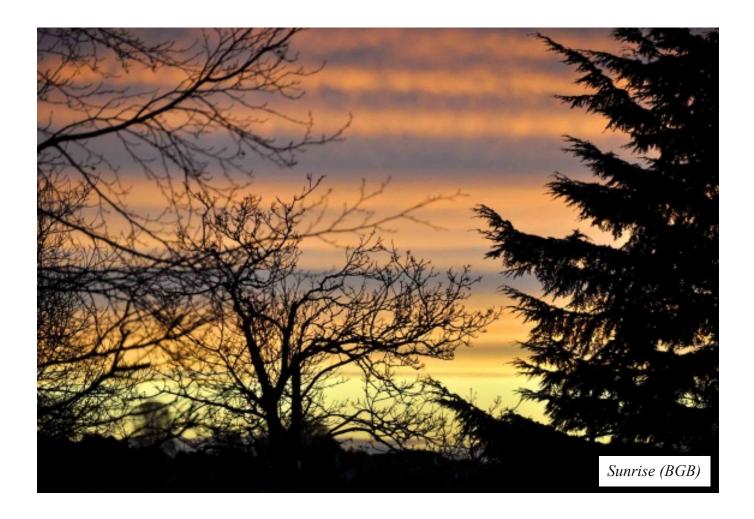
# West Scotland

# Quaker News

## June 2013

Clerk's Letter	3
April Area Meeting in Wigtown	4
Overseers and Area Meeting	5
April QLRC	6
	7
Glasgow LM Exploration Day	8
Interfaith/Interchurch Problem Solving	10
Reports from Local Meetings	11
Quaker Hill Walking	15
AM byTelephone in June	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).



The deadline for the next issue of West of Scotland Quaker News is 4th August 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

West Scotland Quaker News is published by
West Scotland Area Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers),
38 Elmbank Street, Glasgow G2 4PS.
Telephone 0141 248 8493
Charity registered in Scotland No SC011234

#### **Clerk's Letter**

"Listen: there was once a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground, and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself but because the air bore it along. Thus am I, a feather on the breath of God."

So wrote Abbess Hildegard of Bingen in the 1100s. She has been called "the greatest woman of her time" for her insights, as well as her leadership and songs and music.

I assume she was thinking about a down feather, the soft, fluffy ones that act as heat insulators for the bird (aka baby chicks). These can drift with the wind. Feathers are made of keratin, like our hair, but have a much more structured make up with interlocking barbules that give them strength and shape. You can see birds preen to ensure their feathers are in proper order and hooked together. Down feathers are more loose than the flight feathers, with the fluffy elements giving a large surface area that could catch the wind. You can imagine Hildegard observing this.

Analogies, comparisons, like this help our brains test and open up new ideas and I like this one. If we are like feathers, waiting to be born on the breath of the Spirit to where we need to be, then we can look at ourselves as we strive to be better feathers. As we learn we can act to catch the Spirit more. We Quakers have learned that catching the breath of the Spirit does not rest with those with more authority or knowledge, but those who are open and aware. We encourage each other to become aware of the Spirit, using meeting for worship as our training ground. How can we become better feathers?

But we can also look at the feather in a different way: the corporate feather. The feather that is our Quaker Meetings and organisation. Quakerism is a useful tool to the Spirit to use too. How feather-like is it? How can I care for it, improve it, lighten it?

#### Michael Hutchinson (Glasgow Meeting)

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan, The proper study of mankind is Man. Placed on this isthmus of a middle state, A being darkly wise and rudely great: With too much knowledge for the Sceptic side, With too much weakness for the Stoic's pride, He hangs between, in doubt to act or rest; In doubt to deem himself a God or Beast; In doubt his mind or body to prefer; Born but to die, and reas'ning but to err

#### West Scotland Area Meeting, Wigtown 13 April 2013

It's always good to go to Area Meeting, to see each others' faces, and particularly good when you travel with a F/friend, as I did with Elizabeth Allen on 13 April. It says a lot about the geography and public travel links in West Scotland that the most useful place for someone from Dunblane who doesn't drive and someone from Lanark with a car to meet up was Linlithgow Station! We got together there shortly before 8am, and had a grand chat as Elizabeth drove down to Abingdon, on through the Dalveen pass and by St John's Town of Dalry to New Galloway and Wigtown. The weather had hints of spring, but we drove past deep snowbanks, witness to the unseasonable late heavy snow which had caused havoc for lambing the previous week. We are indeed fortunate to live in a lovely landscape, whatever the weather.

