

## **East Cheshire Area Quaker Meeting Disley Methodist Church – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

### **Minute 19.03.01: Friends present**

All of our Meetings are represented.

At least 35 Friends are present.

We remind Local Meeting Clerks that it is helpful for the Area Meeting Clerks to receive names of representatives to Area Meeting early in the week preceding Area Meeting.

The Trustee present is Ann Lewis.

The named Elder is Tim Carlisle.

### **Minute 19.03.02: Reading**

In our opening worship we have heard most of QF&P 4.02.

### **Minute 19.03.03: Caring for Friends**

We have heard the names of Friends who are in our thoughts. Sally Mendham with the help of Elizabeth Morris will write to them on our behalf.

### **Minute 19.03.04: Death of Roger Hobson**

With sadness we belatedly record the death of Roger Hobson of Disley Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

### **Minute 19.03.05: Death of Norma Pitcher**

With sadness we belatedly record the death of Norma Pitcher of Disley Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### **Minute 19.03.06: Death of Eileen Ashton**

We have received the following minute from Disley Meeting:

7. Our Friend, Eileen Ashton:

We record with sadness the death of our Friend Eileen Ashton.

Eileen chose a simple burial in the green burial area of Buxton Cemetery. She requested that only two Friends from her local Meeting attend, together with her Friend and Executor Hilary Brooks from Marple Meeting and her two nieces.

The simple Quaker ceremony took place at the graveside on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February. The Friends representing Disley Meeting were Alan Kent and Ann Evens. They took loving contributions from members of the Meeting.

Since Eileen's death our worship has reflected our sadness at her loss and our gratitude for Eileen's contribution to the Meeting, especially her kindness, her devotion to the garden and her service on the Premises Committee.

With sadness we record the death of Eileen Ashton of Disley Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Minute 19.03.07 Death of Marcus Newhall**

We have received the following minute from Frandley Meeting :

We record the death of our Friend Marcus Newhall on 26th February 2019, aged 61. He will be cremated without service on Monday 4th March, and we have offered to hold a Memorial Meeting. This will be decided on in the future.

With sadness we record the death of Marcus Newhall of Frandley Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**Minute 19.03.08: Membership: termination: John Woodrow**

We have received the following minute from Stockport LBM:

Minute from Stockport LBM 14 January 2019:

**Termination of memberships**

Having made several unsuccessful attempts to contact John Woodrow and Pauline Walthew, Elders and Oversees took the decision to recommend that Area Meeting terminate their membership. The Area Meeting Clerk has been informed and Pat Carlisle will speak to this at the next Area Meeting if necessary.

Having heard that John Woodrow was last known to the Meeting some years ago, we agree to terminate John's membership, recognising that this can be reinstated if he becomes known to us again.

**Minute 19.03.09: Membership: termination: Pauline Walthew**

Following also from the minute received from Stockport LBM (Minute **19.03.08** above), and having heard from Pat Carlisle that Pauline Walthew was last known to the meeting many years ago, we agree to terminate Pauline's membership, recognising that this can be reinstated if she becomes known to us again.

**Minute 19.03.10: Application for Membership: David Sumner**

We have received an application for membership from David Sumner of Disley Meeting. We appoint Alan Kent and Jane Barrett to meet with David.

**Minute 19.03.11: Application for Membership: Dorothy (Dot) Ainscough, Stockport Meeting**

We have received an application for membership from Dorothy (Dot) Ainscough of Stockport Meeting. We appoint Sheila Whitehead and Hazel Todhunter to meet with Dot.

**Minute 19.03.12: Nominations**

On behalf of Nominations Committee, Tom Jackson has brought the name of Martyn Bennett of Hazel Grove Methodist Church to examine the 2017 Area Meeting Accounts.

This name being acceptable, we appoint Martin Bennett accordingly, and we thank Tom Jackson for finding him for us.

The name of Brenda Crothers has been brought to serve as alternate Representative to Meeting for Sufferings. This name being acceptable, we forward Brenda's name accordingly. [to RCO]

Till Geiger has informed us (yesterday) that he and Hilary are both unable to attend the Ackworth School AGM. We invite Friends to let Sally Mendham know if they are interested and willing to attend as a substitute rep on Saturday 11th May starting at 10.30, finishing at 3.45. We confer on our Clerks the capacity to appoint such a substitute on our behalf this time, as the AGM date is before our next Area Meeting.

**Minute 19.03.13: Bamford (Not at Yealand), Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

We accept and confirm the following named Friends as Adult helpers for the Easter Young People's "Camp" at the Bamford Community.

