

**East Cheshire Area Quaker Meeting
Stockport Meeting House - 27 January 2018**

Minute 18.01.01: Friends present

All of our Meetings are represented. 39 Friends are present.

The Trustee present is Joan Armstrong.

The Accompanying Elder is Geoff Thomason

Minute 18.01.02: Reading

In our opening worship we have heard part of 12.01 of Quaker Faith and Practice

Minute 18.01.03: Caring for Friends

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

Minute 18.01.04: Death of Mary Black (re Minute 5 of Wilmslow LBM, January 2018)

We record with sadness that Mary Black, previously an Attender at Wilmslow Meeting died in Stirling in November 2017 a few days after moving from the care home in Poynton where she had lived for several years.

Minute 18.01.05: Monica Goddard:

We have heard a testimony celebrating the Grace of God as seen in the life of our Friend Monica Goddard who died aged 92, which reads as follows:

This is our testimony to the Grace of God as seen in the life of our Friend Monica Goddard, who died on 26th August 2017. Monica was an attender at Marple Meeting from 2010.

She had taught pottery at Glossop School, inspiring her students to enjoy pottery and produce some good, interesting pots.

When Monica's legs became too weak for her to get to meeting for worship, she remained a part of the meeting. Some of us became regular visitors. Monica's mind was as lively as that of someone young and enthusiastic. Her interests ranged widely, so conversations with her were never dull. She spoke with great fervour of her days in the war as a Land Girl, which left her with a deep respect and understanding of the land and farming. She used to listen to The Archers, saying how accurately the programme portrayed the realities of farming.

Monica respected all animals, looking after any animal which came near her needing care: she fed the birds and became friends with badgers. She told us with glee how greatly badgers like peanut butter. One particular badger came every day to be fed; she did drawings of this badger on cards for many of her friends. She deliberately allowed her garden to run wild as a natural habitat for flora and fauna.

Her home was an incredible muddle, and not particularly clean - surely not just because she was past being able to care for it, but because she found people and their conversation far more important.

She was full of loving gratitude to the staff at Stepping Hill and The Willows who cared for her in her final days, even though she detested being in hospital.

Beneath Monica's wide-ranging enthusiasms and her love for the land and all animals lay a profound ability to see that of God in everyone she knew; she would often tell us of the goodness and kindness of people we did not know, and as she spoke her genuine open love and enthusiasm shone through. When one was with her it felt that there was something in her which drew up a spiritual depth from within us, so we would leave her having been encouraged to grow a little. She will be greatly missed.

The Meeting is liaising with Monica's friend Alison Dowdswell for a suitable date for a memorial meeting.

Minute 18.01.06: Membership application – Darrel Spence

We have received an application for membership from Darrel Spence of Stockport Meeting. We appoint Joan Armstrong and Gavin Mendham as visitors.

Minute 18.01.07: Transfer of Membership in – Paul and Rita Harrison

A Certificate for Transfer of Membership has been received from Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting in respect of Paul and Rita Harrison. Paul and Rita now attend Frandley Meeting and wish their Membership be transferred to East Cheshire Area Meeting.

We are pleased to accept this request and ask Hazel Todhunter to welcome them to East Cheshire Area Meeting. The Membership Clerk will send a Certificate of Acceptance to Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting on our behalf.

Minute 18.01.08: Transfer of Membership out - Dave Swindells

A certificate of acceptance of transfer of membership has been received from Leeds Area Meeting in respect of Dave Swindells who previously attended Disley Meeting.

Minute 18.01.09: Transfer of Membership out - Ingrid Ramsdale-Capper

A certificate of acceptance of transfer of membership has been received from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Meeting in respect of Ingrid Ramsdale- Capper who previously attended Macclesfield Meeting but has lived on the Isle of Wight for some considerable time.

Minute 18.01.10: Recording of Marriage extracts

There are no entries in the Record of Marriages for 2017. The Clerk has signed the requisite form and returned it to Friends House.

