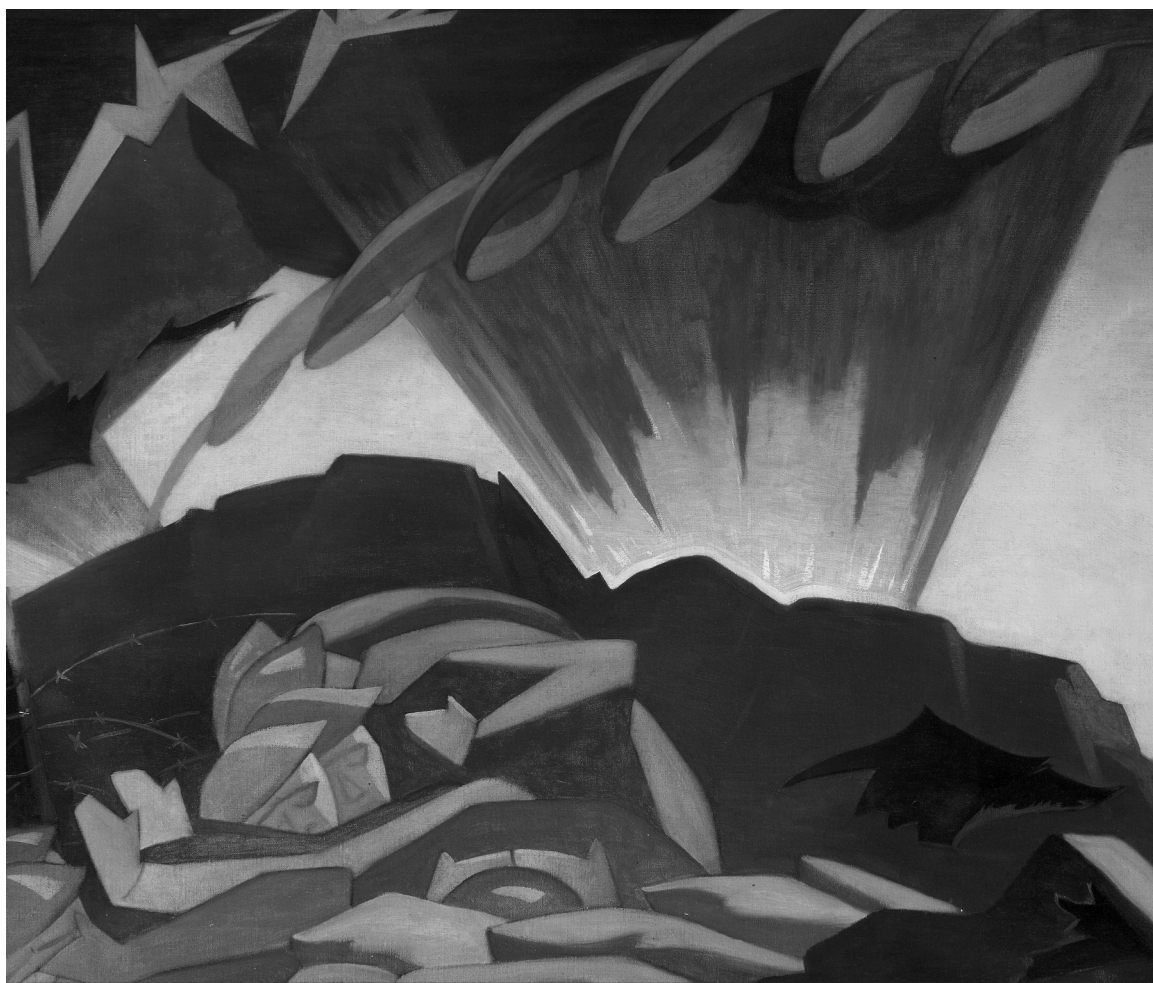


SESAME

Number 220: November 2018

Area Meeting at Polmont / Shindig/ Sufferings: *July & October* / War Art with a difference/ Library Acquisitions /Sustainability at Swanwick / Falkirk's Peace Pole / Wiston / AM September Minutes / and *Pictures!*



'Shellburst' by Eric Robertson, c. 1919. Robertson studied at Edinburgh College of Art where he was considered one of the most brilliant students of his generation. A conscientious objector, he was granted exemption from military service in 1916 provided he joined the Friends Ambulance Unit. 'Shellburst' was completed shortly after he was demobilised and reflects his experience in north-eastern France.

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 15 January 2019**. 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

Area Meeting on Saturday 24 November will take place at Greenpark Community Centre, Polmont FK2 0PZ, and the programme will start at 10.30 am with refreshments.

Following a short period of all-age worship, there will be the chance to visit the Falkirk Peace Pole in Helix Park, an initiative of Polmont Quakers which was formally inaugurated last month. [See page 13 – *there is more at <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/news/polmont-quakers-say-give-peace-a-chance-1-4810416>*.] This is about 10 minutes' drive from the venue: car sharing will be requested, and clear directions will be available before we set off. This is weather-dependent; and there will be an activity at the centre for those who choose not to make the trip.

Our business will include a presentation from the Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture, in response to our discussion at AM in September on UK involvement in the rendition of prisoners. We are grateful to Q-CAT for responding so quickly to this. We will also be hearing from the Festival Committee about activities at Venue 40 (7 Victoria Terrace) during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

There will be a full programme for children and young people. Our Polmont hosts will provide soup (meat-free, gluten-free) and bread and cheese for lunch along with the usual teas & coffees on opening and closing. Please bring additional cakes or other food of your choice, with ingredients clearly marked for sharing. We expect to finish with tea and cakes around 4.30 pm.

