

# **EAST CHESHIRE AREA MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018 1.45pm**

Disley Methodist Church, 70 Buxton Road Disley SK12 2EY

## **MINUTES**

### **Minute 18.09.01: Friends present**

All our Meetings are represented.

38 Friends are present.

The Trustee present is Hilary Brooks.

The Accompanying Elder is Ann Lewis.

### **Minute 18.09.02: Reading**

#20.06 of Quaker Faith and Practice has been read in opening worship.

### **Minute 18.09.03: Caring for Friends**

We have heard the names of Friends who are in our thoughts. The Assistant Clerk with the help of Liz Morris will write to them on our behalf.

We have been pleased to hear a letter read out from Marie LeBacq in response to the letter sent last Area Meeting.

### **Minute 18.09.04: Memorial Meeting for Barbara Aynsley-Smith**

Minute from Wilmslow LB Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> September:

Further to Minute 1 of July's Local Business Meeting recording her death, a Memorial Meeting for Worship will be held to give thanks for the life of Barbara Aynsley-Smith. The Meeting will take place at Wilmslow Meeting House on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 commencing at 2.00 p.m. All are Welcome.

### **Minute 18.09.05: Nominations**

Nominations Committee has brought us the names of Friends to serve as follows:

**Nominations received for Area Meeting posts:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Local Meeting</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Dates to serve</b>
Elder	Frandley	Hilary Newhall	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Elder	Wilmslow	Denise Renshaw	1/1/19 – 31/12/19
Elder	Stockport	Geoffrey Thomason	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Overseer	Wilmslow	Jane Barrett	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Overseer	Frandley	Catherine de Haas	1/1/19 – 31/12/19
Overseer	Marple	Julia Clements	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
CYPC	Frandley	Patrick Jones	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
CYPC	Stockport	Frances McCann	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
CYPC	Disley	Emma Killick	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Trustee	Cheadle Hulme	Geoffrey Clifton	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Trustee	Macclesfield	Jill Maguire	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Ackworth General Mting		Hilary Owen Till Geiger	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Quaker Life Rep. Deputy		Sarah Worth Sue Pounder	1/1/19 – 31/12/21 1/1/19 – 31/12/21
Rep. On SACRE		Madeleine Reeves	1/1/19 – 31/12/20
Christian & Interfaith Correspondent		P B	1/1/19 - 31/12/20
C&YPs Advocate		Frances McCann	1/1/19 – 31/12/21
AM Clerk		Frances Hill	1/1/19 – 31/12/19
AM Assistant Clerk		Sally Mendham	1/1/19 - 31/12/19

**To attend Conferences/Courses as follows:**

YP Participation Day	Friends House, Saturday 6 October, 2018	AM
Sustainability Conference: Bridging the gap: hope and action	Swanwick, 19th – 21st October 2018	Andrew Backhouse
Facilitation and Leadership (2 places approved last AM)	Woodbrooke, Friday 19 - Sunday 21 October 2018	JW (applied) OM(applied) UC(applied) AM
CYP Work Advocates Conf	Woodbrooke, 9-11 Nov	Frances McCann (ex officio)

We accept these nominations and the Friends are duly appointed.  
We thank all Friends for their service.

We note that nominations are still required for the following roles:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Local Meeting</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Dates to serve</b>
Elders	Cheadle Hulme Disley		1/1/19 - 31/12/21
Overseers	Cheadle Hulme Disley		1/1/19 - 31/12/21
Trustee	Disley		1/1/19 - 31/12/21
Examiner of Accounts			

Friends are asked to consider who might be able to fill these roles and pass their names to Nominations Committee.

We thank Nominations Committee for their work on this.

#### **Minute 18.09.06: Nominations to Nominations Committee**

Frandle Meeting has brought the names of Jacqui Moore and Hazel Todhunter as representative and deputy representative for AM Nominations from 2019-2021.

These names being acceptable, the Friends are appointed accordingly.

#### **Minute 18.09.07: Changing Face of Faith in Britain (QCCIR) Conference held 16-18 March 2018**

We thank Ann Lewis for reporting on this conference on behalf of herself and Sue Clark (report circulated).

Meetings are encouraged to explore some of the aspects here through meetings for learning, inviting other Friends to join, so that we can be better equipped to give an account of the faith within us and to “Fill the Well” rather than “Sprinkle the Desert”.

