

West Scotland

Quaker News

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The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individuals. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



Starting Young: Baby Ishbel Bennet (centre on mother Alison's knee with sister Catriona on left) was welcomed to Dunblane Meeting last November.

The deadline for the next issue of West of Scotland Quaker News is 21st February.

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Clerk's Letter

Dear Friends, a Happy New Year to you all!

My first task of the year was to complete a Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees' questionnaire on Area Meeting's use of "A framework for action 2009 – 2014". It is the Trustees task to assess how we are getting on with it. I regret to say that my answers were all negative! To the best of my recollection we have not used this document as such and yet I am very familiar with it and you may be too. Perhaps they asked the wrong questions!

"A framework for action" is for all Friends in Britain. If you do not have a copy, you can get one from the Recording Clerk's Office at Friends House. It's an attractive booklet, peppered with appropriate quotations such as,

"Friends seek God's help in choosing what they are uniquely suited to do, in a world which is so full of needs that we cannot respond to all of them."

Response from two individual Friends from Sheffield and Balby Area Meeting

It was agreed by Meeting for Sufferings in 2008 as a guide to help us be effective in expressing our faith in worship and action. Meant as a tool rather than a harness, it gives guidance on the principles underlying Quaker work, discusses the way we work, including the importance of working with others, gives criteria for assessing a proposed project and helps us to prioritise our resources and focus on activities which reflect our testimonies to truth, integrity, equality, peace and simplicity. There are seven priorities: strengthening the spiritual roots in our meetings and in ourselves; speaking out in the world; peace; sustainability; strengthening local communities; crime community and justice; using our resources well. This might sounds too prescriptive but it is intended that there should be flexibility in our approach to these priorities.

My negative response to the questionnaire troubled me, as I know that our Area Meeting is active. However, the work tends to be carried out by Local Meetings and by individual Friends, a consequence of our geographical spread, I think. Glasgow Meeting is speaking to the city through its Quaker Quest programmes; Friends in Lanark are very involved in sustainability issues and individuals lead on this in the community; Arran Friends have held a one-day gathering on conflict resolution and many of our Meetings are involved in witnessing for peace in various ways. These are but a few examples of activities within this Area Meeting. I don't know what use is made of "A framework for action" locally but clearly the work done falls within the priority areas, so it is reassuring to know that our leadings have taken us in the same direction as was discerned by Meeting for Sufferings.

From time to time we take the opportunity to share what we are doing locally. Perhaps we should do so more often.

What use are you making of "A framework for action 2009 – 2014"? Might it be your Meeting's inspiration, your challenge?

"Only when we go forward in discomfort can we hope to find our feet in a troubled world." Margaret Armor in Meeting for Sufferings 5 April 2008

Elizabeth Allen (*Lanark Meeting*)

Area Meeting in Glasgow December 2011

Am I an Eeyore or a Pollyanna??* Just one of the matters which we were called upon to ponder at Area Meeting in Glasgow on 3rd December, and it came during Sarah Brown's account of her experiences at Quaker Life Representative Council.

Sarah had found the process of Appreciative Enquiry, aimed at establishing the best in who we are and the best in what we do, both challenging and insightful. It had led her to a changed perception of Area Meeting which she shared with us in a most inspiring manner.

We had begun the Meeting by remembering with affection and some humour our Friend Neil Anderson of Glasgow Meeting. Neil actually died in 2010 but his death had not been recorded by AM, and this led to some clarification of the process by which Local Meetings inform the Clerk of Area Meeting of the death of any Friend.

We moved on to the Clerk's Report and agreed to fund up to four young people to attend Junior Yearly Meeting in May. One place is guaranteed, but we are allowed to nominate up to three further young people for any spare places there may be. We then formally adopted the terms of reference for the task group which is being set up to consult with local Meetings and come up with proposals for how we might better manage our AM roles and duties in the future.

