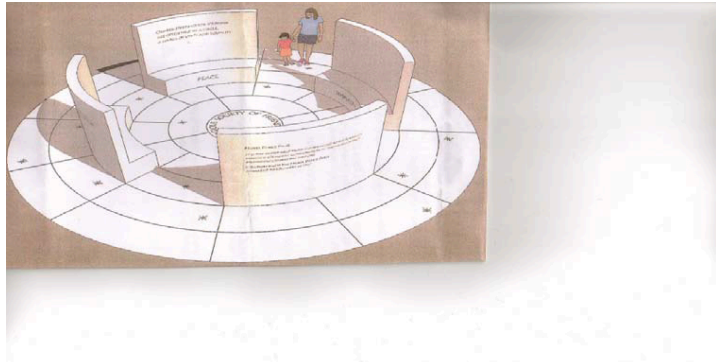


SESAME

Number 173 : September 2012

Residential GM/ John Wigham Trust/Quaker Service Memorial /
Songs of the Gael/ Quakers and Banking/ Sufferings/AM
Minutes/ Give a Kidney



Quaker Service Memorial – National Memorial Arboretum

(see page 6)

A reminder of our testimonies to **Peace, Simplicity, Truth** and **Equality** will be placed at the base of the four seats.

Editor: Alan Davies **Deputy Editor: Alan Frith**

Published by South East Scotland Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Material for the next issue should be sent to the editor Alan Davies at 49a Lockharton Avenue, Edinburgh EH14 1BB, (email: a.davies@ed.ac.uk) at the latest by **Tuesday 2 October**, for distribution week commencing **14 October**. The Editors reserve the right to condense articles. If possible please submit articles by email, sending as an attachment as well as in the body of the email, or on CD-ROM typed in Word™ accompanied with hard copy. Email versions of SESAME are available in PDF and Word™ format. Contact the Editor.

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Our next Area Meeting for Worship for Business will be on Sunday 16 September 2012, at 2 p.m., at the Open Door, 420, Morning-side Road, Edinburgh We hope to finish at about 5 p.m., with light refreshments to follow.

As always, all members and attenders are most welcome to take part. There is a stair lift to the meeting room, an accessible toilet, and an induction loop system.

As well as regular business matters, we will decide dates and venues for Area Meetings, April 2013 to March 2014; consider how to take forward the concern brought to June's Area Meeting; hear of the Worldwide Conference of Friends in Kenya, the theme of which was "Salt and Light"; and hear of another concern being brought to us.

Kate Arnot, Clerk

SE Scotland Area Meeting

Residential General Meeting will this year be hosted by East Scotland Friends, in St Andrews over the weekend 17/18 November. The programme has yet to be finalised, but in addition to the usual business items and the opportunities for fellowship and getting to know one another better, we will be looking at the theme of sus-tainable security, peace-building and promoting dialogue in Britain and in a devolved or possibly-independent Scotland. Philip Austin of Northern Friends Peace Board has agreed to join us; we hope also to have a representative of Scotland's For Peace with us. More information and booking forms will be available from the end of September via Local Meetings and the Quakers in Scotland website

Bronwen Currie GM Administrator, Scotland
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Registered Charity No: SCO12281
tel: 01496-850 006

Library News

The following are books newly arrived in the Library:

- 1) *Snakes and Ladders: A Personal Exploration of Quaker Work on Human Rights at the U.N.* by Rachel Brett. (This is the 2012 Swarthmore Lecture, and can be found on the Swarthmore shelf to the left of the library door.)
- 2) *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer. Catalogue and shelf number B222
- 3) *Love and Revolution* by Alastair Macintosh - a book of poems. Number L60
- 4) *The Spirit of the Quakers* by Geoffrey Durham - a collection of essays. Number B242

Rhoda MacKenzie
Library Committee

[The Quaker Library at 7 Victoria Terrace is an Area Meeting resource, and all are encouraged to make use of it. Eds.]

JOHN WIGHAM (ENJOYMENT) TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2011

John Wigham's grants are for 'deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures in life, the purpose of such grants being to provide the recipients with some additional comfort or pleasure of an exceptional nature over and above the usual necessities of life'.