We need to be able to reach out to those of all religions and none. We have been reminded of the importance of a range of theological vocabulary – not specifically Christian – as a foundation for meeting with

those of other faith backgrounds. We ask Elders and Overseers to consider how best this may be taken forward.

### **Minute 18.09.08: Summer School report**

North West Regional Friends' Summer School was held in Oswestry School from 23-30th August 2018. 12 young people associated with Meetings in East Cheshire Area were among the 36 who attended. The theme was Being Ourselves.

Our Young Friends have reflected on their personal gains from the week. They met in small "family groups" which helped everyone to feel supported – and where they had a wide variety of fun; the Young People's team led a day on the theme of Wizard of Oz, which included an obstacle course and a yellow Brick Road challenge; there was an excursion to Blists Hill at Ironbridge, where they enjoyed the fairground; key sessions included Mindfulness and Fracking; epilogue sessions are a great alternative form of Meeting for Worship – these included "Affirmations"; the food was great.

The young people have encouraged us to tell any young people associated with our meetings about Summer School and encourage them to come next year.

We support Gill Alcock in the idea of asking those arranging Regional Gathering in November for an opportunity for some form of similar presentation.

We ask our treasurer to consider whether there are funds within the Area Meeting that might support Summer School.

We thank H, J, L, O and R for their report.

### **Minute 18.09.09: Junior Yearly Meeting**

We ask CYP Committee to find names of 3 or more 15-18 year old young friends from the Area Meeting born between 1.9.00 and 31.8.03 to attend JYM 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April, noting that M A will be attending in his capacity on JYM Arrangements Committee.

### **Minute 18.09.10: 5 minute find out**

We thank Celia Davies for telling us of her father, Cecil Davies' life and experiences as a conscientious objector.

### **Minute 18.09.11: List of Members and Attenders**

Further to Minutes 16.07.07 and 16.09.10, Denise Renshaw has

reported on a meeting between Owen Little of Manchester and Warrington AM and Friends from ECAM - Joan Armstrong (Clerk to Trustees), Sue Pounder (Safeguarding Officer), Denise Renshaw (Membership Clerk and LOMA Co-ordinator), Sally Mendham (Asst Clerk) – to discuss the database being developed to replace the current system used to produce a printed List of Members and Attenders (report attached). This database will eventually replace the need for the Area Meeting's current paper and card records. We agree to continue with this development, and we appoint Denise and Sue Pounder (subject to consent) to represent us on the LoMA Working Party, with permission to co-opt.

We have heard that following the recent data protection regulation we will need new data consent forms from all Members and Attenders (and their partners) in East Cheshire Area Meeting. Denise Renshaw will circulate the new forms to Local Meeting Clerks and we ask that they arrange for all Members and Attenders (and their partners) in their Meetings to complete the forms. Completed forms must then be returned to Denise Renshaw for forwarding to Owen Little, LoMA editor. No names can be included without the receipt of a consent form..

### **Minute 18.09.12 Commissioning and Recording a Piece from “Worn with Pride” and Recording of “Cowards”**

As a continuation of the work around Choices Then and Now (Minutes 15.11.08, 18.05.20), we have heard of a proposal to make a recording of the musical piece Cowards written and performed by local young people and Taylor Giacomina and to commission Taylor Giacomina to set some more of the poems from the anthology Worn With Pride to music, with a view to recording this too. We have heard that Taylor would undertake the commission for £600, and that the recording of both tracks would cost £140. We feel excited by this proposal.

Peter Eccles tells us that £500 has already been promised towards this sum. We agree to this proposal and thank all of those involved. We hope that further donations may be received to cover the remainder, but agree to underwrite any shortfall.

### **Minute 18.09.13 Trustees letter**

We thank Trustees for their annual report letter (attached)

**Minute 18.09.14: Sanctuary meeting 1.45pm 14<sup>th</sup> October, Wilmslow QMH**

A meeting has been arranged for learning more about what is involved in being a Sanctuary Meeting. Tatiana Garavito from QPSW's Sanctuary Meeting project will join us at Wilmslow Meeting House for a talk and discussion at 1.45pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**Minute 18.09.15: Area Meeting Website - Maintenance needed**

Debugging and maintenance work are required on the Area Meeting Website. As our website originator, Taylor has consulted Tom Kerswill, MD of Duneroot, who has agreed to do debugging work on it for us for an initial fee of £150. We agree to this, and ask Taylor to work with Peter Eccles to arrange an ongoing maintenance contract.

