



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

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June 2023
No. 579

DIARY

Sundays – Meeting for Worship 10.30 to 11.30 am Blended in Meeting House and on Zoom. Not blended on a 5th Sunday of the month. Zoom link from rosemaryelias1@gmail.com is a recurring link and so 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. Details from Susanebond@yahoo.co.uk

Third Fridays 3.30 to 5.00 pm Meditation and Spiritual Development. **On zoom - link now same as Sunday MfW**

Third Sundays 10.30 am Children's Meeting in the Meeting House

Mon 5 June	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session – on Zoom if liked – link from Anne Brewer
Wed 7 June	7.15 pm	Sustainability Book group on zoom – link from Nigel Bond
Sun 11 June	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Leatherhead Meeting for Worship at Leatherhead Institute
Fri 16 June	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development. On zoom – link as for Sun MfW
Sun 18 June	10.45 – 11.30 am	Children's Meeting in the Meeting House.
Sat 24 June		Regional Meeting at Reigate on refugees see page 2
Sun 25 June	After MfW	Traidcraft stall at Meeting House

Reminder of dates when the Quaker group supporting Passion for the Planet are to meet up with Tony Earnshaw and the production team:

Wednesday 7th June 6pm at the Meeting House

Thursday 22nd June 6pm on zoom

Wednesday 5th July 3pm at the Meeting House

Tuesday 18th July 6pm on zoom

Collections for June

The **Wednesday Meeting** are planning to donate to Damn Cheek Productions who are organising the performances of Passion for the Planet in our Meeting House over 3 weeks in October. The Passion for the Planet production team are working hard with local community groups, including schools, to involve them in the production, which will draw attention to the need for sustainable living if we are to keep our planet as a comfortable home.

Our usual **Quaker charity** for June is Woodbrooke. Please see the article about Woodbrooke on page 3

Woodbrooke would greatly appreciate financial help with its provision of on-line courses etc. For details see <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/support-us/make-a-donation/>. If you want to donate via cheque they should be made payable to Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and sent to Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road Birmingham, B29 6LJ.



Refugees and Regional Meeting (RM)

Saturday 24th June 10.30-15.15 at Reigate Meeting House
and 11.00- 15.15 on zoom

RM Clerk writes: World Refugee Day is on 20th June, and RM is following that up with **Refugees Now** as our topic on Saturday 24th. The Journeymen Theatre will be giving their final performance of **The Bundle**, before they cease touring the following week. **This is your last chance to see them perform this play** and may be your last chance to see them perform at all. **You need to register in advance for both in person and on zoom.** To register contact:
sussexandsurreymquakerclerk@outlook.com
or phone 01323 890210 before Tuesday 20th June.

After the play we will be hearing from Friends in our RM about their current experience of working with refugees, and there will be opportunities for questions and discussion. If you are working with refugees and would tell us about it, please email the RM clerk at sussexandsurreymquakerclerk@outlook.com

The event will be at Reigate Meeting House (47 Reigate Road, Reigate RH2 0QT) and also on zoom. As parking at the Meeting House is limited, please only use a bay if you have mobility issues. The Meeting House is a 10-minute walk from Reigate station. Metrobus services 430 and 435 pass down the road. Bikes may be chained to the railings at the Meeting House.

Please bring food to share for lunch or, if you prefer, your own picnic. Hot drinks will be available.



Message from Crossways Baptist Church



Dear friends

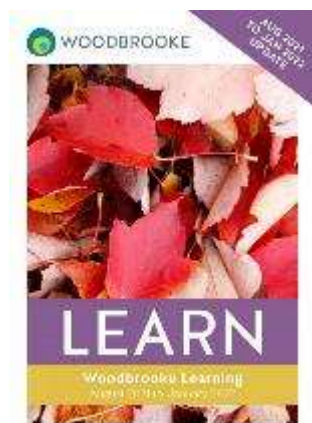
We would be most pleased if you could advertise this new book by Dorking resident Christine Ginsbury and the accompanying book launch on Saturday 3rd June at Crossways Church Junction Road

Many thanks, Andrew Laver, Administrator

(Books will be available to purchase on the day, with 10% of proceeds going to St Catherine's Hospice.)

Woodbrooke

Romy Elias, who is a Woodbrooke Trustee, writes: Friends may be aware from reading The Friend and Quaker that Woodbrooke, which is the British Quaker Learning and Research charity, is changing where it operates, leaving its current site on the Bristol Road in Birmingham. Woodbrooke very much works in partnership with Britain Yearly Meeting but is a separate charity and funded separately. Apart from offering courses and other training opportunities, it organises the Swarthmore Lecture held at Yearly Meeting each year, appointing the lecturer and discussing the subject to be covered, and then publishing the book on the lecture. Woodbrooke also provides on-line Worship which sustained and supported many Friends worldwide during the Covid pandemic and continues to do so.



Woodbrooke Learning and Research is continuing through online learning as well as Woodbrooke Places (which includes both day events and residential courses and retreats), Woodbrooke Where You Are (WWYA) working with meetings, and our Research including postgraduate programmes. Woodbrooke understands the importance of in person events, including residential, and is continuing to offer this but around the UK.