Alastair Cameron
Clerk, South East Scotland Area Meeting

DRAFT AGENDA FOR BUSINESS

1. Worship and introductions
2. Minutes of the meeting of Saturday 22 September at Penicuik
3. Matters arising from the minutes
 - 3.1. Diversity & Inclusion Group (2018/09/03c)
 - 3.2. Enquirers' day 2019 (2018/09/09c)
4. UK complicity in torture – *Michael Hutchinson and Jane Laxton from the Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture will lead this item*
5. Report from Festival Committee on Venue 40, August 2018
6. Memorial minute, Marianne Ferguson-Rice
7. Cash for prisoners

8. Membership matters
9. Nominations
10. Conferences & events
11. Guidelines for bursary support
12. Correspondence
13. What we did today / closing minute

Access: the building is single storey and step-free. There is no hearing loop.

Travel: The FirstBus service 38 is a half-hourly service and takes about one hour and 20 minutes from Edinburgh, starting at Regent Road and going along Princes Street; it stops outside the Greenpark Centre. **Trains** on the Glasgow line from Waverley and Haymarket stop at Polmont; the journey time is slightly under half an hour. Polmont Station is just under a mile from the centre. There is good car and cycle parking at the centre.

Summer Shindig 2018 – *another view*

In our last issue, Oliver, one of the older participants at Shindig 2018, gave an account of his experience of it; here one of the younger ones – Iola is 12 – shares her impressions of what was already her second time at Shindig.

Thank you, Area Meeting, for helping me get to Shindig. This is a little bit of what Shindig is like and means to me.

Shindig is like another family. Everyone is kind to everyone and we have loads of great groups to help us make friends. I have made more than ten friends in the first two years – one of them is one of my best friends.

There are so many great things about Shindig that I can't pick a favourite, but something I think everyone loves are the secret friends. We love giving and getting things, but the best part for me is not knowing who is giving all the lovely things to me until the end. I really liked how we got to share our name and what we liked for our secret friends my first year, and was disappointed when we didn't do that this year because it made it really hard to give our secret friend something they liked. I hope we do that next year. I also really like going to Light Water Valley because I don't usually go to that sort of thing. I like how we get a choice in case we get bored of it, though not until we are 13 or 14, and I am really looking forward to going into York for the first time.

I really enjoy groups, like discussion group, family group and our choice of activity group. Especially the activity groups. There are so many it's hard to choose. I've only ever been in the arts & craft group, but I'm sure that all groups are great. Epilogue is great. The types of Epilogue I like include: when we are going outside, being in our smaller groups, and when we listen to a story sort of thing, imagining we are in it. I especially like having the extra 15 minutes if you want and the lights make it really nice. During meeting for worship, I really like how there are fiddle toys for if you find it hard to focus – that's really useful.

Lastly, I love a-worth: a show time we have every night where participants do a contribution like a dance or poem or play instruments. I think that's as good as secret friends because we all get a chance to perform any way we like.

Iola Wallace

Meeting for Sufferings: 7 July and 6 October 2018

All the papers for the meetings are available online at

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/mfs-july-2018-agenda--papers-package>

and

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/mfs-october-2018-calling-letter-agenda--papers-package2>

The minutes and other follow-up material are available from

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/mfs-july-2018-follow-up-package>

and

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/mfs-october-2018-follow-up-package>

7 July

This was the first meeting of a new triennium, with lots of new appointees – somewhere between a third and a half, I would guess. As a result, not much actual business was done.

One fact mentioned almost in passing which was a surprise to me, at least: Britain Yearly Meeting has 179 paid employees at the last count.

In an otherwise business-as-usual report from BYM Trustees, the process of strategic planning I reported on from the April meeting has continued, and its goal has been distilled to a remarkable one-liner:

“a vision of a simple church supported by a simple charity

to reinvigorate Quakerism”

BYM is now THREE things:

- 1) a body of members, organised into Local, Area, (General) and Yearly Meetings (a church);
- 2) a registered charity; and
- 3) an event.

There is a “Quaker Youth Worker” pilot project just launched in Bristol and Sheffield ...

Revising our Book of Discipline

Meeting for Sufferings has asked Central Nominations Committee to bring forward names to serve on a Book of Discipline Revision Committee.

It's too late to put your name forward for consideration to serve on this, but you *can* submit material for consideration, *via*

<https://forms.quaker.org.uk/qfp-idea/>

AM Trustees asked to report on sustainability

Minute 17 records our agreement that Area Meeting trustees be encouraged to report on sustainability actions in their annual report.

Guidelines for this have been prepared by Quaker Stewardship Committee and members of BYM Sustainability Group have indicated they would be happy to supply help and support on request.

6 October

Sufferings' place in the governance of the Society

Exactly what does Meeting for Sufferings *do* ?

At what level do we exercise “the general care of matters affecting Britain Yearly Meeting and, in the intervals between Yearly Meetings, the making of decisions and the issuing of statements in the name of Britain Yearly Meeting” (Q.F. & P. 7.02)

That view *predates* the creation of BYM Trustees:

“The law may assume that authority for determining action passes to the trustees and the meeting may choose to do this. However, under Gospel Order, the ultimate authority will still lie with the gathered meeting.”

Yearly Meeting, 2005 (Q.F. & P. 15.03)

Is it only “discernment in the religious sense” which comes to Sufferings?

Trustees *are* individually and as a group legally obliged to see that all our work conforms to our “charitable object”: “furtherance of the religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends”. (Q.F. & P. 15.13)

There are four “aspects of the charitable object” (*i.e.* the “charitable purposes”), listed in 8.03 of Q.F. & P.: <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/8-03/>

Trustees' report

Trustees have been working on simplifying and removing some restrictions on the process of launching and managing legacy-funded projects.

