The Quaker Bonnet Lupin

The last August issue of Tayside Quaker had a Quaker Lady iris on the front cover, which sent me off searching for another Quaker flower to use on the cover this time. My first thought was to find a photo of the Quaker Bonnet primula. As is often the case a search on the Internet for Quaker Bonnet, flower revealed something other than what I was expecting... the Blue Bonnet, a lupin from North America, whose common names include Wild Pea, Wild Bean, Blue Pea, Old Maid’s Bonnet, Quaker-Bonnet, Bluebonnet and Sundial. (info. from www.secretflowerlanguage.com/Flower/Bluebonnet, picture from www.pinterest.com/pin/533535887100644799/). It seems that primula fans will have to wait.

Editor’s note: There is also a hosta with golden yellow leaves called Quaker Lady, if you have other suggestions of Quaker flora, let me know.

Idealistic?

This is from a joint online event from the European Network Against the Arms Trade, the Quaker Council for European Affairs and Stop Fuelling War that took place on April 1st.

When asked if being a pacifist means that you are naive or idealistic Laetita Sedou replies: “The first answer I would give to them would be to say yes indeed I am idealistic. I have an ideal, I have a vision of the world that I want to fight for and there is nothing wrong with that... it is thanks to idealist people that we have today democracy in Europe. The utopia or the ideals of yesterday have become the reality on a good number of issues”.

1
CoP 26 Climate Change Actions

I am sure that many of you are planning to support activists at the CoP 26 in Glasgow this November and there are many ways to do that.

Pilgrimages
If you want to join a pilgrimage walking all, or part of the way to Glasgow there are a number to choose from.

Edinburgh to Glasgow  [https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/cop-26-pilgrimage/](https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/cop-26-pilgrimage/)
Dunbar to Glasgow  [https://northlightarts.org.uk/2021/04/pilgrimage-for-cop26/](https://northlightarts.org.uk/2021/04/pilgrimage-for-cop26/)
London to Glasgow  [https://caminotocop.com/](https://caminotocop.com/)
St Ives to Glasgow  [https://www.yccn.uk/](https://www.yccn.uk/)

Letter writing
Letter writing campaigns to elected politicians and other people of influence are most effective if you can use your own words, multiple copies of ‘cut and paste’ text are a blunt tool. It can be hard to start your own letter, if you want some inspiration go to [https://www.multifaithpilgrimage.org/general-5-1](https://www.multifaithpilgrimage.org/general-5-1)

‘Craftivism’
Various talented people are undertaking craft projects  [https://greenchristian.org.uk/craftivism-for-cop26/](https://greenchristian.org.uk/craftivism-for-cop26/)
[https://stitchesforsurvival.earth/](https://stitchesforsurvival.earth/)
You might want to join in, start something of your own or for those of us not nimble fingered with needle and fabric simply admire the creativity and inventiveness.
Translators
There is going to be a need for translators - for welcoming and for events at Glasgow Meeting House and online - in Spanish and Portuguese in particular, also possibly in French and German. If you happen to have any fluent linguists either in your meetings or related and able to help, even if remotely, please encourage them to get in touch either with Ed Tyler at: tyleward@gmail.com or with Martin Mansell at mamansell69@gmail.com

Climate Sunday
Climate Sunday is an Initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and is timed to mark the approach of COP26 in Glasgow. A service from Glasgow Cathedral will be live-streamed on Sunday 5 September. 1,500 churches across Britain have so far committed to taking part in the initiative between 5th September and the start of COP26. The organisers write:

Our vision is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their discipleship and mission and to make a significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action at COP26.

Can your church hold a climate-focused service to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray, and to commit to action?

For more information go to: https://www.climatesunday.org/
East Scotland Area Meeting, 8th May 2021

Held by video conference (zoom), e-host: Norman Alm

21.05.01 Reading during Worship
We opened with a period of quiet worship, during which our reading was from Quaker Faith and practice, 26.72. Thomas R Kelly writes of a resting place of absolute peace and joy and power and radiance and security. (1941).

21.05.02 Welcome
Those present: Dundee………. 7
Perth…………………5
St Andrews………. 9
Unattached……… 1
Total: 22, including 2 attenders.

Elders: We are grateful to Robert Thompson and Martin Pippard who have agreed to serve as Elders for this meeting.

