

SESAME

Number 212: September 2017

AM in Kelso / Peace Education / Building work at Victoria Terrace / Mini-Conference in Glasgow / John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust Report / George Lakey on Viking Economics / Play Reviews / Walt Whitman on George Fox / AM August Minutes / J. G. Whittier poems from Sanskrit



Victoria Terrace from George IV Bridge, showing what is now Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House. Such a view can never have been possible in reality: the Meeting House was built in 1865 (as a chapel of the United Original Secession Church); the India Buildings opposite were erected in 1864, and so would always have hidden that end of the terrace from a viewer at this spot. This drawing was presumably done for the architects, Paterson & Shiells, before building work began. *See page 5.*

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SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Our next Area Meeting is on Saturday, 23 September, at Kelso Quaker Meeting House, Abbey Row, Kelso TD5 7JF. Refreshments will be available from 11.00 am; the meeting will start at 11.30, and we aim to finish for tea at 4.30.

Our hosts, Kelso Meeting will provide soup, salads and cakes for lunch and Friends are invited to bring and share further contributions, if they wish.

The first part of the day will be spent on Area Meeting business. One major item will be how giving service within our Area Meeting is essential for the meeting and benefits the giver both spiritually and personally. Don Stubblings, Convenor of Area Meeting Nominations Committee, will speak to this.

Kelso Friends are keen to introduce us to the points of interest in their town and have organised a choice of three short local walks, as part of the afternoon programme. We will also have the opportunity to hear from Anna Levin of Polmont Meeting, who will talk about otters on the Tweed.

Children are welcome at Area Meeting and there will be a separate programme for them. To help with arrangements, please let the AM Assistant Clerk, Alastair Cameron, know the number of children you are bringing.

I hope to see you at Area Meeting in Kelso.

Elizabeth Allen

Clerk, South East Scotland Area Meeting

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

From 11.00 **Arrivals** - tea & coffee will be available

11.30 am **All-age Worship**

11.45 am **Business session 1** – please see separate draft agenda opposite
Separate children's session

1.00 pm **Bring-and-share lunch** You are invited to bring a contribution, either savoury or sweet. Kelso Friends will provide soup, salads, cakes, tea and coffee.

2.00 pm **Business session 2** - please see separate draft agenda
Separate children's session

2.45 pm **Guided Walk** Three different guided walks will be offered. If it rains, there will be a wet weather alternative.

3.45 pm **Otters on the Tweed**, a talk by Anna Levin, suitable for all ages

4.15 pm **All-age worship-sharing** The focus of our worship will be 'witnessing in our communities'.

4.30 pm **Tea**

DRAFT AGENDA (Sessions 1 and 2)

1. Worship
2. Introductions
3. Minutes of last meeting, 15 August, 2017
4. Matters arising
5. Recording decisions made by Between Meetings Procedure
6. Giving Service in South East Scotland Area Meeting – *a presentation by Don Stubbings, Convenor of AM Nominations Committee*
7. AM Nominations Committee report
8. Membership matters
9. Updated guidelines for applying for AM bursary help to attend courses and events
10. Courses and Events
11. Phil Lucas will speak briefly on Basic Income, on behalf of General Meeting Parliamentary Engagement Group
12. Correspondence and notices
13. AOCB
14. Closing minute

PEACE EDUCATION

The Peaceful Schools Project – Mid Wales AM

This was one of the many, many workshops at the Yearly Meeting Gathering. Peace Education is a concern of many Quakers. Until 1995, Scotland had large regional councils with the tax base to have specialists in education, and several were concerned with Peace Education. When the Conservative government abolished the regional tier, these specialists were initially allocated to one local authority area and then weren't continued or replaced. The EIS, the largest teaching union in Scotland, continues to try to do some work around Peace Education, often focussed around bullying. The Mid Wales Area Meeting initiative arose out of the "celebrations" of the centenary of the 1914-1918 war. It was envisaged that work would take place in secondary schools, but it actually happens in primary schools: an hour a week with the same class for six weeks, with school staff present

who *must* be engaged with the project. It starts with the individual child being at peace, with themselves, moving on to friends/not friends, and gradually extends outwards. One session is on child refugees, although mid Wales is very rural, with a very small black and minority ethnic population.

Everyone is seated in a circle, on the same level. Ground rules are established at the beginning on how to work together. The individual holding the doggie toy speaks, and everyone follows in turn. A large egg timer with coloured sand keeps the time. The session begins with one minute's silence followed by smiles round the circle. The introductory game is to repeat round the circle "it's good to be me because.... and it's good to be you because.... So *A* says it's good to be me because.... and *B* says it's good to be me because ... and then says it's good to be you because and then repeats what *A* has said. *C* repeats *B*, and so on round the circle. Written up on one side of A3 paper is what makes us angry, and how we feel is written up on the other side. There is evaluation at the end in small groups.

Much depends on the culture of the school. The programme is delivered by volunteers working in pairs (Mid Wales AM has 20 volunteers) who are working in five to eight schools at any one time. Although the programme itself is offered free, there is a charge to cover travel costs, which can be significant. The areas currently covered are north Powys, north Ceredigion and south Gwynedd.

