

Minutes of East Cheshire Area Meeting

March 10th 2018, 11am, held at Wilmslow Meeting House

18.03.01 Friends present

There are 28 Friends present. All our Meetings are represented.

The Elder in attendance is Denise Renshaw, the Trustee in attendance is Gill Armitage.

18.03.02 Reading

Advices and Queries #22 from Quaker Faith and Practice has been read in our opening worship.

18.03.03 Caring for Friends

We have heard of a number of Friends who are particularly in need of our thoughts and prayers at this time, and we are holding them in our thoughts. We include among this number Marie LeBacq and her husband Nick who are about to leave Crewe to spend an extended period [as Friends in Residence] at Congenies in France. We ask our Assistant Clerk and Liz Morris to send our greetings.

18.03.04 Application for membership Julia Horn

We have received an application for membership from Julia Horn of Stockport Meeting.

We appoint Tim Carlisle and Denise Renshaw to visit Julia.

18.03.05 Application for membership Andy Bowerfield

We have received an application for membership from Andy Bowerfield of Stockport Meeting.

We appoint Margaret Moss and Annique Seddon to visit Andy.

18.03.06 Death of Stephen Doncaster

We record with sadness the death of Stephen Doncaster (11.05.1919 – 13.02.2018) of Disley Meeting. A Memorial Meeting will be held at Ring O'Bells on Saturday 24th March, 3pm.

18.03.07 Death of Juliet Ward

We record with sadness the death of Juliet Ward (20.08.1968 – 20.02.2018). Juliet's funeral took place on Saturday 3rd March at Stockport Crematorium.

Wilmslow Meeting has minuted:

“Juliet, daughter of Liz Morris and twin sister of William had been an Attender at Wilmslow Meeting for many years and lived on the premises, when her parents Liz

and David were the Wardens here. Her children Isabel and Matthew have attended our Children's Meeting since they were very young."

18.03.08 Britain Yearly Meeting, 4-7 May 2018,

YM will be considering whether it is time to revise our Book of Discipline (Quaker Faith and Practice). We understand that 8 or more ECAM Friends will be attending. Friends are reminded that they can claim up to £100 from Area Meeting for attendance at YM when it is held in London, direct from the AM Treasurer. Friends are encouraged to consider whether there are Friends who might specifically be encouraged and supported to attend. Additional bursary support can be applied for from the Education and Relief Fund, by application to an overseer.

18.03.09 Treasurer's business

Contribution Schedule

We authorise the Area Meeting Treasurer to circulate a schedule of contributions from local meetings to Area Meeting based on the budget agreed at our January Meeting and the numbers of "active participants" in each meeting as last year.

2016 accounts

Peter Eccles has introduced the 2016 Summary of Accounts, attached. We authorise the Area Meeting Clerk to sign the 2016 Area Meeting Annual Report and Accounts once they have been approved by the examiner and also by Area Meeting Trustees and all Friends have had an opportunity to raise queries and make comments on the full Accounts which will be circulated shortly.

We thank Peter for his work on our behalf.

18.03.10 AM Glenthorne Weekend 16-18 February

32 Friends and attenders associated with East Cheshire AM attended the Glenthorne weekend in February, including 4 children. Those attending found it an enriching experience. We thank Andrew Backhouse, Frances McCann and Peter Eccles for their work in making arrangements.

The weekend made a loss of £702 but thanks to Friends registering late, was far better on numbers than feared at last AM.

Wilmslow Meeting has sent this extract from a minute on receiving their annual accounts:

"We ask Brenda to send the surplus money of £458.60p, from our Swarthmoor weekend, to ECAM to help cover the shortfall of the Area Meeting Glenthorne weekend."

We thank Wilmslow Meeting for this support.

We ask Nominations Committee to find names of Friends to make arrangements for our next ECAM weekend, to be held at Willersley Castle 22-24 March 2019.

18.03.11 Nominations:

AM Card Organiser

AM Nominations Committee bring forward the name Thea Cameron Faulkner of Disley to serve as Card Organiser from March 2018 until 31st December 2020. We agree to this name and appoint Thea accordingly.

Deputy Archivist

We ask Nominations Committee to seek a deputy archivist to work with Till Geiger.