As we pulled in to the parking by the Meeting House in Wigtown there were lots of welcoming smiles and waves; and the whole meeting was characterised by its sheer friendliness. Including those offering the constant supply of tea, coffee, soup and good food, there were around 40 of us, from far and wide, with only Tobermory meeting unrepresented. It was our first face-to-face meeting of the year, with Michael Hutchinson at the table, handling our business and the occasional verbal slip with a light touch and a lovely sense of humour. The morning's business included noting the death of John Wray, a Friend I knew only by name as he was rarely at MM/AM. Hearing of his life and contribution to Dumfries Meeting, I was struck as so often by the wish that I had met him, and wondered again why we so seldom visit each others' meetings. I suppose it's partly that we are each busy within our own meetings; or reluctant to use the petrol and time involved in travelling; or that we get into habits, and rarely break our usual pattern; but there are riches of personality in all our meetings, and sometimes we need to get out and about to experience the wider fellowship. Partly to address the insularity of our meetings, we are preparing for a Community Gathering Area Meeting in 2014 watch WSON for further news, and try to come along to this event next year.

Our afternoon was spent in preparing for the BYM sessions on 'What it means to be a Quaker today.' This was introduced by an illuminating account from our clerk of the role of Yearly Meeting and the process that gives rise to its agenda. We are the only group still in existence to have emerged from the melting pot of the English Civil War, and we still face one of our original challenges: How do we live properly on the earth? We tackled this year's preparatory queries in smaller groups to draw on our experience:

- How have you discerned the right way forward in your own life?
- What experiences have you had of Quaker meetings being guided by the spirit when making decisions?
- What do you value about the ways in which Friends work together? Coming together again, we shared rich examples from our different small huddles, and saw how solidly our experience was grounded in worship. We realised that today we can affirm with George Fox and the early Friends what we 'know, experimentally': that when we allow a decision to emerge from the worship, there is a knowing, a recognition, a lightness, a rightness and unity about it, and a personal and shared experience, which binds us, catches us up and leads us to what love

requires of us today. We left Wigtown heartened, exhilarated, and strengthened in our faith and friendships, as well as fortified by a hearty tea! This made the journey home, by car and train a pleasure after a day which was long, but rewarding.

Christine Davis, Dunblane meeting

#### **Overseers and Area Meeting**

We all know that Area Meeting appoints Overseers, and that these Friends then have - on paper - an Area Meeting-wide responsibility for oversight. There are some very real obstacles in the way of carrying this out in West Scotland:

- 1 We have one of the largest Area Meetings by geographical size in the Yearly Meeting,
- 2 Some Local Meetings themselves cover a very wide and scattered area,
- 3 One Local Meeting is a large one, which brings a range of extra responsibilities.

#### Can we meet together?

We have tried to hold an annual meeting, usually in Glasgow, but perhaps only half those eligible manage to attend. Such a meeting involves Friends in often considerable journeys and expense, sometimes with at least one night away. A residential gathering, which would mean a less hurried programme and more time to get to know each other, is demanding both in terms of its organisation and in the costs incurred. "Travelling in the ministry" is another way of fulfilling this need, but Friends need to be enabled to give this service - a demand on time and the Area Meeting's budget.

Why do we need to take this Area Meeting-wide remit seriously? There are occasions when a Local Meeting is in difficulties, or an individual Friend (or attender) has issues which local Friends find tricky to handle, and the advice or counsel of someone outwith the meeting and with experience of the Quaker discipline ought to be sought. Even a large meeting may find that someone from another meeting can be a very real help in some circumstances. A burden shared ... As Friends in this Yearly Meeting we all have a responsibility to uphold the discipline as laid out in Quaker Faith and Practice, and we must find a way to share our insights and experience across the Area Meeting. Our strength as a Religious Society is that we have the framework of the Area Meeting and Yearly Meeting to support us.

