

SESAME

Number 219: September 2019

Area Meeting on 22 September / Portobello & Musselburgh: new meeting place / Peace Workshop / Festival highlights / Shindig remembered / AM August Minutes, incl. a memorial minute and a testimony



Ackworth School, near Pontefract, Yorkshire, the location for this year's Summer Shindig – *see page 7*. The school was founded in 1779, and took over a building which had been erected in 1757 to be a 'foundlings' hospital' but closed in 1773.

Published by South East Scotland Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Material for the next issue should be sent to Alan Frith (email: ar.frith@btinternet.com) or by post to 10, East Parkside, Edinburgh EH16 5XJ, to be received at the latest by **Tuesday 13 November**. The Editors reserve the right to condense articles. If possible, please submit articles by email sending as an attachment *and* in the body of the email. An email version of *Sesame* is available in PDF format. Contact the Editors.

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Our next All Age Area Meeting will take place in Penicuik on Saturday 22 September from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. All are welcome to join us for all or part of the day.

The theme: Faith, community and action

Plans for the day: The meeting will start with light refreshment at 10.30 am and include sessions of all-age worship at 11.00 and 3.30, activities of various kinds for younger attenders, a business session in the morning and, in the afternoon, an opportunity to learn about how local Friends put their concerns into practice in the local community. Soup and bread will be provided at lunchtime but do bring other food and cakes for yourself or to share.

Draft Agenda for the business session:

1. Minutes of last meeting held Tuesday 14 August
2. Matters arising:
 - a) Management of legacy money (*Minute 2016/08/04 refers*)
 - b) Area Meeting Treasurer (*Minute 2018/08/06 refers*)
 - c) Diversity and Inclusion in our Area Meeting (*Minute 2018/08/07 refers*)
 - d) Area Meeting Dates and Venues for 2019 (*Minute 2018/08/11 refers*)
4. UK complicity in torture - minute from South Edinburgh LM
5. Memorial minutes
 - a) Kay Wassell
 - b) Audrey Fessler
6. Custodian of Records report on marriage archive – *Pat Lucas*
7. Appointments
8. Annual report on the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust – *Mel Richards*

The Venues, getting there and parking:

Penicuik Town Hall, where the day starts and where the business meeting takes place is in the High Street, on the left coming from Edinburgh.

Valleyfield House, the base for children's activities, is in the High Street behind the Town Hall with access *via* an archway at number 17 High St. EH26 8HS. There is parking there for about 10 cars (this is the Kellys' home where Meeting for Worship is held on the first Sunday of each month)

The Town Hall has disabled access, toilets and a lift to the upper hall. Disabled parking for one or two cars outside. Other on street free parking is available in the town.

Buses are frequent from Edinburgh and from Peebles and the Borders.

X62 (every half hour) leaves the bus station in St Andrew's Square Edinburgh at 9.50 am and arrives at the High St, Penicuik just after 10.30 *via* The Bridges and Liberton. For those coming from the south, it travels *via* Galashiels and Peebles: the bus that leaves Galashiels at 9.00 am stops at Peebles at 9.45, and Penicuik at 10.15.

37 leaves Princes Street, opposite Waverley Station 9.26, arrives 10.24 *via* the Bridges and Liberton (*i.e. eastwards* along Princes Street)

15 leaves Princes St, Scott Monument, 9.34 arrives 10. 26. (This bus goes *via* Lothian Road and Morningside, so goes *westwards* along Princes Street.)

News from Portobello & Musselburgh Meeting

From the beginning of October, our regular Sunday morning meeting for worship will be held at Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello, EH15 2BP. We meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11am, with a children's meeting at the same time.

Our evening meeting already takes place at Bellfield, on the first Sunday of the month at 7:30pm, for half an hour (no children's meeting).

From January 2019 our Clerk will be Mary Jane Elton, with Fiona Paterson and Ruth Anderson-Quigley as Assistant Clerks.

Chris Booth

Peace Building Workshop – 18 November 2018

Join Scilla Elworthy, founder of Oxford Research Group and Peace Direct, Scot and internationalist, for a day workshop celebrating a life committed to conflict resolution.

10.30am - 4pm Saturday 18 November, David Hume Tower LG.07, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JX. Attend by donation [see below].

Register: <https://peacebuilding18nov.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Host: www.peaceandjustice.org.uk

“Many people feel powerless in the face of what they see on TV or read in the news – a world in crisis, with wars and violence taking place across the globe,” says Scilla. “In my new book The Business Plan for Peace: Building a World without War – and in this workshop – I share how to step out of helplessness and apply your own personal skills do something about challenges now facing us.”

A rare visit to Scotland to launch her new book at the Radical Book Fair [at 7.30pm on Saturday] offers friends and supporters a special opportunity to

hear this gifted leader who has worked tirelessly for decades to de-escalate tensions between peoples and nations.

“In half a century of work in the world, the most important lesson I’ve learned is that inner work is a prerequisite for outer effectiveness, for the simple reason that the quality of our awareness directly affects the quality of results produced. The story of Chris Hughes at the start of this book is a striking example — his awareness and presence of mind saved many lives that day in 2003. “The new brand of leaders that we need — those who are actually able to meet the challenges of today and thrive in the world of tomorrow — are the ones who know and live the connection between inner self-development and outer action. If we want to communicate clearly, transform conflicts, generate energy, and develop trust within our families, in our places of work or in government, our first challenge is to do the inner work.”

