



June 24

# Scottish Friend



Photograph 1: A sunny morning at St Ninian's Chapel, Isle of Whithorn.

Scottish Friend is distributed by Jane Booth, on behalf of the General Meeting for Scotland.



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Photograph 2: A working water mill, Blair Atholl.

# 1 GM affairs

## 1.1 Calling for General Meeting for Scotland Michael Hutchinson, GM Clerk

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all!

**Our next General Meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, at Glasgow Quaker Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent G2 4PS and online through Zoom.**

The agenda and papers will go out at the end of May.

**After preliminary refreshment from 10:30 am, we will start with open worship at 11.00, break for lunch from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm, and our afternoon session will finish by about 4.00 pm, following which there will be tea.**



PLEASE USE this registration link for November GM, however you attend: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6zkmau>. *Please note that you will receive Zoom log in details even if you have registered to attend face to face– this is a default setting of the registration set up. Registering for the meeting assists in planning for the number of people expecting to come. . We need to know numbers of this attending at the meeting house as there are physical limits to numbers. If you don't receive a receipt email within a short period, please contact our zoom host, Amer Syed using [amer.s.syed@gmail.com](mailto:amer.s.syed@gmail.com), or the clerk.*

**Please do join us! All are welcome. West Scotland AM Friends will be providing refreshments beforehand and afterward, for those coming to the meeting house. They are also likely to serve soup and bread and cheese for lunch – bring anything extra to this that you might need.**

This is an opportunity to meet together with Friends from across Scotland. In a spirit of worship we attend to our church affairs, and matters concerning the spiritual life and witness of Quakers in Scotland.

At this General Meeting, our business will include looking at aspects of the wide variety of our General Meeting responsibilities and activities, and will include several updates or reports. In the morning, we will receive the 2023 Annual Report and Accounts from our Trustees and Zoe Prosser, our Local Development Worker, will work with us on understanding our nominations processes. Why do we use such a process, and how?

In the afternoon we have our nominations committee report and we will return the dates and venues for our meetings in 2025/6, the Meeting for Sufferings report, Ecocide and Racial Justice. We will hear updates on how the establishment of the Scottish Christian Forum, the ecumenical channel for Scotland, is coming on. This month we look at our social witness work, from the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group and others. We will also look at the criteria for signing up to public statements or letters between meetings.

The following General Meeting will be blended again on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September in North Scotland A<sub>j</sub>, venue to be arranged, and online.

Michael Hutchinson, Clerk  
Susan Mitchell, Assistant Clerk.  
General Meeting for Scotland.



Photograph 3: A view of Glen Tilt.

## 1.2 Report of the GM for Scotland in March Robin Waterston, East Scotland AM

From across Scotland, we gathered for a day of listening, learning and discerning. Some travelled to Edinburgh Meeting House in the heart of the old city, others joined from their homes with the assistance of modern technology. We were there for General Meeting for Scotland, whose task is to oversee the work of Quakers in Scotland.

We were capably guided through a full agenda by our Clerk Michael Hutchinson. We received a report from the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group about liaising with MSPs, and about the excellent work of the new Parliamentary Engagement Officer Sarah Komashko. Sarah is employed by BYM and has regular contact with staff in Friends House. Areas of current activity include the climate crisis and its links with health, funding for arms manufacturers, how carbon emissions from the military are assessed, and responding to relevant public consultations. Sarah works closely with ally groups such as Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Christian Aid.

So it felt appropriate to hear in the afternoon from Lucy le Roux of Christian Aid about how they carry out their advocacy and support activities. Lucy works across Scotland to increase understanding of the need for climate justice including links with indebtedness. She described the significance of the Loss and Damage fund set up through the UN. Some of the remedial project work, being done by Christian Aid with its local partners in southern Ethiopia, is funded from a grant from the Scottish Government from its Climate Justice Fund. But the overall amounts from governments are not sufficient, and Christian Aid and Quakers are joining with others to call on polluters to pay for the damage they have done and are still doing. We were encouraged to engage with our elected representatives regarding the next phase of the Scottish Government's climate change plan.

Lucy works closely with Sarah Komashko. She referred to Christian Aid resources that can be shared with us as we make contact in the months ahead with prospective MPs ahead of the forthcoming General Election. In other business we heard a report on the work of General Meeting Trustees, we briefly considered the concern on classifying Ecocide as an international crime, and we were updated on the work of our representatives on interfaith and ecumenical work in Scotland. And we heard from our representative on Meeting for Sufferings.

