



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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Printing and Distribution: Lesley Hunka and Tara Craig

January 2021

No. 553

Scattered throughout this Grapevine are **candles drawn by our children** (Joe, Dorabella, Imogen, Ewan and Thomas). Light to guide us forward to meet the challenges of 2021.



DIARY

If the regulations change, Friends will be informed by email or phone, but meanwhile the Meeting House can be open for Meeting for Worship. However, while we are in tier 4, socialising afterwards is not permitted.

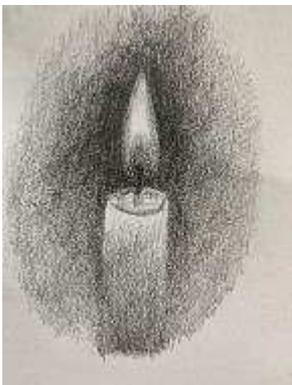
On Sundays – Meeting for Worship (10.30 to 11.30 am) in the Meeting House and on Zoom – blended meetings will resume when upgraded technology enables the two parts of the Meeting to hear each other clearly.

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

Mon 4 Jan	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session for those in need. On Zoom or in own home.
Sun 10 Jan		Prep Meeting – postponed -see below
Fri 15 Jan	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development Group meeting on Zoom – contact Romy Elias for Zoom link.
Sat 16 Jan	from 1.40 pm	ABM on Zoom – link to be circulated. See page 2.
Sun 17 Jan	from 1.30pm	Study group on Simpler Meetings, postponed – see page 2
Sat 30 Jan	10.30 – 12.45	Regional Meeting. On Zoom. <i>Simpler Meetings</i> – see attached leaflet

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

PREPARATIVE MEETING – postponed



We had hoped to hold PM as a blended meeting; however, your Elders have decided after consultation with Trustees and others, that this would be against the spirit of the government regulations, especially in view of the worsening effect of the pandemic. We will need to hold a PM by March at the latest and hope that by then all members who would like to be involved in decisions made by the Meeting, will be able to be involved.

There were 3 nominations ready to be brought to the January PM, as follows: Lucy Barford – Second Assistant Clerk, Sophie Dodgeon – Nominations Committee, and Geoff Squire – Safety Officer. These names will be brought to the next PM for confirmation of appointment. Meanwhile we suggest it is acceptable for these Friends to act in these roles as appropriate.

If you think there are some matters that the Meeting should have dealt with at the postponed January PM or you become aware of a matter which needs to be considered before the next PM is arranged, please let Elders know and we will consult with clerks/overseers/other appropriate Friends, on your concerns.

Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman, Elders

AREA BUSINESS MEETING – SATURDAY JANUARY 16

ABM will be on Zoom and the link will be circulated a few days before. You can join the meeting from 1.40 onwards to chat before the Meeting starts at 2.00pm. After the ABM which hopefully will last about 90 minutes there will be the opportunity to chat in breakout rooms for 30 minutes or so if you wish. Details of the agenda will be circulated.

STUDY GROUP on SIMPLER MEETINGS

We have decided to delay the Simpler Meetings study group until mid-March, in conjunction with postponing the local business meeting. This topic will be of great relevance to our future as a local meeting when we need to rethink tasks so as to ensure fewer burdens on our role-holders' shoulders. Here is a link to You Tube introducing a series of other videos exploring this subject. We suggest you watch just one or two or all as you wish, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-S4szqjcsRs&list=PLPeUpt2GsDX6qPX6Ym5q9atwBV7zeXPZZ>

For more preparation there is an entire website on this subject. <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/support-for-meetings/simpler-meetings> Please get in touch with the Elders if you need help or would like to comment.

JAN/FEB COLLECTION is for CLARIDGE HOUSE



Claridge House gardens

From the Claridge House website www.claridgehouse.org.uk/ :

Claridge House, a Retreat Centre, provides a space where people of any faith or none may stay for a while in peace and stillness before returning, rested and renewed, to their everyday lives.