“We need individuals like Dr. Elworthy to start the work of preventing war. This has been my personal dream for many years.”

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The Peace and Justice Centre has undertaken to make a substantial donation to Scilla’s projects and to cover her travel costs. How much each attendee contributes in the end depends on how many people sign up and attend the workshop. Please tell your friends about this exceptional chance to meet and hear Scilla first hand.

We think it will be between £20-40 each and will confirm costs of attendance in the week before the workshop.

Bursaries on request. Email admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk in confidence; we don’t want to turn anyone away.

Memorable shows in Edinburgh, August 2018

This August I saw a large number of shows at the Fringe, the International Festival, and the Book Festival. Nearly everything was good, there was much that was excellent, and a number of shows that were outstanding.

Venue 40 put on a very varied programme including:-

You are cordially invited... To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the decriminalising of homosexuality [in England], this show took the form of the wedding reception of Robert and Issy in (as the publicity reminded us) the venue where the first same-sex religious marriage was held in 2015. It was a glorious, life-affirming celebration of so much more than the marriage of two people. It was a tribute to how far we’ve come in the last fifty years, and, in Barack Obama’s words, to “the countless, often anonymous heroes” who moved things to the point where it’s now okay – if not always easy – to be who you are and love who you want to. Long may this be so!

Conchies! was an extraordinary piece about real people who followed the promptings of conscience and refused to fight or take any alternative to

military service in the Second World War. Using their own words, and their voices in recorded interviews, the story was told by people who live in the area and in some cases are direct descendants of the men and women who formed the community at Collow Abbey Farm in Lincolnshire. Most moving was the personal appearance of the nearly-centenarian Donald Sutherland, now the only adult member of the community still alive. The roll-call of community alumni is impressive: actor Jim Broadbent is the son of one of the original founders; Michael Morpurgo's uncle, Francis Cammaerts, only left the community when he went to join and play a major part in the French Resistance. It was a moving and thought-provoking drama, whose message needs to be heard as the tide of aggressive competition and self-interest threatens to rise and drown us all.

Accident Avoidance Training for Cutlery Users – level 2 was a must-see show for anyone with a strong sense of the ridiculous, and all those amongst us who are oblivious to the dangers inherent in the cutlery they use every day with such careless abandon. Lives have been lost in serious cutlery accidents – it's no laughing matter! – and Ian Crawford was here in Edinburgh to make us aware of the perils we face every day of our lives. Towards the end of the evening we had the unexpected pleasure of a short illustrated history of the biscuit from that well-known biscuitomane, Roy Windsor, who gave us much hitherto undiscovered information about Prehistoric Man and the Biscuit, the Biscuit in the Roman Empire, the Biscuit in Shakespeare, Churchill's Biscuits and even a consideration of the Biscuit of the Future. Despite the seriousness of the subjects, the audience was in stitches throughout...

Collateral Damage: white poppy-making. The Collateral Damage project was set up to commemorate people who have lost their lives in wars in which they were not engaged. We were invited up to the Meeting Room to create white poppies, which were then displayed as a reminder to all of the people who have died: it was hoped that, while making the poppies, we might also think about how we can create a more peaceful future for the world. There will be a large national installation of poppies in London this November.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/whitepoppies2018 or www.ppu.org.uk/collateral-damage

The Scottish Storytelling Centre also provided some gems:-

In *Gie's Peace* Morna Burden told the stories of women of all ages who in their own way have tried to bring peace to situations and protest against the stupidity of war, interleaving them with songs of peace. She launched straight into her first song, a lullaby with a difference, written in 1958 by Nancy Nicholson. *Mushroom cloud and heavy water* and the lively refrain beginning *merrily, merrily nuclear power* plunged us straight into the brilliantly black humour with which women have creatively waged peace in a world which is seeing an ever-increasing proliferation of wars.

Morna made reference to a number of Quakers, including Penny Stone, who went with a choir to Palestine, to sing to and show solidarity with Palestinian people and, on her return home, to talk about it “to anyone who would listen”; and Beth Cross who, while at university in Annapolis, Maryland, intended simply to support for a week a peace walk that started in California – but found herself joining this World Peace Walk and travelling through Scotland, England, and much of Europe. The Greenham Peace Camp brought mention of Helen John, who found her life transformed by her involvement in the women’s camp. My favourite song had to be *Lily of the Arc Lights* - sung to the woman with the bolt-cutters, beside whom the singer is attacking the perimeter fence – a wonderfully anarchic rewrite of *Lili Marlene*. Its fantastic rhymes and dauntless spirit made me laugh out loud and salute the women who could be so brave in the face of very real danger, carrying out civil disobedience because they simply couldn’t stand by and do nothing.

Henna had to be my ‘show of 2018’ – the second wedding I went to this Fringe, this time a Sikh celebration. The hosts, uncle and nephew Peter and Gorg Chand, in splendid gold-embroidered tunics, invited us to take our seats and join them and the family of the bride as she and her girlfriends had the traditional henna patterns applied to the palms of their hands.