We heard of two applications for membership and appointed visitors, and welcomed the transfer of David Harper's (Tobermory Meeting) membership from Cambridgeshire. With some sadness however we set in process the transfer of two Friends out of West Scotland AM, and were led to hold a particular local Meeting in the Light and to remember that all Meetings go through periods of challenge when they need our support and upholding. We also considered whether to terminate the membership of a Friend who had not been heard of in one of our local Meetings for many years. We decided on a policy of caution, asking our Membership Clerk to first enquire of BYM as to whether the Friend in question was appearing on their database as attached to any Meeting elsewhere in Britain, and in the case of a few other "lost" members, to advertise their names in the Friend in case they were known elsewhere in the Yearly Meeting.

After hearing Sarah Brown's report, mentioned above, we received Christine Davis's last report as Convenor of Nominations Committee and then repaired downstairs to enjoy Glasgow Friends' most excellent selection of soups and other goodies. Lunch is a lovely opportunity to catch up with Friends from other local Meetings, and for me personally, coming from one of the remoter bits and very rarely getting to AM, a particularly welcome opportunity to meet Friends known very well by name but whose faces were completely new to me.

Following lunch we returned upstairs and to nominations, making a number of appointments including ten Friends appointed to the task group mentioned above. We then turned to matters financial. After hearing of a generous legacy left by Neil Anderson, which we agreed to put towards the roof repairs required by Glasgow Meeting House, we had a preview of the draft budget for 2012 which will be considered by Trustees. No Eeyores here – although the budget predicts a possible deficit, our Treasurer-designate, Kate Gulliver, inspired us with the exhortation to

“live our witness and fund the means to do it”! We also received Margaret Morton’s report of the recent meeting of local Meeting Treasurers. One suggestion arising from this meeting was that contribution schedules might be given to applicants for membership at the time of their visit. It was felt however that this was not appropriate in the context of what is essentially a spiritual occasion, and that sensitivity to people’s circumstances and to other possible ways of contributing must be exercised.

Lastly we considered two papers previously circulated: a minute from Ayrshire and Arran Meeting describing their consideration of the question as to how we might best strengthen our Area Meeting, which we agreed to pass to the task group, and a report from our representatives on Northern Friends Peace Board. We were pleased to hear that NFPB hopes to hold their 22 September 2012 meeting in Glasgow Meeting House, that all Friends are invited, and that suggestions as to topics that might be discussed on the day should be passed to Mary Alice Mansell.

AOB included a short report on the Quaker Housing Trust, which would welcome applications from Scottish Friends, by Bob Williamson, and news of a proposed Meeting for Worship to be held in Jura the following week. As I write, however, the forecast of gales and snow leads me to think that a Quakerly “it is hope ...” would have been more appropriate than the Minute’s optimistic “will be held”!

This being the last Area Meeting of the triennium we wrestled briefly with our Quakerly practice of not thanking people for duties carried out, and then got around the problem by ending the Minutes with a general note of appreciation of the work carried out by all those office-bearers who have come to the end of their term of office. And whilst we paid tribute to the immense skill of our Clerk, our appreciation of her work and that of the Assistant Clerk was not minuted because, as the Clerk said, “the Table is coming back!” Such appreciation will have to wait for a future occasion.

*For those unfortunate Friends not familiar with Pooh Bear and other such classic literature, Eeyores look with hopeless pessimism on things that can’t possibly be achieved, and Pollyannas think everything in the garden is lovely and are eternally optimistic. I think the idea is that we should aim somewhere in between, exercising optimism in faith, whilst recognising that darkness and difficulties do exist.

Bronwen Currie (*Argyll Meeting*)

QLRC October 2011: Appreciating Our Area Meeting - a Personal Journey

The theme for our weekend was ‘Appreciating Area Meeting’ and the method used to explore it in our home groups was Appreciative Inquiry, a staged process of asking questions structured to discover the best in who we are and what we do; to help us dream of what our ideal for the future might be; to define and design how this vision/these possibilities might be realised and then plan the first steps in delivering that change.

