

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

Nottingham Friends Meeting House, 12th - 14th October 2001

Minutes

Present:

Co-clerks:	Sarah Donaldson	Co-convenors of Overseers:	Clare Lockwood
	Anne Pommier		Carolyn Forrest
Treasurer:	Andy May	Officer of Outreach:	Nick Sturge
Convenor of Officers:	Carol Robinson	Co-ordinator:	Simon Best
Convenor of Nominations Committee:	Mike Stokes		

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bristol & Frenchay:	Marion Penn	Colchester & Coggeshall:	Maddie Hurford
Dorking & Horsham:	Blair Hunwick		Maud Grainger
East of Scotland:	Matthew Gee	Hardshaw West:	Harry Kingham
Hertford & Hitchin:	Angela Ray		
Lancaster:	Philip Davies-Vengochea		
Leeds:	Clare Middleton	Lewes:	Sarah Elliott
	Bluebell Eikonoklastes	Luton & Leighton:	Rachael Veazey
North Somerset & Wilts:	Jessica Thatcher	Notts. & Derbys:	Paul Sladen
Norwich & Lynn:	Richie Rushmer	Reading:	Alice Drewery
Settle:	Anna Watson	Staffordshire:	Marie-Helen Drouin
Shaftesbury & Sherbourne:	Sophie Buxton	Southampton & Portsmouth:	Mark Siddal
	Samuel Simon	Warwickshire:	David Cockcroft
West Somerset:	Celine Potts	West Devon:	Paddy Uglow
			Robin Andrews
Australia YM:	Sarah Davies		

Adam Boardman, Aidan McCartney, Alice Lynch, Ben Parker, Ben Maher, Ceri Hillas, Charlotte Allan, Catherine Rennie, Cieran Stuart, David Sunderland, Ella Spiers, Emily Baker, Frances Hopkins, Guy Milner, Heather Rowlands, Hester Spiers, Hugh Williams, Hugo Finley, James Barnard, Jane Ruell, Jonti Ruell, Jennifer Brett, Jennifer Moy, Jenny Shellens, John Myers, Juliette Stoller, Katy Turquoise, Linda Batten, Liz Slade, Nessa Williams, Nick Perks, Nicola Grimes, Paul Levy, Rachel Phillips, Rachel Ramaker, Robin Vanner, Ruth Wood, Simon Shepherd, Simon Gray, Sophie Buxton, Stephen Wolfenden, Tamar Morton-Jones, Tim Hudson, Wil Quick, TOTAL: 79

01/33 Opening Minute

We welcome each other to Nottingham for Young Friends General Meeting. We particularly welcome Sarah Davies from Australia YM, and we look forward to a rich and full weekend.

01/34 Management Group Report

We have heard from Management Group who have successfully recruited our new co-ordinator, Simon Best, since last May. They are also replacing some office equipment. Simon is settling in and welcomes suggestions for the outreach part of his role in the office.

01/35 Report from YFGM Pilgrimage to 1652 Country

We have heard the epistle from the Young Friends General Meeting Pilgrimage to 1652 country. A copy is attached to the minutes. A varied programme of speakers, visits, reading, and worship helped to make the pilgrimage a successful event. Although the diversity of the group made for some challenges, a willingness to be open led to a strong sense of community.

Despite a lower attendance than hoped for, the event made a loss of only £7.03. This was covered by the float from the General Fund. We thank all those who worked so hard on this event.

01/36 Pardshaw Newcomers Gathering

Pardshaw Committee held a successful and well attended gathering this summer. Bookings have gone up and the grant we provided has been a worthwhile expenditure, although the committee doesn't recommend future use of a minibus.

They propose to hold just one organised event a year from now on and we are encouraged to make use of the building informally in the meantime.

They have been unable to present a full summary of the accounts today but we ask they to report to February YFGM, by which time they should have successfully reconstructed their accounts.

01/37 Finance Report

Our General Fund Treasurer Andy May has presented the YFGM Consolidated Accounts for 2000. We accept these as our accounts. Overall our financial situation is good. We are concerned about the high level of our reserves and we continue to look for worthwhile uses for our money.

The Appeal and consolidated accounts are still with the examiners, but they will be submitted to the Charity Commission and published in the Annual Report for 2000.

We ask Finance Committee to ensure that money donated to our previous appeal (Supporting Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse) is distributed appropriately.

We appoint the following examiners for the 2001 YFGM accounts (sheet attached).