In a mixture of English and Punjabi, Peter and Gorg wove together the story of the wedding and traditional tales which they had collected from their own family. Some tales they’d heard in full, others they re-imagined from fragments told at different times. The storytelling was among the best I’ve ever heard – the wedding came alive for us, we felt really present while the henna was applied, in the gurdwara, and back again at the wedding house. We were very welcome guests, an integral part of everything. We even joined in the dancing, having been taught simple Bollywood moves linked to the various parts of the wedding celebrations – paint on the henna, clear away the blankets, shake the bangles, take the photos, shout *Hai hai hai* and then do your own thing. It was an exhilarating way to end the evening, and we went singing out into the night.

I was also enthralled listening to the amazing Mhairi Black MP, Judy Murray, and Mark Thomas each In Conversation With ... at the Stand’s New Town Theatre; Richard Holloway *Waiting for the Last Bus* and comedian Susan Calman in the Book Festival; and and and... looking forward to next year already!

Mary Woodward

**A PEACE POLE is to be installed at The Helix, Falkirk
(near the Falkirk F.C. stadium) and Polmont Friends
are meeting to celebrate on Sunday 7 October.**

Shindig Remembered

What began in the early 1960s as the Northern Friends Summer School, is now (and has for several years been) officially called The Northern Young Friends Summer Shindig – a week-long residential event for young people (aged 11-16) living within the compass of Scotland General Meeting, or of Teesdale & Cleveland, Wensleydale & Swaledale, Northumbria, North Cumbria and Kendal & Sedburgh Area Meetings. **Oliver Grothey** has been an enthusiastic participant in the last four Shindigs – in 2016, his poem *Quaker Life* (see **Sesame 206**) gave an account of that year's event. Now, aged 16, Oliver has attended what has to be his final Shindig; and with help from Anna, his sister, has written a long piece gathering impressions of all the four he attended. Too long for inclusion in its entirety, we are printing the final section, covering this year's Shindig, which took place at Ackworth, 28 July-4 August. (Ed.)

Shindig 2K18

As soon as I got home from Shindig
2017,
I started counting down the days,
300, then 200, and slowly descending,
But I knew it would be my last year.
I was ready and packed,
By Saturday morning,
and I counted down the hours,
and even the minutes.
Shindig starts again, very soon
I cannot wait, for another year of
Friendships, games
Hugs and laughter
We set off to the bus stop,
As happy as could be,
The week I couldn't wait for,
Was just around the corner.
At the bus stop I thought,
Wow it's finally here,
The first day of Shindig 2018,
But then it's my last year,
So I don't want it to finish.
The bus that picked us up,
Was 'Greylog' again!,
The very same bus as last year!
Even on the same route,
The good old service 42.
On board 'Greylog' I thought,
How lucky I am to be able,
To go to Summer Shindig,
For so many people,
Never get the chance.

Pfff the doors opened,
At the Market Street junction,
Got off, got a photo,
And walked down to the station,
Full of excitement I arrive at the station
There are already lots of people at the
station,
I cannot wait for Shindig
To begin
And outside the shop,
In Waverley station,
There they were,
So many friends,
Who I hadn't seen for so long.
We went to Platform 19,
The same as last year,
For the LNER train from Aberdeen,
The Shindig Express,
Pulled by 43208,
Pulled into the platform,
An HST again!
We got on and found seats,
Plus some empty wine bottles,
Then waved goodbye to our families,
As the train sped down south.
We get on the train
And find our seats
(It is a bit confusing
As there is only one ticket)
But we are soon seated
And begin to make a mess
Whether it's playing catch with jelly beans
Or inspecting old bottle lids

We soon reached York,
 And stepped down onto the platform.
 Then a cloud of black diesel,
 And a roar from its engines,
 And the Shindig Express,
 Curved out of York station,
 For its onward journey.
 As walked past the taxi rank,
 Out of the station,
 We didn't realise,
 That it would be raining.
 We walked to York bus triangle,
 Where the Shindig bus was waiting,
 Then we got on,
 Full of excitement.
 We waited for a while,
 For some people who were late to get on,
 Then for some geese,
 Who were blocking the road.
 When we finally set off,
 The York traffic kept us,
 In York for an hour,
 With traffic lights and traffic jams,
 Right through the city.
 As we sped through North Yorkshire,
 On the M62,
 I thought "wow it's just starting,
 And everyone's here!"
 And that moment of joy,
 When I saw Ackworth School,
 My favourite place in England,
 And for a reason.
 Then was the moment of realisation,
 As we jolted to a halt in the car park,
 That the moment I'd longed for,
 For over three hundred days,
 Was finally here,
 And for the last time,
 Oh goodness was that a great feeling.
 At last we get to Shindig
 And I really am excited
 We get given our name tags
 And go to play some games
 When making my name badge I made
 a mistake,
 I tried to draw a rainbow but didn't
 succeed,
 I put red in the middle instead.

