



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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March 2021

Printing and Distribution: Lesley Hunka and Tara Craig

No. 555

A photo of the Meeting House garden, to remind us that Spring is on the way!

Taken by Sarah in March 2020.



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.

Sun 28 Feb	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Study group on simpler meetings on Zoom – see page 2
Mon 1 March	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.
Sat 6 March	8.00 – 8.45 am approx.	Zoom meditation for Nationwide Quaker Day of Healing, contact Anne for details.
Sun 7 March	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Local Business Meeting (PM) on Zoom – see page 2
Wed 10 March	6.30 – 8.00pm	Zoom meeting on Fairtrade – see page 2
Fri 12 March	3.30 – 5.00 pm approx.	Meditation and Spiritual Development Group meeting on Zoom Contact Romy Elias for Zoom link.
Sun 14 March	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Area Business Meeting on Zoom – See Fellowship News.

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



Looking at that diary list I feel for those who don’t use Zoom, but with luck and care, Zoom will take a back seat in a few months time.

March/April Collection

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



Dorking Meeting has had annual collections for Quaker Social Action (QSA) for over 30 years. It is a wonderful charity, and we have been impressed by the way that they respond to the needs of people on low incomes in the UK, particularly in East London. They are brilliant at developing new projects to meet those needs. The last year has been particularly difficult due to the pandemic, as many people they work with have been facing not only financial problems, but are struggling with anxiety, isolation, sadness and loss.

There has been one major change three months ago, when QSA took over the smaller charity, Quaker Homeless Action (QHA). QHA has been providing an Open Christmas in London for homeless people, and also runs a mobile library service, as homeless people are unable to register at normal libraries.

Dorking Meeting has also supported QHA for many years, so we can support the activities of both these charities by just one donation! Our March and April collection is for QSA, and 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.

Colin Hope

PREPARATIVE MEETING – Sunday 7 March

This will be on Zoom starting at 2.00 pm. The link will be circulated beforehand. Frances Poulton is willing to Clerk the meeting and it is expected that the agenda will include a follow-up item from our study group session on 28 February – see below – which will hopefully simplify our administrative processes and make them more inclusive. Also, on the agenda will be nominations, premises and the contract with CCT and, if ready, the 2020 Accounts.

If you are unable to attend on Zoom, please let Katy, Lucy or Frances know before next Thursday (5 March) if you have any comments or suggestions to make about the agenda.

Update re STUDY GROUP on SIMPLER MEETINGS ...

The study group on Simpler Meetings is now fixed for **Sunday 28 February** at 2pm finishing at 3.30pm at the latest. It will be a Zoom meeting including Introduction, general questions and small group discussions and feedback.

Please join us if possible. Contact Sarah 07703 598815 or azdak@runbox.com if any queries. If you would like more information go to <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/support-for-meetings/simpler-meetings> where there is a great deal of information and explanation both in text and video.

... and Thoughts on SIMPLER MEETINGS PROJECT

Frances Poulton writes: The recent Regional Meeting on Zoom, along with some associated short videos. introduced me to this project. The session highlighted how many meetings nationally are trying to face up to the fact that our overall membership is decreasing, and the average age of Friends is increasing, which in turn leads on to the urgent need to consider how we are to run our affairs in a manageable sustainable way, so that we do not overburden the few who have served so faithfully. The vision is to work for a future where we can all concentrate on the things that really matter in this world, of which climate change and inequality are important examples, alongside our spiritual development.

Key ideas arising from the meeting for me were: -

- Simplify
- Consider new ways of working
- Be more flexible in our approach, while maintaining Quaker principles
- Communicate more inclusively and effectively

Our forthcoming discussion group on Simpler Meetings will give us all chance to share ideas on how we might proceed.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – 22 February to 7 March



Together with another local Fairtrader, I am holding a Zoom event on Wednesday 10th March. Speaking at this event will be Matt Oliver from Traidcraft who will give a presentation on 40 Fairtrade facts. He is an inspiring and entertaining speaker and I am sure you will learn a great deal. The presentation will start at 6.45 but you can join from 6.30pm and he will talk for an hour and be available for questions for a while after this.

Join Zoom Meeting on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85137455301>

You can look at the new catalogue on https://issuu.com/traidcraftshop/docs/ss21_-_issuu

An order form which can be used to order from me has been circulated to the email circulation list – ask a friend with a computer to give you a copy if you aren't on email.