I went to this workshop as I was interested to hear what we in Scotland could learn from this and whether it might be possible to run similar courses here. However, the decision by the Scottish Government to propose fundamental changes to the Scottish education system and remove it from local democratic control has discouraged me from thinking this is the right time.

Kate Arnot

More information on this can be had from Helen Porter, tel. 01686 650326 or email helenporter@phonecoop.coop.

Another instance of young people's involvement in promoting peace – a motion by SNP Youth urging the Party to oppose the recruitment by British armed forces of under 18s – has been supported in an open letter to The Guardian from more than fifty academics and others (including David Gee of ForcesWatch); see:

www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/sep/12/armed-forces-are-no-place-for-16-year-olds.

Ed.

What has been going on at Victoria Terrace?

(see *Sesame* 208, (March 2017) page 23)

Our Area Meeting purchased the present Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House in 1987. At that time it was serving as the headquarters of the Boys' Brigade: in 1956-1960 they had undertaken a major redevelopment of the building, both internally (incorporating flats from 6 Upper Bow and constructing a second floor gymnasium) and externally (converting the ground floor foyer for public use, with an entrance from Upper Bow instead of Victoria Terrace). The old Secession Church dating from 1865 was hardly recognisable.

Quakers made further alterations before starting to use the building, installing the foyers leading into the first and second floor spaces, the new staircase leading to the meeting room, and the lift; a few years later the ground floor foyer was remodelled and the kitchen and toilets were modernised.

The building retained much of its original roof. It has five gables, three facing south and one high gable at each end looking along the terrace, with steep slated roofing above each of them and proceeding up to the east-west crest of the building. Rather surprisingly, however, the crest is a narrow patch of *flat* roof surmounted by a peaked galvanised zinc structure that used to house a Victorian ventilation system. The flat roof, also of galvanised zinc, probably dated from the renovation undertaken in 1956-60. An inspection of the high loft space in 2014 revealed signs of damp on the rafters supporting it, suggesting that the roof was eroding and starting to leak. Incidentally, the loft space used to be a haven for pigeons; its floor was about six inches deep in droppings – excellent insulation maybe, but replaced over ten years ago with modern material that was blown into the space (which was then protected by netting across the decorative openings in the gable ends).

At just about exactly the same time as the dismayed Area Meeting trustees were reading the architect's report about the loft beams a new government-supported fund was announced: the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund. It would support places of public worship that were listed buildings, but only to carry out roof repairs, often the most expensive yet most urgent of repairs, but the easiest to put off (out of sight, out of mind). Assisted by our architect, Richard Shorter, we were awarded £47,100 in

July 2016, a wonderful contribution to getting the problem solved by re-roofing the flat surface with lead sheets (thought to be the original roof material).

Tenders were evaluated and the work got under way in March this year. Richard carried out a detailed examination of the whole building in the middle of the month; it was then that I realised that the roofing project was not going to be straightforward. Severe storms batter the southwest corner of the building and the masonry at the highest levels (hard to view with binoculars from ground level) had weathered in two ways: first, the surfaces of the stones become eroded or pitted by rain coursing over them; and second, the various decorative features on the ends of the gables (called crockets) are rocked by the wind, wearing away at the pins that hold them in place. A complete repair was going to cost twice as much as first estimated.

Should we proceed with repairing the roof, remove the scaffolding, try to seek additional funding, then re-scaffold and start again with masonry repairs in a year or two? Scaffolding is very expensive (think: many thousands of pounds each time one sets it up) and disruptive; more importantly, I worried about the possibility of crockets falling to the ground during a winter gale. Our main contractor already had appropriate stones in his yard and had personnel available for doing the work immediately if we wished to proceed.

At this point I was approached by the senior conservation architect of the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust who had heard of our dilemma. The EWHT know our building – they had given us a very generous grant towards the window double-glazing project a few years ago. They could see that we had an emergency here, and now offered us a grant to enable us to continue with the work immediately. I brought the LPOW grant authority up to speed with the developments and they awarded us an additional grant as well, to cover work at the highest level around the roof that could not have been foreseen when we made our application to them. Thanks to these two very generous funders we have been able to carry out the whole project more or less within our original budget.

Richard and I met with the contractor in his yard to look at the stones and to watch his masons at work. Quite unknown to me, we heard that the yard backs on to the nineteenth century Newington home once occupied by Eliza Wigham, a redoubtable Quaker lady about whom much was writ-

ten during her lifetime and whose witness has been reported in *Sesame* previously [*Sesame* 181 (September 2013)]. The owner of our contractor's family business was well aware of the link.

I write this before the final invoices have been received, but the scaffold has gone and it only remains to thank all those who were inconvenienced by this work. It was not an easy time for the meeting house staff nor for those wanting quiet and peaceful meetings there during weekdays. To the great relief of all, the work was completed in time to turn the meeting house over to our annual outreach event, the Festival Fringe!

