

**Minutes of Area Meeting: Saturday, 18.09.21 at 1.45pm at Disley Local Meeting House and on Zoom**

**21.09.01 Friends Present:** 6 in the room and 18 online.

All our meetings are represented

**Accompanying Elder** Peter Eccles

**Trustee Present** Jill Maguire

**21.09.02 Reading from Quaker Faith & Practice;** During our opening worship paragraphs 25:01, 02, 04 were read from *Qf&p*

**21.09.03 Caring for Friends:** We have heard the names of Friends who are in our thoughts. We ask our Assistant Clerk, Anne Sumner and Sally Mendham to write to them on our behalf.

**21.09.04 Nominations Committee:** We have received the names of Friends nominated for service.

**AM nominations for 2022**

AM Hilary Brooks Jan 2022- Dec 2022

Deputy Treasurer Peter Eccles Jan .2022 – Dec.2022

Trustee (Disley) Ann L. Lewis Jan 2022 – Dec. 2022

Elder (Frاندley) Hilary Newhall Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Elder (Stockport) Geoff Thomason Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Elder (Ch Hulme) Geoffrey Clifton Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Elder (Ch Hulme) Peter Eccles Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Elder (Disley) Jennifer Dale Jan 2022 – Dec. 2024

Overseer (Wilmslow) Jane Barrett Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Overseer (Disley) Anne Sumner Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Overseer (Disley) Ann Lewis Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Overseer (Disley) Tricia Booth Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Overseer (Frاندley) Catherine de Haas Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Ackworth General Meeting Hilary Owen Till Geiger Jan 2022- Dec 2024

These names are acceptable to Friends, and the Friends are duly appointed.

Trustees ask that Meetings discuss the need to appoint three more trustees, or find Friends, perhaps not in membership, who would agree to be co-opted for certain tasks, eg Health and Safety, Insurance and Employment. Names of Friends in membership willing to serve as trustees should go to Denise Renshaw, Clerk of Nominations Committee. Names of Friends willing to be co-opted should go to Gavin Mendham, Clerk to Trustees.

**21.09.05 Offering service to BYM:** Minute 6 from Marple MfW for Business 9.09.21

**Offering service to Britain Yearly Meeting:** Our Friend Eleni Burgess has recently been appointed to the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group and will be serving from now until next summer.

The task of Eleni's group is to find a small set of people to serve on another body, the Central Nominations Committee.

Central Nominations' task is to find Friends to take on many and varied roles, including working on central committees and groups and representing Quakers on outside bodies.

Key to this is a 'pool' of people who have offered service, either for a specific role or area of work, or more generally. Volunteers complete an information form, which is held at Friends House, and can be found online at:

[www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/give-time](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/give-time)

Part of Eleni's role is to encourage East Cheshire Friends to consider offering service, and she would be delighted to talk further with anyone who may be interested in finding out more.

**21.09.06 Meeting for Sufferings Report\*** – Jacqui Moore

We thank Jacqui for her report which is attached to the minutes. We thank her for her service as our MfS representative.

ECAM may wish to consider further BYM's financial position, Young Adult involvement, the evolving Quaker position on racism and slavery, progress in

response to our minute concerning simplifying our structures, and our AM link with the Local Development Worker initiative.

We ask our Clerk to make further enquiries from Friends House concerning the area into which East Cheshire will fall when all the LDWs have been appointed, and to put forward a strong case for us to remain in the North West region.

#### **21.09.07 Trustees Annual Report\*** - Gavin Mendham

We thank Gavin for his report which is attached to the minutes.

Gavin suggests that in future Trustees give a brief summary of what has been done over the year, and give us their thoughts on what they might be considering for the coming year. Minutes of their meetings are circulated during the year.

#### **21.09.08 Area Meeting's Annual Report and Accounts for 2020\*** - Peter Eccles

We accept the accounts, subject to examination, and we authorise our AM Clerk and Clerk to Trustees to sign them when they have been examined.

We thank Peter for his work on our behalf.

