

Young Friends General Meeting

Bournemouth

YFGM 4th-7th May

Present:

Co-Clerks: Sally Nicholls & Ian Goggin

YFGM Treasurer: Edward Ullathorne

YFGM Finance Officer: Bryony Elias

Management Officer: Jessica Metheringham-Owlett

Coordinator: Hugo Finley

Area and Yearly Meeting Representatives:

Jen Batten - North Somerset & Wilts

Thomas Hancock - East Scotland

Jenny McCarthy - York

Katharine McIntosh - Cambridge & Peterborough

Allie Nicholson - Croydon

Those Present: Sam Barnett-Cormack, Peter Doubtfire, Mary Estall, Toby Freeman, Rajit Gholap, Siobhan Haire, Rachael Harrison, Elizabeth (Beth) Howard, Selina Larsen, Rebecca Mattingly, Hereward Mills, Maurice Nagington, Livia Oldland, Helen Percy, Anna Philbrick, Andrew Rendle, Becky Riddell, Tim Rouse, Tom Rowlands, Abigail Rowse, Tim Searle-Barnes, Hannah Spiers, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Kris Turner, Hugh Williams, Michael Wood

Total: 39 People

2012.18 Opening Minute

We are gathered here in Bournemouth for our May YFGM. We welcome all young Friends and look forward to building a community of fellowship, worship and endeavour.

2012.19 YFGM Website

We have heard from Siobhan Haire about the suggestion to lay down the role of web co-ordinator. We agree to lay down the role of website co-ordinator and subsume the responsibility into Outreach committee. We ask that they seek expert guidance when needed, and refer to YFGM if help is needed in future. We also ask that Outreach consider the role of social media as an outreach tool as a possible future responsibility. We thank Outreach committee for their work on this matter.

2012.20 YFGM Database

We have heard from our management officer, Jessica Metheringham-Owlett, about her research into a new database for the office. We expect that this will cost less than trustees' discretionary expense limit of £500 and agree to allow them to spend any amount below this limit on a new off-the-shelf database. We thank our co-ordinator, Hugo Finley, and Jessica for their work on this matter.

2012.21 Whoosh! Conference

We have heard for Rachael Swancott Boon about the exciting opportunity for Young Friends to participate in Paul Parker's Whoosh! Conference to help Quakers take off. We

agree to appoint up to 4 YFGMers to go to the conference as representatives.

We ask the representatives as a whole to contribute to YFGM in October, and to motivate us to be involved in the revitalisation of BYM. Thank you to Rachael for her enthusiasm and work on this.

2012.22 Online Banking Payments

In order to enable us to pay expenses by bank transfer, we agree to require 2 signatories for all General Fund transactions, and to add the YFGM co-ordinator as a signatory to the account. We ask finance committee to make the appropriate changes to finance policy, and will attach an amended copy to these minutes.

2012.23 General Fund Debit Card

We ask finance committee to set up a new co-op bank account with a debit card. We ask that they keep £500 in this account ready for making bookings using the debit card, for example to pay for food, travel or accommodation. We feel this would be more inclusive for those individuals who are not able to pay up front, and will make paying expenses quicker. Money in the account should only exceed £500 where there is reasonable expectation that imminent expenses will exceed this amount.

We ask finance committee to amend finance policy and will attach a copy of that amended policy to these minutes.

2012.24 YFGM Accounts

Our General Fund Treasurer Edward Ullathorne has presented us with the 2011 accounts. These are yet to be externally examined. Subject to their examination we approve these accounts and ask trustees to sign them off prior to their submission to the charity commission.

We appoint Peter Ullathorne as our external examiner. This is the last year that Peter will be examining our accounts, and we are particularly grateful for the years of help he has given us. We thank finance committee for all their hard work, and attach a copy of the accounts to these minutes.