Till Geiger  
 Jackie Barker  
 Tom Bowers  
 Josie Bowers  
 Scarlett Cameron Faulkner  
 Rachel Lewis  
 Emma Killick

All of these have an up to date DBS or are in the process of acquiring one.

7 Young People from ECAM have confirmed that they will attend, and they will be joined by 3 more from TGM (with a possible 4th), so there will be a maximum attendance of 11 YPs.

*A planning meeting is in place for the 23rd March at Bamford Community so helpers can acquaint themselves with the layout. Scarlett is unable to attend the planning meeting but will be updated on what has been decided.*

*YPs will be asked to form a social media planning group as in previous*

*years and asked to undertake certain planning activities.*

**Minute 19.03.14: Treasurer's Report – contribution schedule**

We thank Peter Eccles for bringing the attached contribution schedule and explaining the rationale for the figures. We approve the schedule and direct it to the attention of Local Meetings.

**Minute 19.03.15: Enquirers' Day**

As discussed at Area Meeting Elders and Overseers, a day for attenders and enquirers is planned for Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>, at Wilmslow.

**Minute 19.03.16: Sanctuary Everywhere**

Joan Armstrong has told us of the difficulty of keeping track of refugees in order to support their needs, and of the intention to develop a support network for destitute asylum seekers and refugees locally. We agree that Thanos Konstantinidis from the Social Justice Group of Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting should be encouraged to inform us of local needs, in our local meetings, through our LM clerks.

**Minute 19.03.17: Five Minute Findout – Joan Armstrong**

Joan Armstrong has given us an insight into the work of the Social Justice Group based in Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting. The main focus this year has been on Sustainability. Other areas of focus have been Fracking; waste Management; Food for School Children over Summer Holidays; Better Buses; and Asylum Seekers and Refugees. She has brought the New Economy booklets to our attention (Link for leaflets and suggestions for reading groups: <http://quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/new-economy/new-economy-reading-groups#heading-1> ) as well as a leaflet entitled "Another World is Possible" of which she can supply copies. (*Electronic copy attached to minutes*).

**Minute 19.03.18: Meeting for Sufferings report**

Jacqui Moore has reported on Meeting for Sufferings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Jacqui has told us of the impressive volume of work on Post Truth done by Area Meetings, and referred us to the Appendix and Post Truth World article attached. We recognise that some, at least, of the new media is not yet under democratic control. We continue to consider the possible need for an appropriate Quaker space for work on this matter. (Refer AM Minute **18.07.21 Truth and Integrity** sent to Meeting for Sufferings contributing to the discernment)

We value the continuity we get from having an Alternate Representative

on Meeting for Sufferings and feel that having this person kept informed of Meeting for Sufferings business by receiving papers must be of value for Meeting for Sufferings too.

We are reminded that for the two-way communication between us and Meeting for Sufferings to work it is our responsibility to send Minutes where appropriate.

We thank Jacqui for her report, and ask our Clerks to forward this Minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

### **Minute 19.03.19: BYM 2019**

We understand that at least 10 ECAM Friends will be attending Yearly Meeting 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May.

Friends are reminded that they can claim up to £100 from Area Meeting for attendance at YM when it is held in London, direct from the AM Treasurer. Friends are encouraged to consider whether there are Friends who might specifically be encouraged and supported to attend. Additional bursary support can be applied for from the Education and Relief Fund, by application to any overseer.

### **Minute 19.03.20: Regional Gathering**

We have received the following minute from the Arrangements Committee for a regional Gathering to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November:

The Arrangements Group is pleased to confirm that plans for the Regional Gathering to be held at Liverpool Meeting House on 2nd November are now starting to take shape. The title for the day is likely to be

**"Peace is not a fairy tale - How do we work for Peace in today's World?"**.

We have invited Paul Ingram, Quaker and Executive Director of the British American Security Information Council ([www.basicint.org](http://www.basicint.org)) has been invited to lead the day - he asks: **'How do we individually and together best enliven and express our peace testimony when our culture is driven by conflict and threat?'**

We hope this day will be well supported. Teenage General Meeting (TGM) will be staying in the Meeting House over the weekend, and they look forward to engaging with the question. There will be plenary sessions and smaller groups, with (we hope) other activities such as art, singing, poetry, involving our children and young people. And there will be time for developing our friendships between our various Area Meetings.