#### **21.09.09 Yealand\*:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Emma Killick.

Yealand Camp 2021 will take place 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Yealand Conyers. This is later than usual due to Covid19. There was no Yealand Camp last year. Places have been limited to 12 on this occasion due to the pandemic in an attempt to keep everyone safe. There are currently 11 young people in attendance. Due to the lower numbers this year, we request that the Area Meeting underwrites any loss that may be made. It is difficult to envisage if there will be a loss or not at this moment in time, but if this could be agreed in principal by Area Meeting that would be appreciated. Volunteers are still being finalised but we request that Area Meeting approve Till Geiger and Emma Killick as adult volunteers on the camp. A minute requesting the approval of a further 2-3 volunteers will be forwarded shortly.

The suggested date for 2022 is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

We approve those dates pending Emma's checking availability with Yealand.

We agree to underwrite this year's event up to £500

**21.09.10 Safeguarding – online safety\*** - Sue Pounder

Sue recommends looking at the three sites she has found for us which offer helpful advice on avoiding on line criminal activity. Her report is attached to the minutes.

We thank Sue for her report.

**21.09.11 Northern Friends Peace Board update 2021\*** - Phoebe Spence/Till Geiger

We thank Till for his report which is attached to the minutes.

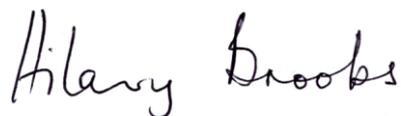
**21.09.12 ECAM Weekends: Glenthorne** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Woodbrooke:** - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

**21.09.13 Intervisitation Schedule for 2022**

We accept the schedule and Clerks will send it to Local Meetings

Signed,



Hilary Brooks

Clerk

**Notices:**

**Regional Gathering:** on the environment. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September organised by Manchester and Warrington Friends. Contact Elizabeth Coleman.

**Mary Balman's memorial meeting and scattering of ashes**

A memorial meeting followed by the scattering of her ashes will take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 12 noon at Stockport Quaker meeting house. Mary's

daughters Jane and Emma will join us and we encourage any friends who would like to be part of this occasion. The ashes will be scattered in the front garden, which was Mary's pride and joy. Tea and coffee will be provided afterwards. All welcome.

Stockport Elders and Overseers

**Newsletter:** Please send items to Sally Mendham. We'd like to hear your experiences at Yearly Meeting, our young people's attendance at Summer School and any personal news or news from your meetings.

Isolated Friends really enjoy getting the newsletter, as do the rest of you!

## **Reports & Documents**

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### **Report to ECAM on MfS held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021 on zoom**

#### **Introduction**

This report is being written in July, prior to YMG, so there may well be subsequent information and developments on some items before our September Area Meeting.

As major items on the agenda were Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) Strategy and our AM Minute, Sally and I were glad that our AM Clerk Hilary Brooks, and Gill Alcock and Denise Renshaw were able to join us to consider the papers on those items. Sally and I also attended the MfS advance session on QPSW Strategy

### **Young Quaker Involvement in MfS**

There have been four Young Adult Friends (age under 35) appointed to MfS as part of the Engaging Young Adult Quakers Project. The project is ending and the reserved places end with this MfS triennium (end YMG 2021).

This had been a very welcome initiative and personally meeting some of the participants was very interesting and enjoyable. AMs are now being asked to consider nominating, as one of their Representatives to MfS, a Friend under the age of 55. We suggested to the Clerks in advance, that further ways should be found to include Young Adults and we also outlined our ECAM initiative of Regional Gatherings of younger 'Young Adults'.

### **BYM Trustees and Treasurer's Report**

MfS receives the Minutes of BYM Trustees Meetings as a standing Item on the agenda, verbally introduced by BYM Clerk to Trustees. (All BYM Trustees are also Members of MfS). My suggestion that a brief written introductory report with the Minutes would be useful to MfS and AMs was agreed.

Trustees are continuing to consider appropriate ways forward on racism and the history of Quakers and slavery. There is a statement on the BYM website and YMG will have a focus on these matters. Our investment advisers are being asked if the legacy of slavery and exploitation impacts on our current investments.

The financial position of BYM was introduced by BYM Treasurer and her slides are attached to this report.

As financial limitations seemed critical to responses to our AM Minute (In a previous meeting Clerk to Trustees had said if we slowed down and didn't cut now, more severe cuts would be necessary later), I made suggestions and sought clarifications including that Trustees and staff had responded quickly and well on our behalf to the Covid crisis, but it was unfortunate that major cuts and staff restructuring were being made at the same time.

