

# SESAME

Number 189: September 2014

In Peebles to the Pictures / Venues for Meetings / “Or Whatever You Call It” workshop / With Friends in New England / ... and Geneva / Help Needed (for prisoners’ families) / Help Offered (John Wigham Trust) / A Poem [short & amusing] / July AM Minutes [...]



*Quaker Meeting House Adams, Massachusetts (early 1780s), surrounded by the graves of the Maple Street Cemetery (see pages 6-7)*

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## South East Scotland Area Meeting

**Sunday 21 September 2014, 2 pm, at the Open Door,  
South Edinburgh**

All Members and Attenders are invited to join us at our Area business meeting. You are welcome to bring your packed lunch and eat it at the Open Door before the meeting. Tea will be served afterwards. The Meeting Room at the Open Door is fully accessible.

We have an interesting and varied agenda, which will include South Edinburgh Meeting sharing with us something of its life, reports from some of those who attended Yearly Meeting Gathering and Junior Yearly Meeting and important reports from our Trustees and Treasurer. Please come if you are able.

**Phil Lucas, Clerk**

Here is a draft agenda:

1. Worship
2. Introductions
3. Minutes of last meeting, held 5 July 2014 at Kelso QMH
4. Matters arising from previous meetings
5. South Edinburgh Quaker Meeting
6. Trustees' report and Annual Accounts
7. Membership matters
8. Reports on Yearly Meeting Gathering and Junior Yearly Meeting
9. Nominations committee report and appointments
10. Report on Meeting for Sufferings held 8 September
11. Report on QUNO Summer School
12. Minute from South Edinburgh LM on militarisation in society
13. Minute from Portobello and Musselburgh LM on  
Israel/Palestine
14. AOCB
15. Correspondence and notices
16. Concluding minute

## Oh! What a Lovely War

October 31 2014 at 19.30 hrs

As a contribution to the First World War commemorations, Tweeddale Meeting has booked the Eastgate Theatre, Peebles, for a showing of *Oh! What a Lovely War*.



Directed by Richard Attenborough in 1969, the film, like the stage musical on which it is based, summarises and comments on the events of World War I using popular songs of the time, many of which, as sung by the troops, were parodies of older songs or hymns. It uses allegorical settings such as Brighton's West Pier to show the manner in which the Great Powers entered the war and thought to fight it, as well as more naturalistic depictions of the trenches and elsewhere. The cast includes Dirk Bogarde, John Gielgud, John Mills, Kenneth More, Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Maggie Smith and Susannah York.

Tickets, £8 and £5, are obtainable from Eastgate Arts Centre 01721 725777

After the showing there will be an opportunity to discuss the film over a cup of tea or coffee. For any further details please phone **John Foster** on 01721 721050

### **Barony Street Meeting moves...!**

For over five years a small group of Friends has been meeting for worship in the Glasite Meeting House, on Barony Street in North Edinburgh.

Now its owners plan to re-design the premises for commercial uses, and the kitchen where we have met on benches around a long deal table will be made over for office space.

After Meeting for Worship there in July, the Friends present agreed to move to a room in Broughton St Mary's Church, on nearby Bellevue Crescent. As before, we will meet on the 4th Sunday evening of every month. All are very welcome to come and share the worship and the friendship afterwards.

Our next meeting will be at Broughton St Mary's on Sunday 28 September at 7pm and this replaces the information in September's Terrace Talk.

We will meet in the Drummond Room, overlooking the garden. Access is by a (gradual) side slope and the No 8 bus stops right outside the church. Broughton St Mary's runs the food bank for the New Town. It has given us a warm welcome and is keen to broaden its ecumenical outreach. If you would like to know more about it before coming, here is a link: <http://www.broughtonstmarys.org.uk/>

Or you can also contact Liz Law, Tony Gross or Marjorie Farquharson of Central Edinburgh Meeting.

