



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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Wishing all readers of the Grapevine a joyful and sustainable Christmas and a 2023 in which we move towards a future where humans and all wildlife are able to flourish.

(Chipmunks painted by the editor)

DIARY

Special arrangements for **Sunday December 25:**

Zoom meeting 10.30 to 11.00, hosted by Jan and Romy. Link will be circulated. The Meeting House is expected to be closed. However, if there is an offer to open the Meeting House for worship, this change will be circulated to those on the Meeting email circulation list.

On Sundays – Meeting for Worship (10.30 to 11.30 am) blended meeting in Meeting House and on Zoom but Meeting not blended on 5th Sundays. Zoom link from Romy: rosemaryelias1@gmail.com

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

Second Sunday 6.30pm – Meeting for Worship in Leatherhead Institute: susanebond@yahoo.co.uk

Third Sunday 10.30 am Children’s Meeting on Zoom. katy_nunn@yahoo.co.uk

Mon 28 Nov	7.15pm	Reading group – Exploring Faith & Climate Justice Module 1
Fri 2 Dec	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development. On zoom – link from Romy
Sat 3 rd Dec	2.00 – 5.00 pm	Christmas wreath-making for YFs and carol singing, Details page 2
Mon 5 Dec	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from editor
Sun 11 Dec	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute
Mon 2 Jan	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from editor

December Collection

In the past the charity for the December collection has been chosen by the children. I do not have any information on this yet but it will be circulated when decided. **Wednesday Meeting** have sent £200 to the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Society, based in Redhill.

Saturday December 3rd

Families are meeting at the Meeting House at 2pm to make wreaths followed by walking the streets of Dorking to sing carols to friends who might not be able to get out very much. We should be finished by about 5.30pm.



All welcome to the carol singing, please bring a torch. I expect we will be starting the singing part about 4pm.

Alison Carlier

Our White Poppy wreath is laid on Remembrance Sunday

Through Romy, who is our representative on Churches Together in Dorking, we were invited as Dorking Quakers to lay a white poppy wreath at the memorial during the service on Remembrance Sunday. One of our Young Friends, Maddy Carlier, agreed to lay the wreath. The photos show her and Romy awaiting the arrival of the marchers from St Martin's Church (and I think that's Reg and Geoff Carlier in the photo too) and then actually laying the wreath.



After the service Maddy attended a reception where she was the only young adult present! She talked to the Bishop, our MP, the leader of MVDC and other establishment figures explaining her support for Quakers. Her comment after the event was *'it was nice to represent young quakers'*.

Here is a photo of the wreath a few days after the service – lost a bit of its symmetry but otherwise withstood the weather quite well.

The message reads:

*In memory of the military and civilians of all nations,
who have been victims of wars past and present,
and as a sign of our commitment to work towards a peaceful world.
Dorking Quaker Meeting*

It was good to know that this year the white poppies have been made as sustainably as possible – manufactured in a workers cooperative, they are plastic free and recyclable.



Anne Brewer

Our Young Friends have an interesting discussion ...

On Sunday 20th November we had a zoom children's meeting where we had a lively discussion about '*when is ok to break the rules*'. We talked about the recent Just Stop Oil protests, where people have been breaking the rules by stopping traffic, throwing paint over works of art etc to try and pressure governments to stop the production of fossil fuels, and whether we had ever broken rules for a good reason.

We discussed people who had famously broken rules in the past for good reason such Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks and the suffragettes. Also, whether there are some rules you shouldn't break even if it's for a good reason. We ended by thinking about what rules we would put in place, or get rid of, if we were Prime Minister.

It was a really interesting discussion and gave us lots of ideas for other topics to talk about in future sessions!

Lucy Barford

Ecocide - There should be a law against it!

Well, there isn't - yet- but a movement is gathering pace globally to make sure that there will be. People who have committed themselves to this so far include The World Council of Churches, the Labour Party and Pope Francis.

The aim is to create an offence of Ecocide which can be tried before the International Criminal Court. Currently the Rome Statute of the Criminal Court lists 4 crimes, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Crimes of Aggression. Ecocide, if accepted, would be the fifth and would make Ecocide an arrestable offence.



The established definition is that "Ecocide" means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.

Many Quakers will take a close interest in this development because of our Sustainability Testimony. In March next year Meeting for Sufferings will be considering Minutes written by Friends who want to support this movement. If you would like to find out more about this important issue, please consult the Stop Ecocide International website on <https://www.stopecocide.earth/>. If you haven't got access to the internet, I will happily print it out for you.

Sue Bond (01372 229125)

Appeal from Grapevine editor

Increasingly I find I am having to make decisions that should really be made in conjunction with others. For example, what should be the charity collection for the month – I have been going for the same as we did in 2021 if appropriate or else choosing a charity that seems right to me at the time. Then for December I assumed we would ask the children to suggest a charity as usual but being rather busy I left it rather late asking the parents about this and am left wondering what to do. Another problem is deciding what to put in the Grapevine – I find I have to ask for contributions as items rarely come spontaneously! This means the content is probably biased towards my particular interests and concerns. I feel the Grapevine is one of the things which is holding our local Quaker community together and it would help me a lot if there could be a small group of Friends who I could consult and who would have their ideas about what areas of our Quaker life should be covered. Offers please!

Anne Brewer