During 2011, fourteen grants were made, totalling £6,090. A reimbursement of £78.61 and a £10 donation left the fund standing at £9,555.08 at the end of 2011. This was the eighth full year of the Trust, and the fund now has slightly less than one quarter of the amount with which it started in 2003.

Of the fourteen applications in 2011, three were for material goods: a large-screen digital TV, a gas cooker, and the purchase of a new set of clothes with the help of a personal shopper. Three others were to obtain an experience: a series of acupuncture sessions; dance and physical theatre classes and some books; and the under-writing of a Peace Meal that featured speeches from three different Faiths. The other eight applications were mainly to do with journeys or events of some sort. Five awards enabled the recipients and their families to take long-overdue holidays or to visit family and friends. One was to enable the young recipient to take part in a cultural exchange programme and thence to help to raise funds for local homeless youngsters. Another award helped to finance a Quaker to attend a conference, and the last one was to fund a late autumn holiday in Scotland together with some art materials. The diversity of ideas behind the applications is always a source of wonder and delight.

One of the joys of the trustees is to read the reports of the comfort or pleasure received from their awards. "I booked a holiday in the north-east of Scotland. The cottage and surroundings were beautiful, and I really enjoyed this much-needed break. I made a number of sketches while at the cottage, and am using the art materials I bought with your grant to continue with my creative work."

"It was a pleasure to see a full house for the Peace Meal. The food was delicious and Turkish (mainly), the company friendly and lively, and the speakers well worth hearing, (a refugee from Iran, an asylum seeker from Nigeria, and an academic who researches migration as well as working to support asylum seekers)."

"It was really great to be able to go away on holiday with our friends this October. The holiday was great fun for my son with other friends of his age and for me with other 'Mums'. He had

company even when I was tired. He joined in lots of sporting activities and really enjoyed the swimming pool with its various slides – he loved the freedom offered and the variety of activities – fun-fair, rides, bikes, boats – all in a safe environment. Having evening meal and breakfast included made it a rest for me, and I was able to enjoy the company of my friends.”

“I had an excellent day out spending the grant. I tried on lots of beautiful clothes and we had a lot of fun. It’s been a long time since I’ve treated myself, and the personal shopper was very good at saying what colours and shapes suited me.”

The Trust began its work in 2003 with a fund of £42,000. The trustees decided that not just the interest, but the capital also, would be distributed as awards. So far, ninety-two awards have been made, totalling £42,776.40, averaging £465 per award. In the beginning, the interest gained on the capital amount contributed significantly to the fund, but in 2009, the interest fell dramatically and has been dwindling since, leaving the fund standing at the end of 2011 at £9,555. At the present rate of making awards, it will probably last until sometime in 2013. We are grateful to Friends of long-standing who are well known to their Meetings for counter-signing the application forms, and for being pro-active, in many cases, in encouraging suitable acquaintances to make an application. We wish to encourage this. While the trustees are not actively seeking these, donations have been, and would still be, very welcome additions in the time remaining, to extend this up-lifting work. There is even more need for a fund like this today than in recent years.

Anne Miller
Convenor of trustees

Application forms for, and details about, the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust may be obtained from Sylvia Massey, by telephone on 0131 229 4238, or by e-mail: sylviamassey293@btinternet.com

Quaker Service Memorial: National Arboretum

The immediate purpose of a memorial will be remembrance of the service by the **Friends Ambulance Unit** and **Friends Relief Service** during World War II. For the Society today, it will also be an opportunity for outreach. Some 300,000 people visit the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas near Lichfield, each year. A site which is explicit in its statement of Friends’ witness and commitment to peace may well find resonance, provided its message draws on our common humanity.

A reminder of our testimonies to **Peace, Simplicity, Truth and Equality** will be placed at the base of the four seats. There will be six texts, four carved on the backs of the stone seats and two on the front. The wording needs to be succinct.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS): The Society emerged after the civil war of the 1640s with a commitment “to live by virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars”. Quakers continue to work worldwide for peace and reconciliation.

On the front

Quaker meetings for worship are often held in a circle, a symbol of unity and equality.

