

**THE CHARLOTTE M YONGE FELLOWSHIP**  
**Twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting (2023)**  
**Saturday 25 November 2023 at 11.00 am**  
**At Open Ealing, London W5 2TD.**

**AGENDA AND REPORTS FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM \*

3. Matters Arising

4. Chairman's Report \*

Well, what a year it's been! Full of bicentenary displays and celebrations, hence this unusually long report.

Below is a timeline of Bicentenary events linked to the Fellowship. You will find descriptions of the main events in this year's *Reviews*. I have listed those talks and papers we know of, separately in my Bicentenary report.

November 2022 Publication of *Charlotte Mary Yonge: Writing the Victorian Age*, painstakingly and meticulously edited by our members, **Clare Walker Gore, Clemence Schultze and Julia Courtney**. Described by the Church Times reviewer, Michael Wheeler, as "a splendid collection of essays" this scholarly and readable book successfully returns CMY to her rightful place as an important Victorian author.

28<sup>th</sup> February-26 April

Display on all aspects of Charlotte Mary Yonge's (CMY's) life in Hampshire Record Office foyer

21 March-end October

Similar display in Otterbourne church

21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April

The Charlotte Mary Yonge Fellowship hosted the Alliance of Literary Societies' AGM Weekend. See *Review 57*.

21<sup>st</sup> April. Informal supper followed by an entertainment: *Literary Ladies*, by Cecily O'Neill. Address by James Naughtie, ALS president.

22<sup>nd</sup> April. ALS AGM and conference at St Swithun's School.

Chance to see the CMY display in Hampshire Record Office.

Dinner at the Paul Woodhouse suite, Winchester Cathedral. Address by Alan Lovell, Chair of Hampshire Cultural Trust

23<sup>rd</sup> April. Guided walking tour of CMY's Winchester.

April 2023. Ongoing small Charlotte M Yonge exhibition at Winchester City Museum.

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May. Victorian Transformations Conference hosted by the Centre for Victorian Studies at Leeds Trinity University. See *Review 57*

10<sup>th</sup> June. Celebratory gathering in Sheffield, organised by **Janet Clarke**, our co-founder. Thank you to Janet, who had obviously put a lot of thought and work into this delightful occasion, with a guided

walk around Nether Edge, a Victorian suburb of Sheffield, talks by Janet herself, **Clemence Schultze** and **Penelope Wallace**, followed by a lively discussion and a delicious birthday tea in honour of CMY. 24<sup>th</sup> June. CMY Day in Otterbourne and Hursley, jointly organised by CMYF and the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society. *See Review 57*

15<sup>th</sup> July. Glenbracken Society meeting, organised by Committee member **Mary Birch**. Thank you, Mary, for having the idea and making it real. The Glenbracken Society consists of Scottish CMYF members, and their meetings are open to all. This first meeting included an excellent lunch and what we all enjoy, conversation about CMY.

11<sup>th</sup> August. Ceremony at CMY's grave in Otterbourne churchyard.

Evensong at Winchester Cathedral. with specially composed celebratory music by David Barton.

*For both see September 2023 Update.* <https://charlottemyonge.org.uk/cmyf-member-updates/>

3<sup>rd</sup> September. Evensong in memory of CMY at St Matthew's Otterbourne

25<sup>th</sup> November. Celebratory CMYF AGM and Autumn Meeting.

Turning to people rather than events, it falls to me to strike a sad note amid the celebrations. **Anne Harvey**, a loyal Fellowship member, died on Christmas Eve last year. A multi-talented woman, lover of theatre and children's books, she will be affectionately remembered by many CMY members.

In 2023, your Committee has risen magnificently to the challenge of organising so many special, extra events. Details of papers and articles written by Committee and other Fellowship members are in the Bicentenary Report. The first Committee member I should like to mention is **Joyce Dowson**, our secretary, who has had to stand down owing to ill-health. Her undaunted cheerful efficiency was enormously valued by the Committee, and we wish her all the best for the future.