How do we prepare ourselves for this role and how best do we exercise it? Appointments are for only three years, renewable for just one further triennium. This means that the experience and knowledge of oversight is not confined to a small number of people who would soon find themselves exhausted. It does mean that we must give due attention to training. Woodbrooke runs courses/conferences for overseers. Yearly Meeting includes a special event (this year during one of the lunchtimes) each year for Overseers. We must try to avoid the situation in which we find ourselves pitchforked into the job without any training or previous experience. All Friends need to support those called to undertake these responsibilities.

I suggest we find time at an Area Meeting in session (perhaps not over the phone) to try to discern what is the best way to exercise oversight in our Area Meeting.

#### **Quaker Life Representative Council April 2013**

What a vibrant and inspirational weekend! A tapestry of sunshine, colour, wisdom, stories and support, of which I can only supply a snapshot. My overall impression is of Growth, Enabling and Empowerment.

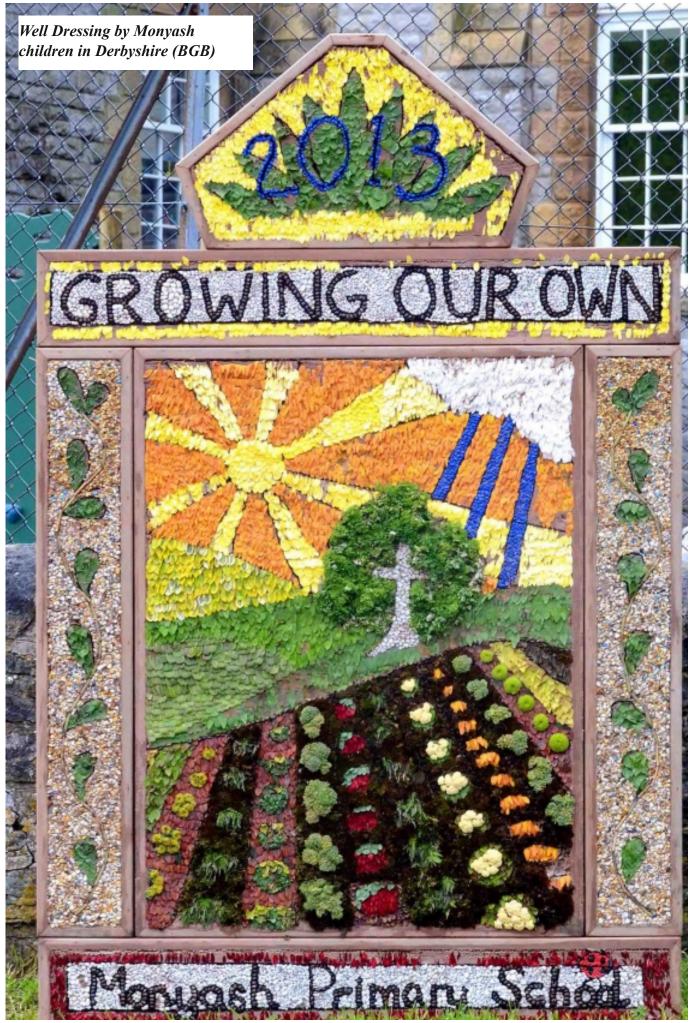
The theme for the weekend was Nominations, an aspect that is associated with many tensions. I found the main speaker, Thomas Swain, from Virginia, USA very challenging and inspiring as he encouraged us to discern, affirm and empower our gifts in ourselves, as well as in others. In "The Parable of the Talents", if gifts are substituted for talents, our gifts are to be nurtured and used, not buried. He warmly ecouraged us to discover/affirm our gifts by completing the questionaire on http://www.spiritgivengifts.com We are all meant to share in the Glory of God and our gifts are given to support and heal our community and society, as an influence and example for and in our society; to be in Holy Wholeness.