(front base: TRUTH)

FRIENDS AMBULANCE UNIT – The Unit enabled conscientious objectors to serve in theatres of war. They cared for civilian and military casualties of any nation in both World Wars. Seventeen members lost their lives in World War II.

(front base: EQUALITY)

FRIENDS RELIEF SERVICE – The Service was set up in 1939 to relieve civilian distress. Its members worked in a spirit of peace at a time of war in the UK, Europe and farther afield.

(front base: SIMPLICITY)

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE – “It is the silent help from the nameless to the nameless which is the Quakers’ contribution to the promotion of brotherhood between nations” Citation from the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Quakers in 1947.

On the front

“Let your life speak, answering that of God in everyone”

George Fox, 1624 – 1691, founder of Quakerism

(front base: PEACE)

The Quaker Service Memorial Trust
10 Beacon Mews Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 7AH

telephone: 01543 258016
email: gaialane60@hotmail.com

Charity Registration No. 1142335

Anthony Wilson, Clerk to the Trust, writes:

Our aim has been to agree a design whose artistic integrity and vision will draw people to our memorial, while respecting our testimony to simplicity and the right use of earth's resources. Its simple structure in stone resembles a meeting for worship. The circular seating will serve as a setting for contemplation and express our vision of reconciliation in times of conflict. Wordings carved on the seats will illustrate Friends' commitment and witness to peace. It will bring the name of Quakers and what they stand for to millions of people in the UK and abroad, and provide a space for reflection and silent worship. Entry to the site is free and it is open every day of the year except Christmas Day.

It is difficult to visit the National Memorial Trust without being deeply moved by the experience. Some Quakers may initially feel out of their 'comfort zone'. But on sharing time with the many visitors (annual expectations of half a million), and especially after seeing the record of recent deaths from armed conflict on the Armed Forces Memorial, it is clear that the message of Quakerism needs to be here.

The National Memorial Arboretum opened in 2001 on a 150 acre site set within the National Forest, a few miles north of Lichfield in Staffordshire. As well as military memorials there are many others honouring, for example, ambulance services, Girl Guides, British-German friendship and the soldiers 'Shot at Dawn', all of which are visited by school parties.

Songs of the Gael 27 August 2012

The final event at Venue 40 in 2012 was *The Songs of the Gael* by the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir (Coisir Dhun Eideann). The Celts every-where celebrate their traditional music and song - think the Mod, Eisteddfodau, the Irish harp – both for their own sake and to promote Celtic languages and cultures.

The choir that performed for us this evening had some 25 members, about 75% women. I mentioned this to one of the male singers: his response was that this imbalance is true for most choirs. Why, I wondered, are men less keen on choral singing? Is it thought unmanly? – but then what about Welsh male voice choirs?

Seonaid McDonald, the conductor, acted as compere for the programme. Her easy and warm manner made the audience feel part of the performance, encouraged as we were to sing along. The songs were all sung in Gaelic, several well known in their English versions. Ellen Beard, an American, and Kirsty Stewart sang solos and a duet. Rory Lumsden performed on the pipes and Marije de Vries, from the Netherlands, played a Breton melody on the harp.

The concert was full of cheer: songs of love, of the sea and the land, work songs, songs of friendship, good and bad neighbour songs, joking songs. Whether or not we understood the words, the sentiments were clear. There is a plaintive sadness about Gaelic songs, mourning as they do loss of home, exile, and the long attrition of the language. So do these Gaelic songs appeal to the non-Gaelic speaker? The answer has to be that yes, they do: their melodies and the sounds of the words, they remind us of a world that has gone but is still worth preserving in the beauty of its music and song.

Alan Davies

Quakers and Banking: from Robert Barclay to Robert Diamond

Darby, Lloyd, Pease, Rowntree, Wedgwood, Huntley, Palmer, Bradshaw, Clark, Barclay, Gurney, Bevan, Cadbury, Fry, Horniman, Reckitt, Bryant, May, Price, Waterhouse, Terry, Jacobs: What do these names have in common? They are, of course, all names of Quaker business enterprises.

Not all have survived, or perhaps the name has while the business is no longer Quaker controlled. Indeed, it became difficult to retain the close Quaker connection once family businesses gave way to limited liability companies. Several of these Quaker businesses moved into banking, notably Barclays and Lloyds. What was it about banking that attracted Quakers?

