



# Young Friends General Meeting Friargate Meeting House 23-25 October 2015 Minutes

## Those Present:

Holly Alcock, Jenny Baines, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Jessica Beck, Andrew Bibb, Rhian Blades, Freya Blyth, Ella Booth, Rachael Booth, Liam Brighton, Hannah Brock, Toni Carmichael-Harris, Aidan Childs, Stephen Clement, Maria Cooper, Tas Cooper, Hannah Crothers, Matthew Crothers, Billie-Jo Dearden, Teala Dearden, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Edwards, Ellen Elliott, Eirlys Evans, Rachel Evans, T. Freeman, Claudia Fry, Joseph Fuller, Rajit Gholap, Cáit Gould, Naomi Haigh, Laurence Hall, Thomas Hancock, Eleanor Hargreaves, May Harrison, Rachael Harrison, Naomi Hooke, Edward Owen Jones, Sophie Loewendahl, Francesca Loise, Iwona Luszowicz, Hannah Marsh, Rici Marshall, Eliza Martin, Ellie McCarthy, Jenny McCarthy, Joanna Moylett, Rosemary Oliver, Rowan Orme, Haifa Rashed, Andrew Rendle, Becky Riddell, Tim Rouse, Abigail Rowse, Anne Seilly, Beatrice Shelley, Kristin Skarsholt, Alyn Still, Huw Still, Brigid Stoney, Christopher Tedd, Kellie Turner, Nick Watts, Jacob Webb, Annie Womack, Alice Woodhead

Total: 69

Co-Clerks	Brigid Stoney & Peter Doubtfire
Trustees	Peter Doubtfire, Jenny McCarthy, Ericka Smith, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Kellie Turner
Coordinator	Iwona Luszowicz



### 2015.18 Accounts

Finance Committee have presented the accounts for YFGM in 2014. We approve these accounts as presented and thank Finance Committee for their continued work in making this information accessible to all members of YFGM. A copy of the accounts is attached to these minutes.

### 2015.19 Nominations Conference Report

We heard from Sam Barnett-Cormack about his experiences at Nominations Conference.

Sam encouraged members of YFGM to consider how they might serve in the wider Quaker community, as well as challenging the view of the type of roles that young Friends can be appointed to. An issue was raised that YFGM cannot be used as an area meeting when completing the online Quaker Service Information Form. Sam will feed this back to Central Nominations Committee. A more detailed report is attached to these minutes.

### 2015.20 Planning Weekend Newcomers Report

We heard from Liam Brighton and Claudia Fry about their experience of attending Planning Weekend.

Threshing was a particularly challenging session, due to the amount of potential items for York YFGM.

Overall, Liam and Claudia reported that the weekend was an enjoyable way of finding out how Planning Weekends work, and emphasised the continued importance of chocolate.

### 2015.21 Mental Wellbeing Concern Report

We have heard from Kellie Turner about the work of the Mental Wellbeing Concern Working Group.

The group met in London in August to discuss how to move forward. It has been difficult to decide on an area to focus on, but there are exciting plans for an event at Woodbrooke in September 2016, provisionally titled 'Mental Wellbeing in the Quaker Spirit'. It is hoped that this event will share the work and aims of YFGM with Friends from other meetings and their communities. We thank the group for their ongoing work.

### 2015.22 Funding for Young Friends at Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary Meeting 2016

Jenny McCarthy and Kristin Skarsholt have provided an introduction to the work of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). We have heard feedback from the



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2012 World Plenary Meeting in Kenya, and about plans for the 2016 World Plenary Meeting (WPM) in Peru.

Jenny has presented a proposal to use YFGM funds to support young Friends from Britain and Africa to attend this event.

We agree to provide £1000 to a bursary fund to which British young Friends attending the 2016 WPM can apply.

We further agree to provide £1000 to support the ten African young Friends attending the 2016 WPM.

We are excited by the challenges and opportunities that world gatherings of Quakers provide. We see the money we are providing not as a donation, but as an investment in our relationships with Friends from across the world. We hope that these funds will help facilitate shared experiences and opportunities to explore our commonalities and differences with Friends from diverse traditions.

In this spirit, we hope that we can foster further communication between YFGM and other young Friends attending WPM. We ask Jenny McCarthy to explore possible ways that this could happen, for example via Skype.

