

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, 37 young people and 6 adults went to Hemel Hempstead for the Young People's program as part of Britain Yearly Meeting.

We spent the first evening having arrived at Felden Lodge getting to know each other through base groups and interactive games as introduction to one another and the event.

On the Saturday, in the morning after meeting for worship we held a Base Group Challenge, helping us work on our teamwork and bond. After that we started to look at Quaker History, in order to begin looking at the theme of Yearly Meeting. Rhiannon Grant, a member of the Quaker Faith and Practice revision preparation group helped us get some background and develop our understanding on whether we think QF&P should be revised. We suggested there should be more material on diversity, recognising different family situations, refugees, and a wider range of spiritual journeys. Later on, the whole of YPP travelled by train to Friends House to join the Yearly Meeting main session and to attend the thought-provoking Swarthmore Lecture given by Chris Alton.

On Sunday, after meeting for worship, we talked about the Quaker Business Method in base groups. In our own Business Meeting we wrote a minute saying we want to embrace diversity, be accessible to all, and that young people should have an active role in achieving these goals. In small group 'chatrooms' we discussed diversity within Quakerism: LGBTQ+ Community, Religious differences and all age inclusion, which allowed us to consider the issue of diversity in a changing world.

After lunch, to let off some steam after a relatively heavy morning, we went outside to play games and have discussions while enjoying the nice weather. Swarthmore Lecturer Chris Alton joined us for a follow up session on his earlier lecture, where we came up with creative solutions to problems, such as personifying planks of wood to combat deforestation, making the steps to buildings 5' high to highlight their inaccessibility for disabled people, or building a cardboard bus shelter. Melinda Wenner Bradley told us a Faith & Play story about Questions, and we ended the day with a camp fire.

On Monday at Friends House we looked at Quakerism in the future and enjoyed our final sessions together.

The weekend has allowed us examine and celebrate diversity. There is room for greater inclusion and we want to have an active role in opening our society to all, regardless of age, belief or identity.