The Roman Catholic Church was, officially, no friend of banking, especially when it was labelled usury (that is, lending at an extortionate rate of interest). Even today, the Catholic Encyclopedia states: *Catholic teaching still holds that usury is morally impermissible*. At the same time, an increasingly mercantile society, especially after the great European discoveries across the Atlantic and in the Far East, made borrowing and money lending necessary. The lack of fit between the moral law and the practical need led to much hypocrisy. Hence one of the central themes of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, where the Merchant, Antonio, asks the Jewish moneylender Shylock to lend him money on behalf of his friend Bassanio while at the same time abusing him for being a moneylender. This is Shylock's reply:

Shylock

Signior Antonio, many a time and oft,
On the Rialto, you have rated me
About my moneys and my usances;
Still have I borne it with a patient shrug;
For sufferance is the badge of all our tribe:
You call me misbeliever, cut-throat dog,
And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine,
And all for use of that which is mine own.
Well, then, it now appears you need my help:
Go to, then you come to me and you say,
Shylock, we would have moneys: you say so:
... What should I say to you? Should I not say:
Hath a dog money? Is it possible
A cur can lend three thousand ducats?

Like Jews, Quakers were on the margins of society. Quakers and Jews had a lot in common, as Harvey Gillman notes in *The Friend* of 25 November 2009: *Friends found themselves in close contact with Jews in commerce, banking, insurance and scientific societies.... Both believed that they could have direct access to the divine without human intervention. They both worked together for the abolition of slavery, their marriage regulations needed the endorsement of the state; they were both smallish scattered communities*.

Quakers, like Jews, were successful in business and banking. The climate of the times in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was in their favour. Calvin and Puritans in general offered a creed which transformed the acquisition of wealth from a drudgery or a temptation into a moral duty. This freedom relieved the hypocrisy but it meant that it allowed the individual the opportunity for licence. But here Quakers were well aware of the dangers and Meetings made very sure that members were always accountable to them for their financial projects. Still today, the individual's concern is always tempered by the discernment of the Meeting.

Why did Quakers have such success in business? Early Quakers prospered in business because their culture inculcated the duties of plain business dealings in the home, the school, the Meeting House and the workplace. Indeed, Advices and Queries today continue to emphasize these principles. Advice 37 begins:

Are you honest and truthful in all you say and do? Do you maintain strict integrity in business transactions and in your dealings with individuals and organizations?

Like other *peculiar* people (Mormons, Amish, Plymouth Brethren), Quakers reinforced their connections with one another through intervisitation and innovation. There was continuous movement from one group to another conveying ideas and forging new re-relationships. Because Quakers were excluded from the universities, they transferred their intellectual interests to the applied sciences, the practical application of which were important for the new new Quaker businesses.

Friends were attached to shared religious beliefs and practices which came to exercise a powerful control over their business conduct. They formed networks of like-minded associates, held together by ties of family, faith and mutual trust which were to prove vital in the subsequent emergence of Quaker commercial success. (Walvin: 79)

But why the move into banking?

What nineteenth century Quaker businesses did was exactly what present day banks are constantly being admonished for not doing. Writing in 1980, D.B.Windsor comments:

The name of Barclay stands with that of the Lloyds as one of the pillars of the modern commercial banking system. (David Barclay, son of Robert Barclay, the Scottish Apologist, was one of the founders of Barclays). Their banks came into being originally not as funnels for investing capital, but to service the growing demands of provincial trade. The Lloyd family were doing business with so many traders in the iron business that they set up a bank to provide short-term credit

for their customers. The concept of providing such credit to trade is as old as moneylending and many banks owe their early origins to the lending of seed money to farmers. It was the Industrial Revolution that stimulated demand for credit and Quakers all over the country were there to provide it. (Windsor:21).

