

## Reflections from YMG 2017

Yearly Meeting Gathering, this is just a smattering, of Yearly Meeting Gathering from me  
To the destination, Coventry arrivin, train then bus on Campus registration, off to accommodation to  
See, the smiling faces of all those arrivals, taxis cycles bus and feet  
Evening meal digested, volunteers invested, time for the opening session and the welcome greet  
Listened to the intro of very small beginnings making the tree in the forest to grow  
Gathering in silence is something to experience, with hundreds of Friends just there on show  
Theme for the week, of heart, head, hands and feet, how we might live out our faith in the world  
Speakers so inspiring in the main sessioning, workshops and gatherings, conversations and worshipping all a  
whirl  
Told myself to pace it and not to over race it, take time for yourself and see what comes  
Many interactions, in the abundance of locations, lots of conversations on one to ones  
In amongst the hubble, of this very Quaker bubble, great to be connected to this world wide web  
Staff at the Uni, friendly and helpful and catering meant we were all well fed  
European Quakers with a new perspective keeping the connection after we have left?  
(Quakers Continuing European Affair)  
Hearing it from the Netherlands, Ireland and Britain, hate not hope which leaves us bereft  
Volunteering greeting, shaking hands and welcoming, there at the door on the upper floor  
Microphone stewarding, so that all can hear ministering, coming from the core  
What does love require of me, more head, more hands, more feet more heart?  
Take this smile, this hug, this silent understanding this being part, as a start.  
True grit, just a little bit, maybe just an irritant in the echelons of power  
Quakers may be small, but they stand so very tall, with a history going back for us to devour  
Picknicking with local Friends from the Area Meeting, drawing in Friends, both old and new  
Sharing their experiences and their trepidations, of what this Yearly Meeting Gathering meant for you  
Last day minutes, drawing them together, now the Clerks awaiting I hope so  
End of week epistles, from all the generations, coming together as the family we know.  
Help the homeless and the hungry from the 3 to 5's  
Very small beginnings to turning the tide.  
Time to let your hair down and join the celebrations, a play, a concert and a Ceilidh too  
Take away the challenges, the memories and commitment, to do my part in bringing it through  
Time for our departures, tired head, tired feet, oh what a week, it has been. I'm nearly at the end  
You too can read it, see it on video, hear it, repeat it or read it in the Friend  
So this is my experiencing of Yearly Meeting Gathering and you can experience it, next time  
Come back and report it, sit down and draw it, or even have a go at doing it in rhyme.

David Edmonds