21.05.03 Nominations
We have received the nominations report and Meri Goad has spoken to it.
We have heard that the committee is reviewing roles for the Area Meeting Assistant Clerk and that four pastoral care groups have been formed in Perth as a way forward with Elders and Overseers.
The nominations committee bring forward the following name for appointment:
Meeting for Suffering representative
Robert Thompson (Dundee) Yearly Meeting 2021 – Yearly Meeting 2024
Children and Young People’s Advocate
We record the Between Meetings appointment of Ellen Henry (Dundee) from March 16th 2021 until 31st December 2023
Our Friends being willing to serve we appoint them accordingly.
Training
Búsa Cochrane-Muir (St Andrews) will attend a Woodbrooke Course on Pastoral Care, from 18th May to 1st July 2021.
21.05.04 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, year ending 2020
Our Treasurer, Pam Brunt, has given a brief report on the ESAM consolidated accounts. It has been approved by Trustees and the annual return to OSCR has been completed. The full document can be viewed on the Quakers in Scotland website (https://www.quakerscotland.org/east) and will be saved with this minute. We thank Pam for her work on our behalf.

21.05.05. Trustees Annual Report to Area Meeting
Robin Waterston, Clerk of Trustees, has reported on the Trustees’ Annual Report, which was circulated in advance. Since last May the Trustees have considered aspects of safeguarding, finances and the role of the Area Meeting Treasurer. They have also responded to a request from General Meeting Trustees for their thoughts on working more collaboratively across Scottish Quakers.
We thank the Trustees for their work on our behalf.

21.05.06 Revision of Governing Document to allow video-conferencing
The Trustees are recommending some minor additions to the Governing Document following advice from the Clerk of General Meeting Trustees to explicitly allow for business meetings to be held by video-conferencing. Area Meeting agrees to the following sentences being added:

17 Para 9 (i) on church affairs: “Meetings may be held using video-conferencing, either exclusively or in combination with a physical meeting.”

18 Para 17 (vi) on meetings of Trustees: “Meetings of Trustees may be held by video-conferencing, either exclusively or in combination with a physical meeting”.

21.05.07 Contribution to Quaker Disabled Equality Group
The Quaker Disability Equality Group (QDEG) works towards full inclusion of people with disabilities and carers in all aspects of Quaker life, it sees this as part of the Quaker testimony to equality.

We agreed at Area Meeting in February 2018 (see minute 18.06d) to make an annual contribution of £50 to the Quaker Disabled Equality Group with the agreement to review this within three years. We agree to continue with this annual contribution of £50 and review it again in three years (May 2024). It is hoped that we will have a speaker from the group later this year so that we can learn more about their good work.

21.05.08 East of Scotland Area Meeting Dates for 2022
We agree to the following dates:
Saturday 12th February, Perth
Saturday 7th May, Dundee
Saturday 13th August, St Andrews
Saturday 26th November, Dundee

21.05.09 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG)
We have heard from Martin Pippard an update on the work of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group. Work has centred on the climate emergency and the May elections and the possibilities for subsequent engagement with the new Members of the Scottish Parliament.
Quaker actions in preparation for COP26 (the United Nations Climate Change Conference 1st -12th November 2021) are being led by the COP26 Hub group, further details at: https://www.quakerscotland.org/cop26
Andrew Tomlinson, Parliamentary Engagement Officer is working with Quaker Peace and Social Witness on an online workshop about COP26 for Quakers in Scotland on 18th May 2021, from 7:00 -8:30pm and sign in for this can be found at: Quakers and the UN climate talks
We thank Martin and the PEWG for their work.

20.05.10 How Local Meetings are coping at present
We reflected briefly on how our local meetings are coping with the present situation as restrictions ease.
Meetings continue to meet online and are starting to explore new opportunities for meeting face to face and with blended meetings. There has been a willingness for Friends to share the tasks and support each other and an acknowledgement that we are looking forward to meeting together again and the new growth that we hope this will bring.
21.05.11 Closing worship and reading
In our closing worship, we heard Barbara Davey read her moving poem, ‘Changes and chances / this fleeting world’ (see the Friend, 2\(^{nd}\) April 2021).

We thank Norman Alm for e-hosting our meeting today.

_Pam Apted Clerk_

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**Changes and chances / this fleeting world**

not cast shadows, gifting us

this black and white, alongside uncertainty and haze.

