

# **TAYSIDE QUAKER**

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**Tayside Quaker** is available by email and on paper. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the editor at

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**Closing date for the next edition is Saturday, 21 July, 2018**

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East Scotland Area Meeting

Scottish charity number SC0020698

All opinions in Tayside Quaker are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of The Religious Society of Friends.

## East Scotland Area Meeting, Dundee, 12 May 2018

Dear Friends,

The next Area Meeting will take place in Dundee on Saturday 12 May, at 11 am with refreshments available from 10.30 am. All are welcome. The venue is 30 Whitehall St, Dundee, which is just round the corner from the Meeting House. It has the advantage of having a lift and so being fully accessible. Soup will be provided at lunchtime, but please bring your own sandwiches to supplement this.

The morning session will be taken up in consideration of the topic “Mental Health – What canst thou say?” introduced by Alison Mitchell. Alison is employed at The Retreat in York as Mental Health Development Officer. Mental health is a topic of concern. We may all be concerned about our own mental well-being; we all have a responsibility to care for the well-being of Friends in our Meetings. In our communities mental health problems seem to be increasing. Our mental health services are reported to be under-funded and overwhelmed.

This session will offer space to reflect on some of these issues and to hear about some of the exciting things Quakers are doing about mental health.

In the afternoon session we will share impressions of Yearly Meeting from those who attended, and will receive the Annual Report from Trustees. We will also consider some matters arising from Meeting for Sufferings.

Please come, and do encourage others who may not be regular participants at Area Meeting. It is a good opportunity to meet Quakers from other parts of our area. Attenders are very welcome, but it would be helpful if they could let me know in advance on 01334 474129 or [robin.waterston128@gmail.com](mailto:robin.waterston128@gmail.com).

In friendship,

*Robin Waterston*

*Clerk*

## **East of Scotland Area Meeting (AM), 24 February, 2018**

### **Perth**

Twenty of us gathered on a bright but chilly morning at the Subud Centre in Perth. We had a change from the usual sequence of events with our speaker in the morning and business matters in the afternoon, this arrangement worked well and found favour so we hope to repeat it again.

Our opening reading was from Advices and Queries 18, “How can we make our meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured and strangers are welcome? ...”

Finding an answer to this query is one of the issues currently being explored by the ‘Vibrancy in Meetings Programme’, this is a three year pilot programme run jointly by Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) and Woodbrooke, providing four development workers located in pilot areas across Britain.

What makes a vibrant Quaker Meeting? This was the question that our speaker Roger Clarke posed to us in his thought provoking presentation. We offered a wide range of definitions, many suggesting energy (full of life!), movement (oscillation!) and strength.

We were then challenged to imagine what a vibrant Quaker presence in our area would look like in 2025. We hoped for a stronger, more confident, diverse presence, with stronger links with Woodbrooke, more support for families and young people and more flexible ways of using technology. Roger then asked us to consider what we need to have in place to achieve this.

We reflected on some of the challenges for Quakers in Scotland, in particular with engaging in Woodbrooke and BYM based activities. We recognised the need to look at ways to make resources more easily accessible, such as making good use of ‘Woodbrooke-on-the-Road’ events, possibly in conjunction with children’s activities and supporting the development of online courses. Roger also reminded us to value and grow the strengths that we already have.

The Vibrancy Programme aims to support and enable local meetings to grow by listening, encouraging and in particular sign-posting meetings to resources

available from Woodbrooke and BYM. Roger suggested that a sense of being spirit-led underpins what being part of a Quaker community is and that a good sense of Quaker processes, in particular adherence to the discipline of triennium appointments strengthens and protects the meeting.



*Barbara Davey in conversation with Roger Clarke*

Jill Tutton gave us an update on the work of the Northern Friends Peace Board (NFPB). NFPB has been in operation for over a hundred years and Jill showed us copies of some evocative historic posters.

NFPB is supported by our Area Meeting, with Peter Cheer now our representative. It engages with a wide range of peace initiatives, including sustainable security and challenging militarism. NFPB continues to strengthen links with Quaker Peace and Social Witness and BYM and engages with events and developments in Scotland, including the CND rally to be held at Faslane on September 15th.

Barbara Davey presented a moving report on a recent conference at the Retreat in York organised by the Quaker Forum on Mental Health, the topic being “Dementia: Our Shared Journey”.