Three strategic priorities, to bridge the planning gap between *Our Faith in the Future* and the Operational Plan, have been identified: “thriving Quaker communities; a sustainable peaceful world; and simple structure and practice”.

Diversity

We (BYM) now have a Inclusion and Diversity Co-ordinator – her name is Edwina Peart.

Responses to the request for input from Area Meetings:

- * Meetings are doing well with regard to their diversity in respect of *age* (but see immediately below), *gender* and *sexual orientation*; HOWEVER
- * Not so well on *race*, *class* and *<18 ages*.

What questions are good to ask a newcomer after meeting?

- * Don't ask questions, say a little about yourself, and then leave some space...
- * Asking questions often unintentionally reveals mistaken assumptions which can lead to awkward silences...

BYM investments and occupied Palestine

We do not currently have any investments in any companies known to be “profiting from the occupation of Palestine”.

Trustees have asked MfS to advise on whether we should explicitly make divestment a policy.

There is an excellent review of the background to this in the papers.

While recognising the difficulties in identifying such companies, Meeting for Sufferings advised Trustees to go ahead and “exclude from its investments companies profiting from the occupation of Palestine, and to amend the BYM Investment Policy accordingly.”

Sustainability

After the decision *not* to lay down the Sustainability Working Group (see my notes from 7 April 2018 [*in Sesame 216*], a plan of action on supporting Sustainability in BYM has come back to MfS.

Short summary: It's complicated :-(

Longer summary: see the minutes linked above

Young Adult Friends

MfS have agreed an experiment to appoint 4 YAFs to MfS for the remainder of this triennium. Interested YAFs should contact the Engaging Young Adult Quakers project Steering Group:

Haifa Rashed (Co-clerk)

Kellie Turner (Co-clerk)

Naomi Major (Secretary to EYAF SG)

youngadults@quaker.org.uk

Henry S. Thompson,
South East Scotland AM representative

Painters for Peace

Conflicting Views: Pacifist Artists by Gill Clarke (published earlier this year by Sansom and Company: 128 pp., ISBN 978-1911408314) examines the experience of conscientious objectors and pacifist artists in the First and Second World Wars.

This is a handsome book, published to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and to accompany an exhibition – just finished – at the Otter Gallery, Chichester. It's well illustrated with the work of Quaker artists including Arthur Cotterell, Donald Wood and Ernest Procter, and of others who refused to fight on grounds of conscience such as William McCance and Eric Robertson – who served with Cotterell in the Friends Ambulance Unit, and whose painting, 'Shellburst', is on the cover of the book [*and of this issue of Sesame*].

The book is split into two parts with a short introduction to each giving an overview of the impact of conscription in the First and Second World Wars. It dips into the lives and work of just under 50 individual artists, drawing on their letters and diaries as well as official records to consider the very different ways in which they responded to war.

The images themselves are striking and there are plenty of them. Unlike 'Shellburst', many of the artworks reproduced here record aspects of life behind the lines in France and Flanders, or civilian life in Britain. Some of the quieter images are especially powerful: Gordon Scott's portraits of fellow conscientious objectors at Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain; Kenneth Rowntree's haunting watercolour, 'Railway Carriage – Bla kout'.

Some of the artworks that appeared in the exhibition and are reproduced in the book were borrowed from the Library at Friends House. On the library's blog at <https://quakerstrongrooms.org/> you can read about the loan, and see more images. The book itself is available on loan from City of Edinburgh Council Libraries.

Joanna Swanson

'A Remarkable Adventure'

James Dickenson (1659-1741) travelled widely as a Quaker missionary in Europe and America from 1680 onwards. This account of an event which is alluded to cryptically in his own Journal of 1694 comes from Annals of the Early Friends by Frances Anne Budge, and is based on a manuscript in which the story was "Related by themselves [i.e. Dickenson and Jane Fearon] to Sarah Taylor, when each of them was about eighty years of age, and she was about eighteen, one assisting the other in recalling the particulars as they related them." Sarah Taylor's manuscript was taken to America, and published as a pamphlet in Dover, New Hampshire, in 1794.

During one of James Dickenson's Scottish missions he met with a remarkable adventure. He was travelling with another Friend named Jane Fearon (the wife of his friend Peter Fearon), when on a very rough and rainy day, as evening drew on, he observed a lonely roadside public-house, where, as they were wet and weary, they thought it would be best to spend the night. Their Gaelic guide, as well as his imperfect English would allow him, tried to dissuade them from doing this, and when he found that he could not induce them to go on to another halting-place, refused to remain with them. They had a civil and attentive reception from the people of the house, but notwithstanding this the minds of the travellers were soon disturbed by terrible fears, which they did not at once communicate to each other. Jane Fearon's courage still further failed her when she heard one of the men say, "They have good horses and bags," and another reply, "Aye, and good clothes!" As soon as James Dickenson and herself were alone together, she burst into tears, and exclaimed: "I fear these people have a design to take our lives." James Dickenson, who was walking up and down the room, whilst his heart, we may feel sure, was uplifted to God, did not at once answer her. When he spoke, he said, "They have mischief in their hearts, but I hope the Lord will preserve our lives." He tried to cheer her by other remarks: then, after being again silent for a time, he once more expressed his hope that God would deliver them, adding, "But if so, we must run." "Alas!" was Jane Fearon's disconsolate reply, "how can we run, or whither can we go?"

