



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 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.

Third Sunday 10.30 am Children’s Meeting on Zoom. lucyjane73@hotmail.com or katy_nunn@yahoo.co.uk

Second Sunday 6.30pm – Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead (see below)

Sun 6 Mar	Global Day of Action re situation in Ukraine – see page 3
Mon 7 Mar	8.30 – 9.00 pm Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne Brewer
Fri 11 Mar	3.30 – 5.00 pm Meditation and Spiritual Development. Zoom link from Romy.
Sun 13 Mar	2pm ABM at Horsham - face to face and on zoom. See page 2
Sun 13 Mar	6.30 – 7.30 pm Leatherhead Meeting for Worship – see below
Sun 20 Mar	10.30 am Children’s Meeting on zoom
Sun 20 Mar	After MfW Traidcraft stall in the Meeting House
Mon 28 Mar	7.15 – 8.30 pm Sustainability book club on zoom – link from Anne Brewer
Mon 4 Apr	8.30 – 9.00 pm Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne Brewer

RELAUNCH OF THE LEATHERHEAD MEETING

After a long break the Leatherhead Meeting is starting up again on the 13th March and will then meet on the second Sunday of each month.

As before the Meeting for Worship will start at 6.30 pm and last for an hour and we will then have refreshments and time to chat.



Please note that we have a new venue- The Letherhead Institute (yes, they do spell it like that!) at the top of the High Street (see pboto). We have booked the Belmont Room which is on the first floor but there is a reliable lift. The room is comfortable and well ventilated and opens out over the high street so will be away from the road.

For people who do not know the venue, it is very close to the centre of town. There is disabled parking outside the front entrance and limited parking behind. On Sunday evening there is also free parking on the High Street. We have been in contact with most of the people who used to attend and hopefully will have about 8 people at our first meeting but do hope we can grow!

If you have any queries or would just like to know more about it, please feel free to contact me, Sue Bond susanebond@yahoo.co.uk, Tel: 01372 229125

MARCH/APRIL COLLECTION

Wednesday lunch meeting, which raises funds for local charities, are supporting the Patchworking Garden Project.

In March/April 2021 the Quaker charity Friends supported was Quaker Social Action. I'm a bit short of space but I think Friends know about the good work done by this charity.

Ways to donate if wished:

- **Online** at <https://quakersocialaction.org.uk/qsa-appeal-practical>
- **Bank transfer** – email fandc@qsa.org.uk or call 020 8983 5059
- **Post** – send a cheque made payable to Quaker Social Action to Freepost QSA



THEATRE TROUPE

Lesley Hunka writes: Theatre Troupe was created and devised in 2015, following our daughter Emily's experience working for GLYPT (Greenwich and Lewisham Young People's Theatre – now called The Tramshed). With a colleague and friend, she devised a project called "Whatever Makes you Happy" which sought to support young people with mental health problems. This led to her intention to set up her own charity, using all aspects of theatre and creative writing to provide healing.

Emily completed a PhD at Queen Mary's London University, looking at John Bowlby's attachment theory in relation to young people who have experienced some kind of trauma in their formative years, and seeking ways to address the trauma through providing a setting that gives opportunities to increase self-esteem, and to develop trust and security with safe and reliable adults.

Initially Theatre Troupe intended to work with young people with mild to moderate mental health problems, but the referrals that arrived, through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Social Services, and through Special Needs Co-ordinators in schools, tended to be for children with more serious issues – young people who were difficult to place in standard youth activity groups because of high distress and behavioural difficulties.

Since 2015, Emily and her team have provided after school sessions in which the participants are given every opportunity to find and use all the skills needed to put on a show. It has been a steep learning curve; finding suitable venues, managing safe and reliable transport, providing an environment in which the participants felt safe, and staff and volunteers who were able to commit to the project over a significant length of time. Over the six years it has been running, Emily has developed a specialist way of working. She has recognised that the young people benefit most from having an individual mentor to work alongside them, to enjoy some food (her dad cooks pizza for them every week!) and to work towards a performance that they can share with family and friends.

