



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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April 2023  
 No. 577

### DIARY

**Sundays – Meeting for Worship 10.30 to 11.30 am** Blended in Meeting House and on Zoom. Not blended on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month if there is one. Zoom link from [rosemaryelias1@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryelias1@gmail.com) is now a recurring link and will remain the same indefinitely.

**Wednesdays – Meeting for Worship 12.45 to 1.15 pm** in Meeting House followed by lunch.

**Second Sundays 6.30pm – Meeting for Worship** in Leatherhead Institute [Susanebond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Susanebond@yahoo.co.uk)

**Third Fridays 3.30 to 5.00 pm** Meditation and Spiritual Development. On zoom – [rosemaryelias1@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryelias1@gmail.com)

**Third Sundays 10.30 am Children’s Meeting in the Meeting House**

Sun 2 Apr	9.00 – 10.15 am	Local Business Meeting in person and on zoom. See page 3.
Mon 3 Apr	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne Brewer
Sun 9 Apr	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute
<b>Tues 11 Apr</b>	<b>10.30 – 11.30</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship in MH in memory of Mary Brooks. In person only.</b>
<b>Fri 14 Apr</b>	<b>3.30 – 5.00 pm</b>	Meditation and Spiritual Development. On zoom – link from Romy Elias
Sun 16 Apr	10.45 – 11.30 am	Children’s Meeting in the Meeting House.
Fri 21 Apr	All day	AM group to join the mass demonstration in London re lack of action over climate change
Sun 23 Apr	After MfW	<b>Traidcraft stall</b> in MH- Elizabeth Dobson will bring stock she still holds.
Mon 24 Apr	7.15 pm	Sustainability Book group on zoom – link from Nigel Bond

**Yearly Meeting 2023.** 28 April–1 May. Preparation events 21–23 April. Blended Meeting in Friends House, London and online. All participants must register in advance – [www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings).  
**Registration for in-person bookings close on 31 March and online on 17 April.**

### Collection for April

Wednesday Meeting are deciding on the charity for their March/April collection.

In the past in April, we have collected for Quaker Social Action as in March. The work of QSA is still much needed. Here are some of the things they do mostly based in London: [Practical support with funeral costs](#), [A cooking space for anyone who needs access to one](#), [Supported housing for young adult carers](#), [A community library for people affected by homelessness](#), [Financial wellbeing support for families and individuals](#).



Cheques can be made payable to Quaker Social Action and posted to Freepost QSA (no address or stamp required) or donate online: <https://quakersocialaction.org.uk/get-involved/ways-donate>

## A concern being brought to PM on 2<sup>nd</sup> April

With the support of the Meeting's sustainability book group Sue Bond has sent the following to our Clerks for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> business meeting as an item to be considered.

*I would like to ask the meeting to consider the issue of Ecocide and to request support for the work of Stop Ecocide International.*

*Stop Ecocide International is supported by such respected people as Pope Francis, Jane Goodall, Professor Philippe Sands and Greta Thunberg. They aim to add a fifth crime of Ecocide to the list of crimes which can currently be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court, which are war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression.*



*"Ecocide means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term change to the environment being caused by these acts".*

*Stop Ecocide International is currently compiling signatures from individuals and groups in support of their aims for a petition to governments throughout the world. You can find more information about Stop Ecocide International on their website- <https://www.stopecocide.earth>.*

*Adding Ecocide to the list of heinous crimes currently within the prerogative of the International Criminal Court recognises that climate change and damage to our Planet Home present the greatest dangers to humanity and life on earth. Although obviously such a move will not, in and of itself, solve this situation, such changes in the law could provide direction, influence people's views about the environment and hold out the possibility of powerful individuals who knowingly damage the environment being held to account.*

*Some Quaker Meetings are already leading the way, signing the Stop Ecocide International petition and requesting that this matter should be considered by Meeting for Sufferings. I would like to commend some resources which have been developed by the Hampshire and Islands Area Meeting Sustainability Action Group. These include a short film, particularly prepared for Quakers, which provides more detailed background information (see <https://vimeo.com/800969681>) and a briefing document prepared by David George who is the convenor of the group – a paper or emailed copy of this document is available from me on request.*

*Sue Bond*

## More Action over concern for the environment

Faith at the Gate will be held at Horse Hill gates as usual from 5pm - 5.30pm on Sunday 2nd April. The theme will be looking forward to the Climate Change mass gathering around Parliament on 21st April. Please contact Sarah by email or text message for more info. [azdak@runbox.com](mailto:azdak@runbox.com) 07703 598815



Also contact Sarah if you hope to join the group travelling to the mass gathering on April 21<sup>st</sup>. There are about a dozen of us so far. We will be joining with other Quakers at Westminster Quaker Meeting House for a meeting for Worship before joining the mass gathering. For more details see the March Grapevine (page 4)

## Plant sale at Christian Centre – Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am

A reminder of the plant sale mentioned in February Grapevine - the Dorking Christian Centre is planning to hold its annual plant sale in aid of its work in the local community, on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lots of the plants on sale will have been grown by our Betty Chamberlain!