James Dickenson took a careful survey of the room, with a candle in his hand, and found a second door, on opening which he saw a flight of stone back-stairs on the outside of the house. Leaving the candle burning in the room, after taking off their shoes, they noiselessly descended the steps, and then ran until, at a considerable distance from the public-house, they reached an outbuilding, which they entered. But soon James Dickenson said, "We are not safe here; we must run again." Jane Fearon answered that she was so weary that she did not think she could go any farther. However, as her friend thought it essential that they should quit this spot, they did so, hastening on until they came to a river, which they soon discovered was crossed by a bridge; they were about to go over it when James Dickenson felt this would not be the right course for them to pursue, and that it would be safer to go farther up the bank. Then they sat down to rest, but soon James Dickenson said, "We are not safe here; we must wade through the river." "Alas!" replied his companion, "how can we cross it, and know not its depth? It will be better for them to take our lives than for us to drown ourselves." The swollen river was safely passed over, and soon after this had been accomplished, while the fugitives were seated on a sandbank, James Dickenson remarked that he did not yet feel easy, and believed they ought to go farther on. "Well, I must go by thy faith," was Jane Fearon's answer.

Before long they saw another sandbank containing a cavity, and soon Dickenson said, "I am now easy, and believe that we are perfectly safe, and feel in my heart a song of thanksgiving and praise." But his companion's faith was far from being as strong; and when they heard voices on the other side of the river – fearing that her terror might cause her to make an outcry – he gently said, "Our lives depend upon our silence." It was plain that the voices were those of their pursuers, for the words, "Seek them, Keeper," were frequently heard. Apparently the dog had led them as far as the bridge – but *not* over it – as he naturally followed the scent of the footsteps along the river side until he lost it at the spot where the travellers had crossed. They now saw the people, who carried a lantern, and heard one of them suggest that they had crossed the river, to which another made answer, "That's impossible unless the devil took them over, for the river is brimful." For some time they continued their search and then left the place.

In the light of the early morning the Friends noticed a man on a high hill looking around in every direction, who, they imagined, was endeavouring to discover their hiding-place. On examination they found that the position of the hollow in which they had taken refuge was such as to prevent them from being observed from the opposite side of the river; whilst the sandbank on which they had first sat down could be plainly seen and would have been a most unsafe retreat. They now began to think of their horses and saddlebags, and Jane Fearon proposed that they should go on to a town and make known their case. But James Dickenson reminded her that they could give no positive proof of the guilty intentions of the inhabitants of the public-house, and moreover, that such a course might give the magistrates an excuse for imprisoning the accusers instead of the accused. "I incline," he added, "to return to the house, fully believing our clothes and bags will be ready for us without our being asked a question, and that the people we saw last night we shall see no more."

Jane Fearon, not sharing her fellow-traveller's faith (which was, it seems, marvellously manifested at this juncture), said that she dare not go back, but consented to do so when James Dickenson added, "Thou mayst safely, for I have seen *that which never failed me*." Doubtless he felt perfect confidence in following the "still" and "small" though well-known voice of the Heavenly Shepherd – the gentlest whispers of which, long-continued listening and constant obedience had caused him easily to recognise. On arriving at the inn, they found their clothes ready for them, and the horses in the stable with the saddle-bags on them, but the only person visible was an old woman sitting by the fire whom they did not recollect seeing on the previous night; having paid her what they owed they continued their journey.

When James Dickenson afterwards visited that neighbourhood, he learned that, some suspicion having been awakened respecting this house, a search had been made, which resulted in the discovery of a large quantity of

wearing apparel and a great number of human bones! The house was pulled down and some of its inhabitants were executed.

AM Library – New Acquisitions

The Area Meeting Library at 7 Victoria Terrace has recently acquired copies of the following:

Pendle Hill Pamphlets

‘Art as Soul’s Sanctuary : Mediations on Arts and Spirituality among Quakers and Beyond.’ Jennifer Elam. (PHP 452)

‘A Practical Mysticism: How Quaker Process Opens Us to the Promptings of the Divine.’ Elizabeth Meyer. (PHP 453)

Books

Paula Tarnapol Whitacre—*A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur’s Struggle for Purpose* (2017)

(A biography of Julia Wilbur (1815-95), Quaker abolitionist, suffragist and nurse, who in her late 40s during the American Civil War kept a diary of her work in Alexandria, Virginia, with hospitalised soldiers and recently escaped slaves; she later worked with Susan B. Anthony in campaigning for women’s rights and in particular the right to vote.)

The Library has a page at the AM website, where news of new books and pamphlets will be made available; see:

<http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-east/library>

The Sustainability Gathering – Bridging the Gaps, October 2018

The weekend at The Hayes Centre, at Swanwick in Derbyshire, was jam-packed in a ripening, juicy fruit time of year. Seven years after the Canterbury Commitment, it was an opportunity to reflect on bridging any gaps appearing and where the Spirit might be leading us now. Friends from

forty-nine out of seventy Area Meetings were represented with over a hundred people present, some, like us, new to BYM events. The artist May Hasbrook from America steered an ongoing participatory art installation on the theme of 'Right Relationship' throughout the weekend, as part of her travelling Ministry in Europe.

On Friday evening Ann Ullathorne from Meetings for Sufferings traced the story of Quaker Sustainability work since Canterbury linking Sustainability and Simplicity. On Saturday morning there were three main speakers:

Paul Hoggett, formerly a professor of social policy now working as a psychotherapist and co-founder of the Climate Psychology Alliance spoke of the rise of authoritarianism and the 'other' in ourselves; the politics of victimhood, and 'Exceptionalism' where we do not do ourselves what we expect of others.

Susanna Mattingly, Sustainability Communication Officer at FWCC [Friends World Committee for Consultation] who has been interviewing Quakers around the world, showed part of her film with Quakers from places such as Kenya and the Philippines talking of the challenging impact of climate change on their locality. The Gathering was visibly moved and hopes the film can travel to local Meetings.