All of this, of course, costs money, and Emily is hugely grateful for the support and love she has received from individuals at Dorking Meeting as well as from the wider organisation of Quakers who have provided funding throughout Theatre Troupe's journey, including this year through their Christmas campaign.

Do look at her website - <https://www.theatretroupe.org> which gives a far better picture of what it's all about than I.

AREA BUSINESS MEETING – Sunday 13th March 2pm

For those attending this Meeting 'face-to-face' at Horsham here is some guidance from Horsham Friends:

We will ask Friends to wear masks when entering the meeting house until sitting down.

We will socially distance the chairs as much as we can.

We will keep the meeting house open in between our morning MFW and the start of the AM at 14.00 so Friends can arrive when it suits them. If Friends bring their own lunch, we will provide coffees, teas and some cordial. Of course, we welcome Friends who wish to come to our morning MFW at 10.30.

RIVER MOLE POLLUTION – WHAT NEXT?

Several Dorking Friends attended the meeting about the state of the River Mole at Old Pixham School on February 11th. Here is a report of the meeting based on one from the Dorking Climate Emergency, who organised it.

The illustration helps describe the situation and the leaflets were handed out at the meeting about the ‘Dirty Old River’ (Mole) with the shocking statistics explained.



People flooded in from as far away as Hookwood, Reigate, Leatherhead and Ifield.

There was an expert

speaker and a well-informed team running the event.

A major question was – **WHAT NEXT?**

Here are some answers.

a) We’re setting up a steering group to research and develop the way forward. Its first meeting is Thursday 24th February via Zoom. Hopefully we’ll create a group focusing on river pollution.

(Note from editor; I expect the outcome of this first meeting will be reported in their newsletter - see below)

b) We’d like to start up a ‘Grounded’ Group, to take care of our beautiful River Mole + Pippbrook + other rivers and streams in the catchment area from Crawley to Leatherhead. Groups will take a short length under their wing and monitor water quality / improve banks and water flow etc...

c) We need a social media expert to launch twitter campaigns and other publicity...

d) ... and people with specialised knowledge of water / pollution / ecology etc.

Interested? Let us know at contact@dorking-climate-emergency.net Contact above email to **get involved** or sign up to receive the newsletter.

“SHOCKING & UNACCEPTABLE POLLUTION”

Box Hill and the River Mole:

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

“A place to walk and exercise safely”

Nitrate Vulnerable Zone

Our river is already at significant risk from agricultural pollution

Designated Site of Special Scientific Interest

“For outstanding wildlife habitats”

Drinking water safeguard zone

“Action to address water contamination will be targeted”

Table 1: WFD water quality classification - River Mole (Horley to Herzhorn) in 2019

Mercury	Fail	Ammonia	Poor
PBDE	Fail	Aquatic plants	Poor
PFOS	Fail	Fish	Moderate
Phosphate	Poor	Invertebrates	Moderate

Sewage discharge is listed as the main reason why the river is not achieving good ecological status (see EA Catchment Explorer)

Thames Water need to be held accountable

“Chronic sewage pollution causes real problems and no possibility of natural recovery” – Natural History Museum

Table 2: Major Thames Water sewage discharges into the River Mole. Figures for 2019 / 2020. Blue = minor improvement. Red = deterioration. Visit The Rivers Trust website to see your area!

Location	Total hours	No. of spills	Av. spill length
Crawley	447 / 508	37 / 41	13 / 12 hrs
Horley	853 / 1265	57 / 69	15 / 18 hrs
Burstow	1547 / 1278	133 / 124	12 / 10 hrs
Charwood	251 / 321	19 / 32	13 / 10 hrs
Earlswood	1805 / 1854	119 / 114	16 / 16 hrs
Holmwood	1883 / 1591	108 / 109	15 / 15 hrs
Dorking	1118 / 2102	68 / 118	17 / 18 hrs
Leatherhead	910 / 1108	101 / 76	9 / 15 hrs
Total:	7,576 / 10,025	640 / 683	13.75 / 13.5 hrs

Check the Dorking Climate Emergency website for more information



Friends may wish to join this global day of action which has been called by many international organisations including CND,

To join the London area march, assemble **from 12 noon, at BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place**

Latest meeting of our Functions Committee 24.02.22

Su Johnston writes: I hope all Ffriends have received the Notes/Minutes from this latest meeting of those who have committed to helping Dorking Local Meeting to continue into 2022. Below is my precis of those notes.

