

Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Sudbury, 10.05.2015

Representatives

Clacton-on-Sea - Hazel Jones and Karl Sage (prevented)

Colchester – Anne Watkinson

Sudbury – Sheelagh Ruse, Henry Ruse, Jane Carter, Dennis Skeels, Graeme Johnston

Present were 26 Friends, including 4 Attenders, 1 visitor and all but 1 of our representatives.

2015/25 Friends being met in the presence of God, Advices and Queries 18 was read.

2015/26 Deaths

We record with sadness the deaths of John Tann (Earls Colne), Norman Frith (Sudbury) and Jenny Jones (Colchester).

John Robert Tann was born on July 28, 1929 and died on the 17th of March, 2015. John was a character, with a mischievous sense of humour; he did many things in his life, including being a teacher and running his own organic orchard, and Friends will greatly miss him and his generous supplies of apples. John's funeral was held at Colchester Crematorium, conducted in the manner of Friends, on April 20.

Norman Laurence Frith was born in Wanstead on 7th February, 1914 and died on 22 March, 2015, having just passed his 101st birthday. Norman was an architect and poet. His funeral was held on 14 April at Wanstead Meeting House, which Norman had designed in 1969. At his graveside, his wife Sylvia read one of his poems and released a white dove.

Jenny Jones was a member of Colchester Meeting, where she attended mid-week meeting. She died at the age of 77 and her funeral, after the practice of the Methodists with Quaker involvement, was held at the East of England Co-op Chapel on 28 April. Jenny's family had lived for many years in Fingringhoe where Jenny loved the view over the marshes and never wanted to leave.

We ask Earls Colne Friends to prepare a testimony to the grace of God in the life of John Tann for the AM Book of Memorials.

2015/27 Membership matters

2015/28 Appointments

Triennial Appointments

AM Nominations Committee - We appoint our Friend Jenny Kay to serve on the AM Nominations Committee from May 2015 - end April 2018.

Funeral arrangements Nominations Committee recommends that we regularise this by minuting that AM will manage appointments to funerals committee; we agree that this be the case. We appoint Charles Bather to the committee for funeral arrangements, to serve from May 2015 - end April 2018.

AM Assistant Treasurer (Contributions)

Rosalind Kaye came to the end of her term in this role last August. Nominations Committee has endeavoured to bring forward a name to the AM, but have been unable to do so, after approaching a number of Friends. Trustees have considered whether there might be other ways of managing the receipt of contributions in such a way that would simplify the work of the Assistant Treasurer. Trustees have asked the Nominations Committee to draw up a job description with Rosalind so that further discussion may lead to the design of a new, simpler system.

2015/28 Report from AM Elders and Overseers

Jenny Kay reported on a meeting of AM Elders and Overseers held at Colchester Meeting House on 21 March 2015. The smaller Meetings of Clacton, Harwich, Earls Colne and Sudbury face challenges of providing eldership and oversight. Elders and Overseers at Colchester are developing a "buddy support" system which could be extended to include the other meetings. Elders and Overseers support the arrangement for funeral contacts to be appointed by Area Meeting.

We appreciate the work of our wardens and caretakers and are mindful of the need for caring oversight to include them.

The next meeting of AM Elders and Overseers is on Saturday 10 October, 2015 at 1.00 pm. Jenny's report is attached to these minutes.

2015/29 Richard Waynforth Trust

We welcomed Christina van Melzen, visiting Trustee from Ipswich & Diss AM, who spoke to us about the Richard Waynforth Trust, which has recently been extended to include our Area Meeting. Christina described the background to the Richard Waynforth Trust, which dates back to 1726 and was originally for the 'relief in need of poor Friends in Norfolk'. It became clear that the income from the trust is in excess of the requirements of Ipswich & Diss AM so in July 2014 the trustees approached the Charity Commission to ask them to consider allowing the AM to widen the area of benefit to cover the two neighbouring Area Meetings: Norfolk & Waveney AM and Southern East Anglia AM. This was agreed by the Charity Commission in October 2014.

