

STOCKPORT MEETING

LOCAL MEETING

Sunday 5 May 2019

Minutes

1. Reading

Quaker Faith And Practice 22:94 has been read.

2. Area Meeting at Frandley, 12 May

Our representative will be Geoff Thomason, who will report back to us.

3. Hospitality after meeting

At our last Local Meeting we decided on grounds of sustainability not to have biscuits after meeting, with the proviso that we would revisit this if necessary. Frances McCann pointed out that showing hospitality, especially to visitors, is important, that our attitude could be seen as precious or puritanical, and that perhaps we should rethink our decision. We agree that it would be acceptable to revisit this at our next Local Meeting when there are more Friends present to discuss it.

4. Death of Marjory Rossant

Marjory Rossant, a long-standing member of our meeting, died peacefully on 22 April. She was nearly 95. Marjory had latterly suffered with dementia and had been living in sheltered accommodation for several years. A private cremation took place at Stockport crematorium on 2 May, at which some friends were present. We shall meet at 11.00 on 21 May to remember Marjory and celebrate her life. We ask those attending to bring anything, such as letters or photographs, to remember Marjory by. Friends are asked to bring home-made cakes.

5. Wedding of David Keogh and Peter Cartwright

Following initial discussion with Elders, David Keogh, an attender, has indicated that he and his partner Peter Cartwright wish to celebrate their wedding after the manner of Friends at the meeting house. As yet we have no further details, but David has contacted Hazel Todhunter to discuss the matter further and has arranged to meet with her and Ann Evens on 9 May. Once we have a firm date for the wedding we can make further arrangements. The Clerk will inform Area Meeting of David's and Peter's decision. We offer David and Peter our congratulations.

6. Premises report

Joan Armstrong has prepared a report from Premises Committee. This is attached. The question was raised as to whether we are happy to have volunteers maintaining the garden. We agree to continue with this over the summer, and to revisit it at November Local Meeting, when Julia Horn will report to us after having coordinated the various committees involved.

We thank Joan and Premises Committee for their work and this report.

7. Interfaith relations

As AM Correspondent for Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR), Pat Baker has circulated a number of questions arising from a Woodbrooke course she attended in April. We are asked to consider our response to these questions.

We discussed these questions. The Clerk noted will collate our responses (attached) and forward them to Pat.

8. Collection jar

Margaret Moss has suggested collecting for the ongoing rehabilitation of communities affected by cyclones in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. We can send contributions via Oxfam. We agree to this. We should still be mindful of other causes and consider that they, too, have ongoing needs. This places on us the responsibility of not being over-reactive to appeals which are currently high profile.

9. Great Wall of China Marathon.

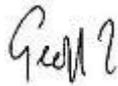
Our architects Vicky Saunders, Manuel Atkinson, Leanne Taylor and Emma Cross will be running in the Great Wall of China Marathon on 18 May in aid of Francis House Children's Hospice. It has been suggested that we make a donation. We agree to give £25 and ask our Treasurer to arrange this.

10. AOB

- a) Julia Horn and Frances McCann have been offered a fridge by a neighbour. This could replace our currently small fridge. Julia will make further enquiries and then come to a decision about accepting it.
- b) Margaret has asked Friends to arrive at 10.15 for Marjory Rossant's memorial meeting to help set things up. Phoebe Spence will be doorkeeper.

11. Date of next meeting

30 July 2019.



Geoff Thomason - Clerk

Stockport Local Meeting

Report of Premises Committee April 2018 – April 2019

The Premises Committee have been kept busy during the year monitoring and keeping up to date with maintenance and repairs. In January we were joined by Dot Ainscough who is already proving to be an asset with knowledge and experience gained in her professional life.

Some issues mentioned in last year's report carried over into the above year. This included training, by the N West Ambulance Service, in the use of the defibrillator. There are now clear direction signs both in the foyer and on the outer door.

The heating has continued to cause problems. Sometimes this has been due to faulty thermostats, batteries needing replaced and, probably the most common problem, hirers turning radiators on/off not thinking of the heating needs of the groups following them. However Steve has reported that he has had no complaints in the last few months. Tim has provided written instructions for the meeting on how to set the boiler's heating controls.

During the summer there was consideration given to employing a gardener. Phoebe asked "WeGrow" to do a general tidy and clean up before the winter. However it was decided to continue the previous arrangement of volunteers looking after the garden at other times unless they reported that this was too onerous.

As part of a fire risk assessment the fire alarm was tested during a MfW. The emergency exit procedure was satisfactory but there were difficulties re-setting the alarm. Tameside Fire Protection (TFP) were called and there are now detailed instructions how to do the re-setting.

2018 was a year for the Quinquennial inspections of all the MH in AM. The Surveyors who carried this out noted recommendations for work which will need to be carried out in Stockport during the next 5 years. The most immediate of these concerned the application of intumescent fire strips on several of the doors and the kitchen hatch to make them fully fire proof. TFP have now completed this work.

A leak was noticed in the store room earlier in the year. When the roofer inspected it he found that some of the tiles had moved but no evidence for the source of the leak. This situation will continue to be monitored.

The calendar of maintenance checks have been carried out. Miscellaneous repairs and decorating have been done as usual by Dennis Clark. Miscellaneous tasks have also been carried out e.g. the piano has been professionally tuned. Some spring cleaning has been done by Steve and Sam.

The Premises Committee, with the help of Steve, Sam and Friends, attempt to keep the MH and garden looking cared for and functioning well. We value the positive comments from hirers and visitors.

Joan Armstrong (Convenor)

Dear Friends

Quaker Ecumenical and Interfaith relations

As your Area Meeting Correspondent for Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR), I attended a QCCIR conference at Woodbrooke earlier this month.

Correspondents have been asked to report back to the Committee on our activities at both AM and LM level.

As LM Clerks and/or Churches representatives, I would appreciate your help on this. No need for a report, or even a paragraph of explanation – a sentence (or two) under each of these questions is all that is needed! You can just add your replies in the body of the text, below each question.

At **Area Meeting** level are any of your LM Friends represented on Ecumenical or Interfaith bodies?

At your **Local Meeting** level, in what way are you:

- involved in Churches Together – **No. There is no Churches Together in Stockport**
- taking part in World Day of Prayer – **No, as there is no Churches Together to organise it**

- part of a local Interfaith Group – **Yes. Pat and Tim Carlisle and Joan Armstrong are involved on an informal basis**
- part of an Ecumenical or Interfaith Climate Change Group – **No. There isn't one**
- providing Chaplains e.g. hospital or prison – **Not at present**
- involved in any other activities at LM level – **We have been involved in Holocaust Memorial Day, undertaken visits to local mosques and have provided meals for refugees**

Also, have you any thoughts on which of the above relationships are working well and which are not?

With your help I will be able to give QCCIR a full picture of what we are doing in East Cheshire Area Meeting in working with other denominations and faiths.

With thanks.

In Friendship

Pat Baker