

SESAME

Number 180: June 2013

Spiritual Gifts in Kelso/ ... and at Woodbrooke/A Two Sided Story in Peebles/Interfaith Scotland/AM Minutes/Library News



From the film *A Two Sided Story* - see pages 7-8

Published by South East Scotland Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Material for the next issue should be sent to the editor Alan Davies at 49a Lockharton Avenue, Edinburgh EH14 1BB, (email: a.davies@ed.ac.uk) at the latest by Tues-day 27 August, for distribution week commencing 8 September. The Editors reserve the right to condense articles. If possible please submit articles by email, sending as an attachment as well as in the body of the email, or on CD-ROM typed in Word™ accompanied with hard copy. Email versions of Sesame are available in PDF and Word™ format. Contact the Editor.

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SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Area Meeting will be held at Kelso Quaker Meeting House (which is fully accessible) on Saturday 29 June, starting at 11.30 am. For those coming from Edinburgh, the Munro's bus no. 52 leaves Edinburgh bus station at 09.10, arriving in Kelso at 11.05. There are return buses to Edinburgh at 16.05 and 17.15.

We will take routine business items in the morning, when nominations and appointments will be central, with a report from our Nominations Committee and reflective consideration of the nomination and appointment process. We will follow this in the afternoon with consideration of Yearly Meeting, including reports and reflections from those who attended last month in London, and an exploration of its themes.

We look forward to seeing you in Kelso, and hope that the sun shines upon us.

Phil Lucas, AM Clerk

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Worship
2. Attendance
3. Signing of minutes of last meeting, held 18 May in Kinghorn
4. Matters arising:
 - Minute to Meeting for Sufferings on Israel Palestine (2013/05/07)
 - Response from Scottish Prison Service to Minute 2013/05/08
5. Report on the work of our Nominations Committee (Alastair Cameron)
6. Gifts of the Spirit – further consideration of the gifts we bring and how they can be used for the work of the Spirit through our Meetings (led by Jasmine Perinpanayagam)

LUNCH

7. Membership matters
8. Appointments and release from service
9. Sharing the life of our Yearly Meeting
 - This will include:*
 - reflections on this year's YM in London from some who attended;
 - the lively video report on the work of BYM Trustees;

a humorous but serious dialogue about trusteeship and Quaker service;³
reflections on Gerald Hewitson's Swarthmore Lecture; and
a look forward to Yearly Meeting Gathering in August 2013.

We shall also begin the consideration of how we can support our Festival Committee, whose work may be affected by the date clash with Yearly Meeting Gathering

"YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS"

On the 1st June, this year, Kelso Quakers held a Meeting for Learning on the theme of "Spirit-given Gifts", led by Thomas Swain of Middle Town Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He is also an Associate Tutor at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. The meeting was attended by 27 Friends from six local meetings in S.E. Scotland.

Thomas is a genial, warm and sincere American Friend with a delightful, disarming sense of humour that went a long way to encourage those of us labouring under a deeply-ingrained North British reserve, and reluctance to engage publicly with feelings that, yes, we might have innate gifts that, properly and courageously employed, could be useful in spreading God's Light and Love to both our own meetings and communities and our greatly troubled world beyond. To maintain the vigour and health of the body each part has a duty to value and support every other part. Part of this responsibility is to recognise that gifts may change or evolve and we need to be alert to the needs of the individual and the whole.

Thomas started off reflecting on the almost infinite variety of God's gifts to us all and, using an analogy of the human body, how all

⁴ these are interdependent in the wider scheme of human welfare. Some of us were reminded of John Donne's famous meditation "no man is an island, entire of itself: every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main".

We were then encouraged to participate both in dialogue and discussion. Firstly, we divided into small groups in which we were invited to share incidents in our own lives from which we thought something "good" in ourselves had emerged. Then towards the end of the meeting, after we all had had time to mingle and get to know one another better, a similar exercise involving passing our mutual impressions round larger groups was carried out. Despite some embarrassment, these exercises proved an uplifting experience. One of our participants was moved to quote our national bard, who wrote (in "To a Louse") "O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us/To see oursels as ithers see us!"