The Clerk reported that he had signed on our behalf an open letter to party leaders on tax reform, an appeal by church leaders to the UK government re



Photograph 4: St Ninian's cave, Isle of Whithorn.

an immediate ceasefire in Israel/Palestine and an open letter to UN member states to stop fuelling the crisis in Gaza by supplying arms. He also signed an open letter to insurers appealing to them to stop insuring fossil fuel projects, particularly the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. One important topic that was not discussed was the issue of reforming Quaker structures in Scotland with the aim of simplification. Much work and time has been spent deliberating on this over the past few years. To allow time for deeper discernment on the next steps, a special meeting is being called in April with no other business.

We dispersed enriched by our day of shared reflections and with a renewed commitment to Quaker processes, values and witness.

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## 2 Ecumenical Matters

### 2.1 Induction of the Synod Moderator, Lindsey Sanderson, to the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church

Mary Woodward, SE Scotland AM

I was pleased and honoured to be invited to represent Quakers in Scotland at Lindsey's induction service, which was held in St John's Church of Scotland church in Hamilton.

My ecumenical day began with a lively conversation with my fellow ecumeni-



Photograph 5: A view from the top of Schiehallion on a sunny afternoon.

cal officer John Bremner of the URC as he drove us from Falkirk to Hamilton. Once arrived, we met Tessa Henry-Robinson, this year's Moderator to the URC General Assembly [for the whole of the UK], who was to conduct the service. More and more representatives of different denominations and faiths arrived, and it was lovely to greet old friends and start making yet more new ones: this is one of the great joys of being your Ecumenical Officer!

Our opening hymn urged us to hold fast to that which is good. The readings



were about Moses' encounter with God when he went to investigate the burning bush and St Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to offer themselves as living sacrifices, individual members of one body, each with their own special task. The sermon referenced both of these – the call comes, and may be something great or quite small: it is worthless if we don't respond. We can't undertake any size of task in our own strength - we need to surrender our own wills [see Isaac Penington, Qfp 26.70] and be rooted in the Holy Spirit. Lindsey was reminded that God will give her the strength and resources for the task ahead.

Synod clerk Jan Adamson outlined the process by which Lindsey was appointed to the post of Moderator for Scotland, and Lindsey told us of her own faith journey which has led her to this point. She was invited to confirm the various articles of her statement of faith, after which the URC members of the congregation followed suit: finally, all those present who felt able joined in gladly confirming that we would uphold her in this new work.

The service was memorable not simply for what it was doing for Lindsey. By inviting members of various denominations, including the Methodists, the Salvation Army, and the Church of Scotland, to take parts of the service; and by making it clear that everyone present was invited to take part as far as they felt possible, the URC was acknowledging the differences between us without making them divisive.

We were all warmly invited to enjoy an extensive spread of refreshments in the church hall. I was delighted to see yet more friends, including the two URC women with whom I travelled to last year's Synod. Someone who recognised me from that Synod came up to say hallo. I was able to continue a conversation begun before the service with Gillian, a newly-ordained minister of the Church of Scotland. She said she didn't know much about Quakers, so I gave her a short tour of our history and practices. We look forward to resuming our conversation and deepening our friendship when she attends this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for the first time as a Commissioner rather than, as in past years, a volunteer.

And so it goes on. The network of friendships widen with each year, and links are being forged between people who are determined that their differences won't cause divisions. On the way home I continued the conversation about Jesus with John Bremner which we began in one of the coffee breaks at the Scottish Episcopal Synod in, I think, 2018 – as ever, a joy and delight for both of us.

## 2.2 Report from United Reform Church Synod Margaret Munro, West Scotland AM

“ I go to pick up my mother’s ashes at the crematorium and come home with my mother-in-law’s! It could only happen to me! “

There then followed a series of funny stories relating to experiences of dealing with loved ones’ ashes. This was my first experience of interacting with members of the United Reformed Church who were gathering for their National Synod. Next there was an announcement that the heating had broken down and was unlikely to be fixed soon! It could only get better and it did!

Ecumenical guests like myself were given a warm welcome and handshake by the Moderator. The opening time of worship where we sang hymns and had traditional prayers took me back to my younger years when I was a member of the Baptist Church. I felt a brief wistfulness for the certainties around faith that I had felt then but this quickly passed....

Two representatives from the Scottish Fair Trade Forum opened the Friday evening session with a presentation. We were reminded that we can become members of the Fair Trade Association and were encouraged to ask our MSPs to sign the pledge to support Fair Trade. There was discussion re difficulties in decision making when you are faced for example with tomatoes that have been grown locally but in unfriendly environmental conditions, as opposed to those brought from a distance but with the Fair Trade label.

