

Young Friends General Meeting

Lancaster Friends Meeting House

14-16 November 1997

Minutes

Present:

Co-clerks: Daphne Fisher and Nick Perks
Convenor of Nominations: David Cockcroft
Interchurch/faith Secretary: Katy Turquoise
Co-convenors of Overseers: Nicky Grimes and Kate Coole
Officer of Outreach Committee: Anne Pommier

International Secretary: Hannah Williams
Treasurer: Gavin Burnell
Administrator: Klaus Huber

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bournemouth & Swanage:	Lucy Bush Tim Sanders	Brighouse:	Bethan Hillas Robyn Kearns
Cambridge & Peterborough: Cheshire:	Charlotte Hubback Ruth Todhunter Zoë Smith	Carlisle & Holm: Kendal & Sedbergh:	Stephen Inch Kate Smith
Leicester:	Nessa Williams	Leeds: Lincolnshire:	Anna Benedikz Naomi J. Bailey
Nottinghamshire & Derby:	David Newton	Pickering & Hull:	Sophie Robson
Reading:	Sarah Donaldson	Shaftesbury & Sherborne:	Robin Pairman
Southampton & Portsmouth:	Kate Coole	South East Scotland:	Sally Knowles
Southwark, Lewisham & Bromley:	Mark Ackroyd	Warwickshire:	Michael Simpson
West Devon:	Paddy Uglow	West Somerset:	Jane Cowling
Wirral & Chester:	Flip Bridges	York:	Alex Brierley

Karen Attreed, Paul Bailey, Linda Batten, Philip Batten, Elizabeth Benedikz, Adam Boulter, Sue Bowles, Rachel Bryers, Leif Burrough, Rowan Burrough, David Carter, Jan Caspers, Sarah Clark, Nick Colbeck, Alice Drewery, Bluebell Eikonoklastes, Chris Elliott, Owen Evans, Richard Evens, Lawrence Flynn, Carolyn Forrest, Michael Grimes, Zandy Hemsley, Judi Hodgkin, Julian Hodgkin, Jenny Holmes, Tina Jenkinson, Jonathan Kemp, Clare Lockwood, Alice Lynch, Will Miles, Alice Morning Star, Rachel Muers, Anja Nuttin, Tony Padgett, Ben Parker, Rachel Phillips, Wil Quick, Martin Redfern, Heather Rowlands, Anna Saunders, Anna Sharman, Cathy Sharman, Jenny Shellens, Simon Shepherd, Becky Sherwood, Emily Smith, Sophie Smith, Lana Snook, Juliette Stoller, Ruth Strange, Nick Sturge, Angela Third, Kevin Vento.
Total: 87

97/44 Welcoming Minute

We welcome everybody to Young Friends General Meeting in Lancaster, particularly our visitors Jan Caspers from Germany; Jenny Holmes, the first one year Parliamentary Liaison Assistant at Friends House; and Sarah Clark of "Habitats for Humanity".

97/45 Dots and commas

We thank Anne Pommier and Alice Lynch for volunteering to check our 'dots and commas' this weekend.

97/46 Young Quaker

Hannah Williams has told us of some of the difficulties in the last year with Young Quaker Magazine. We recognise that these events have been painful and exasperating for those involved. We would like to express our thanks to all those who have contributed their time and effort to keep the magazine alive.

One aspect of the problems has been with the financial organisation of the magazine. Gavin Burnell has outlined the history and implications of the financial difficulties. Notes detailing these are appended to these minutes. We are pleased to hear that the majority of outstanding debts have been paid and that Jason Barton, with help from Anna Benedikz, is making progress in reconstructing the 1996 accounts.

We hope that the necessary paperwork will soon be in place to enable cheques to be paid into the YQ account.

97/47 Young Quaker Magazine – The Future

Owen Evans, Sally Knowles and Kate Smith have presented their ideas for a new editing structure. Initially, there will be four editors with responsibility for convening, publicity, advertising and contributions respectively. The intention is for three editors to attend each editing weekend – with one person taking on a support role for that weekend.

When a new editor is appointed, the whole editing team will attend the next editing weekend. The Young Quaker Treasurer will remain a non-editorial post, but they will be expected to present accounts in person to the Young Quaker board twice a year.

The Convenor has responsibility for ensuring everyone is clear about who is doing what at each weekend, and also for liaising with the Young Quaker Treasurer and an officer agreed by the editors and the officers.

We are glad to see the energy the current Young Quaker editors have for making the new system work, and for continuing to produce a vibrant, high quality magazine.