Children's doctor **Jo-anne Veltman**, one of the litigants in Plan B, bringing legal challenges to strengthen government policies on climate change, spoke with deep passion for the children of the world. Seeing the impact of carbon on children's health, she spoke of the ways of mobilizing people's movements for change; that little bits of good together make a difference.

These threads contributed to a weaving created over the weekend enriched by a number of planned response groups and workshops such as Eco-thrift, Footpaths to a Greener Life, and Love in Action. On Saturday evening there were spontaneous offerings like 'Story-telling', 'Young Adult Pathways to Sustainability', 'Conversations with an Animate World' which Wendy offered as way of 'deepening-in' spiritually in 'right relationship' with an Earth Community.

A reflection of eight themes emerging over the weekend took place on Sunday morning including: the need to be joyful, positive, have fun, and not be negative which can be guilty making; envisioning the world we want and speaking it into being; sharing stories about individuals – letting their lives speak inspires us; considering whether the challenge is to *bridge* the gap or to *inhabit* the gap; addressing 'Exceptionalism'; seeking to engage spiritually as a challenge – are we in 'right relationship'?; acting from a place of love; seeking to understand others.

Groups formed to discuss these themes and gather ideas for next steps, from moving towards Zero Carbon to the need for a wider shift of human consciousness (a group so big it had to split into two). We both found the

ending worship facing the art installation created over the weekend together, deep and moving (*see below*).

One of the best fruits of the gathering for us both was the wonderful conversations we had with Friends, most of whom neither of us had met before. Cath came away feeling strengthened in her determination not to give up hope and to continue to do all that we can as individuals, meetings, the wider Quaker community and our own communities. Wendy came away appreciative about the many ways Quakers are inspiring involved in action. She also felt more deeply about the need to inhabit the gap, feel the pain/grief of the Earth, and to deepen our spirituality towards listening to Earth's longing for us; what is being asked of us more deeply in 'right relation' with Earth Community and Equality.

We are both grateful for the 'mobilizing' that the Sustainability Gathering engendered ;)

Cath Dyer and Wendy Robertson Fyfe

All the resources/reflections for the weekend can be found at a folder on the BYM file sharing service here: <https://quakercloud.myqnapcloud.com/share.cgi?ssid=05moLLO>



A Peace Pole For Falkirk: *Hope for a Better World*

There has been a Quaker meeting in Polmont for over thirty years and to mark the occasion, Polmont Quakers have presented a Peace Pole to the people of Falkirk. On Sunday 7 October, despite the rain and wind, we gathered at the Helix Park (home of the Kelpies) to celebrate the inauguration of the pole. The guests included friends and Friends from Polmont Meeting, other local Meetings and General Meeting, Provost Billy Buchanan, Councillors Cecil Meikejohn and Robert Bissett, and Ben Mardell, representing Falkirk Community Trust. Many local churches sent representatives including Falkirk Central Mosque, the Falkirk Islamic centre, the Baptist Church, Bainsford Church and Christchurch.

Kate Arnot from Polmont Quakers welcomed everyone and explained that the pole says 'May peace prevail' in English, Gaelic, Polish and Urdu and is a celebration of our rich and diverse local culture.

The Freedom of Mind Choir sang 'Peace, Shalom, Salaam' and this was followed by two readings from *Quaker Faith & Practice*.

24:03

A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it... It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God's errands, as it is to palliate them with God's name... We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: for if men did once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: and he that forgives first, wins the laurel.

William Penn, 1693

24:10

Public statement of the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand, 1987, at a time when many Friends were making submissions to a committee established by their government to review defence policy:

We totally oppose all wars, all preparation for war, all use of weapons and coercion by force, and all military alliances: no end could ever justify such means.

We equally and actively oppose all that leads to violence among people and nations, and violence to other species and to our planet.

We must start with our own hearts and minds. Wars will stop only when each of us is convinced that war is never the way.

Cecil Meiklejohn, Leader of Falkirk Council, spoke about her pride in the diversity of Falkirk and how the message of the pole will be something that can be shared by all people. She also said that she hoped it will become a place where anyone can spend quiet time. The leaders of the two Mosques then expressed their thanks for their invitation and spoke of how we must all live together in peace and how all religions are one.

As the choir sang again two young Quakers gave out origami Peace Cranes and this was followed by a few minutes of silence followed by the shaking of hands. We went in to the café at Falkirk Stadium and enjoyed being warm and dry, more entertainment from the choir and a friendly afternoon tea.

Despite the wind and rain, this was a warm and inclusive occasion, celebrating peace and the hope of a better world.

Marriot Dallas



Kate Arnot: "May Peace Prevail"

Wiston Weekend, 7-9 September 2018

Deirdre Armstrong writes: *For a number of years there has been a September Weekend at Wiston Lodge, near Biggar (see <https://wistonlodge.com>) for anyone of any age from various South East Scotland Quaker Meetings. It started with South Edinburgh and has extended outwards with an emphasis on getting to know each other, having fun and making it enjoyable for young people.*

When I was asked to write about our Wiston Weekend, I knew that hearing from the young people who attended it would be much more interesting than anything I could write.

So here, in their own words are some reviews – with occasional explanatory additions:

Zella (Polmont): It was really good – the fire on Friday night was really enjoyable – we all told stories around it. The Wiston activities for young people were good – the climbing wall was extremely fun – we got to challenge ourselves and everyone surprised each other.

Daphne (Polmont): Oliver, Anna and I got to organise Epilogue (Friday evening) and we got to say things – we said a poem which was made up by Iola and Eleanor (*Central Edinburgh*) at Summer Shindig – (they were at Wiston with us too) - that was great.

