

East Cheshire Area Meeting
at Marple United Reformed Church SK6 7NN,
10am Saturday 14th July, 2018

18.07.1 Friends Present

There are about 29 Friends present. All our Meetings are represented.
Elder – Sue Pounder
Trustee – Hilary Brooks

18.07.2 Reading

#1.17 (Advices and Queries 17) from Quaker Faith and Practice has been read in our opening worship.

18.07.3 Caring for Friends

We have been holding a number of Friends particularly in our thoughts. We ask our Assistant Clerk and Liz Morris to send them our greetings.

18.07.4 Membership – Julia Horn

Denise Renshaw has reported on the visit made with Tim Carlisle and Julia Horn of Stockport Meeting. We are pleased to receive Julia into membership and ask Pat Carlisle to welcome her on our behalf and to clarify which book she would like to receive.

18.07.5 Membership – Gillian Smith

Elizabeth Ayres has presented a report by Brenda Crothers and Sarah Worth on their visit with Gillian Smith of Crewe and Nantwich Meeting. We are pleased to receive Gillian into membership and ask Elizabeth to welcome her on our behalf and to ask whether there is a book she would like.

18.07.6 Transfer of membership – out – Christopher Bagley

The transfer of Christopher's membership to Leeds AM has been completed. We wish him well in Leeds Roundhay Meeting.

18.07.7 Transfer of membership – out – Ken and Kay Veitch

The transfer of Kay and Ken's membership to Northumbria AM has been completed. We wish them well in Stocksfield Meeting.

18.07.8 Death of Elizabeth Barbara Aynsley-Smith

We have received the following Minute 1 from Wilmslow LBM:

Death of Barbara Aynsley-Smith

We record, with sadness, the death of our Friend Barbara Aynsley-Smith on Sunday 24th June 2018. Her funeral will take place on Monday 16th July at Macclesfield Crematorium at 11.20. Friends are invited to The Deanwater Hotel, Woodford afterwards at 12.15 p.m. At a later date Barbara's ashes will join those of her husband, Frank, at Leiston Friends Meeting House, Suffolk.

We enter Barbara's death into our records with appreciation of her contribution to the lives of Cheadle Hulme and Wilmslow Meetings as well as with sadness.

18.07.9 Marriage of Caroline Mary Platt and David Frank

Thickbroom otherwise known as Buddhashanti

The wedding of Caroline Mary Platt, member of East Cheshire AM and Marple LM, and David Frank Thickbroom otherwise Buddhashanti, not in membership, was solemnised at Marple Ridge Methodist Chapel on Saturday 26th May 2018 at 11.30 am.

A copy of Quaker marriage Form H, the Certificate of Accomplishment, has been received from Hazel Todhunter, our Registering Officer.

18.07.10 Junior Yearly Meeting Report

We have been read a report on JYM from J W. We thank J for her enthusiastic report, attached. We are pleased to hear that M A has been appointed onto the Arrangements Committee for JYM 2019 and wish him well.

18.07.11 Data Compliance

On our behalf, Denise Renshaw has completed and returned the Data Compliance form to Friends House. She will be circulating further information outlining the expectations on Meetings in respect of Data Protection Regulation. She stresses that this is not going to require significant changes from current practice, but should be noted. We remind Friends to recognise the need on occasion for redacted minutes when there may some matters that should not enter the public domain.

18.07.12 AM Dates and Venues for 2019

We agree to continue holding 6 meetings per year pro tem, expecting to review this as and when we have a change of clerks. The dates and times are set as attached. We remind Friends of the opportunity to arrange events in which the Area Meeting can participate in between these dates.

18.07.13 Five Minute Find-out: Geoff Tomlinson

We thank Geoff for giving us an insight into the earlier parts of his life story.

18.07.14 Nominations

Susan Clark has asked to be released from AM Nominations Committee and SACRE. We thank Sue for her work in these roles. Cheadle Hulme Meeting has offered the name of Peter Eccles to represent Cheadle Hulme Meeting on East Cheshire Area Nominations Committee. We are pleased to appoint Peter accordingly, to serve to 31/12/20.