Also, Trustees and staff had reported that the reorganisation of Quaker Life (QL) was a success. I shared that those close to QL work thought it was too early to say this – staff were in new roles, needed induction, and some staff were yet to be appointed, plus there had been a loss of expertise and understanding – it was later agreed to remove this premature judgement from the Minute.

On finance it was clarified that even with the new Local Development Worker (LDW) appointments, QL had achieved its 30% share of cuts and the proposed 30% cuts to QPSW were not being made to fund work elsewhere. (Some QPSW work is funded by external and/or restricted funding and will not be subject to these cuts).

As Friends will see from the attached charts, substantial funds are needed to cover the losses due to Covid and Quiet Company inactivity. We were advised that individual giving would have to increase by 50% if it were to cover Covid losses and an increase of 300% was the amount required to plug the Quiet Company losses. MfS Representatives made several suggestions, and it would be useful for our AM Treasurer to link with Fundraisers at Friends House.

### **Simplification of Governance**

Trustees have initiated discussions on this, and these will continue at YMG and beyond.

### **MfS Meeting Dates**

Sufferings Representatives continue to be concerned that the reduction to four Meetings a year, with alternating ones online may not be sufficient and it was agreed to keep this under review.

### **Naming of William Penn Room**

Two AMs had sent Minutes on this matter. We were assured there was no plan to write William Penn out of Quaker history. Trustees were asked to widen their development of principles to apply to historic figures beyond slavery and racism, to encompass other conduct and discrimination such as the treatment of women and sexism.

### **QPSW Strategy**

We had been reminded that it is for our Central Committee to set priorities, Trustees to set the budget and staff to implement. Ten AMs (including ECAM) had sent Minutes to MfS both on the content and discernment of the Strategy. QPSW Clerks acknowledged that communication and engagement with Friends could have been better and a pause until the Autumn on implementation had been agreed. This would give space to hear from the wider body of Friends, including a session at YMG on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and to further develop proposals. (Including a workshop session of key participants co-Clerked by Gill Alcock)

Ministry at Sufferings welcomed the widening of participation and suggested that any new ways of working needed to be clear and well understood. The assumption that the current networks were not right was questioned, as central sub-committees were already very supportive of local work. Also, the idea of incorporating Quaker Recognised Bodies more fully was queried in terms of their lack of accountability (they are free standing groups).

(The QPSW Strategy and Central Committee Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> April are on the BYM website).

### **Support for Quaker Communities (Quaker Life)**

QL staff presented diagrams and an overview of how QL and Woodbrooke Learning will support Quaker communities 2020-2025 (MfS Paper 2021.07.15)

This paper raises anxieties for ECAM as we have no current link with the Local Development Worker for the Northwest, Wendy Hampton, who currently covers about 7 or 8 AMs. The only LDW to be appointed geographically near us is for the West Midlands. Our Clerk has contacted Rachael Matthews, Head of Supporting Communities, about our AM need to be included in the Northwest grouping, as this is our Quaker and geographical region.

It was also significant that Rachael Matthews stated it was never staff's intention to remove staff support from the Prison Chaplains, though it was reconfigured.

### **Matters for ECAM**

ECAM may wish to consider further BYMs financial position, Young Adult Involvement, the evolving Quaker position on racism and slavery, progress in response to our Minute, and our AM link with the LDW initiative.

## Thanks

This is my last MfS Report. My thanks to you all for giving me this opportunity to serve and for all your support and discernment, particularly during this last year.

Jacqui Moore

ECAM Representative to MfS, July 2021

### **Letter to East Cheshire Area Meeting ( ECAM) Friends regarding the work of ECAM Trustees July 2020 to July 2021 from Gavin Mendham, Clerk to Trustees: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Dear Friends,

During the period July 2020 to July 2021, all our local meetings have been represented by appointed Trustees or a Friend attending from a local meeting. We thank, Ann Lewis, Jill Maguire, Brenda Crothers, Gill Alcock, Howard Hilton, Julia Clements, Sue Pounder, Peter Eccles, Jenny Lazarus, Geoffrey Clifton, Dot Ainscough and Pat Carlisle for attending Trustees Meetings and their work which is ongoing between our meetings.

