

Aims and purposes

Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) is a registered charity that provides a national community to young adults who are members, attenders of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) or individuals who are interested in the principles and practices of Quakers. The overall aim of YFGM is to advance religion in accordance with the principles and practices of Quakers.

Through our shared worship we are led to a shared commitment to equality, peace, simplicity and truth.

Objectives and Activities

In order to provide a nourishing community where as many people as possible are welcome, Young Friends meet for three residential weekends a year predominantly within Quaker meeting houses around the country. The meetings gather to worship together, facilitate informed discussions about concerns that members of the group hold and socialise together.

When planning our activities, the trustees maintain an oversight to ensure public benefit is considered. Of particular relevance is the Commission's guidance on the benefit created by charities for the advancement of religion. To this end, YFGM offers a space for members to put their faith into action by:

- Adopting concerns as a community.
- Providing pastoral care for those who attend YFGM gatherings.
- Developing their understanding of the 'Quaker faith and practice', 'Advices and Queries', Quaker testimonies, and the roles that stillness, reflection, community and understanding can play in everyday life.

To enable YFGM to be as accessible and open as possible funding is provided to cover the costs of travel for newcomers; Outreach committee run sessions to demystify Quakers and YFGM for those who are new to the gatherings; and funding is available to provide accommodation and assistance for anyone with accessibility needs.

Achievements and performance

Updates from 2014

Nottingham held the last YFGM of 2014. The weekend saw the community adopt two concerns, as it was collectively felt that action needed to be taken on both the issues of mental wellbeing and the potential renewal of the nuclear deterrent Trident. Working groups were selected at the start of 2015 to carry the concerns forward on behalf of the community.

After the adoptions of both concerns there was a lot of energy to commence work straight away. Activities in relation to mental wellbeing and the replacement of trident were planned for the meeting in Norwich in February. Being predominantly a campaigning concern, the replacement of Trident group ran a session on how to write letters to those in power; the mental wellbeing concern designed a survey to establish what direction the meeting wanted the working group to take the concern. It was decided by a majority of the members that they would like to see the concern focus on the wellbeing inside the community of YFGM.

Residential gatherings

In 2015 YFGM was hosted in the cities of Norwich, Leicester and York. While planning the residential weekends it was decided that the weekend's activities would centre around specific themes. These themes revolved around the Quaker testimonies.

As Norwich marked the official start of work relating to the concerns adopted by YFGM, it was appropriately given the theme of faith in action and community spirituality. Alongside the activities discussed in the previous section of this report sessions ran about the possible services that members could offer to the wider Quaker community, the action of voting as a method to show your faith and learning about Islamic and Pagan approaches to giving thanks.

The second residential weekend in Leicester's theme was simplicity. A discussion about Quaker language was facilitated, alongside mindfulness sessions; where a variety of sensory experiences were scattered throughout the meeting house to help members experience being 'present'. All YFGM events are crammed with interesting speaker sessions, special interest groups and spirituality sessions but most importantly opportunities to connect with each other spontaneously. Leicester is a good example of this as the meeting house garden was used to play games, and after meeting for worship football was played with some of the children from the local meeting.

The final residential weekend of the year was held in York. The theme for the weekend was inner and outer peace, which tied our two concerns together nicely. The meeting was the biggest attendance for the year and offered us a challenge that we rose to as a community. York meeting house was under renovation when the meeting was held and consequently meant that some rooms were not available for use. We worked with the meeting house staff to deliver on our commitment to making events accessible and adhering to health and safety regulations.

In addition to the regular three meetings held annually there was a "YF(GM free)" event held in Reading. This was organised by the working group of the Trident concern. The event helped members to explore their feelings towards the nuclear weapon and to channel those feelings towards making real change. The weekend also gave members the opportunity to connect with a similar campaign group focusing on the same subject.

Reserves policy

It is YFGM policy that the minimum level of reserves that we aim to maintain should be approximately equal to six months to one year plus any expenditure required in order to honour existing employment contracts. We may also need to build up extra funds to enable us to offer a new contract on this basis. This is in order to enable us to survive a sudden drop in our expected income and to get new fundraising strategies in place without immediately curtailing our activities. The level of reserves required should be considered annually during the budgeting process, and the budget should be set in accordance with this policy.

Structure, governance and management

Collective decision-making

As Quakers the members of YFGM share the responsibility for the wellbeing of the community, there is an understanding that the spirit is at work and that God's guidance can be discerned. Young Friends assemble in silence and stillness to recognise what direction is best for YFGM.

Although the community makes collective decisions, to make sure that the community is organised and nurtured individual Friends take roles including Clerks, (to record and facilitate the decisions of the meeting), Overseers (to ensure the pastoral care of the community) and Quintessential (Elders; who uphold the spiritual wellbeing of the meeting).

