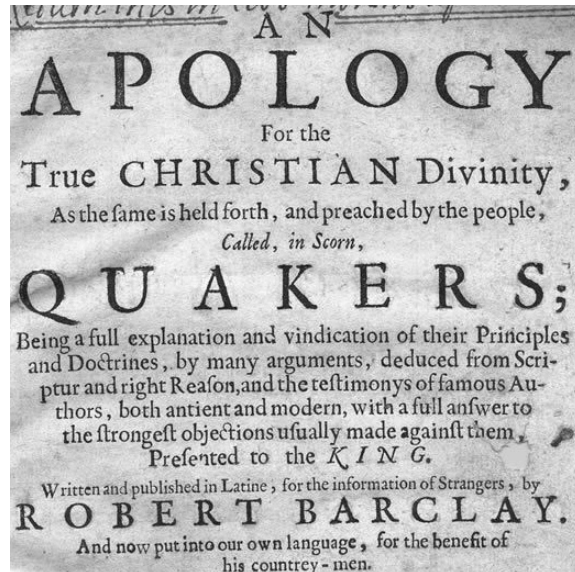


SESAME

Number 177: February 2013

Friends and Meetings/ Britain Yearly Meeting/ Robert Barclay/ AM Minutes



See pages 11-14 for a brief account of Robert Barclay's life

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 26 March**, for distribution week commencing **7 April**. 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 will be on Sunday 24 February 2013 at 2 p.m. at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh. We hope to finish by 5 p.m. with light refreshments to follow. As always, all members and attenders are very welcome. There is a lift to the meeting room, an accessible toilet, and an induction loop.

As well as regular business, we will receive the Tabular Statement and hear of the work of Trustees and look forward to General Meeting in March.

Kate Arnot, Clerk
South East Scotland Area Meeting

News of Friends and Meetings

New contact details for **Jeanne & Gerard Walmesley**:
email address - gjwalmesley@gmail.com
phone 0131 312 7030

Rachel Frith: corrected email: <rachelfrith4@gmail.com>

New Acquisitions at the A.M. Library

There are two Pendle Hill pamphlets which Quakers working with children might appreciate: "Answering that of God in Our Children" (PP 315) and "God Raising Us – Parenting as a Spiritual Practice" (PP 396). (The Pendle Hill pamphlet boxes are on a shelf above the Swarthmore Lectures to the left of the library door as you enter.)

Other acquisitions include: *The Lost Art of Losing* by Gregory Norminton (shelf number L66) A former member of South East Scotland AM, Gregory attests to 'the grim waggishness' of his thoughts, rants and aphorisms

in this small collection. Comic and despairing, joyful and wry, these (mainly) aphorisms present a picture of a mind in troubling times. Also: *The Power of Silence* by Graham Turner and *Findings* by Kathleen Jamie

Rhoda MacKenzie
(for the library committee)

'Learning Saturdays' at Kelso Meeting House

Kelso Friends are holding four 'learning Saturdays' at the Meeting House during 2013. The days have been planned in partnership with our neighbouring Meetings in Tweeddale and East Lothian, but Friends from all parts of our Area Meeting are most welcome to join us.

16 March: *Sharing our wisdom: our experience of meeting for worship and spoken ministry.* 10.30 for 11 am start.

1 June: *Your Spiritual Gifts.* Led by Thomas Swain of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

28 September: *Good Lives – living lightly on the earth*

2 November: *Stillness and Reflection - a retreat day.* Led by Ginny Wall.

Except as noted, each day will run from 10.30 - 4.00. Please let **Jane Pearn** know if you hope to come to any of them.

Funeral of Kathleen Brockhouse

On Friday 11 January 2013, John Phillips, Cathy Bell, and Jean McAuslin and her husband attended the funeral at Melrose Crematorium of Kathleen Brockhouse who died on 6 January, aged 99 years and five months.

Kathleen's last three years were spent in a nursing home in Galashiels, near her daughter in Peebles. Before that she had been living with her husband, Eric, in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, where they had retired. They were active members of the small local Meeting. Prior to that they were teachers at the Irish Quaker school, Drogheda Grammar School, north of Dublin. Eric was the excellent headmaster; Kathleen a great PE and Games teacher. Between them, they put this school 'back on its feet'. They had come there with their family of three from England.

