

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: SC019165

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

This is the Annual Report for South East Scotland Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

INTRODUCTION

Nine local Meetings of varying sizes meet for regular sessions of Quaker worship within South East Scotland. They also work together as an Area Meeting (SESAM), responsible for Quaker witness in the area and for the general support of members of the Quaker communities, whether they are in formal membership of the Society of Friends or not. Two meeting houses owned by the Area Meeting, in Kelso and in the centre of Edinburgh, act as focal points not only for Quakers but for the wider community, their rooms and facilities being made available for community groups and other users. Both worship and work are overseen by the whole community of Friends through Area Meetings for Church Affairs, at which the process of decision-making is guided by the Spirit.

This report describes Quaker activities in South East Scotland during 2023. It highlights the main concerns of the meetings and work that is undertaken to facilitate their running.

PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVES

The charitable object of the Area Meeting is the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in the area of South East Scotland and beyond, as laid down in *Quaker faith & practice*. The Area Meeting furthers the religious beliefs of its members, provides places where Quaker Meetings for Worship can be held within South East Scotland, maintains Quaker witness within this area, and supports charitable objectives that give witness to Quaker testimonies.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Area Meeting is the over-arching entity supporting Quaker worship and witness within South East Scotland. SESAM has nine Local Meetings and two worshipping groups.

Local meetings:

- Central Edinburgh (Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House on Victoria Terrace)
- South Edinburgh (Morningside)
- East Lothian (meeting in Dunbar)
- Kelso (meeting in Kelso and Berwick-upon-Tweed)
- Central Fife (meeting in Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline)
- Penicuik
- Polmont
- Portobello and Musselburgh
- Tweeddale (meeting in Peebles)

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Worshipping groups:

- Midweek Meeting (Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House)
- Edinburgh North (meeting in Friends' homes)

Additionally, during the year a monthly worshipping group was established in Berwick-upon-Tweed, co-ordinated between Friends in Kelso meeting and Alnwick meeting (Northumbria Area Meeting)

Recovery post-pandemic

Our 2022 annual report described financial pressures largely resulting from reduced lettings at Edinburgh Meeting House that persisted for a prolonged period after compulsory restrictions were relaxed, added to by rising general inflation and therefore the Real Living Wage. These pressures persisted into 2023, though some appear to have reduced with time, as described in the Financial Report below.

In a Planning for the Future section in our 2022 report, we mentioned a review of possible responses to these pressures, as outlined below under 'Our Meeting Houses'.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Meetings for Church Affairs (business meetings) of South East Scotland Area Meeting were held on six occasions during 2023. All members of the Religious Society of Friends as well as others who attend our Meetings for Worship are welcome to attend these meetings, at which subjects of general interest are explored, reports covering a variety of Quaker concerns are received, and decisions are made concerning the use of our various resources. Meetings during 2023 have usually been held in 'hybrid' format (both in person and online), except where facilities at the venues prevented that.

Major concerns are reported in our bimonthly publication *SESAME*, in local meeting newsletters and communications, and in the Scotland General Meeting magazine *Scottish Friend*. All of these available via www.quakerscotland.org. Concerns have included:

Climate change. Friends have become increasingly involved in working for national changes, and are continuing to push for further changes in our personal actions and in our meeting houses to contribute to carbon-sparing. Financial constraints have hindered progress with our buildings, but we are looking further at these issues during 2024.

Peace – the longstanding Quaker concern for peace continues to be strongly represented in our Area Meeting. Actions continue to include campaigning against nuclear weapons; against the arms trade; against militaristic education in schools; supporting non-violent communication methods and solutions; and participating in open meetings and vigils in support of peace work.

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Parliamentary Engagement – along with the other three Area Meetings in Scotland and General Meeting for Scotland we have continued our involvement with and our support (including financial support) for our Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer, employed by Britain Yearly Meeting. A Parliamentary Engagement Working Group coordinates activity and regular reports are brought to our Area Meeting.

Key areas of concern during 2023 have been:

- Disarmament and peacebuilding, including pressure for a more balanced view of military visits to schools
- Climate justice
- Human rights, including refugee issues.

Cost of living and energy – we continue to offer a hardship fund for Quakers and attenders in our own Area Meeting. We liaised with other groups in setting up a warm space in central Edinburgh.

Support for refugees. The Fàilte project described in our 2022 report, supporting a refugee family to settle in Edinburgh via the UK government-UNHCR Community Sponsorship scheme, runs into 2024, though personal involvement of Friends reduced after the first year and there have been no additional financial requirements. Support for refugees has been a longstanding Quaker concern, and Friends contribute to a number of other support initiatives.

When possible, local meetings support these initiatives through their own Meetings for Learning and study groups, including collecting funds and supporting new themes that are brought before the wider membership. Many have interacted regularly with their local MPs and MSPs. The strengthening of ties between members of different meetings are fostered through the meetings of all Scottish Friends organised by General Meeting for Scotland and Britain Yearly Meeting, held for members of the Society of Friends throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

OUTREACH AT THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Because of difficulty in finding volunteers, and uncertainties about financial viability, we did not run Edinburgh Meeting House as “Venue 40” in the Festival Fringe in 2023. However we were able to let the building to the Fringe Society as a hub for performers during the Festival, giving us useful income, but reduced outreach opportunity.