### **Minute 19.03.21: Sustainability**

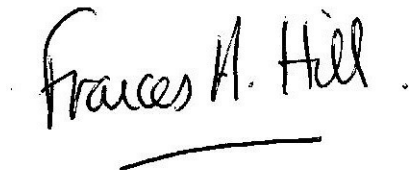
From an exploration of the changes we have each made or would like to make, we moved to focusing on four particular areas of concern – Transport, Plastics and Packaging, Sharing, and Property. Further notes are attached to these Minutes.

Friends are also encouraged to complete the attached Questionnaire and return it to Howard Hilton.

We thank Andrew Backhouse and J W for their work on this session.

**Minute 19.03.22: Thanks**

We thank Disley Local Meeting for their hospitality

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances A. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting,  
Frances A Hill, Clerk

**LM Clerks please note:**

19.03.12  
19.03.14  
19.03.15  
19.03.19  
19.03.20

## Notices

**Next Area Meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> May at Frandley, 1.45.**

**Please ensure all agenda material is with the Clerks by 1<sup>st</sup> May**

### **Quaker Stories: planning session Tuesday 19 March**

Cheadle Hulme Friends are planning a series of sessions after Easter on Monday evenings at the Meeting House on Quaker Stories, looking at the lives of earlier Quakers and their influence. If anyone would like to take part by facilitating a session about one or more Quakers then they should get in touch with Evelyn Ingram. We are holding a planning session on the afternoon of Tuesday 19 March at the meeting house.

### **Rawtenstall Faith Lecture: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 11am-3.15**

**Alastair McIntosh: 'Towards Third Millennium Christianity: Activism, Nonviolence and the Mystical Imperative'.**

Rawtenstall Unitarian Church and Unity Centre, Bank Street, Rawtenstall, Rossendale BB4 7QY. Lancashire. **Organised by:** Unitarians of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry

**Lunch – Bring and share! No entry charge,** but donations to cover costs will be requested. Tea and coffee will be available.

**Transport:** The **X43** bus running between Manchester and Skipton stops opposite the church. There is parking in nearby streets and car parks. (A train service runs on Saturdays between Bury and Rawtenstall.)

### **Wednesday, 27 March 4 to 5 pm Bolton CND/Stop the War Silent Vigil**

Bolton CND/Stop the War group will be protesting against arms sales to Saudi Arabia and against UK support for the bombing and blockading of Yemen, which is causing so much suffering there. MBDA claims to be the largest missile manufacturer in Europe and is very much involved in the arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in bombing Yemen.

Please join us. If you have a digital camera please bring it. *Press release re MBDA and Yemen attached to the minutes and notices.*

Contact: Barry Mills [millsbcp@googlemail.com](mailto:millsbcp@googlemail.com) Mobile 07703769280 (please text rather than voice mail)

### **“War School”, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 6PM. Stockport Meeting House**

A showing of the film “*War Horse*”, about militarisation in schools, followed at 7.30 by discussion with Veterans for Peace, Child Soldiers International and Peace Pathways. *Poster attached to minutes.*

### **Fundraising Concert for Motor Neurone Disease and Parkinsons UK**

**Saturday 6th April, 7.30pm, Stockport Town Hall,** Tickets: £15

Vron Male Voice Choir (established over 70 years) & Nigel Ogden (BBC radio 2)

### **April 7th Marple is hosting a between AM session called “Talking about God: perspectives from three faiths.”**

Lunch from 12.30. The session will begin at 2pm till 4.30ish. We will have Quaker, Jewish and Muslim speakers.

**Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting, 25–27 May, Friends House, London**

The children's programme is for those under 11 years old (those born after 1 September 2007) attending Yearly Meeting 2019. Sessions will run on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday, mornings and afternoons. A session for 5- to 11-year-olds is also available during the Swarthmore Lecture on the Saturday evening.

Full information and booking forms are on the Yearly Meeting's children and young people's page:

[www.quaker.org.uk/ym/children-and-young-people-1](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/children-and-young-people-1)

Aleks Zawadzka, cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 0207 663 1013

**15–18s Come to Yearly Meeting Accompanying, 24–26 May, Friends House, London (non residential), Booking deadline Sunday 28 April**

For young people aged 15–18 (born between 1 September 2000 and 31 August 2003),

Accompanying is a non residential offer for 15–18's at Friends House in London during Yearly Meeting (YM). It includes attendance at YM and optional social activities out of session time.