**Margaret Birch**, our Meetings and Membership Secretary, has responded with her usual calmness and common sense to the task of organising a far more extensive Spring Meeting than usual, as well as an extra event, the CMY Day, and an Autumn Meeting with two extras – a celebratory lunch and a dramatised reading. She was also a member of the Visual Display working group, who designed the impressive and informative posters for our two displays.

**Mary Birch**. As the founder of the Glenbracken Society (see above) and organiser of their enjoyable first meeting, Mary deserves the thanks of our Scottish members in particular. Apart from her welcome involvement in Scottish affairs, she has worked with Otterbourne Church on their Evensong in memory of CMY, and over the year has provided invaluable pithy and common-sense advice.

**Hilary Clare**, the Fellowship's archivist, has written numerous long periodical articles on CMY, and made a 150-mile round trip to give a talk on CMY at Tyntesfield, home of the Gibbs family, who were well known to CMY. A willing volunteer as ever, she was also a member of the Visual Display and the Leaflet and Review working groups – the latter was responsible for our attractive flyer and in particular the extra Review, no 56 - and co-ordinates the book group

**Clare Hanmer**, our web-mistress, has had to deal with many additions to our website this year, owing to all the extra activity connected with the bicentenary. She always comes up with a helpful solution when asked how to display yet more information. She was a member of our Leaflet and Review working group too.

**Sarah Jardine Willoughby**, our treasurer, has had much more to deal with this year, as the Fellowship has been organising more, and more complex, events than usual. She remains unfazed by the vagaries of Pay Pal and is never too busy to discuss our finances, while with the other hand organising our Zoom.

**Clemence Schultze** has, as usual, worked tirelessly. She has written many a paper and given at least one talk this year; in addition to that she, together with our members **Julia Courtney** and **Clare Walker Gore**, took on the time-consuming task of liaising with the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies on the Victorian Transformations Conference. She was also a member of two working groups, the

Visual Display group and the Leaflet and Review group, not to mention selling and storing CMY Fellowship books for sale. Our Journal continues to be co-edited by Clemence with Julia Courtney. **Penelope Wallace** has had an even busier year than usual; she has produced three, rather than the usual two, issues of our Review, one of which (56) is a special issue aimed at those who want to know more about CMY. Congratulations, Penelope, on attracting new contributors to this year's autumn issue. She also co-ordinated the Leaflet and Review Working Group and is a joint administrator of our Facebook page.

**Sarah Webb**, our new secretary, is a glutton for tasks – as well as agreeing to take on the vital role of secretary after being on the Committee for only a year, she volunteered to co-ordinate the Visual Display working group.

Thank you all.

It is also my pleasure to thank CMY's many friends beyond the Committee, without whom the bicentenary and our other activities would not have happened at all.

Our member **Ruth Carlyle** and her husband **Nic** commissioned **David Barton's** setting of CMY's hymn, "To thee O Heavenly Father", and allowed it to be sung at the Bicentenary Evensong in Winchester Cathedral.

**Julia Courtney**, former Committee member, has been a vital source of information and advice, and an indefatigable contributor of papers, in addition to her involvement with CMYWVA and Victorian Transformations.

**Barbara Dunlap** has looked after the North American subscriptions and mailings ever since I can remember, which was a great help and financial saving to the Fellowship, but, sad to say, ill-health has forced her to relinquish this role. Our warm thanks to Barbara.

**Hampshire Archive Trust**, whose substantial grant entirely funded the design and production of the booklet, *Charlotte M Yonge; a bicentenary celebration*, which accompanied the CMY Day.

**Celia Lowthion**, historian of Otterbourne, has generously shared her knowledge of village history and antiques from her own collection, the latter at the CMY Day.

**Jenny Martin** has most kindly been a prompt and efficient Examiner of the Fellowship's accounts for many years.

**Roger Ottewill** of the Hampshire Field Club nobly took the lead and did most of the hard work, organising our enjoyable and informative CMY Day in Otterbourne and Hursley.

**Keiren Phelan** thoroughly researched the CMY walk, which he led, and gained entrance for us to two private houses.

The Revd **William Prescott**, parish priest of Otterbourne and Hursley parishes, **Dick Oldham** and **Gill MacDonald**, churchwardens of Otterbourne, and **Kristin Tridimas**, churchwarden of Hursley, gave indispensable help and advice with setting up the display in Otterbourne Church and with organising the CMY Day.

