

West Scotland

Quaker News

April 2014

Clerk's Letter	3
March Area Meeting by Telephone	4
February Meeting for Sufferings	5
Ayrshire, Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Dunblane & Wigtown Meetings' Reports	6-9
Early Experiences of Quaker Meeting	10
March Canterbury Commitment Conference	11
New Meeting on Islay & Jura	12
Inveraray Gathering	13
Woodbrooke on the Road coming to Glasgow & other notices	15-16

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individuals. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).



*Looking northwards at thick-walled ruined remains of the Chapel at Mugdock Castle. According to **Wikipedia**, the Castle was possibly built by Sir David de Graham and dates from at least 1372 but seemingly the Chapel was added later - probably in the 16th.C. (BGB 2014)*

In the Light

Mind's eye captures candle in the dark
Flame wavering but strong and still secure
My guardian in the night.
Security sits calm
As fear breathes out and light breathes in.
With courage on one side and strength upon the other
The soft glow beckons me and bids me fear no harm.

Rosemary Morgan (Glasgow Meeting). *This is one of a group of poems I am working on called 'Pathways Through Loss.' It was inspired by the first part of James Nayler's writing in QFP 21.65:*

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Clerk's Letter

One of the topics we'll have on the agenda for Area Meeting in Dumfries on 12 April is the report from the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations day conference on 'Faith: what's God got to do with it?'. This was when Friends who express belief, or not, in a specific type of 'God' came together to explore their experience. The report was printed in the February West Scotland Quaker News. Audio files of the three presentations at this conference by David Boulton, Rex Ambler and Philip Gross as well as the question and answer session can be downloaded from the Britain Yearly Meeting website. Also available there are a summary report of the event and copies of the papers available on the day. To find these, please visit <http://www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-committee-christian-and-interfaith-relations-day-conference-2014>. If looking and listening to online material is not what you do, please ask others in your meeting or come back to me on 0141 770 7865.

It's good that Friends with differing understandings of 'God' are coming together to explore. Finding what others mean by the words they use show, 'where words come from' is more important than the varying definitions we might give them. It's risky, as words like 'God' can mean very deep things to us which may make us feel threatened if someone challenges them. But sharing deep experience can also lead to a realisation that we may actually use different words to describe the same thing. Reading through and listening to all this reminded me of Quaker faith & practice 26.24, which reads in part:

"Science and religion have much in common. They are communal activities and involve a search for some greater truth. The sharing of ideas is fundamental to both. The discipline of science can make a valuable contribution to religious thought; critical honesty, the willingness to abandon old ideas and modes of thought when fresh insight demands it and the centrality of experience as an arbiter of truth are as important in one as in the other. In both the scientific and religious searches for truth, the implications of current beliefs are explored to see where they lead. Beliefs are not just safe ledges in an uncertain reality, but rather handholds from which further heights can be reached."

Eleven Quaker scientists, 1989

It's the last sentence which impresses me. We build on what works, not on dogma. As ever, I labour to describe my experience and then find it was in Quaker faith & practice all the time. But I had to experience it first to recognise it.

Michael Hutchinson (*Glasgow Meeting*)

The deadline for the next issue of West of Scotland Quaker News is 12 May. Copy should be sent to the editor Bryan Bowes preferably in word or plain text email to: botany64@waitrose.com or by post on paper or disc to: 3 West Chapelton Lane, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2DF. Telephone 0141 942 3346

Report on Area Meeting by Telephone 10 March

Some 24 or 25 Friends (or groups of Friends) gathered “remotely” on the evening of 10 March for Area Meeting by phone conference. I am afraid I am gauging the figure by the “participant” number given by the polite but disembodied female voice who introduces each call into the conference. Since she’s not clever enough to work out that in some case 3 or 4 Friends are sharing the same phone, she only counts them as one. The ability of numbers like this to meet together for worship before the conference call and then successfully take part as a group is thanks, as we heard later in the Meeting, to three conference phones bought from the Barbara Organ legacy for Wigtown, Dumfries and Arran Meetings. We heard that they were very successful and much appreciated, even if it did take Arran Friends a little while to get theirs working properly! Nevertheless, the point to be remembered in our large and scattered Area Meeting is that there were representatives of all LMs taking part, including all three island LMs.