The meeting closed with readings from a modern version of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians on the theme of Love, the greatest spiritual gift of all. As was said later, "Thomas carried the meeting with love", and that there had been a sense of "being gathered in". The message of the meeting may have been at some level, familiar, but, as in all good spiritual guidance, it was our own involvement and participation that made it come alive. Over all there was a sense of energy, and, with Thomas' guidance, we were provided with the inspiration and courage to go forward with our beliefs reinvigorated.

Susan and Sandy Frame

DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL GIFTS – QUAKER NOMINATIONS

The first of two 2013 Quaker Life Rep Council conferences took place at Woodbrooke on 19-21 April. As always, this wonderful venue was awash with smiling Friends from all over Britain and as far north as Findhorn, eager to participate in "Discovering Spiritual Gifts - Quaker Nominations", the title for this residential weekend. The keynote speakers were Thomas Swain, from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Sarah Richards, a Woodbrooke tutor in Nominations. Thomas spoke to us on Saturday morning on "Discovering Spiritual Gifts" and in the afternoon, Sarah gave her talk "Principals and Testimonies: why do we do nominations the way we do".

It has been said that Nominations Committees are the most "powerful" of our governing functions but at the same time the work can be the most difficult to expedite. As Sarah puts in her pamphlet,

Quakers have been called a 'peculiar people', and there is perhaps nothing more peculiar than the way we go about pairing up people and jobs. Within our meetings we do not advertise and interview, nor do we elect candidates. Why don't we? The answer is a positive one: because we have different criteria, different objectives and indeed a different view of the world. We see our organisation not as a hierarchy but as a community shaped by a common set of values that stem from a basic belief, which recognises the divine in everyone.

Our deeply rooted belief that there is that of God in everyone leads us to know that nobody is ruled out for any job. The Society provides, through local community support and training programmes at Woodbrooke, a way of nurturing those asked to undertake unfamiliar roles. By thinking adventurously, Nominations Committees can refresh the spiritual life of our Local and Area Meetings. There is always a first time, and as one becomes accustomed to new tasks, so confidence grows and spiritual journeys move on into new dimensions. It is essential that the pool of human resources is kept vibrant providing fresh minds for tired jobs and that job descriptions are frequently reviewed to incorporate the experience of previous incumbents. I was minded of Geoffrey Durham who wrote in the preface to the 2nd edition of his book, *Being a Quaker*, "As times change so do the preoccupations and priorities of Quakers. The Religious Society of Friends listens as a body - really listens - to the witness of its members and opens itself to fresh insights as it does so".

[Unfortunately Sarah Richards's diagram of the nominations process has proved impossible to reproduce legibly. Eds.]

Thomas, in his measured, modulated East Coast American accent, described how we are all endowed with "spiritual gifts" sometimes known by us and sometimes not. He described how these attributes can be brought to the surface as part of Nominations Committee discernment. He defined Spiritual Gifts as follows:

"... Everyone has a gift. Gifts are to be shared. They are to be shared within and on behalf of the community we are a part of. Gifts cannot be given away, that is why we have to share them with one another. Some gifts are seasonal while other gifts might be life-long. Some gifts are meant to help to get things started while other gifts might be used to sustain what another Friend has started ...No one can take your gifts away from you. Each gift is unique to who each of us are. Nominating Committees can help us to know our gifts and be accountable for them."

He suggested that Nominations Committees might see their task as developing the spiritual gifts of individuals rather than filling positions. Sharing our gifts with one another can be an enjoyable rewarding process and on Sunday morning he organised us into groups of three to demonstrate how it might be done. Each group-member received a sheet headed *Memories From My Past*, with the questions, *When you were a child, teenager, or an adult, what went well for you? Where did you find joy? What was an activity you seemed to excel at? What did your friends think you did well?* Having written our answers, each in turn described one of them to the other two, who jotted down notes of their impressions of the description. Each person had two minutes to speak and afterwards was handed the notes made by the others. Although there was too little time to complete the exercise fully, I could see that the notes could be very revealing of unknown gifts which Nominations Committees could build upon in its nurturing of un-revealed gifts within our Meetings.