We ask AM Nominations Committee to seek a Friend to replace Susan on SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education) for Stockport Borough Council.

We are grateful that Denise Renshaw has agreed to take on the role of Convenor for AM Nominations Committee from the next meeting.

Cheadle Hulme Meeting has offered the name of Geoffrey Clifton to serve as a Trustee of Area Meeting. We agree to forward this name to Area Meeting Nominations Committee for consideration (including dates).

Willersley Castle organising team for 2019

We are pleased to hear that the same team - Jill Maguire, Pam Lamb, Hilary Brooks are willing to do it again, and appoint these Friends accordingly.

Nominations Committee have been unable to bring us a name for the

role of Deputy Archivist. This role will remain open pro tem.

Young Quakers' Participation Day 6th October

We agree to support (two young Friends) to attend this event at Friends House if names can be found and logistics arranged. We ask our Assistant Clerk to act as enabler for this.

Young Quakers Facilitation and Leadership training weekend 19-21 October

We agree to support (two young Friends) to attend this event at Woodbrooke if names can be found and logistics arranged. We ask our Assistant Clerk to act as enabler for this.

We ask Nominations Committee to seek the name of a Friend to attend the Sustainability Conference: Bridging the gap: hope and action at the Hayes Conference Centre 19 -21 October 2018.

We appoint Rachel Lewis to attend the Mental Health Forum, Birmingham, 3rd November 2018 on our behalf.

We look forward to receiving reports on these events in due course.

18.07.15 Meeting for Sufferings Report

We thank Jacqui Moore for highlighting aspects of her report (attached) on the Meeting for Sufferings held on 7th July.

18.07.16 ECAM Peace Group

The ECAM Peace Group (formerly known as Peace Strategy Group from 2014-18) met on 19th June in Wilmslow, and agreed to carry on with this project under this new name.

The group is a platform for co-ordinating and sharing peace related news, events and ideas within and across our community, to support ongoing peace work, and to form links with organisations working for peace.

18.07.17 Peace Education Project – Peace Pathways

The Peace Education Project proposes to use the following terms to describe the project in future:

Project name - ***Peace Pathways***

Sub-heading for correspondence etc - ***East Cheshire Quaker Peace Education Project***

Strapline for publicity and maybe secondary school work - ***Let's Build Peace***

The name for the group's work in primary schools is still under discussion.

18.07.18 Ackworth School General Meeting – Report

We thank Hilary Owen for highlighting aspects of her report on the Ackworth School General Meeting, and in particular the current limits on the potential for Area Meetings to raise concerns at a Special General Meeting, matters otherwise being run by the School Committee. Hilary will inform us of the membership of the School Committee.

18.07.19 Meeting: The New Economy Project of Quaker Peace and Social Witness: Cheadle Hulme: 18th August

Cheadle Hulme Friends have arranged for Enid Pinch of South Manchester Meeting to introduce the New Economy Project of Quaker Peace and Social Witness at a meeting arranged by Cheadle Hulme Meeting at 2.30-4.30pm on Saturday 18th August. Friends from across the Area Meeting are welcomed and encouraged to view details on ECAM website and/or contact Peter Eccles.

18.07.20 Marple: Contribution to Church Development

The following Minute has been received from Trustees' Meeting 18th June:

7. Request for funding for refurbishment at Marple

Hilary Brooks presented the proposed plans for the redevelopment of the Methodist church in which 2 rooms will be specifically allocated to Marple LM as well as use of the communal areas. They are hoping to contribute at least £12,000 toward the scheme, £7,000 of which would be from their LM funds. Trustees today approved this sum. Marple have asked if AM could also contribute. Trustees agreed and suggested a

sum of £10,000. The treasurer will seek advice from Friends Trust that this would be an appropriate use of funds from the Alan Taylor legacy.

The Methodist Church has provided a home for Marple Meeting for the past 15 years, and it is now publically recognised as “Marple Methodist Church and Quaker Meeting House”, but is badly in need of redevelopment. Plans are proposed to develop it as a community centre at a cost of around £650,000. Marple Friends are hoping to contribute £7000 from LM funds. AM Trustees have recommended that AM contributes a sum of £10,000. We agree to this contribution but ask Trustees to explore the possibility of a written agreement of some sort relating to this special relationship.

