



Young Friends General Meeting Edinburgh 24 – 26 February 2017 Minutes

Those Present:

Rose Almond, Chris Alton, Matthew Alton, Jennie Atherton, Jenny Baines, Frederic Bayer, Lynda Berry, Alex Bleakley, Freya Blyth, Ella Booth, Rachael Booth, Mark Borthwick, Liam Brighton, Emily Brown, Devi Cardero, Toni Carmichael-Harris, Aidan Childs, Roseanne Clarke, Samuel Cooper, Tas Cooper, Peter Doubtfire, Michelle Dumont, Kim Edwards, James Evans, Rachel Evans, T. F., Becky Garnault, C. Gould, Naomi Haigh, Laurence Hall, Tim Hall Farthing, Thomas Hancock, Eleanor Harding, May Harrison, Miriam Harrold, P. J. Harvey, Jaz Higgs, Grace Holme, Naomi Hooke, N. Johan, Mairi Jones, Hannah Larn, Sophie Loewendahl, Francesca Loise, Johanna Longmore, Gerard Manning, Rici Marshall Cross, Eliza Martin, María Martínez García-Armero, Jenny McCarthy, Laura McQuillan, Devon Peterka, Andrew Rendle, Tim Rouse, Abigail Rowse, Olivia Scantlebury, Anne Seilly, Peatrice Shelley, Kristin Skarsholt, Elinor Smallman, Ericka Smith, Christopher Tedd, Jocelyn Tringham, Kellie Turner, Peter Tyler, Conor Watt, Sigurd Watt, Jacob Webb, Philip Wood

Total: 69

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



2017.01 Finance – 2017 Budget

C. Gould has presented a draft budget for 2017, highlighting the fact that YFGM is currently in the process of diversifying our funding sources. We approve this budget and attach it to these minutes.

We note that we are currently unable to provide a grant for European and Middle Eastern Young Friends.

We thank finance committee for their hard work in preparing this budget and their ongoing fundraising efforts.

2017.02 The Future of YFGM’s Concern on Trident

We have heard from Peter Doubtfire about the work of the Trident Concern Group protesting against the renewal of Trident. Parliament voted to renew Britain’s nuclear weapons last year.

We have considered what to do moving forward.

There is still work to be done against nuclear weapons, and different ways in which we could influence decisions around them.

In YFGM as a body, there is not a corporate sense that leads us to continue this work with this concern right now. There is a feeling that we must not let the perfect stand in the way of the good, and that our energies may currently be better spent elsewhere. Therefore we lay this concern down.

This does not close the possibility of YFGM taking up this work in the future. YFGMers as individuals are also still passionate about this issue and may find many other avenues in which to continue this work.

We thank the Trident Concern Group for their work on behalf of YFGM. In stating clearly our strong opposition to Britain’s continued use of nuclear weapons, the group has made a strong standpoint that is important in the continuing struggle to abolish nuclear weapons.

2017.03 Representatives’ Reports

We have heard the following reports:

Report Subject	Reported by
The experience of being a planning weekend newcomer	Matthew Alton and Roseanne Clarke
Meeting for Sufferings	Laurence Hall and Rici Marshall Cross



2017.04 Co-opted Members of Committees

Jenny Baines was co-opted to Quintessential this weekend, and Devon Peterka was co-opted to Nominations Committee. We thank these Friends for their service.

2017.05 Catering

We thank Olivia Scantlebury for catering this weekend.

2017.06 Speakers

We have heard from Jeff Beatty, David Day and Margot Lunnon about Quaker Values in Education.

2017.07 Special Interest Groups

The following Special Interest Groups were held this weekend:

Special Interest Group	Led by
Research on concerns	Valerie Whittington
Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre	Brian Larkin
Spirituality and the environment	Mark Borthwick
Local young Quaker groups	Abi Rowse
YFGM Special Interest Meeting at Yearly Meeting Gathering	Abi Rowse
Quaker Peaceworkers	Hannah Larne & Philip Wood



2017.08 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Catering Coordinator	Andrew Rendle	Gabriel Martel	February 2020
International Secretary	<i>Carried over</i>	María Martínez García-Armero *	February 2020
Quintessential	Christopher Tedd Rachael Harrison Emma Anthony	Joseph Fuller Mark Borthwick	February 2020
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Matthew Alton Roseanne Clarke Ella Swinson Reid	Peter Tyler Jaz Higgs James Evans	May 2017
The Young Quaker Co-editor	Beatrice Shelley Alice Crawford	Lynda Berry Roseanne Clarke Michelle Dumont James Evans	February 2020
Mental Wellbeing Concern Working Group	Rhian Blades Ellen Elliott	Eleanor Harding Rose Almond	February 2019
Interchurch/ Interfaith Secretary	Hannah Brock	<i>Carried over</i>	-
Management Trustee	Jenny McCarthy	-	-
Nominations Committee	Joseph Fuller Alice Woodhead Alice Crawford Kristin Skarsholt Tim Searle-Barnes	Naomi Hooke Peter Tyler	February 2020
Quintessential Trustee	Toni Carmichael-Harris	<i>Carried over</i>	-

We ask that the committee of TYQ editors appoint a member to oversee the finances of TYQ. The committee is encouraged to share the skills of current and previous editors where possible in this time of shortened finances for YFGM, and to use the expertise of YFGM's fundraiser and Finance Committee.



Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN



We thank those released for their service

* Minute from the nominations committee:

We bring forward the name of our Friend Maria Garcia Armero to be our International Secretary. The role is also a representative role to Quaker World Relations Committee.

Quakers internationally, in EMES/EMEYF and in BYM are seeking and finding new ways to be connected and in community through ministry and work. Maria's Quaker community is with YFGM in Britain and she lives in Spain. Because of this we have been led to consider how to minimise the environmental and economic impact of this nomination.

We ask that the Quaker World Relations Committee work with our International Rep to find the ways that keep them connected. We suggest that this is not through face-to-face meetings the majority of the time but by web communication.

We need to live as if the Kingdom of God were already here. We need to live as if we already live in a more sustainable world. This is an opportunity to learn further what we need to do to live by our testimony to sustainability with love.



Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN



2017.09 Clerks' Offering

We gathered in Edinburgh for our first YFGM north of the border in over a decade. With 20 newcomers, there was a vibrant energy from games on Friday evening to the epic entertainments on Saturday.

We had a wide range of SIGs, and were lucky to hear people's different experiences and areas of interest. Learning about the work of several peace charities was heartening as always in our current global situation, and taking part in research about Quaker concerns got us thinking about our experiences and knowledge of this aspect of being a Quaker community.

Laying down our own concern against Trident made us realise the importance of the work the group has achieved and that we still feel strongly about this issue.

Newcomers got to know each other through silly games with food, and learned about YFGM's proud tradition of Quaker business method.

David Day, Margo Lunnon and Jeff Beatty spoke to us about Quaker Values in Education. We are troubled by some of the recent trends in education policy, and making a list of problems was not difficult. Finding solutions will not be so easy, but we hope that education systems can be developed which nurture that of God in every child.

Quintessential led us in a creative exploration of multi-faith texts. The sacred writings of other faiths can be challenging as well as throwing new perspectives on our Quaker faith. Epilogues, worship and preparation for worship helped us to make the community our home for the weekend, a sense strengthened by sharing meals, friendship and cups of tea.

We leave Edinburgh grateful for the chance to make new friendships and rekindle old ones. We look forward to reconvening in Sheffield in May.

Attachment - YFGM Budget for 2017

YFGM Draft 2017 Budget					
	2017 budget (£)				
Income	Allocation of Funds	Anticipated use	Forecast	aprox 2016 total	
BYM Grant	0	100%	0	0	BYM give a gift in kind of £8190, which they take off the invoice for office costs.
BYM Outreach Grant	9,455	100%	9,455	0	This is confirmed. It pays for newcomers travel, The Young Quaker, Outreach committee expenses, marketing, £500 towards a YFGM-free.
JRCT Grant	0	100%	0	19,944	JRCT grant received until 2016, but we will no longer be eligible to do so. The trust changed its funding priorities and ended the Quaker funding stream which YFGM fitted into.
Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust	3,500	100%	3,500	0	Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust have donated £3500 towards planning weekends.
YFGM Contributions	4,500	100%	4,500	4,506	
William Cadbury Trust	0		0	13,000	On their website it says there is a 2 year wait until the next grant, I need to check if this is definitely the case.
Meetings & Friends	10,000	100%	10,000	8,051	We hope to gain additional donations (£2K est.) from Meetings and Friends through an appeal.
YFGM Appeal in The Friend	3,000	100%	3,000	0	The result of appeal in The Friend (£2985).
Interest	40	100%	40	36	
Events	1,500	100%	1,500	3,620	Normally we'd expect events to break even. However last year we did a fundraising ceileidh in 2016, and the YFGMfree received more in grants than was needed, so last year's income was greater than expenditure. This year we have £500 for a YFGMfree in the outreach budget (from BYM), so this is £500 less than the event expenditure - the £500 which makes up the difference is included in the BYM Outreach Grant line.
Other grants	1,500	100%	1,500		
Appeal for another charity	0	100%	0	0	YFGM doesn't currently have an appeal running. Money received for an appeal in a period with no established appeal is forwarded to QPSW.
Other Income	0	100%	0	566	For unknown/unpredicted income. Last year's £566 was from Trident T-shirt sales and reclaimed tax.
Total Income	33,495		33,495	49,723	
Expenditure					
Running costs					
YFGMs	7,200	100%	7,200	7,118	Rail fare rise of 2.3%
Planning Weekends	4,500	100%	4,500	4,425	Rail fare rise of 2.3%