The full text of his talk can be found in the May 2013 issue of *Quaker Voices*. It is in the Victoria Terrace Library and individual issues can be purchased for £3.35 or an annual subscription of £20 for 6 issues.

The publication is edited, designed and provided with photographs by Trish Carn.

John Fox

A Two Sided Story

On Friday 27 September, Tweeddale Meeting, in conjunction with Tweeddale Peace Group, has arranged to show the film "A Two Sided Story" in the Eastgate Theatre, Peebles. The screening starts at 7.30 pm and admission is £5; box office tel. 01721 725777 or www.eastgatearts.com.

A copy of the logo is given below, with details of the film, taken with permission from the Parents Circle - Families Forum website.

John Foster



75 minutes, Israel/Palestine 2012. Directed and Edited by Tor Ben-Mayor

In the film, Emmy-award-winning director, Tor Ben Mayor follows a group of 27 Palestinians and Israelis who meet under the frame of a unique project called "History through the Human Eye" led by Parents Circle - Families Forum - bereaved Palestinian and Israelis

for Peace and Reconciliation. The project's goal is to acknowledge the narrative of the other. Together they create the conflict mosaic. Among them they include bereaved families, Orthodox Jews and religious Muslims, settlers, ex-soldiers of the Israeli army, ex-security prisoners, citizens of the Gaza strip, kibbutz members, second generation holocaust survivors, non-violent activists and more. Each and every one holds his own historical truth, and carries with him his own emotional baggage.

They are not trying to convince each other that their narrative is right, nor are they seeking a political solution. They have simply been asked to listen, to clarify the differences between how they grasp reality and how they see the other side. The participants offer us an insight into their inner world; they share their personal experiences along with historical and political interpretation to key events in the conflict: The *Nakba*, the Holocaust, Occupation, bereavement, suicide bombing, Israeli army, the separation wall *etc.*

Will the group, in spite of the gaps and the natural tendency to stick to their former views, accept the reality that is reflected in the mirror of their colleagues? The same colleagues who outside are allegedly defined as their enemy?

"We were sleeping at home my mother my brothers and I. My father was dead. We were little. Soldiers broke into the house and tore it apart. They arrested both my brothers. They abused us. They abused my mother because she didn't want them to take their children. They pushed her to the ground and took the children. My mother kept crying. I resented them for making my mother weep for her kids." (Bushra Awwad - Participant)

[This screening would appear to be the only Scottish showing of this film, which has been put on at Imperial College, London, and at the EastWest Institute, New York but seems not to have been widely distributed. Eds.]

Interfaith Scotland

I have always had an interest in and respect for other faiths and was glad, therefore, to be asked to represent Quakers on the InterFaith Council, as it was then called. I have been a representative for the last six years, during which time we have changed the name of the Council to Interfaith Scotland: now referred to as IS.

Our Quaker worship is based on listening, which I feel is helpful for Inter Faith conversations. From the start of my association with IS I have felt welcomed and included. During my period of attendance we have had several chairpersons - Jewish, Muslim, Christian - all of whom have made significant contributions. Sometimes I found that meeting in Glasgow meant a full Sunday because of morning worship arrangements, but always found the effort worthwhile.

