



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

Editor: Anne Brewer
 Printing and Distribution: Lesley Hunka and Tara Craig

July 2022
 No. 569

DIARY

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.

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. lucyjane73@hotmail.com or katy_nunn@yahoo.co.uk

Sat 2 July	7pm	Refugee Tales at St Martin’s Church – see page 3
Mon 4 July	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne
Sat 9 July	11.00 am – 12.30	Area Business Meeting at Blue Idol followed by lunch etc (see below)
Sun 10 July	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute
Fri 15 July	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development. Zoom link from Romy
Sun 17 July	10.30 am	Children’s Meeting on zoom
Mon 18 July	7.15 – 8.30 pm	Book club (Speed and Scale. Chapter 6) on Zoom – link from Anne
Mon 1 Aug	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne

Note from your editor: There will not be a Grapevine for August.

AREA BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY JULY 9TH AT BLUE IDOL MEETING HOUSE

The Area Business meeting will be in person and on Zoom – the Zoom link will be circulated with the agenda, or can be obtained from the Blue Idol clerk. The Business Meeting is scheduled to last from 11 to 12:30ish, to be followed, for those present in person, by lunch (bring your own), socialising and a visit to the exhibition in the barn.



Incidentally, Area Meeting papers – agendas, minutes, Trustees Minutes etc - and information on courses and national events of interest - are all circulated on the West Weald Quaker Google Group. If you are not on this group and would like to be, then contact me on anne.brewer43@gmail.com and I can add you to the list.

A Quaker charity Friends might like to support in July and August is

QUAKER VOLUNTARY ACTION (QVA)



QVA (<https://qva.org.uk/>) usually organises working retreats in Britain, Europe and beyond, which enable volunteers to participate in practical projects and reflective sessions that promote personal spiritual development with meaningful engagement in the world. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, their usual form of retreat was not possible. They worked out how working retreats could be carried out safely in a socially distanced world, and planned new forms of retreat delivered online or within commuting distance of participants. In 2022 some residential retreats are again being held.

To donate to QVA:

1. Send a cheque payable to Quaker Voluntary Action (not QVA) to: Irena Pearse, 60 Copsewood Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 5DX.
2. Make a donation by bank transfer to Quaker Voluntary Action, Triodos Bank, Sort code 16-58-10, Acc No. 03269501. Include your name in the reference section and send them an email to let them know (mail@qva.org.uk).

In June the Wednesday Meeting gave £200 to **BESOM IN DORKING** - a Christian charity accepting good quality household items for giving to people in need.



REMEMBERING A FRIEND



On May 24th, Leatherhead Methodist Church was full to the rafters with people paying their respects at the memorial service for Dr Fred Meynen, who died at the beginning of April, a month before his 90th Birthday.

Fred was a regular member of the Methodist church, where he had chosen to worship with his late wife, Margaret, but he had been born into a Dutch Quaker family and would always tell you, if the subject came up, that he saw himself as a committed Friend. Indeed, although he was an infrequent visitor, he retained his membership at Dorking until his death.

At the service, we heard from family, friends and people from the community whose lives he touched through his work as a local GP his and voluntary activities. As is so often the case, many of us learnt a lot more about Fred from these eulogies than we had known whilst he was alive.

Fred came into medicine as a mature student. He had initially studied engineering but, deciding that it was not for him, trained as a nurse. After working at Stoke Mandeville, a job he loved, he then went into training as a doctor and thence to general practice. Many Leatherhead people, myself included, will remember him as a compassionate and helpful doctor, especially when working with children.

Fred's family was very important to him and, sadly, he was no stranger to tragedy, having lost his daughter Nicky in a road traffic accident. His three remaining children shared their very fond memories of him at the service, which was also attended by his several grandchildren. Fred had always been immensely supportive of his wife, Margaret, who worked for the Department of Health as well as in her GP practice and served on The Shipman Enquiry.

As if this was not enough, Fred also worked tirelessly to improve the facilities for the local community at Leatherhead Hospital and was a long-standing member of the Executive Committee of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society.

A good friend, an encourager, a keen sailor the list goes on. However, I remember him as a kindly presence, always making me feel calmer and that the world was a better place. There's not anything much nicer you can say about anyone!

Sue Bond

BUILDING A LOVING, INCLUSIVE, ALL-AGE QUAKER COMMUNITY

This was the theme for Regional Meeting held in our Meeting House on Saturday 25th June. There were over 40 participants, about half in person and half on Zoom. The speaker was Paul Parker and he was brilliant – engaging, inspiring and encouraging! He was well aware of, and acknowledged, the difficulties, which in some ways have been worsened by the pandemic.