**Minute 18.09.16: Glenthorne**

We thank the organising committee for reporting on the Glenthorne Area Meeting gathering held from February 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> (report attached).

A provisional booking has been made for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November 2020. We thank Peter for this, and ask for the date to be confirmed.

**Minute 18.09.17: Building the Peace, Macclesfield 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (Choices Exhibition)**

Further to Minute 18.05.20 of our May meeting, Celia Davies and Jill Maguire have informed us that the costs associated with this project are likely to be nearer to £300 partly because some things are proving more expensive than anticipated and partly because an additional display is being put on, including a textile hanging.

We agree to increase the budget from £100 to £300.

**Minute 18.09.18: Thanks**

We thank Disley Friends for their hospitality.

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

## NOTICES

### **Sanctuary Meetings Meeting Wilmslow Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> 1.45pm** **Wilmslow Meeting House**

See Minute 18.09.14 above. Tatiana Garavito from QPSW's Sanctuary Meeting project will talk to us and we will discuss what is involved in being a Sanctuary Meeting.

### **Next Area Meeting for Worship for Business: Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>** **Lunch then 1.45pm start, Cheadle Hulme Meeting House.**

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 pm, Disley Community Centre**

**Sergei Nikitin**, former Director of the Amnesty International representative office in Russia **discusses Human Rights in Russia**  
Entry free (donations welcome). *See poster*

### **ECAM Peace Group**

All are welcome to our next meeting which will be a bring-your-own lunch at **12 noon Tuesday 25th September 2018** at Wilmslow Meeting House.

#### **Events:**

#### **MaccPeaceFest – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

At Christ Church, Macclesfield. A family weekend of commemoration for World Peace Day – pop in and see ECAM's display "The Men Who Would Not Fight" inside this heritage building.

#### **Building the Peace – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

Exhibitions, Concerts, poetry reading.

The following is a link to Macclesfield Reflects website where our publicity appears. <http://macclesfieldreflects.org.uk/2018/11/05/choices-then-and-now-2018/>

**Macclesfield Library:** "Choices Then and Now" exhibition including work by Peace Pathways Project and the Artspace textile hanging.

**St Michael's Parish Church:** Quaker Textile Hanging & poetry display

**URC, Park Green:** Peace Café Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

**Concerts at St Michael's Parish Church:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> - '100 Voices, a World of Difference' which includes a performance of "Cowards" with Taylor Giacomini.

Click the link for booking tickets and prices <https://bit.ly/2x3QRgh>

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance and Peace with KEMS choir & orchestra.

Please join the rota, if you can, 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](mailto:ann.lewis@live.co.uk) 01625 562109

**Quaker Service Memorial Trust Meeting for Worship, Saturday 22 September at 2:30 pm, Quaker service memorial**, the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire.

For further details about the arrangements: [www.qsmt.org.uk](http://www.qsmt.org.uk)

**Skill Share Weekend re Sanctuary Meetings 5 - 7 November 2018, at Glenthorne Grasmere, Cumbria**

Our first Sanctuary Everywhere Skillshare, in March 2018, brought together 30 Friends from Sanctuary meetings across the country to share and learn from each other', and to continue building our movement for racial justice and migrant rights across the country and the world.

Our second Sanctuary Everywhere skillshare will cover similar sessions to the ones we ran earlier this year: building alliances, dismantling racism and lobbying politicians. It is aimed at people who did not get the chance to attend in March. We are now more than 75 Sanctuary meetings, so we would like to give space to as many Friends as possible for this skillshare. To register to come, please complete the application by clicking on the 'Register your place' button.

Booking fee £20 – remainder subsidised by Sanctuary Everywhere programme.

**National Gatherings and Conferences from Monthly Mailing:**

**Answering that of God in everyone: A diversity and inclusion national gathering 18–20 January 2019, Woodbrooke**

A diverse and inclusive community where all are welcomed has been an ever present aspiration for Quakers. This conference aims to equip Friends to make it a reality, offering keynote speeches, workshops, opportunities for informal discussion and all-age worship, all as discreet standalone sessions. We will explore diversity in a variety of forms, including race and ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and gender, in an intersectional way. Prepare to be challenged and inspired.