I have enjoyed attending the Muslim Women's meetings. A memorable one was held at Holyrood, where we were addressed by an MSP, shown round the parliament building and enjoyed a short question and answer session; plus, of course, having time to speak to each other. On another occasion, held in the evening, the whole Council were invited to Holyrood where we were addressed by an MSP and introduced to the First Minister. I do believe that the Scottish Parliament values IS and is supportive of it beyond just providing a grant for our organization. It often asks for comments on various measures which will come before it. We have been asked for our responses to proposals for religious education in schools including of course the morning assembly. (I attended a small committee which sent comments to Holyrood.) We have also been asked for our views on the provision of multi-faith places of worship in the workplace and in schools. I much appreciated an IS visit to Gillespie's school and was shown their quiet space for individual worship. (I was interested to read that Michael Gove (the Education Secretary at the Westminster parliament) said that despite changes in the curriculum and exam structure 'all State schoolsmust teach religious education to pupils at every key stage'.)

I have taken part in Interfaith peace walks, taking in as many places of worship as I could manage! On one occasion we ended up at St John's in West Princes Street where we enjoyed refreshments. The many activities of Edinburgh Inter Faith Week (taking place this year from 24 November to 1 December) have been very enjoyable. I

look forward to SEWA day on 6 October and am impressed by the aim of *Sewa* (the Sanskrit name for selfless service) which is to encourage people to volunteer for one day's work in order to give something back to their community. I have enjoyed taking part in these activities.

During my time as Quaker representative there have been protracted discussions on membership; same-sex marriage; and the constitution of IS. The membership issue was one I was particularly interested in, and concerned the application for membership of the Pagan faith. Their representative had been a regular attender for years, unable to vote but valuable in presence and conversation. After many hours of deliberation a vote was taken deciding that the constitution of Interfaith could not admit the Pagans. (I voted against their exclusion).

We have been asked for our views on same-sex marriage, which has now come before parliament. The recent General Assembly seems to have come to a sensible compromise on the issue. A new constitution exercised us over a number of years and agreement was finally reached last year. We now have a full executive consisting of elected members and office bearers who I understand are responsible for executive decisions. Under Sister Isobel Smyth's guidance, regular 'Members' Dialogue' meetings have been instituted. Having much enjoyed last year's in Glasgow, I look forward to our next in Linlithgow; I hope our discussions will find their way to the executive and be reflected in decisions.

In conclusion, the topics I have touched on above are only a sample of what I have taken part in and enjoyed. I have found my membership stimulating and rewarding. My thanks go to all the members for their friendliness and commitment. Year by year I am convinced of the importance of measured and forthright interfaith discussion. It is vital in the world in which we live to work with different faiths, accentuating our universal core beliefs for peace and mutual understanding. Let us hope IS adds its contribution to this aim for the good of humanity, and thus allow us to agree or disagree, well informed, respectfully and in fellowship.

Anne Davies

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday 18 May 2013, at 2.00 pm at Kinghorn Community Centre.

2013/05/01 Worship

During opening worship, extract 23.48 of *Quaker Faith & Practice* was read to us. Written by Parker J Palmer in 1977, this draws our attention to the importance of community in responding to the needs of our time.

2013/05/02 Introductions

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

2013/05/03 Signing of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of our last meeting, held on 13 April 2013, have been signed by the clerk and will be entered in the minutes book.

2013/05/04 Matter arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2013/05/05 Tackling the Poverty Premium

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

Tackling the Poverty Premium in Scotland

We have heard that Church Action on Poverty is launching a project to tackle the underlying causes of food and fuel poverty, debt, and other aspects of the "Poverty Premium". (We heard that a poor family pays an estimated £1,280 per year extra for these essential items.)

They are asking for our help in raising funds for this initiative. They hope to recruit a dedicated worker for Scotland to work with other bodies on this issue. We agree to make this the subject of a future special collection. We also ask Area Meeting to discuss this concern and ask them to consider whether an ongoing financial commitment would be possible.

David Turner has spoken to this minute. During the past year there has been a five-fold increase in requests for emergency financial help

from families in poverty. One possible way forward is to develop a voucher scheme to enable church leaders to respond more effectively to such need. David and others are working with their local MP in Portobello to explore ways forward. It is hoped that Church Action on Poverty can appoint a co-ordinator to enable the response in Scotland. It is UK political policies which have caused the current problems and ultimately they require a political solution. The funding sought by CAP is to pay the costs of employing a co-ordinator, who would probably be based in Glasgow.