They were lovely people and much appreciated by family, friends and Friends in England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

Cathy Bell

Dates for Friends' Diaries in 2013

The ecumenical **World Day of Prayer**, observed at a place of worship near you, will be on **Friday 1 March**; a series of preparation meetings, including Bible study, will take place on the preceding three Fridays (**1, 8 and 22 February**) at **10.30 am**, at the **Church of Scotland Offices, 121 George Street, Edinburgh.**

Meetings for Worship after the manner of Friends are held at the North Gate at **Faslane** on six Sundays throughout the year. In order to be there by 11 am, we need to leave Edinburgh by 8.30 am, which is not always easy. We stop for a much needed 'comfort break' and coffee and scones in Helens-burgh. If you might be interested and would like to join us, especially in the warmer months,

we would be delighted – it is little enough to do for the peace movement. We need weather proof clothing, something to sit on and something to eat before we return home. Please let me know if you wish to join us, giving me a week to ten days to work out car space and collection.

The dates for 2013 are:

10 March; 14 April; 12 May; 9 June; 1 September; and 10 November.

Additionally, Scottish Clergy Against Nuclear Arms are holding a service on **23 March**.

For further information, or to arrange to attend one of the Faslane meetings for worship, contact Alison Burnley, tel. 0131 229 4481.

Meetings for Learning at 7 Victoria Terrace

What do we do in our meetings? 3 February 2013

Madeleine Harding and John Phillips led this discussion and have provided these notes on the meeting, beginning with Madeleine:

"I started by reading extract 2.06 from *Q.F. & P.* and divided my talk into three parts:

"1. When I facilitated Hearts and Minds study sessions I found it very helpful to share with others what worship means for each of us and discovered how we are all different. As I enter meeting for worship I look around and feel welcomed into our loving Quaker community. I talked a little about settling down and clearing my

thoughts - not always easy. Ministry can help to focus my thoughts.

"I read a short passage from the Swarthmore lecture of 1985

"I don't come with expectations but just as I am and see what happens. For me worship means *worth-ship*, giving worth to the things in my life.

"2. All age worship is very important for me as the whole community is worshipping together. Yes it is programmed but probably the only time I come to meeting with heart and mind truly prepared. I make time for reflection, reading and preparing. Many find it helpful to have a focus and hopefully this will draw people together

"3. I spend a lot of time in Children's meeting for worship. Sometimes people say 'it is good to see you have managed to get into meeting for worship' – as if being in children's meeting is a chore. It is challenging, but never that Ministry takes many forms and can often be unexpected. Children's meeting can be busy and often noisy and then the noisiest child says/does something that makes me sit up/catch my breath. A real moment of light or wonder. I am sure I learn as much from the children as they do from me. Likewise, young people whom we may rarely see in meeting, can be surprising. I have experienced deep and profound silence while worshipping with young people in their epilogues at link weekends.

"I ended by reading the second part of 2.03 from *Q.F. & P.* The sharing during the meeting was helpful and illuminating."

John Phillips:

"I cannot offer any record of the main part of the sharing session, but I did make some jottings of my own contribution (which overlapped considerably with Madeleine's). My notes say:

"1. Different people have different needs, and our own needs vary at different times in our lives.

"2. Worship is corporate and meeting regularly with the community of Friends forms an important part of the experience.

"3. Liturgy: Friends do not like being told what to do or what to think - they like to work things out for themselves. Formal church services seem to me to be delivered in a form of code which does not leave me time for a satisfactory deciding process.

"4. Meeting provides us with stillness, not silence.

"5. 'Worship': a time to concentrate on 'worth' in one's life (Harvey Gillman, I think), an engagement with the self, not an escape"

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AND BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING: an invitation to attend

Rosie Roberts asks: Why focus on BYM at the turn of the year?

We are all seeking opportunities to build more of a sense of community in our meetings, and to get to know each

other better in the things that are eternal. Attending Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) along with other members of our meetings, or others from South East Scotland, offers one such opportunity. How can we make the most of it?

With some of my family I went to BYM in May last year, and found it a wonderful experience. Afterwards I wondered how Friends –members *and* attenders - might make more of this central annual event in the Society of Friends.

Here are a few things that started me thinking.

- Before setting off for BYM last year I tried with some difficulty to discover who else from our AM would be there. It seemed I could only find out by asking people I knew, who I thought *might* go. I realized this situation might be difficult for newer members and attenders who might want to go.
- I had requested documents in advance, and when they arrived I would have liked to discuss them with others who would be going; but there didn't seem to be any arrangements in place, and my diary by then didn't have space to start trying to arrange something from scratch. When the time came I didn't feel I was going with heart and mind prepared to make the most of BYM.
- It had been a couple of decades since my last BYM. When we arrived I was struck by how daunting it is to join a throng so many of whom knew each other well, as well as clearly knowing their way about the building and the programme. Even after forty years in membership, I found it was reassuring occasionally to run into people I knew ...

and I was struck by how isolated I would have felt if I had been new to the Society.