**Marjorie Farquharson**

### **Tweeddale Meeting stays...!**

Until at least the end of the year, our Meetings for Worship will continue to be held at 10.30 am on the second and fourth Sunday in the month (*i.e.* next on 28 September) at

Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles, EH45 9BU

Unfortunately there is no bus service to Cavalry Park from the centre of Peebles on Sunday, and it is quite a long walk! If you need a lift, please phone **01721 721050** or **01721 722329** before 10.00 am.

Looking forward to seeing you.

**John and Daphne Foster**, Co-Clerks

### **Visiting other Local Meetings in the Area Meeting**

We are all encouraged, from time to time, to visit other Local Meetings within our Area Meeting, to help build a shared sense of community. As a nudge in this direction, during 2014, we are suggesting particular Sundays when Friends might like to visit each other. The list below details these plans. Even if you cannot go to the Meetings listed, please hold them in the Light and give them your prayerful support.

<b>Local Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
Central Fife	<b>28 September</b>	10:30	Hunter Halls, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy (opposite old Kirk)
Penicuik	<b>5 October</b>	11:00	Valleyfield House, 17 High Street (bring & share lunch)

All are warmly welcome!

**Marilyn Higgins**  
Clerk of Area Meeting Elders

### **Or Whatever You Call It**

**Saturday, 18 October 2014, 10 am - 4 pm**

‘Or Whatever You Call It’ is a one-day workshop about how Quakers name and talk about God, the Light, the Inward Christ, the Buddha, the Lord... or whatever you call it.

Led by Rhiannon Grant of Leeds University, the workshops arise from her PhD research into British Quakers today and their uses of religious language. The workshops are interactive, exploratory, and empowering,

asking Friends to think about how they use words, how they react to the terms others use, and to participate in a process of deepening sharing around these topics. The theological and philosophical material is presented in an accessible way and related to real examples and experiences.

The workshop takes place at Edinburgh Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace and is free: a small voluntary donation is requested from those who can afford it to help cover the expenses of the day. **There are 20 places only and you must book to attend. To book a place either email me at [clerk.sesam@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.sesam@gmail.com) or phone 01368 850227 (leave an answerphone message if necessary).**

Phil Lucas AM Clerk

### Massachusetts in the Summer

To anyone who has seen the film *The Last of the Mohicans* I can say that the state of Massachusetts continues to look just as it was portrayed there; it is like one giant forest. There is a vantage point on one of the roads where you can easily see over 65 miles of forested mountains and valleys. I then found myself considering the area of New England as a whole (including New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, etc.) and the very real benefit it must be having on the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> gases. As I travelled through the area I was often offered 'Fair Trade' items such as coffee. The vast majority of all buildings appear to be constructed of wood. I had thought I would find only pocketed areas of such buildings, sanitised for a nostalgic look back at the past. Not at all.

There is an area called the Berkshires (pronounced 'Burkshires') which is not unlike Cumbria but on a grander scale. It was here that I visited the Hancock Shaker village. Hancock was a small town nearby, and the name is one of the founders of the constitution. I felt a tad voyeuristic walking around the place but was struck at how techno-geeky they must have been. They had a state-of-the-art turbine for their mill and irrigation. Fun-nyly enough their furniture came second to their engineering ingenuity. There continues to be a very small Shaker community up in Maine today. Given their commitment to celibacy it is surprising there are any left at all. From the start Shakers held men and women to be true equals, although I discovered that by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were very few men in their community.

The Quaker meetings of New England have over 5,000 members and attenders. I spent a few days in Beacon Hill in Boston. This is possibly the oldest area of the city. Most of the buildings are of red brick and would not have been out of place in Victorian London. The street lighting is by gas lamp: I was told that they are on 24/7 because it would be too costly to turn them off during daylight hours. It is a beautiful area of small and unfranchised shops, to the extent that I think there must have been a restrictive covenant over the whole area on the type of construction. It is part of a larger area known as Back Bay. A sizable part of downtown Boston has been built on reclaimed land in gradual stages since the 1800s.. Cambridge and Boston form a continuous urban area which together accommodate numerous universities and colleges: each year there are some 120,000 students attending a higher education institution. Boston has roughly the same population as Edinburgh. Boston does get very *very* warm in August.



