



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. Zoom link from anne.brewer43@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 7 Nov	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne
Fri 11 Nov	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development.
Sat 12 Nov	10.00 – 12.00	Area Business Meeting in Dorking (see below)
Sun 12 Nov	11.00	Remembrance Sunday – laying of our white poppy wreath
Sun 13 Nov	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute
Sun 20 Nov	10.30 am	Children's Meeting on zoom
Sun 20 Nov	After MfW	Lesson in how to run blended meeting – see below
Mon 28 Nov	7.15pm	Reading group – Exploring Faith & Climate Justice Module 1 (see page 2)
Fri 2 Dec	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development.

AREA MEETING AT DORKING – SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER

10.00 to 12.00 followed by lunch - bring your own but cake and drinks provided.

Agenda includes a visit report, nominations to AM roles, the annual report from Dorking LM and reports from Meeting for Sufferings, Quaker Life Rep Council and our Trustees. Dates for ABMs in 2023 will be discussed and the possibility of having another Fellowship Day at Claridge House.

There will be an **important discussion** about how the AM can continue after the end of 2023 given our problems over finding Friends willing and able to serve as Trustees.

HOW DOES JUDY DO IT?

For over a year Judy has been operating the blended meeting from the equipment in the Meeting House with occasional relief from Colin. This has been greatly appreciated and Judy deserves a bit of a break. On **Sunday November 20th after Meeting for Worship, Judy will give a lesson on how to do it and also provide a sheet of instructions. It is hoped that enough Friends will join the lesson so that we can set up a rota of blended meeting operators. If you would like to join this rota but can't make the 20th, please get in touch with me.**

Anne Brewer

THE NOVEMBER COLLECTIONS



The October *Quake* points out the renewed need for the work of the Quaker Housing Trust (QHT), so I thought Friends might like to support QHT this month.

QHT helps to provide homes for those in need. It offers advice, support, loans and grants to small charitable organisations to ensure that these homes are available, safe, decent and affordable.

Following significant changes to housing policy during the pandemic, we are now returning to previous patterns of homelessness. The pandemic saw 37,000 people who were sleeping rough provided with shelter. However, these changes didn't last. In 2022 around 96,000 UK households are living in temporary accommodation, including over 120,000 dependent children.

For more details see www.qht.org.uk. To donate to QHT see <https://www.qht.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate> or make a cheque payable to 'Quaker Housing Trust' and send direct to Quaker Housing Trust, Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

The Wednesday Meeting has sent £200 to the **Dorking Food Bank** and is now deciding the next local charity they will collect for.

COP 27 FAITH AT THE GATE

You are invited to join this interfaith event in person or online
Taking place at **Horse Hill 5.00pm – 5.30pm SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER**

Background

As delegates gather in Sharm el Sheikh for COP 27, where activists will be severely controlled, restricted and punished, we will stand in solidarity with Egyptian activists and highlight the appalling human rights record of the Egyptian government and the greenwashing of this event. We will also stand in silence for 10 minutes during our time by the gate.

Come to Horse Hill and stand in solidarity with those excluded from the COP 27 talks.

Bring with you:

3 strands of string/ribbon or similar and we will plait them – to represent that political freedom and climate justice are intertwined. The third strand is ourselves joining in with the calls for change.



For more information

including offers of lifts_contact Sarah 07703 5988815 or email her at azdak@runbox.com

The link to the event if you want to participate online will be provided on the 'Back off horse Hill' Facebook page <https://m.facebook.com/events/1146367052782369>

Sarah Freeman

NEW READING GROUP SESSIONS

The group who have been sharing their responses to *Speed and Scale: A Global Action Plan for Solving Our Climate Crisis Now* have been convinced of the urgency of the situation. We have decided to get a Quakerly perspective by studying the material from the Woodbrooke course *Exploring Faith and Climate Justice*. It is an online course but resources in the form of booklets are available so that Friends can use them for group study. There are 6 modules, and we are starting with Module one – *What is Climate Justice?* You can download the booklets at [Exploring Faith and Climate Justice | Quakers in Britain](#). All are welcome to join our group but we hold our meetings online so you will need access to zoom. Apologies to those who would like to join but don't have this access. First meeting is at 7.15pm on Monday 28th November. **Please let Nigel Bond know if you would like to join in and he will send you the appropriate zoom link.**

As it says in the information about the course: *Our concern for climate justice comes out of our faith and our witness is more grounded if it emerges from deep spiritual reflection.*