**Alan Roxburgh**, expert printer of the Review, whose support has been, as ever, invaluable.

**Sue Sims**, who designed the bicentenary booklet accompanying the CMY Day. Her knowledge and understanding of the subject and her artistic skill made it a strikingly attractive publication.

It has been a splendid year, during which everyone selflessly pulled together for this unique celebration of Charlotte Mary Yonge, her life and works.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts (Sarah Jardine-Willoughby) \*

Please see page 9 for the accountant's report.

The accounts this year show a deficit again. There are various reasons for the deficit of £1,717.

We printed extra copies of the Spring 2023 review which was in colour leading to increased costs (£640), and we were invoiced late for one of last year's reviews (£245).

We agreed we would spend money to bring Charlotte M. Yonge to a wider audience in her Bicentenary year. The main costs (of £1615) were for the design and printing of A1 posters, a banner and leaflets.

We also gave three grants of £100 to enable PhD students to attend the 'Victorian Transformations' conference in Leeds, preference was given to students presenting a paper.

On a positive note, we had a surplus for all three meetings held.

#### 6. Membership Secretary's Report (Margaret Birch) \*

I am happy to report that Membership numbers are more than holding their own. The new web-site has been particularly instrumental in our maintaining numbers, and in showing the advantages of joining the Fellowship! The current membership stands at 115. That comprises 90 from the UK, 19 in North America, and 6 other overseas members.

#### 7. Archivist's Report (Hilary Clare) \*

There was nothing to report.

#### 8. Review Editor's Report (Penelope Wallace) \*

For our bicentenary year, the Committee decided we should produce three Reviews; one of which would be particularly designed to show off CMY and her Fellowship to outsiders (as well as being celebratory for insiders.) The timing of the Alliance of Literary Societies AGM in April meant that this celebratory edition was issue 56, the first of the year, produced in spring.

For its production, as also for the planning of the A5 leaflet which I hope you all received, a small subcommittee was formed, consisting of me, Clemence, Clare, Hilary and Julia Courtney. I'm very grateful to them for their work! Issue 56 eventually came out in time, in partial colour, and full of information – and illustrations. I had never before had to contact the National Portrait Gallery online for permission to reproduce a picture. We hope it will continue to be a useful resource, containing a biography of Yonge (Mary Birch), an analysis of her non-writing activities in her area (Alys Blakeway), an introduction to the Oxford Movement (Julia Courtney), a suggestion of why we like her (Clare Hanmer), her position in the history of teen fiction (Hilary Clare, who also ran up the alphabetical quiz in a single afternoon), and from Clemence: not merely a "Where to Start?" but a double-page spread full of fascinating quotes on and by Yonge.

I am so proud of this bicentenary issue that I have been sending it out to other organisations, and had a particularly gratifying response from the Librarian of Keble College, who is now buying books on our recommendation! This task however is a work in progress.

Issue 57 reverted to more usual black-and-white fare, although coming out perhaps unexpectedly in the summer. It contained reports both of the ALS meeting/AGM in Winchester, and also of our own last year's AGM – along with several pieces inspired by that event. There was a lot about one of her lesser-known works, *The Two Sides of the Shield*. (No one has explained the title to me, though!) By the time you read this report, you should have received Issue 58, for which I made an even more impassioned plea than usual for member contributions – and was richly rewarded. Clare, Eve, Ian, Janet, Jenny, Laura, Liz and Sarah (forgive any omissions) have I think covered many aspects of Yonge studies, and in every case with knowledge, literary skill, and love. Please write again, all of you!

As always, I am very grateful to our indefatigable printer Alan Roxborough and his team at Whitesprint, to the essential back-up supplied by Membership Secretary Margaret Birch – and also to all the photographers, especially Sarah Jardine-Willoughby.

2024 awaits...Copy for next issue to be in to [marksandpennys@ntlworld.com](mailto:marksandpennys@ntlworld.com) by the end of January, please!