Beacon Hill has a statue of Mary Dwyer, a Quaker who challenged colonial authority and was executed for her beliefs. On 1 June 1660, she was hanged on Boston Common for repeatedly defying a law banning Quakers from the colony. She is considered the last religious martyr in North America. Things improved and there are Quaker references all over the city. Given the age and history of the area I was not surprised to find a Quaker Meeting House there. John Kerry, the Secretary of State, lives just around the corner. I saw no (armed) guards, and in fact never saw any guns on my entire trip; I only once saw reference to guns on a billboard. I attended a meeting for worship there one Sunday in August. It is in a beautiful old building with little decoration. You walk up steps to the front door, and then walk down a stairway inside straight into the meeting room. The height of the room must have been 20-25 feet with French windows open to the back courtyard garden where the light shimmered through mature trees and shrubbery in the breeze. It was quite hypnotic and calming and a wonderful way to settle the mind and spirit in for the hour.

The meeting was conducted in the same way as in Edinburgh. One person spoke. They have a rota system for the person offering a welcome and giving notices at the end. Many came up to say hello and give their good wishes to Edinburgh Meeting. The place has a library, a courtyard, of course, and an outside deck on the second floor where you can sit. You can book a room there for bed and breakfast. A number of people (mostly students) live in, and it is run on a community basis. (More information is at <http://bhfh.org/about/about-quakers/>)

Everywhere I went I saw huge promotions to go and see Lincoln Cathedral's copy of the 'Magna Carta - Cornerstone of Liberty' at the Museum of Fine Arts...our common history in the making perhaps.

**Ben Davies**

*Hopes and Fears - Reflections on the Geneva Quaker  
United Nations Summer School 2014*

*"I hope to leave inspired"*

*"I fear leaving overwhelmed by the problems of the world"*

My words scribbled on a couple of post-it notes on Sunday 6 July as a group of twenty-something twenty-somethings gathered for the start of the 12-day-long 'Quaker United Nations Summer School' and considered hopes and fears for the fortnight to come. At the other end, I could confidently inform myself-of-that-moment to anticipate both. Considering the nature of the programme - neither reaction is surprising.

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) has run this programme every summer now for 59 years providing young people the opportunity to peer through some of the obscurity of the UN, to gain an understanding of Quaker work at this level & to discuss topics of international concern within a diverse group of questioning minds. With consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), QUNO advocates in areas where it feels it has a role to play in upholding peace, equality and justice. Reflecting Quaker values through its work, it is an organisation which exudes a sense of gentle determination and patience for change.

The strength of the QUNO approach is particularly apparent through its method of quiet diplomacy. I was struck by the potential of this approach during the second week of the summer school programme as we played out our own mock 'quiet diplomacy lunch' - part of the day's focus on climate change. Assigned countries to represent, we were brought together around a circular table for a simple self-service lunch to consider and share the impacts of climate change in our represented nations. A space for human stories and personal connections, the resulting discussion - though enacted - was moving. Formalities were set aside, inputs were not forced and between each contribution was a moment to reflect on what had been said. The activity came directly following an intense session of mock negotiations à la the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) - aligned in blocks, we fought our assigned countries' corner with little opportunity for the development of ideas or links with others in the room. The juxtaposition made the lunch all the more powerful.

The role-play lunch was a direct reflection of the work QUNO has been doing during the UNFCCC negotiations throughout 2013/14; having thus far held five such events with representatives of a wide range of countries involved in the negotiations. The events offer an off-the-record, pressure-free space to reflect on both the bigger picture and the details of personal accounts across the negotiating blocks. The events, I am informed, have been well received and I am hopeful that these unique spaces will help to shape the tone and outcomes of the ongoing negotiations.

