

THE FOY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE, GREAT HUCKLOW ON 4 MAY 2008

Present: 24 members

- Greetings and Apologies** had been received from Gill Hague, Howard Hague, Allan Warhurst, Neill Warhurst, Sarah Slaven, Vic Mason
- Minutes and matters arising:** the minutes of last year's AGM (6 May 2007) were signed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.
- Foy Programme of Events for 2008/09**
 - Flagg Welcome Weekend (Trustees' Weekend): 23-26 May 2008
 - Foy September Weekend at Flagg: 19-21 September 2008
 - Barn Closing Weekend: late October 08
 - Foy Council meeting January 2009 at Sheffield
 - Barn Opening Up Weekend: late March/early April 2009
 - Foy Conference 2009, 1-4 May, Barns Close, near Bromsgrove.
- GA Meetings in 2008:** David Warhurst reported back. Kathy Faiers edited Zette and she has offered again for next year. The Chair agreed to write a letter of thanks to her. It was suggested that someone should write an article for The Inquirer.

Foy Motion: Foy had been happy to support Tony Cann with this and it had been well presented by Tony and Emily Hewerdine. It generated a good debate. It was agreed that a motion for next year's annual meetings should be considered and that a younger delegate be sought. Hazel will circulate the membership and the Autumn Foy News will invite names.

5. Reports of Officers

President: Margaret thanked everyone for attending the Conference; those who had taken early morning Devotions or Epilogues – Jimmy Timiney, Claire Merritt, Colin Partington, David & Hazel Warhurst and Phil Silk; Helen and Richard Merritt for leading this excellent Conference; Emily Hewerdine for being Conference Secretary and arranging the visit to Burton Addiction Treatment Centre; to speakers Tony Cann, Richard Merritt, Anton Shelupanov and Emma Bartlet. Thanks to the Foy Council for their hard work and support throughout her first year as Foy President.

Conference Secretary: Emily will write to the Burton Addiction Centre to say thank you for the most interesting visit and to pass on information about the Foy Society.

Flagg Secretary: Joy Winder as Chair of the Trustees gave a verbal update about Flagg. It has been agreed to renovate The Green when it becomes free and to let it at a commercial rent. Any profits from this will be used to advance the terms of the Trust Deed, ie for young people in the Unitarian denomination and for the inhabitants of Flagg. The accounts of the Trust are in good shape and The Barn is well used. This year the second Foy weekend will be held organised by John Hewerdine.

International Secretary: Post in abeyance at present.

Membership Secretary: Hazel had produced a written report. In brief, the total number of paid up members is 34 couples, 58 individuals, slightly down on last year. She made mention of June Bell's 90th birthday, due in June and that Foy has a (large) card for attendees to sign.

Publications Secretary: Richard Merritt congratulated John Hewerdine on his Foy Society leaflet. John offers it also in an electronic version. He welcomes suggestions for alterations. John had arranged the Foy stand at the General Assembly Meetings. He will put Alan Ruston's report to the B&FUA in the Autumn Foy News. He said he is willing to continue as editor – deadline for next copy is 23 August.

Conference Secretary: Emily Hewerdine said that for next year bookings should be requested earlier and there should be a deadline after which a penalty should be charged. Emily expressed her great thanks to Helen and Richard Merritt for organising a 'cracking conference'. The programme, speakers and visit were all excellent. Emily responded with her thanks to everyone who had contributed to a successful conference. There had been 32 delegates and the speakers had also joined in, which contributed to the success.

Looking forward – she emphasised the importance of choosing a good team to organise the conference – they need passion! Search for Conference Leader. Emily will offer support with this.

1-4 May 2009 in Bromsgrove is the venue of next year's Conference. The price is similar to Great Hucklow, although the centre needs a little updating. She proposed that every other year the Conference should be held at Great Hucklow and this was agreed as well as an increased fee for those who book after the deadline.

She is producing T Shirts @ £10 each with a symbol of the Conference. She recommended that the Conference be advertised widely, for others than just Foy members.

Themes and Topics for 2009

The following were mentioned:

Climate change
Growth in the Unitarian movement
Material wealth versus quality of life
Immigration
Dying with dignity
Poverty
Media
Generation gap
Involving young people
Penal reform
Valuing special (can't remember the last word)
Volunteering as Unitarians
The world of tomorrow and its implications
Future of the world for young people
Muslim contribution to our society

A final thought was Living together in the next generation. It was agreed to ask Mel Prideaux what she could offer as either a speaker or advisor. Margaret will contact her.

Secretary: Howard is in the process of updating the Foy Constitution.

Treasurer: David Warhurst said that bank interest had been doubled by changing the bank. As Foy is affiliated to Liberty and their AGM is on 7 June 2008 we are entitled to send a delegate. It was agreed that David should go if he is able to.

6. **Foy Affiliations:** It was agreed to go on the mailing list of The Young Foundation and to renew membership of Liberty and affiliation with the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

7. **Election to Foy Council for 2008/09:** the following were elected:

| | |
|---|---|
| President : | Margaret Robinson (second year of term) |
| Conference Secretary: | Emily Hewerdine |
| Flagg Secretary: | Isobel Mason |
| International Secretary: | post left vacant |
| Membership Secretary: | Hazel Warhurst |
| Publications Secretary: | John Hewerdine |
| Correspondence Secretary: | Howard Hague |
| Social Responsibility Secretary: | post left vacant |
| Treasurer: | David Warhurst |
| Website Co-ordinator: | Josh Hewerdine |
| General member: | Claire Maddocks |
| General member: | Claire Merritt |

8. **Job Description:** It was agreed to circulate a description of the role of Secretary and to actively search for a replacement for Howard Hague, who wishes to step down.
9. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts:** Jim McClelland agrees to continue as Independent Examiner of the accounts.
10. **Any other Business:** The following people agreed to write articles about the Conference: Foy news – Claire Maddocks; The Inquirer – Jeff Teagle; The Unitarian – Claire Merritt.

Minutes taken by Joy Winder