

EMEYF Annual Report 2017



A group of EMEYFers huddled up to stay warm during Spring Gathering in Poland

In this Annual Report

Before you lies the EMEYF Annual Report 2017. Although, chances are you're reading this on a computer, and before you is maybe just the cup of tea you're about to enjoy. Annual Reports have been digitally available for a few years now, and since January of 2018 Willy and Penn has joined us on the web. This digital revival of the EMEYF magazine is the first major outcome of the Living Archives Project (or, since we do love our acronyms, LAP). If you want to read more about Willy and Penn, see page 9. For a report on LAP, please find page 9.

The goal of this Annual Report is not only to keep you up to date about our technological advances, but also as a way to provide information about the financial situation of EMEYF. Our treasurer Rose

Almond made sure the consolidated accounts are accessible for everyone to read on page 6 of this report. As you can see in the accounts, EMEYF spends its money in various places. We give out bursaries for people to attend meetings and gatherings, we have a little pot of money to support sustainable travel instead of aeroplanes and we have to spend some money to sustain our organisation. However, the most important thing we spend money on is ensuring Friends from all over Europe can meet each other in person to experience community, Quakerism, shared meals and silence, deep conversation and good fun together. EMEYF meets twice every year: a week around Easter, for our Spring Gathering, and a weekend in autumn for our Annual Meeting. In 2017, these meetings were held respectively in Poland and in Quaker House Brussels. For the Epistle from the Spring Gathering, please see page 10. Other stories shared by Friends can be found on the further pages of this annual report. We hope you will enjoy reading them and maybe even feel inspired to share your own experiences with friends and Friends within or without EMEYF.

On the business side of EMEYF, you will find two organs. The first being Communications Committee (CC) and the other being the Charitable Committee (ChC or Trustees). CC is responsible for making decisions and working for EMEYF between events. They meet in person and electronically throughout the year to make sure that the organisational side of EMEYF is looked after. All decisions that CC make are accountable to the Annual Meeting/Meeting for Worship for Business at Spring Gathering. Currently, CC consists of two clerks, two elders, a treasurer, a fundraising treasurer, and a gatherings coordinator. CC is supported by a secretary from

European and Middle Eastern Young Friends

EMEYF is a loose community of Friends from all over Europe and the Middle East. Most of us are young adults aged somewhere between 18 and 35. We find each other in spirituality and silence, and most of us care about doing the right thing for the world around us. This inspires us to discuss and think about topics such as sustainability, equality, peace, nature and community.

Get in touch with us! Current members of CC are:

Kirsten Stuhr, Clerk, Germany

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George Thurley, Clerk, UK/Netherlands

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Rose Oliver, Elder, UK

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Lisa Specht, Elder, Germany

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Rose Almond, Treasurer, UK

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Lisette Nijboer, Fundraising Treasurer, Netherlands

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Silja Pfeiffer, Gatherings Coordinator, Germany

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Dilia Zwart, Secretary, Netherlands/US/Belgium

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QCEA in Brussels, at the moment this secretary is Dilia Zwart. For a short word from CC, see page 4. The Charitable Committee is currently made up of four trustees: Esther Köhring, Silja Pfeiffer, Rose Almond and Lisette Nijboer. They are legally and financially responsible for the organisation. Esther Köhring is also active in her role as the LAP-coordinator.

A word from CC

Lisette Nijboer

Hi! My name is Lisette and I live in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. I wasn't raised in a Quaker family but I found the community to be very welcoming and warm, so this place does feel like home to me. More personally, one of the things I love to do is writing, but when prompted to write something about myself I shut down (who doesn't?). I also love drawing/crafting, taking walks –with or without a dog, and bouldering. I'm always in the market for a nice work of fiction so if you have any good recommendations, let me know!

George Thurley

I'm George, one of EMEYF's current co-clerks, and previously EMEYF's only voluntary secretary (as far as we're aware) I'm currently living in my second BENELUX country, studying sustainability policy. I love strong tea, play frisbee (enthusiastically, but inconsistently) and nearly always blink in photos. I'm a Hufflepuff.

Silja Pfeiffer

A great pleasure in 2017 has been gardening and exploring nature in my back yard. Who recognizes all 6 vegetables?