Another defining feature of QUNO's work is a focus on under-represented areas. This is reflected, for example, in their research and discussion of children of parents sentenced to death or executed. How are these children supported? Where are their rights neglected? - questions which I admit had not crossed my mind before. I was equally unaware of the extent or implications of the issue of statelessness and was humbled by a talk at the UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) on the subject. Lingering with me the following week as I clutched my passport to board the Eurostar, my mind rested on the ten million out there existing in the limbo of no recognised nationality.

Throughout the two weeks, I was also highly conscious of my good fortune simply to be able to be there. With a bitter sense of injustice and irony, we learnt that six of our group were not going to make it. A Gazan woman had been refused a permit by the Israeli authorities. (Now, of course, she is in our thoughts more than ever.) Five others were denied visas to enter Switzerland by a recent tightening of Swiss border controls: friends from Kenya, Rwanda and Pakistan, whom we missed the chance to meet, would no doubt have gained a great deal from the experience. I was sorry that I should be granted this opportunity when these individuals were not, sorry not to get the chance to attach a personality to their names and email addresses, and sorry to miss out on the wider diversity of insights which they would have brought to the discussions of our group.

Now home - feeling far from it all on the Isle of Harris - I am left, as no doubt many of the group are, considering what to do with the host of new information. We covered rights of indigenous peoples, post-conflict peace-building and natural-resource management; we sat in on the Human Rights Committee review of Sudan, visited the International Labour Organisation, the World Trade Organisation, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation; we met with diplomats, discussed human rights and the death penalty, learnt about the use of weapons and armed violence. Within this range of issues covered, each session threw up broader, more fundamental questions regarding structures that we take for granted, notions that we base our beliefs on, motivations of the human spirit.

As an outsider glancing in, my overriding sense of the UN was that it is all just people; people trying to navigate through the intensely difficult process of building international consensus and agreements; people - each with their own weaknesses, beliefs and agendas - trying to take steps forward; what those steps look like and how to make them slightly different to every eye they are viewed through. It is no wonder that it is a clunky mechanism, that things take time, that mistakes are made. I do not mean to lessen the significance of any such mistakes or flaws, but to try to understand where they come from and why.

This could leave me feeling disillusioned. I think in fact it leaves me feeling empowered. We are all people, and it is encouraging that we have created this body with the essential aim to build and maintain peace across the world's nations. Only last week, we could have barely been confronted with a stronger display of humanity within the UN than the image of the representative in Gaza breaking down on Al Jazeera.

'Overwhelmed' doesn't do justice to what I often feel in response to world news. No doubt many of you reading these words, particularly in the last couple of weeks, will relate to this. Thus, it was somewhat inevitable that I would leave this fortnight with my initial fear vindicated. Fears, however, may be used to strengthen hopes. I hoped to be inspired - I was, and I continue to be; by the strength, bravery, persistence, selflessness of the people trying to make change for the common good, of people resisting all manners of adversity, of people finding their ways to cope with whatever it is which leaves them overwhelmed. I have been inspired by the quiet, directed and intensely human approach of the Quaker United Nations Office and, at a time of transition in my life, I have been inspired to continue to find my own place in being part of the building of a better world.

**Ruth Cape**

Can you help?

"Families Outside" is an organisation to provide support for the families of prisoners. Its current projects include a family support worker at H.M.P. Edinburgh and a Visitor's Centre at H.M.P. Addiewell.

It is currently aiming to expand two areas of this very valuable work, and is looking for volunteers to help with them.

**The first** is support for visitors at Addiewell Prison - this includes, among other things, meeting and greeting families and individuals, caring for play facilities, giving basic information ... all in conjunction with the paid member of staff.

Training will be provided: all volunteers are expected to undergo it. Families Outside pay travel expenses - and so they would prefer volunteers living near to Addiewell!

**The second** is providing support for families attending Edinburgh Sheriff Court – you would engage with families of those appearing in court, and provide them with information relevant to their needs at the time – for example, information about the prison to which their family member is being sent.

Training will, of course, be provided for this too, as will travel expenses.

Both areas of volunteering would, of course, require Disclosure processes to be completed.

