



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

Fri 30 Sept	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development. The date for the October meeting will be decided at this meeting.
Mon 3 Oct	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne
Sun 9 Oct	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute
Mon 10 Oct	7.15pm	Reading group – discussing conclusions of ‘Speed and Scale’
Sun 16 Oct	10.30 am	Children’s Meeting on zoom
Sun 23 Oct	10.30 am	At Reigate MH. Meeting for Worship to remember Richard Jennings followed by scattering of his ashes in Reigate burial ground.
Sun 30 Oct	After MfW	Traidcraft stall at Meeting House

Quaker week – Sat Sept 24 to Sun Oct 2 - runs every year to help Quaker meetings attract new people and share their faith. This year the theme is 'Share your light', focusing on engaging with and welcoming families.

World Quaker Day Sunday 2 Oct. The theme this year is *Becoming the Quakers the World Needs*. The aim is to share reflections with Friends around the world. If you wish to join in worship with Quakers around the world by Zoom you can find details on <http://www.worldquakerday.org/resources/> See also on page 4

THE OCTOBER COLLECTIONS



In September and October 2021, we collected for ‘QUAKER BOLIVIA LINK - A Quaker Response to Poverty’ and Friends may like to do the same this year. Information about this charity’s work and how to donate can be found in the September 2022 Grapevine or on their website <https://qbl.org>

Wednesday Meeting are now collecting for the local **Food Bank**.

The **Dorking Area Foodbank** was set up in 2015 by a team of volunteers from the local Churches in Dorking. They do a splendid job especially in the current cost of living crisis. If other Friends would like to support them financially see <https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>



A VERY ENJOYABLE FELLOWSHIP DAY!



us in every photo!

Now for the reports Gathering and First from **Thomas**, Gathering:

*On the penultimate **Gathering**, a camp for young Quakers of ages 11-14.*

It is a camp that runs Saturday to Saturday, in which we held both activities, and more philosophical discussions. Days began with a roughly 20-minute-long meeting for worship, followed by activities of our choice. These included domino toppling, sports, creative listening or writing, arts and crafts and places to just talk. After these activities, we had speaker session, in which a member of staff or external speaker spoke to us on matters that fitted our theme. Our theme this year was 'Respecting all life and identities.'

Immediately following speaker session, we had Base Group, in which we split into smaller groups to discuss the session, play games, and connect. Later, we had a larger group activity, that further helped make friends. Over the course of the week, we had two fun trips, and enjoyed free time, meals, and drinks each day.

Overall, I would say that Junior Gathering was both fun, and encouraged deeper thinking and connections. I will most definitely return next year.

And now one from **Imogen**:

*This year was my first time at **Senior Conference**, and I will definitely be going next year. The warm and cosy atmosphere was lovely, and the friends I made, which was basically all of them, I've kept in touch with and hope to see at LTQM.*

Our theme this year was intersectionality which we learned about from our three speakers who kindly came in to talk to us. There were also lots of options for activities and I chose to make a model world. This I thoroughly enjoyed as I got creative while having a great time with the group that also chose the model world.

Every morning we sat in Prologue for half an hour, and we had the option to fill the time with writing or drawing in little books which I definitely appreciated. It was nice to see what the others had put in there the mornings before, and it was nice to add things too.

In the evenings we did Prologue in the big hall. The lights would all be switched off and there would be electric candles and string lights in the centre. There were no little books for this, so we got to zone out a little more and feel peaceful.

Over 40 people from round the Area Meeting enjoyed our Fellowship Day at Claridge House on Saturday 10 September. Here are some photos and the reports on Junior Gathering and Senior Conference read by our YF's Thomas Nunn and Imogen Carlier, during the Area Business Meeting part of the day. Can you recognise them – they are both in one or more photos! And who else can you see from Dorking – there were 11 of us there including 4 Young Friends and there's at least one of

from our Young Friends about their Time at Junior Senior Conference.

now age 13, who served as an Elder for Junior

*week of my summer holidays, I went to **Junior***



Of course, during these times people could minister whenever they wanted, and a lot of people did. These were often moving and on the last Epilogue most of us cried because we didn't want Senior Conference to end.

Some of my favourite times were simply sitting in the foyer making bracelets, playing cards and drinking hot chocolate with my friends. I am so glad to have been able to go to this wonderful event and I cannot wait to return next year.

Finally, here is **Pippa Bank's** report on Senior Conference. This one has been circulated on email but many of you won't have seen it and it would be a shame to miss such a lovely report.

