

Young Friends General Meeting

Bristol Redland Friends Meeting House

May 27th – 30th 2011

Present:

Co-Clerks: Sally Nicholls & Siobhan Haire

YFGM Treasurer: Andrew Rendle

YFGM Finance Officer: Bryony Elias

Co-Convener of Overseers: Thomas Taylor

Management Officer: Jessica Metherringham-Owlett

Coordinator: Hugo Finley

Area Meeting and Yearly Meeting Representatives:

Jen Batten - North Somerset & Wilts

Cait Gould - West Scotland

Thomas Hancock - East Scotland

Selina Larsen - Mid-Thames

Jenny McCarthy - York

Katharine McIntosh - Cambridge & Peterborough

Hereward Mills - Luton and Leighton AM

Ericka Smith - South East Scotland

Alyn Still - Witney AM

Those Present:

LILI (leely), Abraham Baldry, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Lynda Berry, Hannah Brock, Jay Clark, Helen Close, Hannah Cooper, Carla Denyer, Kim Chiara Edwards, Toby Freeman, Rajit Gholap, Ian Goggin, Rachael Harrison, Elizabeth (Beth) Howard, Caro Humphries, Ged Manning, Rebecca Mattingly, Catherine Metherringham, Maurice Nagington, Livia Oldland, Paul Ong, Lauren Amy Parkes, Lailah Peel, Helen Percy, Anna Philbrick, Kirsty Philbrick, Nick Rendle, Becky Riddell, Oliver Robertson, Niel Ryan, Kristin Ethel Skarsholt, Hannah Spiers, Chris Stapenhurst, Majk Stokes, Bridget Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Kris Turner, Hugh Williams, Christopher Wood

Total: 56

YFGM Minutes
Bristol, 27-30th May

11.11 Welcoming minute

We welcome one another to YFGM in Bristol. We look forward to spending time together over the bank holiday weekend.

11.12 Change in nominations structure

We have heard from Erica Smith, our convener of nominations, about the changes proposed to how appointments to nominations committee could work - currently the nomination is for two years and

can lead to a feeling of isolation from the wider community as so much time is spent apart from the group.

Recognising this, and recognising the value of nominations committee getting to know the people in YFGM to strengthen our nominations procedure, we adopt the suggestion that people are nominated to nominations for three years, during which time they have six weekends on nominations and three weekends participating fully in the activities of YFGM.

This means that we will need a total committee of nine, of which six will be operating at any one time. The convenorship will be a one year commitment within the three years.

We ask the convenor to work out the further details of the rota system in the hope that it will be flexible.

We will pay travel expenses for people throughout the three years. (Any amendments to finance policy can be done further to this minute and put before the meeting later this weekend).

We encourage nominations to explore how they could do more of their work outside of YFGM weekends.

We will review this procedure at YFGM in May 2012.

11.13 Symon Hill's walk of repentance for homophobia

Sam Barnett-Cormack has told us of former young Friend Symon Hill, who will be walking from Birmingham to London as a pilgrimage of repentance for his former homophobic attitudes and behaviours.

Sexuality and spirituality are issues which YFGM have explored and supported over the years. We are very proud that Symon is doing this action, and we are honoured to add our official support to his walk.

11.14 YFGM enquirer's gathering, Feb 2012

Bryony Elias and Hannah Spires have suggested that we make YFGM in February next year free for newcomers, capping travel costs at £100 per person and waiving the expectation that they will make a donation towards the weekend's expenses.

We support this idea and hope that this will be a successful form of outreach. We ask all YFGM committees to consider the effect of increased turnout on their ability to fulfil their roles, and hope that they will consider how to deal with this issue. We will make this offer available only to those people who have registered two weeks before YFGM.

We will review this proposal in May 2012 with a view to making it a regular occurrence.

11.15 YFGM accounts 2010

We have had a presentation from Bryony Elias, our finance officer, detailing our accounts for 2010 - we approve these accounts and thank finance committee and our independent examiner Peter Ullathorne for their work on our behalf.

We note that we still hold too much in our reserves, and hope that we will find ways to remedy this in the next year.

11.16 Nominations returns

We appoint the following people to the following positions.