**Interested?** Please contact **Neil Allan**, the Volunteer Officer for Families Outside; his email is [Neil.allan@familiesoutside.org.uk](mailto:Neil.allan@familiesoutside.org.uk). **Margaret Mortimer** [of Central Edinburgh Meeting – our Quaker Prison Minister] can also provide more information . Her phone no. is 0131 552 4590.

#### JOHN WIGHAM (ENJOYMENT) TRUST

**For many years we have been in the happy situation of having a modest legacy to disburse. John Wigham directed that grants should be made “to 'deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures of 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”.**

Funds have been distributed over the past nine years. The money now in hand is likely to run out during the next year unless further donations are forthcoming.

**We welcome applications from Quakers and non-Quakers resident anywhere in Scotland, for grants large or small. £500 will normally be the maximum. Applicants may obtain an application form and further information from :**

**Audrey Sinton,  
66/4 Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh, EH8 7HA,**

**Tel: 0131 661 6051**

**Email: [audrey\\_sinton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:audrey_sinton@hotmail.co.uk)**

The completed form should be passed to a Quaker of long standing who is well known to their meeting, who will countersign it and forward it to the address above, to arrive by 31 March or 30 September. Applicants will normally hear the results of their application within eight weeks of these deadlines.

### One Quaker

Sometimes it's hard to be one among none.  
 I say I'm a Quaker;  
 they think I'm confessing to an anxiety disorder.  
 I say I go to Meeting on Sundays;  
 they wonder what committee I'm on now.  
 I say I've been to Sufferings;  
 they believe the problem of suffering is eternal.  
 I say I 'm an Overseer;  
 they think I work in construction.  
 I admit to having been an Elder;  
 they are politely surprised I am old enough.  
 I suggest silence can be more than golden;  
 they drift away, chatting. I join them, later.

**Rhoda MacKenzie**

## SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

**Minutes of Area Meeting held at 11.30 am on Saturday 5 July 2014  
at Kelso Quaker Meeting House****2014/07/01 Worship**

During opening worship *Quaker Faith & Practice* 23.22 was read to us. Written by Martin Wyatt in 1988 this challenges us to consider the unduly heavy footprint we in the materially privileged parts of the world make and the consequences of this for the poor and powerless.

**2014/07/02 Introductions**

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

**2014/07/03 Minutes**

The minutes of our last meeting, held 24 May 2014 in Peebles, have been signed and entered in the minute book.

**2014/07/04 Preparation for 2014 Yearly Meeting Gathering**

David Somervell, representing the Area Meeting's YMG2014 Preparation Group, has led us in an introduction to this year's Yearly Meeting Gathering, which will be held in Bath in August. *Quaker Faith & Practice* 6.01, 6.02 and part of 6.27 were read to us, the last being specifically concerned with the aims of Yearly Meeting Gatherings, now being arranged every three years.

The theme of Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014 is 'What it means to be a Quaker today'. David shared with us a four-page summary of the 42-page agenda document.

We have shared in pairs what Quaker membership means to us, whether Members or Attenders, prompted by three questions in this document. In worshipful reflection we have been reminded that our community of British Quakers includes not only those who are comfortably off but also those who are relatively poor and powerless, who can too easily feel excluded.

David has drawn our attention to the fact the Yearly Meeting Gathering coincides with the World War 1 outbreak centenary and that there is thought of reclaiming the white feather symbol for peace rather than cowardice. He also remarked on the 'wonderful' report of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, copies of which are available to Friends. Yearly Meeting Gathering will also receive the final report of the Minute 36 Canterbury Commitment Group, which is setting out a strategy for taking this concern forward.

Twenty Friends and Attenders from this Area Meeting are planning to attend and have plans to support each other while they are there. We wish them a joyful and rewarding experience and look forward to receiving their reports in due course. We have been reminded that financial support is available for those hoping to attend this and similar gatherings.

We are glad that the initiative has been taken to prepare all of us, and especially those attending Yearly Meeting Gathering, and thank the Group warmly for their work.