Then quite by chance I got given the
 very same bed,
 In the very same dorm,
 As I had had on my very first year.
 I unpacked my stuff,
 Including my toy cars and buses,
 Who go with me wherever I go.
 Then it was time for dinner,
 The usual procedure,
 Of food, trays, potatoes and water.
 Soon it is dinner
 where we get to eat potatoes
 We have chosen our dorms
 And got to know each other
 Then epilogue was in the school's
 meeting room,
 Where I'd last been in 2015,
 It is a very nice and relaxing place.
 Now it's time for werewolves
 But who should narrate?
 At last we have decided
 But we need to be quick
 As bedtimes at 11
 I played Werewolf,
 In the small common room,
 Which smelt of weird cheese,
 Yet was still a great room.
 On the first night I stayed up till 11,
 It really was not a good plan.
 We get up in the morning
 For our first full day
 Meeting for worship is really good
 I love all the groups
 And can't wait to start
 Challenges and games, or discussion
 group
 Family group one is really the best
 We start building bridges
 But most of them collapse
 Spaghetti and marsh mallows
 Are maybe not the best ...
 The epilogue is great
 But everyone is tired
 I should probably go to bed
 But the common room is too much fun
 On Monday we had the talk,
 About borders old and new,
 Then we discussed,
 About airport security.

I ate some sugar,
 And became a bit hyper,
 Under the thinking tree,
 Frisbees flew around,
 Then up went a shoe,
 And down came the frisbee,
 Out of the tree.
 In the common room we played some
 games,
 And talked and laughed about all sorts
 of stuff.
 Tuesday, what a day!,
 Harvey returned and talked to us,
 About countries that used to be one,
 But split into seven and find it hard to be
 friends,
 Their bridge is rebuilt,
 Which is a really good sign.
 My first time on the tuck shop,
 And I'm not good at maths,
 But we managed,
 As secret friend presents passed around
 quickly.
 The song oh I love it,
 It's as true as could be,
 We came from all over the world,
 We love it here more than anywhere
 else,
 Making friends having hugs being
 Quakerly,
 We're all here, to have a fantastic year!
 At the barbeque the wasps invaded,
 While the wind took the plates,
 A wasp crawled into a shoe,
 While someone else got stung.
 We went to bed and slept,
 Then the very next day,
 We went to York or Lightwater Valley,
 York it was for me.
 We got our lunch and got on the bus,
 All the way to the city of York,
 Where it dropped us off,
 At the bus triangle.
 We walked to Pret A Manger,
 Where the staff always sit,
 Then explored the Shambles,
 And bought a diablo.
 The Hokey Cokey at the Minster,
 Was fun as never before,

Then we went back to the Shambles,
 For the Harry Potter shops.
 Then we wandered towards a place,
 I've been to countless times,
 The wonderful halls,
 Of York Railway Museum.
 The *Shinkansen*, the Eurostar,
 The Deltic as well,
 And all the steam trains,
 Preserved for all to see.
 At the museum we bought ice cream,
 And a slinky called Rachael,
 Then went the triangle,
 To wait for the bus back.
 After sleeping on the bus,
 Everyone was ready for epilogue,
 I love it outside,
 Where I actually feel part,
 Of the wonderful nature.
 I thought to myself,
 What a wonderful place,
 And what wonderful people,
 Who I'll miss so much.
 Thursday started out,
 As per every year,
 With the staff dressing up,
 In various costumes.
 Then there was Meeting for Worship,
 And the Thursday talk,
 Where Sam taught us about privileges,
 And various demonstrations,
 And how allies can help.
 Then in discussion groups,
 We saw how privileged,
 Each of us are.
 My second time in the tuck shop,
 We are lacking customers!,
 Then the leavers sketch rehearsal,
 Will we have it ready for tomorrow?
 Then family groups were fun,
 So were games and Challenges,
 Discovering new board games,
 That I had never known to exist.
 On Thursday evening,
 My penultimate A-Worth,
 Then epilogue,
 Was in discussion groups again.
 It was quite emotional,
 We were all leaving Shindig,

Then afterwards in the common room,
 The jokes got worse and worse.
 I didn't want Friday to come,
 But come it must,
 And come it did,
 With beans on toast for breakfast,
 Like any other day,
 At Shindig.
 The final meeting for Worship,
 Then back to our discussion groups,
 Where we came up with sketches,
 To sum up the week,
 And my group made a game-show-
 themed sketch.
 We performed the sketches,
 Them went back to our dorms,
 And packed for the long way home.
 I went back to the Thinking Tree,
 And the common room,
 The good old places,
 That I love so much.
 The end was coming,
 Slowly, but definitely coming,
 And I kind of became used to it,
 The encroaching end.
 In games and Challenges,
 Will gave us a challenge,
 To find the code of a padlock,
 To get out of the room.
 We did a puzzle,
 Which hardly helped,
 Though we finally found,
 The mystery code.
 A-Worth came far too quickly
 My last as a YP,
 and possibly even my last ever.
 It one of the best A-Worths,
 I've ever had,
 It started with a true tradition,
 Tanaka!
 Then us leavers danced to *The Dancing
 Queen*,
 Which was followed by the drag race.
 The chewing gum,
 A crick in the neck,
 And Saul's Armageddon Song!!!
 Tradition, though, didn't end there,
 For afterwards there came the song!!!!,
 The song is one of favourite parts of