We are asked to provide a Trustee for the grants panel and we therefore ask our Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of an AM Trustee for this role.

We thank the Trustees and Friends of Ipswich & Diss AM for extending the Trust to include our AM. We also give thanks to Richard Waynforth, recognising that there are some Friends and Attenders in our midst who would greatly appreciate the financial support the trust offers. We ask the Clerk to ensure that all Elders and Overseers have copies of the guidelines for applying to the Richard Waynforth Trust and the application form, both of which are attached to these minutes.

2015/30 Discerning our purposes: Glebe House

Further to Minute 2015/22, we heard from Hazel Jones, Clerk of Trustees, who brought information from Colin South of the BYM Stewardship Committee and also Treasurer of

Glebe House Trust, concerning the proposal made at AM in March to support Glebe House. We asked whether other AMs are supporting Glebe House, and where Glebe House itself felt that any donation would be best directed. As we minuted in March, " We need more information in order to be assured that we can offer continuous support over a number of years. We want to invest in an ongoing project, not a temporary solution."

We learned that Glebe House is developing a project which is being set up to work along lines similar to Circles of Support & Accountability, another very successful Quaker initiative. It is expected that the basic structure of the project will cost approximately £54,000 for each of the first three years and that this amount can be provided from Glebe House funds as a result of recent fee increases to bring their charges into line with other service providers.

However, in order to provide a quality service they have recently appointed an assistant to the Co-ordinator which they have asked us to support with a £30,000 donation this year. Glebe House are going forward in faith, but also in the knowledge that their reserves will enable them to meet their commitments even if no outside funding is received. Ideally, they are hoping to receive outside funding of £30,000 in each of the 3 years of the trial period, at the end of which they expect results to assure funding for the future. If we are unable to help or can only help in the first year, Colin South's view is that "the probability of the success of increased fees to match the increased cost is there ... but the uncertainties at the moment would be greatly eased by your assistance".

Trustees advised us that the AM could find £30,000 from our balances this year. We agree to make this donation to Glebe House and to earmark a further £30,000 for each of the following two years subject to any change in our financial commitments or in the need at Glebe House.

By taking action "in time" to support the young men at Glebe House, we hope it will do good in the long term. We Quakers help to lead the way in this kind of work and could show the way forward to other organisations.

2015/31 Meeting for Sufferings report

Carol Holding presented her last report as our Meeting for Sufferings representative. We thank Carol for serving us in this role for the past three years.

Carol reported on the work of the group of Friends who are collating responses from Meetings and individuals towards the Long Term Framework. This is being informed by input from young people. The main item of business was hearing about the Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (QCAT) and also the work of the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN).

Carol's report appears in the May newsletter and on the AM website and is attached to these minutes.

2015/32 QPSW conference report

Chris Samuels attended the QPSW conference held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, on March 13-15.

The theme for this year's conference was "Turning the Tide - living out the capacity for non-violent change". Participants explored how groups could work together to effect change and find ways to take faith into action. Chris highlighted sessions concerning "Principles of a new economy" and also QPSW's East Africa Programme and how the Quaker group Turning the Tide had supported Friends in Kenya to resolve conflict situations through non-violence. This included use of a video link to a participant who would not otherwise have been able to take part.

We thank Chris for attending this conference on our behalf and ask that his report appear in the next newsletter; it is on the AM website and is attached to these minutes.

2015/33 World Gathering 2016

Further to Minute 2014/37, we agree to support a Friend from outside our AM to attend a gathering of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) to be held in Peru in January 2016, and we ask the Treasurer to make £2000 available for this purpose. We ask the clerk to contact FWCC to inform them of our wish that our funding could help someone, perhaps a representative from a developing nation, who would not otherwise be able to attend.

2015/34 Welcome to Quakers folders

We are interested in printing "Welcome to Quakers" folders for use across the AM. John Kay has offered to look into printing arrangements in order to be as cost-effective as possible. We thank John and ask him to report back next time.

Signed,

Alison Parkes

Alison Parkes
Clerk