

Young Friends General Meeting

Kibblestone Scout Camp, Oulton

22th - 24th February 2019

Minutes

Those Present:

Total: 78

Kerian Adamson, Katherine Ajibade, Matt Alton, Hiran Babakhani, Jenny Baines, Lucas Bain-Lefevre, Jessica Beck, Andrew Bibb, Alexandra Boliver-Brown, Rachael Booth, Jane Booth, Oliver Burrors, Iloran Campbell, Ellie Cardero, Toni Carmichael, Miriam Chapman, Aidan Childs, Stephen Clement, Hannah Cook, Samuel Cooper, Tas Cooper, Vicky Cowell, Simon Crane, James Davies, Telea Dearden, Billie-Jo Dearden, Jane Ditchfield, Michelle Dumont, Thomas Eddinton, Kim Chiara Edwards, Rachel Evans, Namoi Faireweather, Toby Freeman, Joseph Fuller, Morgan Gasson, Cait Gould, Anna Goulding, Catherine Gregory, Cathy Hall, Laurence Hall, Tim Hall-farthing, Miriam Harrold, Jennifer Herbert, Jasmin Higgs, Jules Ireng, Lily Kroese, Hannah Larn, Sasha Lawson-Frost, Alice Laycock, Silas Manjera, Rici Marshall-Cross, Laura McQuillan, Angus Morrice, Alex Murrery, Alan O'Callaghan, Bianca Rawlinson, Tim Rouse, Abigail Rowse, Elly Setterfield, Kerian Shine, Hannah Stranex, Amanda Veal, Jacob Webb, Sally Wrenwood

Co-Clerks	Sam Cooper & Rici Marshall Cross
Trustees	Jane Booth, Sam Cooper, Cait Gould, Jaz Higgs, Rici Marshall Cross, Tim Rouse,
Coordinator	Faith Biddle (unable to attend)

1. Reports

a)

We have received a report from Trustees. This is attached to the end of the minutes. We thank Cait Gould, Jane Booth, and all who represent us on committees. We heard a rundown of Trustee roles, and of the appointment of 4 new Trustees since last YFGM. Trustees have been at work on managing the creation of a new website, reviewing our roles, and looking into the costs of reviewing and improving our financial structures.

B)

We have received a report from our representatives to Living Witness. We thank Laura McQuillan and Rowena Bashford for bringing this report before us.

Living Witness have been thinking about the best way to spend their money - they've decided to spend it helping Young Friends engage with Sustainability; offering Pathways to help Young Friends

to make practical changes to be more sustainable, and to build community around awareness and societal transformation. Our reps are involved in the threshing and management of this and members of our meeting invited to contact the reps to get involved.

We have also heard about 'Living Lightly', the South West Sustainability Gathering at Carthvean Farm in Cornwall. The plan is for a fun, creative gathering to share ideas of living lighter on the Earth - and all YFGMers in the south west are invited.

C)

We have heard from our Pollard and Dixon Trust representative; we thank Eleanor Smallman for bringing the report before us. The Trust makes grants to Friends for hardship and travelling in the ministry. We heard how to make an application for a grant for hardship or for travelling. The report is attached to the end of the minutes.

See appendix for the [Trustees report](#)

See appendix for the [Pollard and Dixon Trust report](#)

2. Book keeping

Cait Gould, Finance Trustee, on behalf of Finance Committee and Trustees has brought us a proposal to pay for professional book-keeping support.

Currently we have a treasurer who is responsible (on a voluntary basis like all our roles) for administering all of our expense claims, ensuring invoices are paid, fielding bursary applications, as well as keeping our accounts up to date on a regular basis. This is with the support of our co-ordinator. With the increasing use of online banking and growing attendees to YFGM, this job has become more time consuming in recent years and this makes the job of record-keeping a more onerous. The movement to paying for a paid book-keeper is intended to both help relieve some of the burden on our role holders, and help to ensure that we maintain proper records of our finances.

We have heard details of a potential book-keeping proposal from Catalyst Collective who are a co-operative. Their proposed services would cost £1,890 for 2019, to be reviewed after 3 months and 9 months.

Cait has explained how this would affect our finances and our potential minimum reserves. Based on our 2019 budget, this extra cost, outside of our original budget, could take us close to our minimum reserves in a worst case scenario (maximum costs and minimum income predicted in the 2019 budget).