2012.25 Bursary Policy Changes

In order to promote the growth and nurture of YFGM's members, we agree to amend the bursary policy eligibility criteria to include the following lines:

[INCLUDE 1 (g)]

[INCLUDE 1 (h)]

We amend Procedure 7 to include the following line, to support the work of the General Fund Treasurer when there is uncertainty surrounding an application:

[INCLUDE LINE 2]

We also amend the wording of 'YFGM Treasurer' in the policy to 'YFGM General Fund Treasurer' to reflect the changed role descriptions, and change the word 'Officers' in Procedure 4 to 'Trustees'.

We attach the amended copy of the bursary policy to these minutes and thank finance committee for their work.

2012.26 Employment Options

We have heard from Jessica Metheringham-Owlett and Rebecca Mattingley about some of the options available to us for the work done by our employee. Trustees have asked that we consider either outsourcing the work our co-ordinator does to another organisation, or else re-examine this work in the light of our strategic plan. We are very grateful for the work trustees – and particularly the management officer – have done on this.

Many of us feel torn on this issue. We're aware that any changes would be expensive in time, energy and money. Outsourcing wouldn't mean that all the problems of the job would vanish. We also recognise the many positives of having an employee, and are excited by the things we could achieve by investing in ourselves.

However, we acknowledge that we are not always good employers and that the co-ordinator's job can be very difficult. We are excited by the possibilities outsourcing could bring by freeing up employee and volunteer time, and by the flexibility it would give us to take opportunities, follow our passions and work with other organisation in a more co-ordinated way. Some of the best things we have done as a community have been difficult and frightening. We are empowered to take risks and to follow the path that opens up as we follow it. We hope that the volunteer time we might gain could be used in other ways.

We feel strongly that YFGM's identity comes from the people within in, not from who does our administration.

As a result, we ask trustees to create a list of all the things we might want from employment, over the summer. This should include consulting with committees about their needs, and with YFGM as a whole to understand its needs. We ask that they bring the results of this consultation to October YFGM.

We ask that trustees take this list and actively investigate both options presented in the light of the criteria. We ask that they inquire of Woodbrooke, BYM and other organisations how they may/may not facilitate our needs. We also ask that they apply this list to renewing the role description of YFGM's co-ordinator, should YFGM decide to proceed no further with outsourcing.

2012.27 YF (GM free) Politically Engaged Young Friends

Jessica Metheringham-Owlett has proposed that YFGM adopt the Politically Engaged Youngs Friends event she is planning as a YF (GM-Free). We agree wholeheartedly, and think it's a great opportunity to get non-YFGMers along to experience YFGM events.

2012.28 Same-Sex Marriage Consultation

Maurice Nagington has run a session and a special interest group exploring YFGM's contribution to the government's consultation on same-sex civil marriages. He had combined the words produced by those sessions into the following statement:

We agree to submit this to the government as a corporate statement expressing our views on marriage equality. We ask Maurice to disseminate this statement to the wider community. We thank Maurice for the power and truth of his words.

2012.29 Nominations Returns

We appoint the following people to the following positions:

Position	Released	Appointed	Until
Meeting for sufferings Representative	Esther Leighton	Rachael Swancott	May 2015

Quintessential	Maurice Nagington	Thomas Hancock	May 2015
Fundraiser	John Bacon		October 2015
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Judith Przylecka-Brace Michael Jones Allie Nicholson	Rachel Harrison Tim Rouse Anna Philbrick	October 2015
YMG Agenda Planning Committee Representative		Rebecca Mattingly	October 2014
Meeting for Sufferings Minute 36 Commitment Group Representative		Rici Marshall	October 2014
Whoosh! Representatives		Rachael Swancott Katherine McIntosh Abigail Rowse Sam Barnett-Cormack	October 2012
Catering Co-ordinator	Chris Wood	Tom Rowlands	May 2015
Quintessential Trustee	Rebecca Mattingly	Hannah Brock	October 2013
General Fund Treasurer	Andrew Rendle		

2012.30 Caterers

We thank Anna Philbrick and Mary Estell for their work this weekend as caterers.