Minute 18.01.11: Tabular statement

We have received the Tabular Statement from the Area Meeting to BYM, for 2017, as attached.

In 2017 we have a total of 173 Friends in membership, which is down by one when compared to 2016. Sadly five Area Meeting Friends died in 2017, two Friends moved out of Area and transferred to other Area Meetings, and we had one resignation from Membership; eight losses in all. I'm pleased to report that four Friends applied for, and were accepted in to Membership, and three transferred in from other Area Meetings.

We have recorded 141 Attenders in 2017 against 128 in 2016, which is encouraging, and an increase of two in the number of children, giving a total of 35.

We note that of these members, there are sadly quite a number who we never see, and who are not in any apparent way involved with their Meetings. We refer this matter to AM Overseers for consideration.

We thank Denise Renshaw for preparing this and responding to questions on it.

Minute 18.01.12: Nominations

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

JYM 2018

J W and A M of Frandley

Representatives to Meeting for Sufferings

Jacqui Moore of Frandley as our representative, and Eleni Burgess of Marple as Alternate to Meeting for Sufferings from May 2018 until April 2020

Elder for Marple

Sue Pounder as Elder for Marple for a further three years (until 31/12/2020)

Northern Friends Peace Board

Till Geiger as representative to NFPB from 2018 to 31 December 2020

QPSW Spring Conference 23rd-25th March Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Jenny Norris (Wilmslow), Liz Honeybell (Disley), and Dot Ainscough (Stockport) to attend the QPSW conference in March

2018 Quakers in Criminal Justice conference - "Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System" 23rd - 25th February

Denise Renshaw to attend this conference on our behalf

Children and Young People's Committee

Additionally, Jackie Barker has asked to be released from the Children and Young People's Committee; and Cheadle Hulme has nominated Peter Eccles to take her place on the Committee for 2018.

We are pleased to appoint these Friends accordingly.

Minute 18.01.13: Minute of Thanks

We record our gratitude to all the Friends who have served the Area Meeting in 2017 and have now laid down their service.

We also recognise the many quiet unseen faithful duties carried out behind the scenes by Friends.

It is hoped that those Friends still in post and those new in post can continue with and build on the work done in 2017.

Minute 18.01.14: Five Minute Findout - Jenny Lazarus

We thank Jenny for telling us of some key points of her life story

Minute 18.01.15: Formal appointment of wedding at Marple 26th May at Ridge Methodist Chapel, Marple

We have received the following (extract from a) Minute from Marple LBM:

Forthcoming marriage: After Meeting for Worship today, the Clerk read out Form E, Notice

of Intention of Marriage between Caroline Mary Platt, member of East Cheshire Area Meeting, who attends Marple Meeting, and David Frank Thickbroom, also known as Buddhashanti, not in membership.

We hereby appoint a Meeting for Worship for this Marriage according to the manner of Friends to be held at Ridge Methodist Church, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7ER on Saturday 26th May 2018 at 11.30 a.m..

Minute 18.01.16: Treasurer's Report:

Whilst the 2016 accounts are not yet quite ready we have been pleased to review and approve the attached and circulated budget for 2018. We thank Peter Eccles for his work on this.

We endorse the suggestion that the additional subsidy requested by those planning Yealand should be funded from the Gifts and Legacies Fund.

Minute 18.01.17: NFPB – Funding request

We agree to send £4.25 per member to NFPB from AM and encourage LMs to do likewise.

Minute 18.01.18: Newsletter inputs

Nominations Committee tells us that as they have been unable to identify a further name to serve with Mike Nash as joint editor for the Area Meeting Newsletter as we release Darren Booth from this role.

We therefore ask Local Meetings to each find a nominated person to put together a brief review/ report on their meeting's activities during 2017 and send this to Peter Eccles, AM Treasurer, by the end of February, so he can use this in preparing his Treasurer's report to the Charity Commissioners.