## PM on Sunday April 2nd

We are having a PM or Local Business Meeting on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The Meeting will be blended, so you can attend on zoom or in person. The zoom link will be the same as used for Sunday Meeting for Worship. Our Clerks will be Frances Poulton and Katy Nunn and the agenda so far is:

1. The timing of PM's
2. Premises Matters – see page 4
3. Sue Bond's concern over Ecocide – see page 2
4. An update on the Passion for the Planet theatre project

Please contact Frances Poulton or Katy Nunn by the end of Wednesday 29th March if you have any further items for the agenda – apologies if your Grapevine arrives too late for this.

## March the Mole

The 3 walks along the River Mole to draw attention to its polluted state have taken place and were very well supported. Over 90 people gathering at the start of the walks on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March and 50 or so on the last walk on the 19<sup>th</sup>, which was Mothering Sunday. Here are some photos taken by Sarah Freeman.



Setting off on the walk on March 12th



Nigel Bond with the megaphone on Brockham Green, explaining about the tests that have been done on the water in the River Mole.

## Good Friday Choir – Singers Wanted!

*Helena Twentyman writes:* I am looking for singers from all the churches in Dorking to form a united choir at the United Service at 11:30am on Good Friday (Friday 7 April). We had one last year - the singing was much appreciated, and everyone really enjoyed being involved. We are planning to have a choir again this year and it would be great to include singers from as many churches in Dorking and the surrounding areas as possible. We will be singing two simple pieces which I can circulate nearer the time. The service will be in St Martin's Churchyard (weather permitting!) and there will be a rehearsal beforehand in St Martin's Church at about 10am – details to be confirmed. It would be wonderful if you could join in - please contact me for more information - [choir@stpaulsdorking.org.uk](mailto:choir@stpaulsdorking.org.uk) or 01306 882457.

## **A bouquet from the children**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March it was Mothering Sunday and those of us attending Meeting for Worship in the Meeting House were delighted to welcome 7 children and their Mums! The children guided by Pippa made some beautiful paper flowers for their Mums and the bouquet graced the table in the large hall for a while. Photo by Pippa.



## **Premises News**

At last, the long-standing problem of a damp wall in the Cottage has been rectified. Simon Dyson, the Area Meeting surveyor, signed off the work and Valley Builders has sent a very thorough report of every step taken, including colour photographs.

We are now turning our attention to the screen which you will know has been put out of service.

We were advised to ask a structural engineer to examine and give advice as to how we might safely go about restoring it or putting it permanently out of use. We need to be able to check the wooden fabric of the screen, the iron chains, pulleys, and the winch system and ascertain how we gain access to all parts of the screen given how it is incorporated into the structure of the Meeting House. Fortunately, we already have contact with such an expert who surveyed it some years ago. Clive Weston visited on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. A scaffold tower has been hired to give access to the attic. Mike Brewer and Nick Frankel kindly agreed to put it up and take it down for us, as they have done for us previously.

Once we have the structural engineer's report we will consider what is possible, get approximate costings and look into financing the work. Meeting will be kept up to date with this process through the Grapevine and the opinions of Members and F/f associated with Dorking Meeting will be sought.

We have learnt that there is a national shortage of conservationists for ancient winding gear and large screens such as ours. We have been in touch with Hugh Harrison Conservation and Dorothea Conservation which are both located in the West Country. They have been informed of our plans for the screen and been given copies of previous surveys as well as the very helpful documents prepared by Nigel Bond. They are standing by and awaiting our decisions.

Meanwhile the builder used by Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) is ready to complete work on the roof noted in the Quinquennial Report when a date is arranged. Their area representative visited on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March to run through further roofing issues noted by the builder which could not be seen during the QR inspection due to their positioning. Due to the distance the CCT builder has to travel, this work will be done on a separate occasion.

Tree surgeons will be at the Meeting House on April 4<sup>th</sup> to reduce a number of trees around the garden, including those which overhang the steps up from the road at the front and the rear drive. Our Neighbour has been informed.

We are very grateful to Mike Brewer for his dependable work on the MH garden and to our cleaning company Sage who spread rock salt when required (without having to be asked) and who also undertake additional tasks when needed.

Geoff Squire (For the Premises Group)