

SESAME

Number 184: January 2014

East Lothian and Pennsylvania/ More from Margret Wright's Diary/ Meeting for Sufferings / AM December Minutes / Visiting other Meetings



*Elected Silence, sing to me
And beat upon my whorled ear,
Pipe me to pastures still and be
The music that I care to hear.*

Gerard Manley Hopkins, *The Habit of Perfection* (1866)

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 Tuesday 4 February, for distribution week commencing 16 February. 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

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House, Saturday 11 January 2014: 11 am

Area Meeting will be held at 7 Victoria Terrace on 11 January, at 11 am (coffee from 10.30 am). The draft agenda follows.

What future do we want for Scotland and for the United Kingdom?

William Penn brought Quaker testimony to bear on civil government when Friends shaped the affairs of the territory which still bears his name. The 'holy experiment' did not survive beyond the middle of the eighteenth century but some of the values it was based on are still enshrined in the American constitution.

To what extent is Quaker testimony reflected in our present Scottish and British society?

What questions, doubts and hopes do we Quakers have as we prepare for the independence referendum this autumn?

We shall give two hours of the morning session to starting to address these questions, starting with reflection in worship on our key historic testimonies before teasing out some answers in group discussion. This is in preparation for General Meeting for Scotland's March session and it will help if you are able to give the questions some thought in advance.

There are a number of interesting items on the afternoon agenda too, some of which fit well with the morning session. Elizabeth Allen will be leading our thinking on how Scottish Quakers can liaise more effectively with our two parliaments. Chris Hall and David Hume represented us at a QCEA/QPSW conference on economic justice held in Brussels and will be reporting back, continuing the concern first brought to us in 2012. We have some financial matters to consider and we shall also be considering how we can continue to uphold a Quaker presence in Edinburgh's four universities.

I look forward to sharing the day with all who are able to be there.

Phil Lucas, Clerk

AGENDA

1. Worship
2. Attendance
3. Signing of minutes of last meeting, held 14 December, 2013

4. The future of Scotland – group discussion & plenary
Lunch break
5. Matters arising from last minutes:
(a) Letter to the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland
6. General Meeting parliamentary advocacy proposal (*Elizabeth Allen*)
7. Economic Justice – report on Brussels conference (*Chris Hall & David Hume*)
8. Financial matters (Mark Hutcheson)
9. Funding request for bringing Ramallah students to Summer Shindig
10. University chaplaincy – proposals for student contacts at our four universities
11. Sharing the life of our Local Meetings and developing the Area Meeting community
12. Nominations and appointments
13. Membership matters
14. Correspondence and notices
15. Concluding minute

Quakers and the East Lothian connection

Not long after we bought our eighteenth-century house in the small East Lothian village of Stenton, we helped out with a survey of the graveyard of the parish kirk, which led to rewarding conversations with people interested in local history. One of them informed us that we are not the first Quakers to have lived in the village; though, as far as we know, we are the first for a very long time.

If you enter ‘Stenton House’ into an internet search engine, it will take you not to the one-time manse which now bears that name and sits opposite the kirk here, but to a much grander and quite handsome Georgian pile in Philadelphia, USA, which also takes its name from this unassuming Scottish village.

Towards the end of the English Civil War, Cromwell had a significant base in Dunbar. One of its harbours still carries his name. Just to the west of Dunbar all the land around the Biel Burn in the parish of Stenton was the estate of a landed family whose house, now rather reduced in size, still stands by Biel Mill. The Biel Water, incidentally, flows into the sea at a bay between the John

Muir Country Park and Dunbar, where there was at one time a harbour – Biel Haven, now Belhaven, which gives its name to the locally brewed beer.

In the mid seventeenth century, as the Quaker movement was just beginning, the Lady of Biel had a chaplain named Patrick Logan. Patrick was convinced to become a Quaker. It is interesting to speculate whether this was from contact with Quaker soldiers in Cromwell’s New Model Army. We know there were not a few, including James Nayler, one of the most prominent early Friends, who is known to have fought for Cromwell at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. The first Quaker meeting in Edinburgh met for a time in the West Port home of a retired New Army officer. (Our peace testimony was as yet undeveloped).

