



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

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July 2021  
 No. 559

## 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.

**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)

After meeting for Worship on Sundays and Wednesdays Friends can enjoy together cups of tea and/or coffee made in the Meeting House kitchen! A notice giving the details of the government regulations around this is displayed on the small hall notice board. You can of course still bring a lunch to eat after Wednesday Meeting if you wish.

Sat 3 July	10.30 am	Meeting for Worship on the Nower for all ages – see page 2.
<b>Sun 4 July</b>	<b>2.30 – 4.00 pm</b>	<b>Preparative Meeting on Zoom. See page 2</b>
Mon 5 July	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session for those in need. In own homes or on Zoom. Contact Anne (01306 500187) for link.
<b>Sat 10 July</b>	<b>2.00 – 4.00 pm</b>	<b>Area Business Meeting on zoom with discussion on Assisted Dying on. See page 3</b>
Fri 9 July	3.30 – 5.00 pm approx.	Meditation and Spiritual Development Group meeting on Zoom – Contact Romy Elias for Zoom link.
Sun 18 July	tbc	Special Meeting to discuss future of Dorking Quaker Meeting if agreed at PM on July 4

Mon 19 July – Sun 8 Aug. **Yearly Meeting Gathering online.** You need to register – see [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym)

## THE JULY COLLECTION is for QUAKER VOLUNTARY ACTION

QVA (<https://qva.org.uk/>) organises working retreats in Britain, Europe and beyond. Volunteers participate in practical projects and reflective sessions that promote personal spiritual development with meaningful engagement in the world. A range of activities may include gardening, renovation, olive harvesting, decorating, sustainability and woodland management.

To donate to QVA:

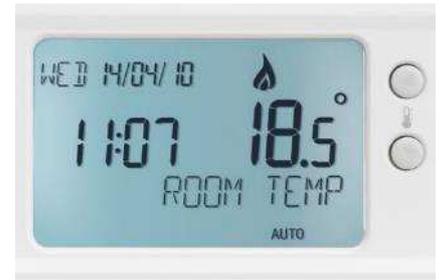
1. Send a cheque payable to Quaker Voluntary Action (not QVA) to: Irena Pearse, 60 Copsewood Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 5DX.
2. Make a donation by bank transfer to Quaker Voluntary Action, Triodos Bank, Sort code 16-58-10, Acc No. 03269501. Include your name in the reference section and send them an email to let them know ([mail@qva.org.uk](mailto:mail@qva.org.uk)).



## SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE HEATING SYSTEM DECISION ...

*Su Johnston writes:* Dear Friends – in our Quaker way, we have seen the way forward for our Meeting, in choosing to repair our gas-fired central heating boiler, and I, as one of the Project Group, certainly see that discernment as a good, if temporary, solution. And I hope that it will indeed be a stop-gap solution, for a couple of reasons which I hope we shall all be thinking about.

Firstly, gas-fired central heating will start to be phased out – over a period of course starting with new-builds, from 2025; to be replaced by ground, air or water source heat pumps. In support of the Canterbury commitment of all Quakers to carbon-free living, this is a good supportive first step by Government, isn't it?



Reading the Doughnut Economics book has certainly woken me up to the possibility of a regenerative approach to our use of resources. I wonder if we could use the cold air produced by the Air-pump for any further purpose? Do come up with ideas!

And what an opportunity for outreach our eventual (I hope) installation will be. The local paper might feature articles on Quakers as ethical actors on their principles, spending their money by preference on renewables, with photos of the installation as it progressed, and of the final operation of the Heat Pumps. We will be backing up Mole Valley District Council on their declared resolve to themselves aim at carbon reduction. Our hirers will appreciate taking part in this evidence that ASHPs are worth having, and I guess we might even “boast” about on the Booking Forms – but perhaps that is a boast too far!

I look forward to walking even more cheerfully over the world, Dorking Meeting being a pattern for what can be done by employing renewable resources.

## ... AND UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The heating system project group met on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> and shared our thoughts on the future of the heating system. We can report that Industraheat are coming to service and repair the gas boiler on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. They will replace the probe, which was the cause of the fault, and hope to replace the thermostat in the ladies' loo area, if they can find an appropriate model. We will keep our fingers crossed that the boiler then keeps going over the next winter period! The question mark over this is the reason we, the project group, did not suggest this as a first option.

The group then agreed to wait until after PM and expected further discussions on the future of the Meeting House, before deciding on what steps, if any, to take next.