Rose Almond

In 2017 I started to rekindle my relationship with EMEYF in the role of Treasurer. After first attending Spring Gathering in North Yorkshire, UK, in 2014 I had been out of the loop a little. In 2017 I really enjoyed getting back into the swing of it by attending Annual Meeting in the November, it felt like coming home. My role involves producing the end of year accounts and suggesting a budget for the next financial year. It took quite a long time to gain access to the bank accounts so it's taken a while to finalise the 2017 account but you can find them on the next page of this annual report, enjoy!

Kirsten Stuhr

Hello! I'm Kirsten, the other co-clerk and 2017 was a year of preparation for me, with a large Quaker wedding in the summer and the first half of my pregnancy shortly after. Now my partner and I (and housemate) have a baby in our lives, which is great and exhausting at the same time :). I'm a big fan of languages, love to sew and create things, bake&cook and am always happy to sing old and new songs.

Rose Oliver

It has been a wonderful spiritual renewal for me to serve as elder this year for EMEYF. EMEYF feel like my "home" meeting, and I feel a strong sense of connection both during our gatherings and in the time in between. I move around a lot; last year I lived in Seville, Sunderland and then moved to London to become a Teacher of the Deaf. Having a tie to a group which is geographically diverse is a perfect fit! People I have met through EMEYF feel like family. These friendships help to challenge me to stay true to my values. We are not alone in wanting a loving, healthy world. In fact, we are not even in the minority. But those other voices can be so loud and I can feel overwhelmed, so the "still, small voice of calm" which I find in our EMEYF Meetings for Worship is a deep reassurance and reminder of the value of my Quaker life and of our community.

Lisa Specht

It has been great to come back to the EMEYF community in 2017 - starting with my second Spring Gathering in Poland and continuing in Brussels at Annual Meeting. I'm looking forward to the next years together.

This overview summarises categorisations of our transactions. Tables cover; the previous years balance, the current years income and expenditure, calculations relating these tables. Finally the later two tables give an idea of how our different funds cover aspects of our expenditure, and what funds are available in the upcoming year. In each table the first two columns display the actual amount in each currency in a category, so transactions in a category total £c and €d. The 'Consolidated as' columns display the total value of a transactions in a category, converted entirely into the specified currency. Both £ and € are displayed since we keep bank accounts in both currencies, and it makes amounts more easily to picture for all those who may look at the accounts (as EMEYF's committee and trustees are based across Europe).

Overview Exchange Rate on 31/12/2017 £ 1.13 € per £
See:<http://xe.com/currencytables/?from=GBP&date=2017-12-31>

Table 1: Balance from 2016

Category	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €	Notes
Herzberg Funds	£ 1,307.91	€ -	£ 1,307.91	€ 1,471.89	(1)
LAP Funds carry forward	-£ 255.98	€ 2,272.23	£ 1,763.11	€ 1,984.16	
General funds/non-specified Donations	£ 17,667.49	€ 10,437.72	£ 26,942.39	€ 30,320.23	
Total balance brought forward	£ 18,719.42	€ 12,709.95	£ 30,013.41	€ 33,776.27	

Table 2: Income

Category	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €	Notes
Spring Gathering Income 2017	£ 992.04	€ 2,212.00	£ 2,957.61	€ 3,328.41	
Spring Gathering Income 2018	£ -	€ 150.00	£ 133.29	€ 150.00	
Annual Meeting Income 2017	£ -	€ 12.00	£ 10.66	€ 12.00	(2)
Donations – Meetings	£ 1,477.61	€ 1,020.00	£ 2,383.98	€ 2,682.86	
Donations – Friends of EMEYF	£ 258.00	€ 980.00	£ 1,128.82	€ 1,270.35	
Acting as Agent - Sustainability	£ 17.00	€ 61.50	£ 71.65	€ 80.63	(3)
LAP Funds	£ -	€ 5,633.33	£ 5,005.75	€ 5,633.33	
Bank Interest	£ -	€ 0.01	£ 0.01	€ 0.01	
Total:	£ 2,744.65	€ 10,068.84	£ 11,691.77	€ 13,157.59	