We agree to approve the proposal for book-keeping support and will amend the 2019 budget accordingly. We ask Trustees to appoint a suitable book-keeper to do this work, and give them our support to make these decisions on our behalf. We ask them to update us at our May YFGM, to continue reviewing the process, and if necessary, to include the cost of a book-keeper in our 2020 budget. We are grateful for all of the work that our finance committee and trustees do on our behalf and recognise this opportunity to support them in their work.

3. a) Trans and non-binary inclusion

Further to minutes 2018.16 and 2018.18, we have heard from Jane Booth, about November's special interest gathering on Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion.

We have heard the statement produced by that gathering. We as YFGM adopt this statement with minor amendments (wording in Minute part (b) below). We are joyful as a community to affirm our love and inclusion of all friends of diverse genders within and beyond the gender binary.

We commit to the following practical actions:

- Making our value statement clearly available on the website
- To support Friends in the wider society of Friends to learn about gender diversity and trans inclusion. This may be by providing education to society as a whole, perhaps as special interest groups at BYM, or fact sheets. This may be new material or existing material which could be publicised on the YFGM website. To support Intergenerational conversations on the subject, carefully facilitated; we have heard that this work may be taken on by the engaging young adult Quaker programme.
- Provide supporting evidence for trans friends within the YFGM community while the current gender recognition act requires such submission.
- We would like to take all steps possible to ensure that all our YFGM meetings are held in a trans inclusive spaces. This includes taking our trans friends into consideration when we book meeting houses, providing gender neutral bathrooms and ensuring any gendered spaces are explicitly trans inclusive.

We have heard an introduction by Sam to the QLCC statement. **We agree that we would like to formally respond to this statement as YFGM, urging QLCC to take note of our value statement, and making clear the points at which we believe the two statements contradict.** In particular, we note our disagreement with the position that “the critique of transgender identities in the political sphere is not necessarily transphobic”.

We agree to send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings and Quaker Life Central Committee, along with context from the report from the special interest gathering. We thank those Friends who have contributed to bringing this before the community.

b) YFGM Value Statement on Trans and non-binary inclusion

We believe that each person has the right to determine for themselves what gender identities and expressions are most comfortable and authentic for them. We recognize that each member of our community has a unique and deeply personal experience of gender, and that the expression of this is a form of living truthfully and of witness.

As Friends — both trans and cis, binary and non-binary — we affirm that there is no conflict between trans inclusion, feminism, and liberation from gender roles and stereotypes. We do not support the use of meeting houses to host events which claim otherwise, and we hope that Meetings will decide not to host these events in future.

The Society of Friends should be welcoming and affirming of trans and non-binary people. We commit to fostering change to this effect and to bringing YFGM and the Society of Friends closer to this ideal.

We encourage Friends engaging in this conversation going forwards to consider the message of A&Q#22: “Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships. Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journeys of others. Do you foster the spirit of mutual understanding and forgiveness which our discipleship asks of us? Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God.”

4. Nominations to Nominations committee

We have considered nominations to the nominations Committee and resolved as follows:

Released	Appointed	Until
Ella Booth Teala Dearden Claudia Fry	Hannah Davies Simon Crane	Feb 2022
	Anne Seilly (reappointed)	Feb 2020

We appoint Anne Seilly for one additional year, recognising that she has already served 3 years on Nominations committee. We recommend that if we are to reduce the number of Friends on Nominations committee in our roles restructure, we may release Anne at an earlier YFGM.

We thank the friends who have been released for their service.

We have also received the name of Rowena Bashford who has expressed a willingness to be co-opted to the nominations committee. We pass this name to the Nominations committee.

We thank the members of the Nominations Committee who are being released for their service.

5. a) Memorial minute for Becky Garnault

Further to minute 2018.32 we have received drafted words of a memorial minute to Becky Garnault. We accept this minute on behalf of YFGM.

We agree to send this minute to Hardshaw and Mann Area Meeting, hoping that it might contribute to a Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Becky Garnault.

b) Memorial Minute to Becky Garnault from Young Friends General Meeting.