Quakers interest in mental health and well-being has been growing in recent years and two recent initiatives have been the appointment of a Mental Health Development Officer and the setting up of a Quaker Mental Health Forum. Barbara spoke at the conference of the experience of supporting a Friend with dementia in her local meeting and the impact that had on her faith and her local Quaker community. Whilst acknowledging sadness and loss, Barbara also described with gratitude the joy of spending time with her Friend. Barbara reflected that if our meetings mean anything it is that we are part of a loving community, holding each other in the light.

Our next meeting is on **Saturday 12th May in Dundee**, when the speaker will be Alison Mitchell, Mental Health Development Officer at the Retreat, York.

*Pam Apted*

*Assistant Clerk*

## **Meeting for Sufferings, February 2018**

The main item on our agenda was the strategic plan for Quaker Life work in the coming four years. Quaker Life has worked hard to produce a list of six priorities, but with limited resources wanted us to identify the three main priorities.

The statement is structured in six sections, matching the six sections in Our Faith in the Future. The six sections are:

1. Meeting for Worship is the bedrock of living as a Quaker.
2. Quaker communities are loving, inclusive and all-age.
3. All Friends understand and live by Quaker discipline.
4. Quaker values are active in the world.
5. Quakers work collaboratively.
6. Quakers are well known and widely understood.

Under each of these headings they had listed several aims, for example, *'Meetings are more joyful, confident, dynamic and welcoming'* and several indicators of success, which, if found to be true, would suggest the aim was (at

least) being achieved in part, for example, *‘More Local Meetings are large enough to be vibrant and sustainable’*.

Jocelyn Burnell introduced the report and then we moved to Home Groups to consider the questions. Quaker Life Central Committee had identified sections 1, 2 and 6 as their main focus.

Scotland goes with Friends in Wales. Friends in Wales includes the Southern Marches – the Welsh Borders (which is where I come from). As a native of Herefordshire I know that I was never considered to be Welsh by those across the border and this grouping must make it difficult for Welsh Friends to have a relationship with the Welsh Assembly. It made me realise how lucky we are in Scotland to have a specific identity.

When we came back together, we wanted to include section 4 as a main focus of Quaker Life because knowing and understanding our Quaker discipline also needs to be a priority. The priorities they identified were set out in a way that appealed to me and I felt that the discussion lacked an appreciation of the amount of work that went into the document.

You can read the full minutes and documents in advance at [www.quaker.org.uk/mfs](http://www.quaker.org.uk/mfs) . What I write here is a brief impression of a very full all day meeting.

There were surprising contributions in the plenary session. A Friend from Wales suggested that we get rid of Quaker Life as a structure and start again. A Friend under 50 (rare in our business meetings) suggested that we are enslaved by our Meeting Houses and should sell them all. The elderly lady sitting next to me, a member of a meeting struggling to keep a historic meeting house going echoed this sentiment when the meeting finished and suggested we go back to meeting on hills, so that all of our energy can be used for our ministry in a society that needs us more now than ever.

There was also a brief report of Quaker Life work in 2017, which included

- The consideration of non-binary gender issues, a learning process which may take some time.

- Work on good practice with vulnerable adult friends, which will be circulated soon.
- The limited use being made of Being Friends Together which now has free access.
- A conscious effort to strengthen relations with other Quaker bodies like Swarthmoor, Woodbrooke, Vibrancy, Quaker Peace and Social Witness.

An item that surprised me was that, in March, Cadburys' chocolate eggs and their omission of the word 'Easter' was in the news. There was then a Cadbury relative on the Friends House staff whose contribution to the debate raised the Quaker profile and put Quakers (briefly) in the media more than usual. Quaker Life saw a sharp peak in the demand for Enquirers' Packs that month. This prompted a contribution from a younger Friend (50ish) for us to embrace modern technology. He reminded us that Facebook is 'old hat' to young Quakers who are more likely to communicate using Buzzfeed, Twitterfeed, Quelfie and other things I've never heard of. Young Quakers do not come to our Business Meetings. If we want to involve them and pass things to the next generation, we must follow their lead, rather than vice versa. We are called to think as well as live adventurously.