John Phillips



The west gable from above, after work had been completed: the lighter-coloured areas (including the top of the apex stone and the spaces between the third and fifth crockets on the right) are new stonework.

Lord, help me to judge myself by my actions, and other people by their motives.

BIBLE STUDY/GOSPEL OF THOMAS GROUP

MINI-CONFERENCE

KENOSIS

What do you do before entering the Silence?

We will listen to recordings of **Alastair McIntosh**
and **Cynthia Bourgeault** on the subject.

Lots of Silence and Discussion.

A bit of chanting: embodiment and release of the spirit.

Celebration of Joy with Bob Mandeville.

GLASGOW QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
38 ELMBANK CRESCENT CHARING CROSS
GLASGOW G2 4PS

25 November 2017

10.30 for 11am – 4.30pm

If you wish to attend please contact Margaret Roy
margaret.roy@btinternet.com or Lorraine McFadden

lorrainemcfadden59@yahoo.com

JOHN WIGHAM (ENJOYMENT) TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

It seems hardly any time since we dispersed our first few awards in April 2004. The year 2016 has been a relatively busy year, having granted nine awards, ranging between £300 and £600 each, and totalling £3,900. As in previous years, the applications offered an interesting set of ideas, with four asking for items and four wanting to take trips of one kind or another. The ninth was a request to contribute towards the financing of the Puppets in Partnership Festival in a deprived area of Glasgow, which had become very popular with the local children and their families. Sadly, the Rev. Moyna McGlynn, who ran this Festival, died a few weeks later, after a long illness. We are pleased that JW(E)T was able to contribute, so that she could enjoy this last occasion before she died.

The items requested included an iPad in order to keep in touch with family and friends while in hospital. A student, who requested a laptop for his university studies, commented 'It is good to have my own laptop and be able to work in my room rather than having to book a time slot in the library... especially leading up to exams. ... I really appreciate the grant and will make good use of my purchase'. A request for a small forge was definitely out of the ordinary. The recipient reported 'I love working with my hands ... The times that I work outside on the forge are the moments in my week that give me complete peace.' Some household items, that 'have enabled my daughter and me to begin a new life with some items that make our new rented house a home. I can make us porridge easily, we can store our books and toys in our living space and I can study at home ... ', have definitely given pleasure which will be extended over many years to come.

Although trips can be short in duration, their effect can be long-lived. Neil Crabtree's report of his trip to France with his son was printed in the *Scottish Friend* in May 2017. He wrote about their visit to the Latin Quarter in Paris and swimming in Champagnat in Cruesse. He was particularly touched when he found that his son had brought his recordings of Neil's favourite musicians with him. Margot Daru-Elliott also agreed that her report could be printed in the *Scottish Friend* (May 2017, page 9). She talks of her joy at being able 'to visit my daughter in Bath and to be able to enjoy some activities with her, which would have been impossible without the Trust's help ... A day in the Priory with swimming and sauna in a beauti-

ful place was a treat ... Highlights were exhibitions and walks in a stately home with a special tea – historically fascinating and culturally satisfying, although the rain came on!

The third trip to which the Trust contributed in 2016 was a long-time in the saving. A trip with the school, at the end of the student's school career, to Central America 'was honestly the best experience of my life and I never wanted it to end ... The trip involved so much effort and hard work every day. Even our "day off" in the middle of the first week involved climbing ancient Mayan structures. I learned and experienced so much and the things I learned and witnessed will stay with me for the rest of my life.' The fourth trip has been postponed on account of ill health.

At the end of 2016, the JW(E)T funds stood at nearly £9,000, with a further £1,500 retained within General Meeting for Scotland's 'Fund for Healing'. This can be utilised by the John Wigham Trust for suitable grants. As before, we welcome applications from people resident in Scotland (both Quakers and non-Quakers who are a hand-shake away from a Quaker of longstanding, who is well-known to their meeting), and encourage members and attenders throughout Scotland to be pro-active and approach potential applicants who meet the criteria.

Annie Miller

Convener, John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust

A DIVIDED BRITAIN:

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE NORDICS?

George Lakey's newest book has a provocative answer.

Viking Economics helps us envision a different way of organising our economy to put people and the planet first. "It tells a story of economic change and the foundations on which it was built at a time when it is so obvious that such narratives are so desperately needed in modern political discourse... if he is right, then the story he imparts has to be told, understood and acted upon." *Times Higher Education Magazine*

GEORGE LAKEY'S UK BOOK TOUR

Taking an entertaining look at the Nordic welfare state, showing us that we too can have a more equal and just economic system, American author and Quaker activist George Lakey will talk at:

Saturday, 7th October at 4.00 pm

The Subud Centre, 7 St Leonard's Bank, Perth PH2 8EB

Sunday, 8th October at 1.15 pm

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

Monday 9th October from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

From the Fringe

Although the Festival is over for another year, some of the shows from 2017 are likely to be staged at other venues at other times, and so, in case Friends get the chance to see them, we include the following reviews. (Ed.)