					<p>Last year's costs breakdown: £20520 for 2015 internship costs. £457.03 insurance. £1722 office costs £13344 2016 internship £60 coordinator expenses</p> <p>In 2017 we'll be invoiced about £13.4K for the internship (last year the full cost of internship was £21534K, BYM give a gift in kind of £8190. Employment costs will increase slightly as living wage and national insurance rises).</p> <p>We predict that activities for office costs will be about £2000 (£300 more than last years because of increase in postage for appeal to local meetings).</p> <p>We'll also pay for insurance again (assume this stays at £457.03).</p> <p>£100 for coordinator expenses outside YFGMs?</p> <p>Total for 2017: £16,000</p>
Office costs	17,000	95%	16,150	36,104	
Events	2,000	75%	1,500	1,898	Events (YFGM-Frees are expected to break even, and we have £500 from BYM Outreach grant towards events, so this is £500 more than the Events income line (£1500))
Additional					
Accessibility	3,000	90%	2,700	2,621	BYM have given us £2500 for accessibility. The amount stays the same for 2017, with the remaining £200 to come from other sources.
Bursaries	1,000	50%	500	514	<p>Last year £2000 was allocated and £514 used. We have reduced this to £1000, which is still 2x the amount spent last year.</p> <p>YMG bursaries: If anyone would like to attend YMG and cannot afford to pay for this themselves and their local meeting and BYM cannot provide a bursary we will offer up to £200 per person (three bursaries) towards the cost of attending. The remainder will be up to the individual to fund.</p>
Young Adult Leaders	4,000	75%	3,000	0	Last year £4000 was allocated. Trustees said they wanted us to continue supporting YFGMs. The full cost for one person is £1750 but most applications to YFGM are for partial funding, with part of the cost covered by local meetings or individuals themselves. Based on previous applications this amount would allow us to support 3-4 Young Friends.
Representitives	750	70%	525	1,127	Last year's amount was more than we've budgeted this year because of a one-off event, Paradise in the City, where we sent two YFGM representatives. £500 is the more typical cost of representatives' travel expenses.
Training	1,500	80%	1,200	348	Training for 2 first aiders (2x£456), treasurer training (£240), the remainder for unspecified training if needed.
EMEYF grant	0	100%	0	0	Given that we have lost a major source of funding we are not in a financial position to provide EMEYF with a grant this year. We did not make a donation to EMEYF in 2016 either.
Concerns	1,000	75%	750	915	
Non-YFGM charity appeal	0	100%	0	0	

Fundraising	500	100%	500	0	This is a new budget line, to take into account the additional expenses of fundraising activity, mainly £500 for the appeal in the Friend. Previously fundraising costs were very low as we mostly applied to large grants. However we have tried to diversify our income, to make it more sustainable. This means spending money on appeals in The Friend magazine, organizing events, postage for appeals to local meetings.
Contingency / other	2,000	50%	1,000	2,000	Last year we budgeted £2k but spent £1k. Better to have more than we anticipate for contingency.
Outreach					
General	1,290	90%	1,161	889	This covers outreach travel to planning weekends (£420), YFGMs (£630) and other non-YFGM events (£240). The increase allows for Outreach committee going to more non-YFGM events than they have in the past, funded by BYM Outreach Grant.
Enquirers	2,925	50%	1,463	888	Outreach committee have funds from BYM to do a lot more outreach this year, so we anticipate an increase in newcomers. This equates to 15 newcomers at each YFGM, with an average fare of £65
Website / Young Quaker	1,715	100%	1,715	953	The increase is because the figure now includes Young Quaker editors travel expenses, which the editors were not previously funded. This is now being funded by the BYM grant (travel expenses £840, Young Quaker costs £875)
Total Expenditure	50,380		43,864	59,800	
Surplus / (deficit)	-16,885		-10,369	-10,077	<p>We have a deficit of between £10K-£17K. This should leave us with about £50K for 2018 in our reserves: 12 months of activity, which is in keeping with our reserves policy. The predictions for fundraising are a bit conservative so we may fundraise more than predicted.</p> <p>Obviously it is not sustainable to continue with a deficit over several years. Our fundraiser has been trying to diversify our income streams to become sustainable, so that if a source of income stops it doesn't have as big of an impact to our finances.</p> <p>We are developing relationships with new funders, with some successes already. Building relationships takes time, typically 1-2 years. Over the next year our fundraiser will be approaching new funders, asking existing funders to increase their support and finding new income. If successful we should reduce or eliminate our deficit in 2018. If unsuccessful then we may have to reduce our costs to maintain a healthy reserve.</p> <p>However, we should not be afraid of doing something because of a fear of a lack of funding. If it is the right thing to do we should do it and we'll find a way!</p>
Estimated Reserves B/fwd	66,285		66,285		
Estimated Reserves C/fwd	49,400		55,917		