

# SESAME

Number 181: September 2013

Thinking of Membership / Syria / Quaker Prison Minister's report / Ethical Consumer / Charles Lamb / Pembrokeshire / Meeting for Sufferings / AM Minutes / Northern Friends Peace Board



OUR FRIEND ELIZA WIGHAM WAS A LEADING LIGHT IN THE EDINBURGH LADIES' EMANCIPATION SOCIETY IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

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](mailto:a.davies@ed.ac.uk)) at the latest by Tuesday 8 October, for distribution week commencing 20 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 <sup>TM</sup> accompanied with hard copy. Email versions of Sesame are available in PDF and Word <sup>TM</sup> format. Contact the Editor.

## SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Area Meeting will be held at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 5HY, on Sunday 15 September 2013 at 2 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Worship
2. Attendance
3. Signing of minutes of last meeting, held 29 June in Kelso
4. Matters arising
  - a) Introducing the Alternatives to Violence Project to Scottish prisons (Minutes 2013/05/08 and 2013/06/04b refer)
5. Report on Junior Yearly Meeting 2013 - *Tamzin Zawadska and Ade Cross*
6. Formal presentation of Treasurer's Report and Accounts
7. Letter to the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland – *a proposal from Central Edinburgh Local Meeting*
8. Maintaining an archive of deceased Friends – *a request forwarded by A M Elders*
9. Report on the work of the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility - *David Turner*
10. Report on Meeting for Sufferings, held 6 July 2013 - *Janet Grimwade*
11. Concern from Central Edinburgh LM regarding drones
12. Correspondence regarding Joan Tansley testimony.
13. Appointments and release from service
14. Membership matters
15. Proposed dates for Area Meeting, 2014-15
16. Concluding minute

### Residential General Meeting

Residential General Meeting on 16/17 November will be held in Aberdeen and will focus on social and economic issues. Our speakers will be Val Brown of Christian Aid, who will talk about their Tax Justice Campaign, and Suzanne Ismael of QPSW's Economic Justice Group. More information and booking forms will be available from LM Clerks and on the Quakers in Scotland website (<http://www.quakerscotland.org/general-meeting/dates>) at the end of September or in early October.

**Bronwen Currie**, GM Administrator, Scotland

## Thinking of Membership?

### A two day event in South East Scotland

There will be a course in Kelso Quaker Meeting House on Saturday and Sunday, November 23-24, for attenders who are considering applying for Quaker membership. The programme will run from 10.30 am to 7 pm on Saturday; and on Sunday it will start with meeting for worship with Kelso Friends at 10.30 am and finish with tea at 4 pm. There will be a charge of £25 to cover lunch and tea on both days. For those who wish to stay overnight, we will provide a list of B&Bs in Kelso. A booking form will be included, with a full programme, in the October *Sesame* and will be made available through Area Meeting elders and overseers. For further information contact Pat and Phil Lucas, tel. 01368 850227 or email [patlucas1@gmail.com](mailto:patlucas1@gmail.com).

(If you would like to avoid an early start by arriving on Friday evening, Kelso Friends are able to offer some overnight accommodation. Please contact Jane Pearn: [jane.pearn@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.pearn@btinternet.com) )

### Quakers urge nonviolent response to Syria crisis

As Parliament is recalled to debate the unfolding crisis in Syria, Quakers in Britain have made this statement:

“Quakers in Britain are appalled by the suffering and loss of life on all sides in Syria. We understand - and share - the wish of the international community to take some form of action to reduce the bloodshed, but we strongly urge those who are tempted to respond militarily to think again.

“Air strikes will kill people just as surely as chemical attacks. All weapons must seem equally abhorrent if it is your family that is being killed. Punishment for use of specific kinds of weapon is no justification for further acts of war or for supplying yet more weapons.

“New participants in a war will breed new hatreds. Experience of other conflicts shows that supposedly simple or 'surgical' military interventions usually become messy and hard to end. We are convinced that even when some kind of victory is claimed, the deep harm done by violence always outweighs the supposed benefits.

“We beg those in power to work with diligence through the United Nations and all diplomatic channels to bring peace nearer. We challenge

them to use their resources and imaginations creatively. Please don't fall into the old trap of thinking that taking any action is bound to be better than doing nothing.

“We will pray for peace in the region, and continue to voice our deep opposition to war.”