Junior Yearly Meeting

In addition to J W and A M whose names were agreed last time, CYP Committee has brought the name of M D to attend JYM 2018.

We have been asked to consider the funding of further places on JYM if and when other Area Meetings cannot find the funds to do so. As we are sending three young people, we will not offer to do more this year. However, we will consider offering funds for up to two to attend if and when we cannot find youngsters from our own area meeting to go.

Quaker UN Summer School

TB has applied to attend the UN Summer School 8-20 July 2018. We agree to support him by underwriting the costs of his fee and travel if his application is successful.

18.03.12 Yealand Helpers

Subsequent to our minute 17.11.18 of November Area meeting, there have been changes to the planned list of helpers for Yealand Easter "Camp". We confirm that Andrew Backhouse, Till Geiger, Helen Rose Owen and Gill Alcock will be present as adults running the event, and B H will be there as a Young Leader.

18.03.13 Five minute find-out

We thank P B for sharing some of her early life's significant events in a "wee triangle" of central Edinburgh.

18.03.14 Informing Friends of Deaths

We have become aware that the role of Friends to be Informed of Deaths has been somewhat overtaken by changes due to IT. We agree that the appropriate route for informing Friends is for the Friend taking responsibility locally to inform the Area Meeting Clerk and the clerk/convenor of both Area Meeting Elders and Overseers, who should then disseminate the information by their usual email routes etc. We remind Friends of the need for sensitivity but to aim to err on over informing in order to avoid missing out Friends who may have known the deceased or their relatives.

We lay down the role of Friends to be Informed of Deaths, and instead identify this as being part of the Local Meeting Clerk's role.

18.03.15 Report: Meeting for Sufferings

We thank Andrew Backhouse for his report to us on Meeting for Sufferings held on 3rd February, attached. We thank Andrew for his 6 years of service and his lively reports as one of our pair of representatives.

18.03.16 2018 Quakers in Criminal Justice conference - "Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System" 23rd - 25th February

We thank Denise Renshaw for her written report on this conference, which is attached to these minutes. She has highlighted the introduction of Pre- Sentence

Contracts for some offenders, an opportunity given to women and youth offenders in Manchester.

18.03.17 Plans for Area Meeting wide sessions

In the afternoon of our July meeting we plan to consider “What goes into our records and why”. This will include, but will not be limited to: the tension between needs for confidentiality, data protection and safeguarding, and to keep realistic and useful records.

We welcome ideas of events to be held either in tandem with other Area Meeting sessions or as standalone events, and remind Friends that while all ideas are welcome, offers to arrange and host such sessions are important if we are to extend our programme beyond the 6 dates already set annually.

18.03.18 Safeguarding

Quaker Life has told us of an online newsletter regarding safeguarding, and we encourage all the following Friends to sign up for this:

- Area Meeting Safeguarding Co-ordinators and
- Area Meeting lead Trustee for Safeguarding
- All Area Meeting Trustees
- Local Meeting Safeguarding reps
- Local Meeting Verifiers
- Children's Meeting Facilitators

Via this link: <http://eepurl.com/cXzBPj>

18.03.19 Macclesfield Meeting

Macclesfield Meeting has asked for support from Elders and Overseers, maybe with one or two of them visiting and sharing our Meetings for Worship each month if possible. A rota has been drawn up, covering most months. Other Friends are also encouraged to support Macclesfield Meetings for Worship held on the first Sunday each month at 2.30pm in the Unitarian Chapel.

18.03.20 QCEA Appeal for Funds

We have received the attached letter from Oliver Robertson, Clerk of the Quaker Council for European Affairs. In summary: QCEA is doing valuable work in Europe on behalf of Friends, and needs our money to help us continue.

Three of our members recently attended and reported back on the QCEA Sanctuary Everywhere conference, and we can expect and hope for further engagement between QCEA and East Cheshire Friends in the future.

We will collect for this over lunch today and encourage meetings to consider QCEA when planning for local fundraising.