The devout Lady of Biel, who worshipped every Sunday in the family kirk in Stenton, could hardly have a Quaker chaplain. Patrick was dismissed from her service and emigrated to Ulster, where he found work as a schoolmaster in Lurgan, county Armagh, and married Isabel Hume, also a Quaker. Together they had nine children, but only two survived childhood, one of whom was James Logan, born on 20 October 1674. During the war between James II and William and Mary, the whole family fled from Ireland and settled in Bristol, where Friends found a teaching job for Patrick, a post which James inherited. It was here that James’ gifts were spotted by William Penn, married at the time to the daughter of a Bristol linen merchant. In 1699, James arrived in Philadelphia as secretary in Penn’s service and two years later, when Penn returned to England, we find James Logan acting as Clerk of the Council of Pennsylvania and Secretary of the Province.

The history of the early development of Pennsylvania and James Logan’s part in it are far from straightforward. Logan at one point rejected some of Penn’s pacifist principles, but returned to them and became a leading defender of Quaker values in dealings with the native tribes and with developing fair trading principles for the Province. He also became a wealthy landowner, regarded with respect rather than love by many with whom he worked. The country house he built for himself, then five miles from Philadelphia but later absorbed by the expanding city, he decided to name for his father’s village in rural East Lothian. Stenton House was designated a National Historic House in 1965 and is now managed as a museum by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (not a very Quaker sounding body!) We must try and visit it one day.

Phil Lucas

December Meeting for Sufferings

The first thing that we were told was that the new (5th) edition of *Quaker Faith & Practice* was about to be published in various forms and we were

encouraged to take part in a “Twitter storm” at the lunch break, being photographed with our favourite quotation to help with publicity.

In the Trustees’ report we heard that they had been considering property issues: there were plans to alter the garden at Friends House to make it more accessible and also allowing for the possibility of outside dining. We also heard about the decisions relating to Swarthmore Hall. There will not be any partnership with the National Trust and it will continue to be managed from Friends House. An interim board will be set up to work with staff and local Friends on a business plan. We were urged to encourage Friends to attend courses there and to book accommodation.

We heard about a variety of other issues. The Treasurer told us that the budget for 2013 is ending with £1m surplus, thanks to two large legacies, but there may be a small deficit in 2014. There is on-going planning on how to deal with legacies.

The Recording Clerk reported on the consideration of the Tabular Statement. It is felt that the current data could be presented in different ways which would make them more informative and some thought is being given to what other information might be usefully collected occasionally.

QPSW has continued to work on the concern about the cuts to welfare benefits and hopes to bring a statement that Friends can use, for Meeting for Sufferings to consider early in 2014.

In an update on sustainability issues we were told that BYM was the first institution to decide to disinvest from companies involved in fossil fuel extraction and this was encouraging others to think about the issue. We were also asked to encourage Area Meetings to send representatives to the conference on sustainability to be held in March.

The main topic for consideration at the meeting was education. Minutes had been received from AMs expressing concern that some developments in education were running contrary to Quaker values. We had input from a retired teacher and from someone currently working in a primary school, and then broke up into small groups to consider the issue. It was recognised that many teachers would have the same values but the pressures within the system seem to be greater and more damaging at present. We were encouraged to take advantage of any opportunities to get involved and possibly influence values in schools, using existing resources such as those on peace education produced by QPSW. We also recognised the importance of supporting those who are working in education but didn’t agree on any particular mechanism for this.

I was not sure whether this was a “concern” in the Quaker sense or just an issue that people are concerned about. It is possible we will return to this topic as people give it more thought.

Finally we heard about the Meeting for Sufferings regional gatherings. Their purpose is to strengthen the link between Sufferings and AMs and to look at good ways of working. General Meeting for Scotland has arranged for one as part of GM in September 2014. It is hoped that representatives on Meeting for Sufferings, AM Clerks and other interested Friends will attend.

As usual all the relevant documents and minutes of this meeting are available on the website and reports of the meeting were in the 13 December edition of *The Friend*. Do get in touch with me if you want to discuss any of the issues.

Janet Grimwade

The Diary of Margaret Wright

We published some excerpts in the last issue of Sesame from entries in the early part of the Diary of Margaret Wright, a manuscript record of events in the years 1811-28, written by a woman Friend living in the English Midlands. The diary was found among the papers of our late Friend Victor Webb; it seems probable that Margaret Wright was related to Victor, or to his wife Greta (née Marriage). Here are some more entries, from the middle part of the diary.

