



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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May 2021

No. 557

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. You can bring your own lunch to eat in the garden afterwards if you wish and the weather looks appropriate!

Sun 2 May	2.30 – 4.00 pm	Local Business Meeting (PM) on Zoom – link and agenda will be circulated – see page 5
Mon 3 May	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 8 May	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Area Business Meeting on Zoom – see page 5
Fri 14 May	3.30 – 5.00 pm approx.	Meditation and Spiritual Development Group meeting on Zoom – Contact Romy Elias for Zoom link.
Sat 22 May	4.30 – 5.30 pm approx.	Study group – see page 2

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

Christian Aid week – 10 to 16 May. Please see page 5 for a request for volunteers from Elizabeth Dobson.

THE MAY/JUNE COLLECTION is for WOODBROOKE

From the website (<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>):

“Woodbrooke is an international Quaker learning and research organisation based in Britain. We provide opportunities for learning, connection and worship which are rooted in the Quaker tradition and open to all. Our mission is to foster the ‘vital ministry’ of Quakers today and our learning programme allows participants to: deepen their understanding of the Quaker way, explore spirituality, support their communities and be inspired to bring about wider change the in world.



The worship, learning, and research that Woodbrooke provides aren't possible without the kind donations we receive in support of our work. At the moment our ability to generate income from the Woodbrooke Centre in Birmingham has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak and we are concerned about the long-term impact on Woodbrooke. We aren't eligible for the majority of the current government support. We would welcome any contributions via donations, grants or legacies to help us to continue nurturing the Quaker community for years to come.”

You can donate online (via the website) or to donate via cheque, make it payable to Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and send to Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road Birmingham, B29 6LJ.

STUDY GROUP

Saturday 22 May on zoom 4.30 to 5.30pm – to mark International Day of Biodiversity

We are offering the occasional study group on a current topic of interest basing it on readings from Quaker Faith & Practice and other Quaker sources. We hope Friends will read the recommended writings beforehand and come along to share their responses.

We decided to try arranging the study group on a Saturday to see how that works for Friends and picked 22 May – then realised this was the International Day of Biodiversity so had no trouble choosing a topic!

We suggest reading the following 5 sections of QF&P 25.02, 25.04, 25.07, 25.11 and 25.14 and also the Canterbury Commitment (see <https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/minute-36-leaflet>). The Canterbury Commitment (minute 36 of Britain Yearly Meeting) was made in 2011 and commits Quakers to take action collectively to build a 'low-carbon, sustainable community'. Ask Anne if you would like a printed copy.



From thefabweb.com

Anne and Sarah (Elders)

NEWS FROM THE SIMPLER MEETINGS STEERING GROUP.

Friends who have been working as the Simpler Meetings group, have met twice, and now see themselves as having a Research and Development function (at present anyway). We are engaged in:

- Finding Out.
- Identifying what is important; and
- Planning steps for the future.

We meet weekly. This article is to let all Friends know what is already being done as first steps.

Communication. Judy and Theresa, with Colin Brewer, are making a more connected plan of the websites and emails arrangements. We are discussing the best way to make sure that any “enquirers” reach a named person.

Elders and Overseers need to gain strength. There are tasks which still need to be covered by Es and Os, and we shall be asking Friends to look at the list and ask yourselves – *is there any reason why I can't do that?*

Premises Committee, in the shape of Geoff, has been assembling information about a proposed new Central Heating plant; Anne and Colin Brewer, and Su Johnston, are supporting Geoff on this project. They are meeting by Zoom.

Nominations is similarly a mere skeleton. Simpler Meetings are looking for a way – perhaps a different way – of getting to know people of the Meeting and their preferences and skills. The first proposal is to address those urgent tasks which are needed immediately. Es and Os and Premises have supplied their own lists of such tasks. Shortly, those Urgent Needs will come to each of the Meeting, for your earnest consideration and action.

The step after that will be **Questionnaire** with wider and deeper scope, which will illustrate all the aspects of just what is needed to keep Dorking Meeting alive and able to be outgoing. We are working on this now.

Su Johnston

PREPARATIVE MEETING CLERKING ARRANGEMENTS

As Friends know, it is months since we had a permanent Clerk for Dorking Meeting; and for some years before that we have found it difficult to appoint. Thanks to stalwart Friends, we have managed so far to keep the Meeting going, ad hoc.

We are happy to now tell you that a Clerking Team will share at least some of the Clerk's duties at the desk, for the next four Preparative Meetings, all on Sundays after Meeting. The Minutes will be kept, and continuity of the records be ensured.

May 2nd Anne Brewer
July 4th Sarah Freeman
Sept. 5th Romy Elias;
Nov. 7th Su Johnston

Katy Nunn and Lucy Barwood have agreed to continue to be Assistant Clerks, and are dealing with correspondence as well, and thanks to them too.

Su Johnston



“WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN OVERSEER?”

A question prompting thoughts about life in general.