18.03.21 Annual Duties and Outward Affairs

Further to Minute 18.01.29, Macclesfield Meeting has confirmed that in 2017 they have regularly read from Advices and Queries each month, and read the Epistle from

Yearly Meeting 2017 in their Meetings for Worship. They have also reminded Friends to bring attention to their outward and financial affairs and the making of wills.

18.03.22 Afternoon session – Dementia

The session this afternoon, led by Shelagh Robinson and Sally Mendham gave us an opportunity to hear from and learn from Shelagh's experience of living with dementia and to consider some ways in which we might support those afflicted with dementia within our Meetings. Thank you to Shelagh and Sally for organising this.

18.03.23 Thanks

We thank Wilmslow Friends for their hospitality.

Signed in and on behalf of the Area Meeting,

Sally Mendham Assistant Clerk

Notices:

Macclesfield March Meeting for Worship change of time on Sunday 18th.
The March Meeting for Worship is to be **3.00pm** Sunday 18th at King Edward Street Unitarian Chapel.
See minute 18.03.19 for planned regular monthly times.

Silenced voices: Exhibition, Talk and discussion on Syria Multimedia Exhibition **10am - 7.00 pm**, Stockport Meeting House. *Organised by Stockport for Peace and Amnesty International*
Syrian women sharing their stories; with campaigning opportunities
7.30pm Talk by a former detainee followed by discussion with Rethink Rebuild Society
Admission free

Memorial Meeting for Mary Black

A Memorial Meeting for Worship will be held to give thanks for the life of Mary Black. The Meeting will take place at Wilmslow Meeting House on Sunday 18th March 2018 commencing at 1.30 p.m. All are welcome.

Memorial Meeting for Stephen Doncaster: to be held on Saturday 24th March at 3 pm at Disley Friends Meeting House.
Accommodation is likely to be limited, so if you are intending to attend, please would you email Ann Evens by Wednesday 14th March, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Bainito Wamalwa clerk FWCC Africa Section Tuesday April 24th 7pm *refreshments from 6pm. See attached poster*

Bainito Wamalwa will speak about the work of FWCC across Africa, especially Quaker initiatives in peace and community work in Kenya and nearby countries.

Quake!, a new email message service which you may wish to sign up for.
Quake! is the monthly email update on the work of Britain Yearly Meeting and Quakers in Britain. It brings together different Quaker news and information, in one handy digest. Sign up to the email update:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters/quake>

Safeguarding materials

This is a link to our new Qgroup for safeguarding materials, draft documents etc. The online place where you can access and download a range of safeguarding documents. It is publicly available so you don't need to register.

[_https://groups.quaker.org.uk/](https://groups.quaker.org.uk/)

and this is the link to sign up for the newsletter:

Great Hucklow visit with Stockport Meeting 27th-31st August

Stockport Quakers are planning a short stay at the Unitarian Holiday Centre (Nightingale Centre) at Great Hucklow in Derbyshire, from the evening of Monday 27th to after lunch on Friday 31st August 2018, but you can decide whether you want to come for all or part of the week. A letter has been circulated via LM Clerks. Contact: Margaret Moss, Stockport Meeting.

REPORTS

Overview of ECAM Financial Activity 2016

Meeting for Sufferings 3rd February 2018

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

(attached separately)

East Cheshire Quaker Meeting overview of financial activity in 2016

The following table summarizes the collated financial activity of East Cheshire Meeting during 2016