The method was new to many of us and challenging to most of us. From the start we were outside our comfort zones. Using only positive statements/responses entirely without qualifying clauses - no ‘ifs’ or ‘buts’ allowed - proved extraordinarily 5

taxing at first. Try it for a day!

Introducing us to Appreciative Inquiry Zelig Gross mentioned how research demonstrates that attitude can impact on outcome. She characterised - as “Eeyores’ and ‘Pollyannas’ - two attitudes that limit and constrain our capacity for change. Eeyores have a tendency to see the difficulties and obstacles to change while Pollyannas have such a rose-tinted view of things they fail to engage with the hard work and pain sometimes necessary to bring about the transformation we seek!

By becoming aware of and reining in these tendencies in ourselves and by seeking the good first we are better able to liberate the energy, imagination and creativity in ourselves and others to envision the future we want for our AM and bring it to fruition. How often I began to wonder has my attitude to AM impacted on its outcome – attending sometimes from a sense of duty rather than with anticipation, grudging the time and travel involved rather than welcoming the opportunity of fellowship and spiritual nurture among friends?

Linda Murgatroyd of Quaker Life Central Committee gave the plenary address. Her premise was that although we use the same term, Area Meeting for both our meetings for business and for the Quaker community our LMs comprise Area Meetings “are primarily spiritual communities; the business meeting is only a part of that. A key part but only a part. Our AMs are the spiritual communities we join, and a key purpose of these communities is to provide a place where we can learn about living under the Spirit’s guidance, practice this, and support one another in our attempts. This involves discerning that guidance and then acting on it.”

Listening to her I realised how often I really did think of AM only as a business meeting, as a time and place - 11.30 on a Saturday in Dunblane or Wigtown rather than seeing it as a spiritual community. So both my perception of and attitude to AM underwent a radical change in the course of the weekend.

Paul Parker’s talk on the Sunday added to the tremendous buzz of energy, enthusiasm and engagement which had developed among us over the weekend. He senses a new radicalism among Friends, a greater confidence about who we are and what we have to say in the world – he believes Friends are about to go ‘whoosh’ as he put it. By strengthening our AMs, making them ‘soul food’ as well as meetings for business we strengthen the connections between our inner life, our shared life as spiritual communities and our engagement with the world – our ability to put our faith into action. We need our structures to work for us. To that end Quaker life is funding research into what makes meetings thrive and what they can do because they thrive.

Our weekend wasn’t all hard work on our part though. We heard about the impressive work undertaken by the many sections of QL staff. One item of particular interest to us in West Scotland may be that Quaker Life and Woodbrooke are organising a roadshow of workshops for Friends new to the roles of Eldership and Oversight which will be in Glasgow on June 16th 2012.

We also enjoyed a refreshing and hilarious evening’s entertainment thanks in large measure to input from some of the Children and Young Peoples staff who had us playing Quaker bingo, doing doodles (sic) and constructing giraffes from newspapers and sellotape which had to be strong enough to stand upright and support a plastic cup on their backs!

In hearing from and speaking with others at the conference I began to truly appreciate how fortunate we are in our AM. We have an excellent clerking team, we tick loads of boxes in terms of good practice and have a track record in innovation e.g. on disability and inclusion and in the development of telephone conferencing and now we have a task group looking at how to make our AM fit for purpose for the 21st Century. Exciting times F(f)riends but how often do I enthuse to others in my meeting about attending AM?

So F(f)riend why not make 2012 the year you return to/attend an Area Meeting? If a Saturday isn't good for you try one of the 3 weekday evening AMs being held by telephone conference this year.

The quality of our life as an AM, as a spiritual Quaker community really does depend on all of us being willing to be part of the process.