BIRTH

"Every day, around 800 women die during or after pregnancy and childbirth and for every woman who dies, around 30 more women suffer complications that affect their well-being. These women cannot remain as statistics. Their voices must be heard."

Professor Nynke van den Broek,

Centre for Maternal & Newborn Health, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

[LTSM]

BIRTH is a global theatrical project designed to do something about the massive inequality in health care for mothers and babies around the world. A creative partnership between the Oglesby Charitable Trust, the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, and LTSM, the BIRTH project commissioned seven female playwrights from the UK, USA, India, Syria, China, Kenya, and Brazil to explore their own country's approach to the care of pregnant and newly-delivered women and their babies. All the plays are available for use by charities, NGOs, and educational establishments as tools to raise awareness, encourage debate, and share knowledge, and they can be downloaded from www.birthdebate.com.

Emma Callander is the Creative Director of BIRTH, and moving force behind the presentation of four of the seven plays as the Traverse Theatre's 2017 Breakfast Plays – scripted readings with only one day's rehearsal of each.

In *Choices* by Stacey Gregg (UK), actress Tessa Parr presents two women, Oonagh and Holly. Their lives are very different: we dip in and out of both stories, and it soon becomes clear that Oonagh is coming to the mainland for an abortion [illegal in Northern Ireland, resulting in 4,500 women a year going to England for a 'procedure'], while Holly is desperately trying everything she can to become pregnant. Everyone has a story, we are reminded:

are we aware when other people are controlling our story? – the expectations that all women should be mothers; the feeling that “childless women are tricky”; the social media groups where ‘support’ can end up increasing the pressure on those who fail to become pregnant; the taboos around talking of the experience of giving birth and, more importantly, on non-births, miscarriages, stillbirths... Both women's stories end “happily” – *i.e.* they successfully give birth – but is this the only possible outcome for women? Where are the choices of the title, and who makes them?

In *Ouroboros* by India's Swati Simha two village women describe how they have killed a snake and destroyed the eggs inside it – “they had to”. A new doctor has arrived to take up her post at a local health clinic, where she is quizzed by a woman who turns out to be the local midwife: why has she come? – to help the village, or to help herself? There is a strong contrast between the traditional practices of the midwife, developed to deal with a situation in which there is no conventional medicine, no electricity and no fridge to keep vaccines cool, no clean tools, and the ‘educated’ view of the doctor, concerned to follow protocol, to rely on her training and knowledge, and disregarding/discounting anything the midwife might know as ‘superstitious practices’. The village women are slowly revealed to be two of the many who have died in the village – they are just ‘no. 7’ and ‘no. 13’ to the doctor, whose real mission is to carry out sterilisation procedures, enforcing the belief that “a small family is a happy family”, paying 200 rupees for every woman who is brought for sterilisation, ignoring the lack of sterile surroundings and instruments and ultimately receiving an award for achieving targets...

In *Q & Q*, by Syrian author Liwaa Yazij, I spent half of the play wondering when ‘birth’ was going to put in an appearance: we were seeing the effects of war *via* the interrogation of three young women by those purporting to be assisting them while also trying to screen for terrorists in disguise: it's only gradually that we hear of their pregnancies and birth experiences.

This was a much more aggressive presentation, more graphic and hard-hitting than the two previous plays I'd seen. The UK is certainly more comfortable by comparison with the situation in both India and Syria – better facilities are available and thus can be taken for granted, even if some are only available to those who can afford it. In India there is little or no choice: health care centres are provided but without proper staff or equipment, and all is ordered by ‘them up there’ who have no idea of or concern for the reality of the village women's lives. In war-torn Syria there is absolutely nothing. People are living in total chaos; rape is used as a weapon of control; birth by caesarean is only possible when electricity is available; all the things – nap-

pies, clean water, sterile conditions – we take for granted are simply not available: in the refugee camps things are, if possible, even worse. The interrogators appeared completely uncomprehending of the lives and cultures of the women being interrogated: they were surprised when each of the three in her own way despaired of ever receiving the help she hoped for, and asked the others “what can we do?” The only answer - “Bring in the next ones”: they were three out of ten million ...

I’m glad Kirsten Greenidge’s *So Far as a Century’s Reach* was my fourth play. It focused on pregnancy and birth, and ended with the joyful announcement of a new baby, to lift our spirits as we left the theatre after what had been a pretty gruelling four mornings ...

We saw vignettes from African-American people's lives and their differing attitudes to pregnancy, health provision and health care during the last century. A 1916 husband wanted ‘modern medicine’ not the old folk ways for his pregnant wife; a present-day academic, specialising in natural childbirth practices, was unable to concede that his wife might want to have an epidural; a poor plantation worker rejoiced that one of his neighbour's sons had ‘gone to be a doctor’ and that a new hospital had been built just down the road when his wife had problems with her sixth labour. A mother of three wondered what it would have been like to have given birth naturally, as her sister did; a woman contrasted her time as a medical student where everything was done to “move things along” with her experience as a midwife, where the aim was always to help the mother to open up and bring new life to birth – “I never learned that in med school” ...