*When I think of **Junior Gathering**, the word that comes to mind is acceptance. The two times I have been there, I've found that I'm able to be truly myself. Although, I think that perhaps even more than acceptance, maybe I should think celebration. Because all my quirks and experiences are not only accepted but celebrated, and I've never found that sort of community in places such as school.*

Coming out of junior gathering both times, I have felt a lot more confident. Last year that new confidence, I think, led me to have a lot happier school year and be more forthcoming.

I found it extremely refreshing to have 2 guaranteed times of worship per day, as in normal life it is difficult to find time. Both Epilogue and Meeting for Worship were very rewarding experiences, but I think that I took more from Epilogue. I especially enjoyed the music that was played quietly at the end; it really added to the spiritual experience.

At Junior Gathering another good way that I found to bond was through activity sessions, which we chose the night before. These meant that I could meet like-minded people and bond through activities such as friendship bracelet making, music and discussion-based sessions. I also loved meeting my base group, which is where we discussed speaker sessions and played games.

I really enjoyed doing evening activities with my friends, and my personal favourites were the disco and barn dance. Before that we had a chance to connect through free time- where I had a lot of fun! One of the main things that I remember of free time was the amount of music- particularly on the piano! Not to mention the never-ending rounds of connect four!

We also went to Oxford! It was really interesting having Meeting for Worship there with senior conference- there was a lot of very inspiring ministry. And then, of course, getting the freedom to walk around in our own groups was a lot of fun.

One other stand-out experience in my mind was getting the opportunity to be clerk. I feel like after that I understand a lot better how to run a Meeting for Worship for business and also trying to discern an idea that works for everybody.

Overall, I really want to thank Area Meeting for letting me have this experience because I have gained so much from it with newfound friends, skills, and confidence. I can't wait for Senior Conference next year!

Apart from the ABM which the Clerks managed to keep to one hour (!) there were lots of activities indoors and out, and splendid refreshments and packed lunches prepared by Claridge House staff.



THOUGHTS ON WORLD QUAKER DAY

Sunday October 2nd



Amongst the post to the Meeting House, I found a copy of Friends World News, which is the bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Knowing World Quaker Day was coming up I thought I would take it home and have a look at it. It was an eye-opener for me to see how Quakers all round the world were working together for peace, justice and sustainability. See <https://fwcc.world/> or ask me to pass the booklet on to you.

To give one small example from the work of Asia West Pacific Section of FWCC. When 95% of the local fishing community's boats in Bohol, Philippines, were destroyed by Super typhoon Odette, local Quakers and members of Friends Peace Teams raised funds through FWCC Asia West Pacific section and built new sustainable fishing boats for the community using local materials.

MINISTRY

On Sunday 25th September we had a visitor from Letchworth Meeting at Meeting at Worship in the Meeting House. The few of us there appreciated the ministry he gave, and I thought other Friends would like to hear it. He told us the following story:

Once upon a time, an old member of a desert tribe had died. He had provided for the distribution of his worldly goods in his will, and, as was common in those days, in that part of the world, he had divided his goods between his three sons, giving the most to the oldest, and least to the youngest. The eldest son was to receive one half of the estate, the middle son was to receive one quarter of the estate and the youngest son was to receive one fifth of the estate. The man's estate consisted of nineteen camels.



In a part of the world where wealth was measured in camels this was a significant number. The difficulty, however, was that nineteen cannot be divided by two, to give the eldest son a half, or by a quarter or by a fifth to give the next two sons their proper shares. The only compromise that had been suggested was to kill and cut up one of the camels. The sons were not happy with this idea but could think of no other solution.

Then a kindly Uncle offered to give them one of his camels in case that helped. And so it did! They now had twenty camels. Half of 20 is 10, a quarter is 5 and a fifth is 4 so the sons all had their right share. However, 10+5+4 equals 19 so there was one camel left over. This was returned to the kindly Uncle!

Our Friend then read the first part of QF&P 23.02 about mending the world and how a small act of kindness can have far reaching and unexpected effects.

Anne Brewer

PREMISES NEWS AND AN APPEAL FOR HELP

As some of you will have seen the vertical blinds are now back up in the kitchen over our new double-glazed windows! Sticking to our aim to be as 'green' as possible we determined to re-use the old blinds if possible, but they were very dirty. Very helpfully Steve Berry manager of Sage Cleaning, who clean the MH once a week, said his team would clean the blinds and fix them back up! This they did and there they are!

As will be seen in due course, the front door is to be repainted in a sage green colour as agreed and white edge strips painted on various steps for safety reasons.

Many Friends won't realise that every month the fire alarms and emergency lights in the Meeting House are tested to make sure they are working. At the moment Colin cycles into Dorking to do the tests and would welcome passing this job over to someone else. **Offers please to me.**

Many thanks to Geoff who masterminds all the work on Premises, helped where possible by his small team of 4 Friends.

Anne Brewer