We began with memories of departed Friends, first Daphne Ogg of Glasgow Meeting who died in February, and secondly the request (agreed to) that a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Billy Johnstone should be prepared. Nominations Committee were asked to find names to undertake this task.

We then moved on to the Clerk’s report, which included amongst other things a note of the Adventurous Trusteeship Conference in February at which our Clerk was a speaker, the recommendation from Meeting for Sufferings that Yearly Meeting should initiate a revision process of Quaker Faith and Practice, and a short report of an Area Meeting agenda planning meeting that had been held in February. We also heard that the main topic at April Area Meeting in Dumfries will be the QCCIR conference on “Faith: what’s God got to do with it” which Gisela Creed attended and reported on in the last West Scotland Quaker News.

Membership came next. Friends were appointed to visit one applicant, and we heard the report of a visit to another, Alice Mahon, whom we were pleased to welcome into membership.

Perhaps the largest item on the agenda, and the most challenging to deal with by phone conference, was the request by General Meeting for us to consider the proposals for a Scottish Advocacy post, proposals which had already been circulated for Friends to read and ponder over. Some queries were raised: why “advocacy” rather than “parliamentary liaison”? and what was this likely to cost? Alastair Reid, our representative on the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Advisory Group, gave us some useful information which helped to answer the first, Robin Davis as clerk of GM Trustees pointed us to chapter 5 of QF&P and the root of these proposals in the function of GM with regard to devolved legislation, and we were told that, although costings have not been prepared in detail yet, it was expected that eventually roughly double the size of quota would be required from each Area Meeting to help pay for this - in the case of West Scotland AM this might involve an extra £3,000 on top of what we currently give to GM. There was some concern expressed about this, but overall we felt able to agree that General Meeting should go forward and work up a firm proposal, with costings, for the June GM, after which the proposals will be circulated to Area Meetings again.

We thanked our Meeting for Sufferings representative, Peter Christy, for his report which had been circulated beforehand, and we also received a report from our Treasurer, Kate Gulliver, reminding us of the financial support available to Friends wishing to attend Yearly Meeting in Bath, bookings for which need to be in by the end of March.

Nominations Committee report was another substantial item, in three parts. The first part was a recommendation that the structure of the nominations process be changed so that representatives were appointed not for each single LM but for 3 or 4 geographical clusters of meetings. It was agreed that these proposals should be sent to Local Meetings for consideration and a response. Secondly names were brought forward for service or release. Crawford Logan was appointed to assist Mary Watson in the preparation of a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Alison Gean Davis; Bronwen Currie was appointed as elder, and Susan Wood as an overseer, both attached to Islay & Jura Meeting; and Ian Macdonald was appointed deputy Registering Officer – all the latter three to the end of the triennium in December this year. At the same time both Crawford Logan and Margaret Munro were released as overseers attached to Dunblane Meeting.

Finally, we were pleased to appoint Fergus Harte from Glasgow, Eliza Topliff from Dunblane and Peter Tyler from Argyll to attend Junior Yearly Meeting, which this year runs concurrently with Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath.

By the close of the Meeting the fire had gone out and the cat was rather impatiently waiting for my lap to be free. But it was still good to be able to attend Area Meeting without a day's traveling on either side of it!

Bronwen Currie (*Argyll & Islay Meeting*)

Meeting for Sufferings Report Feb 2014

At Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) we heard about some of the work of the Trustees, and also had an update from the Treasurer on changes to investments following our recommendation last October to divest from fossil fuel extraction. It was good to hear that this has happened and that some of those investments have been transferred to investments in renewable energy

Trustees' report also enabled some Friends to share their unease about the additional name of 'The Light' for the Large Meeting House. For me, if the name 'The Light' generates a fraction of the questioning and commentary amongst the users of the facility then it will have been well worth it in that it will open many routes for outreach.

We then received a report from The Speaking Out Group report and the full policy they have generated. It will apply primarily to the work of Friends House staff and committees but it also extends to Area and Local Meetings and indeed individual Friends. It reminds us of the care we must take when making public statements on issues to which we wish to bare witness. A short form of the report will be circulated soon but full report can be found on: <http://quaker.org.uk/sites/default/files/MfS-2014->

Lizzie Rosewood, Vibrancy in Meetings Programme Developer, then spoke about the program to strengthen and support Local Meetings. Again the range of actions that can be undertaken is broad but very well described in her written report <http://www.quaker.org.uk/sites/default/files/Vibrancy-report-summary.pdf> . Lizzie's contact details are lizzier@quaker.org.uk – tel: 07419 373657.