- On our return, I would have welcomed an opportunity not just to share what had happened with my local meeting, but to reflect on it with others who had been there too.

Hoping to attend BYM again this year, I wondered whether there might be ways to make more of this opportunity, not just for myself but for South East Scotland generally. Perhaps there may be strategies for making the most of BYM that, once established, can simply be part of the AM's annual calendar?

What can we do?

These concerns and questions were brought to Elders and then to Area Meeting in December. A 'Britain Yearly Meeting 2013 Group' was appointed, to support local members and attenders including children in engaging with Britain Yearly Meeting 2013.

At the start of its first meeting, the group discussed its rationale and purposes, and agreed that it would be about supporting members in South East Scotland to get more engaged with BYM. We arrived at four reasons for doing this:

1. The potential impact of BYM on us as individuals;
2. Strengthening South East Scotland AM through its relationship with Britain Yearly Meeting;
3. The need for Sufferings and other central committees (the 'trunk' of the Society of Friends in Britain), to experience the engagement and commitment of

the 'roots and branches' of Friends through BYM, for life and growth.

4. That it can be such an enjoyable experience.

We agreed that as well as supporting those who go to BYM, it will also be an important part of our job to include in our thinking and to support those who cannot go.

This year

This year, BYM will be held on 24-27 May 24 in London; and the focus is on 'Trusting in the Spirit and Discernment'. This is within the context of the wider considerations of BYMs, from Canterbury in 2011 through to the next BYM Gathering in 2014: "What it means to be a Quaker today?" BYM includes a thriving Children's Programme that caters for all ages, with programmes that appropriately mirror the adult programme.

The group hopes that some people from each local meeting will go, and would like to offer support as needed. This could include a variety of information about BYM 2013, such as ordering documents in advance together with epistles and testimonies; the Children's Programme and how and when to register; costs; accommodation; travel; and connecting with each other during BYM. Please do let us know of any other queries you have. Clerks or notice-readers are asked to try and discover who *might* be interested in attending BYM 2013, and to let us know by the end of February.

There will be a Meeting for Learning about BYM for everyone (whether hoping to go or simply wanting to connect more from here) as part of Area Meeting on April 13; so please everyone, save the date? We are also

planning a follow-up session sometime in the autumn; and by the end of the year the 'BYM 2013 Group' hopes to present a brief report to AM. The report will be in two sections: about BYM 2013, and about the elements of support that worked well this year and might form the basis of a support system in subsequent years.

We hope that the 'BYM 2013 Group' will then be laid down, and a 'BYM 2014 Group' appointed for the period from January to December 2014.

Meanwhile, the current 2013 group would very much welcome any comments, questions or thoughts about this work. Our contact details are below.

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Robert Barclay, author of the Apology

BARCLAY, ROBERT (1648–1690), quaker apologist, was born at Gordonstown, Morayshire, 23 Dec. 1648. His father, David Barclay, the representative of an ancient family formerly called Berkeley, was born in 1610, and served under Gustavus Adolphus. He was arrested after the Restoration, and imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle,

David Barclay was converted to quakerism, through the influence, it is said, of a fellow-prisoner in Edinburgh, James Swinton, and declared his adhesion to the sect in 1666. Robert Barclay followed his father's example (and became a quaker) in 1667. He studied hard at this time; he learned Greek and Hebrew, being already a French and Latin scholar, and read the early fathers, and ecclesiastical history. turned to account a degree of learning and logical skill very unusual amongst the early quakers in controversy with one William Mitchell, a neighbouring preacher. 'Truth cleared of Calumnies' appeared in 1670, and 'William Mitchel unmasked' in 1672. In 1673 he published a 'Catechism and Confession of Faith;' and in 1676 two controversial treatises. The first of these, called the 'Anarchy of the Ranters,' was intended to vindicate the quakers from the charge of sympathy with anarchy, whilst repudiating the claim to authority of the catholic and other churches. The second was the famous 'Apology.' Barclay had already put forth 'Theses Theologiae,' a series of fifteen propositions referring to quaker tenets. They were printed in English, Latin, French, Dutch, and divines were invited to discuss them. A public discussion took place upon them (14 March 1675) in Aberdeen with some divinity students. It ended in confusion, and conflicting reports were published by the opposite parties. The 'Apology' itself, which is a defence of the 'Theses,' was published in Latin at Amsterdam in 1676. A copy of it was sent in February 1678 to each of the ministers at the congress of Nimeguen; and an English version was printed in the same year. It provoked many replies, and has been frequently republished.