Anyone can come to YM. However to participate in Accompanying, individuals need to book in advance:

[www.yqspace.org.uk/accompanying-2019](http://www.yqspace.org.uk/accompanying-2019)

Aleks Zawadzka, cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 0207 663 1013

**Regional Gathering, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Liverpool Meeting House**

**"Peace is not a fairy tale - How do we work for Peace in today's World?"**

See minute **19.03.20** for details received from the planning group so far.



# Reports and Papers

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## East Cheshire Quaker Meeting

### Contributions from local meetings for 2019

In January 2019 Area Meeting agreed that local meetings be asked to contribute £11,400 to Area Meeting funds in 2019. It is our practice to allocate this contribution figure to local meetings based on their number of active participants. Macclesfield Meeting is not included in this scheme and so they are again asked to contribute what they feel able to. Crewe & Nantwich Meeting is now included in the scheme.

In February 2014, Area Meeting agreed that the meetings have a meeting house (currently Cheadle Hulme, Disley, Frandley, Stockport and Wilmslow) be asked to contribute 10% more per active participant than the other meeting Marple which does not have a meeting house and so has to pay rent for its meeting space. The following schedule indicates how the £11,400 would be allocated to local meetings according to this procedure.

Meeting	Number of Active Participants	Weighted Number	Contribution
Cheadle Hulme	22	24.2	£1,457
Crewe & Nantwich	11	11.0	£662
Disley	44	48.4	£2,915
Frandley	22	24.2	£1,457
Marple	21	21.0	£1,265
Stockport	23	25.3	£1,524
Wilmslow	32	35.2	£2,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>189.3</b>	<b>£11,400</b>

Macclesfield Friends are asked to contribute what they are able to during 2019.

Contributions may be made by cheque (payable to East Cheshire Quaker Meeting) or by bank transfer (sort code 40-52-40 account number 00001996). If making a payment by bank transfer please inform me when a payment has been made.

**Peter J. Eccles, March 2019**

## **Report to ECAM of MfS 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

### **Court and Prison Register**

Friends have been active in supporting the Stanstead activists – including an Attender of Brighton Meeting – found guilty in Chelmsford Crown Court under the 1990 Aviation and Maritime Security Act. (Subsequently they have not been given a custodial sentence).

### **Post Truth World – Truth and Integrity in the Public Sphere**

Southern Marches AM had brought a concern to MfS which AMs had been asked to test and consider. We received Minutes from 42 AMs (including ECAM) and many LMs had also considered it.

MfS minute offered that 'Post Truth' may be defined as 'relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief'. We were mindful that Truth and Integrity are central Quaker Testimonies (Advices 37&38) and that Quakers have always had concerns about truth and integrity since the time of George Fox. An 18th century saying 'a lie is half way round the world before Truth has got its boots on' perhaps epitomises this.

So, at MfS we tried to discern - What was new? What should Quakers be doing individually and corporately?

The speed and impact of electronic communication, social media, and its amplification of 'fake news', simplification of argument, encouragement of immediate response, and the present ease of anonymous threats and abuse were new. Also, was there less accountability for deliberate lying by public figures? Was it becoming harder to hold public bodies to account?

MfS reaffirmed the commitment to Truth and Integrity but did not suggest any new committee or programme of work at this time – but encouraged further threshing and networking. Staff are working with other civil society organisations to lobby against laws and regulations which restrict the ability to 'speak Truth to Power'. AMs are encouraged to network with Southern Marches to coordinate information and concerns and consider further our responsibilities and capacities to offer space, learning and support.

(See appendix for useful information)

### **Yearly Meeting**

We were reminded that now is the time to register for YM. The theme this

year is assumptions of privilege, and how it impacts on our ability to act on the urgent Quaker concerns of climate justice and sustainability, and inclusion and diversity.

### **Book of Discipline Revision Committee**

We approved the nominations for this Committee and were assured the Members were a varied cross-section in terms of skills, age, geography etc.

### **Representation on MfS**

Arrangements Group thought it appropriate to review the method of representation on MfS which had started in 2012. Currently 70 AMs, 4 Central and Standing Committees, Young Friends General Meeting, Meeting of Friends in Wales, and General Meeting for Scotland nominate one Representative and one Alternate. Arrangements Group proposed just having a nominated Representative with a 'Visitor' attending if the Representative is prevented.

Prior to MfS I discussed this with Andrew Backhouse and we both thought this proposal seriously flawed.

Arrangements Group had thought their proposal would improve continuity at MfS, however this was not accepted at the Meeting. My own discernment was that the change proposed was likely to exacerbate any problems with continuity. The present system means at least 2 people in an AM had papers in advance to discuss them. It is also clear who can go if a person is prevented – perhaps at the last minute. It also means that an AM has continuity of representation if someone asks to be 'laid down' as has recently happened in ECAM.