Other matters considered by Meeting for Sufferings in February were:

- A request that Meeting for Sufferings carry out a review of Yearly Meeting Committee on Clerk's manner of work, including how to nurture potential Clerks and Treasurers and the relationship between Central Nominations Committee and the Committee on Clerks.

This is of particular interest to me as a Member of East Scotland Nominations Committee.

- The Britain Yearly Meeting Sustainability Group report for 2017 in many ways has felt like two steps forward, one step back. Last year they reported with pleasure that Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Living Witness were working together to develop a series of materials named Green Light, including resources on lifestyle change, Quaker conversations about sustainability, corporate discernment, and engagement with the wider community and politics. This project has been on hold for much of 2017,



because there is no budget other than for meetings. The proposal for Nurturing our Sustainability Ministry would need to be a legacy-funded project and it has been passed to a Staff group to finalise the details and make the funding proposal.

- If we are not going to Britain Yearly Meeting, some of it will be live-streamed and social media will be used to keep us informed. Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee was urged to continue embracing the use of technology in sharing in the participation in Yearly Meeting.
- The prison and court register – update on three of the six Friends arrested during a meeting for worship outside the Arms Fair organised by Defence and Security Equipment International in London.

*Alyson Buchan*

## **Meeting for Sufferings, April 2018**

### **Are our traditional structures preventing us from taking our concerns forward?**

At Meeting for Sufferings on 6<sup>th</sup> April, we reaffirmed our commitment to Sustainability. As Yearly Meeting minuted in 2011:

*“Sustainability is an urgent matter for our Quaker witness. It is rooted in Quaker testimony and must be integral to all we do corporately and individually.”*

We agreed that our Quaker faith is the spiritual basis of this concern which should permeate everything we do but we seem unable to go forward with this as we would wish. We concluded that we need leadership from within our Society and we need to explore what it is about our structures that makes it difficult to achieve the progress which we would like to see.

Lis Birch, who had clerked the review group for three years, addressed the meeting about her frustration at the lack of progress made on the Canterbury commitment by the Sustainability Group. The Group lacked time and

resources and needed Standing Committees to take ownership of the concern, make it central to all their work and be adventurous. This was a big item on the agenda. For the full recommendations, please read the minute of the Report of the Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) Sustainability Group Review Group MfS/18/04/06 at <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings>.

(If you would like me to print and post the minute to you, please let me know.)

Another important item on the agenda was a report of the group asked to review the appeal process in sections 4.25 and 4.26 of Quaker Faith and Practice. We cannot assume that because we are Quakers we will not come into conflict with each other and we are often slow to recognise when we need help. Beryl Milner convened the group and gave the report. She highlighted some fundamental problems like a lack of familiarity with our Church Government and the spiritual basis of our decision making, and of the increase in mental health issues within our meetings. She emphasised the need for us all to be engaged with this issue and to prioritise preventive work by encouraging a ministry of teaching in cultivating our understanding of Quaker ways. The effects of conflict in our meetings can be devastating and lasting and we need to take action quickly. The specific recommendations for changes in our Church Government are in the minutes (as above). They will now go to The Church Government Advisory Group who will work on the exact wording.

A concern has been brought to us about truth and integrity in public life – ‘A post-truth world – What can we do?’ It challenges us to read newspapers promoting different views from our own and to challenge those who consciously mislead the public, with the intention of dissuading people from taking action on matters of concern. The full minute will be sent to Area Meeting Clerks for further discussion.

We also received the report of BYM Trustees who highlighted some of the good things we are doing, including funding the vibrancy project, the recruitment of two regional youth workers (not in Scotland) and a plan to recruit an inclusion and diversity co-ordinator.

*Alyson Buchan*

## Quaker Peace and Service Spring Conference

### Journeys of Witness, Swanwick, March 2018

We were about 80 Friends, plus about 25 Friends involved in the 'Sanctuary Everywhere' project who met in parallel; we shared the plenaries, which made for a large gathering with a strong sense of forward-looking journeys.

Our first impression was of the energy and youth of the Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) staff and Peaceworkers, most in their 20s and all making their 'Journeys of witness' with the enthusiasm of explorers (seekers?).

Friend Elsie Whittington gave the opening talk, 'Embracing vulnerability in love, activism and witness'. Key questions:

- Do we use 'awkward conversations' as openings?
- Are we willing to make ourselves vulnerable, by lovingly disagreeing?
- Do we keep our 'activism muscle' in trim? Daily quiet activism is as important for our 'activist' health as occasional marching!

"Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions." (Advices and Queries 38). Throughout the weekend we gained insights into the astonishing range and depth of the work of QPSW and their – our? - witness to this advice.

We were able to attend four of the workshop options (others focused on the Turning the Tide (TTT) project in East Africa, practising non-violence in violent times, taking action for peace).

1. ***Meet the Peaceworkers:*** two young appointees, funded by BYM to work for a peace organisation.

Wayne Sharrocks's 'Journey of Witness' was moving to hear: from a military family, he joined the army at 16, but came to find it impossible to stay. After leaving, he became isolated and disorientated, but his journey turned a corner when he studied film-making and joined Veterans for Peace. Peace Pledge Union's 'Why a white poppy?' film last year was his work. Wayne is a Peaceworker with **Global Justice Now**, whose current campaigns challenge the culture of hostility toward migrants, the use of patents by big pharmaceuticals to falsely inflate the price of medications,

the lack of transparency and democracy in trade deals, and the dominance of food production by a few large corporations.

Abigail Darton is placed with **LEAP - Leaveners Experimental Arts for Peace**. LEAP work with councils, in education, in the voluntary sector, and on criminal justice which is Abi's area of work. She told us about two prison projects. **Peaceful Prisons** is active research into the causes of violence in prisons and best practice in its prevention. The project works to re-steer prisoners' frustrated energies and need for a sense of identity. A second project is in a private women's prison, **Bronzefield**. Abigail says 'Interventions within women's prisons ...are generally based on programmes in men's prisons and are mis-matched to the needs ... they must be tailored to make sure that they address the unique experiences of women, keep them safe and address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour.'

2. **Peace Education:** Ellis Brooks led a fun, thought-provoking workshop: we experimented with affirming each other, blaming each other, trusting each other and de-stressing together. We found out about two initiatives.

**Train the Trainer**, a project: supporting Quakers to train peer mediators in schools. 'Peer' in that the pupils themselves are trained to reconcile opposed individuals. 'Mediation' in that it is aiding reconciliation and the sharing of responsibility, not policing or punishment.

**INSPIRE**, a collaboration between Quakers in Britain, Corrymeela, Coventry Cathedral, Oasis Trust, and Wales for Peace, focusing on a 3-stranded alternative way of approaching the 1918 anniversary: a national award for young people working for peace; a Charter, committing your school or youth group to take steps for peace; and Remembrance peacebuilding events for young people on Friday 9th November 2018.

3. **Making change happen in Occupied Palestine (EAPPI - Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine + Israel)**

This session was led by a staff member from EAPPI and an Ecumenical Accompanier recently returned from Palestine after three months there. The Ecumenical Accompanier said that the message she was asked to bring

home was just to keep telling the story of the Israel/Palestine situation. She had been most profoundly affected by two people: a former Israeli soldier now working for Combatants for Peace through which veterans of the Israeli Defence Force work alongside Palestinians rebuilding communities; and the mayor of a Palestinian village threatened with destruction to make way for Israeli settlements; the village's school had been bulldozed - again. The soldier said that peace will only come when the narratives of the two sides come together. The mayor simply said, 'we will keep rebuilding.'

#### **4. Building economic and climate justice**

Sunniva Taylor of QPSW led this session, showing how sustainability and the economy are interwoven. The main learning points for me (Richard) were:

- We should all try to learn more about the economy; we all live in it and contribute to it. We must overcome feelings that only trained economists can say anything sensible about it. The New Economy Series of booklets is a major QPSW initiative for Friends to have reading groups to break down the knowledge barrier and think about change.
- Friends around the country are already involved in many initiatives, some aimed at fundamental reform, some achieving local change.

Clare Wood (head of Peace and Justice programmes for QPSW) has a background working for NGOs. She said that what makes QPSW different is its ability to be patient and steadfast in the areas where work is being carried out. We can stay with projects 'for the long haul'. We know change doesn't come overnight, but a commitment to a QPSW project can provide a deeper sense of doing our bit to make a lasting difference for a community or cause.

At our closing meeting, the worship sharing made it very evident that Friends – many at their first major Quaker gathering – were re-energised for continued Journeys of Witness by the weekend's learning and sharing. QPSW's website is full of interesting information and links to the kind of work described above.