We thank Andy warmly for all his work on our behalf.

01/38 Practical Peace-Making

We thank Kiri Smith of Turning the Tide for coming to speak to us today. We have been encouraged to think of action we can take for peace, and we hope to think more about these issues in a special interest group this afternoon.

01/39 Report from a meeting of Officers, Overseers, and Quintessential

Officers, Overseers, and Quintessential met for a weekend to discuss their roles and responsibilities and to consider how YFGM has been running over the past year. The weekend was a valuable opportunity to reflect on the practice of OOQ and the way it works together.

01/40 Appeal

We thank Chris Hunter, Jon James and Camilla Carr for coming to share their experiences of their work with Little Star in Chechnya and Ingushetia with us. We have gained insight into the background of the war in Chechnya and an understanding of the work they are doing to rehabilitate traumatised children.

The Little Star project has trained a team of 50 counsellors and psychologists who work through art, drama and music to help children regain their childhood.

Our appeal in support of this work has raised £9609.78 so far through fund-raising activities in local meetings and the sale of T-shirts and tea towels. Rachael Veazey is currently working on a play to be performed at BYM in 2002.

We send our love and support to all involved at Little Star.

01/41 Report from Britain Yearly Meeting 2001

Harry Kingham and Linda Batten have reported back to us on Britain Yearly Meeting 2001. This year Yearly Meeting was residential and this gave more time to discuss different themes. Harry and Linda gave us a sense of the content of the business sessions, and told us something of their experiences. We thank them for their report.

01/42 Summer Event 2002

A special interest group met to consider an event to be held in the summer of 2002. They propose that an event should be held at Pardshaw on the theme of wildlife and the environment. We ask nominations committee to bring forward the names of 2 people for one year to work with the Pardshaw committee in organising this event.

We suggest that the events treasurer is involved and pays the Pardshaw treasurer for the use of Pardshaw per person/per night.

01/43 Volunteers

We thank the following people for volunteering to help in the following ways at the next YFGM in Muswell Hill on February 8th – 10th 2002

Charlotte Allen } Janitors
Celine Potts }

Nick Sturge } Caterers
Mark Siddall }

Ben Maher Pan transport

Rachel Phillips Off-floor accommodation

01/44 Nominations

The following people are appointed to the following posts and we thank those Friends released from service.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Released from service</u>	<u>Person Appointed</u>
Management Group	3 years	Simon Gray	Heather Rowlands
Outreach Committee	3 years	Nick Sturge	Maddie Hurford
Outreach Committee	3 years	Ruth Wood	Ruth Wood
Pardshaw Committee	3 years	Anna Sharman	Matthew Gee
Overseer	2 years	Aidan McCartney	Tim Hudson
Co-ordinator's Support Group	1 year	Ella Spiers	Nick Perks
Children & Young People's Committee Representative	3 years	Nessa Williams	Blair Hunwick
Events Treasurer	1 year	Marion Penn	Marion Penn
Summer Events Committee	1 year		Jennifer Brett
Nominations Committee	2 years	Ruth Wood	Hugh Williams
			Adam Boardman

As no names have come forward for General Fund Treasurer, Officers will look into ways to make the work of the General Fund Treasurer less demanding and we will appoint in February, when our current Treasurer is released from service.

01/45 Letter to the Prime Minister

A small group met yesterday to draft a letter to the Prime Minister expressing our distress at the current situation in Afghanistan. The text of the letter is attached. We ask our clerks to sign this letter on behalf of YFGM. We ask our co-ordinator to add a footnote explaining the nature of our organisation. The letter will also be sent to the national press and relevant Quaker publications. We thank the group who drafted this letter for us.

01/46 Closing Minute

This weekend we have been fortunate enough to have several outside speakers. These sessions have given us time to think about how our actions can have a positive effect on our world. Kiri Smith of Turning the Tide encouraged us to think imaginatively and to take small steps in building peace. Camilla Carr, Chris Hunter, and John James told us of the work of the Little Star project, reminding us that there are real people who can benefit from our work.

Here in YFGM, Nick Sturge has come to the end of his term as Officer of Outreach. We have valued his energy and commitment over the last three years, and we thank him for his hard work. Thanks too to our caterers, Sophie Buxton and Paul Levy, and to our janitors, Adam Boardman and Paddy Uglow.

We look forward to seeing each other again in February at Muswell Hill.

Signed in and on behalf of YFGM

Sarah Donaldson & Anne Pommier
Co-clerks