As well as highlighting the huge inequalities in maternal health care provision, all four plays have an overarching theme of women having control over their own bodies taken away from them, and their feelings and opinions ignored. The series asks so many questions: Where is choice? Where is listening to what any woman says or wants? How do we make informed choices when much of the information we receive comes from those with vested interests?? Is there right and wrong? Or is there just ‘different’? WHO GETS TO CHOOSE?

I should have liked to see the other three plays, and see what women playwrights from Brazil, China and Kenya had to say. The Traverse’s four had different perspectives and raised many questions: there are no simple answers. I hope that the people who came to see the plays don’t simply dismiss them, but read more, discuss, think: what can I do??? There is *always* a choice, even if it is to do nothing ...

Mary Woodward

THE LAST POST

Towards the end of the second World War, army signaller Dennis Marshall wrote a series of letters to his fiancée, Barbara. His grandson, Tom Poulson, is an accomplished trumpeter; with composer Alistair MacDonald, and under the guidance of director Susan Worsfold, he offers a meditation in sound on the letters' contents.

We had a brief introduction to Dennis – how he met Barbara at a village dance, and married her after the war, Tom being her grandson. I was intrigued to learn that he was a socialist pacifist, who nonetheless joined the army: I would have loved to have heard more about how he managed to reconcile his pacifism with his commitment to serving the war effort, but that was not to be.

Tom began by reading us the long, detailed letter Dennis wrote to Barbara the night before VE Day and then began to play a reflective, melancholy solo. Alistair took samples of Tom's notes, added echoes, repeats, and other things I don't know how to describe, and together they created a soundscape which we were invited to enter and inhabit. More letters, more improvisations followed, with widely-differing moods, rhythms, sounds and textures.

At one point we opened and read the letter we had each been given – fascinating to see the tiny, clear, writing from December 7th 1944, talking about a recent 48-hour leave in Brussels, the people he met, the films he saw, the shopping he did on behalf of other people, mentioning the possibility of home leave and describing a run-in with the sergeant-major. It all seemed so far removed from the horrors of conflict – but then maybe that's what you get when you're in signals?

The music, based on the Last Post trumpet salute, was endlessly absorbing – not only the incredible range of sounds that can be coaxed out of a trumpet, not just musical notes, muted or clear, but also a vast range of percussive sounds made with tongue, lips, and maybe even teeth on the mouthpiece, by tapping the bell with a mute, and simply by breathing through the instrument: all this sampled, mixed, jumbled and echoed, with Tom able to duet, trio and even quartet with himself.

This was a well-conceived and well-executed show, which the audience greatly appreciated. I was not quite sure why it appeared under the auspices of **Army@theFringe** – maybe part of the 'we're not just a killing machine' image that is currently being presented to us – but the music was fantastic.

Mary Woodward

An extract from the first performance of The Last Post, at Ness Battery, Stromness,

Orkney, on 19 June 2016, is on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYPbyw9I7PI>

CATHY

A play about homelessness, self-consciously following in the footsteps of *Cathy Come Home*, the 1966 TV play by Jeremy Sandford and Ken Loach ... it didn't sound immediately appealing. However when the subject matter is, scandalously, still an issue fifty years on, and comparisons with the older drama were bound to be drawn, it was sensible of the writer Ali Taylor not to duck them – so his main character is a Cathy too; and the snippets of interviews played during scene-changes included part of one with Ken Loach, deploring our current state. The production at the Fringe (by the White-chapel-based Cardboard Citizens company) had already been on a tour which had taken in three prisons and the House of Lords, and it was hoped to stage it at this year's party conferences. In a cast of four, Cathy Owen and Hayley Wareham played Cathy and her daughter; all the other female characters were played by Amy Loughton; Alex Jones was all the men.

At the start of the play, Cathy and her teenage daughter live in an East London borough (unnamed, but they have a view of the Olympic Park). Her council flat has been transferred to a private landlord, whose slimy son (the one out-and-out villain in the piece) wants to evict them to make way for more lucrative new tenants: he can, and he does. The Council determines that Cathy is not "intentionally homeless" so eligible for help, which is, in the first instance "emergency accommodation" in a B.&B. – in Luton, a three-hour bus journey away – and then the offer of "temporary accommodation", but in Gateshead, in Tyne & Wear, where the projected waiting time for her getting permanent accommodation will be so long that her daughter will no longer be deemed a dependent and such priority as she has will be lost. All this is perfectly plausible, as are Cathy's desperate but doomed attempts to find a place herself, and the effects on her and her child; not all the people she encounters are unsympathetic, but none can help.

No doubt some of Cathy's problems would not have arisen in Scotland; in the (drastically curtailed) discussion afterwards, some called for reforms that the Scottish Government has already brought in, such as abolition of the right to buy, which so depleted council housing stocks. We too, though, have B.&B.s which don't provide breakfasts until people complain, and homeless people who are shunted off to other towns: from Edinburgh to Falkirk, say.

I am grateful to Yuanbuo Meng for drawing *Cathy* to my attention.