We have heard about the involvement of some of our Local Meetings in supporting food banks but we acknowledge that such useful schemes do not meet the underlying problem. We see the need for our response to be at a Scottish national level from the churches working together but we also need to influence our Westminster MPs as the key policies are decided at that level.

We encourage all Friends to bring this urgent issue to the attention of our MPs. We commit now £500 from Area Meeting funds to the Churches Action on Poverty project and we ask General Meeting for Scotland to take up the issue.

We will review progress on the matter within the coming year.

2013/05/06 Report from April Meeting for Sufferings

Janet Grimwade, whose written report has been published in *Sesame*, told us briefly about the business of an interesting and engaged Meeting for Sufferings. The possible revision of *Quaker Faith and Practice* is under consideration. Much of the morning session was given to a calm and considered review of Yearly Meeting's policy of boycotting goods from Israeli settlements and whether this should be extended. (We shall be considering this in the course of this meeting). The major issue in the afternoon session was the government welfare cuts. Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) has prepared a response encouraging local action (see our minute 2013/05/05 above).

Janet told us that all papers from the meeting are available on the Britain Yearly Meeting website.

2013/05/07 Britain Yearly Meeting and the Israel/Palestine situation

Meeting for Sufferings agreed in April 2011 to support a boycott of goods from illegal Israeli settlements in the Palestinian West Bank. With a continuing deterioration of the situation, some Area Meetings have called for this boycott to be extended to include all Israeli goods. Meeting for Sufferings has given this careful consideration. In view of the desire that Quaker actions and words should bring people together and not drive them further apart, it was decided at Sufferings in April 2013 that the previous decision still feels right. The advocacy of the Ecumenical Accompaniment programme (EAPPI) is extending; and QPSW is focusing on trade justice through its Economic Issues programme.

Meeting for Sufferings is encouraging Friends to be more active in different ways, working locally with other groups, entering into dialogue and visiting the occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel. It wishes to hear from area meetings on the actions in which they are involved.

Many of us do not buy produce from Israeli settlements and some avoid Israeli produce altogether, but we believe it would be counter-productive and damaging for Britain Yearly Meeting to support a boycott of all Israeli goods because we value such dialogue as we have with British and Israeli Jews and wish it to continue to develop. We therefore welcome the decision taken by Meeting for Sufferings.

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

2013/05/08 Report on our work in prisons

Margaret Mortimer, our Prison Minister, has presented a full and interesting report on the work she does on our behalf with Edinburgh Prison.

Margaret has been able to provide on-going support to a released prisoner, who has also been provided with a gym pass through the John Wigham Enjoyment Trust. The illness during the past year of the co-ordinating chaplain has hindered our input to the work of the Chaplaincy, but our provision of small amounts of money for prisoners is clearly appreciated and Margaret is given unhindered access when she is called on (about ten occasions during the past

year). It has not yet been possible to work with groups in the women's section.

The resources we provided last year for the Visitors' Centre were very welcome and have been well used. They would welcome more too. Margaret has told us of the work of Families Outside, an organisation which co-ordinates agencies concerned with the welfare of prisoners' families and has encouraged us as individuals to join the Howard League Scotland for Penal Reform, the campaigning body which also organises lectures open to all. She also attended the annual conference of Quakers in Criminal Justice, which she found both enjoyable and very informative.

Margaret is finding her work rewarding and a rich learning experience. We are very grateful to her for the work she is doing on our behalf and ask for her report to be published in *Sesame*.

There are hopeful signs that new leadership may bring much needed reform to our prison system. We would welcome the opportunity to introduce the Alternatives to Violence Project to Edinburgh and other prisons and ask our clerk to write to the Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service suggesting this. We also agree to make up to £250 available to Margaret Mortimer to enable her to make further small grants to individual prisoners and to provide further resources.

