

Next, I said in the current Newsletter that we are also developing proposals for a major change in the application of the Rawdon Educational Fund. As section 3 of our Charities Handbook on the website says, we currently administer the income – not the capital - on a century-old historical basis that it exists exclusively to promote: “the education of children of members of the Society of Friends .. attending a secondary school officially connected with [Britain Yearly Meeting] and who reside or have a parent residing within the area of [Quakers in Yorkshire].” Grants have only ever applied to Yorkshire’s three Quaker schools connected with BYM - Ackworth, Bootham and The Mount.

You don’t need me to tell you that this is extremely restrictive. We agreed in February this year that ‘were this trust being created now, we are convinced that Quakers would be not satisfied with a scheme that helped so small a proportion of children of Quaker parents in Yorkshire, especially given the expenses that all parents now face in attempting to support their children in education.’ So we are minded to broaden the objects of the trust.

It will take time and will require the agreement of the Charity Commission but we don’t doubt that can be obtained, and the clerk of QSC supports this judgment. Broaden the objects how? We have not agreed a specific scheme but are considering using the annual income (at present around £5-6k) to offer grants direct to parents of each QIY child when the child moves from primary to secondary education. We shall need a scheme for consulting overseers in each AM to advise us who is eligible. The move to secondary school is a time that means expenses for every parent. I can’t say what sum per child that would mean as the numbers of eligible children will vary year on year, as will the interest on the Rawdon Fund. I’m bringing this before you now as some of you may well wish to offer suggestions of your own that will be helpful as we put detail on the scheme before submitting it to the Charity Commission.

Just a short postscript. We are also considering the possibility of broadening the remit of the Forrest Meeting House Fund to see if it can include loans, but that’s a treat for the future.

Barbara Windle *clerk to trustees*

21.07.2018.

QIY Trustee Report to QIY July 2018

Over the past year there have been changes in the trustee body. Michael Davis completed his service in Dec 2017. Michael's role as clerk of investment group was ably taken on by Helen Meads – who will herself need to be replaced when she completes her service at the end of this year.

In place of Michael, John Baily was appointed to begin service as York AM's representative. Sadly John had hardly been appointed than renewed health problems made it difficult for him to attend meetings and he soon felt obliged to ask to be released. Another name will be before you today.

One other trustee, Chris Fellowes, has been afflicted with health difficulties for part of the year; we are very glad to see her in recovery now. One AM, BWY, remains unrepresented; we seriously urge Friends there to seek a way of rectifying this situation by bringing a name to QIY's October meeting.

Our Treasurer has been working hard. QIY administers a number of funds but Chris Petrie has reduced the number of bank accounts thus simplifying that part of the work. Arrangements have been completed for QIY to take on responsibility for the Buildings Charity – its short name, the longer one of BLSMMBC being one of those bewildering conglomerations of initials in which Quakers seem to specialise. Different elements of a very complex charity have now been transferred to more appropriate places and the whole simplified, leaving QIY to accept responsibility for a purely grant-making body administering 'a restricted fund with the objects of "... maintenance, repair or improvement of the land and buildings in the area of benefit, used for the Charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends.' Those longing to know more can consult the QIY Charities Handbook which is on the QIY website – look at 4.2 for the full story – do look at the rest of the handbook too.

Another part of our work has involved The Mount and Bootham this year. Clear governance has meant reaching an up to date Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with these schools, for which we are the 'responsible' Quaker body. After more drafts than I care to remember we have an agreed statement. We don't expect to need to refer to it frequently but we're confident that when we do, it will be clear and therefore useful. Thank heavens that email means only branches rather than trees have been destroyed in its creation.

The accounts for 2017 are in the final stages of preparation for examination. They will be available for you as soon as that is completed; the outcome will show that we are strongly placed. This is good in enabling us to give more attention to how we are using and can use these funds in the future. So I am glad to report first of all that we have been able to make substantial awards from the Adult School Union bequest. We look forward to receiving more applications this autumn – before our September meeting if possible – both from meetings seeking to offer day or weekend courses for Friends and also from individuals looking to develop their Quakerism by further study or research.