The Young Quaker editors will keep Young Friends informed of developments in the pages of YQ.

97/48 Management Group report

The YFGM Office has successfully moved to Woodbrooke. We thank all those who helped in the move.

We are pleased to welcome Klaus Huber as our new administrator. We thank Charlee Bewsher for her efficiency and hard work on our behalf. The YFGM Office will have e-mail on a trial basis soon. We will review the long term use of e-mail in February.

The Management Group is providing new headed note-paper, including our charity number, to those who need it, in a medium of their choice.

97/49 Nominations Committee Appointment

We appoint Lana Snook and Wil Quick to Nominations Committee for a period of 2 years, beginning now and ending in the autumn of 1999.

97/50 Swarthmore Lecture

The Young Friends' Swarthmore Lecture will be presented at Yearly Meeting in London on 23 May 1998. The Swarthmore Lecture 2nd Draft Editing Group have reported that the 2nd Draft of the book was last week passed to the Swarthmore Lecture Committee who commissioned this lecture.

The Swarthmore Lecture Steering Group have introduced plans for organising the presentation. Leif Burrough is keeping the list of people who need accommodation at Yearly Meeting 1998: he invites people who need somewhere to stay on the 22-25 May 1998 to contact him.

Four people will be appointed this weekend to organise the presentation. In this meeting we have offered some ideas to the Steering Group concerning the presentation. Further ideas are welcomed: they may be sent to Young Quaker or to the new Swarthmore Lecture Presentation Co-ordinators. We have felt an atmosphere of anticipation in our business session and look forward to the next steps in the production of the Swarthmore Lecture.

97/51 Young Friends' Appeal

Vladimir Kakalia, who works at the Centre for Humanitarian Programmes in Sukhum, Abkhazia, has spoken to us about his country and the current activities and programmes at the Centre. We were moved to hear of the ongoing difficulties there and were warmed by the encouraging and inspirational work going on. There are opportunities for Young Friends to contribute camping equipment for outdoor projects in Abkhazia or to work there ourselves. We thank Vladimir Kakalia for coming so far to speak to us today. Daphne Fisher, a member of the current Appeal Group, has told us of their plans for the immediate future, encouraging us to get involved and to make fund-raising suggestions to her or to Rachel Clogg. She has reported that Barri Saunders no longer wishes to pay money into the YFGM Appeal account from her appeal in America (see minute 97/30). We hope for continuing success for the appeal, as an important expression of our social witness.

97/52 FWCC Report

We thank Anna Benedikz for her moving report on the Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial gathering, which was held in Birmingham this summer. We have heard of the troubles affecting Quakers in Burundi and Russia. We hold them in our prayers. We ask our clerks to write to the Russian Young Friends and express our sympathy and support.

97/53 Financial Committee Report

Gavin Burnell, convenor of Finance Committee, has updated us on our financial position. Broadly, it is as expected in our budget, with the exception of additional expenditure by General Fund to cover Young Quaker costs. We note that our expenditure on business meetings is within budget, the income from fees is below budget and does not cover the expenditure.

We are pleased to hear that we have received a grant of £ 18,000 over three years from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to help pay for our administrator's post.

We have now completed registration with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. We understand that all written communication on behalf of General Meeting should identify us as a registered charity.

Further to minute 97/04, seven Friends were given financial assistance to attend Britain Yearly Meeting 1997 to a total cost of £ 708.45.

97/54 Examiners

We appoint the following people as Independent Examiners for one term:

- General Fund: Colin Galbraith, Cambridge Jesus Lane PM
- Employment Fund: Ben Pink Dandelion

- Pardshaw: Lynda Howe

We ask that names of examiners for the Young Quaker and Appeal accounts be brought to our meeting in February.

97/55 Grant to Young Quaker

Further to minute 97/46, we note the expenditure by General Fund on behalf of Young Quaker. We agree that this expenditure shall be in place of the grant of £ 1,300 agreed in 1996 (minute 96/32) for the years 1995 and 1996 and not paid to Young Quaker. We expect the General Fund Treasurer and the Young Quaker Treasurer to continue to work on clarifying an appropriate financial relationship.

97/56 Financial Policy Amendments

We agree the amendments to our Financial Policy as attached to these minutes.

97/57 Young Quaker Stuffing

We appoint Juliet Stoller and Nessa Williams as Stuffing Co-ordinators for the Young Quaker Magazine and we release Caroline Webb from service. We thank London Young Friends for all their hard work over the years, in particular Chris Elliott who has given such unstinting commitment in the past year. We are grateful to Oxford Young Friends for taking on this task.