We met in a very creative and co-operative frame of mind, which made the meeting a very pleasant time, and productive. We have not solved the problem of having no Clerk but have succeeded in making sure that Katy and Lucy are happy to continue being Assistant Clerks, covering a lot of the work; and that Su will take Minutes of the meetings, and forward them to Katy, who has the Minute Book in her keeping. We agreed to do this for 2022. We hope to arrange a short "PM" session after Meeting for Worship, for all Ffriends to agree to this arrangement – if they will. There is great potential for putting the Minutes and Index on line, which is being explored.

We suggest that the Functions Committee meet four times a year, and representatives from the Premises, Finance, Pastoral, and Outreach bring short reports to it, which all Ffriends will receive as papers in advance. These reports will include proposals and requests for future plans. All Ffriends will be invited to these meetings, probably as Blended Meetings for the present; and to save time and energy will also serve as Preparative Meetings of Dorking Quakers. Matters which need the whole Meeting's consideration and discernment, we suggest, can be dealt with by having Agendas of the one item to be considered. These would be after Meeting for Worship on Sundays, this being a time when we shall all already be present.

The Ffriends of the Function Committee will be interacting among themselves to share ideas, expertise, plans: to cross-fertilise freely and really share the great potential of this way of working. We feel that, in the old-fashioned Quaker phrase, "Way has opened" for Dorking Meeting.

PREMISES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Geoff Squire writes: There has been quite a lot of activity already this year. Health and Safety requirements led us to have the chains and the winch of the bi-parting screen tested. Sadly, these failed to meet required standards and therefore the screen cannot be used until remedial action has been taken and the screen retested.

Our Area Meeting Houses have their condition checked every five years and the Quinquennial Inspection was postponed last year due to Covid. It took place on February 22nd. To enable the inspector to view the roof from the inside we needed a tower to reach the hatch in the ceiling. Thanks to Judy the tower arrived, as planned, on Monday February 21st. When I telephoned to ask for the expected arrival time I was told it had already arrived at the "Quaker Club"(!) with an apology for the lack of the promised alert. Mike Brewer and Nick Frankel erected the tower very efficiently and kindly stood by, on Friday, to take the tower down, both at very short notice.



The tower gave a good opportunity to progress plans to improve loft insulation and two companies visited to quote. We also investigated possible pests in the loft, as reported by the Cottage tenants.

The Quinquennial Inspection was conducted by Simon Dyson, who carried out the previous one, and he was joined by Nicholas Weedon so only one day was needed. Both are trusted surveyors used by WWAM. They will provide a detailed report with photographs – an important guide for maintenance during the next few years. We have also asked Simon to look into better means of access to the loft and offer guidance on restoring the screen.

On Tuesday 1st March our 'local' representative, of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), James Routledge, visited from Somerset to discuss their annual report on the condition of the roof. Fortunately, there are no serious issues to address. James also visited the Cottage to assess the damp wall which has been a concern for a number of years. The ground floor front room wall has been viewed by the CCT builder and a quotation for the remedial action has yet to be received. Our Area Meeting Trustees will soon be considering whether to continue the use of CCT beyond our trial period which ends in April.

Unfortunately, Helen Pope, who has kindly overseen work in the garden in recent years, is less able to do this now due to the increasing need to care for her mother. If anyone is willing to help, please get in touch with us.

The Central Heating Working Party will continue looking into ways to lower the cost of heating the MH and at the same time reduce its carbon footprint.