Alan Frith

Walt Whitman on George Fox

In 1829, at the age of ten, Walt Whitman was taken by his parents to hear the Quaker preacher Elias Hicks (then 81), and never forgot the experience. This is an extract from an undated essay published in his Complete Prose and included in the 1938 Nonsuch Press collection of his complete verse and selected other writings; spelling and punctuation are unchanged.

Strange as it may sound, Shakspeare and George Fox (think of them! compare them!) were born and bred of similar stock, in much the same surroundings and station in life – from the same England – and at a similar period. One to radiate all of art's, all literature's splendor – a splendor so dazzling that he himself is almost lost in it, and his contemporaries the same – his fictitious Othello, Romeo, Hamlet, Lear, as real as any lords of England or Europe then and there – more real to us, the mind sometimes thinks, than the man Shakspeare himself. Then the other – may we indeed name him the same day? What is poor plain George Fox compared to William Shakspeare – to fancy's lord, imagination's heir? Yet George Fox stands for something too – a thought – the thought that wakes in silent hours – perhaps the deepest, most eternal thought latent in the human soul. This is the thought of God, merged in the thoughts of moral right and the immortality of identity. Great, great is this thought – aye, greater than all else. When the gorgeous pageant of Art, refulgent in the sunshine, color'd with roses and gold – with all the richest mere poetry, old or new, (even Shakspeare's) with all that statue, play, painting, music, architecture, oratory can effect, ceases to satisfy and please – When the eager chase after wealth flags, and beauty itself becomes a loathing – and when all worldly or carnal or esthetic, or even scientific values, having done their office to the human character, and minister'd their part to its development – then, if not before, comes forward this over-arching thought, and brings its eligibilities, germinations. Most neglected in life of all humanity's attributes, easily cover'd with crust, deluded and abused, rejected, yet the only certain source of what all are seeking, but few or none find – in it I for myself clearly see the first, the last, the deepest depths and highest heights of art, of literature, and of the purposes of life. I say whoever labors here, makes contributions here, or best of all sets an incarnated example here, of life or death, is dearest to humanity – remains after the rest are gone.

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 15 August, 2017 at Scottish Churches Housing Action, 44 Hanover Street, Edinburgh

2017/08/01 Worship

During opening worship, *Quaker Faith & Practice* 23.33 has been read to us. We are reminded that we need to be aware of our attitudes and behaviour towards those who are not like us. Claiming to treat everyone the same denies the value of variety. Our differences when shared are an enrichment and learning to value them fosters self-respect and respect for others. We should love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

2017/08/02 Introductions

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

2017/08/03 The Minutes of our last meeting, held on 24 June, 2017 at Kinghorn Community Centre, Kinghorn, Fife have been signed and entered in the minute book.

2017/08/04 Recording Between Meetings Decision

[Further to minute 2017/06/05, visitors were appointed to meet an applicant for membership.]

2017/08/05 Appointment to Quaker Bodies

We note that Margaret Mortimer (Central Edinburgh) has been appointed to serve as a trustee of Woodbrooke from January 2017 to December 2020, and to Yearly Meeting's Committee on Clerks from Yearly Meeting 2017 to the rise of Yearly Meeting 2020.

2017/08/06 Quaker prison chaplaincy at HMP Edinburgh

(See minutes 2016/01/08, 2016/02/05(b), 2016/07/04, 2016/09/13(c), 2016/11/04(a), 2017/06/09)

Giving small donations to newly admitted remand prisoners in need

Further to minute 2017/06/09, our clerks have contacted and met with the Co-ordinating Chaplain at HMP Edinburgh, Sheena Orr. They have been assured that our small gifts of money to are much valued by those who receive them. We discussed the recent increase in requests for this Prisoners' Personal Cash and it was suggested that it may be down to two new prison chaplains putting in requests, whereas their predecessors did not make any.

We were assured that the following set criteria are used to determine which remand prisoners receive this money and checks are made.

1. A person is untried, so cannot earn a wage.
2. They tell chaplains they have no other form of finance and that there are no family or friends to hand in money. Their prison financial record is checked to see if this is correct and their balance is indeed zero.
3. They have not received any other money from chaplaincy in this current stay in prison.
4. Using their experience, chaplains assess them as 'vulnerable'.

We are currently the only faith community providing this service. Occasional donations of this sort are made by Hope.

The Co-ordinating chaplain suggested that it would help the chaplains regulate this service, if we fixed our total annual donation and notified the chaplaincy of the amount.

We have discussed this and agree to put aside a further sum of £250 for 2017. We ask our clerk to notify Sheena Orr of this amount. The total expenditure in 2017 on this service will now be approximately £750. We will set the 2018 budget at our November Area Meeting. We are disquieted that the state is leaving some remand prisoners without funds and we ask our clerks to raise this issue with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

Scope of Quaker prison chaplaincy at HMP Edinburgh

We note that currently the Scottish Prison Service has no provision for volunteer prison chaplains. All chaplains are employees. Individual prisoners can request pastoral visits from different denominations and faith groups and the chaplaincy keeps a list of church representatives. To be on this list a person has to be PVG checked and appointed by their church or faith community. Visits by listed representatives are arranged through the chaplaincy, otherwise, visits are arranged as 'agents visits'.

