

# YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

*Bristol Redlands Friends Meeting House, 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2008*

## **Minutes**

### **Present:**

Co-Clerks:	Cáit Gould & Siobhan Haire
YFGM Treasurer:	Eleanor Coss
Co-Convenors of Overseers:	Ellen Marshall & Mary Estall
Management Officer:	Tom Rowlands
Co-ordinator:	Hugo Finley

### **Area Meeting Representatives:**

*Cáit Gould - West Scotland*

*Maud Grainger - Colchester and Coggeshall AM*

*Harriet Hart - Norwich and Waveny AM and Craven and Keighley AM*

*Selina Larsen - Mid-Thames AM*

*Ellen Marshall - London West AM*

*Mark Russ - London West Area Meeting*

*Edward Ullathorne - Central England AM*

### **Those Present:**

*Sam Barnett-Cormack, Julia Binns, Nicola Bowerman, Peggy Brett, Jennifer Brett, Ellen Elliott, Lucy Entwistle, Mary Estall, Nathanael Flynn, Toby Freeman, Mark Gartside, Toby Gibbons, Ian Goggin, Ester Leighton, Jessica Metheringham, Maurice Nagington, Sally Nicholls, Filip Nohe, Anne Norton, Kirsty Philbrick, Andrew Rendle, Nick Rendle, Katrina Richter, Oliver Robertson, Tom Rowlands, Rachel Sewell, Kristin Ethel Skarsholt, Alison Squires, Karl Stewart, Majk Stokes, Rachael Swancott, Thomas Taylor, Hilary Topp, Kris Turner, Jack Underwood, Andrew Williams, Hugh Williams, Ruth Wood, Rachel Xerri*

## **08/36 Opening Minute**

We welcome one another to YFGM this weekend in Bristol. Especially our visitors from outside Britain Yearly Meeting, Nathanael Flynn, Filip Nohe and Katrina Richer who join us from Washington, Germany and Pennsylvania meetings respectively. We look forward to spending this time together.

## **08/37 Nominations: Finance Committee Role Restructuring**

Our convenor of nominations has spoken about the current situation within Finance committee and how it is felt that Finance Committee may benefit from a role restructuring.

YFGM agrees to lay down the current position of YFGM Treasurer, in its present form, and to appoint two new positions in its place, that of General Fund Treasurer and Finance Officer.

A copy of the two new job descriptions is attached to these minutes. These outline that the term 'Treasurer' in our constitution now refers to the role of 'Finance Officer'.

We thank our Nominations Convenor and Finance Committee for their work on this on our behalf.

### **08/38 Volunteers**

We thank Karl Stewart for agreeing to help as caterer this YFGM.

### **08/39 Quaker Youth Book Project**

Today we have been joined by Harriet Hart who is on the editorial board of the Quaker Youth Book Project.

We have heard an introduction on this international project which aims to develop an understanding and encourage dialogue between Young Friends of the many different forms of Quakerism.

We were given the opportunity to personally reflect on how we each would continue the phrases 'I am from...' and 'my Quakerism is...'. Afterwards having the chance to share our thoughts with others.

We are very thankful to Harriet for enthusiastically bringing this worship to us and look forward to having the chance to share this further with each other and the wider Quaker community.

### **08/40 Accessibility Fund**

Eleanor Coss, our Treasurer has brought a proposal for a YFGM accessibility fund to be included in the budget, beginning in 2009. We support this proposal in principle, and agree that finance committee will return to February YFGM with an accessibility budget and policy. We furthermore welcome this opportunity as a beginning, rather than a conclusion to our exploration of the issues surrounding accessibility.

We thank Eleanor and finance committee for their work on this proposal.

### **08/41 Accounts**

Our Treasurer, Eleanor Coss has presented us with the 2007 accounts. We approve these accounts to be signed off by our trustees and submitted to the Charity Commission.

We deeply thank all those involved in preparing them on time, recognising that this is the first time we have achieved this.

### **08/42 Focus for 2009**

Sam Barnett-Cormack and Mark Russ have led us in an exploring action of YFGM's identity and purpose. They have put forward a proposal that YFGM take as a significant focus for 2009 a process of self-examination which will allow us to discern what we are, what we do, and where we are going; both as a part of society and as a part of the Society of Friends.

We have explored in small groups our own reasons for coming to YFGM, and feel wholeheartedly that an adventurous journey of self exploration should be one of our priorities for the future, although we recognise that our way may not be clear, that we must

not fall into the trap of setting ourselves too many restrictive structures, and that our exploration must be fluid, and adaptive.

We are united in a common feeling of excitement at this proposal. We will bring it to January planning weekend for consideration by all committees.

#### **08/43 Planning Weekend Report**

As newcomers to planning weekend, Mark Gartside and Toby Freeman have reported on our planning weekend held in Chester in September.

#### **08/44 Appeal Update**

Nick Rendle has given us an update on past appeals and our current appeal situation. Further to minute 08/26 we feel it is no longer appropriate to accept money for our last appeal, ReWrite, and as of now will return any money for the appeal until we find our new appeal hopefully at next YFGM in Manchester.

#### **08/45 Pardshaw Summer Gathering Report**

Majk Stokes has reported on the Pardshaw Summer Gathering held at Pardshaw Young Friends Centre in August 2008. We thank Majk Stokes for this report.

#### **08/46 Responsibility for Pardshaw**

Majk Stokes has reported back to us from Pardshaw Moving Forward group, which has liaised with Pardshaw Committee and met with West Cumbria Area Meeting Trustees.

