

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

Liverpool Friends Meeting House

22nd – 24th October 2010

Minutes

Present:

Co-Clerks: Sally Nicholls & Siobhan Haire
YFGM Treasurer: Andrew Rendle
YFGM Finance Officer: Bryony Elias
Co-Convener of Overseers: Hugh Williams
Management Officer: Jessica Metheringham-Owlett
Coordinator: Hugo Finley

Area Meeting and Yearly Meeting Representatives:

Harriet Hart - Norwich and Waveny AM and Craven and Keighley AM
Ellen Marshall - London West AM
Jenny McCathy – York AM
Ian Nicholls - Darlington
Ericka Smith - South East Scotland
Darrel Spence - Cheshire AM

Those Present:

Sam Barnett-Cormack, Hannah Brock, Anna Clark, Kate Conway, Johanna de Haas, Paul Dodwell, Peter Doubtfire, Megan Eardley, Katy Ellerton, Rajit Gholap, Ian Goggin, Cait Gould, Rosalind Haire, Elizabeth (Beth) Howard, Caro Humphries, Sophie Loewendahl, Ged Manning, Maurice Nagington, Adrian Nelson, Livia Oldland, Lailah Peel, Helen Percy, Nick Rendle, Becky Riddell, Oliver Robertson, Tom Rowlands, Charlotte Smith, Hannah Spiers, Alyn Still, Majk Stokes, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott, Thomas Taylor, Kris Turner, Andrew Williams, Christopher Wood, Ruth Wood

Total: **50**

10/39 **Opening Minute**

We welcome each other to YFGM in Liverpool – we also welcome Adrian Nelson from Illinois Yearly Meeting. We look forward to spending the weekend together.

10/40 **YFGM event**

Helen Percy and Majk Stokes have presented us with their plans for YFGM New Years event to be held at Bamford from the 30th December 2010 to the 3rd January 2011. It is hoped that a longer gathering will help to build a strong community within YFGM.

We are happy to adopt and support this as an official YFGM events, and ask Majk and Helen to work with the events co-ordinator to complete the relevant formalities, also that the breakdown of costs be attached to these minutes.

Cost breakdown:

Bamford Accomodation: £15 pppn
Food : £12 pp (whole event)
Contingency : £5 pp

10/41 YFGM 100th Birthday ceilidh

Siobhan Haire has spoken to us about the ongoing plans for the YFGM 100th birthday ceilidh, to be held in August at Yearly Meeting Gathering in Canterbury, as part of the last night celebrations, in support of Firefly, our appeal.

We support the plans for the ceilidh, and authorise Siobhan and the appeal group to use YFGMs money to:

- Book a ceilidh band (no more than £1000)
- Cost and buy refreshments (between £400 and £800 depending on the predicted numbers much closer to the time)
- Plan and organise decorations suitable to the venue (£200)
- To report back to us on progress in February

We feel that this would be an excellent way of strengthening our place in the Yearly Meeting Community and we thank Siobhan for all her hard work. We ask Siobhan to encourage and enable as many Young Friends as possible to participate, hopefully including those not participating in YMG.

10/42 Small Events Procedure

Sam Barnett-Cormack has presented us with a procedure which can be followed for the approval of small social events between YFGM main business meetings on behalf of our events co-ordinator, Jenn Brett. We approve this procedure, as set out in the document attached, and thank Jenn for her work on this. We will review the procedure for YFGM October 2012.

10/43 Transitional Group

Siobhan Haire and Lailah Peel have presented us with a proposal for making YFGM the nominating body for Transitional Group Co-ordinator. We agree that YFGM should become the nominating body for the Transitional Group, and ask that:

- The nomination last for a period of one year
- The system be reviewed after 2 years from the first appointment in co (in October 2012) in conjunction with Transitional Group
- We encourage the person nominated to make links with a committee or position for example outreach/events.
- The person nominated be given trustee support

We feel that this proposal opens up opportunities for us to share our expertise and resources. We encourage YFGM to recognise Transitional Group's independence and ask nominations committee to work with the out-going Transitional Group co-ordinator and current members of the group to discern the right name.

10/44 Testimonies Event

Sam Barnett-Cormack has spoken to us about the testimonies event and his further research on this subject. We re-affirm our support for this exploration already minuted in 10/26 and support a more detailed exploration stage – for example on email and through a Facebook group discussion, and look forward to hearing from Sam at whatever point is most appropriate.