In addition to meeting requests for prison visits, some churches offer specific programmes for prisoners.

2017/08/07 Marriage of Ann Kerr and James Friend (Minute 2017/03/08

refers)

The marriage took place according to the manner of Friends at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh on 27 July, 2017. The Certificate of Accomplishment has been received by the Area Meeting clerk.

2017/08/08 Area Meeting Report and Accounts for 2016

The full 2016 Annual Report and Accounts for South East Scotland Area

Meeting, plus a summary of the accounts and the treasurer's report interpreting this meeting's financial position using pie-charts, were emailed to the Area Meeting circulation list, along with the draft agenda. Ken Jobling, assistant clerk to Area Meeting Trustees, and Mark Hutcheson, Area Meeting Treasurer, have presented the 2016 Report and Accounts, which must go to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) by the end of September.

Area Meeting's total net income for 2016 was £353,453 of which £101,687 was voluntary income, and our total net expenditure was £232,294. We note that income and funds have risen since 2015, primarily because of legacies but also because of external grants for repairs at Edinburgh Meeting House. Donations from members, attenders and other individuals are up by 14% and thanks to the work of Edinburgh Meeting House managers and staff and the Kelso Meeting House team our trading income is up by 29%. However, if we exclude legacy money, in 2016 our expenditure was £9,111 greater than income and this trend is projected to increase in 2017. Although our reserves have recovered a little, they are still below the six months' running costs recommended for a charity.

We thank those who have put work at local meetings into encouraging giving from members and attenders. We ask our clerk to write personally to thank the Meeting House staff team for their work.

We note the high costs during the year of lead-roof repairs to 7 Victoria Terrace; that not all of this is covered by grant; and that some grants are received after payment has been made. Our properties remain our major assets, though they are expensive to maintain. The benefit they play in supporting our activities and in highlighting our presence in the community must be balanced against the cost. Funds have been made available to support Friends activities such as attending Wiston Lodge weekends, and attendance at the Quaker United Nations Office Summer School in Geneva.

Meeting our payments to Britain Yearly Meeting continues to be a problem. In 2016 we contributed total of £33,069, instead of the suggested sum of £38,250, BYM is looking for increased contributions from Area Meetings in 2017: the recommended contribution for this Area Meeting will be £57,375. Currently we are proposing to donate £25,000 from unrestricted funds, supplemented by sums earmarked by Friends.

A key aspect for the future is to increase contributions from members to build reserves and keep our activities secure. Reserves at year end 2016 stood at £48,647, whereas they should stand at around £100,000. The

improvement between 2015 and 2016 is unlikely to continue.

The meeting received the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016, approved by Area Meeting Trustees on 18 July, 2017. We note that the accounts have been independently examined. We authorise the Area Meeting Clerk to sign the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2016.

We thank John Phillips and Mark Hutcheson and the treasurer's team for their work in preparing the 2016 Annual Report and Accounts and Ken Jobling and Mark Hutcheson for presenting them to us today.

We note that the projection for 2017 as it currently stands is for an operating deficit. We ask the trustees to bring to a future AM their proposals for either reducing expenditure, increasing income, or both.

2017/08/09 Proposal for supplementary short annual review

AM Trustees have considered the merits of producing an annual review to come out shortly after the year end, which would give an overview of the life and activities within our Area Meeting. As well as being of interest to us all, it could be used for outreach. Trustees have decided to go ahead with this proposal and David Somervell has spoken to us about it.

The first of these reviews will be produced in 2018 and submissions will need to be sent to the editorial team by the end of this year. We draw this to the attention of local meeting clerks, to give meetings sufficient time to put together their contributions, including photographs.

2017/08/10 Library Review (minutes 2016/11/10 and 2017/05/06 refer)

The Library Review Group presented its report to Area Meeting Trustees on 18 July, 2017. Trustees are supportive of the report's recommendations and Area Meeting has been asked to appoint a small group to take these forward, in conjunction with the Meeting House Management team.

To implement the recommendations of the library review, we agree to set up an Interim Library Committee, as follows:

Interim Library Committee

Membership

The committee will consist of 6 Friends, two of whom should be from local meetings other than Central Edinburgh, plus the Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House Managers, *ex-officio*.

Remit

To address the main issues of the current library, as detailed in the full library review and highlighted in Area Meeting Trustees minute 2, 18 July, 2017.

To maximise the use of the library, keeping in mind its potential role in outreach.

Tasks

- a) First, cost the creation of an attractive library space, looking into the possible use of additional spaces in the Meeting House and keeping in mind the need to provide adequate Wi Fi access. Once the budget has been agreed, oversee the creation of this refurbished library space.
- b) Review and replenish the stock of the library, including books for children. Weed out books no longer required.
- c) Using various methods, promote the library throughout South East Scotland Area Meeting.

Appointments to Interim Library Committee

We appoint the following Friends to serve on this committee until 31 December, 2018.