## 2015.23 Special Interest Groups

This weekend we have had the following Special Interest Groups:

Non-theist Quaker Network	Michael Wright
Quaker faith & practice	Abigail Rowse
QPSW Peaceworkers	Haifa Rashed
Trident Replacement Strategy Meeting	Philip Austin (NFPB), Robert Keeble (NFPB), Tim Wallis (QPSW)



2015.24 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Quintessential	Ericka Smith (also released as Trustee)	Emma Anthony	October 2018
Overseer	Edward Owen Jones	T. Freeman	October 2017
Convenor of Trustees	Rachael Swancott	<i>End of handover</i>	
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Liam Brighton Claudia Fry Naomi Hooke	Eirlys Evans Haifa Rasheed Anne Seilly	February 2016
YFGM Representative to Meeting for Sufferings	Iwona Luszowicz	<i>Carried forward</i>	October 2018
Mental Well-being Working Group	Catherine Gregory Becky Riddell <i>Plus one brought forward</i>	Jenny Baines Rhian Blades Rachel Evans Abigail Rowse	October 2017
Events Coordinator	Kristin Skarsholt	Anne Seilly	October 2017
Outreach	Holly Alcock Rajit Gholap	Aidan Childs Eleanor Hargreaves	October 2018
<i>The Young Quaker</i> Editor	<i>Brought forward</i>	Laurence Hall	October 2018
<i>Preparing a testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Hilary Botwright</i>	<i>New role</i>	Matthew Crothers Kim Edwards Rhiannon Rees	

We thank those released for their service.



**2015.25 Mental Wellbeing Concern Group: Response to Minute from Nominations Committee**

We have received a minute (attached) reminding us of our need to support the Mental Wellbeing Concern Group as a YFGM community. We accept this minute and add our thanks to all those who have worked on the concern so far.

A year ago YFGM adopted two very different concerns. It is important that we uphold those working on concerns and seek ways of supporting one another.

We recognize that deciding how the Mental Wellbeing Concern Group should work towards the concern has been very challenging, perhaps more so than we as a meeting anticipated. We recognise that the group requires more direct support from the whole of YFGM and encourage members to maintain the issue as a concern for the whole meeting. One method of working towards this could be for the group to attend Planning Weekend in January 2016.

**2015.26 Catering**

We thank Jenny McCarthy and Anne Seilly for helping with catering this weekend.

**2015.27 Co-opted members of committees**

This weekend the following people have been co-opted to serve on the named committees for the duration of the weekend:

Committee	Co-opted
Quintessential	Thomas Hancock

**2015.28 Clerks' Offering**

We have gathered this October in York for YFGM. We have welcomed many new members to our community as well as familiar faces as we consider inner and outer peace. This weekend marks a year since adopting our concerns for campaigning against the renewal of Trident and mental wellbeing. It has been a time to reflect on what has been achieved and how much there is still to be done.

We explored non-verbal communication in a spirituality session led by Quintessential. It was both challenging and rewarding to engage in listening fully to another person and led us to consider how we support each other. We also tried our hand at silent origami, which led many of us to be glad of the ability to discuss when



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something is not working, while reminding us that a great deal of emotional feedback and support can be non-verbal.

As part of our continuing focus on mental wellbeing, Ceri Owens gave an open and honest account of her experiences of living with mental health difficulties, specifically her experience of hearing voices. She led us in activities which gave a small insight into the effect that hearing voices or having unshared thoughts can have on a person's ability to function in everyday life. Ceri gave some practical suggestions for supporting friends who are struggling with their mental wellbeing, as well as urging us to support campaigns to maintain and improve mental health services in our community.

On Saturday evening there was an opportunity to let off steam and release our creativity by designing our own costumes. There can be few catwalks that can boast dinosaurs, superheroes, the mafia, a prom king and queen and the whole cast of the nativity, stylishly realised in newspaper and bin bags.

While in York, we have also taken the opportunity to explore our concern for mental wellbeing with the help of The Retreat. Susanna Ward led us in a reflection on the ways in which we care for our own wellbeing, offering a guided mindfulness exercise. We continued to explore these ideas in epilogue, reflecting on an Ignatian 'daily Examen', and many of us also took the opportunity to visit The Retreat for meeting for worship.

We have felt a growing sense of urgency about our concern against Trident renewal, but with this has come impetus to act. Philip Austin and Robert Keeble from the Northern Friends Peace Board, Tim Wallis of Quaker Peace & Social Witness and Emma Anthony from Fellowship of Reconciliation spoke to us about drawing inspiration from the past to make positive change for the future. In a Special Interest Group we began to break down the daunting issue of Trident into opportunities for action.

We all have something different to bring to our concerns, and this weekend has helped us to unite around them as a community. The last daily Examen is to 'look to tomorrow', and we leave York more ready to do this, holding each other in the light until we meet again in February at Bournemouth.