Our Values

To embody in our welcome the Quaker understanding that each person is a unique and precious individual. To provide a friendly, high quality service that nourishes a spirit of well-being in all who cross our threshold. To be mindful of sustainability in the use of our resources.

Claridge House was built in the middle of the 19th century and in 1954 members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) acquired it and opened it to guests looking for rest and renewal. Today, we continue this tradition and also offer courses focussing on health, creativity and spirituality as well as individual or group retreats.

Donations, no matter how small, will help us to enhance the facilities here at Claridge House. For example, we hope to extend the existing terrace across the side of the house and make the garden more wheelchair accessible. Also, we provide a bursary scheme to help those who could not otherwise afford to come to us. Your donation could help enable us to ensure the sustainability of this scheme

Please send cheques to Donations at Claridge House, Claridge House, Dormans Road, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6QH
If you have any queries, please contact Claridge House on 01342 832 150 or email us at welcome@claridgehousequaker.org.uk



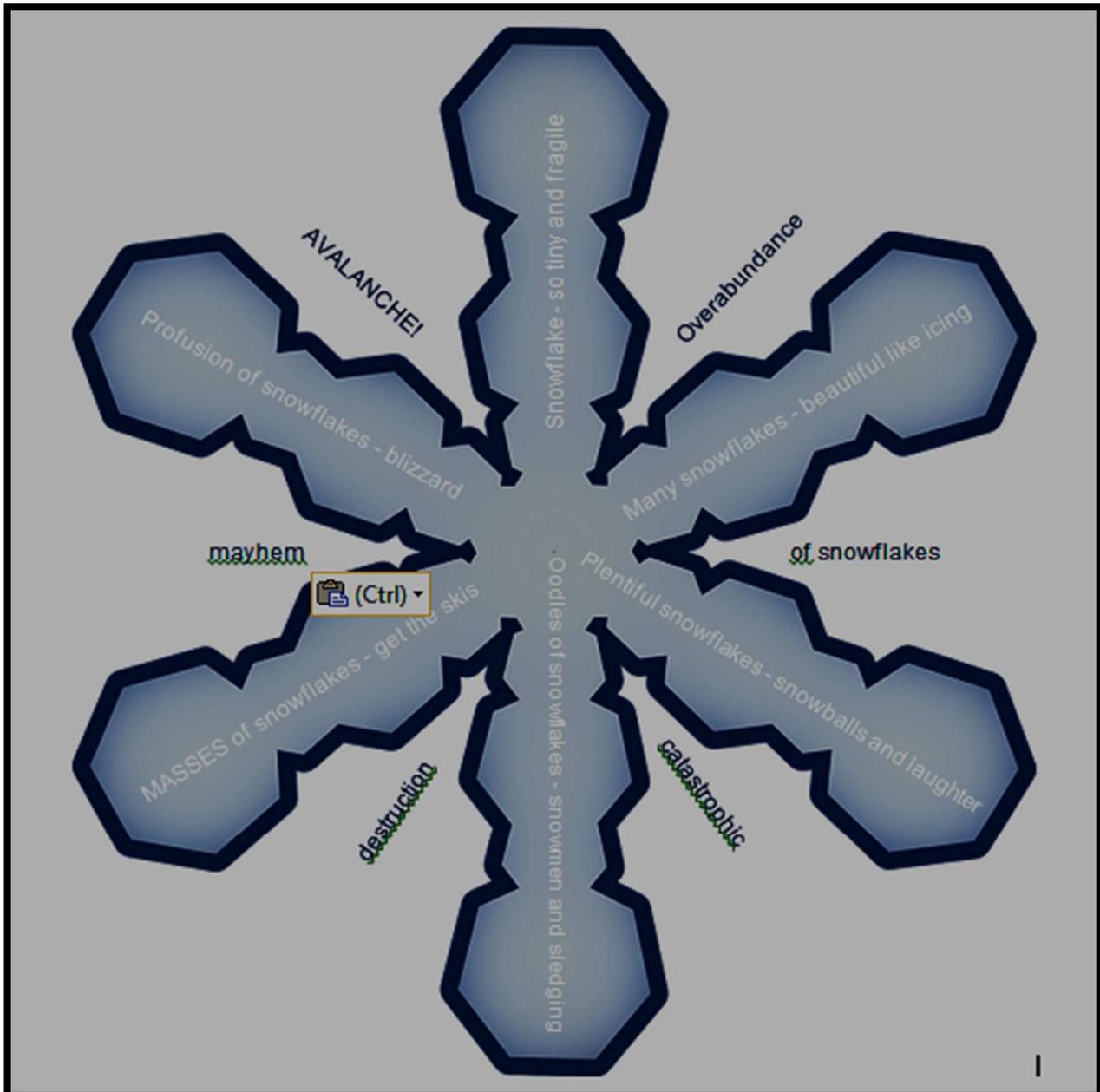
REVIEW OF A LIFE ON OUR PLANET by DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Anne Brewer writes: I think this is an excellent book. It deals openly with the problems that are confronting us and the dire consequences if we fail to act, and then lays out what we need to do, and how it can be done. There is a particular emphasis on the importance of restoring biodiversity and rewilding large areas of the planet. The writing gives both incentives to act and hope for success. This paragraph from the chapter on switching to clean energy gives a flavour of the approach.