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings

I am glad light travels straight, like an arrow, an arrow prayer.

II

Keep me as the apple of an eye

The blackbird waits early in the greenery.

As soon as there is kitchen-bustle, it springs

onto a ledge at Post-equinox, the light inside is different now.

A frieze of hornbeam hedge in silhouette

illuminates the dining room’s dim wall

and casement astragals ascend the stairs.

I read that if light could curve

it would shoulder height beside the door.

It tips its head, I meet its eye —
a gold-ringed disc of deepest glossy black
that seizes, stops me in bird-time.
Later, there’ll be crumbs and chat and bacon rind.
Such are my companions now.

III
Weariness has stolen upon me
Through the silent hours of this night
Rested, but not refreshed, I waken
heavy laden, with a dread.
What is this that inhabits my sleep?
Noiseless, ceaseless,
turning over, rearranging, re-imagining.
At daybreak it vanishes —
no phantom, no colours, no clue.

IV
At first, it was unreal: too hot, a drought, seeds would not grow.
Then night frosts returned, withering the early apple blossom and the plum.
Now months have passed and the weather has settled.
There’s a lot of weeding to be done. In the shady bed
by the vaults, the soil is rich with worms and grubs.
Teased out in a clump of grass from between stones,
a tiny newt emerges, as if from prehistory. Further along
I uncover a toad, fast asleep in its pockmarked leatheriness.

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit

V
Quiet roads, days hollowed, the radio avoided, except for its evening toll:
seven hundred and fiftynine, eight hundred and twentythree, nine hundred and eighty.

There’s a sense of fracture, of concentration fiercely held, yet dissipated.

What to turn to? where to start? And the finish?

Let thy holy angels dwell herein
Extending into the stillness and taking their fill — the house-martins’ return, footsteps on the cobbles, the late-flowering ornamental cherry.
A wary passer-by tells how she admired it for weeks, from a distance
“It kept me going,” she says, “It was magnificent.”

During the first months of the pandemic, I continued to attend Service of Compline (on-line) and the poem contains lines from the service

*Barbara Davey*

**The Swarthmore lecture**

*Kinder Ground: Creating Space for Truth*

by Thomas Penny

was live-streamed

on Saturday 1 August at 19:30 and will be made available on YouTube

The lecture will explore experiences from Quaker history which speak to our contemporary witness and then reflect on the political ferment in the 21st century and ways we might help heal division by creating kinder ground to promote, and enable, a shared quest for truth.

You will find the link here: [https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/swarthmore-lecturer-2021/](https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/swarthmore-lecturer-2021/)
This was my last Meeting for Sufferings. When I went to my first meeting 6 years ago, I was opposed to Friends owning a large building in the centre of London and I wanted BYM to be based further north.

However, I learned that the building raised almost £2 million a year towards Quaker work and I was able to get a direct train from Pitlochry although I have to change trains to go to Dundee.

I was inspired by the discernment possible when 100 people were in attendance but irritated by the question at every face to face meeting “When will you get home tonight?” This was particularly amusing when I was sitting beside Sue Horne from Shetland. I was one of many voices recommending that we have fewer meetings in London and use zoom once or twice a year instead.

The last face to face meeting I attended was 7th December 2019. I find it difficult to worship using zoom and in business meetings we seem to struggle to find true discernment which is makes me question the value of our meetings. On the other hand zoom enables us to have separate discussions of big issues on the agenda and enables us to question those who have submitted reports.

7th December 2019 also marks the first time that the five Scottish representatives had lunch together at Meeting for Sufferings. This year we have started to meet by zoom before each Meeting for Sufferings, which has helped us to understand some of the papers in advance and realise how much we are in unity in Scotland. I now hand over to Robert Thompson who has been the alternate for the last triennium and to Barbara Davey who becomes the alternate for the next triennium but will meet with them before the next Meeting for Sufferings in October.

Amongst many members of Meeting for Sufferings and particularly the Scottish members, there is a growing unease about the relationship between BYM Trustees and us. We have started to ask ourselves what our role actually is. It has been exacerbated by the pandemic; the need to cut BYM budgets to survive; the need to make BYM staff redundant and the need to do this quickly.
I have sympathy with BYM Trustees who have simply not had the time to do this the way we have always done it because of the urgency of the situation. The papers in advance this time were minutes of Trustees Meetings running to 11 pages of decisions made – not papers for our consideration and discernment. Scottish Friends are now asking a very basic question: “What is Meeting for Sufferings for?”