1st of First month 1814

On reviewing my remarks made during the year 1813, New Year’s Day commences with bitterness, having been cruelly calumniated for conduct which was truly Christian-like in me towards a family who had behaved most unhandsomely to me. Truly the whole year has been replete with deep and sore Baptisms, insomuch that I have at time murmured at my prolonged life. However Providence has hitherto supported through all, thanksgiving and praise to his holy name forever.

5th of Fourth Month 1814

I waited expecting to hear how I was to go to Monthly Meeting but no opportunity was offered... I went to H., hired a horse and gig to drive myself, took up a neighbour on the road and brought C.B. back with me. It was a very favored meeting to me.

3rd of Fifth Month 1814

Meeting at Huntingdon. Elizabeth Townsend began her testimony with *Be still and know that I am God* has been brought to my remembrance by the good

Remembrancer. I believe there are some in the present gathering who know the value of silence and have in effect desired it, though perhaps at times they may have attained to a pretty comfortable state of outward silence, their minds have been buffeted and tossed even with perplexing the unprofitable discouragements. Oh! Though tossed with tempest and for a while not comforted. He will make a new covenant with them even according to the sure mercies of David.

18th of Fifth Month 1814

Yearly Meeting began today and through adorable mercy I was favoured with that which is better than myself, even in our small throng, as by the Waters of Babylon, truly it is my lot to hang my harp on the willows and weep when I remember Zion.

16th of Twelfth Month 1814

He [*Joseph, M.W.'s brother*] could not swallow nor speak intelligibly, yet seemed much more calm. He complained of his breath, asked for some pears, lemon, orange to rinse his mouth with the juice. Said he was hot then cold, then wanted raising up in bed and seemed quite disposed to slumber and in a few minutes breathed his last so quietly that the Servant who was holding his head thought he was asleep. Thus sweetly terminated the suffering of my dear Brother. He was buried in Friends' Burying Ground, the 21st of the Twelfth Month 1814.

24th of Third Month 1815

This long dreaded Quarterly Meeting, far from being so bitter as I had expected, was indeed a season of refreshment, and I have great cause of thanksgiving and praise. We were favoured with the acceptable company of Elizabeth Joseph Fry, Elizabeth Fry and Rebecca Christy who had good service amongst us, tending to the edification of feeble minds and helping towards the work which lay heavily on a few.

26th of Third Month 1815

Several of our members are gone to Elizabeth Gilby's funeral. Our meeting commenced at ten in order to accommodate Elizabeth Joseph Fry and Elizabeth Fry who are going down to Wellingborn Quarterly Meeting. Elizabeth Joseph Fry opened in supplication. She afterwards appeared in testimony.

16th of Seventh Month 1815

After our evening meeting, I heard that the Jews' second son is drowned, went to the house and mingled my tears with the poor sufferers who were indeed in anguish of mind. I endeavored to soothe poor neighbour Nathan as they took his poor deceased son away, and seeing the family must stay in the house and sit on the ground seven days, I went out with little Isaac walking.

21st of Eighth Month 1815

Had a valuable present of a complete sword dug out of the foundation of the house where we used to live, supposed to have lain there since the Civil War

in Oliver Cromwell's time which, with a piece of silver coin dug out of the same spot I brought home much pleased with such treasure. But the sword made me uneasy. I could not be satisfied to keep a warlike weapon and returned it to the Donor.

25th of Eighth Month 1815

I this day attended the special committee called to consult about the dismissal of the mistress of our charity school who, having been baptized amongst the baptists is considered an improper person to conduct the school on the old plan and those of the establishment are intending to have one of their own profession. I desire to be preserved from all party spirit.

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday 14 December 2013 in Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House

2013/12/01 Worship

During opening worship extract 20.16 from *Quaker Faith & Practice* was read to us. This was written by Lorna M. Marsden in 1986 and reminds us of the intimate link between our worship and how it translates into action through testimony.

2013/12/02 Introductions

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

2013/12/03 Signing of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of our last meeting, held on 26 October 2013 in this meeting house, have been signed by the clerk and entered in the minutes book.

