

Young Friends General Meeting

Lancaster

YFGM 3rd – 6th May 2013

Present:

Co-Clerks: Sally Nicholls & Ian Goggin

YFGM Finance Trustee: Bryony Elias

Management Trustee: Jessica Metheringham

Coordinator: Hugo Finley

Guests: Helena Chambers, Ben Pink Dandelion

Those Present: Sam Barnett-Cormack, Rhian Blades, Freya Blyth, Hannah Brock, J Capecchi, Sarah Castle, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Edwards, Ellen Elliott, Owen Everett, Rajit Gholap, Matthew Godwin, Catherine Gregory, Siobhan Haire, Kathryn Harding, Beth Howard, Owen Jennings, Fabia Alex Kerr, Selina Larsen, Esther Leighton, Sophie Loewendahl, Rici Marshall, Katharine McIntosh, Hereward Mills, Maurice Nagington, Layla-Olaide Oladimeji, Lauren Parkes, Rhiannon Redpath, Andrew Rendle, Tom Rowlands, Abigail Rowse, Tim Searle-Barnes, Dorina Shahaj, Nicola Sleaf, Hannah Spiers, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon.

Total: **43**

13.13 Opening Minute

We welcome everyone to our May YFGM in Lancaster. We look forward to enjoying the long weekend here together.

13.14 YFGM Accounts

Our Finance Trustee Bryony Elias has presented us with the 2012 accounts. Over the last year, we have managed to reduce our reserves by £12,846. The size of our reserves has been an issue for many years, and we are pleased to note this reduction. 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 Antony Haile as our external examiner. We thank Bryony and finance committee for all their hard work, and attach a copy of the accounts to these minutes.

13.15 Employment

We have heard from our Management Trustee, Jessica Metheringham, about the process following our decision in October to outsource our employment to Britain Yearly Meeting. Jessica explained

that a consultation process has happened, and that we are currently in the middle of an appeal process, which all members of YFGM are encouraged to be part of, if they have concerns.

Subject to this appeal process, YFGM will be laying down the role of employee. This is a very difficult decision. In providing a redundancy package, we have borne in mind our current employee's years of dedicated service to our community, and the part-time nature of the role. YFGM strives to be the best employers that we can be, not because we wish to be 'nice' or 'kind', but to show our gratitude to our employee and to acknowledge the possible difficulties he may face in the current job market. We are a very small organisation, and we recognise that this may cause us financial problems. However, we do not wish to be less generous for fear of hurt to ourselves. We believe that we should make the right decision rather than the convenient decision.

YFGM agrees to pay for our employee to undergo training. We agree to give him six months redundancy pay, and to allow him to take up to a further two months pay in lieu of his notice period, should he not wish to work it.

We recognise that this payment will not discharge our responsibility to act towards our employee with love, and that financial support is not all that is needed, by all members of YFGM.

We thank Jessica and those who have worked on this, for their work on this issue.

13.16 Co-Options

This weekend the following people have been co-opted to serve in the following positions. Tim Searle-Barnes to serve on Quintessential, Jenny McCarthy, Siobhan Haire and Tom Rowlands as overseers, Rhian Blades and Owen Jennings to serve on nominations and Jessica Metherringham as clerk. We thank them for their work this weekend.

13.17 Caterers and Pan Transport

We thank Rici Marshall, Andrew Rendle and Sarah Castle for fantastic catering, and Lauren Parkes and Hereward Mills for providing pan transport.

13.18 Reports

We have heard from our Northern Friends Peace Board representatives, Beth Howard and Peter Doubtfire. NFPB is celebrating its centenary this year, with events such as a walk of remembrance. They are also protesting the government use of drones, and participating in peaceful protests at RAF Waddington. Peter and Beth were particularly impressed with the way that the protesters' anger and hurt was channelled in a positive way, and hoped that members of YFGM might be involved in the NFPB's work.

We also heard a written report from our Meeting for Sufferings representative, Rachel Harrison. Meeting for Sufferings have been deciding whether to extend their boycott of goods from Israeli settlements in the West Bank to include all products from the State of Israel. They have also been responding to recent government cuts, and Rachel spoke of her sadness that our government seems to measure value in purely economic terms. Meeting for Sufferings are also beginning a revision of Quaker Faith and Practice, something YFGM may well be involved in.

We thank Beth, Peter and Rachel for their passion and commitment.

13.19 Nominations

The following names were appointed to the following positions:

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Co-clerk	Sally Nicholls	Brigid Stoney	May 2016
Overseer	Hereward Mills Brigid Stoney	Rhian Blades Rici Marshall	May 2015
Rep to Quaker Life	Esther Leighton		May 2016
QPSW Correspondent	Selina Larson	Tim Searle-Barnes	May 2016
YFGM @ Woodbrooke Planning Group		Nicola Sleape Andrew Rendle Peter Doubtfire	May 2014
SIG Co-ordinator	Helen Percy	Sarah Castle	May 2015
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Sally Rymen Freya Blythe	Dorina Shahaj Catherine Gregory Rhian Blades	Oct 2013
Transition Event Ideas Group		Majk Stokes Hugh Williams	Oct 2013
Nominations Committee	Sophie Lowendahl Rajit Gholap Kim Edwards	Owen Jennings Dorina Shahaj	May 2016
Finance Trustee	Bryony Elias		

13.20 Change of Signatories

- Further to minute 13.19 we appoint:
- Edward Ullathorne
- Brigid Stoney
- Ian Goggin
- Hugo Finley

as signatories for the general fund current account and:

- Edward Ullathorne
- Brigid Stoney
- Ian Goggin
- Hugo Finley

as signatories for the general fund deposit account and:

- Edward Ullathorne
- Brigid Stoney
- Ian Goggin
- Hugo Finley

as signatories for the general fund petty cash account.

13.21 Clerk's Offering

This YFGM we have been considering the theme of being yourself, finding yourself and finding God. Ben Pink Dandelion lead us in a session in which we individually answered written questions about what we believed – a complicated and challenging process for many of us. He talked about our differences, and the ways in which Quakerism has changed over the years, but reminded us that all Quakers share a belief in the power of a gathered meeting for worship, and a direct experience of the divine.

As ever, we are grateful for the longer YFGM and the space this gave us to be quiet, to reflect and to share fellowship. Hannah Spires and Kathryn Harding facilitated a Forum Theatre session, using drama to examine oppression and ways of countering it. Paul Ong lead us in a reflective journey based on identity, and the idea that we can find God through finding ourselves.

This YFGM we have had difficult issues to consider. We are in the process of making some key changes to YFGM, which result in a decision to lay down the role of co-ordinator. This process, which is still ongoing, is hard for us. We were reminded again and again this weekend of the importance of treating one another with loving-kindness, of listening, of loving.

It was a joy to watch our community come together. We enjoyed board games and charades, trips to the pub and to Lancaster, and a wonderful cabaret full of music, songs and laughter. We took part in special interest groups on forum theatre, board games, a walk to the castle, improvised comedy, and disability equality. Helena Chambers lead a special interest group on Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs and Ben Pink Dandelion lead a follow-up to his speaker session. We were sad that a session overrunning meant that Philip Austen was not able to lead a group on NFPB.

We were grateful to be nourished by our community here in Lancaster. We look forward to coming together again in Bristol in October.