Trustees organised five zoom sessions with us to discuss this, but answering the question: “What brings you most joy when doing service on Central Committees?” wasn’t helpful. Two sessions of Yearly Meeting have been allocated for discussion of this issue, but we fear that the papers in advance are suggesting tweaking the current system rather than starting with a blank sheet and thinking of more radical changes. There will also be road shows in the Autumn to give all of us the chance to discuss and comment on these problems. I hope that some members of our Area Meeting will be able to attend one.

Alyson Buchan
The TPNW (Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) came into force in January of this year when forty countries had ratified it (not including the United Kingdom). Since then the number of states ratifying the treaty has risen to fifty five (still not including the United Kingdom) and our government has increased the UK stockpile of nuclear weapons for the first time since the end of the ‘cold war’.

As a signatory to the UN’s nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the UK has committed to working towards disarmament, while it is getting more nuclear weapons. The UK government position was given in a statement to the UN General Assembly last year (info from https://christiancnd.org.uk/2019/10/30/uk-statement-to-un-general-assembly/)

‘The United Kingdom reiterated its position in favour of a world without nuclear weapons at a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, despite saying there are no plans to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The UK remains committed to a world without nuclear weapons, with undiminished security for all, and to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The 2020 Review Conference, on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty’s entry into force, provides an opportunity to celebrate its successes and come together to strengthen its future.

The statement was given by Aidan Liddle, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in New York at the end of last week. Since the Treaty was agreed by the UN in 2017 the UK, along with the other nuclear-armed and nuclear umbrella states, has argued that it undermines the work of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This position was stated again at the General Assembly.

The UK does not, however, intend to support, sign or ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Ban Treaty risks undermining the NPT, ignores the security environment and does not
address the technical and procedural challenges that must be overcome to achieve nuclear disarmament in a secure and responsible manner.

The NPT has been deadlocked for many years, with the last Review Conference in 2015 unable to even reach an agreement on a way forward for disarmament. Various diplomats, including those from Russia and the United States have already stated that the Review Conference this year is unlikely to have a positive outcome.

The statement also included a renewed commitment to the Iran Nuclear Deal (known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and lamented the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) which could see a new arms race between Russia, the United States and potentially China.

Many other states had used their statements at the UN to call on states to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, citing the deadlock in the NPT process and the frustration of the non nuclear-armed states with the lack of progress towards disarmament among the nine nuclear-armed.'

There is a CND petition which says that ‘As British citizens and residents, we request that NPT states parties in good standing raise concerns about breaches of the NPT and call on the UK and other states in breach of their NPT
commitments to immediately halt all policies and activities that breach and undermine the Treaty’ at https://cnd.eaction.org.uk/ReportUKNPT (NPT is the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty).
East Scotland Area Meeting

To be held on zoom. 21st August 2021, 10:30am -12:30pm. Agenda, papers and joining details will be circulated in advance.

Dear Friends,

I do hope you can join us on zoom for East Scotland Area Meeting to be held on Saturday 21st August 2021.

We plan to start at 10:30am (joining from 10:15), with business until approximately 11:30am, then after a short 10 minute break, we will have a presentation from our speaker, finishing at approximately 12:30pm.

Our business will include updates re the funding of the Parliamentary Engagement Officer’s post, the work of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, the newly formed ‘Options for Scotland’ group and much more.

Our speaker is Ade Couper, a member of the Quaker Disability Equality Group, which works towards full inclusion of people with disabilities and carers in all aspects of Quaker life. Ade works in mental health and has a keen interest in human rights. We look forward to meeting Ade and to learning more about this group’s valuable work.

Please join us and do encourage others who may not be regular participants at Area Meeting.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

In friendship,

Pam Apted

Area Meeting Clerk
Having been appointed by Britain Yearly Meeting to attend Finland Yearly Meeting, I was unable to take part in the most recent BDRC committee meeting, as both events took place during the last weekend in April. Thanks to our practice of appointing buddies for those who are unable to be present at our meetings, I was able to get a good understanding of how things had gone.

I was delighted to learn that Juliette Chandler, another younger Friend, was appointed to the committee at April’s Meeting for Sufferings. She will join Pearl and Marcie in their ‘committee buddy bubble’ with Jess and Anya, who will ensure that she very soon feels part of us.