So far so good but there must have been a number of start-up banks. Why did these Quaker banks succeed? Windsor suggests:

First, many Quakers had become goldsmiths, and as such were natural people to leave money with, as their premises were secure and their security obvious. Secondly, the Quakers had an impeccable reputation for integrity, plain dealing, and honesty that was unique in the eighteenth century. Lastly, they were also obsessive book-keepers – indeed, recorders of everything that ever happened to them.. (Windsor: 21)

The strong familial ties were also important, intermarriage and the insistence in the Society until the 1859 on endogamy: marrying **out** led to disownment. Quakers' long insistence on establishing boundaries around their peculiar people provided a powerful sense of internal security, trust and support. By the mid 1750s, 80% of members of London Yearly Meeting were birthright Friends. Some found the exclusivity cloying and were disowned or resigned their membership.

The third and fourth generations of Quaker entrepreneurial families simply could not deal successfully with the complex structures their fathers and grandfathers had developed. In many cases, the grandsons and great-grandsons were less than interested in fighting the good fight. They inherited success and received the best education – the education of young gentlemen – and they chose a way of life very different from that of the early Friends: many indeed left the Society for the Church of England and the Conservative Party. (Windsor: 240).

Are modern Quakers to be found in business, in banking, in entrepreneurial endeavours? Today, many work in public

affairs, in re-search and teaching, the law, in social work. There are good arguments for taking up these occupations but do today's Quakers have as much influence on the world's problems as their precursors whose work inspired and financed the Industrial Revolution? How easy is it to maintain that early vision of servicing *the growing demands of provincial trade* in today's more cynical world?

References

Walvin, J. 1997. *The Quakers: money and morals*. London: John Murray

Windsor, D.B. 1980 *The Quaker Enterprise: Friends in Business* London: Frederick Muller Ltd

Meeting for Sufferings

The first meeting of the new triennium took place on 7 July. It felt quite different, as each Area Meeting now has only one representative following a decision at Yearly Meeting in 2011. As we are now a smaller body we met in a different room, which hopefully will feel more comfortable and enable more different voices to be heard. However we were aware that our individual responsibility has increased as we no longer share the task of ensuring communication between Sufferings and our Area Meetings.

The morning was given over to induction. We were reminded by the clerk of our role in fostering communication and testing concerns of Area Meetings as well as a visioning role, acting for Yearly Meeting between sessions. Paul Parker, the Recording Clerk, explained the Yearly Meeting's committee structure and spoke about the five teams of staff who work at Friends House and their roles and responsibilities. Young Friends reminded us about the business method using a humorous presentation similar to the one we had at an Area Meeting last year. We also heard from the Clerk of Trustees about our different roles, which will probably be an area for ongoing discussion.

In the afternoon we heard that Quakers had joined with Christian Aid to call for a ban on the import of Israeli settlement goods to the U.K. A concern had been raised about the situation in Syria. We have no Quaker work in Syria and have to rely on the national news for information. It was suggested that any Friends with particular knowledge of the situation share this and that contact is made with Syrian refugees in this country to support them.

As usual we dealt with appointments and heard a report from Yearly Meeting Trustees of their recent work, particularly in relation to refurbishment of the Large Meeting House. Readers of *The Friend* will be aware of the controversy surrounding the Trustees' decision not to accept the offer of the Skyscape installation. This issue highlighted the different responsibilities of Trustees and Meeting for Sufferings and how we work together.

We agreed to a proposal from QPSW to publicly support an initiative to set up a new body called Gambling Watch UK whose purpose is to question the present policy of expansion of gambling.

Several minutes were received from Area Meetings and passed on to other committees for advice. One that raised an issue which Area Meeting might like to discuss asked that consideration be given to reintroducing the financial quota system to fund centrally managed work. Another issue that Area Meeting might like to consider is the value and use of A Framework for Action and feed-back on this would be helpful.

I am keen to foster communication between our Area Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings and would be very happy to discuss any of these issues further.

Janet Grimwade

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday, 30 June 2012 at 2.00 pm at Greenpark Community Centre, Polmont.

Minute 1: We welcome today four attenders, all from Polmont
LM: Ian Beamish, Laura Dunkel, Andreas Kelch, Jessica Patterson,

Minute 2: Apologies

The following Friends are prevented and send their apologies: Alison Burnley; Alastair Cameron; Alan Davies; Hilary Davies; Mary Jane Elton; Rachel Frith; Stasa Morgen-Appel; Sadie Paxton; Jasmine Perinpanayagam; Sue Sierra; David Turner; Ida Turner.