18.07.21 Truth and Integrity

The post-truth world and Quaker response

We have received a minute from Meeting for Sufferings, MfS/18/04/09 The post-truth world and Quaker response, with accompanying papers. They set out a concern held in Southern Marches Area Meeting about the need to restore truth and integrity in the public sphere.

We have taken time to consider the questions sent to us. We have identified many aspects of the problem.

Individually, along with many others we want to understand the reasons behind decisions; we wonder why we elect people who lie; and how we can be active in censuring politicians when they knowingly lie, alongside celebrating the probity displayed by many.

We know that corporately there are times when we need to speak a truth that will be heard, for the good of both national and worldwide community.

We have recognised the challenges imposed on politicians whose every word may be scrutinised and taken out of context (exacerbated by the pervasiveness and increasing speed of media/communication). We remember and value the work Quakers used to do in offering safe spaces for reflection, listening and discussion in London and Belfast, as

has been continued in Brussels and Geneva. Is this a Quaker shaped gap we are led to fill? If so, should this safe space be “technology free”?

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

18.07.22 Hospitality

We thank Marple Friends for their hospitality.

Signed in and on behalf of East Cheshire Area Meeting
Frances A Hill, Clerk

Copy of Minute 18.07.09 to be sent to Hazel Todhunter, Registering Officer

AM Nominations Committee please note Minute 18.07.14

LM Clerks please note minutes 18.07.11, 18.07.12, 18.07.19, 18.07.21

NOTICES

The New Economy Project of Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Saturday 18 August, 2.30 to 4.30 pm, Cheadle Hulme Meeting House (see *minute 18.07.19*)

The New Economy Project supports Quakers in articulating a vision of a practical, ethical economic system in line with Quaker values. It is also supports Quakers who are taking action to move our economy in this direction. In 2015 the Friends working on the project published ten principles which would underpin an economic system in line with Quaker values. Subsequently a series of seven booklets were published to help Friends address these issues. Cheadle Hulme Friends had a meeting for learning based on the first of these booklets and felt that Friends should be more aware of this project.

Enid Pinch of South Manchester Meeting will introduce the New Economy Project of Quaker Peace and Social Witness at a meeting arranged by Cheadle Hulme Meeting at 2.30-4.30pm on Saturday 18th August. Friends from across the Area Meeting are welcomed and encouraged to view details on ECAM website and/or contact Peter Eccles.

Peace Pathways (Previously ECAM Peace Group):

Amongst other things, we will be working alongside community organisations in Macclesfield this November to take part in a week-long, town-wide project, "Building The Peace", that puts young people at the heart of the Armistice with a focus on hope, optimism and peace. Any Friends who would like to help would be very welcome. If you would like to join the rota to steward the exhibition or help sell the anthology "Worn With Pride" in WH Smith's store, please contact: Ann Lewis:- ann.lewis@live.co.uk

If you would like to find out more about the kinds of activities the Peace Group do, or you would like to tell us about peace work in your area, please do get in touch with the convenor Celia Davies:- celia.davies2@hotmail.co.uk

All welcome to our next meeting which will be a bring-your-own lunch (tea and coffee provided) at **12 noon Tuesday 25th September 2018** at Wilmslow Meeting House. We'd love to see you there.

Exploring Quaker Chaplaincy 7-9 September 2018 at Woodbrooke

Information from From Marlene Schepers:

I have shared this with Quaker chaplains known to me but you may know of

Friends in your area or local meeting who may be interested in exploring the possibility to take on Quaker chaplaincy. This event would be for them, we only get the chance to organise this kind of weekend every other year. We will, however, build on the experience of this weekend to develop an online chaplaincy course together with Woodbrooke, which will run for the first time next year in the summer.

Whether you are considering or starting Quaker chaplaincy work or you have years of experience, at this weekend you will be able to reflect on your work, share your experiences, ideas and insights, and come away refreshed.