Jessica Metherringham, Parliamentary Engagement Officer, then introduced herself to the meeting and briefly described the current state of her work. I have met both Jessica and Lizzie in my wandering round Friends House and have to say that we are extremely lucky to have such people supporting us and, while we may not be requiring the work of a Westminster Liaison Officer for much longer, we should make full use of what we have. Jessica's contact details are: jessicam@quaker.org.uk – tel 020 7663 1107.

The other item that we considered is whether or not the time is right to initiate a review of the Book of Discipline. Friends attending Yearly Meeting Gathering will need to come prepared for this as it is Yearly Meeting's decision whether or not to start a review – MfS only recommends.

Peter Christy (*Ayrshire & Arran Meeting*)

Report from Dunblane Quaker Meeting 2013

Dunblane Quaker Meeting continues to meet every Sunday in the Braeport Centre. We now have a lockable cupboard large enough to hold our library, which had been in storage; we are pleased that books are once again being borrowed. The doorkeeper reads their choice from Advices and Queries each week. Increasingly, the children have stayed long enough to hear the reading.

Numbers in the main meeting have fluctuated during the year, peaking in the low 20s. The children's meeting remains vibrant, with up to 10 attending; on occasions there have been more people in the children's meeting than in the adult one. Our older children have attended the Summer Shindig and Quaker Link events during the year.

Last year was overshadowed by the loss of Alison Gean Davis, who died on 1 September. She grew up in the Meeting, as her children are now doing, and was thus one of our longest-standing and most experienced members. She was buried in the Strowan woodland cemetery; her memorial meeting for worship filled Dunblane Cathedral. Area Meeting has agreed to our request that a Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in her life be compiled.

Betty Kyles, who used to attend the Meeting, also died during the year. She left us a legacy of £1000, which has given us the confidence to invite Woodbrooke on the Road to visit in 2014.

We reported last year that we were concerned that our regular income barely covered the cost of renting the Braeport Centre. Although our numbers have not risen, our income has, and last year was sufficient to cover outgoings.

Concern about our finances, including what things we should support as a meeting and what as individuals, prompted a wider consideration of our priorities. We organised a study group, kindly facilitated by Michael Hutchinson, to discuss these issues.

We have collected during the year for Logos, Quaker Homeless Action, Startup Stirling, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Stirling Interfaith Community Justice Group centre at Cornton Vale. The children have been collecting pennies for Mary's Meals.

During the first half of the year, we met monthly to work through 'Being Quaker, Doing Quaker' together. Towards the end of the year, we allowed time for sharing after meeting once a month.

We hold a meeting for business on the Sunday before each Area Meeting. Elders and Overseers continue to meet approximately every 6 weeks. We belong to Dunblane Council of Churches, Stirling Interfaith Community Justice Group, Startup in Stirling, the Quaker Disability Equality Group and Quaker Council for European Affairs. We have a continuing connection with HealthProm, working in Afghanistan, and supported an application to QPSW on their behalf. We continue as a FairTrade meeting.

Robin Davis (*Dunblane Meeting*)

Report from Ayrshire Quaker Meeting 2014

The year started with Ayrshire and Arran as one joint meeting but Arran Friends decided they were ready to become a separate meeting again. The separation was agreed by Area Meeting in June and the Arran funds transferred to their new bank account in November. We hope to maintain links with Arran Friends by holding a joint meeting for worship on fifth Sundays in Ardrossan.

For Quaker Week we held a series of open events in Ardrossan, Ayr and Girvan which attracted a total of eight enquirers, some of whom have become regular attenders at Sunday worship. Since November we have held worship four times per month; meeting in Ayr on the first and the third Sunday, Ardrossan on the second Sunday and in Girvan on the fourth Sunday, making for worship more accessible to Friends in the north and south of the area.

We also started having shared lunch and a discussion after worship on the third Sunday of each month. In 2013 topics included discernment, worship and spiritual experience. Advices and Queries were read occasionally

Ayrshire Meeting is part of the group of west coast Friends who gather for a residential weekend in Inveraray each March. All members and attenders are kept informed of events and activities electronically.

Donations have been made to appeals by local meetings for their Meeting House appeals and to Britain Yearly Meeting.