We are aware of an accessibility problem for some Friends of joining on line meetings. This is due to a range of factors :- accessible equipment, confidence in using technology, being able to communicate and receive on line communication through "zoom", feeling excluded by not meeting in person. These are not easy issues to resolve.

Friends who have experience of being a clerk on line, expressed reservations regarding feeling whether discernment was being achieved, this could be at a local business meeting or as I found at times with our Trustees Meetings. The subtleties of seeing people, their interactions and sensing their feelings and encouraging Friends to speak are missing for clerks, when trying to feel confident that a gathered meeting has been achieved when issues challenge us.

Meetings were held on line in 2020:- on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> November (with Wilmslow Guild) 7<sup>th</sup> December; and in 2021 on 1<sup>st</sup> March , 7<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Here are issues that have been discussed and minuted at Trustees Meetings during this period:-

#### **Employment Matters:**

Disley Friends, and Brenda Curran worked with the Wardens to review the documentation to reflect accurately the working relationship between them as Warden Volunteers with an Occupancy agreement. Model documents from Quaker Stewardship Committee facilitate this process. At Stockport Meeting arrangements were made to enable the Warden (Steve Harrold) to cease being furloughed as he moved to another post in Manchester. The Assistant Warden and Cleaner continued their work, a few groups continued to hire Stockport Meeting House, but mostly it was a very quiet period. Frandley engaged a self-employed gardener to work on the site.

Trustees would welcome an additional trustee to be appointed in order to help with the employment work, nominations committee has tried to find an additional trustee and are aware of this issue.

**Health and Safety Returns:** Dot Ainscough received and read the Annual Health and Safety Returns from all our local meetings. COVID Risk Assessments were carried out by all the local meetings where meeting in person was planned, there was a wide variety of venues using external spaces, Meeting House gardens, Friends woodlands and gardens.

As the months passed, into the spring of 2021, advice from BYM and the government guidance for opening religious buildings was modified. Local Meetings reviewed their COVID Risk Assessments and documents to explain to visitors and hirers what arrangements were in place for the safety of all.

**Blended Worship: Arrangements made by our Local Meetings experiences other gatherings during COVID.**

Friends in our Local Meetings have gathered in a variety of ways both in person and on line. This form of worship has made our meetings more accessible to those prevented by a range of reasons. We commend the ingenuity and investment Friends have shown to overcome the problems in arranging Meeting for Worship at this time. Friends were challenged by the requirement to wear masks at Meeting Worship, when meeting in person. In time some Friends adjusted to this, but this was not possible for everyone.

Our Local Meetings have met on line with a wide range of activities , worship, meetings for learning, book groups, family story groups, post holder meetings, business meetings , the Pantomime and even Pancake Day. Attendance at Marple on line Meeting for Worship has increased with Friends not previously able to join in now doing so.

During periods when lockdown was lifted, Disley, Frandley, Crewe and Nantwich and Wilmslow all held meeting for worship in person with blended facility where local meetings could manage this. Not all our meetings had rooms that enabled meeting in person. Stockport Friends have held Meeting for Worship in person and a separate MfW on line for much of the pandemic. A midweek Epilogue held on line by Stockport Friends has been appreciated and Friends from Area Meeting have been able to join in.

An additional Trustees Meeting was held in November to hear how each of our Meetings was faring during the Pandemic, whether the changes of regulations were practical and share our concern for all Friends in our Area Meeting.

Trustees have as individuals, worked with Friends in their local meeting and on line nationally, to explore what equipment is suitable for their meeting houses. We thank Friends for their support sharing their experiences and in practical ways experimenting with a range of ways of working. We appreciate the opportunities for gathering with vulnerable Friends who cannot attend in person.

**Childrens' Meetings and Covid:** Trustees enjoyed hearing how some meetings worked with children, for example at Frandley outside, the rural setting enabled the children to meet safely, issues of hygiene re Covid were dealt with. Wilmslow Friends have held family meetings each month sharing stories and activities. Disley Friends have shared children's activities on line and enjoyed seeing the creative work shared on zoom and posted on their website.

