



# 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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February 2023  
No. 575

### Message from editing group

We'd love to include as many voices as possible in the Grapevine – it is intended to be by as well as for Dorking Friends. Contact the editor if there is something you would like to write about. It may be a particular concern, or a broader topic pertinent to Quakerism, or simply something you've experienced and would like to share with other members of the Meeting. We would be delighted to hear from you.

### DIARY

**Sundays – Meeting for Worship 10.30 to 11.30 am** Blended in Meeting House and on Zoom. Not blended 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. 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 29 Jan	A 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday so MfW will not be blended but 2 separate groups – Zoom and in person at MH
Mon 6 Feb	8.30 – 9.00 pm Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne Brewer
Fri 10 Feb	7.00 pm <i>Breeding Grounds</i> play at Reigate MH – see page 2
Sat 11 Feb	2.00 – 3.30 pm Special blended meeting to discuss Membership – see below
Sun 12 Feb	11.45 – 12.45 Special meeting for Dorking Friends – see page 3
Sun 12 Feb	6.30 – 7.30 pm Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute
Mon 13 Feb	7.15 pm Sustainability book group – details and Zoom link from Nigel Bond
Fri 17 Feb	3.30 – 5.00 pm Meditation and Spiritual Development. On Zoom – link from Romy Elias
Sun 19 Feb	10.45 – 11.30 am Children's Meeting, probably in the Meeting House

### Do we need membership?

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2.00 to 3.30 pm at Dorking Meeting House**

*Anne Brewer writes:* What are you, I wonder? A birthright member, a member by application or an Attender? If you are an Attender there are some Quaker roles that you cannot undertake even though many Attenders are more committed than some Members! Meeting for Sufferings is exploring the issue and is asking Meeting for Sufferings reps, both individually and in their Area Meetings, to consider the following questions:

• **Why do we have membership?** • **What is it for?** • **Is it still necessary?** • **If yes, what form(s) could it take?**

Lesley Evans, our AM Clerk, will facilitate a blended meeting for our AM in our Meeting House to discuss these questions on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> from 2.00 to 3.30 pm approx., to see if we have a common view on the matter. The Zoom link will be circulated nearer the date.

## **Special Meeting after MfW on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

**11.45 to 12.45**

Hopefully everyone has seen the informal notes circulated after our special meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't and would like a copy, please contact Sarah on 07703 598815.

The aim of these special meetings is to find a way forward for Dorking Meeting, which is struggling due to lack of Friends able to help with the running of the Meeting. For those interested, attached to your Grapevine is a list of the jobs that keep our Meeting functioning and who is doing them at the moment. You will see that the main gap is the absence of a Clerk, but other roles are going to be vacant in the near future.

We really do need a Clerk now Katy and Lucy have finished their year as Assistant Clerks, so we repeat here the appeal circulated by email on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please look at the following list and let Katy know if you are happy to take on any of the jobs – she could tell you more about what a job involves if that would help.

- Lend support for business meetings and committee of functions meetings – compiling agenda, taking notes/minutes, chairing as required
- Filing minutes and reports appropriately
- Give Notices after Sunday MfW
- Forwarding information/messages/minutes etc to wider meeting by email
- Being contact person for external enquiries and wider Quaker networks (eg. BYM, Regional Meeting etc – essentially means having your email address on their records for messages that are sent out to clerks)
- Checking mailbox and distributing as necessary
- Looking through and distributing as necessary information from quarterly clerks' mailout

At the Jan 8<sup>th</sup> meeting we decided to find out how other Meetings in difficult positions were coping. So here is an update on Ifield Meeting and then one on Epsom Meeting.

Ifield LM has very few members and a very old Meeting House to look after. Three members, all elderly, are effectively running the Meeting. Barbara is acting as treasurer and premises caretaker, Roger B as Clerk – receiving communications and giving notices after MfW – and Pat is doorkeeper and welcomer and looks after the library. The group of 3 meet monthly to discuss any problems that have become evident and decide what to do about it. They do have 7 fairly regular attenders, some of whom join these business meetings and may offer to help on a specific problem.

