

Young Friends General Meeting

Brighton

YFGM 15th – 17th February 2013

Present:

Co-Clerks: Sally Nicholls & Ian Goggin

YFGM Finance Trustee: Bryony Elias

Management Trustee: Jessica Metheringham

Coordinator: Hugo Finley

Those Present: Holly Alcock, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Hannah Brock, Rebecca Davies, Carla Denyer, Peter Doubtfire, Peter Doubtfire, Ellen Elliott, Owen Everett, Rajit Gholap, Carolan Goggin, Siobhan Haire, Tom Hoskins, Elizabeth Howard, Owen Jennings, Rob Johnson, Catherine Kennedy, Selina Larsen, Dan Lewer, Sophie Loewendahl, Gerard Manning, Rici Marshall, Rebecca Mattingly, Jenny McCarthy, Katharine McIntosh, Hereward Mills, Jessica Murray, Rosemary Oliver, Helen Percy, Rhiannon Redpath, Andrew Rendle, Rebecca Riddell, Tim Rouse, Thomas Rowlands, Abigail Rowse, Sally Rymer, Timothy Searle-Barnes, Kristin Skarsholt, Elinor Smallman, Ericka Smith, Hannah Spiers, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Kris Turner, Edward Ullathorne, Andrew Williams

Total: 52

2013.01 Opening Minute

We are grateful to be coming together again for our February YFGM. We extend a particular welcome to those attending our Enquirers Gathering, which will be running alongside our usual programme, and we look forward to building our community together.

2013.02 Quaker Peace and Social Witness Representative

Selina Larsen has told us about the changes to Quaker Peace and Social Witness, which means it no longer requires 2 representative roles from YFGM. They also no longer have a representative council, simply an annual conference, which is more of an introduction to their work. We agree to have 1 QPSW correspondence role, rather than 2 representatives. We recognise that it may not be appropriate for our correspondent to attend all three conferences, and ask instead that they encourage other YFGMers to attend QPSW conferences, and engage with QPSW's work. We ask nominations committee to update the role description to reflect the new focus of the role.

2013.03 Trustees

We have heard from Hannah Brock regarding the distinction that YFGM holds between the role of Officer and Trustee in constitution. Currently, people may be appointed to 'officer' roles such as clerk without needing to conform to the legal responsibilities of a trustee. The Charity Commission expects that "trustees check that the candidates have not been disqualified from

acting as trustees, and candidates are asked to confirm in writing that this is the case". We agree to no longer hold a distinction between Officers and Trustees, subsuming them into the position Trustees. We ask that anyone appointed as Trustee is legally able to be appointed as a trustee, and that they sign the declaration attached to these minutes.

We are mindful that we do not want to exclude members of our community, but feel that should a person be excluded from being a trustee by the Charities Act, they should not be involved in making those decisions directly. We trust that YFGM will always find other ways to use those person's talents.

We ask finance policy to be amended to reflect this change, and ask Nominations to add the new requirements to trustee role descriptions.

2013.04 Transitions

Over the last year, we have been reviewing YFGM's policies regarding age. Currently, our age range is advertised as 18-30ish. We currently advise newcomers not to start attending if they are over thirty; however, longstanding YFGMers continue to attend past this age. Trustees were uncomfortable with this contradiction and were aware that this can create problems for nominations committee when considering older members for YFGM roles.

Hannah Spiers has brought two proposals to YFGM. The first is to look more closely at how we support over 30s, by appointing two people to organise a pilot event for this age group. The second is to clarify our age range as 18-30, maximum 35, coming into effect in February 2015.

We welcome the chance to further support our older members, and are excited by the idea of a pilot event. We hope that the people appointed to this role could – alongside those attending the event – consider other ways we could support people in this age range, including but not limited to finding ways to strengthen links between all YFGMers, local meetings and Britain Yearly Meeting. We feel this is a powerful way to 'grow something good'.

However, we feel that it is too soon to make a decision regarding our age range at YFGM. We feel that any decision cannot be made without further thought, and without hearing from those involved in this pilot event.