2013/12/04 Matters arising

(a) Letter to Roman Catholic Church (Minutes 2013/09/07 and 10/04 refer)

General Meeting for Scotland did not agree to send the letter as we requested. Responding to criticism of the wording offered during General Meeting's consideration, Geoffrey Carnall, who originally brought the suggestion *via* Central Edinburgh Meeting, has offered us the following wording, with the request that the letter be sent from this Area Meeting:

Members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in South-East Scotland have been moved and encouraged by Pope Francis's call for a 'revolution of tenderness', reinforcing as it does our appreciation of the commitment of the Catholic Church in Scotland to disarmament and the building of a more just and peaceful world. We particularly appreciated the eloquent expression of this commitment by Cardinal O'Brien, and we understand that the Cardinal himself appreciated the commitment of

our Society to its peace testimony. This shared concern for peace transcended our differences on some issues.

We were saddened by the circumstances attending the Cardinal's departure from office but we are confident that the Catholic community, under the leadership of Pope Francis, will do much to help create a better world order. We hope, too, that you will share Cardinal O'Brien's appreciation of our own commitment to peace and justice.

After some discussion of the wording of the letter, we agreed that a simpler letter expressing our wish to work closely in the future with the Catholic Church on matters of justice and peace would be better and we ask for the text of this to be circulated in advance for consideration at our next meeting.

(b) Special meeting on Quaker Faith & Practice (Minute 2013/10/07 refers)

We agree to meet at 2 pm on Saturday 1 February 2014 at 7 Victoria Terrace to continue consideration of the questions we have been asked about the current *Quaker Faith & Practice* and its possible revision.

(c) Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014 Group (Minute 2013/10/11 refers)

Ola Uduku has informed us that she will be attending YMG 2014 and is willing to join the Area Meeting YMG 2014 Group. David Somervell and Katrina McCrea are also willing to serve. Further offers to serve on the group, to be convened by Stasa Morgan-Appel, are also invited.

(d) The Independence Referendum issue (Minute 2013/10/13 refers)

Following the request made at our October meeting, our clerk proposes that we devote time at our January meeting to consideration of the future of Scotland in preparation for General Meeting, which will be addressing the same issue in March. Quaker testimony leads us to work for a society where our values of integrity, equality, peace and simplicity are allowed to flourish and where people can walk not only cheerfully but also lightly over the world. How can we best translate this into political and social action? How and why might it influence how we vote in the independence referendum?

2013/12/05 Two matters from Area Meeting elders and overseers

(a) Suggested gift of *Quaker Faith & Practice* to those considering membership.

Our elders and overseers have brought to us the suggestion that we give a copy of *Q. F. & P.* to attenders exploring the road towards membership.

We agree that this should be done, and also that admission into membership will be marked by the gift of a book from Area Meeting with a bookplate signed by the clerk. We were reminded of other ways of accessing *Q. F. & P.*, both longstanding and new in the 21st century; including from Victoria Terrace library, local meeting study groups, on line, and from the Central Library.

(b) Presence of attenders during membership matters at Area Meeting.

Our elders and overseers have requested that we allow attenders to remain in the meeting while membership matters are being considered, perhaps with

the exception that attenders should be excluded when their own application for membership is being considered.

We feel that we need to be clear, transparent and inclusive, as well as tender, and mindful of confidentiality; and some feel that this will encourage attenders to apply for membership. However we are not in unity, and are aware of underlying issues that need to be addressed. We will return to this matter at a future meeting.

2013/12/06 Recognition of new Local Meeting in Portobello/Musselburgh

We have received the following minute from the Portobello and Musselburgh worship group, meeting on Sunday 8 December:

Minute 1 (2013): Recognition of Our Meeting

It is the sense of our meeting that we wish to be recognised as a Local Meeting within South East Scotland Area Meeting. We wish to be known as "Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting." In the months to come, we will reflect on section 4.33 of Quaker Faith & Practice and consider the roles and functions our meeting requires, and will notify Area Meeting when appointments to these roles have been made. Alastair Cameron will remain the contact for correspondence for the time being.

We have been reminded that Quaker meetings have been held once a month in the Portobello area for over ten years but in the past couple of years both the frequency and size of the meeting have grown. The group includes children and now meets two mornings each month in the Changes community health centre in Fisherrow, Musselburgh while still maintaining the original, monthly, evening meeting in the Old Parish Church, Bellfield Street, Portobello. The group is actively seeking a more suitable meeting place than those it currently uses.

