

Quaker South Asia Interest Group (QSAIG)

Annual Meeting Saturday 15th October (10.30 – 16.00) at the home of Liz and Martin Schweiger in Leeds

MINUTES: *(because of shortage of time these were not minuted at the time, but have been checked by Anne Smith as faithful to the spirit of our meeting).*

Present: Liz & Martin Schweiger, Anne Smith, Stuart Morton (Convener), Erica Cadbury, Margaret Waterworth, Maggie Caudwell, Abu Siddique (Bachchu), Penny Robbins, Pat Saunders, Alick Munro

Prevented: Stephen Petter, Stephanie and Ram Ramamurthy, John Gibbs, Ruth Baker, Norman Smith, Ann Floyd, Tracey Martin, Birgit Felleisen, Jaqui Cawkwell-East, Rob Gallagher, John & Sue Smithson, Pradip Lamichane (Nepal), Merryl Titus (India), Barbara Bowman

The minutes of our last AGM held at Selly Oak Quaker Meeting, Birmingham, on 24 October 2015 had been agreed by Email.

2016/01 As a group of Quakers we have met today and have appreciated the following:

The opportunity to share our interests in, and experiences/knowledge of, people and events in the South Asia region, perspectives on the education system in India from our Friend, Margaret Waterworth, a skype call with Subhash Kattel in Nepal, and an informed discussion on UK Government aid led by our Friend, Pat Saunders. We have been grateful for the local transportation, food and hospitality offered by Liz and Martin Schweiger

2016/02 In the papers prepared for this meeting, our Convener, Stuart Morton, provided a brief overview of work done in the past year. This included:

Various: Arrangements for today's QSAIG meeting; Newsletter – July 2016 (by our Newsletter editor, Rob Gallagher); QSAIG table and networking at BYM Group Fair – BYM May 2016 including informal conversations with members of the Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC) of BYM; QPSW Special Interest group at BYM - support given to presentation on conciliation work in the region; Website updated by our website manager, Martin Schweiger.

Ekta Parishad – wrote to QPSW to suggest E African participation in Ekta Parishad's International Nonviolence Conference and exposure in India (October 2016) – 2 E African QPSW partners supported by QPSW to attend; communication with Rajagopal of Ekta Parishad August 2016; Article/Interview of Rajagopal in "The Friend" special issue for Quaker Week October 2016 – with thanks to Steve Whiting of QPSW for conducting the interview and to the Editor of the Friend for his work in producing this.

Networking: e.g. Nepal: Birgit Felleisen Germany YM (staff member of Nepal Dialogueforum) to meet Subhash and Tshering Kattel in Nepal during her Nepal visit

Biography: The Convener, and others connected with QSAIG, have been supporting the process of a biography that is being prepared by Norman Smith on the life of Marjorie Sykes, a British Friend who worked in India in the 20th century.

Website:We are grateful that Martin Schweiger has been able to return to good health after a major health challenge and are grateful for his work as editor of the QSAIG website.

2016/03 Quaker Recognised Bodies We have been learned about the BYM Paper of May 2016 “Quaker Recognised Bodies; Introduction” which describes the reasoning and process by which Listed Informal Groups, of which QSAIG has been one, is in the process of being reconstituted as a Quaker Recognised Body. We ask our officers to carry through the registration process with BYM.

As part of this process we hope to work along the following lines:

- a. We ask to be considered as a “Free standing Group” within the Quaker Recognised Body structure
- b. We confirmed our aims and objectives
- c. The management committee will consist of Clerk/Convener, Treasurer and one other QSAIG member . We appoint Martin Schweiger to be that committee member.
- d. We ask our management committee to take forward our registration as a Q Recognised body.

We discussed whether the geographical remit of QSAIG should be broadened to include other parts of Asia. We decided not to change the name and remit at present but would be open to any whose interests extend into South East Asia (e.g. Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand)

2016/04 Our annual accounts. 2014-15 accounts have been independently examined. The past year’s unexamined accounts (2015-2016) have been presented by Anne Smith, our treasurer. We agree them, and confirm an annual membership donation of £10 (£5 unwaged/pensioners). We thank Anne for her work.

2016/05 BYM 2017 We agree to set up a table at Groups Fair at BYM in summer 2017 in Coventry. If an appropriate concern comes forward we would hope to have a Special Interest Group . A possible topic emerging from this meeting is our concern for the nature of UK Government Aid as put forward in their November 2015 report and subsequent website information in October 2016.

2016/06 Appointments: We appoint the following as our officers for the following year:

Clerk/Convener: Stuart Morton; Treasurer: Anne Smith; Website Manager: Martin Schweiger; Newsletter Editor: Rob Gallagher; Membership Secretary: Anne Smith

Date of next meeting: 14th October 2017 in London. Anne Smith will book the venue (hopefully Westminster Friends Meeting House) 10.30 – 4 p.m. We ask Anne to ensure that the advert in The Friend is placed for three editions the final edition being published two Thursdays before the meeting.