

# **Quaker Fellowship for Afterlife Studies**

## **Agenda for AGM to be held via Zoom on 04.09.20**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes for the previous AGM.
3. Report for the year 2019/2020
4. Committee and Officer changes: Angela to step down as Clerk, remaining a member of the committee; Fee Berry to replace Angela; Rhonda Riachi to join the committee formally.
5. Finance and Membership (see attached Financial Report).
6. Any Other Business

## **Clerk/Committee's report for the year 2019/2020**

This year has been notable for two events: Angela's retirement as Clerk of QFAS, and the advent of Covid 19 and its effects on all aspects of life, including QFAS.

### **Angela Howard**

During the year, Angela Howard stepped down as our Clerk, as the state of her health means it is now not possible for her to continue in this role. Fee has therefore become our Acting Clerk, while Angela remains a committee member, and, with Ros, continues to support and advise Fee and the Committee with her extensive knowledge and experience, in effect both functioning as our mentors. We have previously expressed our immense gratitude to Angela for the enormous work she has put into starting QFAS in 2000, and building it up into the recognised Quaker Special Interest Group it is today; the new anthology is surely, with Ros's contribution, her crowning achievement. I am sure all QFAS members will want to join us in thanking them both for their dedicated service over the last 20 years.

### **Covid 19 and the 2020 Conference**

Covid19 hardly needs an introduction. It has meant that all the Committee's meetings this year have been via the internet and Zoom, as will our forthcoming 2020 Zoom internet virtual conference on 5/6<sup>th</sup> September. For some of us, this has been quite a learning curve! the more technical members of the committee (Fee, Rhonda and David) formed a subcommittee to plan the webinar QFAS conference and iron out the technical nuts and bolts of running it on the planned weekend via Zoom rather than at Woodbrooke. Our speakers include Jackie Weaver, animal psychic, Callum Cooper, and a session on Matthew Manning. There may be technical hitches on the day, but we hope those of you who have booked to "attend" will find it as interesting and worthwhile as our usual conferences, albeit different.

There are still plenty of places available, booking is via the QFAS website, and see also Fee's email of 24<sup>th</sup> August.

### **The Life that Never Ends: an Anthology of Quaker Spiritual/Psychic Experience 2019**

Our anthology, the culmination of two years' work, was finally published in the winter and just before Covid 19 and Lockdown. This inevitably has affected badly the publicity effort and sales; it is currently available from the Quaker Bookshop and from Fee herself, price £7 to include P&P. We thank all those who contributed to the anthology and its publication in some way. It remains a splendid achievement which deserves a wider circulation. Please buy it!

### **Reaching Out**

Inevitably, our publication schedule for *Reaching Out* has been affected by Lockdown and Covid, with no issue appearing this year so far. We will be publishing the next issue in October, with an end September deadline for contributions (see Fee's email of 24 September, QFAS news).

### **Membership and Finance**

Our membership remains steady at around 165 or so, with a steady trickle of new members joining matching those who have left us in various ways. This is encouraging, especially as our opportunities for publicising our group have been very limited this year, with so many events, conferences, gatherings, etc cancelled. The need for QFAS remains as important as ever, especially given the isolation so many people are experiencing as a result of lockdown and with so much of ordinary life still on hold.

Our finances remain healthy with a closing balance of £2513.36 (two donations financed the printing of our anthology); any members who wish to see the full accounts for the year ended 30/06/2020 can request them from our Treasurer.

## QUAKER FELLOWSHIP FOR AFTERLIFE STUDIES

Minutes of the AGM 2019 held on 14.04.2019 at Woodbrooke

(Tina Day as Acting Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** were received from Angela Howard, Ros Smith, and Elizabeth Angas.
2. **Present:** Fifteen QFAS members and Friends were present at the AGM.
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM (held 22.09.2018) at Woodbrooke:** These were agreed.
4. **Matters Arising not on Agenda :** None.
5. **Committee and Officers:** the current Committee Members and Officers were introduced to the QFAS attendees. Tina Day, who has joined the Committee for a full term after her initial year, has replaced Ros Smith as Membership Secretary, with Ros remaining a committee member. Clement Jewitt has retired after many years of service recording, editing and copying CDs of the Conference talks. All other Committee members and Officers remain in place. We agreed to send thank you cards to Clement and Ros for their hard work in their respective previous roles, signed by QFAS members present; also cards of good wishes to Elizabeth and Angela.
6. **Clerk's Report for the year 2018/2019:** Rhonda Riachi read out the Clerk's Report, copies of which together with the Agenda, had been made available to the Meeting. Two issues of *Reaching Out* had been circulated since the last AGM and a second joint conference had been held in London on 13<sup>th</sup> July with CFPSS and the Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies. But the main work of the committee over the past two years had been the editing of the new anthology, *The Life that Never Ends* (see item 8). David Mason asked whether a few extra copies of *Reaching Out* could be sent out to committee members to send to enquirers about QFAS membership, and other marketing purposes. We thanked the Clerk for her report.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** a copy of the Accounts for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 had been made available to everyone present, and our Treasurer, Cherry Simpkin, invited questions and comments. The accounts had been examined independently by Joanne Fraser. David Mason proposed and Fee Berry and Jill Inskip seconded acceptance of the accounts which was agreed. We thanked the Treasurer for her report.
8. **The Anthology *The Life that Never Ends*:** We were excited to learn that the anthology is now with the printers and should be available shortly. We wish to record our grateful thanks to Ros and Angela for the enormous amount of work they have put in on this project, consulting the committee when needed. Members expressed their pleasure, adding it would be so useful for it to be made available to people new to QFAS. A distribution/circulation list would be needed to send out copies to our contacts, sister and other organisations for review purposes eg., the SPR, Alistair Hardy, the press, etc.

**9 Any Other Business: there being none, the meeting closed with some silent worship.**