David Sterratt, Central Edinburgh

Margaret Mortimer, Central Edinburgh

Sara Davies, Central Edinburgh

Clayton Cameron, Central Edinburgh

Laura Pearson, Central Fife

We ask our nominations committee to bring forward the name of one Friend who is not from Central Edinburgh Meeting, to serve on this committee.

We lay down the Library Review Group and thank its members for their service.

We lay down our current Library Committee with immediate effect and thank its members, Jim Pym, Brenda McGovern, Rhoda Mackenzie, Peter Arter and Don Stubbings for their faithful service.

2017/08/11 John Wigham Enjoyment Trust Report

Annie Miller has presented the 2016 report of the Trust.

We have heard that 9 awards, totalling £3900, were granted in 2016.

The awards ranged from giving individuals items which eased their lives, or trips of particular significance, to contributing towards the Puppets in Partnership Festival, which is popular with children and their families in a deprived area of Glasgow. The most unusual request was for a small forge. In all cases the grants were much appreciated and enjoyed.

At the end of 2016, the fund stood at almost £9000, with a further £1500 retained in General Meeting for Scotland's 'Fund for Healing'.

Applications which meet the Trust's criteria, are welcome.

We thank Annie for her report.

2017/08/12 George Lakey's Book Tour 2017

In the autumn, our Friend George Lakey, an American Quaker and activist is touring Britain, speaking about his latest book, *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians got it right and how we can too*. This is a discursive account of how Nordic civil society mobilised and brought about a non-violent transformation in their economies and societies. George will be in Scotland from 7–9 October.

We agree to host an evening event at the Meeting House in Edinburgh on Monday 9 October and ask our clerk to arrange this. [See page 12]

2017/08/13 Request to waive the room rental on a let at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House

The three Friends appointed by West Scotland Area Meeting to prepare a Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Helen Steven, would like to use a room at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House for their work, as it is geographically the most convenient place for them to meet. They have asked us to waive the rental charge for an 8 hour let of the Bow Room.

We agree to this request.

2017/08/14 Correspondence and notices

Media Training from 10:30 am until 4:30 pm on Saturday 2 September, at Glasgow Meeting House. This training is free of charge. Please book before 22 August; email annev@quaker.org.uk or jessicam@quaker.org.uk.

2017/08/15 Closing minute

22 members (and no attenders) representing seven Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 13	Central Fife -	East Lothian 1	Kelso 2	Penicuik 2
Polmont 2	Portobello & Musselburgh 1	South Edinburgh 1	Tweeddale -	

As requested by the clerks and following STIR recommendations (see AM minute, 2016/07/06) some of these Friends were acting as 'core representa-

tives' of the AM clerking team, treasurers, trustees, elders, overseers and nominations committee.

We next meet on Saturday, 23 September, 2017 at the Quaker Meeting House, Abbey Row, Kelso TD5 7JF for an all-day, all-age Area Meeting, hosted by Kelso Local Meeting.

(Signed)
Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

ORIENTAL MAXIMS

(paraphrased by John Greenleaf Whittier from translations of Sanskrit)

The Inward Judge (from "Institutes of Manu")

The soul itself its awful witness is.
Say not, in evil doing, "No one sees,"
And so offend the conscious One within,
Whose ear can hear the silences of sin
Ere they find voice, whose eyes unsleeping see
The secret motions of iniquity.
Nor in thy folly say, "I am alone."
For seated in thy heart, as on a throne,
The ancient Judge and Witness liveth still,
To note thy act and thought; and as thy ill
Or good goes from thee, far beyond thy reach,
The solemn Doomsman's seal is set on each.

Laying Up Treasure (from "The Mahàbhàrata")

Before the Ender comes, whose charioteer
Is swift or slow Disease, lay up each year
Thy harvests of well-doing, wealth that kings
Nor thieves can take away. When all the things
Thou callest thine, goods, pleasures, honours fall,
Thou in thy virtue shalt survive them all.

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 – 1 pm
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First Sunday in the Month

Penicuik: Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik <i>Children welcome, bring and share lunch</i>	11.00 am
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First and Third Tuesdays in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms (opposite Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: contact Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for details	1 – 1.30 pm
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Second Sunday in the Month

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar	11.00 am
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Second and Fourth Sundays in the Month

Portobello & Musselburgh: Fisherrow Community Centre, South St, Musselburgh EH21 6AT. <i>Children welcome.</i>	11.00 am
Tweeddale: Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles <i>All welcome, but please phone to confirm 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389</i>	10.30 am
Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am

Fourth Sunday in the Month

North Edinburgh Meeting: Broughton St Mary's Church, Edinburgh	7.00 pm
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Fifth Sunday in the Month

Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am
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Last Sunday in the Month

East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar	11.00 am
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Distribution of *Sesame* and *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; if you would prefer to receive it this way, or to change the address to which a paper copy is sent, or if you would like to get one by post and currently do not, please contact Kim Smith at kimsmith@yahoo.com. A large print version is also available on request. Published by the 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. Printed by Footprint UK, Riverside Works, Edinburgh Road, Jedburgh TD8 6EE.