The main business was the consideration of two papers which were presented for comment and questions - one was from the Nominations task group and the other from the Discernment task group of which I’m a part. I was sorry to miss seeing how papers that a small group has worked on are dealt with in a larger group situation – but will have many more opportunities to see this when others’ papers are brought to future meetings.

Here’s part of the minute about our paper:

We are profoundly grateful for the text that the Discernment group have brought us which provides an insightful and clear introduction to Quaker discernment. We are clear that there should be a substantive piece on discernment in the Book of Discipline, as part of providing the core knowledge that we must have to ‘do Quaker’ in Britain. Discernment is at the core of our Quaker way and this should be reflected in the content of this section and the way that it is presented.

We ask the group to take on the comments from Friends during our meeting to update their draft and provide us with a version we could consider final for now.

It’s good to know that our paper was well-received! We’ve already begun combining into one text the two papers we presented, and thinking how to take on board the comments, which include “there needs to be more about
waiting”. We have another zoom session at the beginning of June. We had a committee ‘check in’ meeting May, in which representatives of the task groups reported how their work was going and any problems or questions that had arisen. One of the challenges we face is to what degree can we assume that the reader has read all or any of the preceding material in the Book? Given that many people prefer to dip into things rather than read consecutively, how much do we repeat things [e.g. explaining discernment] in however many sections they appear, or do we simply say everything once, and hope people can find it when they need to? The answer to this question will materially affect what and how we write! One Friend coined a lovely phrase - *the encyclopaedic merry-go-round* - to describe the cross-referencing confusion that could result from trying to link everything to everything else: not too difficult in an electronic version of the Book, but a nightmare to create in hard copy.

We need continually to consider where we go next, and in small groups we talked about whether we thought we should work on more topics or start considering some of our key questions. It was good to talk in a small group which included at least one committee member I don’t know particularly well, and interesting that we were divided – some for topics, some for questions, and some for a mixture of both. Fortunately we didn’t have to decide, merely feed back to the clerks for their deliberations.

The Communicating with Friends group has a meeting in early June, when among other things we’ll discuss how to make our willingness to speak about our work known as widely as possible. We’ve visited large and small Meetings in England, Scotland, and Wales, but many people aren’t aware of our work and the part they can play in it. I recently wrote a report on our ‘gigs so far’ for our next committee meeting – on paper it doesn’t sound as though we’ve done a great deal – nine visits so far this year, and another six already booked for later in the year – but that’s before you start to factor in the planning, organisation, and delivery of each gig!

Two of our future gigs are [Covid permitting] ‘in person’ rather than via Zoom. This raises many new questions about time, cost, and personnel: it’s expensive if I offer to do a gig in Cornwall – but what if there’s no-one living nearer who is willing and able to do it? What if we have six gigs booked for the same area in a short period – we can’t expect the same people to do them all. How many gigs is it reasonable to expect to be able to do in, for example, a month? This
will be something the committee as a whole has to consider as we hope we are moving towards being able to travel more widely – doing the gigs in person is good, but it’s also great to Zoom in with a group of committee members who have widely-differing personal and Quaker experience to contribute to the sessions.

And then there’s the BDRC’s involvement in Yearly Meeting Gathering – blessedly not part of my brief! More information will be widely available soon, but I can reveal that we will be doing three sessions – one ‘basic introduction to the Book and our work’, one ‘next steps’ one, and one for Welsh speakers to consider what Welsh language material might be included in the new Book.

Our next full committee meeting is half a day in mid-June and there’s a social get-together at the end of June. We have a full committee weekend in early July – and of course the small group work continues...

The key messages from our April committee meeting are:

*We have been considering Quaker discernment and nominations in detail, producing draft text and exploring the issues raised. Work on these topics is helping us to understand different ways to split up our core and supplementary material. We are asking questions like: what does every British Quaker need to know to join in with our community processes?*

*We continue to develop the core principles of our work. This includes questions about the sources we use for quotations, the vocabulary we use, and how we make the final version as accessible as possible.*

*We appreciate the support and upholding we are receiving. The size of the task and the need to work remotely can be daunting! We welcome more suggestions of things to include, especially images, diagrams, or videos on discernment, nominations, and other topics. We are also pleased to receive invitations to speak to local or area meetings and other Quaker groups.*

Please do continue to uphold us and the work we’re doing on your behalf. Please also note the invitation to contribute made in the last part of the key messages. Send your contributions to bdrc@quaker.org.uk. Thank you in advance, Friends!