Members of the meeting contribute to the life of the Area Meeting by attendance at AM Meetings for Worship for Church Affairs both physical and telephone meetings, by financial contributions and by service in Area Meeting roles.

Members from the meeting support the wider Quaker community by representing the Area Meeting at Meeting for Sufferings, serving on General Meeting and national committees and interest groups, attending events at Woodbrooke and involvement with Friends worldwide in Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Kathryn Gulliver (*Clerk Ayrshire Meeting*)

Report from Castle Douglas Meeting 2013

Castle Douglas Local Meeting has enjoyed a happy year, with a new Member joining us from Dundee and several friends from Lothlorien Community joining us for worship from time to time. Our first Sunday extra collections have supported the Afghan School Project (a Charity of which Godfrey Smith, the shoe/clog maker from Balamaclellan is a Trustee and regular visitor), the Ecumenical Accompaniers Programme, the Dumfries and Galloway Personality Disorder Support Group and the Quaker Homeless Action for their Christmas shelter.

In August we entertained two young speakers from QPSW who spoke about their experiences in Palestine, to which we welcomed Friends from other Meetings, and in October we shared the Roadshow Meeting which Wigtown Meeting organized in Castle Douglas. We supported, along with Area Meeting, a young friend who went out to Ramallah under the aegis of Quaker Voluntary Action, and some of us accepted gladly Dumfries Meeting's kind invitation to join them in a visit to Dumfries Prison, which was an uplifting and enjoyable experience – which we understand we shall be able to repeat in 2014!

We have enjoyed Bring and Share lunches to facilitate getting to know one another better and the year has been marked by mutual support and friendship. We are sorry to say goodbye to Janet Fenton at the end of her stay as a helper at Lothlorien and thank her for bringing friends to us.

Report from Dumfries Meeting 2013

Dumfries Meeting continues to carry out the requirements set by BYM Trustees as mentioned in the past three State of the Meeting reports. We meet regularly, have Elder's & Overseer's meetings, our treasurer's report but have no children's class. We record our activities in our photograph album & send out a regular newsletter. Most months we hold a collection for different charities suggested by our members & this year we have sent off nearly £1,000. We also collect for our own local Meeting.

We were sad to report the death last March of our Friend John Wray & in May of our Friend David Sainty. Both were in their 90's.

Some of us gather before Meeting on first Sundays in the summer to share thoughts & ideas. On second Sundays we hold discussions when our subjects have been: the 8

State of our Meeting & the activities we take part in outside the Meeting; Interfaith work; a report from BYM; the 2013 Swarthmore lecture; the revision of Quaker Faith & Practice; a discussion on the Peace Testimony & the relevance of the Christmas story to us & our world today

We had a most interesting visit & talk from Jane Harries on her experiences as an Ecumenical Accompanier on the West Bank & we joined Castle Douglas & Wigtown Friends twice this year, once to hear two QPSW speakers & once for a day to learn 'How our Society works'. In the summer we had an outing to Dumfries House near Cumnock & in November a most interesting & enlightening guided tour round our local prison where two Friends regularly visit a prisoner. Another Friend is involved in Interfaith gatherings & several of us joined her for an event during Interfaith Week.

We are all, individually, very involved in many different voluntary activities throughout the region where we are, on the whole, known to be Quakers, & we feel that in this way we are known in our local area.

Claire MacLeod (*Clerk Dumfries Meeting*)

Report from Wigtown Meeting 2013

Wigtown Local Meeting held a Meeting for Worship every Sunday and an afternoon meeting on the first Wednesday of every month. A Childrens' Meeting was held once a month for part of the year, until the young family moved away. Three of our members have CRB clearance for working with children.

The meeting had one elder and one overseer. Being such a small meeting, everyone did their best to sustain the spiritual life of the meeting and share in the pastoral care of those undergoing difficulties.

Meetings for worship for business were held regularly and were well attended and there has been at least one representative from Wigtown Meeting at each of the Area Meetings. Wigtown hosted one of the Area Meetings. We have continued to organise Meetings for Worship at the gates of Dundrennan Military base. There were four of these during the year. Occasional discussion groups were held during the year. On the last Sunday of every month we held a simple soup and cheese lunch.