Minute 3: Signing of the AM minutes of 12 May:

The minutes of 12 May 2012 have been published in *Sesame*. A copy has been signed by the clerk and entered in the Minute Book

Minute 4: Extract 10.01 of *Quaker Faith & Practice* was read during our opening worship. It was written by Isaac Penington in 1667.

Minute 5: Matters arising:

Quaker Week 2012: If any meeting is intending to mark Quaker Week, details could be brought to September's Area Meeting to be held on Sunday 16 September.

Minute 6: A concern

Tweeddale Meeting have brought us the following concern.

"As Quakers, we believe in the values of simplicity, equality, respect for each other and respect for our world.

We live in a society where people, happiness and the environment are subjugated to the achievement of economic growth and business success.

We believe our economic and social affairs should be managed in a way which puts the needs of people and our planet first.

We believe that the economic system should be reformed so as to deliver high levels of human well-being, and an equitable distribution of income and wealth within natural environmental limits.

We are called to ask questions to promote dialogue and action. We ask that politicians and others in positions of influence and power recognise this moral imperative and work together, responding in words and action to create a new economy based on social justice, environmental sustainability and collective well being."

This was introduced by a Friend from Tweeddale, who explained that reflection has continued since residential General Meeting in November 2011. A lengthier session at Tweeddale in April 2012 focussed on British national debt. This has increased in recent years, exacerbated by the failure of banks and the consequent re-cession. Britain has had higher debt in the past but the approach by the current Westminster government has brought about a sharp reduction in public spending.

Unemployment, especially youth unemployment, is rising but debt is still rising. The Westminster's government's main aim is to reduce the national debt but much re-search shows that their approach will most adversely affect the most vulnerable. Also significant is that we are all urged by the government to make sacrifices so we can sort out the adverse economic situation we are in.

The outcome of Tweeddale's discussion connected to our testimonies – faith in action – is that people are a priority. This seems to conflict with a view that economic forces must take their course.

We unite with this concern and minute 36 of Canterbury Yearly Meeting Gathering (2011) which reflects the theme of 2012 Britain Yearly Meeting of Economic Justice and Sustainability. As individuals we too need to change to bring about the changed society we wish to create and live in.

Quaker concerns come out of deep seeking to know what is the will of God. Knowing this, we can go forward in what may be a long transformative struggle.

We were reminded that, in the past, Quaker owned banks were good and that now local credit unions provide a valuable service where both individuals and communities benefit. Small is beautiful.

We need both a vision, reflecting what God requires of us, and an incremental approach to make the changes we desire.

We urge Friends to ask questions of themselves and of their elected representatives. Many of us, including politicians, have little understanding of complex economic matters but all of us believe we are doing “the right thing”.

Quakers are still active in business and are working for economic justice through the conduct of their businesses where profit is not the overriding concern.

We ask all local meetings within the Area Meeting to publicise as they are able to do, this concern within their local communities and our distinctive Quaker approach.

We also agree to hold the morning’s session of 8 December to decide on what action to take.

Minute 7: Membership Matters

- a) Transfer out: **Chris and Penny Holland**, of both Central Edinburgh and Central Fife Meetings have, by email, in-

formed the Clerk that they intend to move to Exeter in Devon AM. We agree to transfer their membership and ask Sue Sierra to process this when their move takes place.

- b) Transfer out: **Bronwyn Harwood** (Central Edinburgh) has moved to Lewes, Sussex, and has written to ask us to transfer her membership to Sussex East AM. We agree to this request and ask Sue Sierra to process it.
- c) Transfer in: We have received a Sojourning Minute for **Stasa Morgan-Appel** from University Friends Meeting in Seattle, USA, and they commend her to our loving care. We accept this minute and warmly welcome Stasa.
- d) Application: [An application for membership was received and visitors appointed.]

Minute 8: Area Meeting Accounts for 2011

Caroline Evens, our Treasurer, has presented the Trustees’ Report and Accounts for the Area Meeting for 2011. The accounts have been consolidated so that they present a record of all financial activity during the year. They have been examined by Whitelaw Wells, our independent examiners.