ECAM may wish to send in comments as MfS Arrangement Committee will be considering the matter further.

### **Quakers in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War**

Three AMs had sent minutes on the matter of recording the deaths of 265 Quakers who died in the 1<sup>st</sup> WW, including many who had served in the Military. AA record of names will be created in Friends House Library and any further names to be recorded should be sent to the Recording Clerk. ([heleng@quaker.org.uk](mailto:heleng@quaker.org.uk)).

(ECAM Peace Group were previously concerned that no formal Remembrance should be set up, as suggested by Gethin Evans, MfS Representative for Mid Wales AM)

**Matters ECAM may wish to consider for consideration/action**

1 Post Truth and Integrity networking/links/views

2 AMs representation on MfS

3 1<sup>st</sup> WW record at Friends House Library

**Jacqui Moore**

**MfS Representative**

## From Papers to MfS on Truth and Integrity

### Appendix 2 – Relevant organisations

This paper has kindly been prepared by Nick Perks, Trust Secretary of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. JRCT is an independent Quaker grant-making trust which supports people who address the root causes of conflict and injustice.

[www.jrct.org.uk](http://www.jrct.org.uk)

#### **Encouraging Truth and Integrity: what are others doing?**

Truth and integrity are important to all aspects of private and public life, and many civil society groups engage with these issues in different ways. The following examples are grouped under the same headings as those used in the previous paper to Meeting for Sufferings (MfS 2018 04 09). The list is mainly made up of small civil society groups which are likely to welcome the support of individual Quakers, but also includes some statutory, industry and academic groups to help round out the picture.

#### **Integrity in the media**

##### **Voice of the Listener and Viewer 1** (<http://www.vlv.org.uk/> )

VLV is a small charity that supports plural, high-standards, public service broadcasting, including the independence and integrity of the BBC.

##### **Full Fact** (<https://fullfact.org/>)

A charity that provides fact-checking of prominent media stories and government statement, along with prime minister's questions, BBC Question Time etc. Also actively involved in encouraging better use of government statistics, and the development of international fact-checking standards and tools. In autumn 2018, Full Fact published a report on tackling misinformation in an open society:

<https://fullfact.org/blog/2018/oct/tackling-misinformation-open-society/>

##### **Stop Funding Hate** (<http://stopfundinghate.info/>)

Founded to challenge media reporting that encourages hatred, particularly in relation to migration and minorities. Works by mobilising the public to put pressure on major retail brands that pay for advertising. This work is not explicitly about media accuracy, though many alarmist or inflammatory articles are also misleading.

#### **Community Journalism (various)**

There is a long history of various forms of community media, and this sector is seeing strong growth at present, led by groups such as the Bristol Cable, The Ferret (in Scotland), the Star and Crescent (Portsmouth) and Bradford Community Radio. These groups (and many more) seek to fill some of the gap left by declining local commercial press, and to provide good standard of local journalism. They are often heavily reliant on volunteers and donations.

##### **IPSO** (<https://www.ipso.co.uk/complain/>)

The Independent Press Standards Association, the successor to the Press Complaints Commission, is an industry body that considers complaints against its members. Not to be confused with the National Viewers and Listeners Association, an entirely

different group founded by Mary Whitehouse, and now renamed MediaWatch-UK. 1members, which include many major UK newspapers. IPSO has its critics (see below) but does provide a route for any member of the public to complain about inaccuracy in an article in the press.

**Impress** (<https://www.impress.press/> )

Impress is an alternative self-regulator operating in line with the recommendations of Leveson report that followed the phone hacking scandal. Impress' regulated members are largely community media and specialist publishers.

**Hacked Off** (<https://hackinginquiry.org>)

Formed in the wake of the phone hacking scandal, Hacked Off campaigns for stronger media regulation (being particularly critical of IPSO) and for more rights for victims of the press.

**Reuters Institute** (<https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/>)

There are many academic units that are considering issues of accuracy and misinformation in the media. The Reuters Institute in Oxford is one.

## **Personal integrity of those in power**

### **Committee on Standards in Public Life**

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life>)

Originally established in the mid-1990s, the Committee has a remit to examine areas of concern about the standards of conduct of public office holders, and to promote the 'Nolan principles' of Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness and Honesty in public office. Its recent work has included considering how to address intimidation in public life, and reviewing MPs outside interests.

