

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING

Bristol Redland Friends Meeting House, 23 to 25 October 1998

Minutes

Present:

Co-clerks:	Daphne Fisher Nick Perks	Officer of Outreach:	Anne Pommier
General Fund Treasurer:	Gavin Burnell	Co-convenors of Overseers:	Kate Coole
International Secretary:	Hannah Williams	Administrator:	Paddy Uglow
Convenor of NomsComm:	Jane Cowling		Klaus Huber

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bournemouth & Swanage	Tim Sanders	Leicester	Nessa Williams
Brighouse	Bethan Hillas Robyn Kearns	Lincolnshire	Naomi Jane Bailey
Bristol & Frenchay	Paul Bailey	North Wales	Anna Jones
Carlisle & Holm	Stephen Inch	Reading	Simon Best
Dorking & Horsham	Catherine Brewer Emily Hunka	South East Scotland	Sarah Donaldson
East of Scotland	Rachel Bryers	South Wales	Sally Knowles
Guildford & Godalming	Nick Perks	West Devon	Ruth Wood
Hardshaw East	Heather Rowlands	Wirral & Chester	Paddy Uglow
Leeds	Anna Benedikz	Worcester & Shropshire	Flip Bridges
			Rachel Young

Jason Barton, Linda Batten, Philip Batten, Tom Beale, Charlee Bewsher, Adam Boulter, Nell Boulton, Alex Brierley, Leif Burrough, Rowan Burrough, Stephen Cappleman, Anna Carter, Helen Close, David Cockcroft, Nick Colbeck, Naomi Cordiner, Ffion Couch, Benjamin Coventry, Jennie Craddock, Duncan Curtis, Alice Drewery, Chris Dießner, Mike Eccles, Bluebell Eikonoklastes, Owen Evans, Richard Evens, Anne Fairweather, Hugo Finley, Carolyn Forrest, Stephen Gibbs, Andrew Goodman, Simon Gray, Gareth Green, Chris Gribble, Michael Grimes, Nicky Grimes, Zandy Hemsley, Kirsten Hills, Judi Hodgkin, Emily Hollister, Andrew P. Johnson, Daniel Keeler, Jonathan Kemp, Harry Kingham, David Kirk, Rowan Langley, Paul Jon Levy, Clare Lockwood, Ruth Lucas, Alice Lynch, Andy May, Will Miles, Rachel Muers, Anja Nuttin, Jane Osborne, Ben Parker, Rachel Phillips, Wil Quick, Jenny Rowntree, Anna Sharman, Jenny Shellens, Lana Snook, Mike Stokes, Juliette Stoller, Nick Sturge, James Taylor, Aristi Tsakmakis, Katy Turquoise, Robin Vanner, Rob Wallis, Becky Whale, James Williams; TOTAL: 100

98/40 Opening Minute

It is brilliant to see so many people here in Bristol. We welcome each other to this General Meeting, old friends and new. We extend an especial welcome to the people from other churches or organisations who have come to join us this weekend, and to those attending the Enquirers' Gathering which is running parallel to YFGM. We are also pleased to see the new Parliamentary Liaison Assistant, Anne Fairweather.

98/41 Dots and commas

We thank Sally Knowles and Catherine Brewer for agreeing to check our dots and commas this weekend.

98/42 Finance Report

Gavin Burnell, the convenor of Finance Committee, has reported on our current financial position. 1998 is proceeding well, with most accounts showing a surplus of income over expenditure. We have now received all the money due for the Swarthmore Lecture, which cost a total of approximately £4,500. We are pleased to hear that the Jamboree made a small surplus which will be passed on for future events.

We are grateful to our fundraisers for their hard work and to all the generous people and organisations which have given us money recently.

98/43 Young Quaker Magazine

We have heard from the Board of Young Quaker Magazine, who have given us a report on its current status. YQ is now financially stable, and looks set to make a small surplus this year, although an accurate picture will not be available until the end of the next financial year in December 1999.

We thank Oxford Young Friends, particularly Juliette Stoller, for 'stuffing' YQ magazine in the past. We think that it is a great idea for the YQ Board to ask the printer to 'stuff' the magazine for a small fee.

There have been a few communication problems affecting the production of YQ this year. We are glad that the YQ Board has come up with plans to avoid these in the future, by changing their management structure. One editor is to be appointed by the YQ Board to be Communications Editor, whose job is to ensure that information reaches all those who require it. The YQ Board has agreed that Owen Evans is to fulfil this role in the first instance.

98/44 The Swarthmore Lecture

Young Friends gave the 1998 Swarthmore Lecture during Britain Yearly Meeting on 23 May this year. We presented excerpts from the book of the Lecture, using music, movement, mime and the spoken word in an atmosphere of worship. Copies of the book, entitled "*Who do we think we are? – Young Friends' Commitment and Belonging*", have been on sale since the end of the Lecture. We are glad that the presentation went so well. We thank the Presentation Group and all the people who helped to make the event a success, including the technical team and especially those from outside YFGM. We are grateful to the staff at Friends House for their help. We hold in our hearts the names of all the fantastic people who made such a difference to us as we went through the whole process of creating the Lecture.