Table 3: Expenditure

	Category	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €	
Core Costs	Annual Meeting Expenditure 2016	£ -	€ 50.00	£ 44.43	€ 50.00	(4)
	Annual Meeting Expenditure 2017	£ -	€ 291.87	£ 259.35	€ 291.87	
	Annual Meeting 2016 Role Holders Travel	£ 349.11	€ -	£ 349.11	€ 392.88	
	Annual Meeting 2017 Role Holders Travel	£ 146.86	€ 197.98	£ 322.78	€ 363.25	(5)
	CC Meeting 2017	£ 432.75	€ 64.80	£ 490.33	€ 551.80	
	Spring Gathering Expenditure 2017	£ 1,701.00	€ 1,027.48	£ 2,614.01	€ 2,941.74	
	Spring Gathering Expenditure 2018	£ -	€ -	£ -	€ -	
	Spring Gathering Planning 2017	£ 181.70	€ -	£ 181.70	€ 204.48	
	Spring Gathering Planning 2018	£ 275.01	€ 273.50	£ 518.04	€ 582.99	
	YALP	£ -	€ 65.00	£ 57.76	€ 65.00	
	Representatives	£ -	€ 100.00	£ 88.86	€ 100.00	(6)
	Bank Charge	£ -	€ 36.00	£ 31.99	€ 36.00	
	Stationary and Sundries	£ -	€ -	£ -	€ -	
	Insurance	£ 448.00	€ -	£ 448.00	€ 504.17	(7)
Bursaries	Bursaries Spring Gathering	£ -	€ 1,375.87	£ 1,222.59	€ 1,375.87	(8)
	Bursaries Annual Meeting	£ -	€ 306.56	£ 272.41	€ 306.56	
	2016 Liabilities	£ 176.40	€ -	£ 176.40	€ 198.52	(9)
Acting as Agent	Sustainability Commitment	£ -	€ 59.50	£ 52.87	€ 59.50	(3)
	Other	£ -	€ 725.25	£ 644.45	€ 725.25	(10)
	Total:	£ 3,710.83	€ 4,573.81	£ 7,775.09	€ 8,749.88	

Table 4: Calculations

Costings	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €	
Income	£ 2,744.65	€ 10,068.84	£ 11,691.77	€ 13,157.59	
Expenditure	£ 3,710.83	€ 4,573.81	£ 7,775.09	€ 8,749.88	
Income – Expenditure	-£ 966.18	£ 5,495.03	£ 3,916.67	€ 4,407.72	
Assets and Liabilities	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €	
Bank funds held at start of year	£ 18,719.42	€ 12,709.95	£ 30,013.41	€ 33,776.27	
Bank funds held at end of year	£ 17,753.24	€ 18,204.98	£ 33,930.09	€ 38,183.99	
Cash held	£ -	€ 322.00	£ 286.13	€ 322.00	(11)
Liabilities	£ -	€ -	£ -	€ -	
Net (Bank Funds + Cash – Liabilities)	£ 17,753.24	€ 18,526.98	£ 34,216.22	€ 38,505.99	

Table 5: Expenditure fund allocations	Sources that cover our Expenditure		£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €				
	Annual Meeting 2017 Income	£	-	€	12.00	£	10.66	€	12.00	(12)
	Spring Gathering 2017 Income	£	992.04	€	2,212.00	£	2,957.61	€	3,328.41	(2)
	LAP Research/Community Building budget	£	165.32	€	347.70	£	474.29	€	533.75	(13)
	LAP Oversight/Development budget	£	880.75	€	64.80	£	938.33	€	1,055.97	(14)
	Herzberg Funds	£	-	€	557.50	£	495.39	€	557.50	(15)
	Unrestricted Donations/Funds	£	1,672.72	€	1,379.81	£	2,898.81	€	3,262.24	
	Total funds used	£	3,710.83	€	4,573.81	£	7,775.09	€	8,749.88	

Table 6: Balance going in to 2018	£	€	Consolidated as £	Consolidated as €
Herzberg Funds	£ 1,307.91	-€ 557.50	£ 812.52	€ 914.39
Acting as Agent - Sustainability	£ 17.00	€ 61.50	£ 71.65	€ 80.63
LAP Funds carry forward	-£ 1,302.05	€ 7,493.06	£ 5,356.24	€ 6,027.76
General funds/non-specified Donations	£ 17,730.38	€ 11,529.92	£ 27,975.81	€ 31,483.21
Balance Taking Forward to 2018	£ 17,753.24	€ 18,526.98	£ 34,216.22	€ 38,505.99