We note that it would be helpful if letting income could be shown separately for 7 Victoria Terrace and Kelso Meeting Houses.

We accept these accounts and authorise our clerk to sign them on behalf of the meeting. We thank our treasurer, Caroline Evens, who has overseen the compilation of the accounts, as well as all those who assist with the tasks of treasurership in the AM, for the work that they have undertaken for us. We appoint Whitelaw Wells to act as independent examiners of the 2012 accounts.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available for any member or attender who would like to see them. These are attached to these minutes.

Concern was again expressed that we are deferring our usual contribution to BYM. This is difficult for Trustees and Area Meeting but Trustees consider it is a necessity to replace the windows at 7 Victoria Terrace. We expect to have a clearer view of the progress of fundraising by November 2012 and hope to be able to remit monies more in line with the past.

We regret that we have not informed Friends House earlier of why our contributions to them have decreased. A letter has been prepared and will be sent today, signed by the Clerk and Treasurer.

Minute 9 : Nominations and Appointments

- a) Our Nominations Committee has told us that there is a need for an additional Assistant AM Treasurer as Henry Thompson will be away for three months and the workload is more than Caroline Evens can handle on her own. Members of the Committee are working with Caroline on finding a suitable person, but are not yet in a position to bring a name to AM. Nominations Committee are asking to be allowed to make an interim appointment, for confirmation at next AM. We agree to this, and note that, in the longer term, it may be necessary to put in place additional arrangements to support the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. We ask Nominations Committee to bring to us any proposals on this in due course.
- b) Alison Perks has told Nominations Committee that she and Mike Perks intend to move to the south of England to be near family. She has asked to be released from her role as Bed & Breakfast Group co-ordinator. When a replacement is appointed she will be very happy to brief the new person and pass on relevant information. We note that It will be important that the new co-ordinator is on email.
- c) Alison Perks has also notified Nominations Committee that she wishes to be released from her position as Deputy

Registering Officer. Again she has relevant papers to pass on.

We agree to Alison's request for release from both posts when appropriate and thank her for her service.

Minute 10. John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust

Annie Miller has told us of the work of the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust which gives grants to "deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures in life." These grants "provide the recipients with some additional comfort or pleasure of an exceptional nature over and above the usual necessities of life." Annie gave us examples of such grants.

The Trust began work in 2003 with a fund of £42,000, and since then 92 grants have been made, averaging £465. There is a balance of £9,555 in the Fund, which, if past practice prevails, will last until 2013. In these difficult economic times, Friends may wish to consider donating to the Trust.

We thank Annie and Trustees for their report and work and ask that the report be published in *Sesame*.

Minute 11. General Meeting for Scotland

a) GM held on 9 June 2012 in Edinburgh:

Along with the usual business, there was a continued discussion on the increasing need to have a Quaker input and dialogue with the Scottish Parliament. A working party has been set up to progress this. Also during the morning sessions we heard from **Jasmine Perinpanayagam** and **Alastair Reid** (now West of Scotland Area Meeting) of the World Gathering of Friends in Kabarak, Kenya, the theme of which was "Salt and Light". This Gathering, although not without tensions, was spiritually inspirational and valuable links were made with our family of Friends worldwide.

The afternoon session was an introduction to Quaker Social Action, who have been working for over a century in the East End of London. Judith Moran, Director, spoke of their work and this was followed by a taster of some of their activities.

b) GM to be held on 8 September 2012 in Nairn

We appoint the following Friends to represent us at this: Pat Lucas, Phil Lucas and Marianne Ferguson Rice. We further appoint Pat or Phil Lucas to write a report of this General Meeting for Scottish Friends Newsletter and *The Friend*.

12. Britain Yearly Meeting

Time constraints have led to reports on this being deferred until September Area Meeting.

13. AOCB

- a) Copies of the Venue 40 brochure for events at 7 Victoria Terrace were available and Friends (other than from Central Edinburgh Meeting) were asked to take some to their meetings.
- b) Appeal leaflets for the window replacement at 7 Victoria Terrace were distributed.

