



Yearly Meeting Gathering

University of York
25th July – 1 August 2009



Yearly Meeting of
the Religious Society
of Friends in Britain

29 iv 2009

Dear Friend,

Yearly Meeting Gathering

Welcome to Yearly Meeting Gathering 2009. We are very pleased you will be joining us at this experimental event and hope that our time together in York will be fruitful in many ways.

Included in this mailing is your invoice. This states what each Gatherer in your group has been allocated in terms of accommodation, excursion, parking and electric scooter. It also tells you what you owe for each of these elements.

Additionally the invoice says what has been credited against your booking so far which might be deposits or bursary funding we have made available following requests.

Please check these booking details and if you have any questions get in touch with the Gathering Office, ideally by e-mail at ymsg@quaker.org.uk , or by phoning 020 7663 1040.

Some Gatherers have offered a donation towards the bursary fund; we would appreciate any in your party who have donations to pay to write a cheque on an account in their own name and to sign a GiftAid declaration. In this way we hope to make the donations worth even more.

We would appreciate payment of the invoice by the end of June at the very latest and that all cheques should have the name of the booking leader and their local meeting written on the back.

Any cancellations which we are aware of by the end of June can be refunded (except for deposit) however after this time we will incur charges and refunds will not be possible. Travel insurance may cover such an eventuality and Gatherers are advised to consider taking some out.

FairTrade food

In addition to the shops on campus which stock fairtrade food, Mary and Peter Cundy are running a fairtrade stall in the Exhibition Centre during YMG. They are also taking orders for food which will be prepared for collection in time for your arrival. If you would like to make use of this service please use the included form and send it direct to them.

Home Groups

We hope Friends will welcome the opportunity to be a part of a smaller 'fixed' community within the gathering as a whole, we ask everyone in your group to let us know what sort of Home Group they would like to be involved with, ideally by visiting www.tinyurl.com/YMGHomeGroups , or by completing and returning the Home Groups questionnaire which is included.

Offers of service

We are grateful for the many offers of service and support we have received. The Planning Committee is busy matching your offers to the needs of the Gathering. We will be writing to you again shortly about this if you have made an offer.

Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
Telephone 020 7663 1000 Fax 020 7663 1001
Internet www.quaker.org.uk Email enquiries@quaker.org.uk
Registered charity number 1127633

Arriving for YM Gathering

Page 55 of *Documents in advance* gives you information about where to go when you arrive. If you are arriving by train look out for the welcomers, they might suggest your best mode of travel. The bus is not always suitable for those arriving with significant luggage and they may suggest you share a taxi with others who will be resident in your college.

Reading in preparation

It will help you know what to expect if you read *Documents in advance* sections on 'How Yearly Meeting Gathering works' from page 44 and 'Practicalities' from page 54.

Parking

Parking on campus is a 'pay & display' and costs roughly £3.00 per day.

Travelling to YMG

We are going to be matching 'car sharers' in the next few weeks and, if you have asked, will put you in touch with others who may be travelling your route.

Train bookings have recently opened to cover the period of YMG. If you are travelling by train the best prices are available now. It is possible to book train tickets to 'York plusbus' - these include the bus fare to and from the university campus in the price.

In this mailing you should have :

- An invoice (for Booking Group Leaders)
- *Documents in advance*
- *Epistles & testimonies*
- *Trustees report and accounts*
- FairTrade order form
- Home Groups choices form
- 'Including those with disabilities' leaflet
- Inventory of what to expect in different accommodation and what is needed for excursions.

All these papers except for your invoice will be available for downloading from www.ymg.org.uk which also has a blog and other information to keep in touch with developments before the Gathering. To further help you come with heart & mind prepared you could also make use of the sessions in the workpack which has been sent to all local meetings or take part in the online forum covering various aspects of the Gathering at www.quaker.org.uk/forum .

We look forward to seeing you in York.

In Friendship,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Paul Parker' and the second is 'Lizz Roe'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Parker and Lizz Roe

Co-clerks of Yearly Meeting Gathering

Yearly Meeting Gathering 2009

Creating Community: *Creating Connections*

Home Groups

Home Groups will be a small community within the large community of the Gathering. They will be a chance for people to get to know other people and will provide space during the week to reflect on your experience of YMG. There will be a variety of home groups with a range of different approaches; however the emphasis of all Home Groups is on sharing, reflection and supporting one another as we create a community together as well as creating connections between different gatherers. Home Groups are an integral part of the event and we expect all gatherers to attend their group.