Shindig,
 And this was my very last one!
 I sang as loud as I could,
 Even when I thought I had no energy left,
 I put everything I had into the last ever
 song,
 It was amazing for the last ever time!
 My voice was slightly dead,
 After the final song,
 But then as we left the building,
 We where given our mags,
 My last ever Shindig mag.
 As the disco played deafening music,
 I tried to sign everyone's mag,
 As normal I didn't manage all of them,
 But most of them I did.
 I was so exhausted from the week so far,
 That I dropped my glasses of water
 everywhere,
 Before eventually drinking one, yay!
 After frantic mag signing,
 And getting through many a pen,
 My handwriting suffered,
 Yet again.
 A change of tone was solemn and rapid,
 As we went outside for the very very
 final,
 Shindig epilogue.
 I realised just how much,
 I would miss everyone,
 And how much each and every person,
 Means to me.
 Despite me being a leaver,
 In the leavers pages in the mag,
 I was nowhere to be found,
 Which in some ways was good,
 Can I now pretend that I'm not a leaver?
 We stayed up past midnight,
 Once again,
 But then I was so tired,
 I fell asleep before one.
 Early on Saturday morning,
 I woke up and packed my last stuff,
 It now was properly my final,
 Ever day at Shindig.
 We walked to the bus,
 With the mutual feeling,
 That this was the end,
 Of the wonderful week in Ackworth.

When we got to York station,
 A Pacer was waiting,
 And so were we,
 For the HST,
 The Shindig Express,
 Back up North.
 We didn't all get seats,
 But managed all the same,

Then before long at all,
 The Shindig Express
 Squeaked into Edinburgh Waverley.
 Goodbye,
 For more than 51 weeks
Oliver :-D

A Prayer

From the last of his notebooks, written in prison, 1945, for refusing to pay war taxes.

Eternal God, let thy spirit inspire and guide us. Thy will be done.

Give us the strength to fulfil our task without selfishness, slothfulness, or cowardice.

Give us the strength to withstand temptations, and to forgive others as we would wish them freely to forgive us.

Enable us to repay those who offend us only by redoubling our endeavours never to offend others.

Eternal God we will listen to thy call and obey it in order that we may hear it ever more clearly.

Give us the honesty to examine our own acts and thoughts as scrupulously and severely as those of other people.

Deliver us from the fanaticism and pride which prevent us from welcoming truth even when it comes through the teaching and experience of others.

Give us the calm assurance that thou thyself wilt know how to reveal thy truth and thy righteousness to others even as we believe that thou hast in measure revealed them to us.

Teach us compassion and enable us to make a real effort to relieve the suffering of others.

Give us the quiet courage needed in all circumstances, and natural to whoever has consecrated his life to thee.

At the highest level of existence where men and women meet one another, let there be above all a passionate regard for the true values of life, for thy truth and thy love above all.

Do not let any defeat, any fall or backsliding ever separate us from thee; in the midst of all our weakness let thy love take hold of us and little by little lift us up to thee.

Pierre Ceresole

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Tuesday 14 August 2018 at the offices of Scottish Churches Housing Action, 44 Hanover Street, Edinburgh

2018/08/01 Worship and introductions

We began our Meeting for Worship for Business with a period of worship during which *Quaker Faith & Practice* 10.04 was read. Written by William Charles Braithwaite in 1905, this reminds that, important though our principles and organisation are, the springs of life lie deeper, in our vital union with one another and with God.

We have ensured those present know each other names and meetings.

The attendance will be recorded in the concluding minute.

2018/06/02 Minutes of Meeting held Saturday 23 June 2018

The minutes of our last Meeting held on 23 June 2018 in Greenbank Church Hall, South Edinburgh, have been signed by the Clerks and entered in the Minute Book.

2018/08/03 2017 Financial Report and Review

Mark Hutcheson, Area Meeting Treasurer, has given us an overview of 2017 Area Meeting accounts which were approved by the Trustees on 17 July 2018 and signed by the Clerk. Area Meeting accepts the audited accounts and they will also be signed by Area Meeting Co Clerks tonight.

Total income for 2017 was £366,095 with total expenditure of £273,951, a surplus of £92,144. Current funds are £1,046,322 (this includes the value of the four properties AM owns) with restricted funds of £117,657, a total of £1,163,979 as at 31 December 2017.

All income has been received for the latest maintenance work (roof and stonework) for 7 Victoria Terrace and we thank John Phillips for his work in successfully applying for funding towards these works. There is no outstanding expenditure for this work.

One legacy of £32,000 was received during this year, part of which has been allocated to Campaign Against the Arms Trade for work in Scotland over two years (Minute 2018/05/14a).

Total funds have increased by 7% in 2017, income rising by 5%. Both Meeting House expenses increased as did their income. We thank staff and volunteers at both Meeting Houses.

Mark answered questions relating to the asset value of our four properties, whether the Trustees had approved the audited accounts and the amount Area Meeting remitted to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM).

We thank Mark for his work on our behalf during 2017 and previous years and are glad to note the improving financial position of our Area Meeting which is nearing the hoped-for reserves.

AM Trustees will submit a report to OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator, covering the activities as well as the finances of the Area Meeting. An illustrative short annual review, as requested in Minute 2017/08/09, has been prepared and circulated. It is entitled *Quaker Activities in Local Meetings in South East Scotland in 2017*. We thank David Somervell for his work on this, which will provide a model for fuller reporting in coming years. He would welcome feedback. We ask David to send this summary of activities to those local meetings not represented here tonight.

