

# Young Friends General Meeting

## Sheffield

### 26 – 29 May 20 17

## Minutes

#### Those Present:

Matt Alton, Jennie Atherton, Jenny Baines, Lucas Bain-Lefevre, Rowena Bashforth, Marta Berbel Gallego, Lynda Berry, Faith Biddle, Freya Blyth, Ella Booth, Rachael Booth, Olivia Brabazon, Liam Brighton, Hannah Brock, Eleni Burgess, Devi Cardero, Toni Carmichael, Miriam Chapman, Rosie Clarke, Stephen Clement, Brian Collins, Hannah Cook, Samuel Cooper, Tas Cooper, Alex Bleakley, Billie-Jo Dearden, Teala Dearden, Peter Doubtfire, Michelle Dumont, Thomas Eddington, Kim Edwards, James Evans, Rachel, Evans, T. F., Claudia Fry, Eleanor Fuller, Joseph Fuller, Becky Garnault, Joshua Gomersall, Arek Grabinski, Naomi Haigh, Laurence Hall, Alice Hamlin, Thomas Hancock, May Harrison, Rachael Harrison, Miriam Harrold, Jaz Higgs, Naomi Hooke, Ali Hussain, Rachel Job, Francesca Loise, Thea Luckcock, Gabriel Martel, Jenny, McCarthy, Andrew Rendle, Davy Richardson, Tim Rouse, Rachel Rowan Olive, Abigail, Rowse, Ruby Sadler-Andrews, Anne Seilly, Weronika Sikorska, Kristin Skarsholt, James Stark, Ella Swinson Reid, Vicky Tedder, Peter Tyler, Amanda Veale, Chris Venables, Nick Watts, Jacob Webb, Becky Worth, T. Wright

**Total: 74**

Co-Clerks	Peter Doubtfire & Jenny McCarthy
Trustees	Peter Doubtfire, Francesca Loise, Jenny McCarthy, Tim Rouse
Coordinator	Rachel Evans

### 20 17.10 Finance – 20 16 accounts and appointing an examiner

C. Gould, our finance trustee, has brought the name of Tom Heidemann as external examiner of our accounts for 20 16, and we make this appointment. We appreciate the skills and experience Tom will bring to this task and thank him for undertaking this for us.

We thank Finance Committee for their hard work in putting together and presenting YFGM's accounts for 20 16. We approve these accounts subject to examination, and attach them to these minutes.

### 20 17.11 Nominations to Nominations Committee

We appoint Jenny Baines, T. Wright and Claudia Fry to serve on Nominations Committee until May 2020.

### 20 17.12 YFGM's report to Meeting for Sufferings

We have heard the report on YFGM that our Meeting for Sufferings representatives have written to be presented at the next Meeting for Sufferings. We thank Laurence Hall, Rici Marshall Cross and trustees for the work they have put into this report. We ask trustees to make sure the report also reflects the value that outside speakers place on being invited to YFGM and the way in which YFGM helps individuals in our community grow and connect with the wider body of Quakerism and the rest of the world.

### 20 17.13 Co-options to committees

Role	Co-option
Quintessential	Andrew Rendle Rachael Harrison
Overseers	Thomas Hancock Claudia Fry Kristin Skarsholt Freya Blyth
Outreach	Matt Alton
Nominations Committee	Jenny Baines

### 20 17.14 Speakers

We have heard from Michael Elstub and John Bourton about Veterans for Peace. We have had video contact with young Friends from Philadelphia, co-ordinated by Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt.

### 20 17.15 Reports

We have heard a report from our planning weekend newcomers, James Evans and Jaz Higgs.

## 2017.16 Special Interest Groups

The following Special Interest Groups were held this weekend:

Special Interest Group	Led by
Unorthodox meditation	Devi Cardero & Gabriel Martel
Revival and renewal – Young Friends in BYM	Jenny McCarthy & Chris Venables
Home truths – Creating solutions to the housing crisis	Jenny Brierley & Laurence Hall

## 2017.17 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Outreach	Abi Rowse	Matt Alton	May 2020
Quintessential	-	Vicky Tedder	May 2020
Planning Weekend New comer	Peter Tyler Jaz Higgs James Evans	Rachel Rowan Olive Eleni Burgess Jennie Atherton	October 2017
Representative to Quaker Life	-	Abi Rowse Kim Edwards (both are reappointed to this role)	May 2020
Overseers	Eliza Martin	Tom Eddington Jaz Higgs Faith Biddle	May 2019
Clerk	Peter Doubtfire	<i>Carried over</i>	-
Management Trustee	Jenny McCarthy	-	-

We have been presented with a minute by our Nominations Committee, which we attach to these minutes. We are grateful to Nominations Committee for bringing these issues into the light of the meeting. We recognise that as a community we all have a part to play in caring for one another, and helping with practical tasks, and feel that by doing so we can help support and uphold our role-holders, especially overseers.

We recognise that this is part of an ongoing conversation about supporting the mental-wellbeing of everyone taking part in YFGM. Making changes to how YFGM organises itself is a daunting task, one which will be difficult and stressful at times. However, we remain hopeful, and trust our discernment process to lead us forward. We are encouraged by the first steps that have been implemented already this weekend.

## 20 17.18 Clerks' Offering

We gathered on a hot weekend in Sheffield to get to know one another through worship, listening, games, work and food.

We spent some time together imagining island utopias and thought about what sort of community we would create. How would we eat, learn, worship and look after one another? Would we seek and accept contact with the world beyond ours?