For outreach, the meeting participated in the local Community Week, hosting one of the coffee mornings. We also had a stall at the market on the two Saturdays of Wigtown Book Festival when we had an interactive display with material provided by the CAAT. This attracted a great deal of interest and discussion. The Meeting House is now being hired by five regular users with occasional one-off lets. This is providing a useful income.

Financial accounts have been kept in compliance with The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and SORPS 2005. The finances are in good order at the end of the year with general funds of £1200 and with two designated funds, namely £1600 in the Building Reserves and £150 in the Garden Fund.

Janette Walkinshaw (*Clerk Wigtown Meeting*)

My Early Experiences of a Quaker Meeting

After many years of thinking, rather than doing, anything about it, I finally attended my first Quaker meeting in March 2013.

I had done some background reading so knew what to expect in terms of the format of meetings. What my online ‘research’ could not have prepared me for was the warmth of welcome I received at Milngavie meeting and, what I have since learned is described as, “the amazing fact of Quaker worship”.

Amazing in so many ways, not least in that I walked into a room in Milngavie on a cold March morning, met 12 strangers with whom I sat in virtual silence for an hour and left feeling that I had taken an incredible journey in the company of friends.

In the busy world we live in where we seem to be continuously surrounded, if not bombarded, by noise it is good to be reminded of what a very precious gift silence is, and of its importance in our lives.

One writer described silence as “not an absence of sound, but a different kind of listening”. For me this has certainly been my experience of silent worship; I have listened to what’s inside, ‘tuned in’ to my inner life rather than being distracted by external noise.

I am also now far more aware of the different qualities of silence. Sometimes I feel it as a light, quite fragile thing. On these occasions my thoughts seem to flit from one thing to another before finally settling, and sometimes they don’t settle at all. At other times the silence feels particularly intense and I begin that journey inwards, enveloped by a sense of peace and calm, reaching another place.

When friends ask me what meeting is like I sometimes find it difficult to put into words; conveying that sense of companionable silence, in which so many seeds of thought are sown and nurtured without making it sound ‘twee’, is a skill I have yet to perfect. I’ll have to practice the ‘conversation in a lift’ tactic.

In a world where different views, and their proponents, are often ridiculed and disregarded, I find the experience of Meeting, where challenges are made in the spirit of enquiry and to expand thinking rather than with the aim of restricting discussion, incredibly refreshing. I wonder how different the world might look if some of our leaders adopted this approach?

Do I have any regrets about attending Quaker Meeting ? Just one: that I spent so many years thinking about it instead of just getting up and going!

Sue Robertson (*Milngavie Meeting*)

March Canterbury Commitment Conference, Derbyshire.

Edward Tyler (Argyll) and Malcolm Crosby (Lanark) from West Scotland Area Meeting attended the conference along with Friends from Cornwall to Aberdeen. The 112 delegates spent the weekend at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire discerning the issues surrounding the theme of “Transforming Ourselves, Transforming the System”. It was organised by Quaker Peace and Social Witness Canterbury Commitment group. (In 2011 BYM was held in Canterbury and agreed Minute 36 calling on us to become a low carbon sustainable community - hence “the Canterbury Commitment.”)

Transformation work: We looked at progress in our various Meetings, exploring how far we had succeeded in Transforming Ourselves. A recent survey of Quakers in Yorkshire by the Canterbury Commitment Group found that Friends are making lifestyle changes and Meeting buildings are being greened. Engaging with the Commitment has strengthened some Meetings as spiritual communities. We also heard from many delegates about the work they are doing in their Meetings, such as setting up a low-carbon new-build co-housing project, an organic food growing scheme, running a Minute 36 group and organising a visit scheme to local eco-homes. These – and many, many, more – helped inspire us and go forward with renewed vigour.

We also explored how we might Transform the System. A quote from Laurie Michaelis of Living Witness is apposite: “This is probably the toughest, most complex problem humanity has ever faced. It means a global transformation of economies, infrastructure and technology (and) transforming values and priorities throughout society.”

Ways forward: Appropriately, given the immensity of the challenge, we discerned many ways forward. Some next steps are explored below.

Individuals and Meetings can join 350.org. This is a worldwide campaigning organisation which has come up with two principle strategies:

Divestment. This entails divesting oneself of investments that are tied up in fossil fuel extraction companies; it is exactly what Britain Yearly Meeting is doing. As Sunniva Taylor, QPSW's Sustainability and Peace programme manager, says: “If it’s wrong to wreck the planet, then it’s wrong to profit from that wreckage.”