Sarah Brown (*Glasgow Meeting*)

PS If you would like further information about Appreciative Inquiry, a copy of Linda Murgatroyd's address or contact details for the various sections of Quaker Life email me at s.brown83@btinternet.com.



Sarah's Giraffe

Meeting for Sufferings December 2011

'We need to arrive at a place in which we all take personal responsibility.... we need to pledge ourselves to corporate action.... This action must flow from nowhere but love.... we will need to be accountable to one another, but we will also need to be tender with one another, and to support one another through the grief and fear that radical change will provoke.' From minute 36 Yearly Meeting 2011.

The BYM 2011 minute 36 was the inspiration for the main consideration of the day. For me it caused some quite deep feelings, if not frustration, so much so that I left the meeting without my anorak, which I only remembered when passing Crewe at some 200 miles per hour (fortunately it wasn't raining in Ayr). Hilary and I have been deeply involved in environmental issues since the late sixties. I was also influenced by my father's work in the 50s in making sure that Chelmsford Meeting house was as carbon neutral as possible. So to hear Friends talk as if our commitment to low carbon environment was something new, rankled to say the least.

Then the words of Charles Dederich, or was it Douglas Malloch, came to mind: 'Today is the first day of the rest of your life'. We must assess where we are today, then decide where we want to be in the long term, then decide what we are going to do today to get there. Then the words of Pam Lunn in her Swarthmore Lecture 2011 "Costing not less than everything, sustainability and spirituality in challenging times" came to mind. She highlighted, amongst many other things, that 'long term' is very long (billions or more realistically thousands of years) and that 'we' means us in our Quaker Community, us in our local community and us as part of the one tree of life.

So after about a week, the discussion at MfS began to come together. The talk of 'baselining' or looking at where individuals, meetings, local communities or national groups are, created some comment because it seemed terribly numerate. But we were reminded that it should include a review of where we are spiritually or indeed what we mean by taking a spiritual approach to the topic. To this end Friends House has already sent out a number of tools to help this process. MfS is particularly keen that Friends share their progress with other Friends through QPSW (sunnivat@quaker.org.uk). While the bulk of material appears to refer to our witness being demonstrated through work in and on our Meeting Houses and could be seen as a problem for an Area Meeting with just two properties, already Ayrshire Local Meeting has started considering ways in which Quakers can give witness to our concern in this area. We are buoyed up by the fact that Friends are well known for punching above their weight.

MfS also considered the recent press release re *The Occupy Movement*. The Quaker statement, signed by Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, says: "Quakers in Britain agree with the statement of *Occupy London Stock Exchange* that our current economic system is unsustainable. It is undemocratic and unjust. We need alternatives. We, too, 'want structural change towards authentic global equality. The world's resources must go towards caring for people and the planet, not the military, corporate profits or the rich,' To get more information go to <http://www.quaker.org.uk/news/news-release-quakers-express-support-occupy-london>

Sufferings was reminded of the Quaker Life Network and encouraged to gather support for this in the Area Meetings. The Quaker Life Network is a network of Friends who voluntarily offer ministry in the form of work to Friends and Meetings. It is an initiative that is constantly being developed to help to deepen the spiritual life and experience of all Friends. Joining the network commits you to hearing about opportunities to become involved that might interest you. It does not mean that you will be expected to commit more than is right for you. However, it does mean you will be in touch with, and have the opportunity to be involved with, the life and work that goes on in our Yearly Meeting. Further contact info: email Oliver Waterhouse, oliverw@quaker.org.uk, or http://www.quaker.org.uk/search/apachesolr_search/qln.

On other matters, we received the triennial report from The Retreat in York, as a specialist mental health care provider, which describes its way of working and its concern to maintain a Quaker ethos in its community. It was good to hear of the emphasis on meeting the spiritual needs of patients as part of psychiatric treatment. We heard too, of the work of the Resident Friend and the changed role of the Quaker Governors, now to be called Friends of The Retreat General Meeting.

Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations spoke to us about making connections – interfaith and interchurch. Friends could be reminded that local meeting interfaith groups can seek advice from Quaker Committee for Christian Interfaith Relations.

We received the agreed budget for Quaker central work in 2012. It's very important to note that voluntary financial contributions are continuing to decline (currently income from contributions is 10% below the expected level), and that this puts at risk our planned central work.

Peter Christy (*Ayrshire and Arran Meeting*)

Local Meeting in Jura December 2011

With gales, forecasts of snow, and yet more gales, we thought it might not happen - but it did. The wind died down after the Thursday storm, and on 11th December most of the small group of Friends which constitute the Islay bit of Argyll Meeting, together with Jane Mitchell who came all the way from Tighnabruaich to be with us (that's two boats each way, for the mainland uninitiated), travelled over to Jura (yes - that's another boat) to join Mike and Joan Richardson and Glynis, a Friend from Wales recently moved to Jura, for Meeting for Worship. We met in the communal sitting room of the Jura Care Centre - a lovely space with views out over Small Isles Bay - and enjoyed an hour of very deep worship followed by a shared lunch.

It wasn't entirely straightforward. The normal Jura ferry had had too close and hurried an encounter with the pier the day before (I don't think they could even blame the wind) so the relief boat, the Margaret Sinclair, had to use the Calmac slip, which meant it couldn't do the 3.25 run because the Calmac boat would be in the way. So we had a fairly swift lunch and wash-up in order to catch the 2.10 boat and be back in daylight. It is necessary to reverse onto the Margaret Sinclair across a quite scarily narrow ramp - I really wouldn't like to do that in the dark!

The gales returned on Tuesday, but that's ok - we'd done it. And we hope to do it again next year, maybe in the spring when the days are longer. Now what's happened to that snow...??

Bronwen Currie (*Argyll Meeting*)



How has the Truth Prospered amongst You?

This was one of the questions asked by Yearly Meeting in 1682. It is still being asked today.

“A report of your meeting’s activities during the year” has a colder, more businesslike ring to it, but it continues to be the same question. The Trustees, as representing the Area Meeting, ask this of individual meetings.

Area Meeting is the primary meeting for church affairs. Its role is to develop and maintain a community of Friends, a family of local meetings who gather for worship and spiritual enrichment. In this modern frantic world families have tended to become more insular, losing touch with their wider kin. So also some of our meetings may allow themselves to become isolated from the general body of Friends. It can creep up on you unnoticed.

How is Area Meeting to hold together the family of Friends? How is it to know whether the individual meetings are functioning well, are able to cope with stresses, are happy or not? How easy is it for a meeting to lose sight of the spiritual values that hold us together?

It was suggested that Sections 4.31--4.38 of QF&P could be used as a framework for these reports. Preparing the report for my own meeting I found re-reading these sections a useful reminder of what we ought to be doing and how we were falling short.

Nine reports * for 2010 were received, of varying information and detail.

Only six meetings held a meeting for worship every Sunday. Two were twice a month, with one meeting three times a month using three separate venues. Another used two venues, reflecting their wide geographical spread. Those meetings had some flexibility in the times and duration of meetings, but everyone else had a settled venue and time. One has a regular midweek meeting.

Average numbers present varied from six to fifty, with five of the meetings observing a gradual increase in the numbers of attenders. The meetings in the more touristy areas recorded regular visitors.

Three reports noted regular readings from Advices & Queries, one noted that it was done occasionally, with the others silent on the matter.

Only three meetings reported having a childrens' meeting, two of them every Sunday, and one on the first Sunday of every month.

Five meetings reported regular discussion groups, with one other noting "occasional" discussions. Don't the others have discussion groups?