Becky first attended YFGM in 2016, though many in the YFGM community had known her before this and hold warm memories of those times - at Cardiff children's meeting and South Wales link group, at BYM children and young people groups, on the 2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, at the QUONO (Quaker United Nations Office) Summer School and on the Young Adult Leadership Programme.

Becky made many of us feel welcome and at home in YFGM, helping us to feel part of the community, to feel connected and at ease. She was supportive, warm, positive and open minded. She made us feel appreciative.

Becky is regarded as a deeply spiritual person with a sense of spiritual peacefulness. She had conviction in what she said and showed a Quakerly form of leadership. She was energetic and passionate about getting things done, such as broadening the engagement of young adult friends in central BYM roles. She had a forthright dynamism and could take initiative and make things change. One Friend described that "in a quiet, confident and determined way she got things done behind the scenes, organised things, advocated for change in lots of ways, always bringing others with her".

Becky was a truly great friend and companion to many of us - to those who knew her deeply, as well as those who had only newly met her. She had a down to earth, slightly mischievous sense of humour; hers was a joyful, yet determined, presence. Becky was great company and we remember her sometimes moving, sometimes surprising conversations with warmth. She was beautifully herself with an unforgettable and radiant heart.

In an epilogue at our last YFGM gathering (Oct 2018) we remembered Becky to one another, sharing stories of her F/friendship, gifts and presence. What came out of the meeting was a resolution for us to “be more Becky”. To “be more Becky” through being more welcoming, more open, curious, joyful, and generous; more determined, passionate, supportive, and warm. To “be more Becky” through having conviction in what we say and do and embracing an unshakable, straight-up enthusiasm for what life has to offer and what opportunities we have to give. We miss Becky’s presence in our community, but are joyful for the grace given to us through her life. She lives on among us in the stories we tell about her and the effect of the strength and brightness of her character on those who knew her.

6. Our mental wellbeing Concern

Sam Cooper has given an introduction to what it means to hold a Concern and Ellie Harding has spoken of the more recent work of the Mental Wellbeing working group. This background is attached to these minutes.

Friends who have joined YFGM in the past few years have spoken of not feeling that there is a clear direction of Concern and aim towards which we are working.

Since we adopted our concern, there has been quite a dramatic shift in the culture of YFGM. Small examples of this are: more inclusive newcomers session, small groups have taken on a more pastoral role, suggestions box which allows anonymous feedback. There is a sense that the feeling that we need to address mental wellbeing has become embedded in the community. We celebrate the work and thank all those who have helped to make these changes a reality. But we recognise that in the past few years there have still been role holders in crisis, feeling overwhelmed by the tasks they have been asked to do as a community. We have still not become the perfect example for a community that we hoped to work towards in 2014.

During the course of the concern we have seen a shift of focus towards improving the mental wellbeing of our community.

The role restructure has come directly out of a need to change to reduce the impact on the mental wellbeing of our role holders. The strength and conviction of the ministry in that session spoke to this. It was clear that we need to change to protect the wellbeing of our community and it felt that we are very focussed about what we should try to do. We are asked if this is not a sign of mental wellbeing being the concern of YFGM, what is? One urgent need is clear guidance about where to seek support within the community and we hope that our upcoming roles restructure will make this explicit. We wish to upskill the whole community in supporting one another's mental wellbeing and moments of mental health need.

On the question of whether we continue to have a mental wellbeing working group, we have considered how the role of the working group has changed. Recently, it may have felt like the small group has been trying to carry the Concern forwards without the support of wider community, but perhaps it is actually that the wider community is carrying on without a specific role for the working group to fulfil. New suggestions are coming from other parts of the community.

We recognise that it is time to lay down the mental wellbeing working group. We ask the group to prepare any final input from their survey and previous work to feed into the ongoing roles restructure process. We expect, if appropriate, to lay the group down formally at our meeting in May.

We value the Concern as underpinning the work of our roles restructuring, and we will return to check on the life of the Concern once the restructuring is complete.

See appendix for the [Background for Mental wellbeing Concern review](#)

7. Roles Reorganisation

We have heard from Rachael Booth (convenor of Overseers) and Tim Rowse (management trustee) about the proposed reorganisation of YFGM's roles.

