

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

Lancaster Friends Meeting House, 13th – 15th October 2006

Minutes

Present:

Co-Clerks: Guy Milner & Hannah Spiers
YFGM Treasurer: Huw Still
Co-Convenors of Overseers: Majk Stokes & Tom Rowlands
Management Officer: Ruth Wood
Co-ordinator: Alison Squires

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bristol & Frenchay:	Andrew Rendle	Colchester & Coggeshall:	Maud Grainger
Darlington:	Sally Nicholls		Hannah Leavett
Dundee:	Paul Dodwell		Jez Smith
Hardshaw East:	Sarah Donaldson	Northumbria:	Eleanor Rutherford
Norwich & Kings Lynn:	Ruth Wood	Notts & Derby:	Marie Drouin
	Ellen Elliot	South Wales:	Tom Rowlands
Warwickshire:	Edd Ullathorne,	Westminster:	Ellen Marshall
	Ed Blann	West Scotland:	Cait Gould
Witney:	Alyn Still	Worcestershire & Shropshire:	Simon Latham
York:	Hannah Spiers		

Maria Andersson, James Barnard, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Kat Barton, Jessie Bate, Julia Binns, Adam Boardman, Karim Boukhari, Nicola Bowerman, Jennifer Brett, Mary Estall, Dawn Filtness, Hugo Finley, Nessa Grimes, Chris Hanning, Tom Harris, Ben Jarman, Anna Jones, Christopher Lane, Adam Lee, Amy Macpherson, Emily Maddison, Anne Norton, Helen Percy, Adrian Platt, Paul Raymond, Nick Rendle, Steph Riddle, Mark Russ, Rachel Sewell, Helen Sims, Imogen Smith, Luke Spiers, Hilary Topp, Hugh Williams, Laura Wirtz, Rachel Xerri

Total: 60

06/34 Opening Minute

We welcome one another to YFGM in Lancaster and look forward to the time we will spend together.

06/35 Pans and Knives

Our overseers have suggested that we buy new sharp knives, and pay an engraver to engrave our pans and knives to make them easily identifiable. We agree to do this and ask our co-convenors of overseers to take this forward.

06/36 Report from Planning Weekend

Chris Hanning has given us a report from the September Planning Weekend at Carlton Hill Meeting House in Leeds. We thank Chris for his report.

06/37 Pardshaw Report

Tom Rowlands and Andrew Rendle have reported to us on an open meeting held in July to consider possible ways forward for Pardshaw Young Friends' Centre, organised following minute 06/05. The minutes from that open meeting are attached to these minutes. We ask that details of the internet discussion group to look at strategic developments be publicized widely to all interested parties.

We thank Pardshaw committee for their continuous work on this project and look forward to hearing about further progress at future YFGMs.

06/38 Management Group Report

We heard from Nessa Grimes and Ruth Wood from Management Group. We warmly welcome Alison Squires as YFGM Co-ordinator. We have heard about changes to the database. If the office has your email address you will receive an email in November with lots more information about the changes. This includes being able to register online for YFGM events. We thank Management Group for their work on this.

06/39 Smart Justice/Howard League for Penal Reform

Helen Atwell and Adrian Platt have led us in an interactive session exploring crime, prison and alternatives to prison, and our and society's attitudes to these. We have had discussions where we considered whether we agreed or disagreed with statements around these issues, and then fed back to the whole group. We also watched a DVD about the situation in women's prisons. We thank Helen and Adrian for leading this session, and look forward to exploring these issues further in a special interest group.

06/40 Co-ordinator's Project Time

Following minute 06/03, our co-ordinator was given an extra seven hours per month to work on specific projects to commence when J.R.C.T. funding was secured. Following an oversight, this was included in the co-ordinator's contract from July 2006. We feel this has been a positive and worthwhile use of our resources, and agree to authorize this extra time retrospectively from July 2006, to run until December 2007, when the current contract ends. We agree to look again at this at, or before our October 2007 YFGM when we will have a clearer idea of where we stand with funding.

06/41 Communicating our Quaker Identity

Edd Ullathorne and Sally Nicholls led us in a session exploring how we communicate our Quaker identity. We heard four Young Friends' own experiences of this. We then shared our own feelings in small groups using creative listening and finished the session all together with worship sharing. Talking about our identity can be a challenge but we can draw strength from our community. We thank Edd and Sally for giving us the opportunity to reflect and share.

06/42 The YFGM Appeal

We have heard from Maud Grainger about how the YFGM appeal, for the Akany Avoco centre in Madagascar, has been progressing. So far the appeal has raised £16,653.78 which will be used to support the centre's work. We thank the appeal group for all their hard work.

We agree to extend this appeal until our February 2007 YFGM and look forward to supporting it over the coming months. In February 2007 we hope to adopt a new appeal and encourage those with suitable concerns to bring them to our January Planning Weekend.

06/43 Minute of Record – Management Group

We agree to appoint an additional person to serve on Management group for a period of 1 year, until October 2007.