How much inter-meeting visiting is done? Not much, according to the reports. Only two noted that their members and attenders visited other meetings, and were visited, but this must be an understatement, because it is known that regular visiting takes place. However, no one noted that elders from another meeting visited them. Since elders are an Area Meeting appointment responsible for the spiritual health of every meeting, do they worship sometimes in neighbouring meetings? Perhaps this happens and it was unremarkable enough not to be noted in the reports.

Five of the meetings reported taking part in ecumenical activities in their area. Only two recorded outreach activities.

Only five reports noted that members took part in wider Quaker activities, but again, this might be something so taken for granted it was not included in the reports. However, if this figure is accurate, is it cause for concern?

At the beginning of 2012, we are asked again how the truth prospers among us, by sending in a report of activities in 2011. This can be an opportunity for us all to consider what is the state of our meeting's spiritual health and its relationship with the Area Meeting, and beyond.

Janette Walkinshaw (*Newton Stewart*)

(* Nine, because Tobermory was not part of WSAM in 2010)

Robert Organ 1917-2011

Robert died at home sometime on 11th October. That evening he was due to come to our monthly poetry meeting

He was an interesting man, born in England, he moved from the British Museum to the Royal Ontario Museum in 1951, and from there to work at the Smithsonian Institute where he worked as Head of Research and Conservation for 30 years until his retirement. By that time he had become an Honorary Fellow of the Washington Conservation Guild and between 1981-1984 he was Vice President of the International Council of Museums. In 2005 they awarded him with a medal for his 'outstanding achievements as one of the great pioneers in scientific conservation.'

He and his wife had joined the Quakers many years ago, and when he and Barbara returned to England they settled in Tarbert and attended the local Meeting. They also joined the Tarbert Poetry Group, which was where I met them. This year I started to attend the Quaker meetings. This cast a new light on my perception of his poems. The form he chose was Haiku, 17 syllables on three lines, 5-7-5. Robert wrote -

*Heiku, being short,
Thoughts and wording well connected,
Student need not fear.*

On the subject of 'Light' (or enlightenment?)

*Lighten our darkness.
Light the wick of puzzling-out:
Comprehension flames.*

He delighted in watching the birds in his garden –

*Late tit spots new box.
Peers in, looks round, enters: Off!
Treasures memory.*

On his desk when he died were the set of carefully printed Haiku he had written for that evening's meeting. I think he had learned that what counts is our ability to recognise the small miracles in life, and to share them with others. A quiet man, but what depth.

*For health, avoid stress.
Sit quietly with Quakers
Every First Day*

Judy Preston (Argyll Meeting)

Scottish Ecumenical visit to World Council of Churches in Geneva

This 2½-day visit was organised by the Church of Scotland, and we were seven churches altogether. I went on the Sunday by coach and train, since I disapprove of flying. It was a new experience and mostly fun. I only knew I had got to France because the pylons were u-shaped and the cars were driving on the wrong side. Myfanwy Thomas met me in Paris and took charge of my journey between stations, thus conjuring time for a leisurely coffee and catchup talk. (I wouldn't otherwise have made it in the time.) There was some spectacular river (Saône?) and gorge scenery but it was too dark to see until my return. Ecumenical colleagues met me at Geneva station and we were invited to dinner with the Church of Scotland minister, whose manse is on the 4th floor of a block of flats.

Next day at WCC we started with morning prayer, which was a bit of a disaster for all of us as a man kept flash-photographing everything and everybody. But the chapel was most interesting and beautiful - a big orthogonal room full of symbolic features that were explained to us afterwards in our tour of the building. There is a wall display in the lobby listing all the >350 churches, not including Roman Catholics because they would unbalance the organisation, numbering twice as many as all the other Christians put together. After being shown round we settled down to a lecture programme from heads of departments. I observed that this was quite an honour, and was told they know that the Scottish delegation always does its homework!

At lunch time we went by taxi to QUNO, where Oliver Robertson gave us an account of their work while we waited for the excellent lunch to be served, as if we were the diplomats he had been talking about. I had a little bit of appreciative feedback, but there was no time in our concentrated education. Anyway, I am sure the outreach was worthwhile.