**Arrangements for Hirers:** Memoranda of Understanding or Special Conditions for Hire have been written by our local meetings to ensure there is a mutual understanding of what local Friends can arrange and what is expected of hirers during the times when a Meeting House was available to hirers.

**Carbon Footprints of our Meeting Houses-Where to begin?** Trustees shared their concerns regarding energy use and suggested ways to reduce consumption through monitoring, reducing our heating, improving insulation and draft exclusion. We have discussed the implications of using our resources held within Area Meeting Accounts in a bold way. We are encouraged to consider projects which will have a significant impact on fossil fuel consumption and energy generation to combat the changing climate of our world. Trustees asked all Local Meetings to consider this seriously.

We are asked to “be patterns and examples”.

To make a beginning on this Wilmslow Meeting commissioned a “Sustainability Assessment” of the Meeting House. This was conducted by Florence Collier, a mechanical engineer and sustainability consultant at a cost of £550. Wilmslow Friends have received advice as to how to reduce the impact of energy use and are currently considering the way forward. The report gives advice on practical measures and a range of costs, from looking to reduce the carbon footprint to delivering a fully carbon neutral building. Trustees and Area Meeting Friends will be asked for their views on the way forward. Will we be commissioning further energy assessments of our Meeting Houses? We’ll make progress on this assessment and then plan.

**Insurance Matters :** a) Contents Lists: Premises Committee were reminded to update their contents lists for insurance purposes and these were sent to Jill Maguire from most of our Local Meetings . b) Insurance during Covid: Trustees discussed the need to adhere to Risk Assessments and for Friends to exercise individual responsibility and avoid a possible claim of negligence.

Local Meetings made claims for loss of income due to the periods of closure due to COVID restrictions 2020-21. Local Treasurers, worked directly with the Loss Adjusters. Claims for loss of hire charges, being set against reductions in use of energy or upkeep, and expenses incurred to enable appropriate cleaning and hygiene measures, formed part of the settlements.

Where Local Meetings have updated their IT equipment, they are reminded to note this within the contents lists.

**Charity Commission Registration:** Peter Eccles has contacted the Charity Commission, to suggest that we merge the accepted Area Meeting Charity into one of the existing charities with the Charity Commission. Trustees authorised Peter Eccles to continue this work on our behalf as he retired from being a trustee at the end of 2020.

**Thanks to Peter Eccles a Retiring Trustee:** Trustees thanked Peter Eccles for his service as a Trustee and Treasurer for nine years at our December meeting. Peter’s experience and knowledge of the Society of Friends has been and will continue to be appreciated.

**Annual Accounts 2019:** The Annual Accounts 2019, were completed and submitted to BYM and the Charity Commission.

**Meeting with Investors Rathbone-Greenbank:** A meeting was arranged with Rathbone Greenbank. The advice from the investment manager, Nick Roe Ely, at this meeting the advice was to increase the investment in equities in order to give more capital growth. Trustees are reassured by the investment manager’s approach and the ethical investment strategy in place, the advice was accepted and our investment strategy modified.

**ECAM relationship with Local Meetings: Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)**

In 2019 the process of discussing and writing a Memorandum of Understanding with Crewe and Nantwich Meeting and East Cheshire Area Meeting was completed. Wilmslow, Disley and Frandley Meetings have shared this example and MoUs for these Meetings have been written and signed by Local and Area Meeting Clerks. The purpose of these Memoranda of Understanding being to help understand where responsibility is held locally, where by Area Meeting and how these responsibilities are seen to be in place.

**Safeguarding Policy:** Sue Pounder and Julia Clements introduced trustees to Safeguarding Guidance (December 2020) from BYM. Trustees note the following:- Safeguarding Policies are to be

standardised across Britain Yearly Meeting, with a target of all AMs adopting the new policy and procedure by December 2022.

Trustees were informed of the main issues of change from 2014 Policy:-

Roles: The Safeguarding Coordinator must be a trustee

Annual Reporting: 1. From Local Meetings 2. From Elders and Overseers 3. A summary to be sent to Friends House.

Training: Proper induction and foundation level training (or higher) with updates.

Safeguarding Adults: Much more detailed coverage of adults at risk of harm.