We are enormously grateful to all the members of the Swarthmore Lecture Steering Group, who successfully steered our course through the shoals and whirlpools of producing the Lecture.

The Lecture has stimulated discussion in *The Friend* and at local meetings: we hope that it will continue to be a source of inspiration.

98/45 QPS Report

We have heard from Jane Cowling as our representative on Quaker Peace & Service Representative Council. She has reported back from the recent meeting at Swanick and the ongoing work of QPS, in this country and abroad.

We heard in more detail about the Turning the Tide programme and the Ploughshares project for whom they have provided training. Trident Ploughshares has organised many successful actions involving substantial numbers of activists and attracted considerable publicity. Turning the Tide has received further requests from other direct action groups. We are asked to consider the role for Quakers in providing such training – perhaps for groups whose ends we do not necessarily support but whom we wish to encourage in their choice of non-violent methods.

98/46 The Abkhazia Appeal

We are delighted to hear that the Abkhazia Appeal Accounts for 1996 and 1997 have now been completed and examined. We thank the people who worked so hard to achieve this.

The Abkhazia Appeal had a stall at Britain Yearly Meeting in May. The hand-knitted stripey socks and sweaters scheme has raised £210 so far. In 1996 and 1997, the Appeal Group raised an impressive £15,577.38 and we are both proud and grateful for their work. The Appeal Group has written to potential sponsors, asking in particular for money towards a vehicle for the Centre for Humanitarian Programmes.

Money is sent out to the Centre when our contacts travel to Abkhazia. Three large sums of money have gone out so far this year, with another due to go in a few weeks' time. We are distressed to hear that the political and economic situation in Abkhazia deteriorated over the summer.

We are pleased to hear of the progress of the Centre for Humanitarian Programmes, which has set up a Children's Centre, runs a 'Green Scouts' outdoor adventure programme, and has sponsored two summer camps for children this year.

98/47 CASSA

We thank Charlee Bewsher for coming to update us on the situation at CASSA. She has explained that the organisation has negotiated a re-merger with Bradford Rape Crisis in order to enable their work to continue on a more stable footing. CASSA are hoping to complement the existing crisis intervention work with their experience in long-term support for survivors of sexual abuse.

98/48 Appeal Item

Further to minute 98/35 of May YFGM, we have discussed the future of our Appeal. We recognise that both organisations we have heard from today are involved in vital work and can benefit from our support. However, with the links between individuals in YFGM and the Centre for Humanitarian Programmes strongly forged and set to continue, we feel it is appropriate to now formally lay down this Appeal. However, for the present all money sent to the Appeal account will continue to be designated for Abkhazia.

In order to take forward our concern for survivors of sexual abuse we require a group of committed individuals to meet and identify ways that YFGM can seriously engage with this issue. We appreciate that this may include financial support, through an Appeal or other channels in the future. There will be a special interest group this afternoon and we ask them to liaise with Officers to make arrangements for reporting back to YFGM as a whole.

98/49 Financial Policy

The convener of Finance Committee, Gavin Burnell, has introduced some amendments to our financial policy including those requested in minute 98/34. We agree to these amendments (which are attached to these minutes).

98/50 Nominations Returns

We appoint the following people to the posts which they have kindly agreed to take on. We release from service the people mentioned below and thank them for all their work on our behalf.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Person appointed</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Released from service</u>
General Fund Treasurer	Andy May	3 years	Gavin Burnell (end of 1998)
Outreach Committee	Ruth Wood	3 years	Anne Pommier
Officer of Outreach	Nick Sturge	3 years	Anne Pommier
Overseer	Robin Vanner	2 years	Kate Coole
Co-convener of Overseers	Michael Grimes	2 years	Kate Coole
Quintessential	Anna Carter	3 years	N/A
YQ Editor	Rachel Phillips	3 years	Sally Knowles
	Flip Bridges	3 years	
Nomination for Meeting for Sufferings Representative	Jennie Craddock	3 years	Zandy Hemsley
Quaker Social Responsibility & Education (QSRE) Representative Council	Clare Lockwood	3 years	Rachel Boyd
Quaker Home Service (QHS) Representative Council	Simon Best	3 years	Anne Fairweather
Pardshaw Treasurer	Naomi Jane Bailey	3 years	Alex Brierley
Jamborette 1999 Committee	Tom Beale	1 year	N/A
	Rachel Young	1 year	
	Philip Batten	1 year	
	Daphne Fisher	1 year	
Events Treasurer	Stephen Gibbs	1 year	N/A
Jamboree 1998 Committee	N/A	N/A	Nick Sturge Beth Rigby Alice Lynch Lawrence Martin Michael Simpson Owen Evans
Jamboree 1998 Treasurer	N/A	N/A	
Quaker International Social Projects (QISP) Representative	N/A	N/A	Lawrence Martin