We appreciate the Meeting's wish to take time over putting the necessary structures in place to ensure it can manage its business, finances and care of children appropriately. We note also the wish to do so in a way which enhances the worshipping community rather than burdening it with tasks. We also appreciate why some of those who are in membership or attendance at established meetings do not wish to lose their ties with the Local Meetings they also attend, but feel that fortnightly meetings in Portobello/Musselburgh will allow them to share their loyalties and that the existing meetings are strong enough to cope with this. Some attenders have Portobello and Musselburgh as their only Meeting.

We respond warmly to this request and recognise Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting as a local meeting within this Area Meeting, offering it our full support as it develops. We ask the new Meeting to let us know in due course how it wishes to manage clerking, financial matters and the appropriate care of children. It will be helpful if the Area Meeting can be provided with a list of members and attenders so that we can appoint appropriately to ensure eldership and oversight are in place.

2013/12/07 Membership matters

(a) Death of Isobel Lindsay

We record the death of Isobel Lindsay who was recorded as a member of our Area Meeting. We understand that she was originally a member of Ayr Meeting but that in later years she moved around quite a lot, attending Perth, Kirkcaldy and Central Edinburgh Meetings at various times. We have been told by West Scotland Friends that Isobel's funeral took place at Linn Crematorium in Glasgow on 29 November, and that she had specifically requested a Quaker funeral. She was ninety years old and had been quite confused towards the end of her life. She is remembered by Andrew Farrar and Alison Burnley.

(b) Termination of membership : James Cartwright

James Cartwright is recorded as a member of this Area Meeting and has been listed under Kelso Local Meeting but with a last known address in Kenya. We have been told that he is not in the membership list of any Area Meeting in Britain Yearly Meeting. Kelso Friends have made several attempts to contact him and have been unsuccessful and suggest that the time has come to remove his name from our membership roll under the provisions of *Quaker Faith & Practice* 11.31b. We agree that this should be done.

(c) Memorial minute: Avis Swarbrick (Minute 2013/10/06a refers)

Central Fife Friends suggest the following memorial minute for Avis Swarbrick:

Avis Swarbrick 17 June 1928 - 24 September 2013

Avis Swarbrick was a lifelong Friend who, over the past three decades worshipped regularly in both Central Fife and Central Edinburgh local meetings where she was actively involved and had a leading spiritual role. Earlier, in Aberdeen, she is remembered for the active part she played in children's experience of the local meeting. She was the eldest child and only daughter in a Quaker family, attending Sidcot Quaker School before going on to Bristol University. She initially taught in secondary schools before moving into higher education, teaching in colleges of education and universities in Dundee and Aberdeen.

Local Friends in Fife greatly appreciated Avis's wide ranging enthusiastic ministry spoken firmly with conviction and based on her personal experiences, participating in retreats and workshops and the observation of life going on around her. The Experiment with Light Group she belonged to for the last three years was extremely important to her as it nourished her inner, contemplative life, as did spiritual healing. This and her avid reading, as well as participation in ecumenical, inter-faith and Woodbrooke events, continued right through the final year of her life after being diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus. During her last week she was ordering books that had particularly moved her, to give to friends, a sign of her lifelong generosity and enthusiasm for life.

Avis is already greatly missed by young and old alike including people who have known her for many years and those who have only recently joined the meeting. All of

us would share the observation of a child who attended the Fife meeting who remembered Avis as "the lovely lady with the smiley eyes" as well as her beautiful spacious garden where we could relax with bring and share lunches over the years.

We gladly accept this minute and ask Laurie Naumann and Anthony Buxton, in consultation with other Friends in this Area Meeting and beyond, to develop it into a Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in Avis' life.

(d) Membership application : Jean Brydon (Minute 2013/10/06(c) refers)

Neil Turner and Rhoda MacKenzie have met with Jean Brydon and have offered us an account of their meeting with her.

Jean has been attending Central Edinburgh Meeting for about seven years and has felt certain that she is at home with Friends. She appreciates Quaker openness and the acceptance of different approaches to religious experience. She has contributed to the life of the Meeting, taken part in business meetings and has a clear understanding of Quaker belief and testimony.

Jean was preparing for a move to Bath when she applied for membership but was not sure whether the move would be permanent or temporary. Our clerk has been in touch with Bath Meeting to apprise Friends there of the situation.

We welcome Jean into membership and ask our clerk to inform her and to offer her the gift of a book to mark the occasion. We ask him also to inform Bath Friends, so that she can be welcomed into membership there.