Non-violent direct action. A major campaign is also underway to block a pipeline proposal through the USA to carry Canadian Tar Sands oil down to Texas for refining.

Conference Friends felt that “extreme” extraction methods must be opposed. In Britain fracking is an example of such a method. Tim Gee gave a keynote speech based on his book “Counterpower” in which he spoke of Quaker expertise in Non-Violent Direct Action. Scottish Friends can ask their local Council to declare itself a “Frack-Free” zones.

Keeping it in the ground Some of us watched “Do the Math”, a film that explains how most of the world's known fossil fuel reserves need to be left in the ground if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change. The film is available free on the internet. Knowledge such as this makes it clear to you how big the problem is whilst

The Burning Question (by Mike Berners-Lee) gives the relevant facts and figures which make for very scary reading.

Zero Carbon Britain (ZCB). The conference heard from this organisation. The Centre for Alternative Technology has come up with a plan to transform our lives, energy production, infrastructure, housing stock and economy using renewables to make Britain carbon-free without resorting to nuclear power. Interestingly this involves people eating a lot less meat than they are currently. ZCB are having a live streaming of the London launch of their updated plan on Wednesday 9th April 2014 (the same day as the International Panel on Climate Change report), so Friends might want to watch this.

Trusted mediators. Friends House has a Parliamentary officer who is able to put across the low-carbon message. We can use our reputation as trusted mediators to talk to Members of Parliament, business leaders and scientists about the issue. We can also talk to other Faith Groups about our Divestment policy and commitment to become a low-carbon community.

The hardest task, however, is, in Laurie Michaelis' words: "to befriend people whom we see as part of the problem. They too may be in our neighbourhoods and Quaker Meetings. Much of the work of transformation must be done in these small communities, and this may be where we learn the most important skills for the journey."

Edward Tyler (*Argyll Meeting*)

Editor's note: Ed. is a member of Argyll Meeting, lives in Kintyre and blogs at bioregioning.com. where he explores the concept of bioregions and how they can contribute to sustainable societies.

Islay & Jura: West Scotland's Newest Local Meeting



Islay & Jura Friends were recognised as a Local Meeting earlier this year, and above is a picture of Friends meeting in Kilmeny Church in Islay, as we do on the last Sunday of every month. We also meet on the second Monday in Friends' homes, where we are frequently joined by other attenders who owing to shift-work or commitments to other churches (we're very ecumenical!) aren't able to join us on a Sunday. We usually number between 3 and 6, and at the Sunday Meeting we are very often joined by Lily, aged 5 and Eliza, aged 7 (but not the day the photo was taken!).

It is harder for our Jura Friends to join us, but later in the summer we hope to be able to arrange a Meeting with them on Jura.

Bronwen Currie (*Islay & Jura Meeting*)

Inveraray Gathering

For the third year running, 21 Friends including three children, from both West Scotland and North Scotland AMs, gathered together at Inveraray Hostel. Once again, five islands were represented, together with several mainland Friends, and though the weather was somewhat less springlike than in previous years we spent an enjoyable weekend singing, playing, walking, talking, worshipping and generally getting to know each other better. Oh yes – and we did quite a bit of talking about food and food security, and eating it too – all magnificent local Scottish produce.

The picture shows the woolly web that was created by our Friday evening sharing session.

Bronwen Currie (*Islay & Jura Meeting*)



Your Chance to Help Shape the Vibrancy in Meetings

The Vibrancy Initiative aims to help meetings become stronger, more confident, coherent and sustainable. The vibrancy initiative development worker, Lizzie Rosewood, is now at the stage where she needs meetings to help to shape the proposed programme.

To succeed, this initiative, which is a joint project of Woodbrooke and BYM, must be acceptable to meetings, providing appropriate support. There are a number of proposals including a telephone helpline and regional workers. Your input is invaluable so that we have the best chance of getting this right and increasing vibrancy within the Society. If you would like to help shape the future for Quakers in Britain please contact Lizzie to arrange a workshop for your meeting. A summary report is attached.