To summarise, he read "Our Deepest Fear" by Marianne Williamson: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world --- We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us --- it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Sarah Richards presentation showed the process of nomination and asked how we support the Nominations Committee? How do we use our gifts to enable and support nominations? How can we make the role/task not onerous and something one can and will do? "To make the role fit the person, not the person the role" Also, how can we seek opportunities to develop and nuture someone's gifts for a role, and how can we support those in "The Role"? An illustration was given that a most proficient and skilled person may not be "the best" for that role, as they may be too daunting to follow and so quench the growth of the Meeting.

Apects of good practise were illustated e.g. "The Sevenoaks Solution for Clerk of Meeting": The Clerk is appointed for 2 years: the first 6 months are as Assistant Clerk to shadow the Clerk, then one year as Clerk, and the last 6 months as Assistant Clerk again to mentor the new Clerk. This rolling process enables more members to develop and be nurtured in their support, and in their commitment to their meeting!

Staff members of Quaker Life gave short carousel presentations to each Home Group about the various impressive aspects of "Supporting the Life to Area and Local Meetings". They provided a more personal connection to the printed and web information. The times of sharing and discussions in the Home groups illustrated that issues in our own meetings also occur throughout Britain, but there is a wealth of support available through Quaker Life, and especially on occasions like this, between Meetings.



#### **Notes on Glasgow Exploration Day February 2013**

Our meeting is already a spiritual community because: We are a very safe community which welcomes and nurtures many transient friends. We have a good balance between silence and ministry in our worship. We have a strong intergenerational mix of people with a great sense of equality and sharing. We have several 'specialist' groups which sometimes challenge our ideas but we are open to change.

How we can strengthen our spirituality? We need to explain ourselves better and help people to get the 'whole picture'. We need more regular opportunities for new attenders to explore basic Quaker faith and practice and to share with each other. We need to discern needs more effectively and perhaps should develop a practice of asking 'How are you on your spiritual journey?' We should develop the 'Becoming Friends' programme and should continue the 5 minute discussion once a month after meeting.

We need to confront issues of lots of diverse groups while being practically inclusive and tolerant of others. We need to address 'What is being left unsaid' challenge this. We should nurture new attenders and connect them with an appropriate support/interest group. We need to communicate opportunities and diplomatically bring in new people to join in with tasks.

We should look more carefully at children's activities and keep adults and children together more – godly play. We should connect 'young people' and older experienced Friends. We need to address issues about freedom/challenge and licence especially among the younger children

Integrating new(ish) friends: When people first visit we think we do quite a good job of integrating visitors by having a welcoming overseer on the door and after meeting and offering hospitality after meeting. We invite visitors to put name in our visitors' book. We should re-write 'Your First Time at Quaker Meeting'. We need to look more at how we interact with visitors in the subsequent weeks and how we are communicating with each other and with newcomers. We need particularly to ensure that individuals are not left on their own unnecessarily during coffee time while respecting their privacy. Sharing an evening meal with discussion for newish friends.

Over the following months we should make sure they are aware of our monthly newsletter of events and put more information here to help get people involved. We should remind people that we need and value their skills. In the longer term we need to inform them about roles and how to get involved and ensure they are included on a skills list which should be sent round by Nominations Committee. We could start by inviting them to help with tea or door duty. "Yellow forms" for LM, AM Beware assumptions! We also need to provide in a variety of forms about groups, activities and contact names. We could invite a representative from each committee to talk after announcements/tea. How do we enable people to ask/find the questions they need answered?

We should be open to suggestions start new groups, for example in science and art. Elders and Overseers should respond to needs for new groups.

Workshops to explore Quakerism and life. Read Advices and Queries and James Naylor! Support mental health & spiritual wealth As a spiritual community what do we need to nurture ourselves spiritually?

We need take the long term view and build the whole meeting organically. There needs to be engagement and communication and a commitment to a vision. We need to consider what meets the vision and is it possible. Is it a Meeting house, a Quaker business, Quaker witness or reorganising committees? What are our priorities?

1. To develop a vibrant spiritual community

To do this we need to support each other and deepen relationships between ourselves and with newcomers

2. To develop our social witness

This is to do with letting our lives speak. How will this make a difference and be seen? We need to be aware of accessibility and inclusivity.

