

**Friargate Information and Communications Group**  
**Meeting 4**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 2 pm**

**Minutes**

**1 Agenda**

We have agreed and finalised the agenda.

**2 Matters arising from last meeting**

**2.1 Posters in Meeting House**

As agreed at our last meeting, poster display hangers have been obtained. Barbara Windle obtained a set of available posters from Friends House. A poster about Quaker testimonies was hung in the outside window in November, changed in January, and again this month.

We have discussed the display of posters in the Meeting House windows. We feel that normally only Quaker materials should be displayed. If an exception is to be made, then individual Friends should approach staff with the request in the first instance before displaying other materials. Further clarification can be obtained by staff, if necessary, from communications group or elders.

**2.2 Review of Books on sale by elders**

Elders have discussed the suggestion made at our last meeting that a permanent display of sale books might be reconsidered. Though there were no records of sales available, Elders felt that in the light of the development of Friargate as a Quaker Centre a book sale facility would be appropriate. Nick Perks, who organises the display on behalf of elders, has agreed to provide an overview of the current level of sales. This has not yet been received.

**3 Website**

At present the Friargate lettings pages include a link to a facebook page. Though it would appear that the facebook account is not currently being maintained, we understand this will soon change, so the link can be left in situ.

We learn that the Friargate business Group and Resources Committee are investigating the possibility of working with a commercial company for the creation of a free-standing new website for the meeting house lettings business. This would allow for the direct booking of rooms via a calendar. The new website would replace the pages of information relating to room-lettings at Friargate on the Area Meeting website, as well as the removal of the Friargate room hire sub domain *yourfriargate.yorkquakers.org.uk*.

So that the necessary changes can be made, we ask that we be informed when the new website is up and running.

We assume that matters relating to the new website and marketing will not be included in the remit of the Communications Group.

#### **4 Library**

Raymond has summarised the number of book loans of the main library over recent years. We note a significant drop in numbers since around 2015.

We have considered a review of the first year of the library display shelf in the foyer (copy attached). Barbara has agreed to look for interesting and suitable books when visiting Friends House.

#### **5 Resources Committee**

There is a suggestion that the current library shelves be moved from the Fox Room to an area in the foyer.

We understand that this is in the context of Resources Committee carrying out a maintenance room audit for the Fox Room. The proposal was aired at Local Meeting in March.

Stephen Parry has discussed the proposals with our librarian. Our librarian has commented via email on the practical implications of such a move. The librarian has recommended larger scale alterations concerning both the shelving and stock if an alteration to the library provision and location is undertaken.

As yet no decisions have been taken. We feel that a review of our needs and the way the Fox Room is used might be appropriate. We hope that due processes will be followed and that as many members of the meeting can be involved as possible. The decision-making about this should not be conflated with the decoration priorities for the room.

One way forward might be the holding of a threshing meeting where all interested parties could express their viewpoints

#### **6 Quakevine**

As noted at or earlier meetings, it is felt that Quakevine should become a newsletter of Friargate meeting. Other Local Meetings now currently produce their own newsletters.

As part of this development a separate Area Meeting newsletter could be developed.

We have discussed a number of options. One possibility is that a bi-monthly AM newsletter be produced and circulated in digital form, with local meetings able to print hard copies as and when required.

Initially, we agree to test feasibility and take this matter forward by creating draft designs for an AM newsletter over the coming months. Barbara, Julia and Raymond will form a sub-group to this end. Raymond has offered to produce sample newsletters based on content from recent editions of Quakevine.

Depending on the outcome of this process, we hope that perhaps initially one or more trial editions might be produced, and it may be possible after a few months to make the production of the newsletter an Area Meeting responsibility, subject to the appointment of an editor by Area Meeting.

We note that over the coming months a rethink about Quakevine content will also need to be carried out.

**7 Overseers' items**

Overseers are planning to collect several leaflets about Qakerism together as welcome packs for newcomers. We hear that Acomb LM has designed a pack along these lines. Julia will take this forward with overseers.

**8 Elders' items**

**9 Next Meeting**

We agree a provisional date for our next meeting on 1st June, 2pm.

Raymond Williams  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

## **Friargate Commmunications Group**

### **Review of Library Display Usage**

The display of selected books for loan in the foyer has been up and running for almost a year now. The stock has been increased over the year to around 15 Quaker titles and around 15 titles of other topics.

The Quaker titles are mainly titles aimed at general readers, in particular readers wanting a information about Quaker beliefs and practice. They have been added to with books for enquirers from Friends House, eg Geoffrey Durham's "Being a Quaker". In addition, there has been a copy of QfP for loan.

The other books cover a variety of subjects, and include environmental issues, "lifestyle", fiction, poetry and historical topics by Quaker authors.

Over the year, there have been 35 loans by 20 different borrowers. 15 of these borrowers identified themselves as not being members or attenders at Friargate, which indicates a pleasing level of outreach.

The borrowed titles were both Quaker and general titles. 3 of the Quaker titles and 6 of the general books were not borrowed.

I suggest :

- removing the titles not borrowed from the display and replacing them with other books;
- maintaining the overall number of books as at present;
- ensuring that if possible there is more than one copy of popular titles is available;
- changing and freshening the book selection occasionally
- continuing to include current books of general interest broadly linked to Quaker values .

Suggestions for new titles are always appreciated, including new publications selected by the Quaker bookshop.

Raymond Williams

21.3.18