Next time the news online discourages you, go to

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work> instead!

*Carolyn Burch and Richard Raggett*

## **'Patterns and Examples': a day together for Friends**

On February 17, 45 Friends from across Scotland and the north of England met together with Rhiannon Grant from Woodbrooke and Oliver Waterhouse from Friends' House to participate in 'a day of inspiration, support and refreshment'. Intended for 'everyone who holds a Quaker role within their local or area meeting', I attended with high expectations of a productive and valuable day.

After worship, two choices from a range of options were available. I gained greatest benefit from an exploration of Meetings for Clearness, about which I previously knew very little. Although somewhat flexible in definition, a Meeting for Clearness is often used in order for an individual (or couple) to discern the way forward concerning a particular matter, whether marriage, membership or some other turning point in an individual's life. The Meeting for Clearness gives an opportunity for a situation to be faced openly with love and to be tested in a non-judgemental atmosphere of worship. Ably led by Rhiannon Grant, the workshop was very practical and we had the opportunity to practise a Meeting for Clearness in a real situation, for which I was extremely grateful. That experience was very moving as I witnessed a reminder of why I am so privileged to be part of the Religious Society of Friends.

We may be a long way from the times of George Fox but I pray that we may continue to share his spiritual insights, following the Light within. So, may we be patterns and examples in order that we may 'come to walk cheerfully over the world answering that of God in every one'.

*Meri Goad*





## Perth Peace Pole Walk

I would guess that many of you might have heard of 'Peace Poles'; for those of you who have not, the Peace Pole Project says:

‘A Peace Pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message and prayer May Peace Prevail on Earth on each of its four or six sides, usually in different languages.

There are tens of thousands of Peace Poles in 180 countries all over the world dedicated as monuments to peace. They serve as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for world peace.'

Perth hosts two Peace Poles, one is outside the St Ninian's Episcopal Cathedral, the second is across the river Tay in the gardens outside the Rodney Pavilion. The Rodney Gardens Peace Pole was erected by Perth Buddhists to mark a visit by the Dalai Lama to Scotland.



*A peace pole*

The two poles are about a mile apart and some Perth Quakers have been thinking of having a walk between them in August to mark Hiroshima Day and as an outreach event.

On 6 August 1945, the US dropped an atomic bomb called "Little Boy" on Hiroshima in Japan. Three days later a second atomic bomb ("Fat Man") was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. These are the only times nuclear weapons have been used in war.

The firestorm in Hiroshima ultimately destroyed 13 square kilometres (5 square miles) of the city. Almost 63% of the buildings in Hiroshima were completely destroyed after the bombing and nearly 92% of the structures in

the city had been either destroyed or damaged by blast and fire.

Estimates of total deaths in Hiroshima have generally ranged between 100,000 and 180,000, out of a population of 350,000. Casualties from Nagasaki are thought to be between 50,000 and 100,000.

Planning for the walk has not really started yet but will soon. Quakers from other meetings will be very welcome or perhaps this idea might spark other Hiroshima Day / outreach events.

*Peter Cheer*

## **The Meeting that Never Was**

Returning after a long break as Area Meeting representative on Northern Friends Peace Board I was looking forward to attending my first NFPB board meeting in Carlisle. Unfortunately the weather decided to intervene; with heavy snow blanketing much of Scotland and northern England, the meeting was cancelled.

There will be other NFPB meetings in future but I do have the papers circulated in advance that give a flavour of what I missed. One of the things I had been looking forward to was an update on a major event taking place in Scotland this September: mark the date, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, in your diaries. Scottish CND will be staging 'Nae Nukes Anywhere'. I know that planning has started but have few details yet; a central part will be a march from the Faslane Peace Camp to the North Gate of the Faslane Naval base.

Cynics will say that the campaigners for nuclear disarmament can dance and shout for a day but nothing will change. This might be true, no one on this journey can expect it to be short. The last year saw two memorable achievements for campaigners against nuclear weapons, the United Nations General Assembly passed the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and ICAN (International campaign against nuclear weapons) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Main stream media ignored the first and gave scant attention to the latter. 'Nae Nukes Anywhere' will be our chance to have

our say and that is important.

The weather in Argyle in September is hard to predict but I can say that it has little chance of being cancelled because of snow.

