

QSAIG Annual General Meeting

12 October 2024. Selly Oak Meeting House and on Zoom

Convenors Report

There were 2 substantive meetings during the year. The autumn meeting was held on 7th October 2023 at Westminster Meeting House and also on Zoom. That was followed by the AGM. The spring meeting was a half day meeting held only on Zoom.

During the October 2023 meeting we heard about leprosy in south India from Ann Kurra, William Knox told us about Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific Region, Adrian Glamorgan shared information about nuclear weapons in India and Pakistan, Bachchu and Mian Akbar Hussain brought us upto date about Gonno Unnayan Prochesta (GUP) in Bangladesh. They also drew our attention to the increasing pollution in the Ganges, Rob Gallagher drew our attention to a film about travelling across India in an old Rolls Royce, we were reminded of the on going problems in Nagaland and how the Quaker response is evolving, John McConnell told us about Street Children in Myamnar, and Margaret Waterworth spoke about work in the schools of West Bengal.

We were saddened to learn about the unexpected death of William Knox 2 days after our meeting.

During the year we were able to welcome Subhash Kattel from Nepal for a short visit to the UK as he started working with a German organization doing peace work in Israel. Other visitors to the UK during the year were Adian Glamorgan from FWCC and Md Monzurul Islam who is now CEO of GUP.

On 11 May 2024 we from Adrian Glamorgan about permaculture in southern Bangladesh and the development of AUKUS which is planning to build nuclear powered submarines. We also heard from Kamrul Hussain about conflict resolution with GUP and the work Subhash is commencing in Israel. John McConnel briefed us about the situation in Myamnar and Pat Saunders told us of her studies on the changes in the course of the Ganges. We also heard from Margaret Waterworth about the heat of West Bengal and the difficulties experienced by the schools there. Meryll Titus was prevented from joining us but sent a report about the activities of Quakers in Bhopal and their plans for All India Friends Gathering later in the year.

An excellent newsletter was produced by Rob Gallagher and circulated as well as going onto the website.

QSAIG took part in the Groups Fair at Britain Yearly Meeting, which attracted numerous peoples' attention.

A major challenge for QSAIG is the need for some new role holders as all the existing members of the committee have been carrying out their roles for several years and some change is needed to maintain the relevance of QSAIG.

QSAIG hopes to continue to provide a focus for Quakers interested in Quaker related work in South Asia.

Martin Schweiger

Note people being shot trying to cross the fence around Bangladesh. Hindu people in Bangladesh feel insecure following the Awami League's loss of power although not clear why this is. A fear of immigrants and strangers is easily propagated .There is a wider need for tolerance around the world.

Date and venue of Meetings in 2025

Saturday 12 April 2025 am on Zoom

Chris Kells to explore SCAD participating.

Saturday 11 October 2025 Meeting plus AGM

To explore the use of Westminster Meeting House. Anne Smith to check this.