97/58 Nominations Returns

We appoint the following people to the positions stated for the specified period of time:

- Swarthmore Lecture Steering Group (until the end of May 1998):
Nicky Grimes, Nessa Williams
- Overseers (2 years): Heather Rowlands, Adam Boulter
- Quintessential (3 years): Stephen Inch
- Management Group (3 years): Chris Elliott
- Administrator's Support Group (1 year): Leif Burrough
- Appeal Treasurer (3 years, not beginning with a handover period): Anna Benedikz
- Young Quaker Editor (3 years): Tim Sanders
- Young Quaker Treasurer (3 years, not beginning with a handover period): Richard Evens
- Swarthmore Lecture Presentation Committee (until the end of May 1998):
Kate Coole, Jason Barton, Anne Pommier, Carolyn Forrest

We have chosen not to appoint a new representative to the Friends' Vegetarian Society. We wish to reduce the number of appointments to informal bodies, while encouraging Young Friends to be involved in such groups.

We thank the outgoing people for all their hard work and welcome the new people to their posts.

97/59 Volunteers

The following people have volunteered for these positions at February YFGM:

- Caterers: Ruth Todhunter, Tim Sanders, Anna Benedikz
- Janitors: Sophie Smith, Alice Lynch
- Pan transport: Klaus Huber

97/60 Minute of Record: Officers

There are two new Officers this weekend: The Co-convenor of Overseers, Paddy Uglow, and the Convenor of Nominations Committee, Jane Cowling.

97/61 Habitats for Humanity

Sarah Clark spoke to us about Habitats for Humanity at this YFGM. We thank her warmly.

97/62 Young Quaker account signatories

The new signatories on the Young Quaker account are Richard Evens, Juliette Stoller and Owen Evans.

97/63 The Jamboree

We ask Nick Sturge to co-ordinate organisation of next summer's Jamboree until a committee can be appointed next February. We thank him for offering to do this.

97/64 Closing minute

It has been a pleasure to make use of the excellent facilities at Lancaster Friends Meeting House once again. We thank Lancaster Friends for making us welcome.

It has been a well-disciplined and thoughtful YFGM. We have been inspired to look beyond our own circle to other parts of the world – and this has greatly enriched our time together.

We are grateful to our janitors, Nick Sturge and Carolyn Forrest, for their efficiency, and to our caterers, Adam Boulter and Becky Sherwood, for the delicious organic, fairly-traded food they have provided, and to the other volunteers who have helped us this weekend.

Two people complete their terms as Officers this weekend. David Cockcroft has kept his cool against all the odds as Convenor of Nominations Committee: we have really appreciated his clear explanations and good humour. Nicky Grimes, co-convenor of Overseers, has looked after our comfort with sensitivity and charm. We thank them both for their hard work.

Signed in and on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting:

Daphne Fisher

Nick Perks

Appendices to YFGM Minutes November 1997

1) Appendix to minute 97/46

Young Quaker – financial difficulties 1996-7

- Executive summary: Standard of account keeping has been below a reasonable level for a considerable time (since mid-1996)
- History: Problems started to come to light in May and became increasingly apparent over the summer. Young Quaker Board in August requested return of accounts, but it was not until after Officers met in September that the accounts were collected from the Treasurer.
- Results: Approximately £ 500 worth of cheques (dated Dec 1996 > March 1997) not paid in. Young Quaker Printer not paid for 4-5 months. Young Quaker editors/stuffers owed 2-3 months' expenses. Number of other invoices (mainly Britain Yearly Meeting for postage) not paid. 1996 Accounts not ready to be examined.
- Actions: Accounts were collected by the General Fund Treasurer from the Young Quaker Treasurer in mid-September. All non-Quaker and individual creditors (editors/stuffers) paid from General Fund (total currently around £ 1,700). Haven't yet been able to pay cheques into Young Quaker account due to administrative difficulties.

2) Appendix to minute 97/56

Financial policy amendments

- *Replace clause 1a) with:* Young Friends General Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain ("General Meeting") is a registered charity, number 1064763.
- *Clause 1c): Replace ...Convenor of Overseers... with ...Co-convenors of Overseers...*
- *New Clause 2d), renumber rest of 2):* It may be possible that bank charges may be incurred on bank accounts as a result of acts or omissions by a treasurer. In such cases the Finance Committee shall make a recommendation to Officers as Trustees as to whether the charges should be recovered from that treasurer. Officers may accept or reject such a recommendation or bring the matter before YFGM.