#### 9. *Journal* Editors' Report (Julia Courtney & Clemence Schultze) \*

2023 was not a *Journal* year (there was plenty else to do!) But 2024 is, and *Journal* 16 will be on the topic 'Yonge Worldwide'. A call for contributions went out with the 'Update' sheet outlining the many potential ways of addressing this theme. Any aspect of Yonge's fiction and non-fiction dealing with peoples and places outside the UK, her overseas publishers and readership, her reception and how she was reviewed abroad comes under this remit. Potential contributors should please contact: [yonge.fellowship@gmail.com](mailto:yonge.fellowship@gmail.com), putting JOURNAL 2024 in the subject line. The date for final submission of the completed text is 1 March 2024.

#### 10. Future Plans

- a. 2024 Spring Meeting
- b. Book group (including report on 2023 by Hilary Clare) \*

This year we have again had 4 sessions, at three-monthly intervals, meeting on the second Saturdays of February, May, August and November. This frequency seems to be about right, and the months chosen to fit in with other commitments. We shall also have a meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of December, not looking at any particular book but inviting members to contribute their favourite examples of CMY's descriptions of weather.

The 2023 meetings have been:

February	<i>The Little Duke</i>
May	<i>Scenes and Characters</i> and <i>The Two Sides of the Shield</i>
August	<i>The Heir of Redclyffe</i>
November	<i>The Carbonels</i> and <i>Founded on Paper</i>

These books were chosen to mark the bicentenary year. *The Little Duke* is probably the best-loved of CMY's historical fiction. *Scenes and Characters* was the first of the 'linked novels', with *The Two Sides of the Shield* both its sequel and the first of the 'linked novels' to feature the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. *The Heir of Redclyffe* needs no explanation, and the remaining pair combine CMY's writing about the Otterbourne of her childhood (lightly disguised) with her view of how village society had developed by her old age.

We have generally had about 20 members attending. It is pleasing to report that people generally come back, and particularly that we are joined by a growing number of overseas members.

Many thanks to those people who have led discussion groups (we generally divide into 2 groups), to Sarah Jardine-Willoughby for her help in setting up the Zoom links, and to Clare Hanmer for masterminding the dividing into groups.

11. Bicentenary Report. Members are invited to let Sarah Webb know of any talks given and papers or articles written by them on CMY in 2023.

(18 November 2022). **Clemence Schultze**. 'Spotlight' item on *Charlotte Mary Yonge: Writing the Victorian Age* (ISBN 9783031106712; edited by Clare Walker Gore, Clemence Schultze and Julia Courtney). London Library Newsletter.

Autumn 2022 **Alys Blakeway**. [Introduction to Charlotte M Yonge](#). Alliance of Literary Societies (ALS) Newsletter.

Autumn 2022 **Clemence Schultze**. *Charlotte M. Yonge and Barbara Pym: Subverting the "marriage plot" in Green Leaves* (Barbara Pym Society Newsletter 28/2, Autumn/Winter 2022).

Autumn 2022 **Hilary Clare**. *Researching Charlotte Yonge in HRO* Hampshire Archives Trust Newsletter.

December 13 2022. **Alys Blakeway**. Talk on *Charlotte M Yonge, the author and her books* for the Hampshire Writers' Society.

26 January 2023. **Penelope Wallace**. [Article](#) for Woman Alive website.

9 February 2023 **Clare Walker Gore** on *The Heir of Redclyffe*. BBC Radio 3 [The Essay : Stories to keep space for on the bookshelves](#) Available for listening from BBC Sounds.

10 February 2023 **Clemence Schultze**. [Article](#) "Charlotte Yonge: Novelist's passion for goodness" in the *Church Times* (registration required to access 4 free articles per month).

23 February 2023 **Clemence Schultze**. [Article](#) on *CMY and Oxford*, in QUAD, the Oxford alumni magazine.

25 February 2023. **Clemence Schultze**. Talk on *Why Read Charlotte M. Yonge Today?* at the Church Times Festival of Faith & Literature.

March 2023 **Hilary Clare**. *Charlotte Mary Yonge 1823-1901 A Victorian novelist in her bicentenary year* in [Friends of Winchester Cathedral's Record Extra](#).

