

## **Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Colchester, 15.01.2017**

### **Representatives**

**Clacton-on-Sea** – no representatives

**Colchester** – Robert Parkes, Sylvia Jeffcock, Liz Hurley, Phyl Reid, Reg Webb, Peggy Lewis and Rosalind Kaye

**Sudbury** – Henry Ruse and Sheelagh Ruse

**Earls Colne** – John Kay, Jenny Kay and Jayne Meleschko

Present were 27 Friends, including 4 Attenders.

**2017/01** Friends being met in the presence of God, *Quaker faith and practice* 10.05 was read.

### **2017/02 Death of Friends**

We record with sadness the deaths of Anthony Marsh and Grace Ravasio, who were both Friends of Clacton Meeting. Anthony Marsh was a Birthright Friend, born 29 March, 1932; he died on 29 October, 2016, at the age of 84. A family memorial meeting was held on Saturday 3rd December in the manner of Friends.

Grace Ravasio was born on 3 October, 1920. She came into Friends in her 20s and transferred in the 1980s to Clacton Meeting from, to the best of our knowledge, Harpenden Meeting. Grace died on 19 November, 2016, at the age of 96 and her funeral took place at Weeley Crematorium on Wednesday 14 December. A memorial meeting may be held in Clacton in the New Year.

We ask Clacton Friends to prepare a testimony to the grace of God in the lives of Grace and Anthony for the AM Book of Memorials.

### **2017/03 Membership matters**

#### **2017/04 Tabular Statement**

Jenny Kay, as Acting Assistant Clerk reported on the tabular statement for 2016 which has been completed with help from Liz Hurley. An adjustment to last year's figures was required as the numbers for Clacton were not correct. Four members needed to be added initially and then a fifth when it was discovered that a Friend who was transferred out was without a record in our list. This meant that 2016 began with 137 members instead of 135. The total membership of Area Meeting at 31 December 2016 was 137 with about 74 attenders. These figures will be forwarded to Yearly Meeting. We thank Liz and Jenny for carrying out this task on behalf of the Area Meeting.

#### **2017/05 List of Members and Attenders - printed booklet**

This was last produced in 2015 and now needs updating with changes to details of entries for meetings, members and attenders. AM asks Friends holding appointments with

responsibilities for membership lists, overseers and clerks to supply the necessary information to John and Jenny Kay who will produce the booklet liaising with a printer and invoicing Area Meeting for printing costs.

### **2017/06 Earls Colne Local Meeting**

We received the following minute from Earls Colne Friends, who met on January 8, 2017:

EARLS COLNE 2017/03 Earls Colne Meeting for Worship to become a Local Meeting  
Further to minutes 2014.03 and 2015/03, 2016.03 we recognise that Earls Colne is functioning as a Local Meeting by the definition on the Tabular Statement accompanying notes as having a regular public meeting for worship and a list of Friends (6) and attenders (4) associated with it. Area Meeting is asked to re-instate Earls Colne as a Local Meeting.

We welcome the request to reinstate Earls Colne as a Local Meeting and are in full agreement. In EC Minutes 2017/04-10, Earls Colne appointed a clerk, Jenny Kay, and requested that relevant appointments be communicated to the Recording Clerk, recorded on the AM website, in our AM newsletter and in The Friend. The clerk will ensure that these are done.

The Clerk will forward relevant Earls Colne minutes to Trustees and ask that these minutes be reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding currently being developed.

### **2017/07 Harwich Local Meeting**

We received the following minute from Harwich Friends, who met on January 8, 2017:

#### HARWICH 2017/H03 ARRANGEMENTS GOING FORWARD

We are conscious of the need to simplify arrangements around the Area Meeting to make it possible for Local and Area Meetings to support each other. Area Meeting trustees are preparing a Memorandum of Understanding for each Local Meeting in order to clarify the ways in which this might be done. As the practical needs of Clacton and Harwich meetings are different, the Meeting House in Clacton being a heavy responsibility on local Friends there, we believe that the time is right now for Harwich meeting to take responsibility for its own affairs and relieve Clacton Friends of that burden. We ask Area Meeting to recognise Harwich Meeting as a separate Local Meeting.

We wish to strengthen links to Area Meeting and appoint Bob Crowley as our contact Friend for that purpose for this year initially.