Contact details: email lizzier@quaker.org.uk. Programme Developer Vibrancy

Answers to Locations C-E in February 2014's WSQN

C = Henry Moore's King and Queen, Glenkiln, Dumfries and Galloway

D = Detail from base of Stewart Memorial Fountain, Kelvin Grove, Glasgow

E = Canon facing westwards to Firth of Clyde, Culzean Castle, Ayrshire



Lily invaded by Sweet Pea: BGB

Woodbrooke on the Road comes to WSAM

Woodbrooke on the Road workshops bring the benefit of the resources of the Quaker Study Centre at Woodbrooke to local meetings. We are fortunate to be able to use a portion of a generous legacy from Barbara Organ, who was a member of Argyll Meeting for many years, to provide Woodbrooke on the Road courses for the Area Meeting. Events have been chosen that we hope will promote a deepening of the spiritual life of the Area Meeting.

The courses in order of date are:

“Authentic Spirituality” on April 26th in Glasgow

“Worship & Ministry” on May 10th in Dunblane

“Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting” on October 18th in Dunblane

We had also hoped to book events in the south and north of the area but were unable to find suitable dates and topics from the Woodbrooke programme for this year.

Members and Attenders of West Scotland Area Meeting are all welcome at any of the events. The sessions run from 10.30am to 4.00pm with tea and coffee available from 10am. Friends should bring their own sandwiches for lunch. Further details about the venue and catering arrangements will be on leaflet/booking forms provided to the host Meeting by Woodbrooke. Woodbrooke charges £40 for each person attending plus travel expenses (with a minimum fee of £480 per event) so if Friends are able to contribute it will help stretch out the number of courses we can afford. The leaflets include a “suggested donation £10”. This is indeed just a suggestion, not a required fee. The feeling among Elders and Overseers was that Friends who wish to contribute toward the cost should be encouraged to do so and this will help towards AM providing further events next year.

We look forward to seeing many of you at a course this year and hope that you will find the courses enlightening and enjoyable. We plan to extend the Area Meeting Program into 2015 when we hope to include, if possible, events for the South and North West Clusters of Local Meetings.

Martin Mansell & Martha Hatch (*Clerk of Elders; Clerk of Overseers*)

Experiment with Light in Scotland 28 June 2014

This one day retreat, to be held in Glasgow Quaker Meeting House, is aimed at those who are members of an Experiment with Light group or have been using the Experiment with Light approach on their own. We will gather for refreshments prior to a start at 11.00, aiming to finish by 5pm. We will be reflecting on and sharing our experience of an Experiment in retreat over the day, assisted by simple art techniques.

The event is organised by Mary Dower, Margaret Roy and Sheila Semple - more information is available from them. The retreat leaders are Helen Meads and Andrea Freeman from the Experiment with Light network in Britain. Donations towards costs will be around £15. To book contact Margaret Roy at: margaret.roy@btinternet.com; phone 01899 220931

Area Meeting in Dumfries Saturday 12 April

For further details of the location, please contact the LM Clerk, Claire Macleod, at 01387 - 263 773.

Woodbrooke on the Road, Glasgow Meeting House

Saturday 26 April 2014

Arrive from 10am for a 10.30 start. Finish at 4pm

**Glasgow Quaker Meeting House
38 Elmbank Crescent
Glasgow G2 4PS**

Tutor: Alex Wildwood

Peace and Justice Centre

The Peace and Justice Centre hosted a talk by Chris Cole a few months ago. We would be happy to co-sponsor another talk by him in Edinburgh but maybe it is someone else's turn. Regardless of who organises this we will be happy to publicize it. For publicity to go in April P&J News and be emailed with our Events Diary we need details by Tuesday 25 March. Chris Cole has agreed to come to Scotland May 16 -19, and is looking for invitations and opportunities over that weekend to speak about military drones. For more information about Chris and the campaign, see <http://dronewars.net/>.

Quaker Campers

We hope you will be interested in joining our camp this year and encourage anyone in need to apply to their local overseers for financial support.

Quaker Campers is a listed informal group (QF&P 13.19) recorded in the Book of Meetings: we are Friends from all parts of Britain who enjoy camping together. This year's camp is in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire from 26 July to 2 August, which is the week before BYM Gathering in Bath. Booking is essential, but everyone is welcome. Details from Quaker Campers clerk Yvonne Dickson, yhq100@hotmail.com 01244 300992. Catering is individual, but Quaker Campers normally hire a large field with room for communal activities such as the short daily Meeting for Worship and the shared pudding evening.