OUR MEETING HOUSES

The Area Meeting's two meeting houses, located in the Edinburgh Old Town and in Kelso, are normally hired out to a variety of organisations including community groups and voluntary organisations when they are not being used for Quaker activities. Each meeting house is seen not only as a base for the activities of the Society of Friends but also as a resource for the local community.

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Income from lettings at Central Edinburgh have historically been a significant source of income for SESAM, and circumstances have improved post-pandemic. Lettings at Kelso have also increased, but this is a small fraction of income by comparison. In November 2022 trustees set up a group to look at possible ways to improve both the affordability of Edinburgh Meeting House, and its attraction and value to Friends. As a result of this, it was appreciated that there could be ways to achieve some increased income from lettings, but there were not easy ways to reduce costs. Major works would be likely to require special appeals, as previously.

Letting rates have been increased in line with inflation, and wages in line with the the Real Living Wage. After reviewing out-of-hours cover, one of the two flats that we own in the adjacent tenement 6 Upper Bow will be let out through an agency. It was previously used to accommodate a staff member.

In 2024 we propose to undertake some delayed repairs to Edinburgh Meeting House, and review again possible ways to improve energy efficiency. It has been agreed that improvements should include, where affordable, moves to improve the 'welcoming' feel of the Meeting House for Friends and other users. This work is likely to develop over the next two years or more.

MEETING HOUSE STAFF

The Area Meeting employs a number of staff to manage the Edinburgh Meeting House. Because of the increase in lettings and the need for the manager to have more time to start to develop and implement a strategy for future development, staff numbers have risen slightly above 2022 levels.

SUSTAINABILITY

For many years members of the Society of Friends have upheld a commitment to reducing global warming and mitigating climate change, known as the "Canterbury Commitment" following a decision taken at a Yearly Meeting held in Canterbury in 2011. Britain Yearly Meeting has asked Area Meetings to include an annual statement about activities and progress towards becoming low-carbon communities.

In 2021 it was possible to undertake work on double-glazing and thermal insulation in Kelso, and we plan to reconsider these issues for Edinburgh Meeting House in 2024 as part of our scheduled quinquennial review.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

The voluntary contributions of those who attend our Meetings for Worship are our major source of income, and help to support the upkeep and development of the two meeting houses, as well as supporting the Meeting's charitable activities. The Area Meeting itself provides funds:

- for the work of the Religious Society of Friends within Britain and abroad (as funded through Britain Yearly Meeting);
- to General Meeting for Scotland as support for Scottish ecumenical and interfaith initiatives;

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- for the support of the Scottish Parliamentary Liaison Officer and the Scottish Local Development Worker (funded through General Meeting for Scotland and Britain Yearly Meeting);
- to its members and others, including young people, to attend Quaker meetings, events and courses;
- to support charitable work undertaken by its own members and for other charities undertaking work supported by the membership and in line with our charitable objectives.

The Area Meeting has been the fortunate recipient of a legacy established as the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust. This makes grants to *“deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures of life, the purpose of such grants being to provide the recipients with some additional comfort or pleasure of an exceptional nature over and above the usual necessities of life.”* Since the Trust was established in 2002, more than 150 grants have been distributed to Quakers and non-Quakers from all over Scotland to enable them to experience some aspect of enjoyment in their lives. Reports on grants made by the trust are published regularly in *Scottish Friend*, the newsletter of General Meeting for Scotland, and the Area Meeting's own newsletter, *SESAME*.

POSSIBLE RECONFIGURATION OF QUAKER CHARITIES

Quakers in Scotland, in discussions co-ordinated by General Meeting for Scotland, are considering setting up a single charity, probably a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), to replace some or all of the six existing unincorporated charities (four Area Meetings including SESAM, Dundee Friends Property Trust, and General Meeting for Scotland). We are aware that many other charities, including Quaker charities in several regions of the UK, are considering similar arrangements.

This would not entail any significant alteration in charitable purposes, or in the experience of Friends in their local meetings or worshipping groups. How it would affect functions carried out regionally, at Area Meetings, and financial and property management, is under active consideration.

Assets of the existing bodies would be transferred to the new organisation only with the individual agreement of each of those bodies, including SESAM. The discussions do not in the view of trustees affect the position of SESAM as a going concern in 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and the charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements.

