

Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Sudbury, 13.05.2018

Representatives

Clacton-on-Sea - Liz Prockter

Colchester – Anne Watkinson, Phyl Reid

Sudbury – Sylvia Frith, Graeme Johnston, Robin Hart

Earls Colne – Jenny Kay, John Kay, Una Lawrence, David Lawrence

Harwich - no representatives

Present were 19 Friends, including 1 Attender.

2018/24 Friends being met in the presence of God, the Epistle from BYM held at London on 4-7 May was read.

2018/25 Death of a Friend

We record with sadness the death of our Friend Mary Smith, of Clacton Meeting. Mary died peacefully with her 5 daughters at her bedside on Saturday 5 May 2018. She was in membership for over 30 years and held many roles at Clacton Meeting. Mary was in dual membership with the Catholic Church; a Requiem Mass will be held at St Michael's Convent/Care Home in Clacton on Friday 8 June, followed by cremation at Weeley Crematorium, 1.15 pm. A memorial meeting will be held at a later date.

2018/26 Membership matters

2018/27 Appointments

Triennial Appointments

Nominations Committee We reappoint Jenny Kay, representing Earls Colne, to serve on Nominations Committee from June 2018 to end May 2021.

Safeguarding Coordinator and Additional Verifier Martin Rayner has asked to be released from his role as Safeguarding Coordinator and Additional Verifier, which he has held since January 2017. We release Martin, with thanks for his service, and ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of another Friend.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Local Data Contact

New data protection regulations come into force later this month. Our procedures need to include local Friends for each of our meetings whom Friends can contact to notify the LM and AM of changes to their contact details. The Local Data Contact will distribute and collect the data consent forms within their LMs and report changes to the Assistant AM Clerk, whose responsibility it is to ensure any necessary action is taken before permanent retention of the data in the AM archives.

We appoint the following Friends to have temporary authorisation as Local Data Contacts for their Local Meetings: Charles Bather for Colchester, Jenny Kay for Earls Colne, Joy Ling for Harwich, Liz Prockter for Clacton and Robin Hart for Sudbury.

2018/28 Responsibilities of Area Meeting (2017)

We referred to the guidance to Area Meetings in Qfp Chapter 4, using modern technology in the form of a Wifi link to Qfp. We heard 4.02 and read each item listed in 4.10. We believe that during the year 2017 we have carried out the responsibilities set out in Chapter 4.

2018/29 Jack Fields Legacy

The Jack Fields Legacy was left to Colchester Meeting by Jack Fields, an American Friend who moved to the UK with his wife Phyllis. Together they took on the job of Warden of the newly refurbished Meeting House and were active and much-loved Friends of the Meeting. The legacy, of initially £110,000, was released to Colchester Meeting in July 2007, and was a restricted fund for members of Colchester Meeting (and members of their families under the age of 26) to be used for educational purposes. A governance group was agreed, to include Elders, Overseers, LM Clerks and LM Treasurers, who would process bursary applications before going through Trustees, who had the final responsibility for disbursing the legacy. At the end of 2017, the amount remaining in the legacy was £46,778. In recent years, bursary applications from members of Colchester Meeting and their families to the Jack Fields Legacy have been small, at about £5000 or less per year. Colchester LM asked Trustees (LM Minute 18.09) to explore whether the terms of the legacy could be extended to include all members and attenders of the Area Meeting.

We received the following minute from Trustees:

2018/59 Jack Fields Legacy

Further to minutes 2018/44 and 2018/45 Judith Crockett, trustee to the Jack Fields Legacy has signed the addendum to the deed to allow all members and attenders in the AM to benefit. The money from the Fund was held in a bank account but due to the low interest rate this was closed. The amount now resides in the overall investments with Rathbones. No further action will be taken at this time.

As a result of this addendum, bursary applications from all members and attenders of Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting can now be considered for funding from the Jack Fields Legacy. We ask our AM clerk and clerk of Trustees to ensure that our forms and guidelines reflect this change. We invite Friends to apply for bursary help; the form and guidelines are to be found on the Business page (AM Documents) of the AM website and are available from Friends in roles of Clerk, Treasurer, Elder and Overseer.

We held our late Friend Jack Fields and his wife Phyllis in the Light.