*signed*

**Paul Parker**, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain

### Report of Quaker Prison Minister, Edinburgh Prison, 2012-2013

During this last year, I have tried to be open and flexible in my approach to this ministry, trying to find openings and leadings. Some such paths seemed to be clear, but on further action this was not so. Others seemed to open up as if they were “meant”. I have tried to sort through them and put them into broad groupings.

#### Oversight

I have kept in touch with someone I met when he was in prison on remand. Following his release I have met him for coffees *etc*. I am deeply grateful to the John Wigham Enjoyment Trust for paying for him to have a year's gym pass with Edinburgh Leisure. He has made full use of it, visiting the gym nearly every day for workouts, training classes and swimming. Edinburgh Leisure couldn't have been more helpful, giving him an extra month's membership *gratis*.

#### Chaplaincy

As the Quaker Minister I can only see prisoners if they ask to see me. I have kept in touch with the Chaplaincy by meeting the co-ordinating Chaplain periodically to chat about developments there. Shortly after my last visit – many months ago - he had a massive heart attack, and was very ill indeed. This has prevented any formal developments in our input into the Chaplaincy, but I am pleased to say that I saw him at an Easter service, and he was hoping to return to work soon, thankfully. I had taken leaflets, copies of “Advices and Queries” *etc* into the Chaplaincy for prisoners to pick up if they wish, but I think they are probably still on his desk waiting for his return.

I have attended services at the Chaplaincy at Christmas and Easter – as Assistant Clerk for my Local Meeting it is difficult to get there with any

regularity. I am always made to feel welcome by the other chaplains, the prison staff and the prisoners themselves, and I try to have a very quick chat with prisoners at the end of the services.

Our provision of small sums of money to prisoners who are totally without resources is much appreciated by the other chaplains – one of them introduced me to the Governor at the Easter service, saying that we give so much support, and she too thanked us. I have been asked for help on about ten occasions; each time I have just been able to zoom over to the Prison with no problem. One of the Catholic chaplains said that obviously says something to us all, and I concur with that! I am grateful to Ken who always drops what he is doing to drive there when time is short.

I mentioned in my last report that I hoped we might be able to hold some groups in the women's section. So far this has not happened – for prison organisational reasons. I live in hope.

#### **Visitors Centre**

The resources we provided last year for the Visitors Centre have been heavily used. An education activity worker has been appointed, and the results of this input really show. There is now an area designated for children's activities, and it is alive with colourful pictures, displays and information. This can only make the experience of visiting parents in prison much more pleasant and kindly for the children, and activity sessions are held around afternoon visiting hours.

Kerry Watson, the Co-ordinator of the Centre has said that the resources we provided last year have been really welcomed, especially the little table and chairs. I wonder if we could provide another set, together with some craft materials which they always need.

#### **Families Outside**

This is an organisation which aims to bring together the different agencies concerned with the welfare of prisoners' families – and there are many of them. They produce a newsletter, and hold periodic meetings at the Scottish Parliament under the auspices of Mary Snee, a Labour MSP who has a particular concern for the work. Richard Simpson, another Labour MSP also comes to these meetings when he is able. Participants seem to me to be very high powered! I attend as the Quaker Prison Minister for Edinburgh Prison, and always feel welcomed. I learn a lot. At my first meeting I heard Oliver Robertson of QUONO talking about his research into the care of prisoner's children around the world – I found this

very moving. The June meeting will be held shortly; we shall be meeting with Kenny McAskill to raise with him issues of concern to us all.

We have had some success – we raised the issue of families who, having travelled great distances in some cases to visit prisoners, discovered on arrival that their visit had been cancelled for “disciplinary” reasons – an example of punishment extending to prisoners' innocent children and families. We have been assured that this will not happen again.

#### **Howard League for Penal Reform**

This organisation has held a series of very interesting lectures over the winter. One of them, on the theme of “Vulnerable mothers, vulnerable children” was given by Dr Mary Hepburn, and described her obstetric work with mothers in Glasgow who are suffering from addiction issues. I would encourage Friends to join – it is very informative. The lectures are aimed at those “interested” members of the public such as me, as well as professionals, law students, and judges.

#### **Quakers in Criminal Justice**

I attended the annual conference of this group, in February. Having felt apprehensive about attending a weekend with so many august Friends, it actually turned out to be great fun, and very informative. Among other speakers, Mike Nellis of Glasgow Meeting, gave a paper on criminal justice in Scotland. I hadn't known that there has, historically, been no structural input into the Scottish criminal justice system by Scottish Friends. Very different from England and Ireland, despite great work by individual Friends such as Moira McLean, Tony Davies and David Turner. Mark Bitel also spoke about “Alternatives to Violence”, and I am glad that this important work is going on in some Scottish prisons.