Epsom LM currently has 7-8 members and attenders but the number has dropped as low as 3-4.

They meet fortnightly in the staff room of a local school and have no premises of their own.

They have only one office-holder, their Clerk, who handles all correspondence.

They meet together on an ad hoc basis after Meeting for Worship and have no formal meetings.

They do not have a Treasurer. They have an arrangement with their Area Meeting whereby they (the Area Meeting) hold their monies and pay their bills. Obviously these are very few.

### **Collection for February**

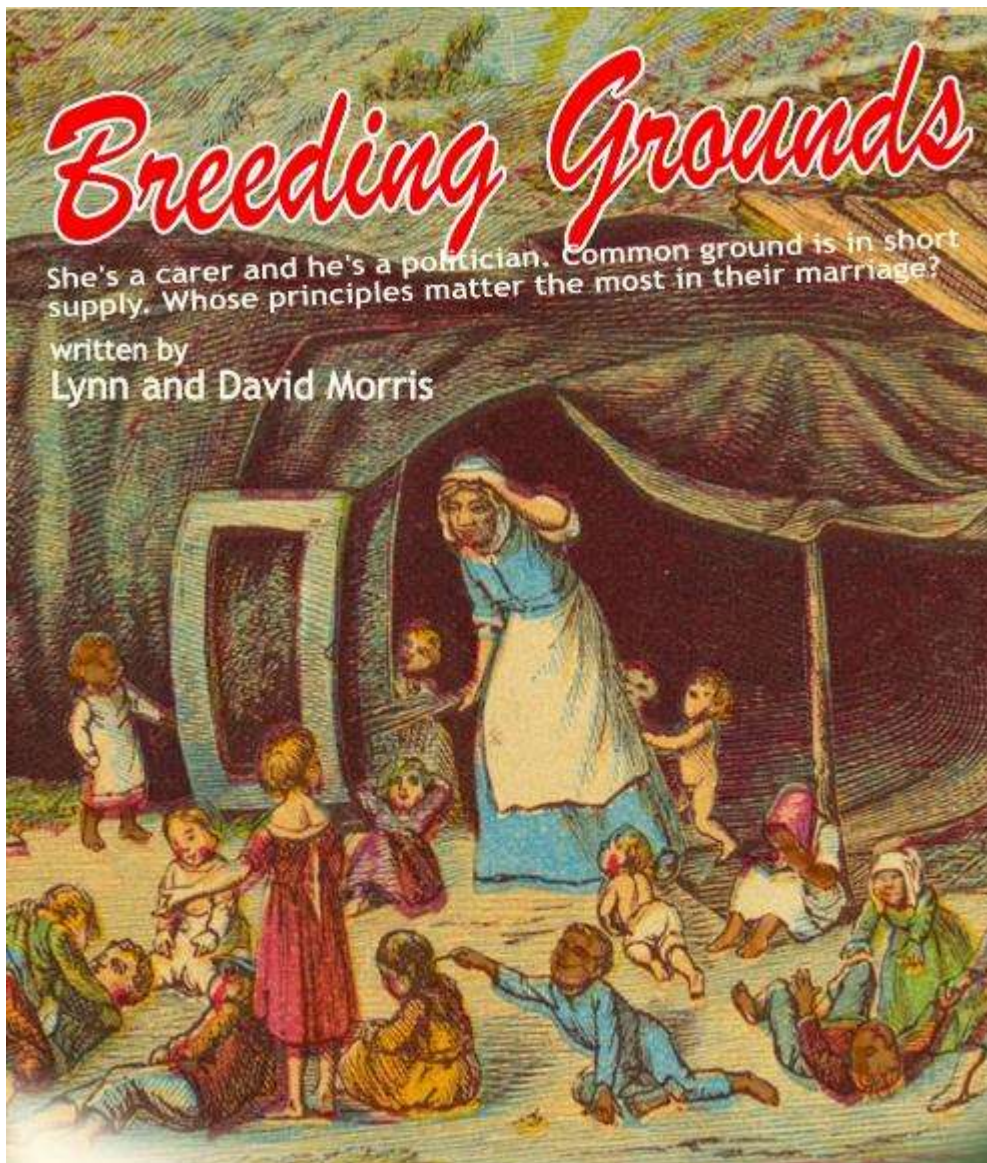
Wednesday Meeting over January collected £200 for Beatitudes – a Dorking charity with a good as new children's shop at the bottom of St Martin's Walk, with clothes, toys, books and equipment at very reasonable prices! It also is a drop-in for parents, with a lovely little play area, so the children can play while parents relax, or shop. They will be collecting for another local charity in February.

