

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING

Edinburgh Central FMH, 1 to 4 May 1998

Minutes

Present:

Co-clerks:	Daphne Fisher	Officer of Outreach:	Anne Pommier
	Nick Perks	Co-convenors of Overseers:	Kate Coole
General Fund Treasurer:	Gavin Burnell		Paddy Uglow
International Secretary:	Hannah Williams	Administrator:	Klaus Huber
Convenor of NomsComm:	Jane Cowling		

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Brighouse	Robyn Kearns	Norwich & Lynn	Rachel Boyd
Bristol & Frenchay	Paul Bailey		Matthew Naumann
Cambridge & Peterb.	Natasha Gawlinski	Nottinghamshire	David Newton
East of Scotland	Rachel Bryers	Pickering & Hull	Tessa Dunning
Guildford & Godalming	Nick Perks	South East Scotland	Robin Naumann
Hardshaw East	Heather Rowlands	South Wales	Ruth Wood
Hereford & mid-Wales	Hannah Engelkamp	Southwark, L. & Br.	Mark Ackroyd
Lancaster	Tony Padgett		Beth Rigby
Leeds	Anna Benedikz	West Devon	Paddy Uglow
Lincolnshire	Naomi Jane Bailey	West Kent	Daphne Fisher
Northants	Sarah Davidson-Steinhardt	West Somerset	Jane Cowling
North Somerset & Wilts	Lu Ecclestone	Wirral & Chester	Flip Bridges
North Wales	Sam Morley	York	Alex Brierley

Jason Barton, Linda Batten, Philip Batten, Simon Best, Charlee Bewsher, Leif Burrough, Rowan Burrough, Paul Calvert, David Carter, David Cockcroft, Jenny Craddock, Alice Drewery, Bluebell Eikonoklastes, Owen Evans, Carolyn Forrest, Stephen Gibbs, Chris Gribble, Michael Grimes, Klayre Hearn, Zandy Hemsley, Judi Hodgkin, Jenny Holmes, Abi Horsfield, Stephen Inch, Peter Kennedy, Sally Knowles, Clare Lockwood, Alice Lynch, Lawrence Martin, Andy May, Irfan Merchant, Will Miles, Alice Morning Star, Rachel Phillips, Wil Quick, Alison Rennie, Emma Rigby, Edd Sellman, Anna Sharman, Jenny Shellens, Tessa Smith, Lana Snook, Mike Stokes, Nick Sturge, Robin Vanner; TOTAL: 76

98/21 Opening Minute

It is great to have Young Friends General Meeting in Scotland again. We welcome everybody to our meeting in Edinburgh, old friends and new.

98/22 Dots and Commas

We thank Owen Evans and Anna Thórunn Benedikz for agreeing to check our dots and commas this weekend.

98/23 Appeal Report

We thank Abi Horsfield and David Newton for reporting on the progress of the Abkhazia Appeal: details may be found in the insert in April YQ. We plan to have a stall at Yearly Meeting where information and small items such as Abkhazian jewellery will be available.

98/24 Outreach Report and International News

Anne Pommier has reported back on the activities of Outreach Committee over the past year. The funds allocated last year have been used to have a stall at Greenbelt, distribute posters to Preparative Meetings and advertise events. The festivals programme will be continuing this summer and it is hoped to run an enquirers' day or weekend alongside October YFGM.

We have also heard of ongoing international events and opportunities.

It is inspiring to hear of current and future opportunities for witness, both in this country and abroad.

98/25 Swarthmore Lecture Presentation

We have heard back from the Swarthmore Lecture Presentation Committee about the Young Friends National Gathering. We have been offered the opportunity to participate this weekend and at Yearly Meeting. We have been challenged to become part of what Young Friends have to say.

98/26 Nominations Committee

We appoint Robyn Kearns and Rachel Bryers to Nominations Committee for a period of two years, starting this weekend.