#### **In conclusion:**

I am learning a lot in this role – from the ex-remand prisoner with whom I keep in touch, from other Quakers, from other organisations, and from other churches and faith groups. I do try to constantly see *where* we can contribute, and also *what* we can contribute. I do hope that when the co-ordinating Chaplain returns to Edinburgh Prison we can move forward on a more active basis. I am very aware of the skills and other resources available for this work within our Area Meeting, and will strive to ensure that these are made available to Edinburgh Prison.

**Margaret Mortimer**

## **Ethical Consumer**

I should like to quote from the editorials of the most recent four issues of *Ethical Consumer* [EC].

EC 140 (Jan/Feb 2013):

*Co-operative alternatives to capitalism ~ Ethical Consumer has long tried to be as much about taking practical steps towards just and sustainable future societies as it is about highlighting problems in the here and now. Our Co-operative Alternatives essay prize sits squarely in this territory and we announced the winners at the Co-ops United World Festival in November.*

*The Lush Prize ~ November also saw us involved in the awarding of £250,000 of prize money to 13 projects in 8 countries making the most 'outstanding contributions to eliminating animals from toxicity testing for consumer products' in the previous year.*

EC 141 (Mar/Apr 2013):

*Consumer power can lead to change but is no substitute for government regulation ~ A recurring theme in this magazine is consumer pressure making an impact in areas where regulation isn't doing the job it should be. We of course welcome change brought about by consumer pressure and its role in filling the void left by government inaction – it's our *raison d'être* – but at the same time we are conscious of not wanting to justify the use of voluntary codes and company self-regulation over legally binding government legislation. In no way do we wish to undermine demands for proper government regulation on social and environmental justice issues.*

*In our examination of supermarket supply chains we see consumer pressure exerting influence on corporate behaviour with most supermarkets taking practical steps to address at least some of the issues of concern to consumers in their supply chains, from the use of child labour in Uzbek cotton production to the sourcing of produce from the illegally occupied Palestinian territories.*

EC 142 (May/Jun 2013):

*The Amazon effect ~ ... we have also been looking in depth at the actual tax paid by book-sellers both on- and off-line and, frankly, even we were surprised by how profound the 'Amazon effect' has already been. Almost no booksellers in the UK are currently paying anything other than tiny amounts of corporation tax. Either they are big multinationals like Amazon and are already systematically routing their sales through tax havens or they are struggling so hard to compete in this environment that they have made no substantial profits for years. We had feared that Amazon's behaviour would drive other businesses to seek to avoid tax in the same way but hadn't been prepared for how far this had happened already.*

*However, the good news from this report is that consumer campaigning is still in time to save something from the wreckage. There are a whole range of great alternatives like Better-WorldBooks (p16) and campaigns like ours and the Kenilworth petition (p20) to support.*

*The report also reinforces the case for taking action against Amazon – in that it is not only avoiding its own tax, but also causing whole economic sectors to bring in zero tax revenue.*

*Campaigning on palm oil ~ Long term readers of Ethical Consumer will be well aware that we have been working on informing people about palm oil and consumer markets for many years. Over the last few months though we have begun working with the Rainforest Foundation on a new campaign to encourage consumers and companies to consider reducing their use of this problematic commodity. The 'Appetite for Destruction' campaign was inspired by a successful project in Norway which saw public pressure reduce palm oil consumption by Norwegian food producers by two thirds.*

EC 143 (Jul/Aug 2013):

*Running out of energy? ~ However, the pages of this Special Issue contain more than a few grains of hope. Thousands of people are working full-time to stop the rot, and millions more are contributing what they can. Our report shows that the clichéd image of a species too stupid to prevent its own demise is far from the truth. Instead what emerges is a complex picture that makes you wonder at the ingenuity and variety of human responses.*

*We look at specialist ethical providers such as the new Co-operative Energy (100% renewable) on page 16, and we learn about Ecotricity's excellent new biogas product on page 14. On page 20, Kevin Smith from campaign group Platform identifies and names the huge sums of taxpayer's money still subsidising fossil fuels – often via the Foreign Office. And the Centre for Alternative Technology writes of its vital visioning project helping us understand what a Zero Carbon Britain might look like (page 25).*

I hope this might give an indication of the breadth and depth of articles. It highlights not only very good and poor behaviour of companies but also the campaigning that is taking place to make positive change happen. It is a very good read with great breadth, depth and variety of articles.