Meanwhile Barclay was suffering persecution at home. In 1672 he had felt it incumbent upon him to walk in sackcloth through the streets of Aberdeen, though at the cost of grievous agony of spirit (*Seasonable Warning to the People of Aberdeen*).

In 1682 a body of twelve quakers, under the auspices of his friend Penn, acquired the proprietorship of East New Jersey. In 1683 the Duke of York gave a patent of the province to the proprietors, who had added to their body twelve associates, including Perth and Barclay. Barclay was appointed nominal governor, with right to appoint a deputy at a salary of 400*l.* a year, and with a share of 5,000 acres of land. One of his brothers, John, settled in the province, and another, David, died on his passage thither. The constitution of the province was intended to be a practical application of the quaker theory of toleration, and to provide an asylum to the persecuted.

Barclay's great book, 'The Apology,' is remarkable as the standard exposition of the principles of his sect, and is not only the first defence of those principles by a man of trained intelligence, but in many respects one of the most impressive theological writings of the century. In form it is a careful defence of each of the fifteen theses previously published. It is impressive in style; grave, logical, and often marked by the eloquence of lofty moral convictions. It opens with a singularly dignified letter to the king, dated 25 Nov. 1675. The essential principle (expressed in the second proposition) is that all true knowledge comes from the divine revelation to the heart of the individual. He infers that the authority of the scriptures gives only a 'secondary rule,' subordinate to that

of the inward light by which the soul perceives the truth as the eyes perceive that the sun shines at noonday. The true doctrines of justification, perfection, and perseverance are then explained and distinguished from the erroneous doctrines of catholics and protestants which, according to him, imply rather a change in the outward relation than the transformation of the soul which accepts the divine light. He then proceeds to deduce the special doctrines of the quakers in regard to the ministry, worship, and the sacraments from the same principle, rejecting what seems to him to be outward and mechanical; and (in the fourteenth proposition, on the power of the civil magistrate) argues against all exercise of conscience by secular authority. The last proposition defends the quaker repugnance to outward ceremonies and worldly recreations. Barclay's affinity to the so-called Cambridge Platonists and to the mystical writers is obvious. For this reason he was accused of leaning towards deism, and is noticed with respect by Voltaire.

*(extracts from Leslie Stephen's entry in the **Dictionary of National Biography**)*

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, on Saturday, 12 January 2013.

Minute 1: Clerking for this meeting

Our clerk being absent today due to injury resulting from a fall last weekend, this meeting is clerked by her assistant, Phil Lucas, and we appoint Rosie Roberts to serve as Assistant Clerk for the meeting.

Minute 2: Economics as though People and the Planet Matter *continued*

We have this morning continued the consideration begun at our last meeting of the issues arising from Tweeddale Local Meeting's concern and linked to Britain Yearly Meeting's decision to work towards being a low carbon community, and to address the economic and inequality crisis within British society.

During our opening worship we have listened to two excerpts from an American radio broadcast made in 2009, which addressed similar concerns, and we have been reminded how our Area Meeting is responding to Minute 36 of Yearly Meeting Gathering 2011.

We reviewed the process at our December 2012 meeting, which was summarised in minute 1 of that meeting, and we have also had available the action points from the May 2012 Report of the Church of Scotland's Special Commission on the Purposes of Economic Activity, entitled *A Right Relationship with Money*.

We agree that we should ask General Meeting for Scotland to explore how Quakers in Scotland may work with the other churches, probably through our membership of ACTS, to take forward our concern for economic justice. We consider that the recommendations of the Church of Scotland report, which are attached to these minutes, are very helpful and wish to ensure that the religious and ethical underpinning is key to any actions we may take.

We agree to appoint a small working group to take the concern forward in our Area Meeting and to work with our General Meeting as requested. This group should

work closely with our Sharing Sustainability Stories working group and should explore in particular how we can

- a) examine our own lives and lifestyles;
- b) work together as religious communities; and
- c) influence the nation through our contacts with politicians and other community leaders.

We appoint David Hume to convene this working group and invite others to volunteer for it through our nominations committee.

We send this minute to General Meeting for Scotland.