[edwinap@quaker.org.uk](mailto:edwinap@quaker.org.uk), 0207 663 1148



**Quaker Activist Gathering 2018, 10am-4.30pm, 3 November 2018,  
Lancaster Quaker Meeting House**

An action-focused day for Quakers who identify as activists, framed in worship. It will be a day to build common cause, explore the Quaker aspect of our actions, and discover how we can work more effectively. Meet other Quakers, learn how Quaker Peace & Social Witness staff can support your activism, and develop your skills.

Book here: [www.bit.ly/QuakerActivistGathering2018](http://www.bit.ly/QuakerActivistGathering2018)

Ben Foley, [benf@quaker.org.uk](mailto:benf@quaker.org.uk), 020 7663 1056

**Q-CAT Conference Preventing Torture – Effective Action  
10.30am–4.30pm, 3 November 2018, Friends House, London**

This conference will bring together a range of excellent speakers on this important topic and will end with a ‘What do we do next?’ session to discuss some practical action points. Places are limited and the conference will be open to the public, so please apply soon.

Book at: [from.qcat@hotmail.com](mailto:from.qcat@hotmail.com) or

Q-CAT 79 Wellington Road, New Brighton, CH45 2NE

**QPSW Relief grant and Simmons grant**

*Applications opening in October*

QPSW Relief grants of up to £4,000 per year for a maximum of three years are available for projects both overseas and in the UK for peace-building, and addressing relief of people who are suffering as a result of social and economic deprivation, natural disasters, climate change, war or conflict but not immediate crisis relief. Simmons grants of about £1,500 for one year will be available to aid Quakers’ support/ involvement in overseas projects helping rural young people become self-sufficient, or with a similar educational purpose. Projects need to be a concern of your local or area meeting.

Ann Pfeiffer, [annp@quaker.org.uk](mailto:annp@quaker.org.uk), 020 7663 1053

**For Children and Young People  
Journeys in the Spirit**

A new Journeys youth and child flyer is now available in time for the new series of Journeys in the Spirit starting in October. This follows the theme for Quaker Week 2018 ‘Room for more’ – including the themes of diversity, inclusion and hospitality amongst others.

For more information: [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk), 020 7663 1013

## **Pilgrimage in 1652 Country**

*19–22 October, Yealand, Lancaster*

The Quaker Pilgrimage for 12- to 15-year-olds provides an opportunity for young Quakers to follow in the footsteps of George Fox and other early Quakers alongside their peers. We will be visiting sites such as Pendle Hill, Firbank Fell, and Swarthmoor Hall. There will also be time for worship, games, activities and reflection on the day's experiences.

To book by 20<sup>th</sup> September

For more information: [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk), 020 7663 1013

## REPORTS

The Changing Face of Faith in Britain - how should Quakers respond? QCCIR Conference held 16-18 March 2018	12 -14
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**CONFERENCE AT WOODBROOKE**  
**MARCH 2018.**  
**The Changing Face of Faith in Britain -**  
**how should Quakers respond?**

Sue Clarke and I attended on behalf of ECAM. Since then, we hesitated about whether we could adequately report on what was a rich, varied, intellectually challenging and unsettling weekend. Afterwards Sue needed to give priority to her family so this is my attempt to convey to you what was a very interesting weekend.

One of the things that has always fascinated me is the religious scene both here and in other countries – what do we do to access the Divine, how do we do it and why, and what causes change in religious practice?

When I hear that Quaker numbers are falling away, I am very unhappy and I can put my head in the sand and hope it will go away. It is much too comfortable for me to retreat into Disley Meeting and think that we are doing God's will by holding Meeting for Worship regularly and that we are witnessing to our testimonies as individuals and what more can we do? Yet all our Quaker thinking and all our Quaker structures shout 'Be Open', so hunkering down and hoping that people will find us, is not an option.