One thing that you can do right now is to email your MPs and MSPs asking them to sign the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) Parliamentary Pledge and build pressure on the UK government to sign and ratify the nuclear ban treaty. There is sample letter at <http://www.icanw.org/projects/pledge/> where you can also check who has already signed the parliamentary pledge.

Over the years many Friends have supported the activities of CND and a new book has been published, timed to coincide with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's 60th anniversary, drawing on archive material and interviews with activists from across the decade. 'CND at 60' puts the current work of CND in the context of Trump and increasing global tensions around nuclear weapons.

It provides detailed coverage of the inside story of six decades of CND – from the mass protests at Aldermaston and Greenham Common, to its central role in post 9/11 anti-war campaigning, to today's struggle to stop Trident replacement and win support for the UN's global ban on nuclear weapons. You can see a video of author and activist Kate Hudson reading from her new book, 'CND at 60' at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU\\_rd75ri50](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU_rd75ri50).

*Peter Cheer*

### **An invitation**

A reader has said that what is lacking in Tayside Quaker is 'thought-provoking soul food'. So I, as editor, invite you (yes, you!) to contribute something for the next issue. Maybe you could write (briefly) about your own beliefs, challenges, solutions, or maybe you could send in a short piece of writing that has helped – or provoked – you. What could you share with others? Just a few sentences would be most welcome!

*Felicity Bryers*

## Let's think about it

Four months into another year and spring, season of new life.

Just around the corner is the right time to awaken our Spiritual Quest for deeper understanding and new meaning of what can so easily become, if not a wearisome habit, a no longer inspiring safe routine.

How about starting with these three questions:

1. Does belonging to or attendance at a Church or a Religion based gathering give us a sense of assurance *as well as* a deeper understanding of our beliefs and of life itself?
2. Would our lives lose meaning if:
  - We severed our connection with our Church/ Religious Society or
  - We ceased to hold to our present religious beliefs?
3. Are we doing God a favour by openly giving outward expression of our belief in God or is God doing us a favour by allowing us to be aware of or able to recognise and feel His Presence and His Power? How do we respond to His Presence?

*A. Mary Lindsay*

## News from Local Meetings

### *Dundee*

#### **Exploring Spirituality**

Dundee Meeting hosted an exploration of spirituality on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of March. The day began with All-Age Worship, focusing on the language we use to refer to that which is beyond us. Participants walked in to a Meeting Room with the floor covered in words. After a settling period, they were asked to choose one word which sat comfortably with them and one they found more challenging. The words were written on strips of paper and incorporated into a chain. This simple exercise brought out some deep ministry as individuals shared why they had chosen particular words.

We moved round to the old Meeting House for lunch and this was followed by a guided meditation, led by Donna Morgan. From this we were moved into a dance workshop by Joan Cleville which got us on our feet, starting with gentle mindful movement and increasing our range of motion and awareness of each other until someone observed that the room was like a tank full of seaweed, waving in an invisible current. Next Meri Goad and Sheila Phillips led us in singing a variety of songs and rounds. Finally, the day closed with another meditation and worship sharing.

Part of the impetus for planning this event was to offer an opportunity to work with our young people. Over the last decade Dundee Meeting has been fortunate to have up to nine young people, (all very close in age) who have been joined by those of similar age from St Andrews and Perth for regular young people's meetings. Some families have moved away and the young people no longer get together once a month so it was lovely to work together again. Who knows what the future will bring for our young people or where their spiritual journeys will take them but we hope their time in Meeting will encourage them to value their spiritual lives.

East of Scotland is an unusually small Area Meeting but we are lucky to have within our three local Meetings the initiative to plan a day like this, the talent

to lead so many different parts of the day and the support from all three meetings to make sure it is well attended. As I worshipped, sang, danced and meditated with a group ranging from eight to eighty-something I felt a real sense of community.

We are very grateful to Donna Morgan and Genevieve Orr for the initial idea and the planning and organisation of the day.

*Andrew Phin*

## ***St Andrews***

At the start of the year St. Andrews Friends embarked on a series of talks and discussions under the title “Discoveries – sharing our interests and enthusiasms”. Here are some of the activities.

### **Film “A United Kingdom”**

This film highlighted the life and times of Seretse Khama and his English wife, Ruth Williams, and Botswana's socio political struggles towards independence.