06/44 Nominations

We appoint the following people to serve in the following posts for the periods mentioned. We release from service those mentioned, warmly thanking them for all their work on our behalf.

Position	Length of Service	Person Appointed	Released from Service
Overseer	Until October 2008	Chris Hanning	Majk Stokes

Co-convenor of overseers	Until October 2008	Ellen Marshall	Majk Stokes
Co-ordinator's Support Group	Until October 2007	Kerry Schofield	Julie Ward
		Dominik Kasprzyk	Matt Arnot
		Hugo Finlay	Mark Russ
Appeal Group	Until February 2007	Maud Grainger	Reappointed
		Hannah Leavett	Reappointed
		Simon Best	Reappointed
		Majk Stokes	Reappointed
British Youth Council Rep	Until October 2009	Rachel Sewell	John Bacon
Quaker Life Rep Council	Until October 2009	Simon Latham	Paul Sladon
			Helena Wren
Quaker Peace and Social Witness	Until October 2009	Majk Stokes	Nick Wood
Website Co-ordinator		carried over...	Jonathan Riddel
Newcomers to Planning	Until February 2007	Nicola Bowerman	Chris Hanning
		Christopher Lane	Graham Hayward
		Paul Raymond	Anna Jones
Meetings for Sufferings Rep		carried over...	carried over...
Nominations Committee	Until October 2008	Simon Latham	Sarah Donaldson
Management Group	Until October 2007	Tom Harris	New post
Convenor of Outreach	Until May 2009	Tom Harris	Reappointed

06/45 Volunteers

We thank the following people for volunteering to help in the following ways at YFGM in Leicester in February.

Caterers:	Imogen Smith
	Cait Gould
	Christopher Lane
Pan Transport:	Mary Estall
Recycling/Composting:	Nick Rendle

06/46 Minute of Record - Trustee

Further to minute 06/44 we appoint Ellen Marshall as an Officer and Trustee of YFGM for a period of two years.

06/47 Special Interest Groups

This weekend we have enjoyed the following Special Interest Groups:

- Trip to Lancaster Castle
 - Footwashing
 - Cycle ride
 - 'Don't replace Trident'
 - Welcoming newcomers and YFGM jobs group
 - Smart Justice/Howard League extension to main session
 - Anarchist's knitting circle
 - Outreach video
 - 1652 Country – talk on Quaker history
- We thank those who ran these groups for their work.

06/48 Closing Minute

It has been good to meet again together in Lancaster, and we have enjoyed our weekend here. We have valued welcoming new members of our community, and hope that we will see them again soon.

Our session on Smart Justice and the Howard League for Penal Reform reminded us of our responsibilities to all members of society. For many of us this was put into context by a visit to Lancaster Castle where George Fox was imprisoned. We have had opportunities to share and explore how we communicate our Quaker identities, and the challenges we face in speaking this truth to others. We can draw strength from our community here in YFGM to help us when this task becomes difficult.

This YFGM is Majk Stokes' last meeting as co-convenor of overseers. Majk has brought commitment, enthusiasm and humour to this post, and we will miss his sensitivity, practicality, and songs. We go home tired, but strengthened by our weekend, and look forward to meeting again in February.

Signed in and on behalf of YFGM,

Guy Milner
Co-clerks

Hannah Spiers

Pardshaw Open meeting Minutes July 2006

- 1. Sixteen Friends including the current YFGM Pardshaw Committee, Pardshaw Trustees and other interested Friends met in Lancaster on the 8th July 2006 in response to YFGM minute 06/05 to consider the future of Pardshaw Young Friends Centre. A threshing session revealed the enduring love of Pardshaw and the desire to continue using and developing the centre, while acknowledging that this is perhaps a minority interest both in YFGM and the Society of Friends as a whole. Various directions for future development were explored concerning the running of the centre and possible physical changes. We thank the Pardshaw Committee for all the work they have put into arranging this meeting and giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts on the future of Pardshaw Young Friends Centre. These minutes will be sent to YFGM, Pardshaw Monthly Meeting and other interested groups and individuals.*
- 2. We are aware that there is great potential in Pardshaw Young Friends Centre for developments which would encourage increased use, in particular improving health and safety and enabling the centre to comply with child protection law, which will allow a wider range of people, especially groups including under-18s, to use the centre. Realising this potential while maintaining the existing atmosphere is a challenge which we feel requires consideration of and planning for the long-term future. This needs to be divorced from the day to day problems of running the centre (the concern of the YFGM Pardshaw Committee). We would like to see a group with this aim which embraced the ideas of all those who use Pardshaw Young Friends Centre and balanced these visions with realistic possibilities. We recommend that such a group should seek professional guidance on possible changes to the buildings. We thank Sam Barnett-Cormack for offering to set up an on-line forum to continue collecting and discussing ideas and we recommend that this contact with interested groups be used to carry on the enthusiasm we have experienced today and hope this may lead to a group such as we have considered being formed.*