



Young Friends General Meeting Lancaster 21 – 23 October 2016 Minutes

Those Present:

Rose Almond, Matthew Alton, Jenny Baines, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Lynda Berry, Andrew Bibb, Faith Biddle, Ella Booth, Rachael Booth, Bark Borthwick, Liam Brighton, Hannah Brock, Devi Cardero, Toni Carmichael-Harris, Aidan Childs, Roseanne Clarke, Hannah Cook, Tas Cooper, Alex Bleakley, Billie-Jo Dearden, Teala Dearden, Carla Denyer, Alice Donaldson, Sam Donaldson, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Edwards, Ellen Elliot, Rachel Evans, T. Freeman, Claudia Fry, C. Gould, Naomi Haigh, Laurence Hall, Thomas Hancock, Miriam Harrold, Samantha Jeffrey, Agnieszka Jekot, Mairi Jones, Francesca Loise, Johanna Longmore, Thea Luckcock, Rici Marshall, Eliza Martin, Jenny McCarthy, Rowan Orme, Devon Peterka, Aidan Ray, Andrew Rendle, Tim Rouse, Abigail Rowse, Ruby Sadler-Andrews, Anne Seilly, Kristin Skarsholt, Ella Swinson Reid, Jocelyn Tringham, Kellie Turner, Nick Watts, Jacob Webb, Andrew Wood, Philip Wood

Total: 60

Co-Clerks	Peter Doubtfire & Jenny McCarthy
Trustees	Toni Carmichael-Harris, Peter Doubtfire, C. Gould, Francesca Loise, Jenny McCarthy, Kellie Turner
Coordinator	Rachel Evans



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2016.24 Discerning the creation of new roles

We have considered whether YFGM should ask our nominations committee to find names for representatives to Quaker Voluntary Action's trustees, BYM sustainability group and the Engaging Young Adult Friends steering group.

We recognise the importance of not burdening our nominations committee, and our members, with roles that may stretch them too far. We hope that Quaker groups will consider young Friends in their nominations process. We do not ask our nominations committee to find names for QVA rep.

We feel that as climate change is something that will affect our generation in the future, it is a good idea to have a young voice on the BYM sustainability group.

We feel that it is important to ensure YFGM has a presence on the Engaging Young Adult Friends steering group. We hope that we can learn from this group more truths about both young adult Friends in Britain, and what YFGM is for those who attend, and those who do not.

We ask nominations committee to find names for these roles.

2016.25 Finance – Budget and Approving an Examiner

We have heard from C. Gould that further to minute 2016.17, the accounts for 2015 did not have substantive changes as presented, and so are approved by trustees.

We agree to appoint James Rattenbury to examine the accounts, prior to submission to the charity commission.

Finance committee have presented a first draft of the 2017 budget, in anticipation that a revised draft will be brought to YFGM in February 2017 for approval. Noting that funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust has come to an end, we are encouraged to support YFGM's finances by encouraging area meetings to send reps, booking travel tickets in advance, suggesting and taking part in fundraising activities and paying contributions for the residential weekends.

2016.26 Representatives' Reports

We have heard reports from Hannah Brock on interfaith and church ecumenical links, including the work of the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR); and Tas Cooper on the Paradise in the City ecumenical event in Poland.

We thank these Friends for their reports



2016.27 Mental Wellbeing Review Launch

We have heard from Ellen Elliot, Laurence Hall and Jenny Baines about the launch of the Mental Wellbeing at YFGM review. We are encouraged to complete the survey, which is available online or in paper format. We thank the working group for their ongoing work.

2016.28 Co-opted Members of Committees

Kim Edwards, Thomas Hancock and Rici Marshall were co-opted to Quintessential this weekend. We thank these Friends for their service.

2016.29 Catering

We thank Sam Barnett-Cormack for catering this weekend.

2016.30 Special Interest Groups

The following Special Interest Groups were held this weekend:

Special Interest Group	Led by
A talk on polyamory	Mish Liddle
A workshop exploring the future of our Trident Concern	Hannah Brock & Peter Doubtfire
A walk around Lancaster	Mark Borthwick



2016.31 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Rep to Northern Friends' Peace Board	Matt Godwin	Ruby Sadler-Andrews	October 2019
Speakers and SIGs Coordinator	Nick Watts	Laurence Hall	October 2018
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Devi Cardero Becky Garnault María Martínez García-Armero	Ella Swinson Reid Matt Alton Roseanne Clarke	February 2017
BYM Sustainability Group Rep	-	Claudia Fry	October 2019
Engaging Young Adult Friends steering group Rep	-	Kellie Turner	October 2019 (depending on how this develops)
Quintessential	-	Devi Cardero	October 2019
Coordinator's Support Group	-	Thomas Hancock Rose Almond Hannah Brock	July 2017
Management Trustee	-	Tim Rouse	February 2020
Nominations Committee	Tim Rouse	-	-
International Secretary	Jenny Baines	<i>No appointment has been made. Nominations committee will reconsider in February.</i>	-
Rep to 'Paradise in the City' event	Freya Blyth Tas Cooper	-	-
Rep to QCCIR	Stephen Clement	-	-

We thank those released for their service



2016.32 Clerks' Offering

Around 60 of us gathered in Lancaster from the 21st to the 23rd of October for an autumnal YFGM. For many of us it was our first experience of Young Friends General Meeting and a noisy and energetic welcome session helped us begin to get to know each other. We built more fellowship over meals, talk and washing up.

We began the Saturday thinking about the spirituality we bring to meeting for worship for business, and found out that what sometimes feels like a mundane part of Quaker life can reveal truths about how the divine reaches into all parts of our life as Quakers.

In our epilogues we explored our own spirituality and meditated on the changes life can bring to ourselves and to our community, at this time of the year.

Ruth Wilde led us in an exploration of Quaker discipleship – does this mean leading, following, or simply walking the path together? With a great diversity of beliefs and experiences, can we say there is such a thing as the ‘essentials’ of Quakerism? When words struggle to express these things, what we feel through our shared practice can unite us.

Hilary Wainwright gave a talk on the Lucas Project, when 40 years ago arms workers united to make ambitious plans to use their skills to make more socially useful products. Hilary highlighted some of the differences between then and now, but also made the case that valuing workers’ skills and helping transfer them to positive use remains relevant today.

In tumultuous times, YFGM remains a space to ground ourselves, even as our own community welcomes newcomers and adapts to changing circumstances. What remains consistent is the fellowship we feel, whether in deep spiritual sharing, or over a simple cup of tea.

We carry this fellowship with us as we leave Lancaster, and look forward to reconvening in February.



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PD	Di Ross
	Indira Bant
James	Celine
Laurence Hall	John
Abhinav	ASR
P. L. Evans	Ed
Scott Biddle	Lynne Zeng
John	Nurana Monrad
John	A Coule & Buckley
John	Barnes
John	John
John	John
John	CA
Andrew Dobb	King Chiara Edwards
John	Jacob Webb
John	Ugnieska Jkot
John	Thomas Hancock
John	Jerry Latham
John	