Have a look at the types of Home Group then indicate your preferred choices (please give a first, second and third choice) online at www.tinyurl.com/YMGHomeGroups or by completing the section overleaf. We cannot guarantee that you will get your 1st or even your 2nd choice as this depends on the popularity of the type of Home Group – however we will do our best to offer you one of your choices.

- Many of the groups will include both under 19s and over 19s in more or less equal numbers.
- Groups marked (O) are suitable for 'occasional gatherers' who will not be at YMG for the whole week.
- All the styles of small Home Groups will have some groups exclusively for Over 19s.
- Groups marked (F) are Family friendly and will have groups which are welcoming to 0-11s and their responsible adults.
- Those aged 0-11 will join home groups with their parents/responsible adults. Try to choose a different responsible adult for each of your under 11s, as this will help them to be in home groups with over 19s and others of approximately the same age.
- Those participating in Junior Yearly Meeting and the 11-13s and 13-15s groups will join 'Allsorts' groups and do not need to fill in this form. They will be allocated to Home Groups with a group of Gatherers roughly their age as well as some Over 19s.

	Type of Home Group
code	Small groups of up to 20 people
A	<i>Jaw Jaw</i> : mostly talking - sharing and reflecting with each other (F) (O)
B	<i>Music and Talk</i> : where some of the sharing may be by making or listening to music group between talking.(F)
C	<i>Creating and Talk</i> : reflection and sharing and talking using art, craft, drawing, sticking and making. (F)
D	<i>Allsorts</i> : a variety of activities, music, art, games, sharing, reflection (F)
E	<i>Worship and Talk</i> : groups with an emphasis on worship sharing
F	<i>Walk and Talk</i> : a short or long walk (whatever the weather) – either round the lake or maybe further afield providing an opportunity to chat, share and reflect. (O)
G	<i>Cuppa and Chat</i> : more informal groups meeting to chat over a cup of something. (O)
H	<i>On Offs</i> : groups for those at the gathering for just a few days.(O)
	Larger groups of more than 20 people
X	<i>Worship</i> : join a large unprogrammed meeting for worship each day (O)
Y	<i>African Choir</i> : be a part of a choir learning African songs (F)
Z	<i>Informal group singing</i> : join together to sing from the European tradition (F) (O)

If you do not return this form you will be allocated to a Home Group wherever there is space.

Please fill out one section per Gatherer and return to the Yearly Meeting Office (address below) by 26 May.

Name						
Name of Responsible Adult (if aged 0-11)						
And age if aged 0-11						
1st choice		2nd choice		3rd choice		
I am over 19 and I would rather not be in a mixed-age Home Group (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/>						

Name						
Name of Responsible Adult (if aged 0-11)						
And age if aged 0-11						
1st choice		2nd choice		3rd choice		
I am over 19 and I would rather not be in a mixed-age Home Group (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/>						

Name						
Name of Responsible Adult (if aged 0-11)						
And age if aged 0-11						
1st choice		2nd choice		3rd choice		
I am over 19 and I would rather not be in a mixed-age Home Group (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/>						

Name						
Name of Responsible Adult (if aged 0-11)						
And age if aged 0-11						
1st choice		2nd choice		3rd choice		
I am over 19 and I would rather not be in a mixed-age Home Group (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/>						

YM Gathering office
 Friends House
 Euston Road
 London
 NW1 2BJ

Inventory

For Yearly Meeting Gathering 2009

You should expect the following to be provided:

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Accommodation

In **bedrooms** (each bedroom has a washbasin)

Bed Linen, duvet & pillows, towels, tea/coffee making facilities, a 'Pillow pack' (mini shower gel soap &c)

There is no dedicated communal space in catered accommodation.

Self Catering Accommodation

In **bedrooms** (each bedroom has a washbasin)

Bed Linen with duvet & pillows,

please note NO towels or 'Pillow pack' so please bring your own

In Kitchens

In addition to cookers, fridges, dining table and chairs you can expect the following equipment: crockery, tumblers/goblets, cutlery, tin opener and cork screw, mixing bowl, oven tin, saucepans, measuring jug, kettle, teapot, chopping board and washing up bowl.

There are NO tea towels, so please bring one/some. Also bring any speciality kitchenware you might want.

What you need for your trip

For Yearly Meeting Gathering 2009

If you are booked onto an Excursion you should find it stated on your invoice.

Even in the middle of summer weather can be unpredictable, please consider what clothing you may need in case of inclement weather.

