



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

Editing group: Anne Brewer, Tara Craig and Katy Nunn
Printing and Distribution: Lesley Hunka and Tara Craig

January 2023
No. 574

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 Romy. The zoom link is now a recurring one and will remain the same indefinitely.

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 susanebondatyahoo.co.uk

Third Friday 3.30 to 5.00 pm Meditation and Spiritual Development. On zoom – link from Romy

Third Sunday 10.30 am Children’s Meeting on Zoom. katynunnatyahoo.co.uk

Sun 8 Jan 11.45 – 12.45 Special meeting – see below

Sun 8 Jan 6.30 – 7.30 pm Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute

Sun 15 Jan 2.00 – 4.00 pm Area Meeting at Ifield (Details page 3)

Mon 16 Jan 7.15 pm Sustainability book group – details and zoom link from Nigel Bond

Fri 20 Jan 3.30 – 5.00 pm Meditation and Spiritual Development. On zoom – link from Romy Elias

Sat 21 Jan 6.30 pm 70th Birthday celebrations at 9 Clifton Terrace, Cliftonville, Dorking (see page 2))

Mon 6 Feb 8.30 – 9.00 pm Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne Brewer.

Special Meeting – Sunday 8th Jan after Meeting for Worship.

Geoff Squire (Premises group) writes: Sadly, our Meeting is in a state of flux at present due to diminishing numbers. Consequently, the workload of those who remain active becomes ever more demanding especially with our increasing ages. We therefore need to consider, yet again, if there is a way forward, especially now that we have no Clerk.

Because we are custodians of the Meeting House and the attached Cottage with their surrounding garden and trees, all subject to last year's Quinquennial Report, we also need to consider how (or if) the work of the Premises group can continue and, in particular, how decisions regarding expenditure are made.

We have enquired as to how best to consider these matters thoroughly. It seems that the best time is this Sunday 8th Jan, with a blended meeting following MFW. If we have a comfort break, perhaps we could convene at 11.45am and restrict ourselves to a one-hour discussion.

This arrangement may not enable all those interested in our future to join us, and that is a cause for regret, but any further delay does not guarantee greater attendance, so I hope you will agree that it is best to press on sooner rather than later.

We do need all our combined energy for this discussion and thanks in advance if you are able to be present (in person or on Zoom).

70th Birthdays celebration – Saturday 21 January

REMINDER OF SOCIAL EVENT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF DORKING AND LEATHERHEAD MEETINGS Keep Saturday, 21st January free!

Four of your Dorking Quaker friends have just had or are about to have 70th birthdays. We thought it would be a good idea to hold a celebratory event together so that as many Dorking (and Leatherhead) Meetings people as possible can have an informal social.



To be held at 9 Clifton Terrace, Cliftonville, Dorking starting at 6.30pm (Sat. 21 January 2023) – EMAIL: azdakatrinbox.com Tel. 07703 598815 or call Sue&Nigel, or Judy

IMPORTANT – PLEASE RSVP. And please let us know if you can bring a dish to share

*** HOPE TO SEE YOU ON 21ST ***

Sarah, Sue and Nigel, Judy

Collections

Anne Brewer writes: Wednesday Meeting raises generous amounts to donate to local charities agreed by those who attend. They are still deciding together which local charity they will support this month.

The Sunday Meeting collection concentrates on Quaker charities. The last time a Meeting decision was made about which charities to support was in September 2019 (List A) then in November 2020 the Clerking Team suggested list B and the Grapevine Editor suggested the same charities for 2022 having no other guidance.

A.
Jan/Feb: Young Friends General Meeting
Mar/Apr: Quaker Social Action
May/June: Woodbrooke
July/Aug: Quaker Voluntary Action
Sept/Oct: Ramallah Friends School in West Bank
Nov: Open for suggestion nearer the time.
Dec: Children's choice

B.
Jan/Feb: Claridge House
Mar/April: Quaker Social Action
May/June: Woodbrooke
July Aug: Quaker Voluntary Action
Sept/Oct: Quaker Bolivia Link
Nov: Open for suggestion nearer the time
Dec: Children's Choice

The question is which Quaker charities would Friends like to support this year? In view of the excellent Fellowship Day many of us enjoyed at Claridge House last year the editing group have decided we will again make that the choice for January – details below. Then **by January 22nd** please send to Anne Brewer (annebrewer43atgmail.com or 01306 500187) your thoughts/suggestions on which charities it would be good to support for the later months of the year. If we get a lot of suggestions, we could suggest a different charity for each month!

Suggested Quaker charity for January collection is Claridge House Retreat Centre. This centre provides a space where people of any faith or none may stay for a while in peace and stillness before returning, rested and renewed, to their everyday lives. They aim:

- to embody in their welcome the Quaker understanding that each person is a unique and precious individual
- to provide a friendly, high-quality service that nourishes a spirit of well-being in all who cross the threshold.
- to be mindful of sustainability in the use of their resources.