Brigid Stoney & Peter Doubtfire, Co-clerks



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<del>PDick</del>	AM
Joseph Filler	Hoggers
Kim Chiara Edwards	Kristi
Jessica Becke	Rose O.
Pauline Bell	Tacops
Ron Ross	R. L. Evans
Mai Lynn	Rowan Orme
AOD	Elke McLaughlin
Stephen Clement	Pixie Marshall
Carl edel	<del>Marion</del>
M. H. H.	Ellie Booth
M. H. H.	Jenny Baines
Thomas Hencock	Aidan Childs
Jane Womersley	Andrew Pibb
Jacob Webb	Ellen Elliott
AM	<del>J. H.</del>
Suzanne Jolliffe	<del>J. H.</del>
Wendy	
J. H.	
Nannah Bell	

# Attachment I Accounts

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Charity No  
1064763

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01 Jan 2014	To	31 Dec 2014
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>					
From Young Friends	10,498	-	-	10,498	8,351
Grants, donations and legacies	43,965	-	-	43,965	12,117
Interest	39	-	-	39	27
Other receipts	40	-	-	40	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>54,542</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,542</b>	<b>20,495</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Support of meeting - YFGM gatherings	23,026	-	-	23,026	-
Support of meeting - other	3,634	-	-	3,634	14,163
Staff and Office costs	697	-	-	697	24,947
Bursaries	600	-	-	600	2,137
Donations and subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>27,956</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,956</b>	<b>41,247</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>26,586</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,586</b>	<b>- 20,752</b>
Cash funds last year end	35,834	6,180	-	42,014	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>62,419</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,599</b>	<b>- 20,752</b>

### Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Cash funds	General Fund	29,734	6,180	-
	General Fund Deposit Account	32,685	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>62,419</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>-</b>
Liabilities	Details	Fund	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Britain Yearly Meeting - support services	Unrestricted funds	21,534	paid May 2015
	Bursaries agreed in 2014 but not claimed	Unrestricted funds	1,800	misc as claimed
	Expenses claims not cashed - Total	Unrestricted funds	784	misc as cashed
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Kellie Turner	25/10/15	
		Alyn Still	25/10/15	
Notes				

A Includes additional grant for Politically Engaged Young Friends Conference at Woodbrooke & return of BYM grant returning to normal level in 2014

B Previous years have reported all support of meeting costs together. We're now splitting these out to show the use of funds more clearly. Cost of YFGM gatherings includes food, travel & venue costs for YFGM and Planning Weekends.

The 2014 total (£26,660) for YFGMs and other events was higher than 2013. This was increased by the costs of YFGM at Woodbrooke and the Politically Engaged Young Friends event at Woodbrooke. The costs of the Politically Engaged Young Friends event were offset by the additional funding for the event.

C The majority of office costs for 2014 were paid in early 2015 due to an administrative delay. This payment of £21,534 accounts for the large decrease from 2013 levels.

D Bursaries figure is lower than usual due to bursaries approved in 2014 but claimed/paid in 2015

E Taking the delayed payment of office costs & bursaries into account, the net change for 2014 would be £2,468 and the closing balance £38,301 equivalent to 11 months expenditure



## Attachment II

### Central Nominations Conference Report 2015

*By Sam Barnett-Cormack*

On the weekend of the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, members of the various central nominations committees gathered at Woodbrooke for a nominations conference. As well as Central Nominations Committee (CNC) itself, members of the following groups attended:

- QPSW Standing Nominations Committee
- Quaker Life Nominations Committee
- Yearly Meeting Nominating Group
- BYM Trustees and Committee on Clerks
- Central Nominations Committee Review Group
- Relevant members of Yearly Meeting staff

I was initially approached about coming to the conference as a speaker, and as discussions about this developed, it was decided that it would be a good idea for me to attend the conference as a member of YFGM Nominations Committee, as well as speaking in a session. It was a very interesting weekend, looking at a range of issues around nominations generally, and particularly the unique challenges and processes used for central nominations.

The various central nominations committees nominate Friends from across Britain Yearly Meeting to a range of centrally-managed roles. This means that generally they do not personally know the Friends whose names are being considered, and are heavily reliant on the information Friends provide on Quaker Service Information Forms. After welcomes, and an excellent Woodbrooke evening meal, the weekend began with a session of sharing thoughts, experiences and ideas about how nominations practice could be made more effective. This set the tone for the weekend, a chance to share experience and work out what we could learn from one another.

In a session led by a co-clerk of CNC, we discussed the nature of gifts, and how we identify them in ourselves and others. Someone from QPSW led a session on service, what can be gained from serving in central roles, and how to encourage people to give service. This was followed by a session on “young people”, divided between me and a “young trustee” from outside the Quaker world. Common themes between both speakers included the fact that younger volunteers may have different constraints when compared to older volunteers – being less financially stable, less likely to have a car, more difficulty taking time away from work for meetings – while also being capable of doing almost any role than an older volunteer may take on.