We recognise that the need for change is serious and immediate, and we see this as an exciting opportunity for change and renewal for our community. We aim to approach this reorganisation in a spirit of adventurousness and hope, understanding that we can learn from experiments and failures. We see the strength of the proposed structure and hope that we will take this opportunity to continue to consider what our community wants and needs. Ministry reminded us to guard against simply reorganising what we do already on a more rational basis.

Given the meeting's sense of how long a change has been needed, how slow it has been in coming, and the burdens currently laid on our role-holders, we will work with the goal in mind of accepting changes to our constitution and structure at October's gathering; and given our sense of how important it is to use this opportunity for radical change effectively, we will take every opportunity in the intervening time to include the whole community in this process. We hope that further discernment on the new structure can happen at YFGM in May, and we will also explore other possibilities such as holding a special interest gathering focussing on this work over the summer

We agree to go forward accepting in principle a structure based on the following named committees and roles:

Trustees
Logistics
Pastoral
Eldership
Finance
Promotion
Media
Nominations
Representatives

We understand that these roles will not simply reorganise and duplicate the existing work of our committees, but that the specifics of what each role will be, will be determined by our ongoing discernment.

We recognise the need to avoid over-burdening anyone tasked with this review. We recognise that the process of making this change will need to involve the whole community, and see the need for a process in which anyone and everyone is able to contribute to the extent that they are willing and able. We will begin this process with an opportunity for existing role-holders and members of YFGM who have previously held those roles, to feed in to the detail of each new committee in the restructure. We ask Trustees to communicate with their link committees, in hope that by Planning Weekend in March we can have a sense of where there is enthusiasm, and where disquiet, over the individual parts of the proposal. We ask trustees to continue with their planned work to consider how the constitution and policies would need to change. We attach to these minutes the names of the Trustees overseeing each role.

We thank Tim, Rachael and all others who have been involved in this process for the work done so far, and for providing the impetus which has brought this issue before us.

See appendix for the [Current list of Link Trustees and their committees](#)

8. Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Fundraiser	Shivani Daxin	Jules Octave	Feb 2021
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Edgar Roberts Ceridwen Jenkins Alice Hargreaves	Cathy Hall Bianca Rawlinson	May 2019
Finance Trustee	(carried over)	James Davies	May 2022
Outreach	Davy Richardson	(carried over)	
Elder	Vicky Daborn Tedder	Hannah cook	Feb 2022
TYQ editor	Lawrence Hall Chloe Scaling James Evans	Tim Hall Farthing Kiloran Campbell Cathy Hall	Feb 2022
Meeting for Sufferings Rep	Lawrence Hall	Rachel Booth	2022
QPSW rep	(carried over)	Anne Seilly	Feb 2022
BYM sustainability group rep	Claudia Fry		

We have carried over the following roles for which we have been seeking nominations: Outreach, events co-ordinator.

We lay down the role of BYM sustainability group representative, recognising that this group has been laid down by Meeting for Sufferings.

We record the release of Tom Eddington as Overseer trustee.

We record the appointment as overseer trustee: Jaz higgs (until Jan 2020) and Grace Roberts (until October 2020).

We thank Nominations Committee for their work in bringing names forward. We thank Friends who have been released for their service.

9. Co-options to committees

Ellie Harding and Liam Brighton were co-opted on to the Overseers Committee. We thank these Friends for their service this weekend.

10. Catering

We thank Lucy Baston, Billie Jo Dearden and Hannah stranex for catering this weekend.

11. Special Interest Groups

The following Special Interest Groups were held this weekend:

Special Interest Group	Led by
Zine making session	Lily X, Matt Alton
Peace Skills Session	Hannah Iarn and Ginny Wall
Lessons to learn from Lego: stop funding hate	Alex Murray
Research Project – “Young Adult Formation in the UK Today”	Katherine Ajibad
Extinction rebellion session	Rowena Bashford, Laura McQuillan
Philosophy of Ranciere (sp?)	Lawrence
A Walk	Ellie Harding

We thank Friends who have led sessions for their contribution.

12. Re-naming our Eldership committee

Further to minute 2018.35 we have considered changing our eldership committee to be called Elders instead of Quintessential (shortened to Quinti). **We agree to rename the Quintessential Committee to the Eldership Committee**, and agree to replace references to Quintessential in YFGM documents and policies.

