

Young Friends General Meeting
Nottingham Friends Meeting House
February 17-19th 2012

Present:

Co-Clerks: Sally Nicholls & Ian Goggin

YFGM Treasurer: Andrew Rendle

YFGM Finance Officer: Bryony Elias

Management Officer: Jessica Metheringham-Owlett

Coordinator: Hugo Finley

Area and Yearly Meeting Representatives:

John Bacon - Southwark, Lewisham & Bromley

Jen Batten - North Somerset & Wilts

Ellen Elliott - Norwich and Lynn

Thomas Hancock - East Scotland

Selina Larsen - Mid-Thames

Jenny McCarthy - York

Katharine McIntosh - Cambridge & Peterborough

Allie Nicholson - Croydon

Alyn Still - Witney

Ben Underwood - South London

Those Present:

Mustafa Alachkar, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Simon Beard, Emily S. Bishop, Marina Blades, Rhian Blades, Ella Booth, Nicola Bowerman, Sam Challis, Jay Clark, Helen Close, Carla Denyer, Paul Dodwell, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Chiara Edwards, Toby Freeman, Rajit Gholap, Carolan Goggin, Ian Haigh, Siobhan Haire, Alice Hargraves, Catherine Hess, Tom Hoskins, Elizabeth (Beth) Howard, Owen Jennings, Michael Jones, Amy Kirk-Smith, Holly Knight Spencer, Esther Leighton, Sophie Loewendahl, Rici Marshall, Rebecca Mattingly, Hereward Mills, Dominic Joseph Moylett, Jessica Murray, Maurice Nagington, Stuart Neyton, Katherine North, Rosemary Oliver, Paul Ong, Lauren Amy Parkes, Lailah Peel, Helen Percy, Judith Przylecka-Bruce, Daniel Razeen, Becky Riddell, Rhodri Roberts, Tim Rouse, Tom Rowlands, Abigail Rowse, Kristin Ethel Skarsholt, Nicola Sleep, Hannah Spiers, Chris Stapenhurst, Maxwell Stibbard Hawkes, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Thomas Taylor, Kris Turner, Edward Ullathorne, Hugh Williams, Andrew Williams, Christopher Wood

Total: 79 People

2012.01 *Opening Minute*

We welcome Friends to Nottingham for our February YFGM. We extend a particularly warm welcome to all enquirers attending our parallel enquirer's gathering.

2012.02 *Loyal Address to the Queen*

BYM have invited us to send 2 representatives to join them in giving a loyal address to the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. Though many Young Friends disagree with the institution of the monarchy we feel that it is important to engage with issues that trouble us, and are reminded that Quakers desire to speak truth to power is not limited to institutions with which we feel

comfortable. We recognise that Britain Yearly Meeting is a corporate body made up of many people with conflicting viewpoints. We agree to send 2 representatives to support BYM and to help represent the many varied opinions amongst Friends.

2012.03 Reserves Policy

We approve finance committee's suggestion of extending the period of our reserves from six months -one year's expenditure, to one year-two years'. We ask finance committee to make the appropriate changes to finance policy and will review this change in February 2014.

2012.04 Young Adult Leadership Programme

We have heard from Hannah Spires a proposal to budget £3000 to support young Friends who wish to attend the Young Adult Leadership Programme at Woodbrooke in 2012. We approve this proposal, and ask trustees to consider the best way to allocate our funds.

2012.05 Small Events Budget

We agree to add £2000 to the events budget, to subsidise YFGM's small events. We ask our events co-ordinator to amend Small Social Events policy to reflect the change.

2012.06 Paying Meeting Houses

We have heard from Jessica Metheringham-Owlett about proposed changes to the amount that we pay meeting houses for YFGMs and planning weekends. We agree that instead of paying meeting houses £200 for YFGMs and nothing for planning weekends, we will pay their Quaker rate, as we feel that this is a fairer price, and a good way to support local meetings.

We ask finance committee to add this change to finance policy.

2012.07 Catering Budget

We welcome the proposal from Andrew Rendle to amend the amount budgeted for food to £2 per person per meal, subject to regular review by finance committee and YFGM's catering co-ordinator, as they hand over their role. We ask that YFGM's caterers will continue to buy Fairtrade and organic food wherever possible and ask finance committee to add this change to finance policy.

2012.08 Budget

We approve the budget presented by finance committee, with the addition of £300 to the appeals budget and attach a copy of the updated budget to these minutes. We thank finance committee and all those involved for their work on bringing the budget together.

2012.09 Bursary Policy

We have heard from our general fund treasurer, Andrew Rendle, about proposed changes to bursary policy. We agree to add the line:

- *Other Quaker-run events.*

To the eligibility criteria as shown in the attached document. We thank finance committee for their work on this.

2012.10 YFGM/Leaveners Event

The Leaveners and our events co-ordinator have presented a detailed and enthusiastic proposal for a joint YFGM/Leaveners event, exploring spirituality through the arts. We agree to seize this unique opportunity and fund the event up to £900, as well as allowing access to our accessibility and bursary funds.