These policy changes are requiring active support from Friends in each Local Meeting.

As the months progressed Sue Pounder and Julia Clements have given Trustees further updates re implementing the Safeguarding Policy. Friends can help by updating the DBS registration and participating in recent e learning modules on behalf of children and adults, using material from local authorities to which we have access. Friends who participate with the training modules will be able to help Sue and Julia with the Safeguarding developments which are needed on behalf of us all.

**Area Meeting Document Retention Policy :-** ECAM does not have an up to date documents retention policy. The Clerk recommends that local meetings do not to send further material to the Wilmslow strong-room until a retentions policy is agreed. In time our recently appointed custodian will be able to assist us with a working policy.

**Meeting House Premises Matters:** Frandley Meeting has installed disabled car park spaces, and the pointing work on the Meeting House is now complete. Disley Friends were sad to report a banner in support of the Black Lives Matter campaign was destroyed by fire and a bed of heather badly damaged. A replacement banner was prepared and set up. The issue has been recorded by the local police as a "hate crime". This event and the deliberations of Disley Friends regarding how to respond to this sad event gave Trustees much to consider and the need to uphold Disley Friends and our Area Meeting as Friends find a way forward.

**Trustees for Area Meetings:** Trustees were appointed to attend each Area Meeting during the last 12 months.

**Meetings with Wilmslow Guild:** Trustees met with Wilmslow Guild Trustees in November 2020 on line, regarding the proposed changes to the Wilmslow Guild Articles of Governance. The Clerk also attended an Extraordinary General Meeting, representing ECAM in November. At both meetings Friends expressed their concern that the Guild was operating with very few trustees, the Principal was due to become a trustee and the quorate number reduced to three. Despite Friends reservations on these issues, the changes were voted in place at the AGM in February 2021. Some concern within ECAM Trustees remains, and question whether the Guild processes now reflect the values of those who met to sign the original lease. A mistake within the Guild Accounts regarding the Principal's salary surprised ECAM Trustees, given that this was within the official copies at the Charity Commission.

**The Relationship between BYM and AM Trustees:** Trustees have been assisted by Gill Alcock to understand what changes within the structure of the Society of Friends are being considered and the implications for all our Meetings and Quaker work. Gill has attended a number of sessions, with BYM Trustees and members of subcommittees. ECAM Trustees met on line this July, to consider the questions from BYM Trustees and our responses were sent. This generated a flow of correspondence, whether there is clarity or a shared discernment I think it is too early to say.

On behalf of the ECAM Trustees I thank Friends in our Area Meeting for their support.

Yours in friendship, Gavin Mendham, Clerk to Trustees 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## East Cheshire Quaker Meeting overview of financial activity in 2020

The following table summarizes the collated financial activity of East Cheshire Meeting during 2020

£	Gen Purp	Gifts & Legs	Choices project	Peace Path	YM burs'ies	R'strict	Local	Total	%	2019
Contributions from Friends			250				38062	38312	41	46372
Legacies							15000	15000	16	25113
Interest/dividends etc	10	25				7133	375	7543	8	10712
Lettings							22663	22663	24	42413
Other			300	64			10292	10656	11	9415
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7133</b>	<b>86392</b>	<b>94174</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>134025</b>
Life of the meeting	304						1615	1919	1.7	7450
Committees and conferences	232						106	338	0.3	3759
Bursaries/grants							400	400	0.3	5111
Children/young people							151	151	0.1	113
Outreach							129	129	0.1	781
Peace Pathways				568				568	0.5	2286
Choices project			256					256	0.2	680
Premises	3618					20125	58100	81843	73.8	63875
Expenses/administration	82						1481	1563	1.4	1150
Britain YM							18963	18963	17.1	19020
NFPB	716						1404	2120	1.9	2296
Other Quaker bodies	50						1564	1614	1.5	3105
Non-Quaker bodies	295						801	1096	1.0	1546
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>5297</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20125</b>	<b>84714</b>	<b>110960</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>111172</b>
From local meetings	11422						-11422	0		
Transfers between funds	-2000	-2000		2000	2000			0		
<b>NET MOVEMENT</b>	<b>4135</b>	<b>-1975</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>1496</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>-12992</b>	<b>-9744</b>	<b>-16786</b>		
Investments value change	-66							-66		
Adjstments										
Net Income/Expenditure	4069	-1975	294	1496	2000	-12992	-9744	-16852		
Balance 1/1/2020	7019	28151	1886	1206	2782	74008	141916	256968		
<b>Balance 31/12/2020</b>	<b>11088</b>	<b>26176</b>	<b>2180</b>	<b>2702</b>	<b>4782</b>	<b>61016</b>	<b>132172</b>	<b>240116</b>		