Zella: also the Ceilidh was really fun – all our family really look forward to the Wiston Ceilidh and this year was especially good. Matthew and Robin (Naumann) and baby Tom did ‘Flying Monkeys’ ! [*A hair-raising performance in which the baby went whizzing through the air... D.A.*]. Daphne and me did ‘Life is Fun’ which was a song where Daphne was pessimistic and I was optimistic .

[This was seriously impressive – a complicated rhyming song done in tune at great speed and very funny – D.A.]

On the night of the Ceilidh some of us went out and had a mini-epilogue in the garden – that was amazing.

Adam (Portobello & Musselburgh): It’s really nice for children and adults... really good for team building – no one gets left out. There’s always things where somebody can’t do something but then they can often succeed at something else. There’s a range of ages from 6 to 16 but we all took part in the same activities [*under-6’s did different things in a crèche but enjoyed themselves too – D.A.*]

Wiston is a good place to have it – a lot of us know our way around and if you don’t you soon find out. We did activities with a Wiston instructor, climbing and kayaking. In both we all did things with other people not necessarily ones we knew well. Everyone cheered everyone else on the climbing wall and we managed to do succeed really well.

It’s really nice for people who know everyone and for people who don’t know anyone. There can be a sea of people you don’t know and then after the introductory games on Friday night everyone can get along.

In Meeting for Worship I knew what was happening and then after another young person had the confidence to speak I felt I could say something. It wasn’t like that for everyone – I know someone who didn’t like the Meeting but he liked the weekend and being with everyone .

These contributions were very spontaneous and enthusiastic. Of course for some it was harder to fit into the group but the atmosphere at Wiston, the beauty of the

surroundings and the mixture of relaxed and active, Xiang Gung and the climbing wall, music and silent Meeting gave everyone a kind of uplift. Hopefully it will attract new people of all ages next year.



SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

**Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday 22 September, 2018
in Penicuik at the Town Hall**

2018/09/01 Worship and introductions

We began our Meeting for Worship for Business with a period of worship during which part of *Quaker Faith & Practice* 24.27 was read. Written by Helen Steven in 1984, this explains why Helen broke into the Faslane Submarine Base to protest at the greater crime represented by the nuclear weapons carried by the submarines. We are reminded of this today because a significant number of our members, some of whom would otherwise have been taking part in our meeting, have instead gone to Faslane to take part in a mass protest at the UK's continued possession of these nuclear weapons.

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

2018/09/02 Minutes of Meeting of Monday 14 August, 2018

The minutes of our last Meeting held on 14 August, 2018 in the offices of

Scottish Churches Housing Action, Edinburgh have been signed by the Clerks and entered in the Minute Book.

2018/09/03 Matters arising from the minutes

a) Management of legacy money (Minute 2018/08/04 refers)

As requested at our last meeting, your clerks have arranged for a Threshing Meeting, part of the process of discerning the right use of the legacy money we have received, to take place in Edinburgh Meeting House on the afternoon of Saturday, 16 February, 2019.

b) Area Meeting Treasurer (Minute 2018/08/06 refers)

We have been told that our nominations committee is still seeking a third member to complete the new treasurer team. Jacqueline Noltingk and John Phillips, whom we appointed to the team in August, have been asked and have agreed to serve as joint treasurers for two years from 1 October 2018 and to represent the team on our trustee body. We are grateful for their willingness to offer this service and appoint them accordingly.

Mark Hutcheson wishes to record his thanks for all the help he has received during his term of office and we record our thanks to him for all he has done for us.

c) Diversity and Inclusion in our Area Meeting (Minute 2018/08/07 refers)

The following have expressed an interest in joining the group to work on diversity and inclusion, responding to a request from Britain Yearly Meeting:

Marilyn Higgins, Madeleine Harding, Lynne Barty (all Central Edinburgh), Rici Marshall Cross (South Edinburgh) and Cath Dyer (Polmont).

We appoint them to serve, in the first instance until our meeting on 14 May, 2019, when we ask the group to report back to us on their work and will consider how best to continue it. The group is asked to arrange an open meeting to thresh the issue on Saturday, 1 December, 2018 in Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House.

We are concerned that the group itself does not appear to have great diversity. We ask the group to consider how best to take account of the views of younger friends especially, including those who seldom engage with the business of our Area Meeting and its Local Meetings, and give them the power to co-opt additional members.

Phil Lucas, who is initially convening the group, will circulate the group's remit via the Area Meeting email list.

d) Area Meeting Dates and Venues for 2019 (Minute 2018/08/11 refers)

We confirm the dates and venues for our meetings in 2019 as proposed at our last meeting:

Mon 28 January	7 pm	Edinburgh QMH
Sat 23 March	all day	Central Fife
Tues 14 May	7 pm	Edinburgh QMH
Sat 22 June	all day	Kelso
Wed 4 September	7 pm	Edinburgh QMH
Sat 9 November	all day	Portobello/Musselburgh

2018/09/04 UK complicity in torture

We have received the following minute from South Edinburgh Local Meeting:

UK complicit in torture: Detainee Mistreatment & Rendition 2001-10.

*We heard of the above report by the House of Commons **Intelligence and Security Committee** published in June 2018 which made clear that British intelligence officers were involved in incidents of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CIDT), paid for people to be taken away ("rendition") and that many people knew about this. We recognise that such behaviour merely encourages others to also behave inhumanely. Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (Q-CAT Briefing 58) has more details.*

We are so concerned about this that we ask Area Meeting to consider these grave issues of state secrecy and truth and integrity in public life; and for Area Meeting to request Meetings for Sufferings to consider how best Quakers in Britain might bear witness against such wrongdoing by the state.