Our main resource is our people, in particular their

- time,
- gifts,
- skills,
- money,
- knowledge,
- experience,
- energy,
- passion,
- faith and
- commitment.

We also have our structure which includes the support of

- BYM.
- AM,
- LM,
- GM.
- PLO and
- Woodbrooke.

We have our physical building which provides

- space,
- income,
- a presence which allows us to support others

We also have our Heritage and reputation and relationships with

- other faith groups
- peace organisations
- environmental groups
- local community
- Scottish government

# Working through difference – problem solving in Interfaith and Interchurch work. Woodbrooke March 2013.

When I first saw the title of this conference, I wondered if I would have anything to contribute. Both interfaith and interchurch activity is almost non-existent in Dumfries at present (at least for Quakers). But an early group session, with friends from Settle, Chelmsford and Bridgend reassured me that I was not alone, at least for interfaith contact, which seems confined to the major centres of population.

At what I might call a 'high level' (as opposed to grassroots), we heard of problems involving the boycott of goods from the 'occupied territories' in Israel/Palestine. I must confess that this is something that has barely touched us here in Galloway! There is no synagogue in the region, so religious Jews are unlikely to settle here, meaning we have no-one to challenge on this issue. Gillian Ashmore, however, from Kingston-on-Thames meeting, has experienced great difficulty over the past two years trying to engage in dialogue with her local Orthodox Jewish community. She has met with disinterest and fairly open aggression. She warned us to be aware both of the power of the lasting fear, which could be said to have found its way into the DNA of 21st Century Jews, and the power of stereotyping which can create and strengthen obstacles.

I was surprised that the issue of same-sex marriage did not feature more in the conference. For even I, in Dumfries, have overheard comments about this "nonsense", and also criticism of the local LGBT group! I hid behind the excuse of not actually being in the conversation, but now, feeling better prepared, I am rather hoping to have the opportunity to present a different view on some future occasion.

Apparently other aspects of Quaker work in Kenya, to do with non-violence, have been "spoilt" by the BYM decision to support same-sex marriage, and a corollary of concern arisen about the traditional Quaker business method. Listening to Catherine Putz, who had attended the most recent World Gathering in Kenya, I did wonder just what it is that holds Quakers worldwide together. So many differences, in theology, in worship forms, in the use of 'religious' language, in organisational structures, not to mention culture and tradition ... The phrase "rooted in Christianity, open to new light" was much used. And Catherine offered a quote from 'The Simpsons', which seemed particularly apt – "Our differences are only skin-deep, our sames go right to the bone."

Indeed I hope this is true, because, for the first time at a Woodbrooke event, I felt a slight gulf between 'HQ' and the grassroots here in rural Galloway. It was assumed, for example, that we all had meeting houses in which to entertain other faith groups – it was the subject of a discussion session. (May I say here how I envy the folk in "Holy corner" at Wigtown, where Baptists, Quakers and Roman Catholics make use of each others' buildings, and share fellowship.)

My antennae also picked up what I can only describe as a certain 'corporate' quality about one of two of the presentations, reminiscent of meetings I might attend in other spheres of life. Maybe it is just my age, and status as a grumpy old woman, bristling when I hear "let's unpack that" or "going forward".

10

A couple of things, though, which were explicit, did surprise me, and incidentally generated lively discussion in my own meeting! One brave lady declared that too many Quakers think they're better than everyone else, and have nothing to learn, and therefore interfaith and interchurch activity isn't important. Also, I heard the value of the Ecumenical Accompaniment programme questioned for the first time, as being a new form of colonialism, and that we should put our own house in order first, before telling the rest of the world how to behave. There was debate over coffee about the neutrality of accompaniers, and when it might be right to take sides. These comments stuck in my mind: you may think that they should not have done, but I did have to ask my meeting not to shoot the messenger!

Just as for children at school, outings are always a highlight and long remembered. The options were a Serbian Orthodox church or a Sikh gurdwara. I chose the latter and found the relaxed atmosphere in the worship room very comfortable. People come and go in their own time, show respect to the Guru Granth Sahib Ji (sacred scripture), make offerings, receive blessed symbolic food, and spend time in private prayer and devotion. We visitors were able to join in all of these things, and I certainly felt part of it. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments: traditional Sikh hospitality is renowned, and is also open to all.