In my own part of the session, I asked Friends to write down, without discussion or too much time to think, roles they considered particularly well suited, and those poorly suited, to younger Friends. To their credit, a non-trivial number of Friends did “anything” and “nothing” to the two questions, but most did not. Their responses were not terribly consistent, though some of the most common “poorly suited” roles

included clerk, especially clerks of area meetings or “major committees”, elders, registering officers and trustees, while some common “well suited” roles included committees working on social issues and campaigns, children's committee, outreach and elders. Yes, elders showed up on both lists. The message that young Friends might be suited to any role, and that young Friends who are new to a meeting may not be new to Quakerism – and may indeed have served multiple, very responsible roles in other organisations – was generally well-received, though some Friends clearly remained sceptical.

We also heard from the Central Nominations Review Group, on the progress of their review, and were given a chance to give feedback. It is clear that the work of CNC is very labour-intensive and difficult, and I think we can all hope that the review will lead to changes that make their work easier.

A minute was recorded, summarising the experience and leadings of the conference, which is included below this report.

As well as the sessions, the fellowship and community of the weekend provided a great opportunity to forge connections with other parts of the Religious Society of Friends in Great Britain, as well as an opportunity for the spiritual development of all involved.

Central Nominations Committee itself, and some of the other central nominations committees, are very much interested in having a better awareness of young Friends, and a relationship with YFGM. One thing we can each do to support this individually is to complete a Quaker Service Information Form, copies of which should be available at YFGM. It may also be completed online.

## **Minute of BYM Nominating Committee Gathering – held at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre on 31 July – 2 August.**

Fifty members of BYM nominations groups including Central Nominations Committee (CNC), Yearly Meeting nominating group, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Quaker Life, Yearly Meeting Trustees and Young Friends General Meeting nominations committees, the Committee on Clerks, CNC Review group and Friends House staff met at Woodbrooke over the weekend of 31 July – 2 August to share their work and practice and to learn from one another. Many Friends present are also members of their area and local meeting nominations committees.

We have been reminded that there is a variety of gifts of the Spirit:

“Now there are a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Cor 12:4-7)

“It is a responsibility of a Christian community to enable its members to discover what their gifts are and to develop and exercise them to the glory of God.” Quaker Faith & Practice 3:22

Those who are called to central roles are working on our behalf and need our support and tender upholding. Each of us is called to support our spirit-led church financially, with our time and by upholding those who are called to work for the benefit of our Quaker community and the wider world.

Are we, like Samuel, mentioned in ministry on Saturday morning, ready to answer the call to service? (1 Samuel 3.10) are we ready to recognise that such a call commits us to hard work, and also satisfaction and a joy in recognising gifts we had not identified in ourselves? Experience tells us that making successful nominations can be a long and detailed process of discernment that is also very rewarding for all concerned. We also acknowledge a tension between, on the one hand, the idealism and joy of realising our spiritual gifts and on the other, the reality of our lives as we live them today. Whilst we need to look for ways to help those on whom we lay the responsibility for nominating, we should not lose those Quaker insights and traditions which serve us well.

What is our message to BYM as a whole, what are we taking forward?

As individuals we have been encouraged to be interested in Friends in all our encounters and to be aware that the whole is bigger than the sum of the parts, to share joy and rewards and to know that everyone is responsible for everything.

At a local and area meeting level we should all identify Friends' range of gifts. We can all raise awareness, understanding, create excitement and be open about nominations processes at all levels. We need to create a sense that central work is our work.

We want to be a community of all ages and seek out younger people, who may be hesitating on the edges of our meetings.

We need to take responsibility, have a sense of obligation, to know that we are "doing it together".

We value encouragement, recognition and feedback.

All nominating groups and committees are doing God's work, but we are only human

and will sometimes fail; we are doing our best and are open to respond to new ways of working. Many practical suggestions have been made over the weekend. We will ensure that action is taken to implement these suggestions where appropriate. Each nominating group, and relevant staff, will need to consider how they can take action themselves. We recognise that this will require some resources, particularly in staff time and improvement of the database and technology to support the work.

During the weekend The CNC review group reported on its progress so far. We hope that all participating nominating groups will collaborate with a cross committee working group. We should focus on the Friend before the "job" and should think of ways of developing each friends' gifts, throughout their life and spiritual journey. There are many reasons why Friends feel unable to answer a call to service, and our greatest challenge is to create the circumstances and instil the confidence that will lead to a 'yes'.

We leave with gratitude for all we have learned and the opportunity we have had to develop ideas.

### Attachment III

#### Minute from Nominations Committee on YFGM's Mental Wellbeing Concern

Nominations Committee is led to remind YFGM that mental wellbeing was adopted as a concern, with much enthusiasm, by YFGM as a whole.

We remind all Friends in YFGM, including ourselves, to support the concern as appropriate to each of us as individuals and to the roles in which we currently serve.

We encourage YFGM to see the appointment of new members to the working group as an opportunity for a fresh start, not to sweep away the work the group has already done, but to renew our enthusiasm as a meeting and give better care for the concern and the working group as they work among themselves and with us all.