

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

22nd August 2020

Meeting by Video conference, 10.15am

Local Meetings represented:

Inverness, (inc Caithness & Dingwall), Aberdeen, Lochaber & Lorn, Westray, Orkney, Forres, Skye, Nairn, Shetland (total number of Friends 41)

Friends prevented: Sandy McEwen

Elder for this Meeting: Jane Booth

Minutes

48/20 As we started the Meeting, 29.03 from Quaker Faith and practice was read, reflecting on the inspiration of faith to “make peace with the planet.”

49/50 We appoint Lesley Reynolds to write a report for the Scottish Friend on GM, which is to be held on the 12th September 2020.

50/20 Membership

Lynden Easterbrook (Forres) and Colin Stirling (Aberdeen) met with Lesley Reynolds (Aberdeen) on 7th July 2020 by video link. Lynden and Lesley read from their report that acknowledges Lesley’s spiritual journey, her long involvement with Quakers and especially Aberdeen Meeting. We warmly welcome Lesley into Membership of the Society of Friends.

We ask Peter Heald to speak with Lesley about a book as a gift to welcome her into membership.

51/20 North Scotland Quaker Notebook

We record that the North Scotland Quaker Notebook is now launched online. We acknowledge the good work that has gone into imagining this project and bringing it to fruition. It is a collaborative process with many different contributors from North Scotland and Jane Booth (co-ordinator) will welcome your comments, congratulations, suggestions.

<https://northscotlandquakernotebook.org/>

52/20 Reflections on Climate change - building back better

Maggie Trevelyan (Inverness), Ailish Carroll-Brentnall (Nairn) and Erin Smith (Nairn) initiated thoughts and conversation about climate change and the direction we need to take as a society as we come out of ‘lockdown’. Key messages related to the need for institutional change; capitalism is the cause for the climate chaos. We need to rebuild and empower local communities and share messages of hope and positive news.

The phrase ‘building back better’ was questioned: What is the foundation on which we are building? Better than what? “Building forward, better” is one alternative offered, but any catch-phrase can be misconstrued and needs explanation in context.

Guidance for how we live might be to seek a standard of living that is realistic for all to enjoy sustainably, not just the elite few. Equality and levelling the playing field, climate justice with social justice, a fairer society are essential.

Our faith is fundamental in motivating our hope and commitment to change.

According to our skills we need to challenge those in power, support those who are marginalised and create alternatives that do not harm society and planet.

Piers Voysey
Clerk

Oriole Hall
Assistant Clerk