2018/08/04 Management of Legacy Money

We note that Area Meeting Trustees minuted last month as follows:

Given the large bequest recently received by AM, we suggest that AM hold a Threshing Meeting in the autumn to consider the whole issue of finance, including the use of the large bequest. (Minute 6.3) and further:

Trustees agree that £350,000 of the legacy should be invested with the Ethical investors Rathbone Greenbank in the immediate future and that the use of the legacy is discussed at the Threshing Meeting in the autumn. (Minute 6.6)

We thank Trustees for their work on this. We are agreed that the large part of legacy money should not be used for the year on year commitments of our Area Meeting but should be set aside for special projects which reflect Quaker testimony and objectives. We need to give time to appropriate discernment regarding such projects and agree to start this process. We ask the Clerking team to undertake the work necessary to ensure proper discernment prior to the Threshing Meeting so that the process of how to come to suggestions and decisions which reflect the leadings of the Spirit may be brought about.

Area Meeting does not think an autumn Threshing Meeting is possible and ask that this be arranged for a Saturday in February.

2018/08/05 Contribution to Britain Yearly Meeting

Trustees are recommending that Area Meeting remit £54,675 to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) as our contribution for 2018. BYM requests £225 per member from Area Meetings; we have 243 members hence this sum. In addition individual Friends and individual Meetings within Area Meeting earmark monies sent to AM to be remitted onwards to BYM or send money directly. (In 2017 Area Meeting sent directly £26,250).

We agree to accept this recommendation.

2018/08/06 Area Meeting Treasurer

Our nominations committee has been unable to identify a Friend able and willing to take on the role of treasurer when Mark Hutcheson finishes his service in September this year. Our trustees have considered options for ensuring that this vitally important work is continued and propose that:

- a) our paid accountant is appointed to increased hours to cover more of the accountancy and bookkeeping work; and

- b) we appoint three Friends to share the treasurer's work between three Friends, one of whom to carry the title treasurer and represent the team as a trustee. Jacqueline Noltingk and John Phillips have agreed to serve as two of this proposed team of three.

We appoint Jacqueline Noltingk and John Phillips accordingly, to serve for two years from 1 October 2018. We refer the work of finding a third team member back to our nominations committee and will appoint one of the three to be named treasurer and represent the team on the Trustee body at our next meeting on 22 September.

We have heard the suggestion that in future it may be worth splitting the accountancy and bookkeeping roles in order to save costs.

2018/08/07 Diversity and inclusion in our Area Meeting

(Minute 2018/06/08 refers)

Further to the discussion at our last meeting, we need to appoint an organising group to take this exploration forward. We wish to consider the full breadth of diversity and inclusion and to find fresh ways of addressing this challenge. A task remit for the group has been drawn up (and is attached to these minutes) and the Meeting Room at 7 Victoria Terrace has been provisionally booked for the afternoon of Saturday 1 December 2018 for an initial conference. We appoint Phil Lucas to convene the group's first meeting(s) and are seeking five or six other Friends with relevant experience to join him.

2018/08/08

a) *Catriona Collins memorial minute*

We have received the following memorial minute from Central Edinburgh Local Meeting:

Further to Minute 2018/05/06 Kerstin Phillips, Hilary Patrick and Alan Sayle have brought a Memorial Minute to Catriona Collins to this meeting.

Catriona Collins (1935 – 2017)

Catriona was born in London: her mother died in childbirth and her father was then killed during the Blitz so that she was in fact brought up by two aunts. After a disrupted education she started teaching primary-aged children in London. But in the sixties she and her two aunts moved to Edinburgh, and Catriona started to work at George Watson's College, eventually becoming principal teacher of remedial education.

Traditionally this area was for children who were thought not to be very bright but Catriona recognised that there were many pupils who were intelligent and articulate but who had difficulties with reading and writing; this started off her research in what was then called 'word blindness'. She wrote "*The philosophy was simple: each pupil was seen as an individual who had the ability to reach his intellectual and educational potential. It was of paramount importance to discern pupils' strengths and build confidence sufficiently to tackle the English language.*"

She spent time in America and gained a PhD with a thesis on dyslexia. It was there that she came in contact with Quakers.

She taught not only in schools but also lectured at Napier University, served on the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Dyslexia, provided professional services to the British Army, and ran specialist courses for teachers on how to work with dyslexic pupils. For some 30 years she volunteered at St Columba's Hospice.

She attended Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting regularly for many years and obviously appreciated Quaker thinking and our way of worship. She was a very private person and did not normally stay for coffee after Meeting.

She had requested a Quaker funeral. As we gathered at Warriston Crematorium we realised that many attending the chapel would have to stand throughout the Meeting for Worship. There was ministry from former pupils who gave moving testimony that her teaching and belief in them had changed their lives, from being regarded as 'dumb' to being able to gain university degrees: she had been their friend. Parents spoke about her generosity when it came to working individually with their sons and daughters. Teachers spoke about how they had changed their way of teaching after attending her courses. Colleagues spoke of their high regard for her and for her friendship.

Above all, the Meeting for Worship was a profoundly moving occasion, testifying powerfully to the grace of God as revealed in the life of our Friend.