2013/05/09 Report on the work of the John Wigham Enjoyment Trust

Annie Miller, who convenes the trustees, has reported on their work during last year. Ten grants were made, totalling £4,610, leaving a balance in the fund of just under £5,000, rather less than one eighth of the starting balance in 2003. Two grants provided material goods, one a year's leisure centre membership and the others all provided travel and leisure experiences. The trustees derive great pleasure from reading reports from recipients describing the pleasure the grants have afforded them.

In the nine years of the Trust's work, one hundred and two awards have been made, averaging £465 per award. At the present rate, the fund will be exhausted shortly, perhaps even during this year. The trustees are grateful to those who encourage people who meet the

criteria to apply and, while not actively seeking donations, would welcome further gifts to extend the Trust's uplifting work a little.

We are grateful to Annie for her report, which we have enjoyed receiving.

2013/05/10 Appointments and release from service

Our nominations committee has brought to us the following names for consideration, all to serve to the end of June 2016 unless otherwise indicated:

- a. as Elder
John Harris (Kelso)
- b. as Overseer
Rhoda MacKenzie (Central Edinburgh)
- c. to serve on the Archives Group
Pat Lucas (East Lothian) and **Sandy Gilchrist** (Tweeddale) – *both reappointments*
- d. as editor of *Sesame*
Alan Davies (Central Edinburgh) - *reappointment*
- e. as our representative on Scotland General Meeting Agenda Function Group
Alison Burnley (South Edinburgh) – *reappointment*
- f. as our representative on Scotland General Meeting Children and Young People Function Group
Susie Harding (Central Edinburgh) – *reappointment*
- g. on the Festival Committee
Susie Harding (Central Edinburgh)
- h. as our representative on Scotland General Meeting Nominations Function Group
Rachel Frith (Central Edinburgh)
- i. as a trustee of the John Wigham Trust
Sylvia Massey (Central Edinburgh) – *reappointment*.

We appoint all these Friends as listed.

We note that **Anna Deregowska** has finished serving on the Festival Committee and thank her for her service.

2013/05/11 Membership matters

Felicity Kelsall has requested that her membership be transferred to Lincolnshire Area Meeting as she moved some time ago to Lincoln. We agree to this and ask our membership secretary to put it in hand.

Central Edinburgh have brought us a recommendation that we terminate the membership of the following under the provision of section 11.31a of *Quaker Faith and Practice*: **Margaret Jago, Guy Norris** and **Mark Norris**. None of them has shown any interest in the life of the Society for a long time. Efforts have been made to contact them but there seems to be no reasonable likelihood of their renewed participation. We agree to accept this recommendation and to remove these names from our membership list.

[We have received an application for membership from an attender, and appointed visitors to meet the applicant report to us in due course.]

2013/05/12 Report on Quaker Life Representative Council

John Fox has reported briefly on a recent meeting of QLRC held at Woodbrooke. It was chiefly concerned with nominations. John will write a fuller report for the next issue of *Sesame*, which will help us in our preparation for next Area Meeting, when we shall receive a report from our nominations committee and give consideration to the nominations process. [See pages 5-6.]

2013/05/13 Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting 2013

The epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting, held in April near Kidderminster, has been read to us. We hope to receive a report from local young friends who attended, at one of our autumn meetings.

2013/05/14 Clerking of September Area Meeting

Both our clerk and assistant clerk expect to be unable to attend the Area Meeting due to be held on 15 September 2013. We ask **Kate Arnot** and **Marjorie Farquharson** to deputise for them on that occasion.

2013/05/15 Correspondence

Several items of correspondence were brought to Friends' attention.

2013/05/16 AOCB

- a. Annie Miller has encouraged us to sign the **European Citizens' Initiative**, which seeks to ensure discussion of an unconditional basic income within the European Union.
- b. Andrew Farrar has encouraged us all to subscribe to *Quaker Voices* for which he arranges a joint subscription.
- c. Anne Davies has drawn our attention to advice on **good practice in our meetings for worship for business**.
- d. We have been reminded of the difficult position in which Keith O'Brien, cardinal in the Catholic Church, now finds himself. We hold him in our prayers.