Our careless use of fossil fuels has set us the greatest and most urgent challenge we have ever faced. If we do make the transition to renewables at the lightning speed required, humankind will forever look back on this generation with gratitude, for we are the first to truly understand the problem- and the last with a chance to do anything about it. The road to a world powered by carbon-free energy will be a bumpy one, and the next few decades will be challenging for us all. But many working on this problem believe it is possible. We human beings are, above all, the most astonishing problem solvers. We have made difficult journeys before that involve enormous social change throughout our history, and we can do so again.



AVALANCHE – A POEM IN A SNOWFLAKE by THEO BANKS



RICHMOND PARK a poem by Emily Hunka

Although written in 2013, this lovely poem seems relevant to 2020. For those who don't know, Emily is the daughter of our Friends Lesley and Martin Hunka and she is a member of our meeting but lives in London.

The clouds were touched with madness
That almost-winter day filled with bones.
Our ears stung, our cheeks too,
As the knuckles of the trees cracked
Above our heads.

In the copse there were deer.
Spotted flanks huddled
Against the distress of the wind,
A benediction of soft fur, soft eyes,
Hoof-deep in old leaves and new frost.

If you catch one, you said-

Of the few fragile red-gold pages
Writ with yesteryear
Shuddering up there against
The blanched sky-canvas

-You can make a wish.

We both knew we needed wishes that year
And, even though
God is hard to believe in these days,
(All the atrocities, I mean, like holocausts and
childhood death)
And science explains a lot of things,
And magic is so often
A sleight of hand,
We both knew that we believed
In the divinity of leaf-catching.

And so we sprung up on our toes
Laughing.
We offered our brightly knitted palms

To the sky
And chased the little whirlwinds
In which each oracle travelled.

I missed – every one.
But you caught two, and you said
You can have one of mine.
So I took it, held it,
Asked for its blessing.

And then,
When things became dimmer,
When the ice in our nose-tips and our buttocks,
And the promise of scalding tea
Hastened our intention,
Through the condensation of our breath we saw
That the sun had not abandoned us at all
But was waiting
For its moment.

A deep breath, then:
The expression of burnish and gold
A transient chord of white light
At the needlepoint of dusk.
Even as the earth pulled it in without mercy
It still cried out in a voice of love and gentleness

To us.
I closed my fingers around
The leaf in my pocket
Borrowed for
Purposes of hope,
And we set out together
Towards home.