A new development within Fair Trade is a concentration on the UK and Europe, examining for example the use of migrant labour.

There then followed an address on Zoom by Meg Warner, an Australian theological lecturer. This was based on Isaiah 54, verses 1-3, which includes the command “ Enlarge the place of thy tent” We were reminded of the context of this passage which was the sufferings of the people of Israel after they had been exiled but at the same time their hope for the Promised Land. Was there a similarity here with the trauma we all suffered during Covid? Did our isolation feel at times like exile? There has been a significant drop in those attending church. Is there now a possibility of growth against a background of disaster? Is ecumenism the watchword for the new way forward? Isaiah picks up the theme of lamentations from Lamentations and Jeremiah but promises hope of the Eternal Covenant of Peace, when even foreigners will be able to act as priests in the Temple. A shiver ran down our spines when we were reminded of the militarism of these chapters when the need to take back by force if necessary the land that others had taken over during the period of

Exile was spelt out.

At reception I was aware of huge posters relating to Eric Liddell. On enquiring further I discovered that Eric had been a member of the Congregational church in Morningside which later amalgamated with the United Reformed church. This summer is the centenary of his famous run in the Olympic Games in Paris, featured in the film “Chariots of Fire. So at 7.15am on Saturday five of us ran, power walked or simply walked for half an hour in the Tulliallan woods in tribute to his passion,compassion, and integrity.

Otherwise Saturday morning was mostly spent on business matters. Discernment is done differently in the U.R.C. If you agree with the suggested resolution you hold up a green card. If you feel very positive about a matter you show an orange card, while a blue card indicates opposition. A quiet way of showing your reaction, but if you do feel very strongly you use one of the microphones available.



Photograph 6: Queen’s view overlooking Loch Tummel.

One item of business reminded me of the funds that are available through the selling of Scottish Churches House in Dunblane, and the decision that ACTS should be a grant making body to encourage local ecumenical activity. We are encouraged therefore to consider applying for financial support.

We then had a presentation by Jenny Mills, Secretary for Education and Learning. She began with a quote from Mary Oliver

“What do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

—a question which we were given a time of silence in which to ponder our own answer. We were reminded that God’s will for us is to have life more abundant, lived in community, family and friendships.



Photograph 7: A cairn in Ochills.

More questions were put to us on Saturday afternoon. We were asked to choose a workshop on different aspects of growth and I chose “Growing in discipleship, led by Jenny. Again we were challenged on our vocation and calling.

“How have you experienced God’s call on your life and where has it led you?”

“Where have you seen God at work in your life this last week?”

“What am I on the planet for?”

“Where do I fit in?”

“How do I deal with challenges?”

“Which way now?”

Overall, the synod was a warm experience. What has remained with me particularly is the story of Eric Liddell which continues to inspire me even now.

### 3 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group

#### 3.1 Climate and Health – ‘an inescapable link’ Martin Pippard, East Scotland AM



Photograph 8: *Supplied by Martin Pippard.*

These were the words used by Maree Todd, MSP and Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, speaking at the start of an event in the Scottish Parliament on March 13th 2024 that had been organised by members of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group and Medact (a community of health workers standing up for health justice), and chaired by Lesley Morrison from Tweeddale Meeting. The audience of MSPs and other guests then heard a series of brief talks and watched a short film commissioned by the Lancet on the ‘Carbon Cost of Healthcare’. These provided information on just how close the links between the health of the planet and individual physical and mental health are. Questions from the audience drew out the implications this may have for public understanding and acceptance of changes needed to address the climate emergency, changes which may be more palatable or welcomed if seen as benefitting personal health or that of family and friends.

As a retired physician, I spoke about how the burning of fossil fuels e.g. for heating and transport accounts for the majority of air pollution as well as greenhouse gases. Air pollution is estimated to account for over 8 million (12%) deaths worldwide each year – mainly from heart disease, strokes and respiratory disease - comparable to the use of tobacco. The economically disadvantaged in sub-standard housing that may be damp, poorly insulated and in more polluted areas, are disproportionately affected, and broader effects on society and the economy are very considerable.

Pete Richie, executive director of Nourish Scotland, made the point that we can't 'fix food unless we fix the climate'. Climate-friendly diets could prolong life by several years and cut greenhouse gas emissions by a third. The health costs of current diets are now greater than the costs of nitrogen fertilisers put on crops and the fertilisers themselves result in health-damaging air pollution. About a quarter of food is wasted and though ambitious plans to reduce this waste require big investment, this would be returned in household savings.