13. Appreciation

We have enjoyed our YFGM weekend in Kibblestone Scout Camp and have benefitted from beds to sleep on, showers for all who want them and a surrounding of nature. We thank BYM for their outreach grant which enabled this to happen, and we thank those members of the community who took on extra work to adapt our gathering to this new and different location.

Appendix

- Trustees report
- Pollard and Dixon Trust report
- Background for Mental wellbeing concern review
- Current Link Trustees and their committees

Trustees Report

Since the last YFGM we have welcomed 4 new Trustees: Alexandra and Jane joined after being appointed at YFGM in October and Jaz and Grace jointly took over the role of Overseer Trustee at the planning weekend in February. We are excited to have had a full complement of Trustees currently and hope to continue this by finding a new Finance Trustee this weekend, as Cáit will be stepping down. If you think you or someone you know would make a good finance trustee please do give their name to nominations for consideration.

We'd like to introduce ourselves and briefly explain what we do as Trustees:
(All introduce ourselves)

As Trustees we collectively take on legal and financial responsibility for YFGM, this means ensuring that our documents and practices comply with the charity regulations and making sure we make informed decisions when spending money. A lot of our work happens between YFGM weekends and it can involve updating policy documents, seeking legal advice, working out how to implement decisions made at YFGM and work on projects such as updating the website.

The creation of the new website is now underway and we are hoping to review a draft structure in the near future. We will soon be asking for volunteers to start writing content so please start thinking about the sort of content you would like to see on, or write for, the website and talk to Jane if you have ideas or would like to be involved.

Trustees have also been working on the Roles Review, which will be considered in a business meeting later this morning. We are looking forward to hearing feedback on this review in a business meeting later this morning, so that we can continue with our work revising the constitution and legal structures of YFGM before our weekend in May.

We have also been considering paying someone to do bookkeeping work on our behalf, and have been looking into the costs of reviewing and improving our financial structures. We will be giving our recommendations for the way forward in this area later in this business meeting.

Pollard & Dickson Trust Report – February 2019

The Pollard & Dickson Trust is a Quaker charity that makes grants available to Friends, both members and attenders, for:

- Hardship, where Friends are unable to meet their daily living expenses; or
- Travelling in the ministry, meaning travel that benefits the wider Society (excluding attendance at Yearly Meetings).

Grants can be for up to £1,000 and require two letters:

- An application letter explaining explaining why you need a grant, how much you're applying for, and how the money would be used.
- For hardship applications we know that in the case of hardship in particular, asking for help can be a difficult step to take so I only ever ask for the amount of information you feel comfortable sharing.
- You also need a supporting letter from a role-holder, either from YFGM or your Local Meeting, confirming your application represents a genuine need and your connection with the Quaker community. Ideally this would be an overseer but if you feel more comfortable sharing a difficult personal situation with another role-holder then we are happy to accept letters from them instead.
- For Travelling in the Ministry applications the Trust urges Friends to read Quaker faith & practice 13.21-28 and to provide a supporting minute from their Meeting.

I'm really sorry not to be able to join you all this weekend, but if anyone has any questions please feel free to get in touch via either pdtrust.yfgm@gmail.com or 0775 884 3871. I'm here to help :)

Elinor Smallman

YFGM's Pollard & Dickson Distributor

Background for Mental wellbeing concern review

In our last gathering in October, YFGM agreed to review our corporate Concern about Mental Wellbeing.

In our coming gathering in February, we hope to bring the following questions for YFGM's discernment:

- First, do we still feel that we hold a corporate Concern about Mental Wellbeing?
- Second, do we wish to retain, or to lay down, our Mental Wellbeing Concern Group?

What is a Concern?

Quaker Faith and Practice dedicates several sections of Chapter 13 to illuminating the idea of a Concern as one of the types of service to which Friends may find themselves called, introducing it with these words:

"Throughout the history of the Religious Society of Friends we have recognised that to anyone may come, at any time, a special inward calling to carry out a particular service. It is characterised by a feeling of having been directly called by God and by an imperative to act."

A Concern, in this sense, is not something that we are merely 'very concerned about', in an ordinary sense. Rather, it is a spiritual calling: just as we don't choose to minister in a meeting for worship but must allow ministry to come, in the same way we can't choose to have a Concern.