SUMMARY of decisions made at COMMITTEE OF FUNCTIONS 20/10/22

1. **Painting of the Meeting House Doors.** The side door in the front of the Meeting House will be painted sage to match the main front door. To mitigate the environmental cost of painting the door before needed, radiator foil will be put behind those radiators which are against an outside wall, to increase heating efficiency, so reducing our carbon footprint.
2. **Annual Report.** Katy agreed to write our Annual Report in time for the Area Meeting on November 12th.
3. **Arrangements for Blended Meetings.** Judy Johnson will run a training session for Friends on how to operate the system in the Meeting House for running a blended meeting. She will also provide a flow chart so there are written instructions to follow.
4. **Updates from Different Areas of Work**
 - a) *Premises:* See Premises report on page 3. We also discussed making improvements to our kitchen but agreed to leave this for the time being, but would consider changing the gas cooker for electric one.
 - b) *Finance:* Romy Elias presented the budget for 2022 and a draft for the coming year. This was agreed and will be circulated. We have not yet paid our quota to Area Meeting. Romy will check with AM that they want it this year and pay it if required. We agreed to the suggestion that we pay a contribution this year of £10,000 to the work that BYM does on behalf of Quakers
 - c) *Children and Young People:* We heard a summary of their activities this year and plans for the future. They have talked about returning in person to the Meeting House, but opinion continues to be divided on this due to rising numbers of Covid cases. They are planning to go carol singing, not to raise money, but to visit Friends who can't so easily get out (Dorking based). Next year they plan to have another Meeting in the garden in the Spring, have adhoc outside meetings and to camp next Summer.
 - d) *Pastoral:* We do not currently have an active group able to meet regularly to discuss pastoral care issues. Support is provided by the upholding prayer group, the meditation group, the children's group, Wednesday Meeting, and individual Friends who keep in touch with others by phone and in person. We considered any gaps that there might be in this provision. Friends who have worries or concerns should get in touch with Jan Elias, and he will try to find other Friends who can take things forward.
 - e) *Wednesday Meeting:* Friends continue to meet for Meeting for Worship and shared lunch on a Wednesday. The group is keen and active, raising money for local causes and keeping in contact with and caring for one another. It was suggested that people who are interested in Quakers might be pointed in their direction as well as invited to Sunday Meeting for Worship.
5. **Clerking Team.** Our assistant clerks, Katy Nunn and Lucy Barford, will be stepping down at the end of the year. We have difficulty finding people willing and able to serve as Clerk, so we hope to recruit Friends willing to take responsibility for specific tasks that are currently undertaken by the assistant clerks. Katy will produce a list of these tasks to be circulated to Friends in an appeal for help for next year. We note that Friends who are not online can feel disenfranchised by the fact that email and zoom have become such major means of communication. This needs to be constantly borne in mind as we find ways forward.
6. **Potential Hirer: Community Drama Project.** Sally Elias spoke to us about a local community project, run by Tony Earnshaw and his drama company Damn Cheek, who need somewhere to rehearse and perform and who may be interested in hiring the Meeting House. The project will bring together different groups from within the Dorking community. We agree that, subject to adherence to our lettings policy, we would be happy for the group to hire our premises and to hold a performance there. We also agree that as a community organisation, they should be offered the discounted rate.

(NB This is a summary by Anne Brewer of Katy Nunn's more detailed notes –a copy of the full notes will be circulated by email, if you are not on the email list and would like a copy let Anne know and she will post you a copy – or Colin will deliver it by bike!)

REPORT OF THE PREMISES GROUP FOR THE COF MEETING 20TH OCT 2022

The work on our premises continues with the great support provided to Rosemary and myself by Anne and Colin, Judy and Jan and their quick responses to calls for help make progress very smooth.

Since the Quinquennial Report we have carried out a number of requirements.....the white edges of the steps in front of the MH have been painted and those inside coming into the lobby and Quiet Room have been renewed, and we have acquired a barrier to encircle the pit hatch when it is in use and safety advice for those using the pit are posted on the wall above the hatch. Plans to replace the wooden ladder and to provide easier entry and exit of the hatch are underway. With these items in place we are well placed to proceed with work in the pit and on the screen, hopefully next year.

As recommended by the QR, the trees around the MH have been inspected by an arboriculturalist (Arb Consultancy - Dorking). The now unsupported South boundary wall has been checked for stability by the same constructional engineer who oversaw the dismantling (caused by the Sycamore tree), Chris Phillips (VKHP Consulting - Dorking). Written reports will follow from these inspections and will set out any future work we should undertake.

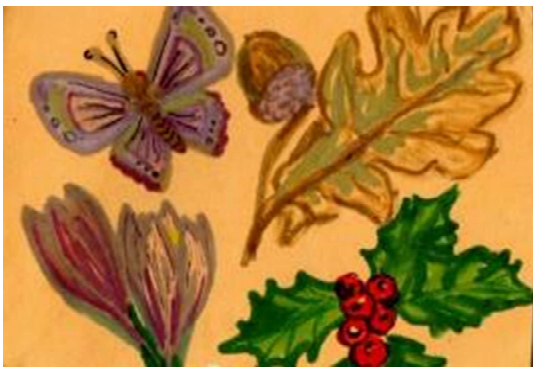
Meanwhile the toilet nearest the kitchen has been replaced as being the only way to overcome a persistent leak.

CCT have been unable to undertake the work to correct the damp wall in the front downstairs room of the Cottage. Valley Builders (East Grinstead) have agreed with CCT to take this up under their supervision and using the same specifications, drawn up by our Area Surveyor Simon Dyson. VB has already visited the Cottage and met the tenant. The long delay in getting this done is mitigated only by the fact that the tenant and her family are very patient and understanding of the situation. We are all very grateful to them for this and no rent increase has been made.

We will continue to work through the recommendations of the QR and, hopefully, find a way to get our screen back into working order. If this is possible, repairing the screen will be a major factor in our budget for 2023.

Geoff Squire

AUTUMN



On the afternoon of Sunday October 16 our Young Friends met up in the Meeting House garden and enjoyed exploring ideas about Autumn. The following Sunday those arriving at the Meeting House for MfW were delighted to find a card from the Young Friends – see scanned in copy.

Inside it said *we had a seasonal get together at the meeting House. It was wonderful to spend time together in this special place. Love to you all.*