Bridget Bradley, an anthropologist, spoke of her work exploring the anxieties generated by the climate emergency among families, finding considerable distress from 'eco-anxiety'. She made the point that it is not just the young with threatened futures that are affected, but older family members may be burdened by the lack of progress in responding effectively to the climate crisis over many years.

Isabelle, a secondary school student, spoke of her optimism, with activism in writing and community organising as a way of dealing positively with climate anxieties.

The last point also came through in the film [The Carbon Cost of Healthcare](#) which showed how NHS workers were tackling the carbon cost of health care (globally responsible for 5.2% of total carbon emissions which would be the fifth largest if it was a country) including by careful selection of appropriate drugs and renewable energy generation within hospitals.

I have always liked the aphorism coined by the pioneering nineteenth century pathologist, Rudolf Virchow, which seems very relevant to the health and climate crisis – 'Medicine is a social science and politics is nothing else but medicine on a large scale'. The kind of investment that the Covid pandemic produced is needed to mitigate and adapt to the far greater threat of climate heating. I would like to think that recognition of an opportunity to improve health and economic well-being could help spur adoption of effective treatment of our addiction to fossil fuels. At the very least the interrelationships between climate, health, housing, transport and food production should mean

that the effects of all policies on climate heating are considered and given due weight.

I recently came to the end of a 7 year term on the PEWG and this is an opportunity for a few reflections on that time. The climate and health event arose from contacts within parliament made by Lesley Morrison when she spoke in the ‘Time for Reflection’ slot at the start of the parliamentary week nearly a year ago on ‘Are we being good ancestors?’ (and this was also the crucial question that Lesley used to sum up at the end of the Climate and Health event). It is an example of how building relationships with MSPs and ministers can lead to new opportunities to make Quaker concerns known and the PEWG is fortunate to be working



Photograph 9: Birnham Oak.

with Sarah Komashko, the Parliamentary Engagement Officer, in making the most of such opportunities. I have seen how working with allies that share concerns (for example with Forces Watch on military visits to schools, with Together Scotland on children’s rights, or with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Medact on the climate emergency) has helped to get the concerns heard. I have learnt something of how the Scottish Parliament works and contributed a little to a few of the PEWG responses to the many public consultations that the Scottish Government undertakes. It has been a rewarding experience!

## 4 Climate Matters

### 4.1 The Heart, Mind And Soul of Scotland get together Susan Mitchell, West Scotland AM

On 9 May representatives of the faith community came together with leaders from the scientific community and from civic society in Scotland, to send a clear message to decision makers about the moral and scientific necessity to act on climate. The event to announce the sharing of statements by the three groups was held at the Moderator of the Church of Scotland’s residence at 2 Rothesay Terrace Edinburgh and I was there to represent Quakers in Scotland as we have signed the statement. It was good to be amongst others with a shared sense of purpose.

Susan Mitchell

What follows is the Press Release.



Photograph 10: *Supplied by Susan Mitchell.*

*Scotland’s inability to meet key climate change targets must be a “wake-up” call for all of society and failure to work openly and collaboratively to drive progress will have grave implications for the planet. This is the stark view of*



*a group of religious and civic society leaders and scientists who have taken the unprecedented step to team up and urge people to acknowledge the risks of inaction and devise solutions to tackle the climate crisis.*

*More than 30 individuals have signed statements calling on the Scottish and UK governments to “bridge the widening gap” between promises and practical action to build a fairer, greener, healthier society for all. They said addressing the climate crisis is a “moral necessity” and Scotland must do all it can to play its part because further delay will have dire human and economic costs.*

*The signatories are led by Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Professor Stuart Haszeldine, Co-Director at the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, hosted by the University of Edinburgh, and Mike Robinson Chair of Stop Climate Chaos in Scotland and Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. They said it is “alarming” that the Climate Change Committee recently concluded that Scotland’s 2030 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions are no longer credible.*

*The campaigners warned that climate change “doesn’t stop just because we don’t want to deal with it and this is not the time to step back from our commitments.” But they said action can no longer be taken for granted as both the UK and Scottish Governments have been found to be making insufficient progress to tackle the biggest threat facing humanity.*