Notes

- (1) Figures taken from 2016 Annual Report, we found an error stating the euro account held €12,905.05, however checking the bank statements found it was €12,709.95.
- (2) This is low due to €251 euros cash held in QCEA office, not cashed until 2018.
- (3) There were more donations to Sustainability in 2017 (SG Poland) however these weren't cashed into the account until 2018. From SG2017 €130.50 euros are expected as EMEYFs contribution, €71 from SG Participants (transferred in 2018) and €59.50 from EMEYF Funds, with some extra coming from additional donations made in the year.
- (4) Donation to Quakerhaus for AM 2016
- (5) 3 out of 5 Role Holders expected to claim expenses did so in 2017.
- (6) We have specific representatives for EMES and QCEA.
- (7) Insurance Valid between 28/07/2017 - 27/07/2018
- (8) See EMEYF ChC 2017/05 minute, the disparity between €1240 in the minute and €1375.87 here is due to participant fee bursaries made as virtual payments.
- (9) These were All Age Gathering (AAG) fee returns that were delayed in sending.
- (10) See Total expenditure Table. This includes spending on EMEYFers travelling to EMES (€557.50 using Herzberg fund) and costs of LAP which are full LAP costs (e.g- the cost of the LAP coordinator presenting at AM, €167.50).
- (11) This is cash held in QCEA office and the sustainability cash yet to be paid in.
- (12) This table explains how certain aspects our income covers our expenditure. This is useful for understanding the overall cost of a Spring Gathering event or how much of our LAP budget has been used.
- (13) This covers expenditure specifically used for LAP Research and community development. For instance; the LAP coordinators travel (€167.75) and a third of the total AM expenditure (food + role holder travel) since AM consisted of an extra day to look at LAP, it also includes bursary costs for AM.
- (14) This covers expenditure specifically used for LAP Oversight and development. For instance; the CC face to face meeting and workshop development.
- (15) Money used by EMEYF members to attend EMES 2017.

Contributions from the community

The most interesting part of what is going on in EMEYF is generally not what CC has to discuss. It's what members do when they meet and connect! In this section, you can read about the LAP, its 'offspring' Willy & Penn and the 2017 Spring Gathering Epistle.

Living Archives Project

Thought to be lost forever, but suddenly found in the basement of Quaker House, Brussels. This might sound like the start of a scary novel, but it's actually the start of something even more exciting: the Living Archives Project!

The old EMEYF archives, from before the digital era, were thought to have disappeared. Until somebody stumbled upon folders, files and innumerable loose documents of them and didn't quite know what had happened to them. What purpose do these archives serve, now that they are old and effectively redundant because of our modern means of communication? Who needs to read formal letters with personal notes in the postscript? What good does this crash pad (a list of addresses in different countries where you might find a place to sleep on your travels) do, now that we have facebook, email and Couchsurfing? And why do we still feel connected to the people whose names we read in these documents?*

With the feeling that it would be a real shame if the archives were locked in a basement for another 20 years, we decided to breathe new life into them. Thus, the Living Archives Project was born. We not only read and properly store the things we find, but we interact with them. We relate to the stories that are told. We write letters responding to the communications we have found. We get in touch with the people and the stories that were EMEYF before we were EMEYF, and in many cases: before we were even born. The archives are alive, and (whenever they are not travelling to meet Friends all over Europe) they can be visited in Brussels Quaker House, where they now live a life much richer and more connected to the 21st century. If you're not able to visit Brussels or don't want to wait for part of the archives to visit a town near you, make sure to check out the new and modern Willy & Penn. Over there, you can digitally read what others wanted to share, and you too can share with the EMEYF community.

*In some cases, because they are our parents, members of our local meetings and other people we know in real life!

Willy and Penn

By Emmie Touwen

We recently blew new life into Willy & Penn, an EMEYF newsletter that has existed in many forms since 1990. It was given its name in 1993, after a contest that promised chocolate to whoever came up with the best title.

As you may know, EMEYF recently started a Living Archives Project where we organize and discover our own archives. While looking through the binders at our Annual Meeting 2017, we were struck by the amount of social contact past EMEYFers had between meetings despite their locations and their reluctance

to join the internet. We were inspired by the ways they kept their community alive by writing to each other with not just practical announcements but also articles on the topics that interested them and giving written ministry. If they could do this, so can we.

Fortunately, nowadays we don't have to cut and paste our newsletter by hand. The latest version of Willy & Penn is a website that allows you to receive each new article directly into your inbox.

Since its launch in January 2018, there have been posts about telling people you're a Quaker, learning Russian, how to support your friends from a distance and inspiring poems. To show the width and diversity of our community, Willy & Penn does not limit itself to English-language updates. Most articles are translated in at least one other language and contributors are invited to write in their mother tongue. So far, we have articles in English, Dutch, German and Russian.