(e) Membership application : Katrina McCrea (Minute 2013/09/13(b) refers)

Kerstin Phillips and David Somervell have met with Katrina McCrea and have offered us an account of their meeting with her.

Mary Woodward was Katrina's first contact with local Quakers five years ago, since when she has attended meetings in Portobello/Musselburgh, South Edinburgh and Friends House. Brought up in a military setting, she believes war is never the answer and, having taken part in a Becoming Friends group she has learned to value both Quaker testimony and our business method, which she has experienced.

Katrina, who has travelled widely, has been based in Musselburgh for many years, where she brought up her two children, now in their twenties. Her marriage ended in 1991 and she is now retired from work. She finds Quakers to be the only faith group in which she feels really at home and she much values our silence-based worship. Katrina has been accepted on to Woodbrooke's two-year 'Equipping for Ministry' course, which she starts in January 2014.

We welcome Katrina into membership and ask Sue Sierra to welcome her and to offer her the gift of a book to mark this occasion.

(f) Membership transfers

We have received transfer of membership certificates for the following Friends who have moved into our area:

Kim Smith, who has moved from South Wales AM and is living in Musselburgh and **Andrew Williams**, who has moved from Devon AM and is living in Edinburgh. We warmly welcome Kim and Andrew to South East Scotland Area Meeting.

2013/12/08 Support for Jane Pearn's QPSW relief grant application

Jane Pearn, who is an active supporter of MAG (the Mines Advisory Group), seeks our support in her request for a Quaker Peace and Social Witness relief grant of £6000 to assist MAG with its mine clearance work in Sri Lanka. The money would pay all costs associated with the work of one Mechanical Technical Survey machine for a period of five months. This machine, currently standing idle because of lack of funds, prepares breaching lanes into minefields, enabling the mines to be safely removed.

The conflict between the government forces of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam led to the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and the contamination of large tracts of land with mines and other explosive debris. MAG has been assigned the task of clearing 1,500,000 m² of land, which is desperately needed by impoverished people returning to their homes. Jane is motivated by concern with what happens in the aftermath of war, the helplessness and hopelessness which afflicts people in this situation and the duty she feels we all have to respond.

We are grateful to Jane for sharing this information with us, are moved by what she has said and gladly support her request to QPSW. We invite her to make a fuller presentation at our April 2014 meeting on the work of MAG and, in particular, this piece of work in Sri Lanka so that we as a meeting can engage more fully with it and with her own involvement with the group.

2013/12/09 Meeting for Sufferings report

Janet Grimwade has reported to us on the most recent Meeting for Sufferings, held on Saturday, 7 December.

The meeting marked the launch of the fifth edition of the current *Quaker Faith & Practice*, which is now available. The meeting heard about the future of Swarthmoor Hall, the proposed partnership with the National Trust not having been pursued. Large legacies are leaving the Yearly Meeting's budgetary situation very healthy but we are reminded that such income is of an irregular nature. The main topic of this meeting was education, with concern being expressed by some Area Meetings about the English education scene in particular.

Janet's report will appear in the next edition of *Sesame*. [See p. 4.]

2013/12/10 Junior Yearly Meeting 2014 nominations

Nominations for Junior Yearly Meeting 2014 are required by 15 March 2014. This will take place as part of Yearly Meeting Gathering in August. Mary Jane Elton will be asking Local Meetings to suggest names of young people who would like to attend and we will bring this back to our February meeting.

2013/12/11 Edinburgh Meeting House windows

John Phillips, clerk of Area Meeting Trustees, has reported that the replacement of all the meeting room and hall windows at 7 Victoria Terrace has been completed. The project has taken 5 years, with the work done in two phases. A grant from the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and generous donations, grants and loans from Friends and others have enabled the work to proceed.

We express our thanks to them and also to Emma Griffiths and her appeal team, to the Area Meeting treasurer team and to the Meeting House managers and staff for bearing the burden of this piece of work.

2013/12/12 Nominations and Appointments

(a) Assistant clerk of January Area Meeting

We note that Rosie Roberts, who is now living in Sheffield but has been returning to continue her work as our assistant clerk, has asked to be released at the end of this month. We thank her for her service.

Our nominations committee is not yet ready to bring us a name for her replacement. We appoint **Marjorie Farquharson** to act as assistant clerk for our January 2014 meeting.

(b) QPSW Spring Conference, 28-30 March 2014, Swanwick.