Hopefully some Friends are able to contribute to the Sunday Meeting's January/February collection for Claridge House – see details in January Grapevine.

There was no response to the request for suggestions for other Quaker charities to support with our collections so presumably the list used in 2022 is OK. But please do offer suggestions if you have a concern around a particular issue and we could make the collections monthly instead of over a 2-month period and put in the new suggestions for the second month.

## Invitation to a play written and performed by Quakers

*Jo Hills writes:* Reigate Quakers are delighted to invite you to a production of the play, 'Breeding Grounds' by the Journeyman Theatre company, at our meeting house (47 Reigate Rd, Reigate RH2 0QT) on Friday 10th February, at 7.00 pm.






**Breeding Grounds**

She's a carer and he's a politician. Common ground is in short supply. Whose principles matter the most in their marriage?

written by  
Lynn and David Morris

**Friends Meeting House**  
47 Reigate Road, Reigate, RH2 0QT  
Friday 10th February - 7.00  
Contact: Jo Hills 07817 866657  
(WhatsApp preferred)

There is no charge for admission but donations for our designated charities are welcome on the night.



[www.dirtygirlslesvos.com](http://www.dirtygirlslesvos.com)

*"Breeding Grounds explores the human response to sustainability, world population and the moral dilemmas that are now facing each and every one of us in our daily lives. And to which we have to find our own accommodating solutions in the face of what seems to many to be a state of political inertia."*

We are very much looking forward to an entertaining and thought-provoking evening.

**Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm, and also after the performance, which starts at 7.00pm.**

This year will be the last opportunity to see the fabulous plays of the Journeyman Theatre as they stop touring permanently at the end of this year, so catch them while you can!

## From our Children's Meeting

*"Hold fast the hope which anchors the soul, which is sure and steadfast, that you may float above the world's sea."* George Fox

*Katy Nunn writes:* Children's Meeting this month saw some of our children gathered at last in the Meeting House on a Sunday morning. The theme of the session was 'Hope'. The children shared ideas, silly and serious, about what they hoped for, and then made 'trees of hope' to represent the things that interest and support us (the tree's roots) and what we are passionate about or hope for (the branches). With things as they are at the moment it felt important to focus on something that might help us "float above the world's sea". Equally important, the joy of being able to come together, eat biscuits and run around!

## Psalm 23

Roger Baker of Ifield Meeting was intrigued by this annotated psalm and offered it for the Grapevine. Tara had some different understandings of the meanings of the psalm than those suggested, and we wondered what other Friends thought.

The LORD is my shepherd *That's Relationship*  
I shall not want *That's Supply*  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures *That's Rest*  
He leadeth me beside the still waters *That's Refreshment*  
He restoreth my soul *That's Healing*  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness *That's Guidance*  
For his name's sake *That's Purpose*  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death *That's Testing*  
I will fear no evil *That's Protection*  
For thou art with me *That's Faithfulness*  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me *That's Discipline*  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies *That's Hope*  
Thou anointest my head with oil *That's Consecration*  
My cup runneth over *That's Abundance*  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life *That's Blessing*  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord *That's Security*  
For ever. *That's Eternity*

## Notice of upcoming plant sale

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>. Now is the time to start potting up cuttings and sowing seeds if you would like to contribute. Betty Chamberlain, who regularly supplies dozens of plants for the sale, can give you some advice if you need any!

Frances Harber