If this sounds like your cup of tea, please come and have a look at willyandpenn.com!

[The Spring Gathering 2017 Epistle](#)

To all Friends everywhere,

Thirty-three Young Friends, including five children, gathered in Marszewiec, Poland, from 10–17 April 2017, to experience fellowship, consider business, and explore together our theme of sustainability.

Our journeys from nine European countries to an agrotourism farm near Poznań have involved plane, train, bus, car, boat, tram, bike and foot, and have helped us begin to consider what it means to be sustainable – as a community, as beings within the natural world, and in our human relationships.

You're welcome to join us;
regardless of whether
we speak the same language,
love brings us together.

This year's Spring Gathering community was large and as we came together in the first days we found an overarching sense of seeking – and finding – a spiritual community. We have had a good time sharing silence, emotions, and actions, and we looked after ourselves and our community by joining hands in the kitchen, by sharing spiritual warmth, and by bridging language and other barriers through patience, enthusiasm, and song.

Sing with me, play with me, doodle or talk.
I'll give you a hug and we'll go for a walk.

Although we did not manage to reach out to young Friends in Poland as much as we had hoped, we were able to connect to our surroundings through trips to the local markets, through games of hide and seek and cycling on the farm grounds, and through a day spent exploring Poznań. We sought to be a creative community; finding solutions, adapting to change, and accommodating our differing needs as they arose, as well as creating art together, sharing songs and playing games.

To be aware enough to tell
just how you are, and what's not well;
our silence gives us space to grow;
what will come up, you never know.

In responding to the World Plenary meeting in Peru we asked what sustainability means to us and thought about what concrete things EMEYF can do to be a sustainable Quaker community. We struggled with this, as our diversity brought to mind how varied the preconditions and possibilities can be when seeking sustainability, and how living in sustainable ways can look quite different in different circumstances.

Beyond EMEYF, as individuals and as members of other communities, we have a range of roles to fulfil and a range of challenges to face. The tension between these different aspects has led us to continue questioning what practical steps we can take, individually and collectively. How can we interact with people? How can we sustain our structures and our community? How do we use resources?

Sustainability is relevant to our lives; it is political, social, and economic, it is important in our personal relationships, and we face the global challenge of working towards environmental sustainability. We have tried to make sure that sustainability is reflected in how we do things, now and in the future – testing ideas and solutions within our community. This included cooking vegetarian and vegan meals, buying local vegetables when possible, as well as reusing cups, planting trees, and upcycling our milk and juice cartons.

The theme was present throughout the gathering, including in our Meetings for Worship to consider business, which touched upon questions of sustaining our community. This meant challenging ourselves – both in the decisions that we made, and in the process we went through while making them. We found strength in the understanding that, in some matters, “every generation has to ask the same questions for themselves”.

Business takes up large parts of our time;
intense but rewarding; obstacles to climb.
We struggle in making our problems quite clear,
discerning the answers we need now and here.

Throughout our struggles in business, and the difficulty in maintaining a balance between work, play, the outside world, and sleep, we made sure to ask how our friends were feeling, being ready to give them a hug and offer support. The range of weather at the gathering reflected the range of emotions, with the week including sun, hail, wind, rain and rainbows. Our workshops and discussions allowed us to try new things for our daily lives that can help us develop as humans. We cannot yet know whether this gathering will have the impact that we hope for. It may have an effect beyond our community, but

like a pebble thrown into a lake,
we cannot see the ripples we make.

This week's experience of living in a loving and purposeful community has drawn us closer together, even during difficult times. We leave, closer in the Light, and with new and strengthened friendships.

Thank you!

Thank you for reading (parts of) this Annual Report, we do hope you enjoyed it.

Furthermore, we would like to thank every person, meeting, organisation and Friend who supported us in 2017. Maybe your meeting supported one of its Young Friends to attend Annual Meeting or Spring Gathering. Maybe you supported EMEYF financially through regular donations. Maybe you sent your greetings when you weren't able to attend. Maybe you helped us in a very practical sense. Maybe you held us in the light and supported us though making us feel seen, heard and considered. EMEYF is more than the sum of its members, and sometimes a little help from the outside is needed for us to reach our potential. We hope to be able to count on your support, whether practical, spiritual or financial, in the coming years. But for now, thank you for making EMEYF possible.