

**Young Friends General Meeting
Woodbrooke
Minutes 02 – 05 May 2014**

Present:

Co-Clerks: Brigid Stoney & Ian Goggin

YFGM Finance Trustee: Alyn Still

Management Trustee: Jenny McCarthy

Coordinator: Niki Karakaris

Those Present:

Stephen Clement, Holly Alcock, Emma Anthony, Halimah Austin, Sam David Barnett-Cormack, Andrew Bibb, Rhian Blades, Andrew Blampied, Freya Blyth, Hannah Brock, Sarah Castle, Aidan Childs, Carla Suzanne Denyer, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Edwards, Bryony Elias, Toby Freeman, Joseph Fuller, Rajit Gholap, Ian Goggin, Catherine Gregory, Peter Hacker, Mia Hadfield-Spoor, Siobhan Haire, Jennifer Hampton, Thomas Hancock, Kathryn Harding, Eleanor Hargreaves, Rachael Harrison, Elizabeth Mary Howard, Edward Owen Jones, Niki Karakaris, Jasmine Keighley, Fran Lane, Sophie Loewendahl, Iwona Luszowicz, Rici Marshall, Rebecca Mattingly, Jenny McCarthy, Hereward Nathan John Mills, Ceri Owen, Andrew Rendle, Rebecca Riddell, Anthony Ridge-Newman, Tim Rouse, Abigail Rowse, Beatrice Shelley, Kristin Skarsholt, Nicola Sleaf, Ericka Smith, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Jasmine Sturr, Rachael Swancott Boon, Edward Ullathorne, Nick Watts, Julian Wood, Alice Woodhead

TOTAL: 58

2014.9 Opening Minute

We welcome friends to a special YFGM here at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. We hope that the opportunity to spend time together in this unique environment, supported by good sleep, good food and most importantly good friends, will allow us to continue our spiritual journeys. We look forward to considering our future as a community and the impact we would like to make on the world.

2014.10 YFGM response to Minute 36 (Canterbury Commitment)

We recognise that a commitment to becoming a low carbon sustainable community is a huge undertaking and that saving the world can seem a daunting task, beyond us as individuals. The strength of Quakers is that we can make the task of saving the world hopeful, not scary. We need to make conscious decisions and acknowledge the consequences of our behaviour, in order to avoid maintaining the status quo of a carbon –greedy way of life.

As members of YFGM we can support each other within our local communities to ask ‘What if?’, to live our faith and challenge ourselves to be examples that you can live a life which is true to what you value.

YFGM is not like other Quaker communities and must play to its strengths. We are not a local meeting that can tend an allotment, but YFGM does have an essential role to play.

Whether that is through active engagement as YFGM, supporting each other to engage with local meetings or acting as a crack team of activists, it is our individual and corporate responsibility to be a real part of achieving a low carbon sustainable community.

2014.11 Accounts

Our finance trustee Alyn Still has presented us with the 2013 provisional accounts.

Subject to their finalisation and sign off from trustees, we approve these provisional accounts for examination and subsequent submission to the charity commission. We appoint Antony Haile as our external examiner for this purpose.

We thank Alyn Still, Paul Dodwell, and Edward Ullathorne for all their hard work in preparing these accounts, and for their work throughout the year.

A copy of the provisional accounts is attached to these minutes, along with notes of explanation.

2014.12 Co-options

The following were co-opted onto the named committees this weekend:

Name	Committee
Catherine Gregory	Overseers
Nick Watts	Overseers
Hereward Mills	Quintessential
Carla Denyer	Quintessential
Peter Doubtfire	Quintessential

We thank those named for their hard work over the weekend.

2014.13 Accounts Reserves

We approve finance committee's suggestion of reducing the period of our reserves from one year – two year expenditure to six months – one year, to reflect the changes in our financial circumstances.

This will reduce the requirements for money to remain unused in our accounts, enabling us to potentially use any freed-up funds to pursue matter of importance to YFGM.

We ask finance committee to make the appropriate changes to finance policy.