Woodbrooke is also continuing to build international partnerships, particularly with FWCC-EMES, FWCC-AWP and Pendle Hill in the USA.

Online Worship, which was much appreciated by Friends both in the UK and abroad during the pandemic, will also be continuing.

If there isn't a Woodbrooke Places location near you, there is always WWYA- 'Woodbrooke Where You Are' which Dorking and Area Meeting Friends have experienced and benefitted from in the past as 'Woodbrooke on the Road' and Woodbrooke will be considering other locations for WWYA in the future.

Woodbrooke are still working on the development of an extended learning programme to replace Equipping for Ministry which Friends in the Area Meeting have undertaken and which Woodbrooke knows from past participants how much it is valued. Woodbrooke have undertaken research on the content and format of such a programme and are working on what will work best going forward.

The Woodbrooke Library Quaker collection is moving on a permanent loan basis to the University of Birmingham, Cadbury Research Library, where there will be free access for students, Quakers and members of the public.



The Woodbrooke Centre itself is being transitioned to the care of Bournville Village Trust (BVT). Woodbrooke doesn't know yet what BVT will do with the building and site but BVT understands and appreciates its Quaker history. BVT are currently working on what is the appropriate future use of the site, speaking with Woodbrooke, exploring options and Woodbrooke will share more information when it is available.

If you have stories or memories from Woodbrooke please send them to Being@woodbrooke.org.uk for our anthology of memories: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/woodbrooke-an-anthology-of-memories>

Do speak to Woodbrooke Trustees which include Romy Elias and Kersti Wagstaff who would be happy to discuss Woodbrooke and its future plans and please give to Woodbrooke to support it in its continuing training and learning activities, no longer concentrated in Birmingham but distributed around the UK where Friends are and, of course, on-line.

Passion for the Planet is officially launched

“It’s bonkers, it’s silly, ultimately it’s fun.” That’s how artistic director Darren Cheek described what’s in store for us when *Passion for the Planet* descends on the Meeting House this autumn. But not even the promise of clowning, songs and puppetry could detract from the very real message shared at the project’s official launch – this mammoth undertaking is about building community awareness of the climate crisis, and engaging the people of Dorking, whether groups or individuals, in the fight.

More than 50 people squeezed into a function room at Westhumble’s Stepping Stones pub on May 25th, to hear what Damn Cheek Productions is planning and to be reminded – if any reminder was necessary – why we need projects like *Passion for the Planet*.

Damn Cheek Productions co-founders Tony Earnshaw and Darren Cheek began with a brief overview of the project, with Darren stressing the importance of working with the community and creating legacy relationships. They spoke of the impact of the pandemic and how it had forced them to rethink how they work, prompting them to involve the community more closely with the project from the outset, rather than simply as an audience.

Guest speakers

The first guest speaker was Angela Docherty of the charity New Ways. She told us about the impact of climate change on Turkana, a remote region in northern Kenya. The charity has been active there for some years, drilling boreholes to ensure local communities have a reliable source of clean water. The impact of these boreholes cannot be underestimated. Their presence not only means that the women of the region can grow a wider, healthier range of crops – tomatoes, onions and even radishes, Angela said – but that the girls, freed from the onerous daily collection of water, can continue attending school. The charity is also now an important local employer.

Closer to home, but continuing the watery theme, Pat Smith of newly formed River Mole River Watch spoke of the poor condition of our local river and the efforts being made to remedy the situation. She described how volunteers are now monitoring the Mole – for nitrates and phosphates in particular – along its full length and its tributaries. Volunteers test the river water regularly, with their measurements fed into a new database and the resulting data used when lobbying the likes of water companies, councils and industry. Pat stressed that anyone who sees anything irregular in or around the Mole should get in touch so that the water quality can be tested and the results recorded.

Guest artistes

As befits an event launching an arts initiative, the next item on the agenda was musical, a performance by a small group from Brockham Choral. They began with Billy Joel’s *Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel)*, following it with a moving rendition of *Somewhere over the rainbow*.

Five local poets – Jenni Williams, Liz Barton, Darren Cheek, Tony Earnshaw and our own Sally Elias – read their work. From Jenni’s lamenting the use of plastic grass, to Tony’s sadness over the disappearance of elephants from Turkana, the mood was one of sadness, anger and passion.

The Birch Tree Folk Choir was next to perform. Led by Dorking Quaker Philippa Snell and featuring another of our Friends, Lucy Barford, a small group from the choir sang three songs – a May Day song in a lost Shetland language, the well-known *Sumer is icumen in*, and *E Malama*, a Hawaiian earth blessing song, sung in parts and involving some heartfelt audience participation.

The evening concluded with the official launch of the *Passion for the Planet* crowdfunder. (Link <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/passion-for-the-planet>)

Takeaways?

As a Meeting, I feel we have been kept well informed about the progress of *Passion for the Planet*, and that we have asked many questions, all of them answered by the team. What this launch event achieved – for me at least – was to make the project come to life. I left with a degree of optimism, a feeling of community and a very real sense that *Passion for the Planet* could help nudge the Meeting back towards the centre of Dorking life.

Tara Craig

