



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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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

Mon 1 Nov	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session - on Zoom if liked– link from Anne Brewer
Sun 7 Nov	After MfW	Important PM (blended) to include decision on future of our Meeting. See page 3 for some background.
Mon 8 Nov	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Special upholding prayer session for COP26 on zoom if liked – link from Anne Brewer
Fri 12 Nov	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development. Zoom link from Romy.
Sat 13 Nov	2.00 pm	Area Business Meeting and discussion on future of our AM on Zoom. Agenda and Zoom link will be circulated.
Mon 15 Nov	7.15 pm	Study group on ‘Doughnut Economics’ - zoom link from Anne Brewer
Sat 27 Nov		Details of Regional Meeting on this date will be circulated nearer the time.

31st Oct to 12th November is the important COP26 in Glasgow – see page 4 for things you could do about this.

THE NOVEMBER COLLECTION is for AFGHANISTAN

There are 3 groups to choose from this month each delivering different kinds of aid to Afghanistan

1. A special appeal from **Medecins sans Frontieres** for their work in Afghanistan.

From their USA website (<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/afghanistan>).

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières teams in Afghanistan are continuing to provide medical care across all five of our projects in Herat, Helmand, Kandahar, Khost, and Kunduz provinces. Despite intense fighting in recent weeks, our teams did not stop providing vital medical care.

Sustaining these health services under extreme pressures is a testament to the dedication of 2,300 MSF staff members working in the country.



You can donate via the UK website at https://msf.org.uk/secure/donate?page=donation_details#no-back but this website has less information about Afghanistan. To pay by cheque send to Fundraising Team, FREEPOST RTSE-CLGS-UZYB, Médecins Sans Frontières, Chancery Exchange, 10 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1AB

The USA website says you can earmark your gift for Afghanistan by ringing an American phone number. You may be able to do it via their London office number 0207 404 6600 but they do say ‘Gifts of unrestricted funds allow us to allocate our resources most efficiently and where the needs are greatest.’

1. A special Afghanistan Emergency Appeal from **Humanity and inclusion** (HI).

From their website (<https://humanity-inclusion.org.uk/en/about-us/index>):
HI is an independent charity working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work tirelessly alongside disabled and vulnerable people to help meet their basic needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.



You can donate to their Afghanistan Emergency Appeal through <https://donate.humanity-inclusion.org.uk/give/afghanistan/~my-donation? cv=1>

For donating by cheque, their London office is at Humanity & Inclusion UK, 9 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB, - you could telephone (0870 774 3737) if you want to know how to direct it to the Afghanistan Appeal.



2. **International Rescue Committee** (IRC-UK)

From their website (<https://www.rescue-uk.org/>)

The IRC began responding in Afghanistan in 1988, and now work in thousands of villages across nine provinces, with Afghans making up more than 99 percent of IRC staff in the country. We support displaced families with shelter, clean water and sanitation, and other necessities. We provide cash assistance and help people find livelihood opportunities. And we create safe learning spaces and offer community-based education, among other support.

Your donation could help the IRC set up mobile health clinics, distribute cash to provide families with essentials and work with Afghans to find livelihood opportunities.

<https://help.rescue-uk.org/afghanistan-donate> . It does say that your donation will support our work in Afghanistan and in more than 40 countries worldwide, so not specifically for Afghanistan.

You can also donate by post - Send a cheque (payable to International Rescue Committee) to: The IRC, 100 Wood Street, 6th Floor, London, EC2V 7AN, UK – or by phone using your credit or debit card on: 020 3983 9000 - open 9am till 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Note from Anne: I attended an online concert organised by IRC raising funds for Afghanistan and they said that their funds would also be used to provide any needed support for Afghans who had fled their country to the UK, USA and elsewhere.

FINANCE AND PREMISES COMMITTEE AND GARDEN NEWS

We are pleased to report that the Gas Boiler appears to be working properly, and we have recently made progress in our search for better insulation by looking into Secondary Glazing in some areas of the Meeting House. A report will be circulated which we hope will form the basis of a discussion at a future date.

We are waiting for a report from the Churches Conservation Trust who inspected the damp wall inside the Cottage and checked our roofs and gutters a little while ago.



Meanwhile the garden at the Meeting House, a dead fir tree and shrub have been removed along with the ivy, which quickly took hold again along the South boundary wall right down to the front entrance. Michael Brewer continues his weekly work in tending the Laurel hedge, the lawns and shrubs, but it may be necessary to reduce some of the larger spreading shrubs during the winter. We thank Michael for his thorough and dependable work.

Geoff Squire and Rosemary Elias

NOTES AND AGREEMENTS FROM MEETING OF FRIENDS ON 17TH OCTOBER 2021

Some 24 Friends attended at the Meeting House and on Zoom. Su Johnston led the meeting, being Clerk to our November Prep Meeting.



The great problem, and Friends' wishes.

The subject of the meeting was to look for more ideas as to how it will be possible to continue the running of the Dorking Quaker Meeting into 2022 and beyond. The problem is that we do not have the people to do the practical and spiritual running of the Meeting, which many of the speakers recognised. If consequently we could not practically look after the Meeting House itself, what could happen then? All wanted the Meeting, and the Meeting House to continue, if it can be done.