Trustees

Trustees are appointed by YFGM to maintain an overview and ensure work is undertaken. A list of the active trustees in the year 2015 is provided below:

Convenor of Trustees: Rachael Swancott Boon (10/2012-05/2015) Kellie Turner (10/2015-10/2018)

Finance Trustee: Alyn Still (02/2013-05/2016)

Management Trustee: Jenny McCarthy (02/2014-02/2017)

Clerk: Brigid Stoney: (05/2013-05/2016)

Clerk: Peter Doubtfire: (05/2014- 05-2017)

Quintessential Trustee: Ericka Smith (10/2013-10/2015), position was empty for the remainder of 2015

The term served by both the Convenor of Trustees (chair) and Quintessential Trustee came to an end in 2015. The nomination process was opened for the role of Convenor of Trustees and a name was brought forward and accepted by the wider meeting. The Quintessential Trustee role remained empty; unlike other trustee roles a name is brought forward by the members of the quintessential committee. It was felt that there was no one willing or able to fulfil the role at the time the existing trustee stepped down. Therefore, the number of active trustees reduced to five in total. Later on in the year a member of the overseers committee attended a meeting of trustees to discuss whether an Overseers trustee would have any benefit to the wider meeting. Overseers work for the smooth running of YFGM weekends and this means they have a unique outlook that trustees would benefit from when considering how to approach matters of compliance. We are waiting to see whether the committee nominates a trustee to represent them. In Leicester, the management trustee, who looks

after the running of the YFGM office, gave a report to the meeting concerning the work she does as a trustee. One key thing that was highlighted was the potential conflict of interest as she works at Friends House. As she does not directly work for BYM, but instead the hospitality team at the meeting house there was deemed to be no conflict of interest.

Internship

An intern is employed through Britain Yearly Meeting to offer YFGM administrative support that includes arranging venues for the residential weekends, providing a connection to the wider British Quaker community and act as a single point of contact for members and prospective new attendees. The internship programme entered its third year in 2015, and as such the third person to hold that position started in August. An exit interview was held with the intern's predecessor and Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM), who are responsible for the administrative and supervisory care of the intern. The objective of the exit interview was to review his time working in the post. The discussion concluded that the role could accept additional responsibilities, in order to increase efficiency. The new approach cuts out administrative delays and increases the speed of information sharing, thus improving transparency. Any additions to the role of the intern resulting from the exit interview will be reviewed at the first trustees meeting in 2016.

Prepared by Kellie Turner (Convenor of Trustees 10/2015 – 10/2018) and Cáit Gould (Finance Trustee 02/2016 – 05/2019) on behalf of YFGM October 2016.

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01 Jan 2015	To	31 Dec 2015
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Receipts					
From Young Friends	6,405	-	-	6,405	10,498
Grants, donations and legacies	39,474	-	-	39,474	43,965
Interest	58	-	-	58	39
Other receipts	315	-	-	315	40
	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	46,252	-	-	46,252	54,542
Payments					
Support of meeting - YFGM gatherings	14,367	-	-	14,367	23,026
Support of meeting - other	4,730	-	-	4,730	3,634
Staff and Office costs	21,534	-	-	21,534	697
Bursaries	6,048	-	-	6,048	600
Donations and subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	46,680	-	-	46,680	27,956
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 428	-	-	- 428	26,586
Cash funds last year end	62,419	6,180	-	68,599	-
Cash funds this year end	61,991	6,180	-	68,171	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Cash funds	General Fund	29,296	6,180	-
	General Fund Deposit Account	32,696	-	-
	Total cash funds	61,992	6,180	-
Liabilities	Britain Yearly Meeting - support services invoice	Unrestricted funds	21,023	
	Bursaries agreed in 2014 but not claimed	Unrestricted funds	34	
	Expenses claims not cashed - Total	Unrestricted funds	481	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Kellie Turner	23.10.2016
	Cait Gould	23/10/16

Notes

- A Includes grant funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) of £26,592.
- B The 2014 totals for YFGMs and other events were higher than typical. These were increased by the costs of YFGM at Woodbrooke and the Politically Engaged Young Friends event at Woodbrooke. The costs of the Politically Engaged Young Friends event were offset by the additional funding for the event.
- C Other refers to Outreach, Working group costs, Representatives, Events outside YFGM, Quintessential committee, and Young Quaker magazine. Delays in administration mean that the majority of office costs for 2014 were paid in early 2015 which accounts for the low total for 2014. The 2015 costs will be paid in 2016.
- D Some bursaries approved in 2014 were claimed/paid in 2015, which accounts for the low total for 2014.
- E Taking the delayed payment of office costs & bursaries into account the closing balance would be £40,454, equivalent to 10 months typical expenditure, in line with our finance policy.
- F The £1 discrepancy between cash funds this year end, and total cash funds is due to rounded figures in data sets, the actual amount including pence is G between these two figures.



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Young Friends General Meeting

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2015

Charity no
(if any)

1064763

Set out on pages

NB Section A and B of the accounts
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

James Rattenbury

Date:

20th October 2016

Name:

James Rattenbury

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Association Chartered Certified Accountants (Nos 2038156)

Address:	11 Clarendon Crescent
	Eccles
	M30 9AU

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

NONE

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None