Are you considering to become a Quaker chaplain in hospital, prison, school or university or in any other work or community setting? Come to discover ways to get started and to develop your chaplaincy role and an opportunity for sharing, supporting and developing your ministry.

Bookings directly with Woodbrooke: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>

Overseers Relief Grants

Grants of up to several thousand pounds (but usually less) are available to assist local overseers in their support of Quakers and their families in a situation of hardship and suffering through old age, infirmity, disability, bereavement, single parenthood, other financial needs. Also to provide assistance to children with special educational needs. These grants are available in cases where local funds have been fully used or are not available. Applications should be made via the local overseer (or equivalent) to the Grants Programme Officer at Friends House.

Ann Pfeiffer, annp@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1053

Quaker Week 2018: 29 September – 7 October 2018

This year's theme is 'Room for more'. As Quakers we offer a table rich with good things, but recognise it could be more inclusive. There is room for more at the table – how can we let people know there's a space for them? Quaker Week posters will be delivered to Clerks by mid-August. There are still some recipe book ideas packs left - get in touch if you would like one (email address below).

You can still book your speaker for Quaker Week - we can offer speakers on a wide range of subjects. Speaking engagements must be finalised by the end of July, so get requests in now to avoid disappointment.

speakers@quaker.org.uk

Reports

1. JYM Report May 2018
2. Meeting for Sufferings July 2018
3. Ackworth General Meeting May 2018

JYM 2018 Report Back to July AM

Firstly, I would like to thank Area Meeting for giving me the opportunity to go to JYM. I had a great time, both meeting new people and learning more about our theme for the weekend- 'Quaker faith and practices -What are our beliefs and how can we express them.' I also took away a sense of peace and community, feeling more confident in myself and my faith.

There was a fantastic sense of community at JYM, and small base groups made it easier to get to know the people there and created a comfortable and safe environment to share opinions and views in.

I also enjoyed the process undertaken to make our decision as JYM as to whether Quaker Faith and Practice should be revised. Several speakers came in throughout the weekend, and fun sessions helped us to better understand the theme. We talked about our views in base groups, before having a final business meeting to discern the feeling of the meeting.

I appreciated the frequent opportunities to join in with the main meetings, and liked how our views were valued and understood. Personally, one of my favourite events from JYM was the Swarthmore lecture by Chris Alton, as I felt it was very thought provoking and also interesting and engaging for all ages.

Report to ECAM on MfS 07.07.18

As this was the first meeting of the new triennium both Eleni Burgess and I were invited to attend, unfortunately Eleni was prevented.

The morning session was an induction to the role and functioning of MfS. MfS is the standing representative body between Yearly Meetings, its key purposes are to be a hub of communication and discernment: prayerfully visioning and progressing 'Our Faith in the Future' (see QfP Chapters 7&12 for detail). Area Meetings were advised that if they sent minutes to MfS, these should be known and well tested locally first.

In the afternoon MfB four minutes were received from Area Meetings, on Quaker Life Strategy, Israel/Palestine, funding for Circles of support, and research on the First World War.

As our AM had also been researching and extensively involved in activities relating to the 1st World War, I consulted with Celia Davies and Pat Baker as well as Eleni before the Meeting. Celia and Pat sent very useful and relevant comments and information. I sent these to the Clerks prior to the Meeting and also felt it right to share some of our thoughts and experience at MfS to counsel against a Book of Remembrance being created to commemorate those Friends who were known to have died. Essentially, we thought the possibility of elevating the record and recognition of those known to have been killed above our records of the other devastating impacts of war on individuals did not seem right.

This matter is now before AMs for further testing and we may wish to send a minute to MfS and make contact with Gethin Evans of Aberystwyth LM (Mid Wales AM) who has been undertaking the research into those who died. MfS completed two tasks referred from BYM. We agreed the terms of reference of the Book of Discipline Revision Committee and those for a group to review the Quaker Stewardship Committee (which currently supports us in meeting the requirements of Charity Law).