We are grateful to receive this minute and to learn about the remarkable life of a friend who has been, in her passing, so generous to our Area Meeting.

b) *Testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Marjorie*

Farquharson

We have received the following draft from the group of Central Edinburgh Friends who prepared Marjorie's memorial minute:

**Testimony to the grace of God
as evidenced in the life of Marjorie Milne Farquharson,
political scientist, 11.8.1953 – 13.5.2016**

'Give God the glory; I'll have none.'

When in 1991 Marjorie Farquharson set up an Amnesty International information office in Moscow, she was the first Westerner working on human rights with a permanent base there. It was particularly important because for years Amnesty had been considered in the USSR to be an 'anti-Soviet organisation' and a 'nest of spies'. Mikhail Gorbachev's dual programme of *perestroika* ('restructuring') and *glasnost* ('openness') had introduced profound changes in economic practice, internal affairs and international relations, which inadvertently set the stage for the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union into 15 individual republics. In this highly unstable political and economic climate, Marjorie was the lynchpin of Amnesty's research on Soviet-era human rights activists, campaigning not only for those well known in the West such as Andrei Sakharov, but also helping to expose the hidden crime of the political abuse of psychiatry. Her quiet passion and work for open democracy and human rights continued in

various ways for the next 25 years. She died aged 62 on 13 May 2016 of pneumonia after a cancer operation.

A couple of years earlier, she had been asked by the editor of the newsletter of Edinburgh Central Quaker Meeting for some ideas for spiritual quotes. Her reply was utterly characteristic:

How about a quotation from William Dewsbury, reckoned 'one of the sweetest and wisest of the early Quakers' who was apprenticed to a clothmaker in his youth but spent much of his life in prison in Warwick... About a week before he died he said: 'If anyone has received any good or benefit through this vessel, called William Dewsbury, give God the glory; I'll have none, I'll have none. I'll have none.' He was in the last blue Christian F & P, but unfortunately didn't make it into the red one...

In the New Testament, the word *grace* comes from the Greek word *charis*, which means favour, blessing, kindness, graciousness and especially the divine influence upon the heart. A related Greek word is *charisma* (gracious gift). Both words originated from another Greek word *chairō* - to rejoice, be glad, delighted. To Marjorie, the signs of divine grace were in peace-building, equality, simplicity and truth. The impact of these gifts, radiating through Marjorie's own life, was to make many people in difficult, unjust circumstances felt supported, regenerated, inspired and strengthened. But Marjorie also knew how much she owed to the divine grace she experienced in the blessings and love of others.

Marjorie was born in Glasgow, but when she was three, her father, Alexander Farquharson, a chartered accountant, changed jobs, and he and his wife, Nellie, and family moved to Lancaster. Marjorie was the youngest child of three.

In 1975, now a student back in Scotland, Marjorie won a British Council scholarship to Russia, and the following year left St Andrews University with prizes and first-class honours in Soviet Political Sciences. After a year in the Quaker United Nations Office in New York, in 1978 she started working for Amnesty, initially in London. This was a time when travel to the Soviet Union was very difficult. Russian intellectuals were smuggling material out to be published by Amnesty. In 1991, most foreigners in Moscow were still living in foreign ghettos, with access to foreign currency shops and good quality food. Marjorie was led instead to live like ordinary Muscovites, in a one-room flat with a small kitchen. In 1992, the inflation rate in Russia soared to over 2,300 %.

One day, she interviewed a medical journalist interested in Amnesty's work against psychiatric abuse. The next day, the woman told her daughter, Irina, that she had met a very nice 'English' woman (she didn't know Marjorie was Scottish), commenting: 'I think she is starving.' Irina began taking round an occasional couple of bananas, a hunk of cheese, maybe a bit of coffee. They became friends, and eventually life-long partners.

The following extract from her *Moscow Diary*, published in 2018 by Matador (Troubador Publishing) gives a glimpse of her *joie de vivre*:

I can't explain why I find my surroundings so absolutely beautiful. I came home in the dark through the glade behind the church. The mixture of snow,

shadows, and shapes in their winter clothing was lovely.

Reading my Izvestiya this morning and listening to music, I suddenly felt immensely happy and at home here.

I cabled to the Quakes. Riding around Moscow in a beat-up car with music on the tape deck is really one of my pleasures in life.

By late 1992, Marjorie was working for the United Nations, based in Geneva but monitoring human rights violations in Bosnia Herzegovina, during both the Bosnian-Croat and the Bosnian-Bosnian civil wars. In 1994, she was back in Moscow directing the TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia) Non Governmental Organisation Support Unit, supporting open democracy by helping the new third sector get on its feet in Russia. Then in 1996, it was on to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for five years advising the Russian Federation and Ukraine on human rights, influencing legislation, establishing a regional ombudsman and helping emerging NGOs to get consultative status to enable them to lobby at Council meetings.

She travelled extensively and alone to remote places with very poor living conditions, at considerable personal risk. It seems her gentle, unassuming and modest demeanour coupled with her wide knowledge enabled people to trust her. She was a very good listener, spoke Russian naturally and well, and never looked like a stuck-up foreign consultant there to teach those Russians democracy.

In 2001, her father's ill-health brought Marjorie and Irina back to Scotland. In Edinburgh, she set up as an independent human rights consultant. Work included reports on statelessness in Central Asia, sexual minorities in Uzbekistan, the death penalty in four ex-Soviet states, child soldiers, and corruption in the defence procurement industries. She also evaluated projects funded by the European Union, and wrote many expert opinions on asylum seekers' applications to live in the UK. Again and again, she was able to be a voice for people in pain and distress who otherwise would have gone unheard.

