

## Report to Standing Committee

<b>Name of committee/concern/group</b> Backhouse Lecture Committee
<b>Membership of the Committee/Working Group:</b> Brydget Baker-Hudson, Tracy Bourne, Duncan Frewin (Convenor), Mark Macleod, Drew Thomas
<b>Part A – Report</b>
<b>Progress</b> The BL committee membership has changed significantly over the past year. Further change will occur when Tracy steps down following YM. We thank Tracy for long and diligent service over the past four years.
<b>2023 Backhouse Lecture</b> The process of printing the 2023 has taken longer than we would have hoped. The committee is pleased to report that we expect to print 100 copies of the final version of the 2023 lecture and have 70 hard copies available for purchase at Yearly meeting in July. Copies will also be available to purchase ‘on demand’. Many thanks to Jacqui Schultz and David Tehr for their persistence.
<b>2024 Lecture</b> The current committee has been supporting 2024 Lecturer Jackie Leach Scully in the preparation of her lecture which will focus on disability, asking what disability, difference and normality might mean for Friends in the twenty-first century. A final draft is now being read. We expect to approve that with little if any change by 17 April.
<b>2025 Lecture</b> We are delighted to be reading Tim Gee’s 2025 lecture draft. Tim has enquired about support for his family to attend.  The current committee membership will continue to share roles and responsibilities.
<b>Issues (if any)</b> The committee notes that there has been some confusion and an overlapping of responsibilities in regard to financial matters to do with the Lecturer’s travel and accommodation at Yearly Meeting. We feel that our main task is to choose a lecturer, support their writing process and presentation at Yearly Meeting, as well as liaise with the Yearly Meeting organisers. We are also responsible for decisions related to publication and distribution. We feel that these responsibilities are already significant and that financial matters may be better managed by those who are managing the yearly meeting event itself. We hope that this committee will no longer be responsible for the BL budget.
<b>Part B Items for consideration by Standing Committee</b>