Minute 3: Attendance and apologies

The following Friends are prevented and send their apologies: Margaret Anderson; Mark Bitel; Alastair Cameron; Mary Jane Elton; Caroline Evens; Daphne Foster; John Foster; Rachel Frith; John Harris; Stasa Morgan-Appel, Sue Sierra.

Minute 4: Signing of AM minutes of 8 December 2012

The minutes of 8 December 2012 have been published in *Sesame*. A copy has been signed by the clerk and entered in the Minute Book.

Minute 5: Extract 10.10 of *Quaker Faith and Practice* was read during worship at the beginning of our afternoon session. It was written by Peggy McGeoghegan in 1976.

Minute 6: Matters arising from previous minutes

a) Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the Life of Joan Tansley (minute 7(f) of 26 February 2012 refers) Friends from Kelso Meeting have prepared this testimony which they hope will be included in the 2013

edition of our Yearly Meeting's *Epistles and Testimonies*. We thank Kelso Friends for this, which we are pleased to accept for forwarding to Yearly Meeting and which is attached to these minutes. We send this minute with the testimony to Britain Yearly Meeting

Meetings for Learning (minute 7 of 8 December 2012 refers)

Further to our discussion in December, Rosie Roberts, on behalf of Elders, has told us about the work of the group supporting those attending Yearly Meeting. Elders would like to offer a meeting for learning about Yearly Meeting on the morning of our April 2013 Area Meeting and probably a follow-up to it at our October 2013 Area Meeting, at which the themes on the agenda for Yearly Meetings in 2013 and 2014 could be explored. We agree to this and ask the group also to explore the possibility of a separate meeting for learning on a Sunday afternoon or a Saturday.

Minute 7: Membership matters

A Certificate of Transfer of Membership has been received from Sussex East AM regarding **Bronwyn Harwood's** move to that Meeting.

Minute 8: Our work with Children and Young People

Madeleine Harding has read Mary Jane Elton's report on children and young people's work in our Area Meeting. The pattern varies greatly from meeting to meeting and with the passage of time. There have been learning opportunities for those working with children and young people. All-age meetings for worship are being encouraged and supported. A Link weekend took place in Glasgow in October and explored spiritual journeys,

with interesting and stimulating insights. Summer Shindig took place at Ackworth, with a larger number of younger participants than has recently been the case. A weekend for a mixed group in a bunkhouse in Nethy Bridge is being planned. A welcome meeting for babies and new children was held at Edinburgh Meeting House in November.

We thank Mary Jane for her report.

Minute 9: Our work on Safeguarding

Madeleine Harding has described to us the new Scottish disclosure system. We have a duty to ensure a safe environment, both at Meeting and at events we organise, for children and young people and for vulnerable adults (ie those who cannot live independently). Our Area Meeting has a Safeguarding Policy and, in addition, clear Procedures and Guidelines on how to respond when issues of safety arise. A copy of these will go to all Local Meetings for reference and use when needed. We have links with the Criminal Records Bureau Scotland, whose staff are very supportive.

The Scottish disclosure system is now called the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme. Once one is registered under this PVG scheme this does not need to be repeated for different scenarios but, in setting it up, we have to re-register all those registered under the previous scheme. Three years have been allowed for this from October 2012 and the process has already started in our Area Meeting. At the end of this three year period, registration will be a legal requirement for all those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Registration forms are available from Madeleine

and she and David Sterratt, our other safeguarding co-ordinator, are supporting Local Meetings with the process and the ongoing work of ensuring safety.

This work has been shared with our Area Meeting Trustees, who have endorsed the procedure and guidelines document, but we are reminded that policy documents and registration cannot replace our own need for caring vigilance.

We place on record our thanks to Madeleine Harding for the enormous amount of work she has done and is doing on our behalf.

Minute 10: Quakers in Criminal Justice Conference

We agree to support the attendance of Margaret Mortimer, our Prison Minister at HMP Edinburgh, at this year's annual conference of Quakers in Criminal Justice.

Closing minute: 26 Friends from seven Local Meetings attended all or part of this Meeting for Worship for Business. We thank Central Edinburgh Friends for their hospitality. Our next Area Meeting will be hosted by South Edinburgh Local Meeting at the Open Door on Sunday, 24 February 2013, at 2 pm.

Signed by the Clerk this time: *Phil Lucas*

FUTURE AREA MEETINGS

Saturday 13 April in East Lothian 11.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Saturday 18 May in Central Fife..... 2.00 pm ...5.00pm

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

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	1pm- 1.30pm
(opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: <i>contact</i> <i>Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for more details</i>	

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
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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.