98/27 Responsibility and Support of post-holders within YFGM

Further to minute 97/27(c), Officers/Overseers/Quintessential have reported back on their ongoing consideration of responsibility and support of post-holders within YFGM. We have taken time as a meeting to share in pairs our experiences of the working of YFGM and our roles within it. We are reminded of the need to educate ourselves and each other in our structures and procedures, and to offer support and take on appropriate levels of responsibility – individually and collectively. We would also like to foster a culture in which we are open to possible ways in which we can contribute to the life of the meeting and also feel able to lay down responsibilities when we need to.

98/28 Nominations Returns

We appoint the following people to the posts which they have kindly agreed to take on.

We release from service the people mentioned below and thank them for all their work on our behalf.

<u>Post</u>	<u>Person Appointed</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Released from Service</u>
Quaker Home Service Representative	Jenny Shellens	3 years	Peter Kennedy
Overseer	Alex Brierley	2 years	Simon Bethel
British Youth Council Observer	Jenny Holmes	3 years	Lawrence Martin Becky Sherwood
Outreach Committee	Nick Sturge	3 years	Mark Ackroyd Nessa Williams

98/29 Management Group Report

Further to minute 98/11, the office can now be e-mailed on yfgm@quaker.org.uk.

We are delighted with the work of our administrator, Klaus Huber. Management Group has informed the meeting that his contract will be renewed in September for a further ten months.

It has been found that the current contract of 14 hours/week allows only the essential, basic work to be completed. Management Group feel that an increase to 16 hours/week would be very beneficial to YFGM. The cost of the additional two hours will be largely offset this year by savings in recruitment costs. YFGM agrees to the increase to take effect from 8 September 1998.

98/30 Finance Committee Report

The Convenor of Finance Committee, Gavin Burnell, has reported to us on the current financial position of General Meeting. 1998 is proceeding smoothly for all our accounts. A budget of £2,000 has been set by the Jamboree Committee including £200 for travel. We agree to meet this latter sum from General Fund. We authorise the treasurer, in consultation with Officers, to make a donation of around £600 to Europe & Middle East Young Friends.

98/31 Amendments to Financial Policy

We have received minute 6 of Finance Committee, held 25/4/98, suggesting some amendments to our Financial Policy (which are appended to these minutes). We accept amendments a) to d).

98/32 CASSA

We thank Charlee Bewsher and members of Care and Support for Survivors of Sexual Abuse (CASSA) who have told us of their organisation and its work. We shall discuss initial ways of supporting CASSA and the possible implications for our current Appeal in a future session.

98/33 Accounts

Gavin Burnell, Convenor of Finance Committee, has presented the 1997 accounts for the General Fund, Employment Fund, Pardshaw and Jamborette accounts. We approve these accounts, which will be published in the 1997 Annual Report, and thank the treasurers and examiners for their work.

98/34 Paying for YFGM weekends

Further to minute 98/13 of our last meeting, we have received minute 7 of Finance Committee, held 25/4/98, about how the YFGM weekends are paid for. We agree with the recommendations of Finance Committee with slight alterations (appended to these minutes), and ask that draft amendments to our Financial Policy are brought to the next convenient meeting.

98/35 Change of Appeal

Members of the Abkhazia Appeal Group have responded in session to our discussions of the YFGM Appeal this weekend. We are also aware of a growing enthusiasm for our concern for the work of CASSA.

After two and a half years, we feel our witness in Abkhazia to have created its own momentum and believe that it will be sustained.

We feel that this Appeal is reaching its natural conclusion and agree that it would be appropriate to lay down this Appeal in October. We expect to appoint a new Appeal Group at that Meeting to take forward our concern for the work of CASSA.

We thank the Appeal Group, its supporters and contributors for all their hard work, with which we are delighted.

98/36 Support of CASSA

We would like to give a grant of £500 to CASSA immediately. We give the Officers authority to allocate further funds over the summer, if CASSA's future is in jeopardy, to a maximum of a further £500. We also ask the clerks to write to the clerks of Bradford PM indicating our commitment and asking for their support.