2018/30 Kendal and Freshfield Fund

We heard AM Minute 2017/42 and Trustees Minute 2018/60:

2018/60 Kendal and Freshfield Fund

Further to minute 2018/45 The Kendal and Freshfield fund was designated in the 2016 accounts. AM minute 2017/42 requests trustees 'to bring forward a proposal which details

the eligibility and scope of such a fund'. Trustees confirm the continued designation of this fund at £55,000 to be used when the Jack Fields Legacy has been spent for the same educational purposes.

2018/31 Glebe House

Further to Minutes 2015/30 and 39 and 2016/36, we considered the work of Glebe House and how our funding has helped to support it. We have donated £30,000 for the past three years to enable a Circles of Support and Accountability Project Coordinator to continue the support offered to boys when they make the transition to life away from Glebe House.

We heard Earls Colne Minute 2018/33 in support of any appeal from Glebe House which would ensure the continuation of the Circles Project.

We understand the challenge faced by Glebe House in funding the Circles Project. We agree to a further donation of £30,000 this year, as a bridge to support the work of the Transition Team and in the expectation that it will become self-supporting next year. We look forward to reading the research evaluation of the project and will review any future donations in that light.

2018/32 Action on local poverty

Further to Minute 2018/18, the Colchester Foodbank has accepted with thanks our donation of £5,000 this year and another £5,000 next year. At Beacon House, negotiations are taking place to try to establish longer term emergency accommodation. John Lewis will keep us updated on progress.

Sylvia Jeffcock sought our support for two other initiatives addressing homelessness and poverty in Colchester. The Colchester Rough Sleepers Group are in the process of converting a coach to provide a mobile shelter which they are calling Chariot 180, as its purpose is to help people turn their lives around (through 180 degrees). Chariot 180 will sleep ten people at a time and may provide a base to support people during the day, which might amount to 200 people a year, many of whom are long-term homeless. The Rough Sleepers Group is already working with homeless people in Colchester and one of their aims is to set up a Street Buddies scheme, which would involve training and the cost of a defibrillator.

Most of the people being helped by these schemes have needs far beyond our resources. Our support may be modest yet it is essential. We agree to make a donation of £9,000 towards these initiatives. We ask Sylvia Jeffcock and Tom Tebbutt to liaise with Colchester Rough Sleepers Group on our behalf and to ask that they report on progress in 12 months' time.

2018/33 Meeting for Sufferings report

Carol Holding attended Meeting for Sufferings on April 8 and Charles Bather read us her report. In particular we heard the call to increase our diversity. We thank Carol for her report, which is attached to these minutes, is in the May newsletter and on the AM website.

2018/34 Yearly Meeting 2018

Britain Yearly Meeting met at Friends House last weekend, May 4-7, and we heard from our Friend Sylvia Jeffcock, who had attended. Sylvia described the powerful sense of being part

of a gathered meeting, uniting behind the decision to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline.

Recently Harwich Friends met to discuss the questions about the focus for this year's Yearly Meeting and as a result produced the following minute:

We find that the sections on Church Government (Sections 3 - 17) at the beginning of Quaker Faith and Practice could discourage further reading and would prefer to find them at the back of the revised version. We hope that the revised version will include more mention of the diversity of spiritual experience Friends now bring to Meeting. We feel it important that historic quotes remain as Quaker Faith and Practice should reflect where we have come from as well as where we are going.

We ask the Clerk to forward the minute from Harwich Meeting to Robert Parkes, MfS representative, for him to pass on to the relevant group of Friends taking forward Qfp revision.

To suggest passages to include in our next book of discipline, please email qfp@quaker.org.uk or write to Michael Booth at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

2018/35 Area Meeting Gathering

Further to Minutes 2017/13, 2017/44, 2018/09 and 2018/19, Anne Watkinson and Sylvia Jeffcock reported from the group of Friends organising AM Gathering on our behalf. The Gathering is to be held at High Leigh Conference Centre in October. The theme will be "The Journey", with opportunities to share our faith journeys and to renew our fellowship and community.

The application form for the Gathering is now available in printed form and will also be uploaded to the Business page (AM Documents) of the AM website. Friends are encouraged to register their interest with Peter Whiteley by 30th May.

2018/36 Kindlers Workshop

Colchester Meeting has agreed to host a Kindlers Workshop and open it up to Friends and Attenders of the Area Meeting. The workshop will be held on Saturday November 17th, on the theme of Vocal Ministry. As this is an event for the AM, we authorise our Treasurer to make the payment of £200 to the Kindlers. Friends will be asked to sign up for the workshop, as there is a limit to numbers. More details will be made available in the autumn.

Signed,
Alison Parkes

Alison Parkes
Clerk