Over the past few years, when we have discussed economic justice or sustainability, – at Area Meeting, General Meeting or Yearly Meeting – the question has been asked "What can we do?" *Ethical Consumer* can be a very useful resource in this respect.

The Library at 7 Victoria Terrace has been getting EC for many years. About two years ago we took out a web-based subscription along with the paper copy of the magazine. This means that we can get all the available information from all the issues, providing up to date information. If you would to know more or have some ethical questions, contact me *via* Central Edinburgh Meeting, on 0131 336 1141 or [djstubbings@cooptel.net](mailto:djstubbings@cooptel.net)

**Don Stubbings**

## A Quaker's Meeting

[An extract from Charles Lamb's description of a Quaker Meeting, included in *The Essays of Elia*, 1823.]

Still-born Silence! Thou that art  
 Flood-gate of the deeper heart!  
 Offspring of a heavenly kind!  
 Frost o' the mouth, and thaw o' the mind!  
 Secrecy's confident, and he  
 Who makes religion mystery!  
 Admiration's speaking'st tongue!  
 Leave, thy desert shades among,  
 Reverend hermits' hallowed cells,  
 Where retired devotion dwells!  
 With thy enthusiasms come,  
 Seize our tongues and strike us dumb!

[From "Poems of all sorts" by Richard Fleckno, 1653]

Reader, would'st thou know what true peace and quiet mean; would'st thou find a refuge from the noises and clamours of the multitude; would'st thou enjoy at once solitude and society; would'st thou possess the depth of thine own spirit in stillness, without being shut out from the consolatory faces of thy species; would'st thou be alone, and yet accompanied; solitary, yet not desolate; singular, yet not without some to keep thee in countenance; a unit in aggregate; a simple in composition : – come with me into a Quaker's Meeting.

Dost thou love silence deep as that "before the winds were made"? go not out into the wilderness, descend not into the profundities of the earth; shut not up thy casements; nor pour wax into the little cells of thy ears, with little faith'd self-mistrusting Ulysses, – Retire with me into a Quaker's Meeting.

For a man to refrain even from good words, and to hold his peace, it is commendable; but for a multitude, it is great mastery.

What is the stillness of the desert, compared with this place? What the uncommunicating muteness of fishes? – here the goddess reigns and revels. – "Boreas, and Cesium, and Argestes loud," do not with their inter-confounding up-roars more augment the brawl – nor the waves of the blown Baltic with their clubbed sounds – than their opposite (Silence her sacred self) is multiplied and rendered more intense by numbers, and by sympathy. She too hath her depths, that call unto deeps. Negation itself hath a positive more and less; and closed eyes would seem to obscure the great obscurity of midnight.

There are wounds, which an imperfect solitude cannot heal. By imperfect I mean that which a man enjoyeth by himself. The perfect is that which he can sometimes attain in crowds, but nowhere so absolutely as in a Quaker's Meet-

ing. Those first hermits did certainly understand this principle, when they retired into Egyptian solitudes, not singly, but in shoals, to enjoy one another's want of conversation. The Carthusian is bound to his brethren by this agreeing spirit of incommunicativeness. In secular occasions, what so pleasant as to be reading a book through a long winter evening, with a friend sitting by – say, a wife – he, or she, too, (if that be probable), reading another, without interruption or oral communication? – can there be no sympathy without the gabble of words? – away with this inhuman, shy, single, shade-and-cavern-haunting solitariness. Give me Master Zimmerman, a sympathetic solitude.

To pace alone in the cloisters, or side aisles, of some cathedral, time-stricken;  
 Or under hanging mountains  
 Or by the fall of fountains

is but a vulgar luxury, compared with that which those enjoy, who come together for the purposes of more complete, abstracted solitude. This is the loneliness "to be felt." – The Abbey Church of Westminster hath nothing so solemn, so spirit-soothing as naked walls and benches of a Quaker's Meeting.

## Quakers in Milford Haven

Quaker emigration from Great Britain to North America in the seventeenth century is well known. But there is at least one example of the reverse taking place. Quakers on the island of Nantucket established a whaling industry which prospered until 1775 when the War of Independence broke out. The Nantucketers refused to take part in the war and consequently they were harassed, their property looted by the American and British navies alike, and their ships confined to the harbour. By 1783, when the war came to an end, the Nantucketers were in a pitiful state of poverty and welcomed the invitation of Charles Greville, son of the Earl of Warwick to move to the west of Pembrokeshire where he owned land and establish a base on the river basin known as Daugleddau (today's Milford Haven).