We ask Charlee Bewsher to present this item more fully at October YFGM. We encourage Young Friends to begin exploring the issues brought up by yesterday's interest group and session.

98/37 The Swarthmore Lecture

The book of the Swarthmore Lecture 1998 has gone to press and we shall present the lecture to Yearly Meeting in less than three weeks' time. We look forward with joy and trepidation to the launch of our new book and the presentation of our lecture. Since taking it on in February 1996, we have put enormous amounts of energy into producing this lecture. We have questioned what we believe, and explored what we feel. We have struggled to find the time and commitment needed, giving as much or as little as we could – and yet the lecture is ours, it belongs to us: everyone who has silently upheld our work or been part of YFGM has contributed. The lecture has become precious to us. In the process of producing it, we have experienced joy and tears, anguish and laughter, power and vulnerability. We have been transformed and inspired.

We are excited to be at the point of offering our lecture to the wider Society. It has been a gift to us, and it is our gift to all who read or hear it. We hope that as the process has changed us, so it will be an inspiration to the Yearly Meeting.

We are deeply grateful to all the people who have put so much work into producing the written lecture, and we offer our passionate support to those who are taking the presentation forward.

98/38 Volunteers for next YFGM

The following people have volunteered for YFGM in Bristol 23-25 October:

Caterers:	Mike Stokes and Paul Bailey
Off-floor accommodation co-ordinator:	Paul Bailey
Crèche co-ordinator:	Jennie Craddock
Janitors:	Bluebell Eikonoklastes and Owen Evans
Pan Transport:	to London: London Young Friends from London to Jamboree: Rachel Phillips

98/39 Closing Minute

We have been blessed by sunshine for our General Meeting in Edinburgh. We are deeply blessed in each other, our time together, the tensions and power of community and our glimpses of the spirit.

We thank our caterers, Jenny Holmes and Bluebell Eikonoklastes, and Janitors, Tessa Dunning, Abi Horsfield, Lawrence Martin and Nick Sturge, for enabling the practicalities of the weekend to run so smoothly.

We are very grateful to both our host churches for the excellent, if divided, facilities.

Signed in and on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting

Nick Perks

Daphne Fisher

Appendices

Appendix to Minute 98/31

Finance Committee meeting, Woodbrooke 25 April 1998, Minute 6a-d:

We agree to suggest to YFGM the following amendments to the Financial Policy.

- a) Delete 'Interchurch/faith Secretary' from clause 1c
- b) Insert a new clause 2e and re-letter the following clauses:
 - 2e) *Finance Committee shall take steps to monitor the operation of the accounts of YFGM to ensure that they are managed with due care. In the event that an account is not being so managed, Finance Committee shall draw this matter to the attention of the Officers as the Trustees and may recommend action. Officers may accept or reject such a recommendation or bring the matter before YFGM.*
- c) Add 'to serve as fundraisers' after 'two other Young Friends appointed by General Meeting' in new clause 2h
- d) Add 'and overseen by the Fundraisers' after 'shall be the responsibility of the Finance Committee' in new clause 2I

Appendix to Minute 98/34:

Finance Committee meeting, Woodbrooke 25 April 1998, minute 7 (alterations made by YFGM in italics):

Paying for YFGM Weekends

Further to minute 98/13 of YFGM, we have considered the costs of YFGM weekends.

We agree that there should be a relationship between the costs of business meetings, *but* not officers/admin costs, and the fees charged for the weekends.

We think that there should be a defined minimum and maximum fee and the amount paid between this being discretionary, but based on two days income after housing costs.

We suggest the following *guidelines* to fees.

Income After housing costs (£/week)	Fee (£)
<50	11
50→100	11→17
100→150	17→28
150→200	28→40
>200	40 and up to 60 for 3 day YFGMs