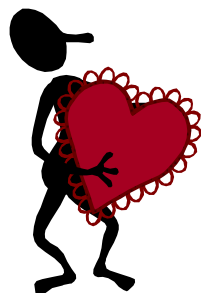
I was asked this question a few years ago and, as honoured as I was, the timing was bad. Dad was in the final stages of a terminal diagnosis and my resource tank was low. Strangely, having been asked a second time and accepted, my mother has started to experience some ill health and some very strange behaviours which are also challenging me emotionally.

Some years ago, a very good friend was experiencing far too many of life's big experiences simultaneously (mother diagnosed with dementia, daughter miscarried a baby, husband having a nervous breakdown due to work pressures). She said to me, “I thought that when the children were older, I would feel a sense of liberation and freedom and readiness to start a second chapter for myself whereas what I actually feel is pinned down by the demands of everybody else's needs.”

I remember she called me later to apologise for her ‘selfish whinging’ and I reassured her that she was not being selfish at all.

I have reflected recently that one of the main things that can make us feel stressed or down or depressed is the notion that one day we will have life sorted! I do think this is partly because we are surrounded by messages from mainstream media that if only we bought product/experience X then all would be well. This makes sense, doesn't it? This way there will always be a little gap between where we are and where we ‘really ought to be’. This might be a skin cream, a dress, a holiday, and we are told that each of these things will fill in that gap.

The truth is we never reach THAT place do we because it doesn't really exist. All we have is now and jolly messy it can be. One of the reasons I was drawn to Quakerism was the very simplicity of its values. There is that of God in all of us (for people who are uncomfortable with God then perhaps Goodness or Love can be used). If we can act out of that place and if we can make the connection with that place in everybody with whom we come into contact, then surely, we won't feel the need to lean out and grasp at things just beyond our reach.



So, I'm going to have a go at being an Overseer come what may. Please do let me know what you would have me do! And if I do it...how I might do it better!

Sally Elias

INTERESTED IN NATURE?

Liz Nott has drawn my attention to this, which looks interesting [The Nature Summit - Free Online Summit. May 11-17](#)

FRIENDS RECOMMEND BOOKS – and what about a book group?

Lottie Child writes: I'm reading some great books at the moment. *Emergent Strategy* by Adrienne Marie Brown. See:

<https://www.abebooks.co.uk/9781849352604/Emergent-Strategy-Shaping-Change-Changing-1849352607/plp>

She talks about movement building, taking care of ourselves and our relationships and learning from nature; she quotes Octavia Butler and adds her own interpretations:

All successful life is:

Adaptable (Fractal)

Opportunistic (Adaptive)

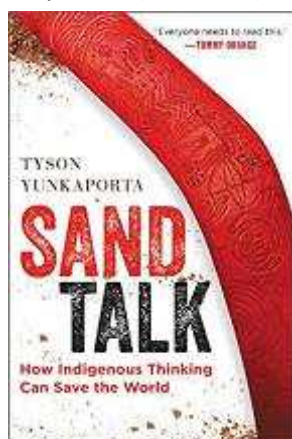
Tenacious (Resilient/Transformative Justice)

Interconnected and (Interdependent and Decentralised)

Fecund (Creates more possibilities)

Understand this (Practice Experiment)

Shape God (Intention)?



I'm also loving the work of Tyson Yunkaporta, he has lots of podcast interviews and has written a book called *Sand Talk, How Indigenous knowledge can save the world*.

He is a senior lecturer in indigenous knowledges at Deacon University in Australia and a member of the Apalach clan. Before he writes, he carves his knowledge and understanding into ritual objects such as boomerangs because the knowledge and understandings are from deep, ancient ways of knowing and being, that don't naturally express themselves in the written English language. He examines global systems from an indigenous perspective, rather than conforming to the usual scripts of examining indigenous knowledge from a western, academic lens.

It's a joy to read, he is funny and irreverent and has insights and questions about so many of the things we take for granted. See

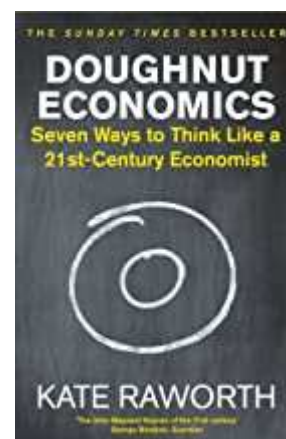
<https://www.waterstones.com/book/sand-talk-how-indigenous-thinking-can-save-the-world/tyson-yunkaporta/9781925773996>

I'm looking for a chance to discuss these two books and consider, with others; what it might mean for what is possible in our communities.

In discussion after Meeting for Worship **Nigel Bond** talked about the book *Doughnut Economics* by Kate Raworth and said he would like to share ideas and responses with others who are interested in this issue.

See <https://www.kateraworth.com/> or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lezdHP_Xv8&t=1502s for a talk by Kate Raworth.