Grace Davey, a sociologist of religion of many years standing, presented her most recent work from her book 'Religion in Britain – a Persistent Paradox'. She described the process of secularisation that has gone on in this country over the last 20 years, and identified 5 factors to account for it:

- 1) Our cultural heritage of Christianity has upheld our civic and public life and has imbued much of the way we are and how we act but now it might be described as 'Believing without Belonging' and that heritage is slipping away.
- 2) There is something which she calls 'Vicarious Religion' – an attitude that religion is a public utility. It is useful for marriages, funerals, ceremonies but personal and private commitment is waning.
- 3) She described a shift from people who went to church and had an obligation towards the Protestant church-going tradition, to those now with an attitude of consumption – religion is part of a market of other consumables.
- 4) There are many new people arriving on our shores with stronger commitment to the Christian tradition, as well as people from different faiths.
- 5) There are many, many alternatives nowadays for our time –

shopping, sport, family activities etc.

However, there is also the unexpected – more discussion in the public domain of religion. Evangelical churches are doing well because of the certainty they offer in a very uncertain world and the experiential conversion they give. Cathedrals are also doing well because they allow anonymity. Pilgrimages are also growing – which again is a kind of experiential spiritual opportunity.

What she concluded from this is that we cannot sit there and expect people to come. We have to make it worthwhile. What can we offer that makes people want to come? It is at this precise moment, just when we most need it that the British people are losing the vocabulary, the tools and concepts that they require to have a constructive conversation about faiths. So religious education is vitally important – talking together about what we believe as Quakers and with our children, not to turn them into Quakers but to give them the wherewithal to talk about faith and what it means.

Ben Pink Dandelion and Francesca Montemaggi were commissioned by QCCIR to do 2 pieces of research:

1) on the literature on the current state of religion in Britain today. This is a major piece of work and is totally fascinating. It confirms Grace Davie's work on secularisation. Individualism, differentiation in sexuality, the women's movement, greater numbers of young people going to university, the movement away from 'belief' and 'creed' to experiential religion, has had a profound effect on religious life. People are not happy nowadays simply with a statement about the supernatural. We can no longer think in old-fashioned ways about faith. They concluded that the centre ground of religion in Britain is fuzzy and complex. It is a pluralistic spiritual landscape. We were urged to prick the bubble we are in; accept that digital communication can assist Outreach; be more like 'hunter-gathers'; 'fill the well rather than sprinkle the desert'.

2) on the Spirituality of new Quakers. This research was based on responses from 224 new Quakers. It seems that:

a) they come mostly from Christian backgrounds.

b) they like the theological openness of Quakers because we have embraced a continual search for truth ... 'Open to new Light' or as they termed it 'the absolute perhaps'!! The prescription of seeking as the normative mode of belief, c) they identify with Quakerism's strong ethical component – the emphasis on living the testimonies and living an ethical way of life.

d) they describe it as 'finding home' yet consider themselves as 'not Quakerly enough':

Quotation: " I don't feel Quakerly enough. I don't think I have what other Quakers have. I think it is because I got to it later in life. It's quite a big change. I'm happy with it, but I don't feel I have the right mindset yet. I'm just feeling my way, I think ..... I don't think I have the same serenity, calmness, moral strength."

e) they like the community and want more of it through discussion, sharing experiences, explanation of the structures, so for us to build community it requires continual commitment.

f) they see the silent worship as central – its simplicity and plainness are challenging.

A Quotation from the research:

" Being part of a Quaker Meeting has been a very liberating and positive experience for me. Prior to attending, I spent many years searching for a more authentic way of practising my faith. I grew up in an Anglican tradition but struggled with the more evangelical/dogmatic parts of this church movement and elements of prejudice and discrimination that I observed in the church organisation (eg opposition to female bishops; teachings on sexuality etc) Professionally I work within a scientific environment that is heavily dominated by atheist/ Darwinist views and leaves little room for spiritual discussion. It has been crucial to me to find a way of practising my faith that allowed for openness to individual experience and was non- dogmatic in its approach. My first experience of attending my Quaker Meeting felt like it 'clicked'. I had some previous experience of meditation so was not daunted by the idea of sitting in silence for an hour. I was struck by how rich and inclusive the silence was. Since then, I've gradually found a place in Meeting. It has supported me tremendously through personally challenging times and gives me support and hope in politically turbulent times. I feel that Quakerism fills an important niche that is currently neglected in modern Christian religion where there are strong movements for conservatism, evangelism, traditionalism but much less for peaceful liberal and universalistic approaches. Being part of a Quaker Meeting gives me a spiritual identity that I am proud of, with values that I wholeheartedly support. My experience with Quakerism has also enabled me to feel more confident in exploring the views of others and entering into discussion with people that I meet with more fundamentalist (Christian or atheist) views. It has given me more confidence and hope for the continued role of peaceful religion in society."