2012.31 Reports

We have heard a report from one of our planning weekend newcomers, Allie Nicholson, with contributions in absentia from Michael Jones and Judith Przylecka-Brace. We heard of the variety of activities that took place at planning weekend in Cotterdige. From the YFGM-planning business to the whimsical hoola-hooping. We thank Allie for her report and all newcomers for their much appreciated contributions at planning weekend.

We also heard a report from Beth Howard and Peter Doughtfire about the work of Northern Friends Peace Board. Peter told us about the decision to act on the issue of unmanned drones, and the interesting talks about Afghanistan. We heard from Beth about the work NFPB did in York on its development plan, leading to the decision to decrease meetings to 3 a year. We look forward to hopefully hearing more about Palestine from Hannah Brock in October, and issue also discussed by NFPB in York. We thank Peter and Beth for their report.

2012.32 Appeal

We lay down Firefly as our YFGM appeal.

2012.33 Changes of Signatories

Further to minute 2012.22 we appoint

- Edward Ullathorne
- Sally Nicholls
- Ian Goggin
- Hugo Finley

as signatories for the general fund current account and

- Edward Ullathorne
- Sally Nicholls
- Ian Goggin
- Hugo Finley

as signatories for the general fund deposit account and

- Edward Ullathorne
- Sally Nicholls
- Ian Goggin
- Hugo Finley

as signatories for the general fund petty cash account.

2012.34 Pan Transport

We thank Kris Turner for providing pan transport.

2012.35 Co-options to Quintessential

We thank Rachael Swancott-Boon and Thomas Hancock for their excellent work on Quintessential this weekend.

2012.36 Clerk's Offering

This May YFGM in Bournemouth began in earnest this time by exploring the role of nominations through a session on 'Building a Quaker Community', run by our Nominations Committee. The session helped us to understand the vital part that nominations plays in enabling our community to function and grow.

We thank Alistair Fuller (Friends House Outreach Officer) for engaging us in conversation about the possibilities for outreach in our everyday encounters. He challenged us to answer the question of 'why' we are Quakers as if it were an elevator pitch, and drew us into an interesting discussion of what we as individuals prioritise in Quakerism.

We have heard from Michael Wood and Maurice Nagington about their activism work, in a Quaker Quest session organised by Siobhan Haire. It made us realise our role in activism as caring Quakers, and the further opportunities that exist to actively engage in activism in the world around us.

Rachael Swancott-Boon led us in a spirituality session exploring our personal experiences of vulnerability and safety. It led us to some intensely personal experiences of connection and understanding, and above all a longing for more, more, and lots more.

Maurice Nagington brought us to a passionate discussion of the government's same-sex marriage consultation. He worked to distil our thoughts, and we felt led to submit his

excellent statement to the government's consultation.

This was not the only powerful and important business at this YFGM. We felt the power of spirit-led ministry as trustees asked us to discuss how we want the support structure of YFGM to be run. We heard of the fantastic enthusiasm for what YFGM can be, and the opportunities we may have in the future.

As always at a YFGM we have experienced a range of Special Interest Groups that bring to the fore the many and varied interests of our members. [LIST]

We have been particularly moved by our epilogues and prologues this YFGM. Sharing music, gratitude and joy has reminded us of how valuable our shared community is.

This YFGM we have released Rebecca Mattingly as Quintessential Trustee. We cannot emphasise enough the value of her commitment, her ability to speak truth, and her ability to juggle an apparently infinite number of roles simultaneously. Trustees will strongly miss her presence at meetings, though YFGM is especially fortunate to have her as Convenor of Quintessential for at least one more YFGM.

Though we look forward to the October YFGM in Liverpool, when we can unite again as a community, we remind ourselves that there are opportunities for connections between YFGMs if we look for them. YFGM is not an event, it is a community, and it shall ever remain a place of family, friendship and unconditional love for its members, whether at YFGM or otherwise. Love and relationship are at the heart of our community.