We agree to hand over responsibility for managing and maintaining Pardshaw Young Friends Centre in its entirety back to West Cumbria Area Meeting as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009, and to hand over bookings from now on.

We ask the clerks to pass this minute on to West Cumbria Area Meeting. With respect to finances and the handover of documents relating to Pardshaw Young Friends Centre, we ask Pardshaw Committee and our Treasurer to discuss these matters and bring them to January Planning Weekend.

We thank West Cumbria Area Meeting both for their patience and ongoing support of YFGM as it has come to this decision, and for the use of Pardshaw over the years and the enjoyment which Young Friend's have derived from it.

#### **08/47 Future of YFGM involvement with Pardshaw**

The last YFGM organised gathering under the current arrangement will be the pre-Christmas gathering from the 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008. Our new agreement gives us a good opportunity to reconsider the role of Pardshaw committee. We would ask Pardshaw Committee, the Pardshaw moving forward group, and any other interested parties to liaise and bring suggestions to January Planning Weekend.

We appreciate West Cumbria Area Meeting's interest in our continued involvement in, and contribution to, the future of Pardshaw. We ask the moving forward group to continue

working on this and communicating with other interested parties. We look forward to the development of Pardshaw as a resource for Friends.

We thank both Pardshaw Committee and the Moving Forward Group for all their hard work in helping us to reach this conclusion.

### **08/48 YFGM Dates**

We have heard from Maud Grainger, our Convenor of Officers regarding the current dates when YFGM is held during the year. It has been suggested that we try to spread the dates more evenly throughout the year and avoid busy times of the year in the office and for students.

We approve the decision to try moving our May YFGM to June in 2010. To be reviewed afterwards. We ask our officers to decide on precise dates as is normal practice.

### **08/49 Nominations**

We appoint the following people to the following posts for the periods mentioned. We release from service those mentioned, warmly thanking them for their work on our behalf.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Released from service</b>	<b>Person appointed</b>	<b>Until</b>
Overseer	Chris Hanning Ellen Marshall	Hugh Williams	October 2010
Co-convenor of Overseers	Ellen Marshall	Hugh Williams	October 2010
Quintessential	Paul Dodwell Mark Russ	Harriet Hart Rachael Swancott	October 2011 October 2011
ReWrite Appeal financial oversight	Jez Smith	Position Laid down	
Coordinators Support Group	Amy Macpherson	Sally Nicholls	October 2009
Planning Weekend Newcomers	Toby Freeman Mark Gartside Selina Larsen	Thomas Taylor Maurice Nagington Kristen Skarshott	February 2009 February 2009 February 2009
Leaveners Management Committee	Carried over	Katrina Richter	October 2011
Pardshaw Committee	Carried over	Carried Over	
Northern Friends Peace Board Rep.	Hilary Topp	Carried over	
Outreach Committee	Amy Macpherson	Alison Squires	October 2011
Quaker Life Rep.	Simon Latham	Siobhan Haire	October 2011
Finance Officer	New Position	Eleanor Coss	October 2010
General Fund Treasurer	New Position	Eleanor Coss	October 2010
Outreach Financial Oversight	Alyn Still	Edward Ullathorne	May 2011
Outreach Convener	Carried over	Carried Over	
YFGM Treasurer	Eleanor Coss	Laid Down	
Nominations	Harriet Hart	Carried over	

### **08/50 Minute of Record – Crèche Facilities**

Further to minute 08/08 'Crèche Facilities', Mary Estall, Rachel Xerri and Helen Percy will return with their proposals for our provision if crèche facilities at February YFGM 2009.

## **08/51 Volunteers**

We thank the following people for volunteering to help in the following ways at YFGM in February in Manchester.

Caterers: Mark Russ

Pan transport: Edward Ullathorne and Hugh Williams.

We hope to find another caterer and recycling/compost volunteer before our next YFGM.

## **08/52 Minute of Record – Trustee**

Further to minute 08/49 we appoint Hugh Williams to serve as an officer and trustee of YFGM for a period of two years. We release from service Ellen Marshall as an officer and trustee of YFGM.

## **08/53 Special Interest Groups**

This weekend we have enjoyed the following special interest groups:

A presentation and discussion from Quaker Voluntary Action  
Pumpkin Carving  
A talk about Paganism  
Singing and Cooking  
Circus skills

We thank those who have run our special interest groups for their work, especially those from outside YFGM.

## **08/54 Closing Minute**

This weekend we have had the opportunity to meet with a group of Friends who have all as individuals brought so much to our gathering and inner well-being. We have had the chance to share our leadings on the future of YFGM.

Through speaker sessions on the Quaker Youth book project we have had the opportunity to reflect creatively on our personal visions of our faith, and this theme of self-exploration has continued through our business sessions where our communal vision has been a focus and an exciting opportunity for moving forward adaptively and with open minds.

Along with this inner searching, we have felt a need to assess our position within the Society of Friends and society as a whole. We move forward eagerly in anticipation of this challenge and the discoveries it will bring.

This YFGM Ellen Marshall comes to the end of her time as an officer and co-convenor of Overseers we thank her for her hard work and dedication, her cheerfulness has brought strength to our community.

This YFGM we have passed over the running of Pardshaw Young Friends Centre to West Cumbria Area Meeting. We are grateful to all involved for finding a positive path though this challenging issue.

We leave YFGM strengthened by our time together and look forward to the next steps of our journey together at our January planning weekend and our next YFGM in February.

Signed on behalf of YFGM

Cáit Gould and Siobhan Haire

Co-clerks