So this research provides a glimpse into the narratives given by new Quakers today. Their patterns of going to LMs and what they find there are part of the wider restructuring of religious consciousness in contemporary Britain. They have moved away from a rigid theology and a church context that did not encourage free thinking in matters of faith. The critique of religion in public debates eg Richard Dawkins, constructs religion in negative terms. Mostly as a set of unprovable beliefs, so having

an open search for a deeper understanding of their spiritual life is of the utmost importance to them - as indeed it is to all of us.

Ann L. Lewis. September 2018.

## **Minute 18.09.11 List of Members and Attenders – new database**

Initially it might help if I read 2 minutes from Area Meetings in July and September 2016 as a reminder of decisions made then.

***Minute 16.07.07:** List of Members and Attenders Ben Evens has told us of the suggestion that the LoMA might henceforth exist separately for each area meeting. A number of Friends find it useful to have the wider spread of information, as we have at present, and are very keen to keep this ease of contact. Recognising that it may be easiest, at least soon, to have an electronic list that is printable but secure, we ask a small group to meet with Owen Little of Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting who is exploring possibilities in this direction. We ask them also to consult Friends House Minute 18 for experience and tools that ease production. We ask Friends to volunteer their services to the Clerk and Ben Evens for this exploratory group.*

***Minute 16.09.10:** List of Members and Attenders (LOMA) Ben Evens has reported on suggestions drafted by Owen Little of Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting. Owen Little's report has been circulated. A summary of this is attached. The current LOMA format is unsatisfactory. A new system is overdue. A new system is proposed for LOMA 2018. The proposed system includes functions that would facilitate other activities. A hierarchy of gated protocols would enable access for those revising and processing the list. We agree that we should collaborate with Manchester and Warrington, and Pendle Hill Area Meetings in proceeding with this new system. The necessary protocols need further discussion. Friends raised concerns about security issues IF the database were to be made available to individual Friends electronically. We note that this is NOT proposed. We thank Ben for liaising with Owen Little and Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting on this.*

On 3rd September Sally Mendham, representing AM Clerks, Joan Armstrong Clerk to Trustees, Sue Pounder, Safeguarding Officer and I met with Owen Little, Assistant Clerk Membership and LoMA editor for Manchester and Warrington AM so that he could update us on progress. His brother who is a database designer experienced in producing highly secure databases for industry has very generously designed and built a database for registering names and details of members and attenders for Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting. Manchester and Warrington are offering to share this system and upload East Cheshire AM's list of Members and Attenders.

Once done the details required for the printed LoMA for 2019 can be downloaded into a similar format to the existing editions of LoMA. In addition to being a far more user friendly and efficient system for producing the published LoMA the new database will, when complete, offer the possibility of a much wider range of activities.

The database will only be accessible to officers of the Meetings, for the length of their tenure, who require a specific information which relates to their role, e.g. Membership Clerk producing the tabular statement, Convenor of Children and Young Peoples committee to the list of C&YP in certain age groups. The C&YPs details will be particularly well ring fenced.

If we agree to proceed, in order to finalise the details of the activities available, and specify who will be allowed access the database, Manchester and Warrington propose setting up a working group with members of ECAM. The working group will



meet in the New Year and their decisions on access proposals will be presented to AMs for discernment in the summer of 2019. In the light of this discernment the added database functions will become available later in 2019, and an Instruction/help Manual produced. It is hoped that the Database will be fully implemented by the end of 2019.

Any initial production costs, host server fees etc. will be borne by Manchester and Warrington and initially Owen and M&W's paid administrator will enter information on to the database for both AMs. Any future fees are expected to be very moderate. The secure host server used will be based in the UK to avoid any complications with Brexit. The site will be backed up every 24 hours to protect against crashes.

Currently most of our Membership and Attenders' records are paper ones. In line with the new Guidelines for Data Protection Regulations, if AM accept the changes in the way that membership and attenders details will be centralised and stored, all Members and Attenders and their partners who appear in LoMA must fill in one of the new Contact Forms. (If they do not we cannot include their names.) Once the forms are returned to me I can finalise the list of entries. If I have no Contact Form I have to presume that we do not have permission. We have printed off 15 paper copies for each Meeting, with a cover sheet and a copy of the Privacy Notice which should be made available to all filling in a consent form. I will also send these out to LM Clerks as email attachments.