Anne Brewer

## PREPARATIVE MEETING SUN 4<sup>th</sup> JULY

On zoom 2.30 – 4.00 pm approx

The agenda has been circulated along with a Paper in Advance about a proposed meeting to share thoughts on the way ahead for Dorking Meeting. Simpler Meetings Group have been thinking about this and if Friends are happy with the idea, they will encourage us all to share our thoughts at the proposed special meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

## MEETING FOR WORSHIP ON THE NOWER

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 10.30am

In case you didn't see the emailed notice, the children and their families invite us all to this outdoor meeting for worship. The site is three minutes' walk from the entrance on the corner of Coldharbour lane and Harrow Road West. Take the middle path that is on the level, (not up or down) and head into the woods. They will be in the clearing on the left. There are logs to sit on, or for those who prefer a folding chair, they will bring a few. Bring umbrellas if it's raining! At the start, we will gather in small groups so that we can hear the children talk about what they value and perhaps some of their experiences of nature.

## OUR QUAKER GARDEN

Dorking Meeting is very fortunate to have a lovely garden, tended for years by many of yourselves, guarded by neighbouring trees and offering oases of chaotic colour. It has been restricted to Quakers during the latest Lockdown and it is now entering its second year of such seclusion. These pictures show only one corner of our grounds. Perhaps these pictures bring a pang of sadness and there is of course a question mark over the future in so many contexts. We are all suffering with some anxiety about the virus, about going back to normal and what society will turn out like in the coming years.



I mention the above because I am quite sure that many people will have had a go-to place to be during the pandemic that will include trees and seasonal flowers, views and a sense of being absorbed and healed by the natural world around them. It may only be the patio at the back of the house or an open window overlooking a garden. But that place will bring some solace and moments of meditation. Can we look forward to gathering together to share such quiet moments in the garden later this summer? Let us hope so – ideas for initial social occasions are welcome. (19<sup>th</sup> July permitting)



And seating? Helen Pope and Jakob, her Swedish partner have been confined within an upstairs flat in Dorking during lockdown and they have been particularly grateful for the use of the garden in Dorking. They are away for the summer at the moment, but Helen was working on the flower beds earlier in the year. And she contributed the teak table and chairs to the meeting from her former home.

We look forward to seeing people coming back soon, maybe just a one-off, either on the odd Sunday or Wednesday, for a social event only or more regularly. Let me know if you need help to get here.

Sarah Freeman

### AREA BUSINESS MEETING SAT 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY

On zoom 2.00 – 4.00 pm approx

The agenda will include a few usual items such as membership, report from Blue Idol LM and Trustees' report but we hope to devote most time to the discussion on Assisted Dying, which will be introduced by our AM Clerk, John Manfield.

John hopes to encourage the use of ABM to explore topics of current interest to Quakers and he has circulated to the West Weald Quakers Google Group a short paper drawing attention to some helpful background to the issue of Assisted Dying. If you are not on the relevant Google Group and would like to see a copy just let me know and I will email or post you one.

Anne Brewer (AM Assistant Clerk)

## MOLE VALLEY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Some Friends may be unaware of the existence of this forum organised by MVDC. Quakers have been attending the forum meetings over the past couple of years and feel that MVDC is making a real effort to reduce their carbon footprint. Lucy Barford attended the latest meeting in June and her summary of the business covered will give you an idea of the aims and of the work being done.

Claire Malcomson outlined four developments from MVDC.

1. An air source heat pump for the council offices and Dorking Halls is being installed from December.
2. Work is starting on the feasibility of installing solar panels over car parks.
3. A plan to map out the options to expand trees and hedging in the borough.
4. The Mole Valley Community lottery has launched, first draw on 24th July. Each lottery ticket costs £1, with 50p going to a good cause of the player's choice and 10p to the environment fund which benefits climate change initiatives in Mole Valley. (Perhaps not very Quakerly!)

Pat Smith and Paul Street from Dorking Climate Emergency informed the forum of a climate hub that will be running in Leatherhead in September and October on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. More details to be announced.

Ismina Harvey (MV Environment Manager) fed back that SCC are reviewing their transport plans and launching a consultation from next month. They are planning new walking and cycle infrastructure plans by 2022.

Paul Street gave a brief talk about Doughnut Economics and a representative from XR fed back from their recent People's Assembly and suggested a review of the Environment Forum itself could take place in September.

## FROM THE CHILDREN'S CLASS

*Gayle Banks writes:* We folded A4 paper to give us guides to the 'correct' (as in average proportion of human face - e.g. eyes half way down) places to put our features, then drew our features using approx size guides but looking at our own images on zoom for things like eyebrow and mouth shape. Then the fun bit - we cut out each of our features individually, got another A4 piece of paper - again folded it for the guide, but then stuck our own features back where we thought they should actually go - for example I know I have one eye slightly higher than the other - until each portrait looked more like ourselves.

The 'lesson' was that while there are core similarities between us all, it's the things where we differ from the norm that make us recognisable as and to ourselves - and that a fun bit of life is identifying our quirks (and accepting them as 'who' we are) - 'we are all unique, precious, a child of God'.



Pippa, Thomas, Joe and Theo are all willing for you to use their self-portraits in Grapevine. I wonder if you can tell who is who?