We ask our clerk to contact Ian Murray, our MP, requesting he write to the appropriate minister calling on the Government to set up a judicial inquiry into the UK's role in rendition and torture. We thanked David Turner for bringing this issue to our attention.

Esther Shreeve of South Edinburgh Meeting has spoken to this minute. She informs us that Ian Murray MP, who is on the Foreign Affairs Committee, is very supportive of their stance.

Rather than sending a request to Meeting for Sufferings, we agree we should first inform ourselves and our Local Meetings by circulating the Q-CAT briefing and should ask Local Meetings to lobby their MPs on the issue, preferably in person and to take any further action they feel to be appropriate.

We will return to this subject at a meeting early next year and will invite a member of Q-CAT to come and address us.

2018/09/05 Memorial Minutes

We have received the following memorial minutes:

a) Audrey Fessler 23 September 1926 – 5 June 2018

Audrey Fessler moved to a Fife nursing home from Nottingham & Derbyshire Area Meeting early in 2016 to be nearer her family and, when

possible, attended Central Fife LM where her presence and contributions to the Meeting and its discussion group were much appreciated. Audrey brought a quiet and strong presence to the Local Meeting and was always ready to engage in meaningful conversations, bringing kind words, humour and insights from her long and full life.

Audrey's membership was transferred to South East Scotland Area Meeting. The following summary from Nottingham Friends covers her life over the years with them:

"Audrey Fessler was an integral and long-standing member of Nottingham Quaker Meeting. She took on many roles in support of the Meeting including being an elder, an overseer and clerk. She also served on Meeting for Sufferings for several years."

"She was passionate about peace both in the home and in the outside world. She instigated a Peace Supper to which were invited people of all faiths and none. After a shared meal people shared their ongoing work in the pursuit of peace. Audrey also initiated a Peace Garden in a local Nottingham park. It was hard work to get the city to be involved but that is now the case."

"Audrey and Harry's home was always a welcoming place and was a host to many groups, two of which were a book group and a discussion group."

"Audrey was interested in people and made them feel special. Many friends speak of the support that she gave them, especially when they were experiencing difficult personal circumstances. She had a lovely sense of humour and her wise counsel was of help to many. One Friend described her as 'a Quaker through and through'."

Central Fife LM was always pleased to be able to welcome Audrey as a member to the few meetings she could manage during the short period of her life that she lived in Fife.

Central Fife Local Quaker Meeting, 16 August 2018

b) Katharine (Kay) Mary Wassell, 8 December 1925 - 16 June 2018

Kay Wassell (*née* Kenneth) was born at Roseneath on the west side of Gare Loch opposite Helensburgh. Her father was a university lecturer in geography and was the editor of a geographical journal. She was an only child: the family moved to Edinburgh and Kay attended St Margaret's School in Newington.

Kay was a schoolteacher, meeting Peter Wassell, a university lecturer, in the mid-1960s. They became interested in Quakerism through the Edinburgh (Stafford Street) Meeting where they married in 1967. Kay became a full member of the Society of Friends in the 1990s, an overseer and then clerk to the meeting from 2003 to 2005, following Peter's death in 2002.

Kay was a teacher at Donaldson's School for the deaf and in due course became a lecturer at Moray House, helping to train future teachers of the deaf. Indeed, this was her over-riding professional interest, helping deaf children and others who were hard of hearing to lead full and sa-

tisfying lives. Peter himself became profoundly deaf, and it was something of an irony that Kay herself became comparatively deaf in old age.

Following Peter's death Kay continued to live in south Edinburgh, eventually moving (six months before her death) to live in St Margaret's Care Home, the buildings of which are her old school. She could share memories of her childhood with visiting friends. Her niece Felicia was a regular visitor from Sussex and together with many local friends offered support to her in her final years. She accepted her physical limitations with good humour, enjoying jokes, and was always positive and pleased to have a chat. She took a lively interest in everyone she met, retaining her curiosity about current events, the art world, and of course Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting.

Kay was passionate about Quakerism. She greatly valued participating in Meetings for Worship, endeavouring to attend on Sundays as regularly as possible even though towards the end of her life she found travelling to Victoria Terrace particularly trying. As a resident in the care home she would introduce herself to visitors and to fellow residents with "I am a Quaker, you know!", announced with a twinkle in her eye!

Kay was delighted to become stepmother to Peter's children from his first marriage. It was a great source of joy for her to follow the progress of their children, her step-grandchildren. Kay supported Peter when he started a pioneering group for people living with bipolar disorder in Edinburgh and he was proud of her painting talents as revealed in her annual exhibits with the Holyrood Art Club, of which she was chair at the same time as being clerk to local meeting. She took up painting in her retirement and produced some rather accomplished watercolours.

Their biggest love was probably books – they had a wide range of interests and Kay treasured her collection of classic novels and reference books. She was intellectually curious, bringing her wide knowledge to good discussions on literary or artistic topics.

Kay was a wonderful hostess and they invited many people to their home for delicious meals where the recipes were eventually revealed – including Kay's ready use of improvisation! Peter and she read several newspapers every day. They travelled widely in Europe visiting a wide range of cultural hotspots. Kay particularly loved visiting art galleries; she was also keen on her garden and a favourite treat was to visit the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens.

Kay was a loyal and thoughtful friend, quick to see the funny side of things and loving a bit of the ridiculous. She was an old style Edinburgh resident, shopping and getting her hair cut at Jenners and enjoying the local restaurants in Newington. But Kay really felt that the Quakers were her local family: she greatly valued the Meeting and its worship and she will be sorely missed by her many friends among South East Scotland Quakers.

We agree to send this minute to Area Meeting.

As many Friends could not get to the funeral, we ask Elders to organise a memorial meeting for Kay in the Autumn.