*Mrs Foster-Fulton said: “Climate change is here and our shared planet is in the middle of a climate catastrophe and we all have to play our part because the time for delay has passed. “Five years ago, the Scottish Government set strong climate targets but we have gone back to a business as usual model. “Today, we call on each other to reset, to refocus and rethink to find ways to meet strong targets for our own sakes, and for those around the world who have done the least to cause climate change.”*

*Professor Haszeldine said the people of Scotland care deeply about the planet. “We believe that, whoever is in charge, they must prioritise action to tackle climate change, both here and abroad,” he added. “Climate change is not optional, so the sooner we act the better; and the longer we wait, or delay, the more it will cost in both human and economic terms.”*

*Mike Robinson said, “We need political leadership and a commitment to action to reduce emissions and help other countries to deal with climate impacts, whilst at the same time securing sustainable jobs, improving health and wellbeing, reducing inequality and delivering the necessary transition. “Throughout 2019, the year of the school climate strikes, when the Scottish Parliament*

*unanimously set its 2045 targets, and called for a target of at least 75% by 2030, there was a positive mood amongst most people in society, a recognition of our collective responsibility to do better, and a determination to step up. “Governments declared climate emergencies, businesses set net zero targets and people demanded better. “But over the past few years, this energy and focus has slipped, targets have been missed and now face being removed.”*

*The signatories said politicians of every creed, businesses in every sector, public servants, communities and civic leaders in every part of Scotland need to come together to solve the crisis. They “must see beyond their differences” and work openly and collaboratively to drive progress before it is too late. Mike Robinson said, “We have an opportunity to get back on track, but we all need to step up. “In working together and addressing the climate emergency with the urgency it demands, we can build solutions that work for everyone. “But it will need all of us to recapture the determination we had only five years ago. “And we need every one of our leaders to step up and act on climate.” #StepUpAndAct*



Photograph 11: *Supplied by Susan Mitchell.*

## 4.2 Religious Leaders’ Statement on Action to tackle Climate Change in Scotland

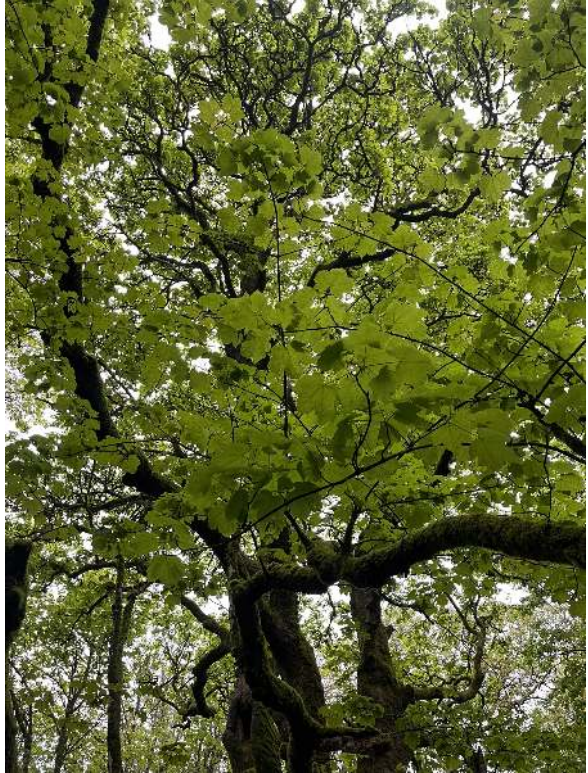
We believe that addressing the climate crisis is a moral necessity, and Scotland must do all it can to play its part.

We are alarmed by the conclusion of the Climate Change Committee, which recently described Scotland’s 2030 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as “no longer credible”.

This must be a wake-up call to us all. If we collectively fail to act there will be grave implications for the planet - our common home - and for our sisters and brothers across the world who have contributed the least to this crisis and who are already bearing its worst effects.

We are calling for unity from all political parties, from business leaders, communities and everyone in society to recognise the risks of inaction. We must regather and redouble our efforts and seek ways to work together to deliver the action we all know we need to see.

It is our shared belief and hope that action is possible, and that together we may yet still limit global heating to what science informs us is necessary and possible. We stand united in our wish to protect the dignity of human life



Photograph 12: Sycamore tree on the bank of river Tay, Birnham.

and creation. We urge all citizens to remain hopeful, and for those with influence and power to be bold. The road is not easy but our collective energy and prayers will be with all those working for a successful outcome. We commit to work together to encourage our own faith communities to participate through prayer and action to live more sustainably and to use our voices to call for action from those in positions of authority.

- Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
- Colonel Sylvia Hinton, Salvation Army Secretary for Scotland
- Michael Hutchinson, Clerk, Quakers in Scotland
- Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Advisor Sikhs in Scotland, Sikh Representative, Scottish Religious Leaders Forum
- Archbishop William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow, The Catholic Church
- Lama Yeshe Losal Rinpoche, Abbot of Kagyu Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre
- Rabbi David Rose, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
- Revd. Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator, National Synod of Scotland, The United Reformed Church.
- Dr Maureen Sier, Director, Interfaith Scotland.
- Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church.
- Lindsay Taylor, Muslim Council of Scotland.
- Dr Srihari Vallabhajousula, Hindu temple of Scotland.
- Ameer Versace, Director of Resilient Earth, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society.

### **Faith & Science - Science Climate Action Statement**

The science of climate change forced by fossil fuel use has been known since the mid 1800's. Linked to climate since the 1930's, measured since the 1950's and computer modelled since the 1970's. All these say the same thing – **climate is in trouble and humans are the cause.**

Climate heating effects can be seen everywhere no models are needed - in

oceans, atmosphere, glaciers, rainfall and heatwaves and fires. **We know** climate changes are happening as predicted, but **faster** than predicted we know that humans can't change the weather, but humans have changed climate.

Hundreds of global conferences have been held, and thousands of scientific



Photograph 13: Path to Ben Y Vrackie, near Pitlochry.

articles written. Have all these failed? **No, the science is clear.** Governments do too little.

The UK and Scotland have taken action, with legally binding Climate Plans. Emissions of greenhouse gases have halved since 1990 – a great success, and have shown that economic growth can continue at the same time as climate action.

All this is increasingly difficult. It reaches across all aspects of our lives, and into our homes. It will cost money –from individuals and the country. And change behaviour.

And climate action cannot be taken for granted. The UK government has been successfully prosecuted in 2022, and on 3 may 2024 for the second time in the High Court for insufficient action on climate. In April 2024 the Scottish Government conceded that is also had made insufficient progress.

**There is a large and widening gap between promises and practical action.**

There are easier votes to gain than climate action.  
This is a journey of many decades.  
A primary duty of Government is to protect its citizens.



Photograph 14: *Hamish* sun bathing on a sunny afternoon, near Old Bridge of Tilt.

**Today Scottish citizens can act with Government business and society to bridge that gap between talking and doing.**

- Prof Stuart Haszeldine Co-Director, Edinburgh Climate Change Institute
- Prof Sarah Skerratt RSE Chief Executive
- Prof Dame Anne Glover, President RSGS
- Prof Peter Nienow, Edinburgh University Glaciology
- Dr Leslie Mabon, Open University lecturer in Environmental Systems
- Prof Mark Sutton, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
- Prof Kate Symons Edinburgh University
- Dr Glen Counquer, Edinburgh University
- Dr Jennifer Roberts, Strathclyde University
- Prof Jo Sharp, St Andrews University

## Scottish Civil Society Climate Action Statement

Scottish civil society is united in our determination to see more action to tackle the climate and nature crises and build a fairer, greener, healthier society for everyone. People in Scotland care deeply about the need for change and climate justice, and we believe that all those with the power to act must now prioritise action to tackle and respond to climate change, both here and internationally. Doing so isn't optional, and the sooner we act the better and more affordable it will be; the longer we wait, or delay, the more it will cost in both human and economic terms.

We need sustained and deep political leadership in and from Scotland, with a commitment to action to reduce emissions at speed and to helping other countries to deal with the climate impacts that we have and continue to fuel. We must deliver the urgent transition needed whilst doing so fairly, securing sustainable jobs, improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

Throughout 2019, the year of the school climate strikes, when our Scottish Parliament unanimously set its legal 2045 target to achieve net zero, with an interim target of reducing emissions by at least 75% by 2030, there was a determination amongst most people in society, a recognition of our collective responsibility to do better, and a commitment to step up. Governments, including in Scotland, declared climate emergencies. Businesses set net zero targets. People demanded change. But over the past few years, this energy and focus has slipped, targets have been missed and now face being removed. But climate change doesn't stop just because we don't want to deal with it or other issues demand our simultaneous attention. This is not the time to step back or be distracted from our climate commitments.

It's time to regain that collective focus. Politicians of every creed, businesses in every sector, public servants, communities, and civic leaders in every part of Scotland, need to come together to solve this crisis. We need to see beyond our differences and to work openly and collaboratively together to deliver the accelerated investment we all need to drive faster progress.