#### **2014/07/05 Matters arising**

##### **a) The Area Meeting Social Responsibility Group** (Minutes 2014/04/07 and 2014/05/04b refer)

Further to consideration at our last meeting, we agree

- to lay down the Sharing our Stories on Sustainability and the Economic Justice Working Groups;
- to establish a Social Responsibility Working Group in their place, and to appoint six members of that group to serve from today for a period of two years;
- to ask this new Working Group to define its terms of reference and bring them back to us for agreement before the end of the year;
- to organise an initial conference in Edinburgh on Saturday 22 November 2014 to take forward our exploration of the linked issues of social responsibility and economic justice.

b) **Supporting each other in the Area Meeting** (Minutes 2014 /04/12 and 2014/05/04c refer)

We agree to proceed with the plan to invite each Local Meeting to share with Area Meeting something of its life and work, opportunities and challenges, on a rota basis as proposed by the Clerk:

<b>2014</b>	<i>To be held at</i>	<i>The life of</i>
Sunday 21 Sept Edinburgh	South Edinburgh	South
Saturday 25 Oct	Polmont	Polmont
Saturday 29 Nov	Central Edinburgh	Central Edinburgh
<b>2015</b>		
Saturday 28 Feb	Central Edinburgh	Penicuik
Saturday 18 Apr	Central Fife	Central Fife
Saturday 30 May	Kelso	Kelso
Sunday 12 July	South Edinburgh	Tweeddale
Saturday 29 Aug	East Lothian	East Lothian
Saturday 24 Oct	Central Edinburgh	Portobello & Muss.
Saturday 28 Nov	Central Edinburgh	<i>Review of process</i>

c) **Proposed Susan Stein performance about Etty Hillesum** (Minute 2014/05/11a refers)

Mary Woodward, in consultation with our Clerk, is proceeding with arrangements for Susan Stein to perform her one-woman show in the Sanctuary in Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh on the evening of Thursday 9 October 2014. Mary asks for volunteers to help her to prepare for this and ensure that tickets are sold to allow us to meet Susan's fee of £500 in full. We thank Jane Pearn, Don Stubbings, Marianne Ferguson Rice and Alison Burnley who have so willingly offered to join a working group. It is expected that ticket sales will cover the costs involved but we agree that the Area Meeting will underwrite the event.

(Etty Hillesum lived in Amsterdam and died with her family in Auschwitz. The play is based on her journals and writings.)

### **2014/07/06 Report on the John Wigham Trust**

Sylvia Massey has presented a report on the work of the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust for the calendar year 2013, the Trust's tenth full year.

The Trust made nine grants during the year, totalling £3,540. Generous donations made during this tenth full year of the Trust enabled it to end the year with £2,711 still in hand. Sylvia shared with us some of the expressions of gratitude from grant recipients, demonstrating the variety of ways in which the money has been used and the pleasure derived as a result.

At the present rate, the fund, which started with £42,000 in 2003, will run out within a year. The Trustees are not actively seeking donations but are grateful to those who have enabled the continuation and extension of its work and also to those who have encouraged Friends and friends who meet the criteria to apply for an award. They also place on record their thanks to John Wigham for his imaginative and thoughtful legacy. Our hearts are warmed by it.

Further details are available from Annie Miller via [anniemiller15@gmail.com](mailto:anniemiller15@gmail.com) and Annie's written report will be in the *Scottish Friend*.

### **2014/07/07 Membership matters**

We record that the membership of Bob Harwood has been transferred to East Sussex Area Meeting.

### **2014/07/08 Intention of marriage**

Further to Minute 2014/04/11, in which our Registering Officer informed us of the intention of **Anna Mitchell** and **Brian Cleland** to marry under the care of Friends at Comrie Croft in Perthshire on Thursday 28 August 2014, we agree to appoint this meeting for worship, and ask Sylvia Massey, Mary Woodward and Suzie Reade (s/c) to serve as Elders.

All Friends are warmly invited to attend.