Throughout the conference I heard of Churches Together groups, all over the country, in which Quakers are involved and welcomed, despite some difficulties with the 'terms of membership'. If there is an 'action' for me personally, following from the conference, it is to see if my own meeting is interested in developing closer links with what is locally called the Christian Council. We have tried before now, but our overtures have not been followed up and welfare projects in which we could have, indeed should have, been involved, have passed us by. Much like the Easter representations to the Government by several 'mainstream' churches, concerning cuts in provision of services and benefits to those in greatest hardship, at which Quakers were conspicuous by our absence.

Jan Lethbridge (Dumfries Meeting)

#### **Further 2012 Reports from Local Meetings**

## **Lanark Quaker Meeting Report**

The regular holding of public Meetings for Worship took place on the first and third Sundays of each month at Wiston Lodge. We have welcomed attenders and enquirers who have joined us. We have begun holding a third Meeting for Worship in Biggar on the fourth Sunday and informed General Meeting for Scotland so that this is added to website and other centrally available information.

We have held Business Meetings in 2012 to fit with the dates of Area Meeting.

Area Meetings have been attended by members of our meeting, although not always formally appointed and we have taken part in all of the telephone conference

11

formally appointed and we have taken part in all of the telephone conference Meetings.

Our Friends Meg Beresford and Malcolm Crosby continue to fulfil the roles of Elder/Overseer and Clerk respectively.

We have begun the process of obtaining Disclosure checks for those who may be looking after children in our Meeting, but have not managed to complete this as hoped in 2012.

The accounts for the Meeting have been kept in the proper manner and examined by an independent person. The opportunity for giving has been discussed within the Meeting.

We held a special collection to support our Friend Janet Fenton attending the First Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna from 30th April to 11th May, 2012.

A group of us met to discuss the Area Meeting Task Group Consultation, which asked for our assistance in developing the role and improving the function of West Scotland Area Meeting.

Barbara Potter from Glasgow Meeting brought us the Vibrancy in Meetings questionnaires, which stimulated a lot of discussion about our beliefs and practices.

We have supported the activity of other local Meetings by attendance at some of their Meetings for Worship. Friends from other West of Scotland Meetings have joined us periodically and the presence of South and Central Edinburgh Meetings at Wiston Lodge in September allowed us to hold All-age Worship.

We enjoyed a Christmas lunch and Carol singing at Wiston Lodge as a shared activity with South Edinburgh and Penicuik Meetings.

We have continued to discuss the Swarthmore Lecture by Pam Lunn 'Costing not less than everything: Sustainability and spirituality in challenging times'.

In response to Area Meeting minute 39/12, we wrote to the Foreign Secretary expressing our concern over the potential for Israel to attack Iran. We received a reply, which did not fully satisfy our concern, and passed copy of this to Area Meeting.

Malcolm Crosby (Lanark Meeting)

#### **Dunblane Quaker Meeting Report**

Dunblane Quaker Meeting gathers every week at the Braeport Centre. Typical attendance is 10 to 15 adults, with 23 on the occasion of a pot luck lunch. The doorkeeper reads their choice of one of the Advices and Queries each week, after they join the meeting. There is a children's meeting every week, usually attended by 3-5, and up to 8 during the year. The children spend the first 10-15 minutes in the main meeting. We occasionally hold an all age worship, where the children rejoin the meeting for the last half hour.

We reported last year that our moves and various difficulties for members of the meeting were sapping our energy. Thus year we have felt more settled, reflected in more shared activities and a greater sense of community.

For Quaker Week this year we advertised an 'open meeting' on 30th September, but this did not attract any visitors. We hosted an ecumenical tea for St Blane's day in the afternoon of 5th August, taking the opportunity to make outreach material available. Although this was well attended, it did not result in any new enquirers.

For several months we held a 'Quiz a Quaker' session after meeting, aimed at enabling attenders to ask any questions they might have about Quaker beliefs and practice. These were well-received.