We have an opportunity to get back on track, but we all need to step up. This is the moment to reset, reenergise and redouble our efforts. In working together and addressing the climate emergency with the urgency it demands, we can build solutions that work for everyone. But it will need all of us to recapture the determination we had only five years ago. And we need every one of our leaders to step up and act on climate.

*On behalf of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland - a diverse coalition of over 70 civil society organisations campaigning together on climate change in Scotland.*

- Ellie Kirkland Young Geographer/Climate Activist
- Dylan Hamilton Climate Activist
- Mike Robinson Chair SCCS/CEO RSGS
- Jamie Livingstone Head of Oxfam Scotland
- Laura Young, Climate activist and Young Influencer of the year 2024
- Colin lee, Chief Executive CEMVO
- Lang Banks, Director WWF Scotland
- Peter Kelly Director Policy Alliance
- Claire Larkin Parents for Futre Scotland



Photograph 15: Glasserton Church, near Whithorn.

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## 5 Community Matters

### 5.1 Our Late Friend, Iain Haig Oughtred Alastair McIntosh, West Scotland AM

A testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of *Iain Haig Oughtred*, born in Melbourne, Australia, 15 September 1939, who died in his adopted home the Isle of Skye, Scotland, on 21 February 2024 at the age of 84.

Gathered together online on 28th March (or 29th for those of his family in some international time zones), we comprised members of his family, his fellow Quaker friends of North Scotland Area Meeting and beyond, those who are part of the boatbuilding and sailing fraternities and of communities of music and the many arts. We assembled in shared presence “after the manner of Friends” (i.e. Quakers) to remember Iain’s life.

We listened to testimony on behalf of the family from one of Iain’s brothers, Rick Outhred. (Oughtred had been Iain’s variation of the family name). Rick’s time zone meant him sharing at 4 a.m. on Good Friday morning from Brisbane, Australia. He told of the passion that both he and his brother David have for sailing, and how Iain augmented this with passion for music and nature. He spoke of Iain’s love of his mother, Jeannie Henderson, who had been a lass of Scottish provenance. In recent years, Iain and his sister Liz (or Elizabeth) had been working to recover their father Douglas’ war service records in the Mosquito Squadron that was seconded to the RAF during World War II. In this, Douglas was a fast bomber navigator. Wounded, and affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from the horrors that he had witnessed in the war, he returned to Australia somewhat traumatised. This sat uneasily with his trying to be a good father. Rick shared the family’s joy on seeing all the love and support that Iain received from the wooden boat fraternity in the UK and from his local Quaker friends.

We heard testimony from those gathered with us. There was the story of Iain building a boat inside Jane and Roger Kelly’s living room, and having to take the window out to ease it out. This was not the only such deconstruction. When he was young, he had built a boat under the house, and his father Douglas was none too pleased when a wall had to be knocked out to get it out. We heard from seafaring groups including from Govan in Glasgow and Portree in the Isle of Skye; the way that Iain helped them to design and build their boats, making poetry of woodwork and leaving a sense of enduring gratitude, for Iain was an artist of wood, wind, water.

We heard from those with whom he had designed boats, for “there was only

one person” they could go to for the St Ayles Skiff: a self-build design which has opened up boat building and rowing to communities across Scotland, and now, across the world. The beauty and functionality of these vessels has brought people together in local communities who would not otherwise have known each other. Iain’s biographer, Nic Compton, said that of the many books that he has written on boats, this was the only one so much about the person; for Iain was such a very lovely man.

He was, we heard in ample testimony, a man of gentleness, of sincerity and of pronounced humility. As a Quaker, he was like a boat upon the ocean, for he enjoyed being among people but was an entity unto himself. He lived a very simple life. When working with him on a project, you could feel like you were the only person, and the only boat, that really mattered during the time when you were with him. Witness to what his boats mean to people was borne in a reading, from the Isle of Skye, of Morag Henrikson’s poem, *Launching the Skiff*. It is appended hereto, noting especially its line: “a home-made gift for the community.”

Iain also loved aircraft, and used to build model airplanes. In short, his work, like his love of porridge, was of the greatest delicacy: yet if push came to shove, he was capable of coming out with a line like, “When all else fails, use bloody big nails!”

What a legacy his life has left!