Mary Woodward
**Saturday 17 July 2021 Pilgrimage in Dundee**

A Baha’i friend and myself jumped on a Perth bus to Dundee on what must have been the hottest day of the summer. We are both keen walkers and wanted to be part of the pilgrimage through Dundee organized by FaB, Faith and Belief Dundee and Tayside.

We met the other Pilgrims at the Mosque, who had come from Glasgow, Crieff, other places and Dundee itself. We were with about 20 people, who call themselves Buddhist, Quaker, Baha’i, Christians from different denominations like the Unification Church, Anglican Church and Church of Scotland.

Around 11am we started our walk which would lead us to several places of faith and meaningful projects to do with climate change. The organisers Gordon and Cary had chosen a route that showed us beautiful parts of Dundee.

This was our itinerary:
1. Chaplaincy Centre
An open space connected to the university. Often used for Meeting for Worship, a few other people joined us among whom another Quaker Friend.
2. We stopped at a bench in a small public garden space. This bench stood there in memory of Jennifer Ross, a Baha’i, who took her own life. Cary had made a heart of roses. Each one of us was invited to take one and clip it on. I choose a white rose and had it on during the walk.
3. The Fridge
This is a project that educates people about food waste and tries to find alternatives. We were welcomed and shown round by volunteers who had also made us a lunch of soup, pizza, hummus and bread croutons. All in celebration of their two year existence. There is also a small shop where anybody can pick up free food. We enjoyed the shade of some trees there and could sit and eat in the shade.

4. Victoria Park and Gardens.
A food growing community garden project. Children were playing with water guns after a weeding session. Gisela from Argentina and the gardener in charge explained the set up to us. I was impressed by what they had done in a short period of time, the strawberries looked particularly healthy. As a Spanish speaker I could invite Gisela in her own language to our garden in Aberfeldy and I hope she will.

We had a long walk through this park where I had a good conversation with a member of the Universal Peace Federation. He told me a part of his life history and how he felt first attracted to this church and came back to it later in his life when he had met his wife. He said they are very involved in making peace between North and South Korea. Although very small steps he felt the work was very much worth it. This conversation took a lot of prejudice away I had about this organisation. He later gave me a little paperback with the title As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen - Peace World Love and I will read it.

5. Maggie’s Place, Ninewells hospital.
The vision is to use architecture in the most wonderful humbling way by creating comforting places to support people with cancer. This building is designed by Frank Gehry, the only building by him in the UK. This was all explained to us in the kitchen the centre of each Maggie’s, with a cup of tea. A few more people had joined us. All doors were open, we were invited to look at all the spaces in the building and the labyrinth at the front. This was the first time I visited and heard about the history of the centres through the world. I felt it is a truly peaceful place that can only be of healing. We arrived here at around 2 pm and here is where our pilgrimage ended. (see photo).

After saying good bye to new friends, my friend and I took a bus back to the City Centre and back to Perth. We agreed that as horticulturalists we had enjoyed the energy of the outdoors, we had learned more about growing vegetables, we had felt close to the spirit of Nature and how to care for it and
today we had shared this with a group of diverse people.

Anneke Kraakman

**News from Local Meetings**

**St Andrews**

**In April** Robin Waterston provided a nostalgic evening of music from the 1960s entitled “Love & Rebellion” which brought back many memories for us all and prompted many stories of adventures past.

**In May** the Discoveries evenings continued with the topic of Migration....migration from personal experiences several Friends had had either as young people or as adults. It confirmed that we all have stories which have in some way impacted on our lives. It proved a very frank discussion showing not only our differences but our common humanity. It was a means of thinking about how we could help as a Meeting in this present day of migration and the issues that are encountered in people's journeys.

**In June** Genevieve & Colin Orr hosted a picnic for our young people and their parents in their garden. The weather smiled on them and it was the first face to face get together which proved so much appreciated by all. Until this point young people have had all contact through zoom meetings so it was an important step forward.

Perth & St Andrews Experiment with Light group meets each month on the first Sunday at 10.30am thanks to zoom. This coming together has been both nourishing and given us the opportunity of developing contact and friendship.

