

Reports from Junior Yearly Meeting

JYM is always a wonderful experience, as a participant or organiser, and this year was no different. We enjoyed activities like an easter egg hunt and kayaking, as well as more serious discussions. A lot of young Quakers have already thought a lot about diversity, inclusivity and especially privilege, as it affects us in everyday life, a huge proportion of young Quakers are LGBTQ+ and a lot of us are very political and socially aware. This led to some very interesting discussions which went a lot deeper than the ones I was involved in at BYM this year. We examined our own privileges and disprivileges, accepted them and thought about how we could use them for good. This year was my last year and so it was quite emotional, there were tears flowing at the bonfire on our last night and not just from the smoke. However, it coincided with my nomination as a Base Group Facilitator, someone who organises and facilitates sessions for a small group of around 10 young people, and so I was kept very busy. I Almost forgot to socialise and enjoy my last year with all of the rush but it was definitely a valuable experience. For me, the best parts of JYM were the deep discussions we had in our base group, about diverse topics from “What does a young Quaker look like?” to “What is class?”, and of course the ceilidh. There’s nothing like a good bit of ceilidh dancing to bring young people together at a Quaker event. Overall it was an insightful experience, with a good amount of fun to balance it out. I’ve made lifelong friends, experienced the stress and rewards of organising an event and looked deeply at the theme of diversity, inclusivity and privilege. Thank you Area Meeting for sending me to JYM and thank you to everyone who has been to or helped with one of these events before, for paving the way for such an enjoyable experience. (Moya)

This year was my first at JYM, although not my first as part of BYM and as always I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but as soon as I arrived I felt welcomed, seeing people that I knew before and meeting others. Going to BYM events is always one of my favourite parts of the year because it makes me feel like a part of the Quaker community as I am unable to attend on Sunday mornings and learning more about the topic of diversity with other Quakers was very interesting. One of the things I noticed at the weekend, is that everyone knew what diversity meant and everyone knew what privilege meant but perhaps most of us hadn't thought about it in ways other than those that affect us personally. Taking this time to think about it where we wouldn't of done without the stimulation that the event meant that, personally I felt I learnt a lot from the weekend. (Sasha)