Some fifty immigrants, mostly Quakers, landed in Wales in 1792. They began building a town and soon sent out whaling boats to the southern seas. But the settlement did not last long: whaling from Milford could not compete with Dartmouth in Nova Scotia. The immigrants' witness as pacifists and against church tithes was challenged; their property was distrained and because they refused to join the County Militia they were fined. By 1806, many Quakers had returned to North America. Few remained and Quakerism continued its decline in West Wales.

(based on Stephen Griffith, 1990: *A History of Quakers in Pembrokeshire*)

## Meeting for Sufferings – 6 July 2013

As this was our first meeting after Yearly Meeting, we started with some reflection and consideration on matters that Meeting for Sufferings had been asked to take forward. We referred further revision of *Quaker Faith and Practice*, particularly with regard to same-sex marriage, to the Church Government Advisory Group. We will also hear from the Recording Clerk in October about possible ways of making the Tabular Statement more informative about patterns of membership.

As usual we had a report from the clerk of Trustees. We were told of the revised budget for the refurbishment of the Large Meeting House which was increased due to higher VAT and a contingency provision. They had adopted an Operational Plan for 2013 which sets out current work, developmental priorities and allocation of resources. A plan for 2014 will be drawn up in the autumn. Later in the meeting we looked at a related item when we considered how we would draw up a new long term framework, replacing *A Framework for Action*, engaging the whole Yearly Meeting. We agreed to appoint a working group to take this forward and asked the recording clerk to bring draft terms of reference to our meeting in October.

We had an up-date on the *Vibrancy in Meetings* project. The aim of the project is to provide support to local meetings and enable Friends to strengthen their voice. A lot of data had been collected following the research last year but there has not been an opportunity to analyse this. A Programme Developer is being recruited to carry this out and help Trustees in shaping the future work of supporting Local and Area Meetings.

Much of the afternoon was taken up with considering minutes from Area Meetings expressing concern about the welfare cuts and asking for a Quaker response. These focused on a variety of different aspect. It is felt that some kind of statement is needed but it is not clear where we should focus our energies. As a result staff have drawn up a survey which asks for responses on areas of interest and actions that are being taken by meetings. It is hoped this might assist Friends with networking on actions and advocacy.

We were reminded of the statement made in 1987 (*Q.F. & P.* 23.21) which is unfortunately still relevant today, and it was suggested that we could make use of this while recognising the need to carry forward the personal commitment in it.

QPSW were asked to expand the paper *Government Cuts: Welfare Reform – what Friends can do* and also to begin research into a possible long-term project that Friends could support as a major radical effort. They were asked to report progress to our meeting in October.

On a related topic, we considered a minute about morality in public life and concern about the growing gap between rich and poor.

We had been asked by Quaker committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations to consider a World Council of Churches paper "Economy of Life, Justice & Peace for

All". Despite some Friends having reservations about the language used, we were happy to endorse it.

We heard that Meeting for Sufferings Arrangement Group and staff are offering regional meetings to build up understanding between Sufferings and Friends, involving Sufferings representatives, AM clerks and others interested. This might be done on a General Meeting basis.

There was also a proposal about involving young people in the consultations about whether it is the right time to begin a revision of *Quaker Faith & Practice* by bringing a young person with us to our next meeting in October. However this did not seem practical to those of us from a distance and I am sure there will be other ways of consultation for all age groups.

Also in October we shall consider the funding of centrally managed work. We are asked to consider what the practices in our meetings about giving are and whether a *per capita* guide figure would be useful. Any comments on this would be helpful.

All the papers we considered at the meeting are available on the [quaker.org.uk](http://quaker.org.uk) website and the meeting was reported in *The Friend* of 13 July.

Janet Grimwade

## SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday 29 June 2013 at Kelso Quaker Meeting House

### 2013/06/01 Worship

During opening worship, an extract (pp. 38-9) from this year's Swarthmore Lecture, *Journey into Life* by Gerald Hewitson, was read to us. This passage reminds us of the full humanity of Jesus and calls on us to reflect the possibilities of that full humanity in our individual lives and in our Quaker community.

### 2013/06/02 Introductions

We have ensured those present know each other's names and meetings. The attendance will be recorded in the concluding minute.

### 2013/06/03 Signing of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of our last meeting, held on 18th May 2013, have been signed by the clerk and will be entered in the minutes book.