BYM Trustees had met at Swathmore Hall and encouraged Friend to use this historic resource. Quaker Life is developing a Support for Meetings Strategy to help struggling Meetings – this was presented as struggling through losses, but might be in some respects be relevant to our experience of setting up a new Meeting.

MfS endorsed the BYM Sustainability Group request to ask AM Trustees to include a statement on their actions on sustainability in their annual reports. Their draft guidelines for this only seemed to address carbon reduction

measures. I expressed regret that the guidelines did not reflect a more balanced approach to sustainability, which might be particularly applicable to country meetings.

Jacqui Moore
MfS Representative
11.07.18

Report on Ackworth General Meeting, 12 May 2018. Hilary Owen (ECAM, Disley).

I attended this year's Ackworth General Meeting on your behalf. I am happy to try and answer any questions on the progress of the School and also on its recent changes in the Rules of Government. The Head Teacher Anton Maree, the Clerk to School Committee David Bunney and the School Committee Treasurer, Carol Rayner, gave detailed reports on the School's development.

This year's special topic was the boarding experience. The attenders of General Meeting were given a tour of both Boys' School House (BSH) and Girls' School House (GSH), conducted by the pupils themselves as well as being offered a chance to talk to the Head of GSH and the duty member of staff in BSH. We also had an extensive Q and A session with the Boarders. The provision is generally very good and works well for being small and homely. Boarders kindly gave up their time and living space to make us welcome. It was particularly noticeable that the Boarding pupils represent a wide international range who are well supported. The School takes pride in this internationalism. Living in a diverse community was clearly seen as a major plus and a good cross-cultural opportunity.

The amendments in the School's rules of governance, and transfer of assets, which were signaled to ECAM in July 2017, are close to completion. The process of incorporation means that the School's governance now rests with Ackworth General meeting, not with British Yearly Meeting. The Meeting for Sufferings of September 2017 has noted these changes. The trading date for the new incorporated entity has been put back to 1 September 2018 when Ackworth School will become a company limited by guarantee. A series of amendments to the Rules of Governance were noted to reflect this change in legal status. The most important one from the AM perspective, relates to the procedures for Area Meetings to call Special General Meetings in order to raise concerns, even though Area Meetings are not strictly members of the newly formed 'Company'. This follows on from the questions put at the Ackworth General Meeting of May 2017 by Chris Skidmore (representative of Craven & Keighley AM). The new wording addressing this is as follows: 'The School Committee may instruct the Bursar to call a Special General Meeting when necessary with such notice as is directed. In addition, any member of an Area Meeting may apply to the Clerk to Ackworth General Meeting for holding a Special General Meeting, which shall be discussed with the School Committee before a Special General Meeting may be called. The Clerk of the previous regular Ackworth General Meeting shall act as Clerk of the Special General Meeting unless the Special General Meeting directs otherwise.'

Where alterations to the Rules of Government or changes to the Constitution of the School, are required, it was noted that these must be reported to Companies House, usually within 14 days, after which a fine is incurred. To avoid being fined for a delay, changes such as this will therefore be made in consultation with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of Ackworth General Meeting who may consult with Area Meetings and will then report back to the next General Meeting for information.

The detailed report from the Head, Anton Maree, noted that Ackworth has helped to set up a group called 'Movers and Shakers' to enhance practical collaboration with the growing local community, and build on existing assets, particularly given that austerity has reduced the provision of facilities in the village, with the young and the elderly especially hard hit. Also noteworthy from a Quaker perspective is Ackworth School's offering of respite days for refugees from Wakefield, and their acceptance of a Syrian asylum- seeker as a pupil at the School. The Report from the Clerk to School Committee David Bunney noted a visit from Paul Parker, the Recording Clerk to BYM who was touring Friends Schools. Paul Parker was very positive about initiatives such as Peace Study activities. He also felt that the School should be more forthcoming and proud about specific aspects of our work that show Quaker values in action. The School Committee Treasurer reported that the total income to the School (after bursaries) had risen, that the losses for the year were lower than had been budgeted for, and that there had been some cost savings. There was optimism that Coram House was expected in 2018 to deliver the largest transition to Senior School for many years. However, the Boarding market remains a difficult one.