Central Edinburgh Local Meeting, September 2018

We thank Central Edinburgh Meeting and Central Fife Meeting for these Memorial Minutes.

2018/09/06 Marriage Archive

Pat Lucas, our Custodian of Records, has reported to us that she been investigating records of Quaker marriages conducted under the authority of this Area Meeting and its predecessors since the first recorded.

Following a communication from West Scotland AM, with extracts from their register of marriages in Edinburgh for the period 1952 to 2010, Pat discovered that there was no such register in South East Scotland. However, on a visit to the National Records of Scotland at Register House, she found details of all Quaker marriages (as well as births and burials) in Scotland from 1669 until 1867, and the register of marriages from 1796 until 1950. Pat also contacted Friends House.

Pat has now compiled a new register to record marriages in South East Scotland for the period 1952 to the present day. She has also collated the marriage records from 1670 to 1793 so there is now an unbroken record from the very beginning of Quakerism in South East Scotland. This she has left for us to look at during the lunch break. It will then be handed over to our current Registering Officer to maintain.

Pat also has "A Short History of Friends in Scotland", written in 1948 by William Marwick, which will be kept with the archive at 7 Victoria Terrace. It may be available on line.

We congratulate Pat on her work in compiling this fascinating and valuable record.

2018/09/07 Appointments:

Our Nominations Committee has brought the following for consideration:

A To serve from October 2018 to end of September 2021

- a. Pastoral Care & Oversight: **Mairi McCormack**, (S. Edinburgh, 2nd triennium), **Max Marnau** (Kelso).
- b. World Day of Prayer (Edinburgh): **Mary Woodward** (P. & M.)
- c. Assistant Custodian of Records: **Ian Beamish** (Polmont)

B To serve from October 2018 to end of September 2020

- d. Registering Officer: **Rufus Reade**, (SE, re-appointment)

C To serve from October 2018 to end of September 2019

- e. Assistant Registering Officer: **Kerstin Phillips** (Cent. Edinburgh, re-appointment)
- f. Festival Committee: **Alan Sayle** (Cent. Ed., re-appointment)
- g. Festival Committee: **Susan Roberston** (S. Ed., re-appointment)

These names being acceptable we appoint them accordingly.

D *The following Friends complete their service at the end of September*

- h. Cathie McCurrach (C. Ed.): Festival Committee
- i. Katrina McCrea (P. & M.): World Day of Prayer (Edinburgh)
- j. Phil Lucas (E. L.) and Kate Arnot (Pol): Co-Clerks, Area Meeting
- k. Mark Hutcheson (Penicuik): Treasurer

We thank the above Friends for their service.

2018/09/08 John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust

Annie Miller has reported to us on the work of the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust during 2017. Their written report is attached to these minutes. It was a quiet year with £930 being granted to recipients and £436 being donated to the Trust, leaving a balance of £8,391 to be distributed. Both of the applications during the year, one for a laptop and one for a holiday, a first in his lifetime to celebrate graduating, were successful. The report includes information about the work of the Trust during previous years.

Funds are also available for grants involving a healing element.

We thank Annie for presenting the report and thank all those carrying forward the work of the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust.

2018/09/09 Correspondence

We have received the following:

- a) A letter from Ceinwen Silverbrooke, mother of Majk Stokes, Assistant Manager of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House, enclosing a gift to the Area Meeting of £6,000. The letter has been read to us and Phil Lucas has written to Ceinwen to express our thanks.
- b) An invitation to be represented at the AGM on 5 October in Glasgow of the Refugee Survival Trust.
- c) An email from Nigel Dower, Treasurer of General Meeting for Scotland, asking about the costs of the event for enquirers we should have organized for General Meeting this year. Since we have not done this and should perhaps make amends in 2019, we will return to this matter at our next meeting.
- d) Notice of the installation of a Peace Pole in Falkirk, a project of Polmont Local Meeting. This will take place at 2 pm on Sunday, 7 October and those intending to be present are asked to inform Cath Dyer. [See report and photograph, pp. 13-14]

2018/09/10 Faith, Community and Action

We have had two speakers and discussion this afternoon. We are grateful to Ian Edwards and Roger Kelly for sharing with us. We thank them both.

Ian focused on inevitable change with some known trends. Diversity will help us in our communities and in our Religious Society to become more resilient. Diversity will help us survive in the future; diversity in nature

and diversity in our population will enable a new balance to emerge, enabling well being in creation and in the peoples of Scotland and outwith.

Roger developed the theme of resilience but at a local level. He described all the small incremental steps in working at the grass roots to being about significant renewal and establishing resources within Penicuik *e.g.* the building we are meeting in, widely used, but still requiring significant financial input. The Scottish Government can provide financial resources but the bedrock of ideas leading to social investment has to come from the local community. Small is beautiful with human connections building vibrancy.

2018/089/11 Closing minute

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

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

(Signed)
Kate Arnot
Phil Lucas
Alastair Cameron
Clerks

The silence of a religious and spiritual worship is not a drowsy unthinking state of the mind, but a sequestering or with-drawing of it from all visible objects and vain imaginations, unto a fervent praying to, or praising the Invisible Omnipresent God, in his Light and Love; his Light gives wisdom and knowledge, and his Love gives power and strength, to run the ways of his commandments with delight. But except all excesses of the body and passions of the mind are avoided (through watchfulness) the Soul doth not attain True Silence.

He that lets his mind be ungoverned out of meeting, cannot set it so right as it should be, when he comes into one; and such as get not forward in their spiritual journey when in meeting, it's certain they will go backwards, when out of them.

John Bellers (1718, 1703)

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 Footeprint UK, Riverside Works, Edinburgh Road, Jedburgh TD8 6EE.