

## YAQM Trustees' Meeting

Trustees met for the first time this year on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at New Earswick. We welcomed Danielle Palmour as a new Trustee, and also Barbara Windle, Margaret Bryan, Chris Holman, Lois and Nick Folkard.

Chris, Lois and Nick took us through the latest updates on the Safeguarding of children and adults at risk, with particular advice about DBS checks and the extent to which we have responsibility for the people to whom we hire our premises. Together with the safeguarding officers in each local meeting, Nick, Lois and Chris can offer a wealth of good advice on all aspects of this subject. And, of course, there is our Area Meeting Safeguarding Policy - important to have read and acted upon.

The Tabular Statement for 2017 shows a fall in membership of 21 over the last year: a new total of 396. Meg Forrest pointed out that it is an increasingly realistic representation of the true membership. A number of the resignations were from completely inactive members and, of course, we have had a number of deaths. Friends being accepted into membership outnumbered transfers in from other meetings.

Our Treasurer reported on the anticipated deficit of £3,270 for 2017, which can easily be covered by reserves. Some of those are made up of investments which have been sold on ethical grounds and will be temporarily invested in the Ecology Building Society.

We received a most illuminating account of the whole Friargate Project from Margaret Bryan, bringing us up to date with the financial situation and giving us good news about the new staffing team. We noted that the renovation and development work has been a remarkable achievement, having been completed on time and within budget. The repayment of loans is looking much more achievable than only a few months ago, with the news of a bequest and the conversion of several loans into gifts.

Talking of bequests, the Elisabeth Holmgaard bequest to New Earswick, continues to exercise us all. Trustees have offered support to NE friends in the use of the money and are going to look in depth at the issue of how we manage large bequests and legacies in the future.

A number of employment issues, property maintenance matters and Health and Safety were covered. Perhaps one of the most optimistic items was the news that Friargate Friends are planning to let Waller House to a refugee family. We heartily endorsed this scheme.

The minutes of this meeting are available from me, as are any (or all!) of the many documents referenced in the minutes.

Jenny Hartland (Co-Clerk to YAQM Trustees)