We are aware that the Braeport Centre, while very reasonably priced for the facilities it offers, costs more than our current regular income. We have taken some steps to try and increase this, such as asking for payment for tea and coffee, but our regular finances remain somewhat precarious. We have held collections this year for Healthprom, Scottish Churches Housing Agency, Stirling Interfaith Community Justice Group, EAVES, FWCC and Britain Yearly Meeting.

We held a meeting outing to Auchingarich Wildlife Centre, which was a joyously beautiful day during such a wet summer. Two of our members regularly join the Glasgow hill walking group and another the Glasgow strollers.

We hold a meeting for business regularly on the Sunday before Area Meeting. Elders and Overseers meet together approximately every 6 weeks; they share oversight, with each having several members of the meeting on a list that is published.

We belong to Dunblane Council of Churches; this and the Stirling Interfaith Community Justice Group are standing items on the agenda for our business meetings. We continue as a Fairtrade meeting, buying supplies from Traidcraft.

Peter Hancock (Dunblane Meeting)

#### **Dumfries Quaker Meeting Report**

We meet for Meeting for Worship at Cumberland Street Day Centre each 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays. Each 2nd Sunday we hold a discussion followed by Meeting for Worship in someone's home. Each 5th Sunday we are encouraged to visit other Meetings.

The average attendance is about 14 at each Meeting – we currently have no children's class. The Advices & Queries are read occasionally in Meeting. For five first Sundays in the summer we held a 'Sharing & Learning Group' for half an hour before Meeting.

On the 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays we have a collection for our own Meeting & also a collection for a charity, suggested by someone from the Meeting. Our Treasurer gives an annual report on the state of our finances.

We were sad to report the death last May of one of our founder Members 40 from years ago – Joan Buchanan. She is greatly missed.

Our two Elders and two Overseers meet regularly every two months & our Meeting for Worship for Business are held seven times a year before A.M. We are not always represented at A.M. but gather together for the telephone A.M. three times a year.

We are, as a group, supporting a local recycling initiative called Moffat Can & we took part in the local Environment Fair. One of our members attends interfaith activities & reports back to us. We had a speaker to tell us about The Halo Trust & mine clearing & also a Friend to lead us in the Vibrancy in our Meeting discussion. We had an outing to Carlisle Meeting then the Tullie House Museum with Carlisle Friends in September, visits to Castle Douglas Meeting, some of us attended an Explorations Workshop with Friends from Castle Douglas & Wigtown & several of us saw the Tax Justice Bus which we found very thought provoking. We keep a photo album to record all our various activities.

On September 16th we held a small party after Meeting to celebrate the 20 years we have been meeting at the Day Centre. There were 24 for the Meeting for Worship & about a dozen people joined us for refreshments. We were delighted to see 2 young people who had been at the Meeting as children & who brought their little girls for us to see.

Our regular discussion house meetings have covered such diverse subjects as:

The State of our Meeting

Samson & the history of the Middle East at that time

What is a Hero?

An Appleseed activity

Economic Justice & Sustainable Global Society

A discussion on 'A New Look for our A.M.'

A follow up to further our links with Castle Douglas & Wigtown Meetings

Discussing a dvd from Watford Friends of 'Frequently Asked Questions'

A Christmas themed play reading

## West Scotland Quaker Hill Walking



The latest West Scotland Quaker hill walk - we went to Bridge of Orchy and 12 of us climbed Beinn an Dothaidh on Saturday 19 May. Such a good day despite some mist on top (top photo). The tea afterwards is *de rigeur* and there were important spiritual conversations on the way back in the car. I've found it such a good way of getting to meet and know Friends. Daphne Wassermann (lower photo, right) is the contact at 0141 357 0396

#### Next AM is by Telephone on June 25th

The arrangements follow those for previous Meetings (cf May 2012 WSQN). The Conference tele no is 08444 737 373 and the PIN is 49116. At 7.30pm join the meeting for Worship by dialling in: please remember you are joining a worshipping group and respect the sillence. Your name will be given by the service provider, so the meeting will know who has joined. If you wish to speak, give your name and Meeting and then wait for the Clerk to call you. Once the minute is accepted the Clerk will sign it and the Meeting closed.