In addition, to ensure that we are properly grounded in the Quaker way, we ask Area Meeting to appoint Simon Banks and Bob Crowley to serve as Elders/Overseers during this year. In this role, they will have opportunity to join with other Area Meeting Elders and Overseers to share experience and review progress.

We are delighted to receive this minute and hereby recognise Harwich Meeting as a Local Meeting. We welcome the desire of Harwich Friends to take responsibility for the affairs of the LM and to strengthen links with Area Meeting. We also welcome the involvement of Friends prepared to serve in eldership and oversight roles, and ask that AM Elders and Overseers include the appointed Harwich Friends in future joint meetings.

We thank Bob Crowley for his willingness to serve as the contact Friend with AM. [I've asked Hazel to clarify if Bob is willing to be Correspondence Clerk for this year]

The Clerk will forward relevant Harwich Meeting minutes to Trustees and ask that these minutes be reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding currently being developed.

## **2017/08 Appointments**

### **Triennial Appointments**

Trustees We appoint Sylvia Jeffcock to serve as Trustee from February 2017 to end January 2020.

Elder/Overseer We appoint Simon Banks and Bob Crowley to serve as Elders/Overseers for Harwich Meeting, from February 2017 to end January 2018.

Glebe House link - Helen Lewis has completed two triennia and an additional two years' service as Glebe House link, for which we thank her. We appoint David Lawrence to serve in this capacity from January 2017 to end December 2019.

Greenwood Trust - We appoint Charles Bather to serve on the Greenwood Trust from January 2017 to end December 2019.

### **Representatives**

Quaker Life - Eliza Jones completes one triennium as our representative at Quaker Life Representatives Council in February. We reappoint Eliza to serve from February 2017 to end January 2020.

## **2017/09 Trustees Report on current matters**

AM Safeguarding Policy - A few significant changes have been made to our AM Safeguarding Policy; the revised policy has been approved by Trustees. In future a Standing Committee of role-holders (listed in Appendix 1 of the policy) will deal with Safeguarding situations if and when they arise. We note the important obligation that our AM, in accordance with The Religious Society of Friends, wishes to cooperate with the Goddard Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, and we are required to keep records and notes that relate to any safeguarding or child protection issue, no matter how old.

## **2017/10 Meeting for Sufferings Report**

Robert Parkes reported on MfS held in London on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016. We heard that a group of Young Friends attended for part of the day and that Quaker Council for European Affairs has gone through a process of renewal.

MfS considered the two concerns which we and many other AMs gave time to last year. Friends were not in unity about the decriminalisation of drugs for personal use; those AMs which are interested can take it forward with Cornwall AM, working together with Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs and other organisations where appropriate. The vision statement of a criminal justice system was recognised as a tool to help Friends think about our view of what such a system could be and as a resource when raising specific concerns in a local context. The AM minutes will be passed to the Crime, Community and Justice Subcommittee of QPSW to aid its further deliberation.

We thank Robert for his report, which is attached to these minutes and will appear in the newsletter and on the AM website.

### **2017/11 Regional Gathering**

Regional Gathering will be held at Colchester Meeting House on Saturday, February 25. As usual Friends may bring a packed lunch, after which there will be a performance of a play called "Feeding the Darkness". Local branches of Amnesty International will be invited to attend. There will be a discussion following the performance and tea provided by Colchester Friends. Tim and Carol Holding are willing to help coordinate the day.

### **2017/12 Yearly Meeting Gathering**

Yearly Meeting Gathering will be held from 29 July – 5 August 2017 at the University of Warwick. This is a week-long event when Quakers in Britain come together to worship, make decisions and spend time as a community. Family members and friends of Quakers attending are welcome. The gathering continues the theme of "living out our faith in the world". More information can be found on the Quakers in Britain website and from documents that will be left in Meeting Houses, and bookings can be made online. Bursaries are available; bursary application forms can be obtained from Overseers or from the Colchester Quakers Yahoo group.

### **2017/13 Area Meeting Gathering 2018**

After an enthusiastic response to AM Gathering held at High Leigh Conference Centre last November, our Friend Peter Whiteley has booked the same venue for the weekend of 12 - 14th October 2018. 17 single rooms and 7 double rooms, amounting to 30 places, have been booked. AM agrees to underwrite the cost and we ask the treasurer to pay the deposit when it is requested. In due course we will seek the names of a small group of Friends willing to organise the weekend.

Signed,

*Alison Parkes*

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