Her spiritual life was deepened through Tai Chi, music and photography, poetry and even a bee-keeping course. Marjorie also translated some Gogol, Bulgakov and Mandelstam and wrote short stories. One of them, *The Weather Station*, won the 2000 BBC World Service Best Short Story Prize and was broadcast.

For 20 years, unknown to most people, Marjorie lived with multiple sclerosis. Initially, it did not affect her too badly but about 2010 or 2011 balance problems developed. Undeterred, in 2014 she took part in an internal selection process run by her local Scottish National Party branch for potential candidates for the European elections. She cheerfully bought some new clothes as an alternative to her usual jeans, T-shirt and fleece, and enjoyed the democratic process. Although she found the public speaking very demanding physically, afterwards she continued to campaign, making numerous telecanvassing calls for an independent Scotland in Europe and hosting many training sessions for Yes-vote ambassadors.

As a member of the Religious Society of Friends, Marjorie was Area Meeting Clerk for South East Scotland from 2009 to 2013. While she was Deputy Registering Officer for Marriages for the Area Meeting, she oversaw the first religious same-sex marriage in Scotland and then went on to become Registering Officer. She was quietly supportive of new people to the Meeting and those with particular responsibilities. Marjorie also convened the Quaker Festival Committee, an outreach activity by the Society of Friends, running Edinburgh Meeting House as a venue in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival providing arts performances, refreshment, charity fund-raising and quiet space in August.

Marjorie died as she lived, quietly and privately. In her last days, she and Irina read extracts from Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching* and listened to Allegri's *Miserere*, both of which were heard at her Edinburgh Quaker funeral.

We are grateful to the group for preparing this moving testimony, which we accept and forward to General Meeting for Scotland and to Britain Yearly Meeting.

2018/08/09 Visit to Edinburgh of Quaker World Relations Committee

Quaker World Relations Committee meet twice each year in meeting houses around the country and would like to meet in Edinburgh over the weekend of 1-3 March 2019. We will be pleased to welcome them then to Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House and note that they would like to meet with members of our Area Meeting for a meal and to share with us some of the work they are doing. We ask Central Edinburgh LM to appoint a small group to liaise with QWRC to make the necessary hospitality and other arrangements.

2018/08/10 Memorandum of Understanding

We have received a memorandum of understanding from Tweeddale Meeting and encourage local meetings which have not yet produced theirs to do so in the course of this year. Those already produced can be used as models, reducing the work involved.

2018/08/11 Area Meeting Dates and Venues for 2019

The following dates and venues are proposed, subject to consultation with the proposed hosting Meetings, and will be confirmed at our September meeting:

Monday 28 January	7 pm	Edinburgh (7 Victoria Terrace)
Saturday 23 March	all day	Central Fife
Tuesday 14 May	7 pm	7 Victoria Terrace
Saturday 22 June	all day	Kelso
Wednesday 4 September	7 pm	7 Victoria Terrace
Saturday 9 November	all day	Portobello/Musselburgh

2018/08/12 Concluding minute

24 members representing seven Local Meetings, have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 11	Central Fife 1	East Lothian 3	Kelso -	Penicuik 2
Polmont 2	Portobello & Musselburgh 2	South Edinburgh 3	Tweeddale -	

2018/08/13 Date of our next meeting

The date of the next Meeting is scheduled to be Saturday, 22 September 2018 in the Town Hall at Penicuik, at the invitation of Penicuik and Tweeddale Local Quaker Meetings.

(Signed)
Phil Lucas
K. J. Arnot
Alastair Cameron
Clerks

The unity of Christians
never did
or ever will
or can
stand
in uniformity
of thought and opinion
BUT
in Christian love only.

Thomas Story

Quaker Meetings for Worship in South East Scotland

Every Sunday

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

Every Wednesday

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

Penicuik: Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik <i>Children welcome, bring and share lunch</i>	11.00 am
Portobello & Musselburgh: Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello <i>Half an hour – no children's meeting.</i>	7.00 pm

Second Sunday in the Month

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar	11.00 am
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Second and Fourth Sundays in the Month

Portobello & Musselburgh: Fisherrow Community Centre, South St, Musselburgh EH21 6AT. <i>Children welcome. SEE PAGE 3</i>	11.00 am
Tweeddale: Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles <i>All welcome, but please phone to confirm 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389</i>	10.30 am
Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am

Fourth Sunday in the Month

North Edinburgh Meeting: Broughton St Mary's Church, Edinburgh	7.00 pm
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Fifth Sunday in the Month

Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am
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Last Sunday in the Month

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar	11.00 am
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So far as we know, there are no regular meetings for worship on University premises. **Mark Borthwick** is the named Quaker contact on the University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy website, and there is a Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/EUQuakerSoc

Distribution of *Sesame* and *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; if you would prefer to receive it this way, or to change the address to which a paper copy is sent, or if you would like to get one by post and currently do not, please contact **Joanna Swanson** at jmswanson69@gmail.com. A large print version is also available on request. Published by the 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. Printed by Footprint UK, Riverside Works, Edinburgh Road, Jedburgh TD8 6EE.