

Joint London Area Meeting 7 June

Around 75 friends were present at Friends House and online. Feedback received: *“Agenda items were well prepared and explained, giving a sense of transparency, good communication and competence. Friends had all the AM papers in advance. We heard concise reports in the meeting with detail and discussion as we went along, so that everyone was enabled to follow the process. Questions were encouraged until time became tight at the end. We worked hard to understand fully and agree proposals for the governance structure; finance and the budget; nominations; and terms of reference for development and arrangements groups and sub-committees – all in line with Quaker faith & practice. There was a sense of the work being Spirit-led and coming together in a Quakerly way. There was considerable pressure to make this explicit throughout the documents, so that Friends in the future do not lose sight of what is clear at the moment.”*

- Bates Wells Solicitors have been engaged to oversee the legal requirements of amalgamating the current area meeting charities.
- The joint area meeting is temporary, a necessary interim structure on the way to the eventual full development of the London Area Meeting.

Discussion on Finance proposals 2 June

41 friends met online to ask questions and hear more. The model offered has been developed and used by North East Thames AM. Money would be held at and administered from the centre, supported by staff. Local meetings would set a budget suited to their needs and authorise or reclaim what they spend. They would appoint a finance contact to run the system at local level and a person to encourage donations and gift aid. Funds from hiring income would continue to be ring-fenced to maintain the buildings. A Finance Committee would be supported by staff.

Gathering at High Leigh, Herts**4 - 6 April 2025**

140 Friends (including 30 children and young people) from North East Thames, North London and North West London Area Meetings met to tell our stories and explore the theme of ‘Building communities of hope, resilience and inclusion’.

“We listened to each other, sang, sat in groups, shared ideas, ate together, square danced wildly, strolled through the sunny conference centre grounds listening to birds, looking at trees and having the kinds of conversations you have when you have a weekend to hear unexpected ideas and meet new thoughts and people. It was exhilarating, challenging and exhausting for some !”

Gathering of Elders and Pastoral Friends

On 28 June, 32 people met for support and encouragement, and to discuss how these roles can work better together, across the city. We hope to run similar events for other role-holders and welcome help to organise.

News of Meetings

After six decades in a purpose built meeting house in Gidea Park, Romford Meeting is being laid down. Quakers are first recorded in 1684 in what is now the Outer London Borough of Havering. William Mead was married to Sarah Fell, daughter of Margaret.

Future events

- ★ Next Joint London Area Meeting: Saturday 4 October, 10:00 for 10:30 at Westminster Meeting House, followed by soup and cake lunch
- ★ Friends from South East London, South London and Kingston and Wandsworth area meetings have an away weekend at High Leigh 7 - 9 November, called *Growing South*

*Issued by the London Development Group.
For further information, talk to friends in your local and area meetings !*