Will LM Clerks please ensure that all Members and Attenders in their Meeting currently in LoMA fill in a consent form either on paper or online and then forward them to me by the end of October. I can then update the records I have, and forward these to Owen Little for entry on to the database.

Actions required:

Discernment on how we wish to proceed. If we discern we wish to proceed then:

1. Appointment of Friends to the working group with M&W Friends
2. Local Meeting Clerks to return all consent forms to me by the end of October either online or by post.
3. Denise Renshaw, Membership Clerk and LoMA co-ordinator, to collate and forward this information to Owen Little, LoMA Editor.

Denise Renshaw Assistant Clerk Membership & LoMA Co-ordinator 8/09/2018

## **LETTER FROM TRUSTEES 2018**

Dear AM Friends

As in other years Trustees have met four times in the year preceding our June meeting.

The agendas have included many topics. Some are updates from members engaged in delegated work, others require discussion and discernment and some contain elements of both.

Our relationship with Wilmslow Guild Trustees, which had exercised us last year, has become warm and respectful. Biannual meetings have been inaugurated and, by listening and open communication, issues have been amicably discussed.

The annual Health and Safety inspections have been carried out by LM Premises Committees. Allied to this monitoring of our buildings the detailed professional Quinquennial inspections are due to be carried out this year. Quotes for this work were requested and a decision was made to ask a co-operative company of Surveyors to carry out the inspections. They will arrange to visit all Meeting Houses in the coming months.

At the time of last year's annual inspections Trustees had also requested LMs to arrange First Aid training. This was done during the following months in a way appropriate for each LM.

Two Trustees are actively involved in the Peace Education Project (renamed Peace Pathways). By keeping abreast of its development and plans, requests for funding can be quickly expedited. Details of their activities have been reported to AM.

A Trustee has been appointed to the post of AM Archivist. Having received guidance from Friends House a draft retention policy is currently a work in progress e.g. what information and documents are AM required to keep and for how long? This is an important area as some information may be required, perhaps decades later e.g. around the safeguarding of children.

The annual visit of AM's Fund Manager from Rathbone Greenbank was held in December. Despite the continuing political uncertainties he reported that the returns on our portfolio were satisfactory and had encouraging future prospects. Also at this meeting the Trustee responsible for employment matters outlined intended plans for employees' April pay rises in line with the Living Wage Foundation. Friends House recommends that the employee and employer pay 50% each towards pension provision. However Trustees decided that AM would continue paying 2/3 and Stockport's Warden 1/3 towards his pension (the only employee to whom this applies).

The maintenance needs of the older Meeting Houses are continually monitored and appropriate action advised. This year has been no exception e.g. the repointing of a wall at Frandley and replacement of windows at Wilmslow to mention only two. However Marple, one of the three LMs who rent facilities, has requested funding towards the redevelopment of the Methodist Church which, for a number of years, has provided a welcoming space in which they worship. They intend to contribute partly from their own funds and legal advice is being sought about Trustees' contribution.

The difference in the financial responsibilities of LMs whose Meeting Houses are owned by AM and those who pay rent independent of AM needs to be clarified. This has brought to the fore, once more, the necessity of updating the Memorandum of Understanding which will explain the roles of AM in relation to LMs. This is another assignment in progress.

The work and responsibilities of Trustees this past year have been as varied and interesting as ever and we hope to continue in the coming year supporting, in our designated role, the interests and wellbeing of our East Cheshire Quaker community.

In Friendship

Joan Armstrong (Clerk)

## Report on East Cheshire Area Gathering February 2018.

There was positive feedback from many who came to the Gathering.

- A loss was recorded because of the lower than expected number of people attending. This has been covered by Area funds.
- The numbers attending from the different local meetings varied, with the largest group being from Frandley.
- The organizers identified that the early date of the Gathering (16 – 18<sup>th</sup> February) was probably the main factor accounting for the lower than usual number of people booking to attend. The reason for this early date was the availability of Glenthorne.

The organisers recommend that Glenthorne is booked for the 2020 East Cheshire Area Gathering, but that the date is set a few weeks later in the year.

Frances McCann, Andrew Backhouse, Peter Eccles. 08.08.2018.