### **LAUNCHING THE SKIFF**

*Sleek black shape  
beached on the high-water mark,  
clothed in black plastic,  
mystic, wonderful.  
Is it a porpoise,  
a torpedo  
or a whale?*

*Eager hands rip the wrappings.  
Eager eyes and cameras watch.  
It’s Christmas for us all;  
a home-made gift for the community.  
”It’s your boat now”.*

*And there she is,  
revealed,  
pristine, beautiful and bright.*



Photograph 16: Iain Oughtred *Supplied by Alastair McIntosh.*

*Fix the tiller.  
Ship the long oars.  
Let her feel the water.*

*Willing hands in wellies  
slide her to the sea.  
She's our boat now.  
There's satisfaction on the waterfront  
at a good job done.*

*Strike up the music.  
Pass round the food. The  
spirit of An Tuireann still  
carries on in ATLAS.*

The poem, by Morag Henriksen, was given to Iain as a gift at the request of Rosie Somerville on the occasion of his last birthday, a week or so after the launch of the Portree St Ayles Skiff. An Tuireann was a gallery and cafe space in Portree.

A recording of the memorial gathering can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/oughtred-memorial> (family photos, 24 mins in).

## 5.2 Thank you! John Wigham Trust Kate Arnot, South East Scotland AM

### A Group Visit

Friends of Elderpark (FOEP) visited Ben More Gardens in May 2022. This group was working to restore Mrs Elder's Rose Garden in Govan and the trip was a way to show appreciation to the volunteers. A wonderful trip. It enabled those on the trip to enjoy getting out of town and away from some of the difficulties of life for the day.

Some quotes

- A: *This is the first time I've been out on an outing outside Glasgow with my kids since they were born (the oldest is 11). This is the first time I've been on a ferry. The gardens are amazing.*
- L: *This has been a transformative and empowering day.*
- 11 Year old: *It was amazing to see the water. I loved the ferry, Benmore park, the amazing view and the amazing trees. Loads of trees.*
- 5 year old: *I loved the pizza.*
- C: *This day is a gift from God.*



Photograph 17: Overlooking River Garry, Killikrankie.

## A Family Weekend Away

We had Blackpool booked to see lights (illuminations). Unfortunately, due to my youngest daughter, taken ill into hospital with a kidney infection, we lost our deposit. So instead the week after we had an amazing 3 night caravan break to Whitley Bay. My children and I had a fantastic time bowling, eating out, beach walks, visiting arcades which they were super excited. We played family bingo and the caravan was lovely! A fantastic weekend. Thank you very much.

## A new computer

I was grateful to receive a grant from the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust to buy a new laptop. My new HP laptop arrived almost three weeks ago and I am gradually getting to know it. There have been quite a few hiccups along the way but the difference between it and my old one is quite amazing to me. Everything is much quicker to respond. I can truly say that I am enjoying using it and getting to know it. It had much such a difference that using my laptop is no longer a chore but an enjoyable experience. . . .Such mundane tasks as checking and answering e mails can be done so much more speedily.

I first read about the Trust's work some 20 years ago... and thought it such a lovely way to help people whose financial situation means they do not have the money to spend on something like a new laptop.

*All meetings have paper copies of the application for a grant from the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust; a digital copy is available on request. Please contact Joanne Power for any queries concerning possible applications or to request a digital form. E mail: [power.joanne@virginmedia.com](mailto:power.joanne@virginmedia.com) or tel 07787782021*

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### 5.3 Dundee Meeting Reaches Out Pamala McDougal, East Scotland AM

he headline of the Dundee Courier boldly stated: " City Quakers still keep the Faith after 400 years". Dundee Friends decided to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of George Fox by sharing what it is like to be a Quaker in Dundee today. Pastoral Friends organised a feature in the local newspaper to outline some Quaker history, and Friends shared how they discovered Quakers and how the Testaments inspired and guided their everyday lives and described our beliefs and way of worship.

They spoke wryly and with some humour of the assumptions that some have about Quakers such as ' They all wear grey and are like the Amish' or ' They have all died out '. Some enjoyed dispelling these myths!

Dundee Quakers, like most other Quakers, tend to work in 'Quiet Circles' but sometimes it seems right to let our Light shine. This piece of community outreach turned into an enjoyable, deep sense of Inreach as we reflected on our Quaker lives together as a community, reviewed our Quaker history, and expressed gratitude for the joy of our Quaker meeting and hopes for the future.

It was also an opportunity to showcase our newly refurbished Meeting House, highlighting the opportunities for individuals and groups to rent rooms in a central location with modern amenities, including accessibility and a lift.

We hope, along with the publicity, we opened a window on 'letting our lives speak.'





Photograph 18: Path along River Tay, Dunkeld.



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