If you have booked a packed lunch this will be available on the day with notification in the bulletin about how it will be delivered. If you do not have a booked packed lunch you might want to consider what you will have for lunch.

Specific needs for walks

All walkers need to take waterproofs and a packed lunch. Those on the Cleveland Way, Coast & Cliffs and Rosedale Ramble need to wear good boots whilst those on the Malham & Meeting Houses walk will require strong shoes as a minimum. Trip leaders may refuse to take anyone they feel is inadequately equipped.

Including People with Disabilities

Introduction

Yearly Meeting Gathering will be a community of people with differing talents and needs. Being an inclusive community means a shared responsibility for nurturing each other.

Some disabilities are obvious and visible and not easily missed, others are not so obvious. Sometimes people will let you know what they need and sometimes they won't. Do not assume that only those you are aware of have difficulties.

Much of what is here is good sense when speaking with anyone.

A person with a disability is a person first and foremost; please remember to speak to the person and not the disability.

Communicating with people who are deaf or hard of hearing

- When speaking to a person /people who may be deaf make sure they can clearly see your lips when you are speaking
- Speak clearly and not too fast.
- If possible, reduce background noise such as fans and heaters.

Communicating with people who are blind or visually impaired

- When you approach someone with a visual impairment introduce yourself and be sure to tell them when you are leaving.
- If you are relating to something you can see give a commentary and reflect what you can see verbally.
- If you are guiding a blind person you should stand to the left and a little in front. Allow the person to take your arm. Advise in good time of 'steps up', 'steps down', doorways etc.

Mobility

- Some people may be ambulant but unable to walk far or fast e.g. someone with a heart problem, walk at a pace all can easily manage.
- Keep passageways clear. Be aware to allow space for wheelchair users, those that cannot walk far, or someone who needs to access a toilet quickly.
- When speaking to someone in a wheelchair sit beside them (do not stand over them or kneel at their feet!)

Language

- Take care words do not cause offence e.g. "the blind", "the deaf". Instead "the person with hearing/visual difficulties", or "Chris, who is hard of hearing"

Caring for each other at Yearly Meeting Gathering

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Isaac Pennington, 1667

We want to create a true sense of community and belonging at YMG. We want people to feel safe and get the most out of their time at YMG so here are a few thoughts on how we can care for each other.

- Be aware of those around you - in your accommodation, in your groups and in other places around the campus. Talk with people and ask if they are ok
- Remember the importance of being inclusive. Check people are not left out and avoid forming cliques. If you are aware someone is on their own, invite them to eat with you, or join you and others in the activity you are doing
- Each day speak to someone new
- Smile at people
- When you meet with others listen carefully to them, make them feel valued and special
- If you are worried about someone and are not sure what to do speak with someone who can help
- Treat others as you would want them to treat you

TRAIDCRAFT SHOPPING LIST for Yearly Meeting Gathering 2009

Name..... Contact Phone No.....

PRODUCT	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Basmati Rice - Brown 1kg	3.30		
Basmati Rice - White 1kg	£2.75		
Brazil nuts 150g	£1.70		
Cashew nuts 150g	£2		
Choc Hazelnut spread 400g	£2.15		
Coffee - Cafédirect instant 100g	£3		
Coffee - Cafédirect decaff. organic instant. 100g	£3.70		
Fairbreak cookies	80p		
Cookies - Double Choc Chip	£1.25		
Cookies - Brazil Nut	£1.25		
Cookies - Stem Ginger	£1.25		
Dark Genoa cake 375g	£2.50		
Dried apricots 200g	£2		
Drinking Chocolate 250g	£2.25		
Fairbreak wafers (9 pack)	£1.25		
Geobars - Apricot (6 pack)	£1.70		
Geobars - Honey nut (6 pack)	£1.70		
Geobars - Berry (6pk)	£1.70		
Honey 340g	£2.80		
Instant Chocolate drink 22g sachet	£0.25		
Kitchen Roll twin pack	£1.35		
Muesli - Fruit & Nut 500g	£2.00		
Muesli - Tropical	£2.00		
Orange juice 200ml carton	£0.40		
Organic Fusilli Pasta 500g	£1.75		
Organic Orange Marmalade 340g	£1.80		
Raw cane sugar 500g	95p		
Traidcraft English Breakfast Tea 50 bags/125g	£1.50		
Traidcraft one cup tea bag 100 bags/250g	£2		
Total			

Please send payment with your order, cheques made out to: RP & M Cundy, at:
The Bakery House, Chapel Street, Warham, Wells-Next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1NN
Thank you.
Your goods will be waiting for you in York!