**Institute for Government** (<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/> )

Amongst other activities, IfG offers professional development to government ministers and shadow ministers. This is primarily focused on effectiveness, rather than moral integrity, but does support a constructive and professional approach to public office.

**Full Fact** (as above). Encourages politicians to use accurate information and to reference the claims that they make.

## **Constructive engagement with politicians** (various)

While politicians are rightly open to scrutiny and criticism, it is also important that there are opportunities for constructive dialogue between politicians and members of the public.

Groups that foster such engagement include

**Involve** (<https://www.involve.org.uk/>)

a national charity that promotes participatory democracy,

**Hope for the Future** (<http://www.hfff.org.uk/> )

a small Sheffield charity that promotes constructive engagement on climate change,

**The Politics Project** (<https://thepoliticsproject.org.uk/>)  
in Manchester and London which facilitates online conversations between politicians and school pupils.

## **Integrity of our political systems**

**Transparency International** (<https://www.transparency.org.uk/>)  
An international NGO network, with an active chapter in the UK, promoting integrity and challenging corruption in the private sector, public sector, and the relationship between the two.

**Unlock Democracy** (<https://unlockdemocracy.org/>)  
Unlock campaigns for democratic reforms, including a written constitution, reform of party funding rules, and reform of electoral law (to better cover online materials for example). It is the successor body to Charter 88.

**Electoral Reform Society** (<https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/>)  
The ERS is another group campaigning for democratic reform, particularly for proportional voting systems, but also for House of Lords reform, votes at 16 and other issues. There are ERS groups in all four nations of the UK.

**Democracy Club** (<https://democracyclub.org.uk/>)  
A small NGO that mobilises thousands of volunteers to provide data about electoral candidates and results, in order to make it more accessible in an open data format, for other groups and websites to use.

**Who Targets Me** (<https://whotargets.me>)  
An online tool that allows any Facebook user to see who is targeting them with political advertising.

**Democratic Audit** (<http://www.democraticaudit.com/>)  
A group based at the LSE that publishes a regular blog and occasional longer reports on the state of UK democracy. There are many other academic units that research and analyse democracy, including for example the Constitution Unit at UCL.

**Electoral Commission** (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>)  
This is the statutory body with responsibility for overseeing elections and party finance in the UK.  
The Commission has itself recently called for various improvements to electoral law <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/our-views/law-commission-review-of-electoral-law>

**January 2019**



## **Sustainability – East Cheshire AM 9.3.2019**

### **What has been difficult for us about sustainability?**

Giving up flying. Not knowing the answers. Prioritising. Turning down heating. Breaking things down in to manageable chunks. Cost. Driving less. Expensive public transport.

### **What has worked for us on sustainability?**

Using the train. Carbon offsetting our flying. Going vegetarian. Learning to sail! Eco-teams with others, like the WI. Downsizing where we live – and co-housing. Doing one thing at a time. Better public transport. An electric car. Insulation.

(Some Meetings elsewhere have gone for Eco Church status -

<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>

### **What are our current areas of concern about sustainability that we could explore today?**

\*Public Transport – cost, availability

\*Size of property – how to encourage downsizing

\*Sharing – cars, resources, community, houses

Communications with council – what can we recycle? (Walkers Crisp packets can be set back!)

Brexit – food

Greenbelt land – housing? Roads?

We need electrical charging points for electric cars

\*Packaging

\*Plastic waste

We exploring some items in smaller groups and some conclusions are below:

#### **Transport**

We need to be more aware of each other's transport needs – to build car sharing for local and area meetings. Could Area Meeting be always held where public transport can reach? Could AM write to Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, to encourage the regulation of buses so that transport at least within Greater Manchester could be more regulated and an Oyster card might work?

#### **Plastic**

This was felt to be better if done by the community working together, raising our voices by writing, talking, and lobbying. Again we could only do this well if we did it in manageable chunks.

#### **Sharing**

We should do more sharing of food and cook together. We should offer unwanted items around and offer storage to others – “Give to Gain” happens in Stockport apparently. We need to know each others skills and experiences – as for property. And share transport – as above.

#### **Property**

We need to improve meeting houses and homes, have a shared list of experiences that could be beneficial to others, and a pool of useful people/information for the Quaker community. We also have grounds which can be used to improve wildlife.

## Questionnaires

**Howard Hilton has devised a questionnaire which people may find useful – see attachment, which you can return to him (see list of members) or there is an excellent carbon calculator on <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>**

[/](https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/)