Later in the year, Local Meetings should then prepare a similar report for the first six months of 2018.

These reports could also include forward notice of forthcoming events and should be uploaded to the AM website to make them more widely available, with due consideration of Data Protection issues.

Members of Local Meetings could then download these reports and provide printed copies to those Friends who need them.

Guidance and example reports will be circulated when Denise Renshaw has gained further advice on Data Protection, and Sue Pounder has attended Safeguarding training.

Minute 18.01.19: Meeting for Sufferings report

Andrew Backhouse has reported on Meeting for Sufferings held on 2nd December as attached. He has highlighted consideration of Sanctuary Everywhere and Transparency of Lobbying.

Minute 18.01.20: Deepening Discernment Course November

We thank Frances McCann for her report on this Woodbrooke course (attached). Friends are encouraged to consider using the questions in her report as a basis for exploration in their Meetings.

Minute 18.01.21: QCEA Conference in Brussels

P B and Sally Gold have given us an oral report on their experiences at the Sanctuary Everywhere conference in December. Friends are encouraged to read the attached more extensive report written by them and Till Geiger (who also attended the conference).

Minute 18.01.22: Quaker Forum for Mental Health Day

We thank Sally Mendham for her report (attached) on the Quaker Forum for Mental Health Day held in York on Dec 9th 2017.

With input from Shelagh Robinson of Staffordshire Area Meeting, the 2pm afternoon session of the 10th March Area Meeting will focus on how Friends in Local Meetings can support people living with dementia.

Minute 18.01.23: Prison Chaplain's Report

We thank Denise Renshaw for her personal reflections on her written report of her work (attached) as Quaker Prison Chaplain at HMP Styal and with the Quaker Prison Chaplains group over the past few years.

Minute 18.01.24: Report on National Conversation on Immigration, Thursday 25th January 2018, All Hallows Catholic College, Macclesfield.

We thank Sally Gold for her engagement with this Conversation on our behalf. Friends are encouraged to respond to their survey through the online link:
<http://nationalconversation.uk/survey/>

Minute 18.01.25: Green and Slater Trustees

Frances McCann and Jenny Lazarus have told us about the Doctors Green and Slater Rest Houses Trust which is a social housing project that provides 24 units for independent living for older people in Heaton Moor. The Trust Deed stipulates that all trustees must be members of the Society of Friends at the time of their appointment. The Board is seeking new trustees.

Minute 18.01.26: QPSW PECAN appointment, Gill Alcock

We note that Gill Alcock has been appointed to the Peace Education Campaigning and Networking: Peace Education subcommittee of QPSW. We uphold Gill in this role.

Minute 18.01.27: Glenthorne weekend February 2018 and Willersley Castle Weekend 2019

We are aware of a number of reasons why numbers for the Glenthorne weekend February 16-18 are currently low. Meanwhile Willersley Castle is booked for 22-24 March 2019 as dates previously discussed were unavailable.

We encourage overseers to offer Friends support from the Education and Relief Fund to Friends who might benefit from attending these events, which can be pivotal in Friends journeys.

We ask the Glenthorne organising group to review future options when the event has taken place.

Minute 18.01.28: Report back from All Age Worship and Panto 7th January 2018

This went well.

Minute 18.01.29: Annual Duties and Outward Affairs

Further to Minute 17.11.23 and 17.11.24 the clerks can confirm that all our Local Meetings with the exception of Macclesfield have responded and verified that they have fulfilled their Annual Duties and reminded Friends of their responsibilities for the right ordering of their Outward Affairs.

Minute 18.01.30: Thanks

We thank Stockport Local Meeting for their hospitality

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting:

Frances A Hill, Clerk

Notices

Next Area Meeting:

Saturday 10th March, at Wilmslow Meeting House, 11.00am followed by lunch and an afternoon session 2.00-4.00pm. The afternoon session will focus on how Friends in Local Meetings can support those living with dementia. The session will be facilitated by Shelagh Robinson, a Staffordshire Friend who is living with Alzheimer's Disease, and Sally Mendham.