2013/05/17 Concluding minute

22 Friends, including 3 attenders, from five Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 12	Central Fife 4	East Lothian 2	Kelso
Penicuik	Polmont 1	South Edinburgh 3	Tweeddale

We next meet at Kelso Quaker Meeting House on Saturday 29 June at 11.30 am. This meeting will enable us to receive reports on Britain Yearly Meeting and consider its themes. We also plan to give time to a consideration of nominating and appointing, and to the work of our nominations committee.

Phil Lucas, Clerk

From the Library in Victoria Terrace

Among the new acquisitions are three titles from the Oxford 'Very Short Introduction' series: 1) *The Bible* by John Riches on the shelf at D309 ; 2) *The Quakers* by Ben Pink Dandelion [reviewed in *Sesame* no. 172, June 2012] B226; and 3) *Racism* by Ali Rattansi at H15. All are wide-ranging and very readable.

Another book new to us is *Bushido - The Soul of Japan* by Inazo Nitobe at D247. Bushido is the code governing the lives of the samurai. Nitobe's lucid sketch is influenced by Quaker philosophy .

Lastly, a forthright and witty pamphlet, 'Quakerism in the 21st Century' by Philip Rack (B191), reviews important questions in the Society of Friends. It asks what might happen if outreach actually worked and brought in some who expect action as well as talk.

And a gem from the archives in Victoria Terrace:

"A pensioner who campaigned for cheaper funerals had the cut-price send-off he had planned. T.W. was cremated in the chipboard coffin he bought seven years ago . His family paid £2 for a name plaque on the coffin which was driven in the back of a builder's van and taken to the crematorium in an estate car. Flowers were cut from a garden, and a clergyman-friend conducted the service free of charge."

(adapted, *The Scotsman*, 5.4.96)

**Rhoda MacKenzie,
Library and Archives committees**

**First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a Jew.**

**Then they came for the communists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a communist.**

**Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a trade unionist.**

**Then they came for me –
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.**

***Martin Niemoeller*
(victim of the Nazis)**

Quaker Meetings for Worship in South East Scotland

Every Sunday		
Central Edinburgh: 7 Victoria Terrace	9.30am&	11.00am
South Edinburgh: Open Door, 420 Morningside Road,		10.30am
Polmont: Greenpark Community Centre		1 0.45am
Kelso: Quaker Meeting House, Kelso		10.30am
Every Wednesday		
Mid Week Meeting: 7 Victoria Terrace		12.30pm- 1pm
First Sunday in the Month		
Penicuik & Peeble Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik		11.00am
Children welcome, bring and share lunch.		
Portobello: Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street		
First Tuesday in the Month		
Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms		1pm- 1.30pm
(opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: contact Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for more details		
Second Sunday in the Month		
Tweeddale Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House, Dukehaugh, Peebles All welcome but please phone tconfirm. 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389.		10.30am
Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy		10.30am
(in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)		
East Lothian: East Linton Community Hall		11.00am
Third Tuesday in the Month		
Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms		1pm- 1.30pm
Fourth Sunday in the Month		
Tweeddale: Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House, Details as Second Sunday above		10.30am
Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above		10.30am
Portobello: CHANGES Community Health Project 108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA		10.30am
Barony St Meeting 33 Barony Street, Edinburgh		7.00 pm
Last Sunday in the Month		
East Lothian: East Linton Community Hal		11.00am

Distribution of Sesame & Scottish Friends Newsletter

The current practice is to distribute one copy of Sesame and the Scottish Friends Newsletter to every Member and Attender household. Contributions to the costs of Sesame are always warmly welcomed by the Area Meeting Treasurer, Caroline Evens. An email version of Sesame is more ecological and is free! A large print version is available on request.

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