£	Gen Purp	Gifts & Legs	Choices project	YM	St'port MH	R'strict	Local	Total	%	2015
Contributions from Friends			413		8,223		43,268	51,904	47	71,225
Legacies										50,261
Trusts and Meetings										19,700
Fundraising events										9,655
Interest/dividends etc	11	13			121	10,059	722	10,926	10	12,579
Lettings							38,199	38,199	35	22,208
Other			1,290		950		6,780	9,020	8	6,802
TOTAL INCOME	11	13	1,703	0	9,294	10,059	88,969	110,049	100	192,430
Life of the meeting	1,298						4,797	6,095	6	6,327
Committees and conferences	3,290						332	3,622	4	4,648
Bursaries/grants				336		1,860	416	2,612	3	2,210
Children/young people							243	243		134
Outreach							755	755	1	764
Quaker values in education concern		121						121		
Choices project			4,200					4,200	4	
Premises	2,873					387	34,941	38,201	40	40,656
Stockport project fees					11,063			11,063	12	289,620
Expenses/administration	351						1,702	2,053	2	
Britain YM							19,270	19,270	20	15,930
NFPB	900						1,205	2,105	2	1,629
Other Quaker bodies	375						2,938	3,313	4	2,690
Non-Quaker bodies	242						1,737	1,979	2	943
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,329	121	4,200	336	11,063	2,247	68,336	95,632	100	365,551
From local meetings	10,378		230		7,584		-18,192	0		
Transfers between funds	-2,000	-500	500	2,000	-2,942	2,942		0		0
NET MOVEMENT	-940	-608	-1,767	1,664	2,873	10,754	2,441	14,417		-173,121
Investments value change	47							47		40
Adjustments							26	26		-8,041
Net Income/Expenditure	-893	-608		1,664		10,754	2,467	14,490		
Balance 1/1/2016	6,238	5,469	1,487	1,300	-2,873	44,957	132,100	188,678		369,800
Balance 31/12/2016	5,345	4,861	-280	2,964	0	55,711	134,567	203,168		188,678

1. There is some overlap between the headings. For example the 'bursaries/grants' includes some payments to children and young people.
2. At the completion of the Stockport Meeting House project there was a balance of £2,942.42 in the fund. This was returned to the Low Leighton Estate Fund which was one of the restricted funds used to underwrite the project (primarily used for 'education and relief') as this was the restricted fund where the money would be most use.
3. During 2015 the value of our Endowment Funds increased by £7,486 (£20,156 in 2015) to £418,769.
4. The insurance value of our property at the year-end was £3,881,729.
5. The total contribution to Yearly Meeting including contributions from individuals sent through meetings or directly was £45,422 in 2016 (£29,973 in 2015, £35,935 in 2014). This included a late contribution for 2015 from Cheadle Hulme.
6. The total contribution to the Northern Friends Peace Board including contributions from individuals sent through meetings was £2,419 (£1,953 in 2015).
7. The membership of the Area Meeting at the end of 2016 was 174 with in addition 95 recognized adult attenders and 33 children associated with our meetings.

Meeting for Sufferings 3rd February 2018

My last Sufferings – Jacqui is going in April.

Key things to note:

Residential Yearly Meeting will be at Bath (in a new location for the big tent for the first week of August 2020, and the YM agenda this year will be focused particularly on the question of Quaker faith and practice revision.

BYM Sustainability group reported. It looks like they have lots of ideas, little direct staff support, but lots going on in the various Quaker departments that relates to them. Lots of their proposals seemed to be about setting up study materials for Friends/not enough about how we work with others/political action, though there was much we perhaps need to revisit at local and area meeting level. The sustainability group is under review at the moment. Are we all more involved with others on this issue rather than working on ourselves? And is there more we should do ourselves?

Quaker Life Centre Committee got us discussing their future strategy and priorities, as well as other issues they are discussing like transgender and non-binary inclusion. Do we all know what is done by Quaker Life?

Quaker Life felt it should prioritise 1) Meeting for worship as the bedrock of living as a Quaker, 2) Quaker communities are loving, inclusive and all age, and 3) Quakers are well known and widely understood from 'Our Faith in the Future'.

We were put into smaller groups to discuss this and it was fascinating to hear the idea that meeting for worship is not bedrock but more the heartbeat, with preparation and prayer more important to make meeting for worship work. Ann Banks of Brighthouse AM was talking up the work that she and others from the Kindlers have done on workshops for deepening our meetings and it would be good to get her to come and work with us.....

Quaker Life had done some research about how people had found out about Quakers. It was not a comprehensive study but websites and Facebook were the top methods, followed by word of mouth/someone they met, then the activities at the meeting house, causes in common, Quaker week, radio, adverts, and finally books. It would be great to do a more local one for our area! How did the newest people in our meetings find out about us?

Other things:

BYM Staff are now producing an emailed newsletter called 'Quake' – being produced monthly to tell people about national Quaker work to cut down the stuff being sent to clerks to be sent onwards – and not getting read.....We can sign up for the email

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters/quake>

Andrew Backhouse