March 2023 **Clare Walker Gore**. [Blog post](#) *Charlotte Mary Yonge*. Hampshire Archives Trust website.

23 April 2023 ALS (Alliance of Literary Societies) AGM.

**Penelope Wallace**. Talk [Introducing Charlotte Yonge](#).

**Julia Courtney**. Talk on *The Reader and the Read*.

**Clemence Schultze** stood in for another speaker at short notice and gave a talk on *Charlotte Yonge: Why her novels are so readable today*.

24-25 May 2023. Victorian Transformations Conference

**Julia Courtney**. Papers, one on *Charlotte M. Yonge, Thomas Hardy and the Christmas Mummings*, and one on *CMY as a Collaborative Author*.

**Clare Walker Gore**. Paper on *The Woman Writer in the work of Charlotte M. Yonge*.

Spring 2023. **Alys Blakeway**. *Charlotte Yonge and Jane Austen*. Jane Austen Society Newsletter 60.

Spring 2023 **Hilary Clare**. *Charlotte Mary Yonge: Otterbourne's Own Author*. Hampshire Field Club Newsletter

Spring 2023. **Clemence Schultze**. *Miss Austen and Miss Yonge*. Jane Austen Society of North America Newsletter 39/1.

Spring 2023. Bicentenary edition (56) of the CMY Fellowship Review with contributions by members **Mary Birch, Alys Blakeway, Hilary Clare, Julia Courtney, Clare Hanmer, Clemence Schultze** and **Penelope Wallace** (editor).

24 June 2023. [Celebration Booklet](#), published in conjunction with the CMY Day in Otterbourne and Hursley, contains articles by Fellowship members **Clemence Schultze, Georgia Corrick, Hilary Clare** and **Alys Blakeway**.

June 2023. **Margaret Birch**. [Charlotte Mary Yonge](#). Newsletter for Pensioners of National Church Institutions

July 2023. **Hilary Clare**. *Charlotte Mary Yonge. The Scribbler*.

Summer 2023. Edition 57 of the CMY Fellowship Review with contributions by members **Hilary Clare** (2 articles), **Julia Courtney** (2 articles), **Sarah Jardine-Willoughby**, **Penelope Wallace** (editorial plus 2 articles) and **Susan Walton**.

17 September 2023. **Alys Blakeway**. Talk on *Charlotte M Yonge as a Creative Writer* for Winchester Heritage Open Days.

18 September 2023. **Alys Blakeway**. Talk on *Charlotte M Yonge* to Winchester Women Graduates.

27 September 2023. **Alys Blakeway**. Talk on *Charlotte M Yonge as a Christian* to Friends of Winchester Cathedral.

September 2023. **Susan Walton**. Paper on *The Heir of Redclyffe: A Forgotten Best-Selling Victorian Novel*. Hull Women's Literary Club.

28 October 2023. **Hilary Clare**: Talk on *Charlotte Yonge, the first writer for teenage girls*. Children's Book History Society.

30<sup>th</sup> October 2023. **Clemence Schultze** and **Julia Courtney**. Interview with Kate Howe, Victorian literature enthusiast, for her YouTube channel, as part of *Victober*. [Link](#) available from 30<sup>th</sup> October.

21 February 2024. **Alys Blakeway**. Talk on *Charlotte M Yonge: Rediscovered Bestseller and Hampshire Activist*. Alresford Historical and Literary Society.

Undated. **Ruth Carlyle** and David Barton. Blog post, [Charlotte M Yonge as a Hampshire poet: identifying and setting Yonge's hymns and poetry to music](#). Hampshire Archives Trust.

## 12. Website and Internet Matters (Clare Hanmer) \*

The many activities of the bicentenary year have been tracked at <https://charlottemyonge.org.uk/>. A new page to announce events (Forthcoming 2023) and one to record the outputs of events in the past (Bicentenary so far) were created. An unusually high number of 'mailchimp' email messages have been sent out to alert members to bicentenary activities.

We have had some interesting contacts and enquiries via the website, and some new members joining.