2014.14 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Co-Clerk (Trustee)	Ian Goggin	Peter Doubtfire	May 2017
Overseer	Carried over	Cáit Gould Anthony Ridge- Newman	May 2016
Quintessential	Paul Ong	Carla Denyer	May 2017
TYQ Editor	Toby Freeman	Julian Wood	May 2017
Outreach	Carried over	Abigail Rowse	May 2017
SIG Co-ordinator	Sarah Castle	Nick Watts	May 2016
Quaker Life Representative Council Rep	Carried over	Abigail Rowse Kim Edwards	May 2017
Meeting for Sufferings Rep	Rachael Harrison	Rebecca Riddell	May 2017
Leaveners Management Committee Rep	Kim Edwards	Halimah Austin	May 2017
Planning Weekend Newcomers	Julian Wood Angharad Rhys Nick Watts	Andrew Blampied Iwona Luszowicz Joseph Fuller	October 2014
Quaker World Relations Committee Rep	New Role	Julian Wood	February 2016
Appeal Group	Selina Larsen Kristin Skarsholt Abigail Rowse	-	-
Nominations	Carried over	Tim Searle-Barnes Joseph Fuller	May 2017

2014.15 Signatories to the General Fund Accounts

Further to minute 2014.14 (Nominations Returns) we appoint:

- Brigid Stoney
- Peter Doubtfire
- Edward Ullathorne

as signatories for the general fund current account, general fund deposit account, and general fund petty cash account.

2014.16 Clerk's offering

This hasn't been the usual YFGM. Being in the beautiful, almost luxurious surrounds - by YFGM standards - of Woodbrooke has given us new opportunities and an injection of energy. We have so many new people to share with, and have had so many interesting sessions and opportunities that we hope we can use and learn from into the future.

Wendy Hampton and Rachael Swancott ran an exciting session reminding us of the importance of appreciating the gifts of ourselves and others.

We considered our roles and approaches within community building, and had some vital practice giving and receiving compliments on each others strengths.

Oliver "Oliver" Robertson spoke to us about the work of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), and the disproportionate impact it has due to its unique relationships, approach, and large number of lunches. Oliver encouraged members of YFGM to consider the opportunities available to learn more about QUNO, through the summer school for young adult Quakers, and the available programme assistant roles.

Bronwen Gray spoke to us about The Retreat, the Quaker Psychiatric Hospital in York. She informed us of the history of the hospital and the pioneering approach of the early Quakers in their treatment of people experiencing mental health difficulties. She lead us to question our own spirituality and the role this plays in our physical and mental wellbeing.

We enjoyed many Special Interest Groups led by members of YFGM.

- Nick Watts - Quakers and the Arts
- Becky Riddell and Sarah Castle - Mental Health
- Catherine Gregory and Kathryn Harding - Drama
- Hannah Brock and Emma Anthony - Campaigning against nuclear weapons
- Rebecca Mattingly - Yearly Meeting Gathering
- Sarah Castle - Kite making
- Julian Wood - Journal making
- Hannah Brock - YFGM calendar

Quintessential committee encouraged us to continue to contemplate our spiritual journeys through art and craft, resulting in a moving epilogue which further strengthened us as a community. We also used our times in epilogues to sing together as community.

YFGM always needs a balance between serious spiritual learning and completely outrageous fun. This YFGM we played games for entertainments and thoroughly enjoyed the myriad talents of our members during the cabaret - even the terrible cheese jokes. Being at Woodbrooke has afforded us the chance to play together in new ways - whether that is rowing, singing around the campfire, playing croquet, or just enjoying a cup of tea on the terrace.

YFGM owes a huge thanks to the committee tasked with organising this extra special Woodbrooke. Thank you to Peter Doubtfire, Nicola Sleaf, and particularly Rachael Swancott for pouring their energy into the weekend.

We also say a big thank you to Niki Karakaris for her hard work and enthusiasm in support of YFGM. We hope that she remains part of our community even as her official role supporting our work comes to a close.

Vibrancy barely covers the depth and excitement of the community this weekend. New people, places and considerations have given us all a much needed injection of energy, and enabled us to revisit our perspectives on community.

In particular we should continue to be vocal about appreciating each others gifts - we needn't wait until people have passed us by to appreciate them.

At YFGM everywhere you look is a new wonderful person, joining you on your spiritual journey. We hope that we can learn much from the weekend, and take even more adventurous journeys together in the future.

Attachment to the Minutes

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2013

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2013 Total £	2012 Total £
Receipts				
From Young Friends		-	0	9,084
Grants, donations and legacies	20,468		20,468	18,104
Appeal (restricted funds)			0	655
Interest	27		27	45
Prior year adjustments	-	-	0	0
Other receipts		-	0	332
Total Receipts	20,495	0	20,495	28,220
Payments				
Support of meeting	16,300		16,300	17,808
Staff and Office costs	24,947	-	24,947	18,407
Donations and subscriptions	4,300	-	4,300	3,000
Appeals			0	0
Costs of generating funds			0	1,851
Total Payments	45,547	0	45,547	41,066
Net Receipts/(Payments)	(25,052)	-	(25,052)	(12,846)
Cash Funds at 1st January	56,187	6,180	62,367	75,212
Cash Funds at 31st December	31,136	6,180	37,316	62,366