Our MfW have continued on zoom, in Barbara & Nichola's garden in Ceres and on Thursdays in the Meeting House. In some way this has been a fruitful means of meeting together but has been somewhat fragmenting. It has been decided to cancel Sunday zoom MfW for the month of August and open the Meeting House as social distancing has been reduced to 1 metre and to review this at the end of August. Of course all formats have been used but there has been a sense of wishing to come together face to face in our Meeting House.
Throughout this often long and drawn out period, Woodbrooke Study Centre has offered daily Meeting for Worship; a series of longer and shorter zoom meetings on simplifying our Meetings and all courses possible have continued online. I have completed a course on “Spiritual Nurturing and Pastoral Care” (28 Friends from Scotland, England and Tasmania) which has enabled me to broaden my experience on how other Meetings function. We were given ways and means of deepening our spiritual journey.

Friends had the very happy occasion to celebrate Isobel Taylor's 100th birthday.

Such is our dear friend's popularity that the festivities were spread out over three separate events, with morning coffee and afternoon tea on the day itself, followed with a gathering later in the month, all in Isobel's lovely garden. Some family and friends who were prevented from attending sent fond greet-
ings, and all present enjoyed cake, reminiscences and delighted in looking through a great collection of photos compiled by Joyce.

Busa Cochrane-Muir

Perth

Perth Friends lost a valued and long standing member with the death of Helen Nicholson. After a funeral service at Tenandry Church on 2nd July, her ashes were scattered on her mother’s grave.

We have been having a blended meeting twice a month with a small group meeting in Subud while others have participated by Zoom. In addition to this we have been experimenting with a midweek Zoom meeting and our ‘Light Group’ has continued to meet by Zoom. The Highland Perthshire group have also had a number of house and garden meetings.

On August 6th Perth Friends and others met at the Peace Pole in Rodney Gardens to mark the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima seventy six years ago.
How can I keep from Singing?

When I was preparing songs to offer to share with our Quaker witness for peace, here in Perth on Hiroshima Remembrance day, a friend gave me his copy of the songbook produced for the Sixth World Conference of Friends in 2012. Amongst them was the wonderful song ‘How can I keep from Singing?’ (the words are slightly different to the usual hymn book variation). For me - and I know this isn’t so for everyone - the easiest way to express the hearts’ longing and hope is through song. In this current time of upheaval and transition, the lines ‘I hear the real, though far off song, that hails a new creation’ resonated deeply. Throughout history people have raised their voices in song to express such things as pain, suffering, joy and hope. The songs I’ve chosen are mainly from the 1960’s, when I was sure that the people of the world would see and act on the need for peace and cooperation. However, here we are, in 2021 and although I still hope, it’s become a bit washed out and frayed around the edges! Yet, when I sing, the light in my heart becomes brighter and helps to give me strength to ‘walk cheerfully over the world’.

For the curious, I like songs that people can join in with, so here’s the list I came up with:
Blowin’ in the Wind; If I had a Hammer; Down by the Riverside; We shall Overcome; Building Bridges;, Deep Peace of the Running wave to you.

If anyone knows of any newer peace/protest folksongs I’d be very interested to receive copies,

Yours in friendship, Stella Cranwell
Meetings for Worship

Please note that alternative arrangements are in operation at present.

**Dundee:** The Meeting House, 7 Whitehall Crescent, Dundee DD1 4AR
Sundays 11.00 am
Thursdays 12.30 – 1.00 pm

**St Andrews** Meeting House, 2 Howard Place, St Andrews KY16 9HL
Sundays 10.30 am
Children’s Meeting - each Sunday during school terms
Enquiries: Genevieve Orr (01333 360396)
Midweek Meeting, Thursdays 1.15 – 1.45pm

**Perth:** The Subud Centre, 7 St Leonard’s Bank, Perth PH2 8EB
Second and last Sundays of each month 10.30 am
Children’s Meeting usually last Sunday of each month
Children’s contact: Anneke Kraakman (07746 117 762)

**East of Scotland Area Meeting**
Saturday 8 May 2021, **Dundee**
Saturday 21 August 2021, **Perth**
Saturday 27 November 2021, **St Andrews**
Saturday 12 February 2022, **Perth**

**General Meeting for Scotland**
11 September 2021, **West Scotland**
20 November 2021, **South East Scotland**
5 March 2022, **East Scotland**