Change of LM Clerks:

For 2018 Cheadle Hulme LM clerk is Taylor Giacomini and the assistant clerk is Evelyn Ingram (correspondence to Evelyn Ingram).

Frantley LM Clerk is Gill Alcock

National Conversation on Immigration: Related websites and links

www.nationalconversation.org.uk

www.britishfuture.org.uk

Hope Not Hate: www.hopenothate.org.uk

Israel and Palestine: Solutions and the Future, A Discussion. At Manchester Reform Synagogue, Thursday 8th February, 18.00-20.00

See flyer separately attached. *Those Friends wishing to attend should r.s.v.p. to Warren Elf so he has a list of names.*

Quaker Congo Partnership UK and South Manchester Quaker Meeting

Saturday February 17th 2018 6.30pm South Manchester Quaker Meeting House, 82 Wythenshawe Road M23 0DJ

Report, pictures and discussion about the visit in November 2017 followed by a meal and some of the wild life pictures from 2014 visit.

There will be a collection in aid of the work of Quaker Congo Partnership.

See attached flyer if intending to go.

ECAM Peace Group. Tuesday 27th February 1.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Wilmslow Meeting House

All Friends are encouraged to come to the first meeting of the re-grouped, re-named "ECAM Peace Group"

There is no formal agenda, we just want to hear from everyone.

We see the Group's primary aim, in the future, as upholding all those Friends in East Cheshire Area Meeting, both individuals and Local Meetings, who are involved in any sort of Peace Work. It is seen as an open group, an arena, a listening space and a platform from which we can support each other and others in the Area Meeting with their initiatives, ideas, plans etc.

Let's hear from those who are involved in peace concerns, locally, regionally and Nationally. Bring **your** experiences, future plans and expectations or just come along to listen.

For information contact the convenor: Celia Davies 01260 252655

celia.davies2@hotmail.co.uk

Friends House Library trip, Monday March 12th 2018 - Book now to ensure a place!

This will be a whole building tour, meeting staff, including, if he's there, Paul Parker. The Library will put on an exhibition for us, with particular emphasis on things pertaining to our AM and region.

Spaces are limited to 12, so book quickly! Hilary will be looking into cheaper group fares from Stockport, Macclesfield and Wilmslow, though some Friends will probably go from Crewe if they are over that way.

Please contact Hilary asap if you would like to go.

National Quaker Day of Distant Healing

Saturday 3rd March 11am – 4pm, Cheadle Hulme Meeting House

Friends and Attenders are invited to come for as long or short a time as they wish to share the experience with Friends, not only in our AM but throughout BYM, of holding in the Light individuals/groups who are in distress.

Criminal Justice event planned for March 10th – further details to come

Julia Horn and Frances McCann are hoping to attend the Quakers in Criminal Justice Conference from 23-25 February. Julia and Frances will be arranging an event on 10 March relating to the conference; Frances has asked that we bring this to the attention of Friends.

“WWI Conscientious Objectors” , Monday 12th March at 7.30pm. Hartford Methodist Church Hall, Beech Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AB.

A talk by Celia Davies and P B at the invitation of The Northwich Group of the Family History Society of Cheshire.

All are welcome and there will be a small entry charge, for members and visitors alike, includes tea or coffee and biscuits.

<https://www.fhsc.org.uk/about-the-group-northwich>

Regional Gatherings 2018 and 2019

2018: Pendle Hill Area Meeting is to host Regional Gathering this year and Ben Pink Dandelion has let us know a provisional date of November 17th

2019: Wirral and Chester Area Meeting and Hardshaw and Mann Area Meeting, have jointly agreed to host a Regional Gathering at Liverpool Meeting House on Saturday 2nd November 2019.. Further details to follow.