A **Mailchimp email** list is used to send news items of interest to CMYF members; and we have working email addresses for about 80 of the 100-plus members. If you don't get the alerts, but would like to, please send your email address to **CMYFnews@gmail.com** and add the name we know you by in the text of the email. Using Mailchimp makes us fully compliant with the Data Protection regulations, and you can unsubscribe at any time. If you have news items that should be circulated to other members, please send them to CMYF's main contact email: [yonge.fellowship@gmail.com](mailto:yonge.fellowship@gmail.com).

The **CMYF Online Book Club** is publicised via a dedicated email address. If you are not receiving notifications about its events, and would like to be added to the mailing list, please email [yonge.bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:yonge.bookclub@gmail.com), adding the name we know you by in the email text.

Meetings of the Book Club are by Zoom, on the second Saturday of certain months, at 3 pm London time. Please get in touch via [yonge.bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:yonge.bookclub@gmail.com) to get the Zoom details, or for any enquiries.

## 13. Elections: the following have agreed to stand and are nominated by the Committee:

Meetings and Membership Secretary (3 years): Margaret Birch

Ordinary Member (3 years): Mary Birch

Secretary: Sarah Webb has been co-opted by the Committee for 2023-2024 to replace Joyce Dowson, who we regret to say has had to resign due to ill-health. The post of Secretary will be up for election in 2024.

*Other nominations for any Officers or ordinary members should be sent to Sarah Webb no later than the day before the AGM by letter or email from a proposer and a seconder and including the consent of the person proposed.*

14. Any other business: if you have any item(s), please contact Sarah Webb in advance.

\* Asterisked items will be circulated by email before the meeting; anyone unable to access them can get a hard copy from Sarah Webb, 85, Primrose Avenue, Haslington, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 5QA.



**The Charlotte M Yonge Fellowship**  
**Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	1,166	1,069
Income from meetings (Note 1)	5,784	40
CMYF book sales	69	105
Interest	13	1
	<u>7,032</u>	<u>1,214</u>
<b>Less: Expenses</b>		
Cost of meetings (Note 1)	(4,160)	(608)
Review	(1,829)	(566)
Journal	(538)	0
Bicentenary	(1,615)	0
Grants	(300)	0
Postage, copying, stationery, etc	(6)	(14)
Miscellaneous	(20)	(180)
Association of Literary Societies	(15)	(15)
Insurance (BALH)	(75)	(75)
Website	(141)	(68)
Audit fee	(50)	(50)
	<u>(8,750)</u>	<u>(1,577)</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year ended 30 June 2023</b>	<u>(1,717)</u>	<u>(362)</u>
<b>Funds at 1 July 2022 - brought forward</b>	<u>4,780</u>	<u>5,142</u>
<b>Total funds at 30 June 2023</b>	<u><u>3,062</u></u>	<u><u>4,780</u></u>
<b>Made up by:</b>		
Santander deposit account	2,613	3,900
Co-operative Bank current accounts	939	880
Less: 2022/3 review costs (Paid in July 2023)	(490)	0
<b>Total balances at 30 June 2023</b>	<u><u>3,062</u></u>	<u><u>4,780</u></u>

**Note 1: Meetings**

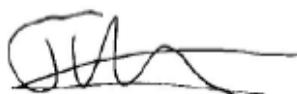
There were three meetings in the year, compared to one in 2022.

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)
	£	£	£
Hampshire Field Club	704	(530)	174
Alliance of Literary Societies	4,847	(3,630)	1,217
Annual General Meeting	233	0	233
	<u>5,784</u>	<u>(4,160)</u>	<u>1,624</u>

Cost of meetings in 2022 includes a deposit of £380 paid in advance for the Alliance of Literary Societies (ALS) meeting held in 2023. A total of £980 of the ALS meeting costs were paid in advance during years 2020-2022, and including these the 2023 event made still made a surplus of £228.

**Accountant's Report**

The Receipts and Payments account for the year to 30 June 2023 has been prepared and agreed with the books, records and bank statements of the Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship.



Jennifer Martin ACA  
 92 Tudor Close, Brixton Hill  
 London SW2 2AD

Date 23rd October 2023