This annual conference provides an excellent opportunity for someone inexperienced in the work of Quaker Peace and Social Witness to gain an insight into the breadth of that work. Laurie Naumann has brought us the names of two attenders at Central Fife Meeting who would like to attend, **Tony Carter** and **Frances Fimister**, and we appoint them accordingly.

(c) The Canterbury Commitment conference, 7-9 March 2014, Swanwick

We are invited to send a representative to this conference, which plans to take forward our Yearly Meeting's commitment to work towards being a low carbon community. We agree to book a place for our representative at the conference and will appoint at a future meeting. Two names have been suggested.

(d) 'Towards a Quaker View of Mental Health' (day event), 15 March 2014, Friends House.

We appoint **Megan Davies** (subject to consent) to represent us at this event.

(e) Our Nominations Committee has brought us the following name, to serve as an **Area Meeting Overseer** from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2016:

Madaleine Moffatt (Central Edinburgh LM). We appoint Madaleine accordingly.

(f) We note that **Lynne Barty** has been appointed to represent us at the QCCIR conference, *Faith: what's God got to do with it?* on 25 January (Minute 2013/10/08 refers)

2013/12/13 Correspondence and notices

Notices relating to the following have been brought to the attention of the meeting:

- (a) The Fair Penny campaign;
- (b) Ethical finance: www.yourfaithyourfinance.org
- (c) Eva Koch scholarship;
- (d) Being ready for children in your meeting workshops, March-June 2014
- (e) Centenary of World War I – including information from Glasgow Friends about events there
- (f) Fruit of the Spirit conference, Woodbrooke, 17-19 January 2014
- (g) Geneva Summer School 2014 – for young Friends aged 18-26
- (h) Scottish Churches Housing Action news
- (i) Charney Manor programme

2013/12/14 Concluding minute

27 members and one attender from six Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 11	Central Fife 2	East Lothian 2	Kelso 1
Penicuik -	Polmont 1	South Edinburgh 10+1A	Tweeddale -

We next meet at Edinburgh Meeting House on Saturday 11 January, 2014 at 11 am.

(Signed)

Phil Lucas, Clerk

Visiting Other Local Meetings within our Area Meeting

We are all encouraged, from time to time, to visit other Local Meetings within our Area Meeting, to help build a shared sense of community. As a nudge in this direction, during 2014, we are suggesting particular Sundays when Friends might like to visit each other. The list below includes the first few months of this 'rota', and more visits will be announced in future *Sesames*. Even if you cannot go to the Meetings listed, please hold them in the Light and give them your prayerful support.

South Edinburgh Meeting, 23 February, 10:30 am, Open Door, 420 Morningside Road (please note that Area Meeting is to be held there starting at 2 pm that day)

Central Edinburgh Meeting, 16 March, 11 am, 7 Victoria Terrace

East Lothian Meeting, 13 April, 11 am, East Linton Community Hall, 73 High Street

All are warmly welcome!

Marilyn Higgins & Mary Woodward
Co-clerks of Area Meeting Elders

Quaker Meetings for Worship in South East Scotland

Every Sunday

Central Edinburgh: 7 Victoria Terrace 9.30 am & 11.00 am
 South Edinburgh: Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, 10.30 am
 Polmont: Greenpark Community Centre 10.45 am
 Kelso: Quaker Meeting House, Kelso 10.30 am

Every Wednesday

Mid Week Meeting: 7 Victoria Terrace 12.30 pm- 1 pm

First Sunday in the Month

Penicuik & Peebles: Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik 11.00 am

Children welcome, bring and share lunch.

Portobello & Musselburgh: Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street 7.30pm

First Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms 1 pm- 1.30 pm

(opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: *for more details contact*

Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk

Second Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House,

Dukehaugh, Peebles All welcome but please phone to confirm.

01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389. 10.30 am

Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy 10.30 am

(in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)

East Lothian: East Linton Community Hall 11.00 am

Portobello & Musselburgh: CHANGES Community Health Project

108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA 10.30am

Third Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms 1 pm- 1.30 pm

Fourth Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale: Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House,

Details as Second Sunday above

10.30 am

Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above 10.30 am

Portobello & Musselburgh: 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 Hall 11.00 am

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, Mark Hutcheson. An email version of *Sesame* is more ecological and is free! A large print version is available on request. Published by Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain: South East Scotland Area Meeting, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. Scottish Charity No. SC019165