### 2013/06/04 Matter arising

#### a) Minute 2013/05/07 regarding Israel/Palestine

The Assistant Recording Clerk has acknowledged receipt of this minute, which she considered helpful and which will be considered, with other responses, when Meeting for Sufferings returns to the subject later in the year.

#### b) Minute 2013/05/08 recording the report of our Prison Minister and consideration arising from it.

We have written to the Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service with our suggestion that the Alternatives to Violence Project be introduced to Edinburgh and other prisons and have received a very positive response from the Edinburgh Prison chaplains, inviting us to meet with them to take this suggestion forward. We shall be taking up this invitation at the earliest opportunity.

### 2013/06/05 Report on the work of our Nominations Committee

Alastair Cameron, convener of the Nominations Committee, has reported to us on the work of the committee.

Appointments made by Area Meeting are tracked on a spreadsheet, updated after each Area Meeting. There are currently 137 positions requiring appointment (that number being constantly under review), which are held by approximately 100 individuals. Terms of reference for each post are also recorded in a document which, because it needs updating so frequently, is kept on the Convener's computer but which is available to those who need it.

On the whole, the Committee has been successful in matching the available skills and energies to the tasks which need doing. Confidentiality needs to be maintained but appropriate communication is also important and Alastair feels that, despite occasional blips, the system is working well on the whole.

The Committee faces a number of challenges:

- How to involve smaller Meetings. Not all feel able to find someone to sit on Nominations Committee, but it is helpful when they can appoint someone to keep in touch by receiving agendas and minutes, providing a point of contact for discussion of particular posts.
- How many positions? For posts such as Elders and Overseers it is sometimes hard to know how many are needed; and the Committee

would find it helpful to have AM minutes recording such information.

- "Members-only" posts. *Quaker Faith & Practice* states that certain posts should only be held by members and this sometimes creates difficulties. Should Area Meeting consider requesting the relaxation of this requirement or is the solution to encourage more attenders to seek membership?
- Nominees or volunteers? In general it is important that the discernment of the nomination/appointment process is engaged, but there are instances (for example, the Festival Committee) where it is appropriate for groups to encourage the involvement of those with interest and enthusiasm by co-option and to bring their names subsequently for appointment.
- Which posts need nomination? The Committee considers that appointments to one-off conferences and the like are better made at Local or Area Meetings or by relevant committees. Where new groups are set up by Area Meeting it is important that their purposes and timescale are established from the outset.
- Hard to recruit posts. When posts are difficult to fill (Health & Safety Adviser and AM Treasurer, for example) the Committee has explored how jobs may be shared or even, if necessary, outsourced.

Alastair has found the nominations process unexpectedly enjoyable. He advises us collectively to avoid the danger that our appointments and committees become ends in themselves and to ensure that the underlying purpose of nurturing our spiritual and community life is never lost.

The oversight of the nominations/appointments process by Area Meeting is vital to ensure that we never slip back into parochial or narrow practice. We are also reminded that we all have responsibility to uphold those whom we have appointed to serve us.

We warmly thank Alastair both for his work and for this excellent report.

### 2013/06/06 Gifts of the Spirit

Jasmine Perinpanayagam has described to us an exercise in which she shared at Quaker Life Representative Council on how we discover and encourage each other's gifts. This followed on from the work some of us undertook with Thomas Swain four weeks ago. We worked in groups to

explore some of the things we enjoy, taking it in turns to speak and to listen to each other.

### 2013/06/07 Membership Matters

a) [We have received an application for membership and appointed visitors.]

b) We have received a report from Henry Thompson and Maureen Anderson on their visit with **Laura Dunkel**, who lives in Broxburn, attends Polmont Local Meeting and has requested membership.

Laura has been attending Polmont Local Meeting for some time, has attended several Area Meetings and General Meeting for Scotland and has taken part in Polmont's *Becoming Friends* group. She has found that her experience of the Quaker way and of Quaker testimony to be both supportive and challenging. She has had a real sense of coming home to Friends.

We are glad to accept Laura Dunkel into membership and ask Maureen Anderson to welcome her on our behalf and to offer her *Quaker Faith & Practice* or another suitable book as a welcoming gift from the Area Meeting.

c) We have received a report from Marilyn Higgins and David Somervell on their visit with **Philip Saunders**, who lives in Edinburgh. Phil started attending Central Edinburgh Meeting in August last year. David and Marilyn have had two full discussions with him, the first in November last year, when he decided he would like to take more time to become part of the Meeting, and the second earlier this month. After the first meeting, they met with him several times, during which they worked through the *Becoming Friends* material with him. He has also become more involved in the life of the Meeting, has read some Quaker literature and has attended business meetings in Aberdeen and Edinburgh and now has the experience and understanding to supplement the enthusiasm he experienced when he first came among Friends.