Our resources

Our income comes from all Friends contributions every year, plus the rental from the Cottage. These pay for the necessary upkeep, heat, light, garden, repairs, cleaning etc. Suggestions that we have a Resident Friend, or a Caretaker, or Housekeeper, have to take these financial matters into account. All the above will need to be covered, in addition to paying someone to do this work. We have further income from hirings-out to a range of community and hobby groups. The suggestion was made that we find groups that are like-minded to ourselves rather than just groups that hire the spaces for their meetings. It was felt that people generally are more concerned than ever about their inner life and would welcome contact with what Quakers can offer. If we decide we need these ways of outreach, there must be a person or persons to make it happen. Our lack of a Clerk for 2022 is deeply felt, as being a necessary office for the continuity of Business, and as holder of the Minutes.

People resources

For many, our Meeting House with its history and all it stands for is important, but there was unanimous agreement that it is the people who make up our Quaker community who are vital, if we are to survive. It is so good to have people say they would like to be involved in being active in helping. Sue and Nigel Bond will continue the monthly Leatherhead Meeting, (backed financially by Dorking Meeting); and Pippa and other young people want to be part of the Function Committee that has been positively suggested as a way forward. (See later notes). There are, too, people who, if they don't have time at this moment, think that they may be available later on.

Simplifying the Meeting

It was agreed that the function of the role-holders needs to be stripped down to be as simple and effective as possible. Outsourcing jobs that can be done by other, suitably qualified people, is a course we have followed in the past; a trend which needs to continue.

The Young People's Meeting and its Committee has been successful, happy, effective, creative, flexible and unpressured. We think this is because it is small, has good and informal communication, including the contacts with the Meeting Friends by pictures and so on. This confirmed ideas of what might be successful for the Meeting as a whole: a Committee of Functions (which in effect would be replacing all our Committees). It would be small, and it is hoped would develop the other virtues. Friends see this as a real possibility, the detail of which is already in development, and to be completed by all interested parties. This idea and plan met with general approval and a wish to carry it forward. This may be a way to work in co-operation and consultation, lovingly in the Quaker way. Another success has been to get together a group for each Premises Project, to work until the project is completed.

Minute to Preparative Meeting November 2021

We send a Minute to our Prep Meeting:

"We have agreed to develop the idea of a Committee of Functions to deal with every part of Dorking Meeting governance. We wish this to include Friends of all ages and skills who have a willing mind. Sue and Nigel Bond will start up and run the monthly Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead."

Su Johnston, Frances and Keith Poulton.

Note from editor: It was so encouraging to have messages from our Young Friends to this meeting and I thought those not able to be present on Zoom on the 17th would like to hear the messages. So, I have put them at the end of page 4 – no room on this page!

COP26 (31st October to 12th November)

A selection of ways in which Friends might like to take action to support the efforts by Quakers and numerous other groups to enable a positive outcome from the COP26 conference in Glasgow.



1. **Uphold Sarah Freeman** who is travelling up to Glasgow for the fortnight and liaising with Glasgow Quaker Meeting to arrange inter-faith discussions.
2. **Join the Quaker bloc for the Global Day of Action march in London on Saturday November 6th.** Meet outside St Michael Cornhill Church on Cornhill, from 12pm. If you would like company, Anne and Colin Brewer are going from Dorking and there may be others. Contact Anne for details.
3. **Join in the inter-faith Earth Vigil**, which is taking place through-out the conference period. You can join online or simply in spirit. The daytime online Earth Vigil is an open, silent space for multi faith prayer and meditation. It will run from **1100 to 1700** daily with no session on November 6th. You can join at any time and stay for as long as you are able. To join on Zoom, click [here](#).

Daily Evening sessions from **1830 to 1930**, will be facilitated from a variety of faith perspectives, offering teachings and guidance to support our spiritual practice during the conference. To join on Zoom, click [here](#).

4. **Join the special Dorking Meeting upholding prayer session** at 8.30 to 9.00 pm on Monday November 8th on Zoom or in spirit – Zoom link from Anne Brewer.



AN INSPIRED IDEA

Gayle writes: An idea I've been toying with, along with the wider parent's group, is whether the Meeting could, collectively create a Book of Inspiration. I've been influenced by something my father did for his Rotary group during lockdown... themselves inspired by Major Tom's walk and the 'virtual marathons' happening around the country, they created 'Project 26' whereby each member did something around 26... My dad's contribution was 26 quotations/quotes that had inspired him: from all sorts of sources, of course some from his philosophical learnings, but also unsurprisingly including some from Quaker writings.

I feel that we all have so many sources of inspiration in our life, and it would be wonderful (and potentially healing) to share those sources among us all, young and old... whether in written word, as a photo (with or without explanation!), a piece of art, a colour, a leaf... whatever - just something that has spoken to the still small voice in each of us - to share with others and hopefully inspire them too. A form of inreach (that could in due course be shared as outreach).

Anyway, maybe Friends would like to start to ponder about their sources of inspiration and whether they would feel able to share one or several with the wider meeting'...?

Note from editor: If you like this idea let Gayle or me know and we'll decide the best way to go ahead with it.

MESSAGES FROM OUR YOUNG FRIENDS

It was lovely to receive messages from 2 of our young Friends at the Zoom meeting on 17th October (see page 3 for full report of this meeting.) As far as Gayle remembers, Pippa's message was that she is keen that young Friends take some initiative (COVID allowing) to organise things at the Meeting House, as a form of Outreach - eg cake sales that would bring people in the door and maybe raise a little money too... it's such a lovely space she wants to share it with others, AND let people know we exist/what we're about. Thomas's message was *"Although the meeting house is understandably very important to many members of this meeting, when it comes to it, the community itself is infinitely more important and precious than the physical place. Therefore we must stay together and not divide ourselves"*.