Pam Brunt and Robin Waterston had spent several years teaching in Botswana and Robin was able to reflect on their time there which gave us a wider perspective of life at that time.

### **Quaker Retreat**

Back in January a suggestion was made about holding a retreat of some form. After an initial meeting of those who might be interested, a small group was set up to take this matter forward.

Formats and venues were explored. The Bield was identified. A visit was made and it was felt to be a suitable location. This will be a Renewal Retreat covering one day which will be facilitated by Zinaida Lewczuk. It will be held on Sunday June 3 2018.

### **Let Your Lives Speak**

Friends met at Pam and Robin's home where five young friends shared their journeys to St Andrews and the Quaker Meeting House. It was an opportunity



to hear about their varied backgrounds and their spiritual experiences. In a friendly and caring atmosphere we were given frank and enriching testimonies which had led them to seek out the local Meeting. The students from abroad expressed how welcome they had been made and the deep sense of community found which resonated strongly with them. We too felt that the sharing was a two way flow which really energised our links to young people.

## **Holy Sounds**

Friends met at Joyce Taylor and Huw Richards home. Huw spoke about music and the sacred. It was an evolving exploration starting with sounds of the rainforest in Papua New Guinea moving through Islamic, Jewish, Indian and Christian music, reflecting on the cultural attributes and how musical sounds feature in all cultures at different levels and in different ways. Friends recognised that Huw had spent a lot of time in preparation which was much appreciated. It was a very well attended evening which succeeded in shutting out the inclement weather.

Looking back on these months we have had quite a selection of experiences perhaps reflecting on our diversity which if you take time to think about it is the glue that holds us together and gives us strength.