1. There is some overlap between the headings. For example the 'bursaries/grants' includes some payments to children and young people.
2. During 2020 the value of our Endowment Funds increased by £5,486 (£100,870 in 2019) to £106,356.
3. The insurance value of our property at the year-end was £4,869,056.
4. The total contribution to Yearly Meeting including contributions from individuals sent through meetings or directly was £37,216 in 2020 (£34,152 in 2019). This figure includes a late contribution from Cheadle Hulme sent in 2021.
5. The total contribution to the Northern Friends Peace Board including contributions from individuals sent through meetings was £2,120 (£2,171 in 2019).
6. The membership of the Area Meeting at the end of 2020 was 157 with in addition 92 recognized adult attenders and 29 children associated with our meetings.

Peter J Eccles, September 2020

## Safeguarding – staying safe online

We recognise that modern technology offers great benefits, especially around communication, and has transformed our lives in many ways. We also know that fraudsters and criminals are using the internet to exploit and harm people, and that this is increasing. Many of us will have had personal experience of scam emails, phone calls or texts and know how plausible they are.

Scammers exploit our vulnerabilities and emotions. Being conned is a horrible feeling, and people often feel deeply ashamed and embarrassed afterwards, as well as angry. Scamming is a form of financial abuse and something that we could all be affected by.

Friends are reminded that learning how to keep ourselves safe online is important, whatever our age, and there is very good advice available.

Our own learning also means we are better able to help others and recognise when something may not be quite right.

Good sources of information can be found at:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/work-learning/technology-internet/internet-security/>

Firstly may I preface this report with sincere thanks to East Cheshire Area Meeting and to Local Meetings for your faithful support of Northern Friends Peace Board. Our links with Local meetings are much appreciated. If any Friends would like us to talk about our work or do a workshop, please get in touch. We are happy to do this in person or via zoom.

## Report on Northern Friends Peace Board

Dear Friends,

I feel it is a real privilege to serve as your representative on Northern Friends Peace Board. I find its meetings deeply enriching and fulfilling. The commitment of many Board members to peace work puts me to shame and is inspiring revealing the many ways Friends are led to live our peace testimony at a local, national and international level. And yet, I always struggle to report on the work and meetings of the Board as much of this is easily accessible through the NFPB coordinator, Philip Austin's excellent Peace Roundup which is regularly circulated by the Area Meeting clerks, or indeed the NFPB website. Moreover, as a trustee Phoebe is much better placed than me to report on the trustees' strategic vision for the future.

Over the past year and a half, I have found it more difficult to involve myself more fully in the work of the NFPB. Last year Philip Austin ran regular informal meetings for NFPB members and interested Friends. I enjoyed these informal get-togethers as a way to connect with the activities of the peace movement at a time when I felt rather cut off from peace activism. At the same time, I struggled more with preparing for the Board meetings on Zoom. Much harder to arrive at meetings Heart and Mind prepared when other domestic concerns intrude (often during the meeting). In this sense, I am looking forward to the return to in-person meetings hopefully later this year.

While I may have struggled with the Zoom meetings, modern internet communications allowed Philip Austin to attend more meetings and be more active in the wider peace movement like the Global Campaign on Military Spending, Rethinking Security and the planning for activism around COP26. Philip also supported QPSW's peace and disarmament work while the regular members of QPSW staff were furloughed.

Aside from supporting the peace activism of Friends in the North and Scotland, NFPB as a representative body has started to reflect on the pressing issues of racism, populism and nationalism which are deepening divisions within British society and may lead to social conflicts and strife in the foreseeable future. I hope this ongoing discernment will lead to a statement of how we might address these problems.

Till Geiger