I hope you can join us on the 10th. If you expect to do so, it would be very helpful to know beforehand, so we can try not to start without you - email me on emddh7@hotmail.com or phone 01306 881479.

Elizabeth Dobson

REFLECTIONS FROM LOCKDOWN

'Sometimes you are walking, and something catches your eye. Bare branches in February. Not an unusual sight. But it is as if something is saying 'pay attention to me', ' pay attention to the world', and the very seeing of it makes it magical. You are being called to behold and without knowing it you are called into worship.' Harvey Gillman

I read these words from one of Harvey Gillman's Facebook postings. Social media is criticised a lot, but if used discerningly it can be uplifting, educational and inspiring. Harvey's words and photographs have sustained me a lot throughout lockdown. These words (above) in particular moved me.

I am aware I have been very lucky. I have been locked down in a warm house that I share with a fellow human being I love and respect. He is excellent company. My son lives nearby, and I can now walk with him. I have missed my daughter, but she is safe and well and still has her job in London. We are retired. We have all remained healthy throughout, even my 89-year-old mother!

I live in the heart of the Surrey Hills a few steps away from the Nower - common land that leads onto woodland, fields, a fishing lake and so many delights of nature.

Yet still there have been moments of frustration, sadness and anger. So, what has sustained me?

If I had to choose one thing it would be my daily walk(s) in nature. In particular I have fallen in love with trees. I find myself on the ground (sometimes wondering how easily I will get back up again) to get a closer look at a pattern in the mud, a feather, moss on bark and more recently at the solid pip of a clean white snowdrop pushing its head up through winter's crust.

I have felt the connection evolving and substantiating (not sure that's a word but it feels right) and in that process I have come to a better understanding of me, of who I am in relation to nature and to the world outside of me. So, when I read these words, especially: 'You are being called to behold and without knowing it you are called into worship...' they really spoke to me.

Pre-pandemic a weekly walk was lovely, the daily, sometimes rather perfunctory walking of the family dog, or even a catch up walk with a friend, was always really enjoyable, but these periods of lockdown have nurtured a calming, centring process within me. If I have missed a day (and I think in total there are only five days when I have not walked) I have physically ached for nature.

So, for me this has been a period of revelation. As I have paid attention I have engaged with the magic of nature and found a deepening spiritual connection. It has been invigorating, like a re-birth.

The challenge will be how to reconnect with the world ...



Sally Elias
February 22nd 2021

AND WHAT HAVE OUR CHILDREN'S MEETING BEEN DOING?

Alison Carlier writes: Here's what we got up to on Sunday (31 January) in the Children's Meeting.

It was Imogen's great idea to have an online Scavenger Hunt. The children were asked to fetch something from around the house that might help answer the following, in line with (an expanded) list of Quaker testimonies.

1. Planet. What would you use to help plant a tree?
2. Peace. What would you use to stop a war?
3. Community. What would you use to help someone feel loved?
4. Simplicity. What couldn't you live without?
5. Equality. What would you use to communicate with someone who doesn't speak your language?
6. Integrity. What would you use to reveal the truth?

They came up with all sorts of things, including an apple to help plant a tree, photos of friends to help someone feel loved and Dorabella even invented LUG = listening, understanding and hugs!

Sophie Dodgeon writes: I facilitated a Children's Meeting yesterday (7 February) where we had fun making origami paper hearts as part of the annual Climate Coalition 'Show the Love' campaign which focuses on the run up to Valentine's Day.

We also had the pleasure of a visiting family whom Katy has met through Woodbrooke online worship (see Alice and Noah in the top left of the photo).



I explained how the next COP meeting of leaders on climate change will be in Glasgow this November, making it a very important year for the UK to take strong and urgent action.

The children shared a few thoughts about climate change that I will put in a letter to the Prime Minister this week on behalf of the children. Their comments included:

'Climate change is a very serious matter, and we need to act. We could make a big difference' - Joseph and Rowan

If we don't stop soon, think what could happen to the world? - Dorabella

Everything could go wrong - Noah.

If climate change got really bad, then winters wouldn't exist, and crops and plants would die - Joseph.



Anne Brewer writes: Here's something from Dorking Climate Emergency to encourage us to back up the children's efforts.

The power of Re- Rethink. Be mindful of your consumption, your relationship with 'things' and with the Earth.