*Buša Cochrane-Muir*

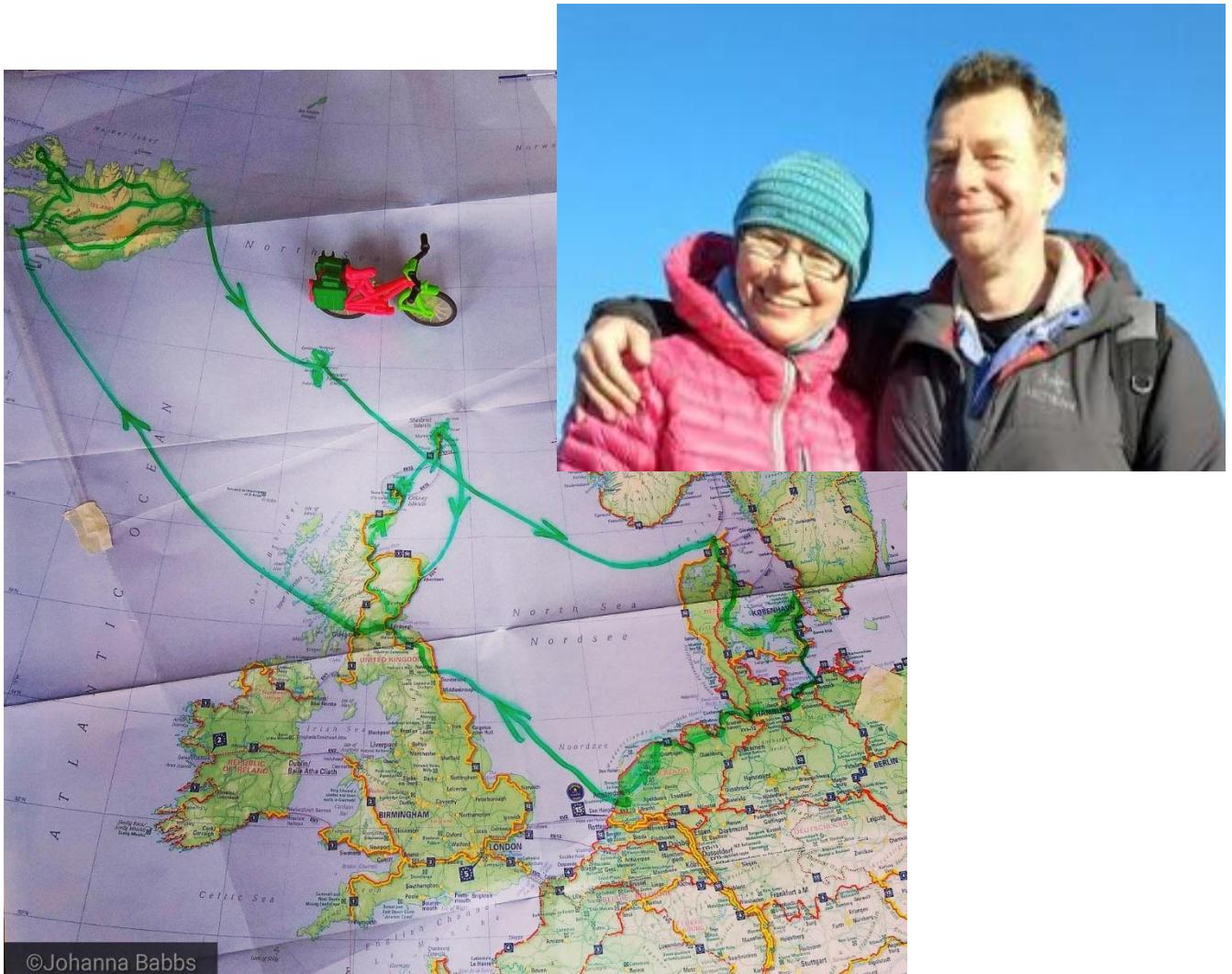
## **Perth**

## **News of Friends**

### Johanna's and Jerry's Adventure:

For those readers who have been following Johanna's blog ([twobikesandatent.wordpress.com](http://twobikesandatent.wordpress.com)), it will come as good news that their adventure will begin again soon. Earlier this year Johanna had posted that Jerry was recuperating well and riding his bike again. Their plans have now moved on as they begin a six-month Viking Odyssey, touring Orkney and Shetland, Iceland and the Faroes before returning via Denmark and Copenhagen. For Johanna and Jerry this is a short trip – the intention is to

rebuild Jerry's confidence on the bike after his operation and to regain a higher level of fitness. We look forward to further postings.



### A Farewell:

This month we say goodbye to Chris Holmes who has retired and is moving back to Derbyshire. We shall miss his steadfast presence at Meeting and wish him and his wife, Celia, a long and fulfilling retirement.

### **A focus on ministry**

#### Preparation for meeting for worship:

With the aim of considering and developing ministry during Meeting for Worship, the plan is to reintroduce these preparation sessions. They are to be held in a room near the meeting room, beginning an hour before Meeting starts. The sessions will last 45 minutes, giving time for participants to enter the meeting room and settle before Meeting actually begins. The preparation

sessions will run for a period after which their efficacy will be reviewed.

Forthcoming learning session:

We have a Learning Session planned for Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Subud Centre when Kevin Franz will lead on the subject of “Ministry”. Since ministry is also the focus of the preparation sessions mentioned above, we are hoping that the Learning Session will enable us to focus on this topic even more directly. We thank Kevin for leading this session.

*Enid Harding*

Correction: The photographs of the Plus group’s garden in the last issue of Tayside Quaker were taken by Tofur Smith not Peter Cheer.

Scottish Christians Against Nuclear Arms (SCANA)

**Pentecost Peace Witness Vigil**

Saturday 26th May 2018

12 noon – 1.0 p.m.

Faslane Royal Naval Base, Gareloch.

A short annual Peace Vigil, led by the Iona Community's Wild Goose Resource Group, to bear witness to peaceful alternatives to the violence of weapons of mass destruction.

Readings, songs, prayers, silence, symbolic actions – and a picnic to end with (bring your own!).

People of all faiths, or of none, are most welcome!

## **Meetings for Worship**

**Dundee Meeting House, 30 Whitehall Street, Dundee DD1 4AF**

**Sundays 11.00 am**

**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 11.00 am**

Children's Meeting usually last Sunday of each month

Children's contact: Dorothy Aitken (01764 652398)

### **East of Scotland Area Meeting**

Saturday 12 May 2018, *Dundee*

Saturday 18 August 2018, *Perth*

Saturday 3 November 2018, *St Andrews*

### **General Meeting for Scotland**

16 June 2018, Inverness, *North Scotland*

15 September 2018, Glasgow, *West Scotland*

17 November 2018, Perth, *East Scotland*

9 March 2019, Glasgow, *West Scotland*