



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

Editor: Anne Brewer

October 2021

Printing and Distribution: Lesley Hunka and Tara Craig

No. 561

A personal message from the editor:

Dear Friends, throughout the pandemic I have tried to keep the content of the Grapevine positive and encouraging. I have not included references to the underlying difficulties resulting mainly from the impact of the pandemic and differing understandings on how we should react to it. Now, however, these difficulties have resulted in a sad outcome, and I feel I cannot continue as though nothing has happened. So, I would like to acknowledge the sadness felt in our Meeting that, after giving so much over 40 years or so, Colin and Rachel Hope have felt led to resign their membership and leave the Meeting. I am sure we all wish them the very best for their future path.

DIARY

On Sundays – Meeting for Worship (10.30 to 11.30 am) blended meeting in Meeting House and on Zoom.

On Sundays – Evening Meeting for Worship (9.00 – 9.30 pm) on Zoom

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

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

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| Mon 4 Oct | 8.30 – 9.00 pm | Upholding prayer session - on Zoom if liked– link from Anne Brewer |
| Sun 10 Oct | After MfW | Traidcraft stall in the Meeting House. |
| Tues 12 Oct | 7.15 pm | Study group on 'Doughnut Economics' - zoom link from Anne Brewer |
| Sun 17 Oct | After MfW | Special Meeting – see below |
| Fri 22 Oct | 3.30 – 5.00 pm | Meditation and Spiritual Development. Zoom link from Romy. |
| Sun 31 Oct | MfW | This is a 5 th Sunday so the Meeting will not be a blended one. |

****Lunch after Wednesday Meetings will be provided as in the past, starting on Wednesday 6 October. See also guidelines on page 3.**

SPECIAL MEETING OF ALL FRIENDS ON OCTOBER 17TH

to share all our ideas on how to continue Dorking Meeting beyond December 31st.

Dear Friends – we from the Simpler Meetings Group are conscious that there is still a most important consultation to have with everyone. Hearing what ideas there are to be had from all Friends is what we all need to do, not having had time on September 8th.

To avoid other Sundays and their activities, we have set up, on Sunday 17th October, a meeting for an hour straight after Meeting for Worship. Ideas and inspirations come to us at odd moments! So do note them down. But please do let us all make time to prepare, if only informally our ideas, to be ready to share on the 17th. Your ideas can be sent in advance by email to suj@f2s.com or by letter.

Of course, all Friends, at the Meeting House and on Zoom, must be involved in this preparation for Discernment on the future of our Dorking Meeting. The November Business Meeting PM will be a critical one to decide how, or if, we will operate after December 31st.

THE OCTOBER COLLECTION is for QUAKER BOLIVIA LINK

Information about this charity's work and how to donate can be found in the September Grapevine or on their website <https://qbl.org>



NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER PM

A summary of decisions agreed at PM on September 5th.

- A working party will investigate possible improvements to our double glazing and insulation.
- A working party will look into problems affecting our bi-parting screen. Anyone interested in this should contact Jan Elias.
- The 2021 budget for Young Friends activities will be increased to cover the cost of their recent summer camp.
- It was agreed that our Young Friends will be responsible for posters up to the end of 2022.
- A meeting will be arranged to consider Simpler Meetings group's proposals for the way ahead.
- A budget of £1500 was agreed to improve the technical set-up for blended meetings.
- Separate Meetings for Worship at the Meeting House and On-line will be held on 5th Sundays of the month (four times a year).
- A group will put in place a new Risk Assessment – see outcome on page 3.
- The November Collection will be for humanitarian purposes to support those who have suffered due to the current situation in Afghanistan.

HORSE HILL VIGIL ON 5th SEPTEMBER

In the absence of the regular organiser and vigilers, who were on a pilgrimage to Glasgow, this monthly vigil was, on this occasion, organised and attended by mostly Dorking Quakers, including 4 Young Friends. The fence was decorated with posters of the Earth drawn by our Young Friends while at their summer camp. As one of the posters of a sad looking earth covered with oil rigs said, *Help! I'm leaking oil.*

Some extracts from Quaker Faith and Practice were



read, alongside the poem 'Earthrise' by Amanda Gorman (see <https://naaee.org/eeepro/blog/earthrise-poem-amanda-gorman>).

Our Quaker silence at the heart of the vigil was preceded and followed by some very appropriate guitar music.