Swarthmore Lecture 1998 Steering Group	N/A	N/A	Jonathan Kemp Nicky Grimes Sarah Piercy Cathy Sharman
Co-convenors of Swarthmore Lecture 1998 Steering Group	N/A	N/A	Leif Burrough Nessa Williams
Swarthmore Lecture 1998 Presentation Group	N/A	N/A	Kate Coole Jason Barton Anne Pommier Carolyn Forrest
Young Quaker Stuffing Co-ordinators	N/A	N/A	Juliette Stoller Nessa Williams
Signatory to the Appeal Account	Cathy Sharman	N/A	Abi Horsfield

98/51 Concern for Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Further to minute 98/48, a small group has reported back on their discussions. They have encapsulated our concern as "providing support for adult survivors of sexual abuse".

They have found a steering group consisting of Charlee Bewsher, Jennie Craddock, Judi Hodgkin, Rachel Phillips, Anna Sharman, and Katy Turquoise.

They have identified a number of points for action in developing the concern within YFGM, with Britain Yearly Meeting as a whole and with other organisations. They have also identified the financial aspects of taking the concern forward. Some funds would be required to enable Young Friends to undertake the activities identified. Other funds could be used to support the work of other charities in the field.

We are impressed and enthused by the work that has been done. We agree to adopt this concern as the new YFGM Appeal.

We agree that the Appeal shall run under the broad heading "providing support for adult survivors of sexual abuse" and that the Appeal Group will identify any additional organisations it wishes to support financially to future General Meeting sessions. We agree that the £500 previously earmarked as possible emergency support for CASSA be made available to the Appeal Group as an initial float. We ask our Appeals Treasurer to open an account in the name of *The Young Friends General Meeting SASSA Appeal*. SASSA is an acronym for *Supporting Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse*.

98/52 Volunteers

These people have kindly volunteered to help with YFGM in Nottingham, 19-21 February 1999:

Janitors	Mike Eccles & David Cockcroft
Caterers	Owen Evans & Rachel Young
Pan Transport	Klaus Huber
Off-floor accommodation	Alice Drewery
Crèche co-ordinator	Nessa Williams

98/53 Examiners

We appoint these people as examiners for the following accounts for the year ending 31 December 1998:

Employment Fund	Ben Pink Dandelion	Lewes MM
General Fund	Colin Gilbraith (subject to consent)	Cambridge & Peterborough MM
Jamboree Fund	Janet Gilbraith (subject to consent)	Cambridge & Peterborough MM
Young Quaker	Dave Moll	Pardshaw MM
Appeal Fund	Dawn Beck	Pontefract MM
Pardshaw Fund	Linda Jean Howe (subject to consent)	not in membership
Consolidating Examiner	Colin Gilbraith (subject to consent)	Cambridge & Peterborough MM

98/54 Donation from YFGM 'Nuclear Weapons' Concern 1995 to QUNO

We have received minute 2e of Finance Committee (12 September 1998). We are glad that this money can now be allocated to the work for which it was intended.

98/55 Closing Minute

We have now come to the end of our weekend together in Bristol. We have been a large gathering but things have largely run very smoothly. We thank our caterers, Paul Bailey and Mike Stokes, and janitors, Bluebell Eikonoklastes and Owen Evans, for their part in achieving this.

Anne Pommier has finished her term as Officer of Outreach. We thank her for all her work and determination in developing the successful presence at events such as Greenbelt, and the extremely successful enquirers' gathering that has run alongside this General Meeting.

Kate Coole has completed her final YFGM as co-convenor of Overseers. Her energy and presence have been valuable both to YFGM as a whole and to the Overseers' team.

This has been a weekend of many new faces and new conversations, and we carry new links with us as we go our separate ways.

Signed in and on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting

Daphne Fisher

Nick Perks

Appendices

Appendix to minute 98/49

Amendments to Financial Policy.

- 1) In old clause 3a: delete "*Caterers and Janitors*" and insert instead "*volunteers as minuted by General Meeting, necessary for the running of business meetings.*"
 - 2) Delete clause 2c and re-letter
 - 3) New clauses:
 - 3a) *Fees shall be charged for Young Friends attending business meetings who use the catering and sleeping facilities provided. No fees are payable for attendance at business sessions alone.*
 - 3b) *The fees are intended to pay for most of the expenses associated with running business meetings. General Meeting shall, from time to time, set the levels of fees payable. A statement of the levels of fees and the costs of business meetings shall be made available at each business meeting.*
 - 3c) *The fee payable shall be discretionary but based on two days' income after housing costs, according to the minute of General Meeting.*
- Re-letter the remaining clauses.