Position	Released	Appointed	Until
Co-clerk	Siobhan Haire	Ian Goggin	05/14
Overseer	Tom Taylor	Hereward Mills	05/13
MfS rep	Toby Gibbons	Rachel Harrison	05/14
Planning weekend newcomer	Kim Edwards Honoia Spicer Paul Ong	Lynda Barry Bridget Stoney Thomas Hancock	10/11
Outreach	Toby Gibbons	Siobhan Haire	05/14
SIG co-ordinator	n/a	Helen Percy	05/13
Leaveners management rep	Nick Rendle	Kim Edwards	05/14
NFPB rep	Rachael Swancott	Beth Howard	05/14
Quintessential	Rachael Swancott	Paul Ong	05/14
YQ editor	Becky Riddell	Toby Freeman Jay Clark	05/14
Employment fund treasurer	Andrew Williams		
Line manager	Helen Percy		
Economic justice and the sustainable global society conference rep		Rebecca Mattingly	02/12
Co-ordinator's support group	Geoff Blunt Rachael Swancott	Geoff Blunt Helen Close	05/12
Nominations committee		Kim Edwards	05/14

11.17 Appointment to economic justice conference.

We appoint Rebecca Mattingly as our representative to the economic justice conference and ask that she reports back to us in February 2012.

11.18 Change of signatories

We authorise the following people to act as signatories for the following accounts with the co-op bank.

General fund current and deposit accounts: Ian Goggin, Andrew Rendle and Sally Nicholls

Employment fund current and deposit accounts: Paul Dodwell, Ian Goggin and Sally Nicholls

Employment fund petty cash account: Paul Dodwell, Hugo Finley, Ian Goggin and Sally Nicholls

11.19 Convenor of overseers

We appoint Kris Turner as convenor of overseers until May 2013.

11.20 Reports minute

This weekend we have heard an informative and thoughtful newcomer's report from planning weekend by Paul Ong and Kim Edwards, a report from the FWCC cluster gathering from Hannah Brock, Cáit Gould and Paul Ong which allowed us to consider the responses to global change coming from the gathering and to consider our own responses, and receive a report from our meeting for sufferings representatives Toby Gibbons and Esther Leighton, showing minutes of particular relevance to us.

We thank those involved for their reports.

11.21 Convenorship of Quintessential

We appoint Maurice Naughton to convene Quintessential until February 2012.

11.22 Trustees Minute

Further to minute 11.17, we appoint Ian Goggin as a trustee of YFGM and release Siobhan Haire.

11.23 Co-options

We thank Cáit Gould for working as part of nominations committee this weekend and Ian Goggin for working as part of overseers.

11.24 Closing minute

We have gathered here in Bristol for our May bank holiday YFGM. Coming from our busy lives, our struggles and preoccupations, we welcome the space to worship, to play and to be together as a community.

This YFGM we have been looking outward to the wider Quaker world. We have been part of a FWCC consultation for global change and have been working with Michael Eccles of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre to explore how young Quakers can be more involved with their work. Our appeal group have lead us in an interactive session, showing us how our work with Firefly is helping young people in war-damaged Bosnia.

We have also been looking inwards, in a spirituality session with Clive Dove Dixon, looking at what happens when we pray, and through a session celebrating 350 years of our peace testimony and how we can understand George Fox's words today.

In 2011, YFGM is 100 years old. This YFGM we have been thinking about our future - what we want to be doing over the next three years and what we think YFGM is and should be for. We look forward to producing a strategic plan for ourselves over the summer.

At February YFGM, we struggled with a difficult meeting house and a large and fluid community. It has been exciting to watch these disparate threads come together here over the long weekend, as friendships were formed and new connections made. We shared special interest groups in sign language, games, Jesus and non-violence, the living witness project, disability, government and media, labour behind the label, Woodbrooke young leadership development programme, improvised theatre, vegan organic chocolate-making, art and anger, journaling, a trip to Vegfest, tango, new ideas for the website, YFGM's strategic plan, and what happens when you pray? We have enjoyed creating music, food and art, sang songs and made plays in our cabaret and worshipped together in candlelit epilogues.

This YFGM we say goodbye to Siobhan Haire, our co-clerk. We would like to thank Siobhan for her warmth, her cheerfulness and humour and her practical good sense. Siobhan has given so much time and dedication to YFGM in her period as trustee. We hope that she will continue to eat cheese with us, play the animal game and correct us when we're about to break the law.

Many of us are leaving YFGM and travelling to new places and new opportunities. We value the support that we have received here and hope that we can take the light that YFGM has given us and carry it out with us into the world.