We ask nominations committee to find two names to organise a pilot event, and to consider further ways we can support our older members. We ask these names to be appointed until October 2013, and for there to be a report back at this time. We agree to extend the role appointments in October 2013 should more work be needed on this issue.

Until we agree a further resolution on age range we ask our co-ordinator to quote the age range to newcomers as 18-0ish, and to not refuse newcomers on the basis of being over 30, leaving attendance open to the individual's decision.

2013.05 Nominations Minutes

The following names are appointed the following positions:

Position	Released	Appointed	Until
Overseer	Jen Batten	Ged Manning Rhiannon Redpath	February 2015
Convenor of Overseers	Kris Turner	Ged Manning	February 2015
QPSW Correspondent	Selina Larsen	Selina Larsen	May 2013
Outreach	Edward Ullathorne	Rajit Gholap	February 2016
International Secretary	Kristin Skarsholt	Jenny McCarthy	February 2016
Trustee (Finance)		Alyn Still	May 2016
Events Co-ordinator	Sophie Loewendahl	Ged Manning	February 2015
Fundraiser		Beth Howard	February 2016
Appeal Group		Selina Larsen Kristin Skarsholt Abi Rowse Edward Ullathorne	February 2014
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Owen Jennings Owen Everett Livia Oldland	Sally Rymen Freya Blythe	May 2013
TYQ Editor	Jay Clark	Freya Blythe	February 2016
Nominations Committee	Alyn Still Jenny McCarthy	Owen Everett Becky Riddell	February 2016
Convenor of Trustees	Hannah Spiers		
Convenor of Nominations Committee	Jenny McCarthy	Peter Doughtfire	

2013.06

We thank our caterers Rachael Swancott, Rebecca Mattingly, and Kristin Skarsholt for the excellent food this weekend. Thank you also to Andrew Williams for acting as Overseer, and Maurice Nagington as QUINTESSENTIAL this weekend. Thanks to Kris Turner for transporting the pans.

2013.07 Reports

We received 3 reports this weekend:

- Sophie Loewendahl reported on the continuing work of the Pollard and Dixon Trust. She gave us some great examples of people that the Trust supports in time of need, and when travelling in the ministry.
- Owen Davis and Owen Jennings have us a report on Planning Weekend. They told us about the insights it afforded them into the planning of YFGM, particularly including an open Finance session, and the extreme difficulty of agenda planning.
- Kim Edwards and Jenny McCarthy reported on the progress of the Young Adult Leadership Programme they are a part of at Woodbrooke. They told us about the amazing residentials they have had at Woodbrooke, and the wonderful sense of community. We learned about the growth and learning they have experienced as part of the programme, and encouraged others to apply for this year's programme.

We thank all for their work in preparing these reports.

2013.08 Closing Minute

This YFGM in Brighton has been full to bursting with things to do, including the near traditional scheduling over-runs. We had sessions, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and speakers all entertaining and challenging us.

Jez Smith spoke to us about the challenges and opportunities that technology affords our communities. Interspersed liberally by cat pictures, and the occasional mention of Nayler.org, he told us about meetings for worship that regularly happen over Skype, and how technology enables the work of the disparate Europe and Middle and East Section. This sparked interesting small group conversations about how we communicate with technology ourselves.

QUINTESSENTIAL lead us in an interesting and thought-provoking session looking at some of the positive and negative impacts of communications technology. We were grateful for the chance to hear each other's stories, and to write some advices and queries on this subject.

Jessica Metheringham, Rebecca Mattingly, and Carla Denyer led us in a session on ethical investments, including a discussion of how Britain Yearly Meeting currently invests its money. This led to suggestions of concrete actions for how we can discover more about Britain Yearly Meeting's investments, and ideas for how to learn more on the topic at future YFGMs.

As always we have enjoyed a range of Special Interest Groups at this YFGM including bread making, The Young Quaker, Great British Bake Off, ethical investments, a discussion of YFGM's appeal, running YF GM-free events, and the ever popular walk to the beach, including a go on the dodgems.

These sessions, SIGs, our big notices, and conversations have highlighted once again the many and varied interests and commitments of members of YFGM. We hope that our May YFGM will be even more full of interest, support, and possibly pictures of cats.