We are grateful to Marilyn and others who have supported Philip during this process. We are glad to accept Philip Saunders into membership and appoint Marilyn Higgins to welcome him on our behalf and to offer him *Quaker Faith & Practice* or another suitable book as a welcoming gift from the Area Meeting.

d) East Scotland Area Meeting has accepted the transfer of membership to that Meeting of Wallace Gilbraith.

e) North Scotland AM has sent a certificate of transfer of membership for **Pauline Browell-Hook**, who has recently moved to Edinburgh and has been attending Central Edinburgh Local Meeting. We appoint John Phillips to welcome her to South East Scotland AM.

### 2013/06/08 Appointments and release from service

#### a) Area Meeting Treasurer

Our nominations committee has brought us the name of Mark Hutcheson (Penicuik LM) to serve as our treasurer until the end of June 2016. We appoint Mark accordingly and with particular gratitude for his willingness to serve.

We are grateful to Caroline Evens for helping to keep the treasurership afloat even after her formal release from service.

#### b) Elder

Our nominations committee has brought us the name of Henry Thompson (Central Edinburgh LM) to serve a second triennium as an elder. We appoint Henry to serve until the end of June 2016.

#### c) Fresh Start Board

Our nominations committee has brought us the name of Tony Gross to serve as our representative on the board of Fresh Start until the end of June 2016. We appoint Tony accordingly and thank him for his willingness to serve.

We note that Jean Walmesley is now released from service on the board of Fresh Start and thank for her long service on our behalf.

#### d) Festival Committee

Our nominations committee has brought us the names of Tam Pollard and Marjorie Farquharson to continue service on our Festival Committee for a further triennium until the end of June 2016. We appoint them accordingly and thank them for their continuing service.

We note that Nicola Read has finished her service on Festival Committee and thank her for that service.

### e) Convener of Nominations Committee

We note that Alastair Cameron will shortly finish his service as convener of our Nominations Committee. We appoint three from the following suggested names to form a nominating group to bring the name of a new convener to our September meeting: David Somervell and (subject to consent) Morag Ferguson, Laurie Naumann, Margaret Mortimer and Kate Arnot.

### f) University chaplaincy

Our Nominations Committee has been exploring how best to meet our pastoral responsibility regarding a Quaker presence in the four universities in our area, a challenge when we currently have few members who are actively engaged in university life. The Committee is seeking to find a small group of interested Friends to assist with this exploration.

We welcome the approach the committee is taking and ask them to report back regularly during the rest of this year on the progress being made.

### 2013/06/09 Sharing the life of our Yearly Meeting

We have listened to extracts from the summary, drawn up by Craig Barnett, of Friends' responses to questions addressed to Meetings in preparation for Yearly Meeting 2013. The questions were:

- a) How have we discerned the leading of the Spirit in our own lives?
- b) What experience have we had of Meetings being guided by the Spirit?
- c) What do we value about the way Friends work together?

Following this, some key extracts from Gerald Hewitson's spoken Swarthmore Lecture have been read to us: the moving story of Gerald's spiritual journey from a childhood marked by deprivation to his discovery of God's love and guidance, transmitted through Quaker insights and in particular through the understanding of early Friends. Gerald reminds us that, as a gathered community, our purpose is to live our lives as though the world can be transformed.

We have shared personal reflections on our experience of this Yearly Meeting 2013, held in London in May. Friends have spoken warmly of the depth of fellowship, the good discipline and clerking, the spacious-

ness of the agenda and the management and contribution of younger participants. It was experienced as a worshipful Yearly Meeting, which felt very open to the leading of the Spirit.

We have also watched together the video presentation encouraging us to be present at the Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath from 2 to 9 August next year; and have been reminded of the need to consider at a later meeting how to support our own Festival Committee, whose work may be affected by the coincidence of the Yearly Meeting Gathering with the first week of the Festival Fringe.

We send this minute to Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee.