"'Concern' is a word which has tended to become debased by excessively common usage among Friends, so that too often it is used to cover merely a strong desire. The true 'concern' [emerges as] a gift from God, a leading of his spirit which may not be denied."

As we feel the Spirit at work in the ministry of a gathered meeting, so we feel it at work through us when we act under Concern. QF&P speaks of action taken under a Concern as feeling right and fitting; a Concern coming upon us with sense of love and light leading to the certainty that we must act; and those acting under a Concern finding in themselves a peace and strength which comes from their awareness of the Spirit at work in their actions and discernment.

The question of whether a task which someone feels called to is a Concern in this sense, is one that requires careful discernment by both those involved, and the meeting which surrounds and upholds them and in whose company they listen for the promptings of the Light.

"Throughout the discernment process there should be one overriding principle before the hearts and minds of all: is this individual or group right to believe that this action or service has been 'laid upon' them by God?"

Our Mental Wellbeing Concern

In October 2014, YFGM adopted Mental Wellbeing as a Concern held by our community as a corporate body.

"This concern has been steadily growing within YFGM's community for some time, reflected in special interest groups, speakers, YF(GM Free)s and above all the energy and enthusiasm of YFGM members. As young Friends we can lead by example, and feel the time is right to stand up and say to the world – 'this is important.'... Our spirit of loving, non-judgmental support offers something unique. We are excited at the prospect of the impact we could make in raising mental wellbeing in the social and political agenda."

At this gathering, YFGM also asked nominations to find members for a working group to carry forward to work of the Concern. Those present at this meeting remember the great energy, enthusiasm and strength of conviction with which YFGM adopted the Concern.

In 2015, our minutes speak of how the Concern was carried on with energy in SIGs, reports, sessions based around personal experience, mindfulness practice, and a visit to the Retreat.

In October 2015, some difficulties were raised with the direction of the working group and the support it was receiving from YFGM as a corporate body:

"The group met in London in August to discuss how to move forward. It has been difficult to decide on an area to focus on, but there are exciting plans..."

"Nominations Committee is led to remind YFGM that mental wellbeing was adopted as a concern, with much enthusiasm, by YFGM as a whole... We remind all Friends in YFGM, including ourselves, to support the concern as appropriate to each of us as individuals and to the roles in which we currently serve."

However, YFGM responded to these difficulties with energy, recognising that the upholding of the Concern corporately held was the work of the whole meeting:

"We all have something different to bring to our concerns, and this weekend has helped us to unite around them as a community."

And in February 2016, reports from a course at Woodbrooke, and the results of a preliminary survey on mental wellbeing and YFGM, are put before the meeting. YFGM agreed to a proposal for a more in-depth survey and the working group began work on it.

"Our decision to research how YFGM affects our mental wellbeing invites us to explore our processes, celebrating the positive experiences that living and worshipping together can bring, and helping us to find ways to support each other even more in the future."

After this meeting, however, the Concern seems to lose its connection to the life of the meeting. The Concern Group are still hard at work, in particular on producing and taking the survey which YFGM asked them for, but this is no longer joined to a lively sense of the Mental Wellbeing Concern as something vital to the meeting. In the seven gatherings following this one, there are only two items in the minutes relating to mental wellbeing: a report on the launch of the survey in October 2016, and a SIG about the concern in Bristol October 2017. (I joined YFGM during this time, and certainly got no sense that the Concern, or any accompanying sense of spiritual guidance and conviction, deeply exercised the meeting.)

In our last meeting in October 2018, we agreed to review the concern. We heard from the Mental Wellbeing Working Group about the recent activities of the working group, and about the working group's sense of uncertainty about how to take our concern forward with the resources, time and energy available to them. The clerks were asked to prepare the ground for a review of the Concern at our meeting in February.

Our Review of the Concern

In preparing for the review of the concern, we found that, though caring for one another's mental wellbeing is a core part of what we want to be as a community, it is less clear that our current way of taking it forward best represents how we actually respond to this aspiration in our life together. It is even less clear that those working

most closely on the Concern still feel the peace, rightness, and sense of guidance which our tradition associates with the discerned sense of working under concern.