In the afternoon we gathered in small groups in the MH, and in breakout rooms online, to consider how we would like our Quaker community to be in 10 years' time and what small first step could set us on the right path. My group discussed 2 possible first steps – the first centred around ways to encourage teenagers to join not only the national Young Quaker events, which they do with considerable enthusiasm, but also to, at least occasionally, join their local Quaker Meeting. The second possible step focussed on how to encourage recognition of the spiritual basis to Quaker communities, which was a vital ingredient, enabling Meetings to nurture and uphold its members as they offered their gifts to the world.



I remembered the ministry from Friends 50 or so years ago that has kept me coming to Quaker Meetings ever since - because the ministry spoke to me directly and could only have come from promptings to the Friends by the spirit of love and truth. This access to spiritually inspired ministry is one of the amazing gifts of Quaker community and it is the promptings of love and truth that I think we need to heed, if we are to build loving, inclusive and all-age Quaker communities.

(See also the end of page 4)

Anne Brewer

UPHOLDING THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

Friends might be interested to know that whenever I can, I join the daily Meeting for Worship for Ukraine, from 5pm to 6 pm our time, organised by American supporters of Friends House Moscow. I find it very meaningful and appreciate the inspiring ministry about Ukraine and problems facing other parts of the world. From 30 to 70 Quakers from all over the world join the Meeting and those who come regularly have come to know each other. After the hour MfW, there are open rooms for various topics, incredibly interesting sometimes. The two ladies who host are Julie and Lois, both from the west coast of USA.

You can obtain the zoom link, if you would like to join sometimes, by:

Meeting ID: 416 500 5614

Passcode: 182805

Eleanor Campbell

REFUGEE TALES

Sat July 2nd - Event in St Martin's Church from 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Refugee Tales organises walks in solidarity with people who have experienced immigration detention, people seeking asylum, and refugees. We also support them to share their stories in anthologies published by Comma Press, and these tales have been written in collaboration with authors such as Ali Smith, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Kamila Shamsie, Patrick Gale, Robert Macfarlane, and Bernardine Evaristo.

From Saturday 2nd – Wednesday 6th July, Refugee Tales will be walking from Merstham to Winchester, and on Saturday 2nd July our 120 walkers reach Dorking, where there will be a **free evening of tales and music**.

Our evening will be hosted by Amelia Gentleman (award-winning journalist and author of *The Windrush Betrayal*). There will be tales read by Tessa McWatt (author of *The Snow Line*) and JB, and music performed by classical pianist, Margaret Fingerhut.

From information circulated by Katy Nunn

DAY OF REFLECTION

On Sunday June 19th those of us meeting in the Meeting House were delighted to welcome Alison and Imogen Carlier. After 15 minutes they left the Meeting and returned at 10.30 with the 2 intriguing clay models shown in the photograph below.



Here are Imogen's words to explain what they are about:

We talked about the Solstice which was on 21st June, that in Northern Ireland, is called the Day of Reflection. This is where you reflect on your past and think about your future.

We made a cygnet and an ear out of clay to each show our thoughts and feelings about that day.

The cygnet was all about reflecting on the past as cygnets are young birds and they would be able to literally see themselves reflected in the water below them.

The ear was all about listening to others on the Day of Reflection and reflect upon listening overall and if we are perhaps always listening to others or not.

Imogen Carlier

AN AMAZING QUAKER

It was lovely to read the following sentence in the St Martin's Magazine article about the recent plant sale in aid of refurbishment of the Christian Centre:

... The amazing Betty Chamberlain from Bookham donated even more plants, so an additional sale was held two weeks later which raised another £200. ...

Frances Harber

SEE ALSO ...

Paul Parker shared with us his favourite passage from QF&P – 10.11:

It was said of the early Christians, 'Behold, how they love one another'. Could this equally be said of us? Or are our meetings places where newcomers may not always be welcomed, where people feel alone? What happens to those who are part of our meetings? Are their lives changed? Do they care more? Love more? What do we know of one another's lives outside of the meeting? Of one another's spiritual journeys? Do we seek to share joys and humour as well as sorrows, or are we perhaps too near the 'sober-sides' images of popular belief? Surely the nurturing of relationships and the response to their breakdown will arise from the willingness of each of us to enter with imagination and love into one another's lives. If we truly know one another then we are likely to be sensitively aware of one another's needs. Often it is just being alongside someone; listening; a gentle touch when words cannot be found. Our extreme busyness, and the pressure and tension of modern life, make it at once more necessary and at the same time more difficult that our meetings should become living and loving communities.

June Ellis, 1986