(Note from the editor: Along with several other members of Dorking Meeting I attended the talk on Doughnut Economics arranged by Dorking Climate Emergency on April 17th and was very impressed. We desperately need a global economic system that is rooted in Sustainability and Equality and this seems to offer such a system.)



If anyone would like to organise a book group on Zoom please get in touch with Anne Brewer who can schedule the meetings for you and would probably like to join in!

RETHINKING THE WORD 'OVERSEER'

Due to its association with slavery many Friends have objected to use of the term Overseer and now Quaker Life has recommended that we discontinue its use and find another word. See 'the Friend' of April 16th. Perhaps we could adopt Horsham LM's idea and call Overseers the Pastoral Care Committee? I will put this on the agenda and hope we have time to discuss this at PM on Sunday 2 May.



Anne Brewer



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Elizabeth Dobson writes: This year we are again challenged to find ways to raise funds for Christian Aid within current Covid-19 restrictions. I have secured dates for **a street collection on Thursday/Friday/Saturday 13/14/15 May**. In order to maintain social distancing, I propose to use buckets on a table rather than holding tins and focus on a single pitch outside Barclays (maybe elsewhere on the Saturday, when Food Float have priority there). Any volunteers prepared to spend an hour to help contact me (at this email address, emddh7@hotmail.com, or by phone to 01306 881479)

AREA MEETINGS IN MAY AND JULY

The May Area Meeting will be on zoom on **Saturday 8 May at 10am (note early start)** but AM Clerk is hoping to have a 'live' AM at the Blue Idol on Saturday 10 July if Covid restrictions allow. It may be possible to have a blended meeting for those who are unable to travel to the Blue Idol and he hopes to have an afternoon discussion on the theme of Assisted Dying.

The programme for the May ABM is as follows:

09.40 – 10.00 'Meeting and Greeting'

10.00 – 12.00 approx. Area Business Meeting

After close of the business meeting there will be an opportunity for socialising in small groups, using the breakout rooms facility if time allows. Please note that all Friends and Attenders are welcome to attend Area Meeting, you do not need to be appointed as a rep.

The agenda will include discussion of how AM might adopt some of the ideas of the Simpler Meetings project and also LMs response to Roger Wilson's suggestion that we send a minute to Sufferings about changing the Governing Document so that Trustees do not need to be members. Dorking Friends will be discussing this suggestion at PM on 2 May.

PREPARATIVE MEETING

Sunday 2 May 2.30 pm

This will be only on zoom as we cannot yet meet indoors except for worship so a blended meeting is not yet acceptable. Hopefully by July if all goes well, we might even be able to have PM in the Meeting House!

The link and agenda for the May PM will be circulated, and I hope to be able to attach a paper copy of the agenda to the Grapevine for those who are not on email and have a paper Grapevine. Hopefully the Grapevine will reach you in time!

Anne Brewer (Rota Clerk for May PM)

OUR CHILDREN GET CREATIVE ...

Alison Carlier writes about a children's session in March:

Imogen took the session on felting and as it was Mother's Day, she chose a simple yet loving heart to felt. Heart felt in fact! She did a lovely job of guiding the other children (and parents) in the art of felt making. The children seemed to enjoy the session, and some have continued to felt things.

Here are pictures of some of the hearts we made.

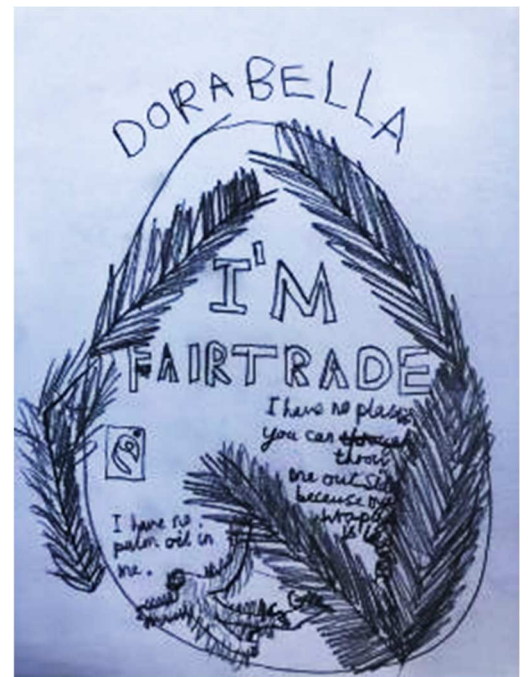


... AND HAVE SOME GOOD IDEAS!

How about this design for an ethical Easter Egg by Dorabella.

In case you can't read the small part of the script it says:

I have no plastic, you can throw me outside because my wrapping is leaves. I have no palm oil in me.



Lucy Barford writes: On Sunday 11 May children's meeting session was a litter picking event on The Nower as part of the Journey to COP26 celebration. They all enjoyed finally meeting in person and doing something positive in our local environment – as you can see from the photo!