## 2014/07/09 Appointments

1. To serve from **July 2014** to the end of **June 2017**
  - a. John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust - **Audrey Sinton**
  - b. Staffing Link - **Kate Arnot**
  - c. Elder - **Elizabeth Allen** (East Lothian Meeting)
  
2. To serve from **July 2014** to the end of **June 2016**  
 On the newly-constituted Social Responsibility Working Group:  
**Rachel Fitzgerald, David Hume, Annie Miller, David Somervell, Don Stubbings and Duncan Wallace.**
  
3. To serve a second triennium from **October 2014** to the end of **September 2017**  
 Assistant Treasurer - **Henry Thompson**

We appoint all these Friends accordingly.

We note that the following Friends have finished their terms of service, for which we record our thanks:

**Sylvia Massey** (John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust), **Madeleine Harding** (Staffing Link) and **Sarah Martin** (Overseer).

## 2014/07/10 A request for grant aid

We have received a request from Ruth Cape, currently resident in Harris but previously attending Central Edinburgh meeting, for financial assistance to attend the twelve day QUNO Summer School in Geneva. The total expected cost is £1069 made up of £630 course and residence fees and £439 return travel by ferry, bus and train.

After consultation between the Area Meeting Treasurer and Clerk, Ruth has been sent an advance of £300 as she has had to pay much of the cost in advance. We agree to pay the full grant requested to Ruth and ask her to arrange to give us an account of her experience at a future meeting. [See pp. 8-10]

## **2014/07/11 Report on Meeting for Sufferings**

Janet Grimwade has reported to us on highlights of the Meeting for Sufferings held on 7 June 2014.

Business included consideration of the Long Term Framework for the work of all Quakers in Britain. The Framework for Action ending in 2014 was particularly helpful to YM Trustees, and the Long Term Framework will continue this approach. It will ask questions such as '*What do Quakers hold in common?*' and '*What is our 5-year vision?*', and a feedback format will be supplied for use by Area and Local Meetings.

Central Nominations Committee is having difficulty finding people, especially younger Friends, willing to serve on committees and all of us are encouraged to complete and return Quaker Service Information Forms. A review of Nominations Committee's terms of reference has been established.

The Quaker Council for European Affairs is encouraging Friends to respond to the European Union consultation on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Information on this is available online: contact Marianne Ferguson Rice for details.

Initial plans are being made for the review of the Book of Discipline. This, and the recommendations of the Canterbury Commitment Group, will come to Yearly Meeting.

A group has been set up to review the situation with regard to Listed Informal Groups and to propose new arrangements.

### **2014/07/12 Wool Against Weapons**

We have received Minute 10(2014) of Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting encouraging our support of the Wool Against Weapons Campaign. Many of us have participated in this campaign to oppose the renewal of the Trident nuclear submarine programme by knitting sections of pink scarf, which will contribute to the seven-mile scarf stretching from Burghfield to Aldermaston on Nagasaki Day, 9 August. Some of us participated in an event on 28 June, when the sections knitted in Scotland stretched from Holyrood to St Giles in Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

We agree to support this campaign.

### **2014/07/13 Personal discernment and the Independence Referendum:**

We have been reminded of the agreement we reached at last January's Area Meeting on the sort of future society we would like to build and of the personal discernment process in which each of us is engaged as we prepare to participate in the Scottish Independence Referendum on 18 September. We have then shared our hopes and fears, doubts and convictions, in a worship-sharing session.

Whichever way each of us intends to vote, what is clear to us is that the mutual loving support of each other in our Quaker communities is strong enough to allow us to live through this potentially divisive period and will help us contribute to building the kind of society in which we wish to live.

### **2014/07/14 AOCB**

#### **1. Sharing with Friends elsewhere our approach to the Scottish Independence Referendum**

We ask our clerks to write an article for submission to *The Friend* explaining how Quakers in South East Scotland are approaching the Independence Referendum decision, perhaps starting with the agreement from our January 2014 meeting on the sort of society in which we wish to live.