A video recording of the vigil can be seen on https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v1ssOA3y2J8-jRr0axpdAP826fLYav5X/view?usp=drive_web

Anne Brewer

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR MINIMIZING SPREAD OF COVID 19 AT DORKING MEETING September 2021

Any updated Covid risk assessment we might make will need to take account of current government advice and regulations, and will therefore be subject to change. Some suggestions will be advisory, and others may be mandatory if that is what the Meeting decides and the Trustees agree. Our suggestions are based on the need to protect others, and in so doing protect ourselves. We are aware that some who are doubly vaccinated do not have antibodies.

Social distancing. At present, Friends generally seem to feel that retaining 2 metre spacing for individuals or bubbles is sensible. We have been advised that our bi-parting screen should generally be kept closed, because of the nature of the mechanism and currently a problem with damp, and only opened occasionally, as was the case before the pandemic. This means that a maximum of 17 Friends (more if there are bubbles) can meet together for worship. This does not constitute a problem at present, with many Friends preferring to remain on Zoom. Should the numbers exceed 17, then, with the doors in the screen open, a few extra Friends could be seated in the small hall.

Hygiene The wearing of masks (except when speaking), and hand sanitizing, are strongly encouraged. Hand sanitizers will need to be kept topped up.

Vaccination Status Bearing in mind that unvaccinated adults could be transmitting the disease unknowingly, and that currently infection rates are high and rising, they should seriously consider staying away until the situation is safer, to avoid posing a risk to others. We look forward to the time when all can be welcomed, safely, and in the meantime, we encourage unvaccinated Friends to worship at blended meetings on Zoom, if they are able to do so.

Good ventilation should be maintained, despite the winter ahead, to reduce the transmission of the virus through droplets and aerosols, by the following measures: -

- Front door to be kept open until the start of Meeting for worship
- Quiet room window, garden door and doors in screen to be kept open
- Windows in large hall to be kept open

We may need extra layers in cold weather!

Resumption of Wednesday lunches, and serving refreshments. Friends should be encouraged to bring their own cutlery and crockery, which would reduce crowding in the kitchen. Social distancing and good hygiene should be observed, along with ventilation.

Record of Visitors To assist with track and trace we should have contact details for any visitors.

In addition to these suggestions the Government says that “Anyone with symptoms of Covid-19, even if they are mild, should not attend. They should self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test”.

We are mindful that making sure windows are open and later closed and some of the other steps suggested, like encouraging hand sanitizing, places a burden on those opening up the Meeting House and welcoming Friends. At present our Elders are attending to this, but thought needs to be given to asking others to help and organize a rota.

Frances Poulton, Geoff Squire and Lucy Barford
(Covid risk assessment update group)

If you have any comments about these suggested guidelines, please get in touch with Frances Poulton (01342 454323 or poulkf@gmail.com). The guidelines will be brought to the November PM for agreement.

TERESA'S FUNERAL

Sue Bond writes: Theresa McIntyre's funeral was held on 2nd September at Randalls Road Crematorium. There have already been many tributes to Theresa and her contribution to the life of Dorking Quakers. These brief recollections of her funeral are for those friends who could not attend or have requested it having been unable to follow the service on the chapel's sound system.

There was standing room only and Theresa's nephew and three of her friends spoke about her life and what she meant to them. More would have spoken but for the time constraints.

Alex Ralton, her nephew, began by giving an outline of Theresa's life and how this had been shaped by the loss of her husband only six months after their marriage. After that she devoted herself to supporting others, particularly those who had experience trauma, initially as a probation officer and subsequently as a psychotherapist.

The next person to speak was a close friend of Theresa's from their days as social work students. She told us what a loyal, thoughtful and remarkable friend Theresa had always been to her, sharing her enjoyment and enthusiasm for every aspect of life- including the natural world, culture, art and philosophy.

She was followed by a colleague of Theresa's who had worked with her as a psychotherapist. She talked about Theresa's thoughtfulness and kindness. In particular she told us that Theresa had taken the initiative to arrange a trip and to accompany her to Auschwitz. As a Jewish woman this was a journey she had wanted to make but felt unable to do so alone.

The last speaker had worked with Theresa to develop programmes for other people who also lived with lymphoma. She commented on Theresa's original and insightful way of working.

After the speakers, little time remained for contemplation. My own most vivid recollection was of what was on Theresa's coffin: a beautiful wreath of wildflowers, a statue of the Buddha, a wedding picture of Theresa and her husband, David, and a sparkling picture of Theresa as a mature woman. To me that said it all.

YOUNG FRIENDS SUMMER CAMP

Some photos of Young Friends summer camp and some



Haikus by Thomas about it!

Tents of green canvas,
Children running through the woods
Fire, a crackling heart

Golden sun above,
Running through the open field,
Playing to your best