2012.11 Trustee Structure

Further to minute 10.04, we have reviewed the change in trustee structure to include one overseer

trustee and one Quintessential trustee, instead of two overseer trustees. We feel this has worked well and approve the continuation of this structure.

2012.12 Trustee Apointment Role Extension

We have heard from Hannah Spires on the problems of appointing trustees to serve for two years from committees where they may already have served up to three years. Currently new trustees are asked to serve for two years from the time they were appointed as trustees. We recommend that committees and trustees continue to take a pragmatic and thoughtful approach to extending length of service for newly appointed overseer and quintessential trustees, and to choosing which members of their committees are appointed. We also trust that YFGMers will give due thought when asked to serve in lengthy roles, and will feel able to stand down if necessary.

2012.13 Nominations

We appoint the following names to the following positions, and release those mentioned:

Position	Released	Appointed	Until	Notes
Interfaith Secretary		Andrew Williams	October 2014	Further to minute [X]
Quintessential trustee	Rebecca Mattingley	Rebecca Mattingley	May 2012	Further to minute [X]
Overseer	Andrew Williams	Jen Batten	February 2014	
YQ Editor	Helen Close Ericka Smith	Rosemary Oliver John Searle-Barnes	February 2015	
Quintessential	Katherine McIntosh	Ellen Elliot	February 2015	
General Fund Treasurer		Edward Ullathorne	February 2015	
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Jen Batten Abigail Rowse Becky Moylett	Judith Przylecka-Brace Michael Jones Allie Nicholson	May 2012	
Yearly Meeting Gathering Agenda Committee Representative		No appointment		
Fundraiser		No appointment		
Loyal Address to the Queen		Andrew Williams Siobhan Haire	May 2012	
Netherlands Yearly Meeting Representative		No appointment		
Nominations Committee	Helen Close	Abigail Rowse	February 2015	
Overseer Trustee	Andrew Williams	Selina Larsen	February 2014	Further to minute 20.12

2012.14 Thanks

Thanks to Amy Kirk-Smith, Kristin Skarsholt, and Holly Knight-Smith for working as caterers this weekend, and Hugo Finley and Lauren Parkes for pan transport this weekend. Thanks also to Becky Riddell for serving on Quintessential this weekend, and Jen Batten for serving on Overseers.

2012.15 Change of Signatories

Further to minute 2012.13 we appoint

- Edward Ullathorne
- Sally Nicholls
- Ian Goggin

as signatories for the general fund current account and

- Edward Ullathorne
- Sally Nicholls
- Ian Goggin

as signatories for the general fund deposit account

2012.16 Reports

We have heard six reports this weekend.

The first report was from Rebecca Mattingly about the Economic Justice Conference. Rebecca gave an interesting and inspiring report on her two weekends considering economic justice and sustainability.

The second was from Jen Batten and Abigail Rowse about Newcomers to Planning weekend. They gave a fun and vibrant report on their time at planning weekend.

The third was from Esther Leighton and Rachel about their time on Meeting for Sufferings. Esther and Rachel spoke about the joys and the frustrations of Meeting for Sufferings and their gratitude for their time there.

The fourth from Jay Clerk and Linda Berry about the Interfaith Retreat. They found this a spiritual and thoughtful experience, and found a real sense of home.

The fifth from Holly and Chris about their time at the Student Christian Movement conference. They spoke of their time as inspirational and had great suggestion for activism for Friends to take forward.

The sixth from Sophie Lowendahl about the availability of funds for those young friends struggling financially from the Pollard and Dickson Trust.

We thank all those for their reports and the work leading up to them.

2012.17 Clerk's Offering

Our February YFGM in Nottingham has been a lively and busy weekend. For many of us, it was our first YFGM – an exciting and sometimes nerve-wracking experience. The rest of us were delighted to see so many new faces, bringing so much energy and thought into our sessions.

This YFGM, Andrew Williams finishes his term as Overseer Trustee. We will miss Andrew's calm good humour, his good sense, his Darlek knowledge and his determination to keep trustees practically and spiritually centred.

This has been a very business-focussed YFGM, with several difficult decisions but with many exciting projects and opportunities. We are delighted to be organising an event with the Leaveners, sending YFGMers to courses and conferences and even going to meet the Queen. We have had a chance to look inwardly, through an inspiring session on Quaker radicalism with Simon Best, and to look at our interaction with the world community, through a challenging and informative session on Foreign Aid with Roger Riddell. We have attended special interest groups on being a Quaker radical, Quaker Voluntary Action, disability welfare reforms and the Spartacus report, making the nominations process work, international development aid, what makes a vibrant meeting, business and Quakerism, moving on from YFGM and a treasure hunt around Nottingham. Some of us have been inspired in a parallel enquirer's gathering.

Though many of us come from difficult places, we continue to find in YFGM a place to be loved unconditionally, to be accepted for who we are and to be inspired to greater works and adventures. We look forward to meeting again in Bournemouth in May.