#### **2. Travelling to Area Meetings**

We ask our clerks to be sensitive to public transport times when making the arrangements for all future Area Meetings.

## 2014/07/15 Correspondence and notices

### Young Quakers Participation Day

Our attention was drawn to a day for young Quakers aged 14 - 18 being held alongside Meeting for Sufferings on 6 December 2014. This aims to seek the views of young people on issues of concern to them and also to British Quakers and will include developing a Quaker faith and practice book for young people and consultation on the new Long Term Framework. The closing date for bookings is 31 October.

## 2014/07/16 Concluding minute

Twenty two members and five attenders from seven Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 5	Central Fife 1	East Lothian 3 + 1A	Kelso 4 + 4A	Penicuik -
Polmont -	Portobello & Musselburgh 2	South Edinburgh 5	Tweeddale 2	

We next meet at the Open Door, South Edinburgh, on Sunday 21 September 2014 at 2 pm.

Signed Phil Lucas, Clerk

Henry Vaughan. 1621–1695

## The Retreat

**HAPPY** those early days, when I  
**Shin'd** in my Angel-infancy!  
**Before** I understood this place  
**Appointed** for my second race,  
**Or taught** my soul to fancy aught <sup>5</sup>  
**But a white** celestial thought:  
**When yet** I had not walk'd above  
**A mile or two** from my first Love,  
**And looking back**—at that short  
**space—**  
**Could see** a glimpse of His bright <sup>10</sup>  
**face:**  
**When on some** gilded cloud, or  
**flow'r,**  
**My gazing** soul would dwell an  
**hour,**  
**And in those** weaker glories spy  
**Some shadows** of eternity: <sup>15</sup>  
**Before** I taught my tongue to  
**wound**  
**My Conscience** with a sinful  
**sound,**  
**Or had the** black art to dispense  
**A several** sin to ev'ry sense,  
**But felt** through all this fleshly  
**dress**  
**Bright shoots** of everlastingness. <sup>20</sup>

**O how** I long to travel back,  
**And tread** again that ancient  
**track!**  
**That I might** once more reach that  
**plain**  
**Where first** I left my glorious  
**train;**  
**From whence** th' enlightned spirit <sup>25</sup>  
**sees**

**That shady City of Palm-trees.**  
**But ah! my soul with too much**  
**stay**  
**Is drunk, and staggers in the way!**  
**Some men a forward motion love,**  
**But I by backward steps would** <sup>30</sup>  
**move;**  
**And when this dust falls to the**  
**urn,**  
**In that state I came, return.**

*Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)*

### **In The Valley of the Elwy**

I remember a house where all were good  
     To me, God knows, deserving no such thing:  
     Comforting smell breathed at very entering,  
 Fetched fresh, as I suppose, off some sweet wood.  
 That cordial air made those kind people a hood  
     All over, as a bevy of eggs the mothering wing  
     Will, or mild nights the new morsels of spring:  
 Why, it seemed of course; seemed of right it should.

Lovely the woods, waters, meadows, combs, vales,  
 All the air things wear that build this world of Wales;  
     Only the inmate does not correspond:  
 God, lover of souls, swaying considerate scales,  
 Complete thy creature dear O where it fails,  
 Being mighty a master, being a father and fond.

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

Portobello & Musselburgh: 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: contact

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

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

Portobello & Musselburgh CHANGES Community Health Project

108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA 10.30am

Tweeddale Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles

All welcome but please phone to confirm.

01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389. 10.30am

Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy 10.30am

(in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar 11.00am

### **Third Tuesday in the Month**

Edinburgh Uni Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms 1.00- 1.30pm

### **Fourth Sunday in the Month**

Portobello & Musselburgh CHANGES Community Health Project

108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA 10.30am

Tweeddale: Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles

*Details as Second Sunday above* 10.30am

Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above 10.30am

Barony St Meeting, Broughton St Mary's Church Edinburgh 7.00 pm

### **Last Sunday in the Month .**

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar 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, 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