10/45 Reports

This weekend we have heard reports from:

Katharine McIntosh about the Quaker Council for Church and Interfaith Relations

Nicholas Rendle about the Leavener's Management Group

The Planning weekend report from Beth Howard and Hannah Brock

Feedback from YF(GM) Free 2 from Sophie Loewehndahl, Bryony Elias, Cait Gould, Tom Rowlands, Rajit Gholap and Chris Wood.

We thank these Friends for their report and for their work for YFGM.

10/46 Volunteers for Oxford YFGM

We have had the following volunteers for roles in the lead-up to Oxford YFGM in February 2011:

Pan transport from Liverpool to Birmingham – Hugh Williams

Catering at Oxford: Cait Gould and Peter Doubtfire. We hope to find further support for catering from local Young Friends.

10/47 Convenor of Overseers – role change

We agree to split the role of Convenor of Overseers into the role of Overseers Trustee and Convenor of Overseers. This is a positive arrangement to suit our current needs and will be reviewed for Planning Weekend in January 2012.

10/48 Convenor of Overseers – document changes

We ask finance committee to amend the financial policy so that the words “Convenor of Overseers” are changed to “Overseers Trustee” as appropriate, and bring it back to YFGM if necessary.

10/49 **Nominations Minute**

We appoint those named to their posts for the periods of time stated, and released those named, thanking them for their work on our behalf.

Position	Released	Appointed	Until
Overseer	Hugh Williams	Kris Turner	Oct '12
Quintessential	Nick Rendle	Hannah Brock	Oct '13
Catering Co-ordinator	Majk Stokes	Chris Wood	Oct '13
Planning weekend newcomers	Hannah Brock Beth Howard Matt Godwin	Caro Humphries Livia Oldland Adrian Nelson	Feb '11
NFPB representative	Maya Williams	Peter Doubtfire	Oct '13
Co-ordinator's support group	Sally Nicholls	Cait Gould	Oct '11
Convenor of Overseers	Hugh Williams	Tom Taylor	May '11
YQ editor	John Nicholls	Hand over	n/a
YQ financial oversight	John Nicholls	Toby Gibbons	May '11
YF(GM Free) 2	Cait Gould Niel Ryan Sophie Loewendahl	n/a	
Management Officer	Tom Rowlands	Hand over	n/a
Overseers Trustee	New position	Andrew Williams	Feb '12
YF(GM Free) Hogmanay	n/a	Majk Stokes Helen Percy (financial oversight)	Feb '11
Transitional Group Co-ordinator	New position	Lailah Peel	Oct '11

Minutes of Record

10/50 **Release of Trustees**

We release Tom Rowlands and Hugh Williams as trustees of YFGM, thanking them for their hard work on our behalf.

10/51 **Appointment of Trustees**

We appoint Andrew Williams to serve as Overseers Trustee until February 2012.

10/52 Clerk's Offering

We came together this weekend in Liverpool to a warm place of friendship, community and support. Our weekend has been joyous and full of good humour – from Eastender's zip-zap-boing to multi-coloured play-dog sculptures, games, conkers and pumpkins. We have relished our camaraderie, particularly in our cabaret on Saturday night and in our Special Interest Groups, carving pumpkins, making play-doh, discussing FWCC's global change consultation and walking around Liverpool with an unexpected detour to the pub.

Our thoughts this weekend have been with the political situation in Britain, particularly in relation to financial acts and how they will affect us. Although many of us have brought troubles and sadnesses to YFGM, being among Friends centred us, and reminded us of what is important. We wish we could bring this sense of loving community back to our homes and meetings.

We welcomed Rhiannon Beck to lead us in a "Naked Voice" workshop, in which many found the contrast of sound and silence rewarding, and Zia Choudhury and Michael Wolfe shared their experience of interfaith work in Liverpool, and reminded us of the power of listening to strangers until along the way they become comrades and friends.

This YFGM we say goodbye to two of our Trustees – Tom Rowlands and Hugh Williams. Both have contributed immensely to the planning and execution of many YFGMs, and their wit and wisdom will be missed. The Trustees won't know what to do without Tom, as he has been serving for longer than most of us can remember, and Hugh's practical attitude to the problems we regularly face, as well as his stylish compering of many entertainments will be looked back upon fondly. In addition, both have been founding members of the YFGM cheese appreciation group, and we hope that they will continue to enrich our lives in this way at future YFGMs. Thanks you both for making our gatherings so full of joy.

Our Quaker faith is extremely valuable to us. We sit here together in stillness and touch something powerful. Many of us have brought tears to this YFGM, and together we hold each other in silent waiting and support. We go forward now with a sense of our loving companionship, looking forward to coming together again in Oxford, in February 2011.