On Tuesday very few braved the morning prayers. The afternoon was spent at the Ecumenical Institute at the beautiful Château de Bossey, a few miles along the lake side, reached by train and minibus. The Institute runs courses in ecumenical studies up to PhD, validated by the University of Geneva. When asked what language was used for teaching, the answer was "Ecumenical English, which everyone understands, except the Americans and the English"! This saves a lot of money on translations. The course which appealed to me was ecological subsistence farming, for pastors who have to supplement their stipend or educate their parishioners. Two new student accommodation blocks have been completed; one has copper rone pipes! A walk to the hedge in hopes of a view of the lake was rewarded by a tinkling symphony of bells - revealed as a herd of cows. The estate was originally monastic, and the district is still called Terre Sainte.

Finally Wednesday brought the most interesting presentations, on EAPPI, Nuclear disarmament, Small arms reduction, etc. Most unfortunately, the final speaker in his Ecumenical English, was indeed unintelligible to me.

I skipped lunch in order to go into Geneva for my train and to see the lake and the fountain. I had my free bus ticket, as issued to all hotel visitors. Being alone and not conversing, I was able to get an idea of geography. We passed the Place des Nations, with trams and a huge sculpture of a plain chair with one half-leg. This is

an imaginative memorial to the victims of land mines. My dream of actually seeing the famous fountain was realised; I sat in the park and ate my lunch watching it and the many cyclists, several riding without hands, and one also texting as she went! The sun elicited a rainbow from the fountain, the lake was blue, and I was in euphoria.

Margaret Peacock (*Milngavie Meeting*)



Lake Geneva with its 140m high Fountain Jet situated where the Lake empties into the river Rhone

St. Kevin's Church Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, Ireland



The wooded valley of Glendalough in Ireland is the site of an ancient Christian settlement dating back to the 6th Century which was founded by St. Kevin. He died in 618AD and the Church figured above is named after him. The religious settlement expanded and flourished over the next six centuries (to include a Monastery, workshops, St. Kevin's Church and a Round Tower) despite being plundered by the Danes based in Dublin. In 1214 the Normans arrived, destroying the Monastery and ravaging the settlement which was left in ruins until reconstruction of some of the buildings began in the late 19th Century.

Bryan Bowes (*Milngavie Meeting*)

Meeting for Worship at Faslane, 2012

Please contact Alison Burnley (Tel 0131 229 4481) about 10 days in advance for further information or if you wish a seat in a car originating in Edinburgh. You will need to bring: something to sit on; something to eat; and weatherproof clothing. Dates for the year are:

11 March; 13 May; 24 June; 12 August; 14 October; 11 November

Alison Burnley (*South Edinburgh Meeting*)

Area Meeting in Glasgow

This will be held on Saturday 21st January 2012 in Glasgow Meeting House at 11.00 for 11.30.

Soup and tea/coffee will be available at the lunch break

Your Giving in 2012

This is a good time to consider your contributions to the work of Friends and your instructions regarding distribution of your contribution between your Local Meeting, Area Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting.

Further information about giving to Friends can be found on copies of the 2012 Contribution Schedules which have been distributed to your Local Meeting Treasurer. A copy will be shortly on the Scottish Quaker website (go to www.quakerscotland.org, then click on "Quaker Meetings in Scotland", then click on "West" and the Contribution Schedule should appear among the list of recent copies of West Scotland News).

Please note that from January 2012 Kate Gulliver takes over from Margaret Morton as Treasurer and Janet Garner takes over from Martha Hatch as Assistant Treasurer.

Thank you to all of you who have given generously over the past few years. As the Schedule says, even small amounts are welcome.

With all good wishes for the coming year.

Margaret Morton and Martha Hatch
Kate Gulliver and Janet Garner

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