We also took part in a world café-style conversations around the topics of community, home, why we come to YFGM and Christianity in Quakerism. The time and space in which we listen to one another's thoughts and experiences is a precious gift for our community. We value the chance to begin conversations we hope to carry on.

We connected across an ocean (via video link) with young Friends from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in the USA. Hearing their stories of creating and working with conflict and change within their yearly meeting was eye-opening and made us think about our own situation within BYM. We hope to further the connection with inspiration and mutual support from the young Friends community we have met.

John Bourton and Michael Elstub from Veterans for Peace shared moving personal stories of their experiences in the military and their journeys to becoming peace activists. As we build our own community, they reminded us of the importance of recognising the humanity of those who choose very different paths, whilst standing firm in what we believe to be right.

In epilogues, prologue and preparation for worship, Quintessential have helped us to stay grounded in our spiritual practice and be thankful for our community.

We have made extra space this weekend for simply being together. We have taken the opportunity to explore the city, enjoying rambling walks and rambling conversation. We have taken time to look after ourselves and each other, and our community feels richer for it.

We leave Sheffield grateful for the chance to journey together over this weekend. As we continue on our individual paths, we look forward to the next time they will meet.

Attachment I YFGM accounts for 2016

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS				Charity No 1064763		
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>						
For the period from		01 Jan 2016	To	31 Dec 2016		
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>						
Receipts	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year equivalent to the nearest £	
Donations From Young Friends	5,144	-	-	5,144	6,405	
Grants	45,227	-	-	45,227	36,342	A
Donations and Legacies from Meetings and Individuals	6,081	-	-	6,081	3,132	
Interest	39	-	-	39	58	
Fundraising Events	907	-	-	907	-	B
Other receipts	536	-	-	536	315	C
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>57,934</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,934</b>	<b>46,252</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>57,934</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,934</b>	<b>46,252</b>	
<b>Payments</b>						
Support of meeting - YFGM gatherings	12,509	-	-	12,509	14,367	D
Support of meeting - other	2,937	-	-	2,937	4,730	E
Staff and Office costs	36,184	-	-	36,184	21,534	F
Outreach	2,945	-	-	2,945	-	G
Accessibility and Bursaries	3,398	-	-	3,398	6,048	H
Other	2,000	-	-	2,000	-	I
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>59,974</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,974</b>	<b>46,679</b>	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>59,974</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,974</b>	<b>46,679</b>	
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(2,040)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-2,040</b>	<b>-427</b>	
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>						
Cash funds last year end	61,991	6,180	-	68,171	-	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>59,951</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,131</b>		
<b>Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period</b>						
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £		
Cash funds	General Fund	27,236	6,180	-		
	General Fund Deposit Account	32,716	-	-		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>59,952</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>-</b>		J
Liabilities	Details	Fund	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)		
	YALP Bursary agreed in 2016 but not claimed	Unrestricted funds	1,730	09 March 2017		
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval		

Notes						
<b>A.1</b>	In 2016 we received a single grant of £13,000. This was a one-off which we did not receive in 2015.					
<b>A.2</b>	£26,592 of this figure in 2015 and 2016 was from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), which was granted in four instalments of £6,648.					
<b>B</b>	This is a new category. This event raised £907.39, and cost £547.02, meaning its net gain was £360.35. Although this is not an excessive fundraising amount, there were other aspects of our charitable remit achieved by the event such as community-building, and outreach amongst a wider audience. We hope to increase on these financial and community efforts in coming years.					
<b>C</b>	This is sales of anti-Trident concern T-shirts and reclaimed gift aid.					
<b>D</b>	Accessibility fund is now being accounted for together with bursaries, rather than under "Support of meeting - YFGM gatherings".					
<b>E</b>	Outreach costs are now being accounted for separately, rather than included in "Support of meeting - other".					
<b>F</b>	This now includes costs other than the annual invoice - the invoice for 2015 was submitted in January 2016, plus there are quarterly invoices for office costs, a trustees' weekend and miscellaneous extras.					
<b>G</b>	Outreach costs are now being included here, not under "Support of meeting - other".					
<b>H</b>	The 2015 figure refers to bursaries only and includes grants for YALP, which were not claimed in 2016. The 2016 figure now includes the accessibility fund which was formerly under "Support of meeting - YFGM gatherings".					
<b>I</b>	This was pledged by YFGM to the FWCC World Plenary Meeting travel bursary fund in October 2015.					
<b>J</b>	The £1 discrepancy is due to rounding differences between the "total cash funds", and the "cash funds this year end" data.					

## Attachment II      Minute from the Nominations Committee

It is not the norm for us to be finding four names to serve on a committee at once. The unspoken can put a lot of pressure on a community and it feels important to acknowledge that this situation is a result of brokenness in our systems. Our committees in recent times have been under a lot of stress, something that many of us are all too aware of, but which can be invisible to those of us who have not been told. Overseers have not been the only committee struggling, but we find ourselves this weekend filling almost the entire committee.

We are full of optimism about the names we have found, and thank them for their willingness to serve. We also know that those serving in recent times have been very strong names and have given a lot. In order for this new group to flourish, change must also come from outside of the committee. We thank all of those who have served, however briefly, for their gifts to the community, and look with hope to this opportunity for YFGM to stand behind not only this but all of its committees. We must make use of every pair of hands, and welcome fresh eyes and questioning minds to nourish our culture of upholding one another. This is fertile ground for change.