.Closing Minute

27 Friends from six local meetings attended all or part of this Meeting for Worship for Business. Our next Area Meeting will be on Sunday, 16 September 2012 at 2 p.m. at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh.

Kate Arnot

Clerk, South East Scotland Area Meeting

According to an old Quaker joke, the Holy Trinity consists of the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man and the neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Change of Address:

Mike and Alison Perks have moved south to be closer to family.

New Address: 15 Mead Close, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 5QX

phone 07763239593

email: michaelperks@phonecoop.coop
alisonperks@phonecoop.coop

FUTURE AREA MEETINGS

Sunday 16 September, at the Open Door, South Edinburgh 2 p.m. – 5.30 pm

Saturday 20 October, at 7 Victoria Terrace: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday 8 December, at 7 Victoria Terrace: 2 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Contributions to SESAME are always welcome. Please send your ideas and proposals to the Editors.

Give a Kidney: One's Enough

Readers may remember I wrote a short story about giving away my kidney which I did in March 2009. I have just recently attended a wow of a conference for all of us who have done this; it was held at the British Medical Association in London and was the second big meeting of Give a Kidney, One's Enough. There are now over 100 people who have given their kidney to a stranger. There were about 60 people at the meeting, including four Scots. The aim of the organisation is to encourage more people to give a kidney (one's enough) thus helping the world to go round a bit better. Horrifying facts are that there are currently 7,800 people in the UK waiting every day for a new kidney, and, worse still, three people a day die from lack of a donor. As accident rates go down, so there are naturally fewer body parts to help the sufferers, so more live donors are needed. One's age doesn't seem anything like as important as having good health: I gave mine when I was 68; at the meeting last weekend the oldest donor was 83 and the youngest 26. Speaking for myself, I was operated on, as I told earlier, on the Wednesday, and driven home by a cousin on the Sunday. My second kidney did the work of two within twelve hours. So, from my own point of view, it was no big deal. From the point of view of the recipient, it has given him back his life. I know his name but nothing more about him. He has now sent me three cards, two at Christmas time. I suppose the 'most asked question' must be: did it hurt?- for a brief time, yes, but not for long. Then, don't you need two? – it truly seems not. What happens if your remaining kidney goes down? – in almost every case with kidney disease and illness both kidneys are affected anyway, so only having one doesn't make any difference. And finally, why did you do it? There are many different reasons, but most of them include a wish to be helpful, and to do something really useful.

Matilda Mitchell of Kelso Meeting continues her account of donating a kidney.

Quaker Meetings for Worship in South East Scotland

Every Sunday

Central Edinburgh:	7 Victoria Terrace	9.30am&
11.00am		
South Edinburgh:	Open Door, 420 Morningside Road,	10.30am
Polmont:	Greenpark Community Centre	10.45am
Kelso:	Quaker Meeting House, Kelso	10.30am

Every Wednesday

Mid Week Meeting:	7 Victoria Terrace	12.30pm- 1pm
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First Sunday in the Month

Penicuik & Peebles:	Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik <i>Children welcome, bring and share lunch.</i>	11.00am
Portobello:	Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street	7.30pm

First Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms (opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: <i>contact Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for more details</i>	1pm- 1.30pm
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Second Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale:	Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House, Dukehaugh, Peebles <i>All welcome but please phone to confirm. 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389.</i>	10.30am
Central Fife:	Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)	10.30am
East Lothian:	East Linton Community Hall	11.00am

Third Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms	1pm- 1.30pm
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Fourth Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale:	Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House, <i>Details as Second Sunday above</i>	10.30am
Central Fife:	Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy <i>as above</i>	10.30am
Portobello:	CHANGES Community Health Project 108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA	10.30am
Barony St Meeting	33 Barony Street, Edinburgh	7.00 pm
Last Sunday in the Month		
East Lothian:	East Linton Community Hall	11.00am

Distribution of Sesame & Scottish Friends Newsletter

The current practice is to distribute one copy of Sesame and the Scottish Friends Newsletter to every Member and Attender household. Contributions to the costs of Sesame are always warmly welcomed by the Area Meeting Treasurer, Caroline Evens. An email version of Sesame is more ecological and is free! A large print version is available on request.