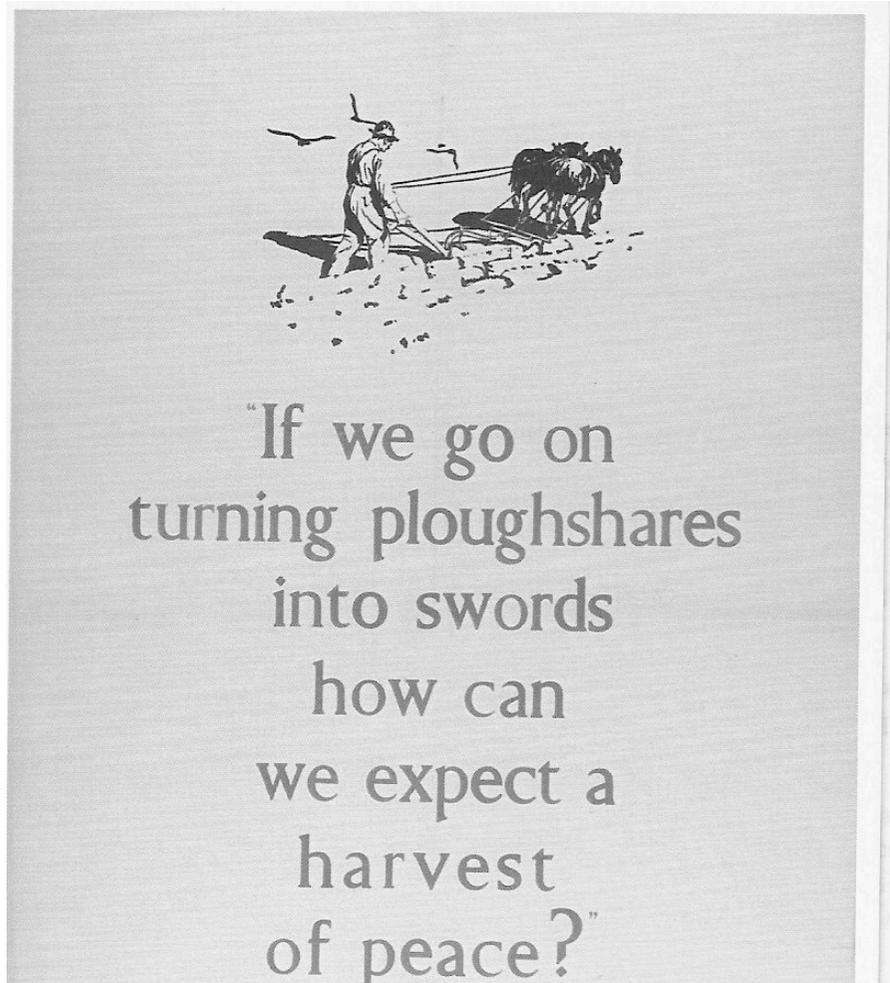
### 2013/06/10 Concluding minute

32 Friends, including 5 attenders, from five Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 15	Central Fife 2 (inc 1 attender)	East Lothian 2	Kelso 7 (inc 3 attenders)
Penicuik -	Polmont -	South Edinburgh 6 (inc 1 attender)	Tweeddale -

We next meet at the Open Door, South Edinburgh, on Sunday, 15 September 2013 at 2 pm, when the Meeting will be clerked by Kate Arnot and Marjorie Farquharson.

**Phil Lucas, Clerk**



Part of an inter-war poster issued by the Northern Friends Peace Board, quoting T. Edmund Harvey, the Quaker M.P. for Leeds West.

**The Northern Friends Peace Board will be meeting at 7 Victoria Terrace on Saturday, 28 September. The afternoon session is open to all Friends; the centenary exhibition will be on display.**

### *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		1 0.45am
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	11.00am
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*Children welcome, bring and share lunch.*

Portobello: Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street	
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#### **First Tuesday in the Month**

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms	1pm- 1.30pm
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(opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: contact

Sarah Martin 07818050853 or [sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk) for more details

#### **Second Sunday in the Month**

Tweeddale Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House,	
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Dukehaugh, Peebles All welcome but please phone tconfirm.	
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01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389.	10.30am
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Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy	10.30am
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(in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)

East Lothian: East Linton Community Hall	11.00am
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#### **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,	
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*Details as Second Sunday above*

Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above	10.30am
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Portobello: CHANGES Community Health Project	10.30am
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108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA	10.30am
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Barony St Meeting 33 Barony Street, Edinburgh	7.00 pm
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#### **Last Sunday in the Month**

East Lothian: East Linton Community Hall	11.00am
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### **Distribution of Sesame & Scottish Friends Newsletter**

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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, Mark Hutcheson. An email version of *Sesame* is more ecological and is free! A large print version is available on request. Published by Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain: South East Scotland Area Meeting, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. Scottish Charity No. SC019165

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