To donate: Send cheques to Claridge House, Dormans Road, Dormansland, Lingfield, RH7 6QH, or for card payment go to www.claridgehouse.org.uk (click on donate button in 'support us' box at bottom of home page.)

Area Meeting

At Ifield Meeting House on Sunday 15th Jan 2023 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided. Zoom not available so Friends are encouraged to help others to attend by offering lifts.

The agenda will include **Membership** (with the **Tabular Statement for WWAM for 2022**), **Nominations**, **Annual Report from Ifield LM**, **Trustees' Report** and **Meeting for Sufferings report**. The last item covers some interesting issues - Possibility of Twinning LMs with an overseas Meeting; Replacement of the term Overseer; Draft texts for revised QF&P; and Discussion re membership. There is also an opportunity for AM to decide how they wish to meet in future, if there are no facilities for a blended meeting – in person only or via zoom only.



On this occasion the Clerk is willing to receive written submissions on issues they are concerned about, from those prevented from attending. Please send to Lesley Evans <lesleybcevansatgmail.com>

Reports will be circulated by email before the day. **If you do not have access to the circulated reports online** and would like to see them, please ask Anne Brewer (01306 500187)

Update on Damn Cheek theatre project



Katy Nunn writes: You may remember from the minutes of the last Functions Committee meeting that we agreed to let the Meeting House be used by a theatre company called Damn Cheek for a community-based production that they are hoping to put on here in Dorking. I had a very interesting meeting the other day with Tony and Darren from Damn Cheek where I learned more about what this will look like.

The piece will be a multi-faith exploration of creation stories, with a strong focus on stewardship of the environment and will, in a number of creative ways, involve groups from across the Dorking community. The show will take place in October this year, and they will need to use the meeting house for 2 weeks of performances at the end of October, as well as three weeks of rehearsals from the end of September. It is a 'promenade piece' so they would hope to use the whole building for the performance.

There are a number of things we as a meeting will need to decide, including how much of a partner we would like to be in the process (for example, are there any Friends who would like to be involved in the planning? Could they use our name in their funding applications?) how much of their set and props they can leave in the meeting house in between performances, exactly what our restrictions are in terms of their use of the space. They were keen to stress that the piece is site-specific so will be designed to fit around our space, which includes our use of it and any restrictions we might have; they are very flexible.

There will also be plenty of opportunities for members of the meeting to get involved if they wish, so if it sounds to you like a fun and valuable project to be part of do get in touch. There will be more on that as the plan takes shape.

I would like to suggest that we set up a working group of people who would like to be involved so that we can liaise with Damn Cheek and move forward with the planning, perhaps bringing key decisions to a special business meeting as necessary. If you are interested, please contact me in the first instance.

Warm Spaces in Dorking

Attached to this Grapevine is a table showing the Warm Spaces for all in Dorking provided by the local churches. The editing group thought you might find this useful to pass on to someone who needed a warm space or maybe pin up in an appropriate spot.

Christmas fun for the families

Alison Carlier writes: Wreath making day at the MH on 3rd December. It was great fun with 7 families taking part, homemade cake and spicy apple juice!



Anne Brewer adds: And they made a beautiful wreath which they left on the table for Friends to find on Sunday when they arrived for Meeting for Worship at the Meeting House.



From a blog by Paul Parker: Quaker community in 2023

Many thanks to Tara who has summarised Paul Parker's blog to fit the available space – for the full text see <https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/what-does-quaker-community-look-like-in-2023>

Quakers are a worshipping community. Our simple way of worshipping depends on us coming together in groups. We can worship individually, of course, but recognise that seeking God's will for us is best done together. Community matters. It matters who is there and who is heard. It matters how people feel and how they participate. It matters that people feel welcomed and safe, and that they are accountable within their group. Being a true community is hard – it has been described as "where the person you least want to live with always lives". We have to work at it.

Sharing in community

Loving people is rewarding but difficult. Quaker communities have elders and pastoral care Friends to ensure spiritual and practical needs are looked after. But loving each other takes all of us.

Quaker communities need to flourish together. It means giving service to one another. Service, humbly and gladly given, is the glue that holds communities together. It's the small things as well as the large. Putting the chairs out for meeting, or setting up the Zoom link, is as important to the community as the wise words spoken in worship.

Being present to community

As we "walk with a smile" into the new year, one certainty is that community will become increasingly important. In times of despair, we need other people to comfort us. In times of need, other people can care for us. Our community is our well-being.

In 2023, communities are taking on new forms. We can worship together in a circle of silence, as one among many in the shared silence of an online meeting, or alone knowing others alone elsewhere are worshipping with us. In all these forms our community is present, and we must be present to it in return.

Community matters. What are you doing to look after yours?