Since we adopted the concern, YFGM has changed. It's membership is very different and each gathering has more newcomers. Many of the people who were involved in originally bringing the Concern before YFGM, and bringing their energy and passion to its first few years of activities, have moved on.

Further, the wider conversation around mental wellbeing has moved on. The original minute adopting the concern noted that "As young Friends we can lead by example, and feel the time is right to stand up and say to the world – 'this is important.'" At this time - in 2014 - mental health had a lower profile in society than it does now, and open conversation, even amongst our members, more rare and more difficult. Given this change of circumstances, it is not clear that the original vision of what the Concern would be about still leaves something distinctive for YFGM to do.

If we discern that we no longer feel that Mental Wellbeing represents a Concern for YFGM, this need not mean that it isn't important to our community, or that we no longer have work to do with regard to it. Nor would it mean that we've 'given up' or failed. We have had some successes in incorporating parts of our testimony of care for one another into our corporate practices and structures; and QF&P speaks of how laying down a concern may be an opportunity for the celebration of what it achieved and the grace that was shown in its course.

"When a concern has run its course, consideration should be given to how this may be recognised and acknowledged... Celebration for the right ending of what was rightly begun may be appropriate."

At the same time as our Mental Wellbeing Concern, YFGM took on a Concern over the renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons programme. In Edinburgh in February 2017, the decision was taken to lay down the concern, with a great sense of rightness and grace: and a clear sense that though Trident did get renewed, the time, energy and love that had gone into the concern had in no way been wasted or misspent.

If individual members feel that Mental Wellbeing is still a Concern for them, the meeting can choose to support them in various ways ("Recognising concern has also placed an obligation on the meeting which tests and supports it.") The meeting should be aware that if we decide to lay down this concern as a corporate body, we do have the option to release resources and make commitments, both general and specific, to help anyone whose personal witness lies in carrying it on.

Nor is it a foregone conclusion that we are to lay this concern down. In our most recent meeting, a great deal of ministry spoke to how we should look to care for, support and uphold each other. Even if we do feel that we have, in the work we are currently undertaking, lost the sense of peace, rightness and undeniable leading which most properly marks a Concern, by listening and discerning anew, we may discover in this review an opportunity for renewal.

Our Working Group

The working group was set up when the concern was adopted, at was not originally given any terms of reference:

"We envisage that the terms of reference of this group will be finalised as the structure of their activities becomes more defined."

In October 2015, the lack of clear direction for the group was still a problem:

"We recognize that deciding how the Mental Wellbeing Concern Group should work towards the concern has been very challenging, perhaps more so than we as a meeting anticipated."

In February 2016, a clear task was adopted by the working group - the survey on how YFGM contributed to, and challenged, the mental wellbeing of its members; but this increase in direction was accompanied by a loss of close connection between the working group and the life of the meeting as a whole.

We can choose to retain the working group, or to wind it down, whether or not we lay down our Concern. If we choose to retain it, however, we must be sure that we will, as a meeting, be willing and able to give it our support, not letting the group shoulder the concern on our behalf, but each of us trying to bring what we can to our corporate witness.

"Meetings should beware of the risk of using the process of forwarding concerns to avoid their responsibilities."

We should also try to ensure that the working group is given clear direction. It is as a gathered meeting that we listen for the Light, and it must be out of the gathered meeting that our sense of the Spirit's guidance is found and tested. If we wish to retain the group, we should have some fairly clear vision of the aims and scope of the work we ask it to undertake on our behalf.

Whether the group is retained or laid down, the work and witness of members of the group over the life of the Concern deserves to be marked and celebrated.

Current list of Link Trustees and their committees

Trustee Role	Current Role holder	Link Committees
Convenor of Trustees	Alexandra Boliver-Brown	Clerks, Finance Trustee, Management Trustee
Co-clerk	Sam Cooper	Nominations, YQ editors
Co-clerk	Rici Marshall Cross	Reps, SIG co-ordinator
Elder Trustee	Jane Booth	Overseers, OVerseer Trustee, Planning Weekend Newcomers
Finance Trustee	Cait Gould James Davies	Outreach
Overseer Trustee	Jaz Higgs Grace Roberts	Catering co-ordinator
Management Trustee	Tim Rouse	Elders, Elder Trustee