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OVERVIEW OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The net financial result before other recognised losses was a deficit of £24,572 as compared to a deficit of £37,919 in 2022. The overall result in 2023, after accounting for investment gains, is a deficit of £15,521 compared to a surplus of £109,228 (after accounting for investment losses and revaluation gains) as reported in 2022. The reduction in deficit is due in large part to the continued improvement in the level of trading activities following the pandemic. The income from trading has increased by £48,000 compared to 2022 and income from charitable activities has also increased due to a return to more "normal" levels of Local Meeting activity and another successful Wiston Lodge weekend. General donated income has improved slightly over 2022 but has fallen in overall terms as Fàilte Edinburgh fundraising in its second year has fallen by £10,000 compared to 2022, but Fàilte Edinburgh's expenditure was also lower. Expenditure overall has increased by 17% with staffing and premises costs accounting for the majority of the increase due to increased activity in the Meeting House and inflationary pressures on costs, most notable, heat and light and a 10% increase in the Real Living Wage to which all the staffing costs are linked. As in 2022, there were no major building repairs or upgrades in 2023.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Continuing concerns about the underlying financial situation meant that work which might have been undertaken in 2023 was again deferred. It is now planned that work on the courtyard side of the Edinburgh building will take place in 2024 when there will also be a quinquennial review of both the Edinburgh and Kelso meeting houses. Some internal improvements and upgrades will also be undertaken in the buildings.

RESERVES POLICIES AND LEGACIES

As explained in previous reports, our capital development of the two meeting houses is expensive and can only be afforded intermittently. In the past we have been able to draw extensively on grant support, supplemented by reserves built up largely from legacies received by the Area Meeting. Following receipt of the large legacy from our Friend Catriona Collins in 2018 we set aside funds on which we expect to draw for the improvement work described above.

In general, we aim to maintain accessible reserves of around £100,000 to £120,000. At 31 December 2023, the level of readily available reserves was £179,279 (2022: £207,633). The reserves are continually monitored given ongoing inflationary pressures, the international situation and the need for capital expenditure.

INVESTMENTS POLICY

When the Area Meeting set up an account with Rathbone Greenbank in 2019, it was agreed that investments should be made in funds with agreed ethical objectives, a low risk profile and an intended investment period of three to five years. A review of the investments was undertaken in 2023 and there will be a further review in 2024 in order to ensure sufficient funds are available for capital expenditure and to maintain easily-accessible reserves. Trustees have confirmed that they remain committed to ethical objectives.

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FUNDS

Restricted Funds are those where the donor has stipulated the use to which the funds may be put. Funds at the disposal of Local Meetings and Fàilte Edinburgh have been confirmed as restricted funds. Unrestricted Funds are those which may be spent entirely at the discretion of the Area Meeting within the terms of its charitable aims. Funds which the Area Meeting has set aside for specific projects are treated as Designated Funds.

The land and buildings in Edinburgh and Kelso belonging to the Area Meeting were revalued professionally in 2023.

FUNDING SOURCES

The Area Meeting is very dependent on and grateful for the donations that it receives from its members. They may request that all or part of their donation is allocated to a Local Meeting, or some may be sent out with SESAM's area to support the work of General Meeting for Scotland or Britain Yearly Meeting. Many members also contribute regularly by cash donations following Meetings for Worship.

Income is received from letting out rooms in both meeting houses to external organisations (many being charities or community groups) when they are not needed for Quaker activity. Funds raised through the Edinburgh lettings support the employment of a number of staff to manage the facilities at the Meeting House in Edinburgh. A management committee supports these staff and regularly reviews their contracts of employment; it keeps the use of the Edinburgh rooms under review, undertaking the updating of lettings policies and charges, monitoring health and safety issues and so on. Throughout the year the managers and all Meeting House staff have continued to work hard and shown flexibility in dealing with different patterns and timings of bookings, to which changes are sometimes made at very short notice. We thank them for all they do.

The Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House in pre-pandemic years became the lively Venue 40 during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. In 2022 there was a limited programme of events, and in 2023 the Meeting House was adopted by the Fringe as Fringe Central. The income was a valuable contribution to the costs of running the building.

Kelso Meeting House has no paid staff, but a premises committee was re-established during the year and bookings in 2023 showed a good recovery following the pandemic years. We were grateful to local Friends who made this possible.

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GRANT-MAKING POLICY

Every year the Area Meeting makes contributions to both Britain Yearly Meeting and General Meeting for Scotland to fund their general work in supporting Quaker witness in Britain and in Scotland as well as further afield. The contribution to General Meeting for Scotland takes the form of a quota based on the number of members

within SESAM as a proportion of the full Scottish membership of the Society of Friends. Britain Yearly Meeting provides technical support and training for those who serve their Meetings in specialised areas such as trustees, treasurers, clerks and registering officers. General Meeting for Scotland undertakes representational work among religious groups in Scotland and provides a forum for the four Area Meetings in Scotland to share matters of common concern. General Meeting for Scotland also provides guidance and some funding for the Parliamentary Engagement Officer and Regional Development Worker employed in Scotland by Britain Yearly Meeting.

Following receipt of the large legacy in 2018 the trustees substantially increased the annual donation passed on to Britain Yearly Meeting from unrestricted funds to about £55,000 in both 2018 and 2019. However, in view of the financial situation created by the pandemic this was reduced to £30,000 in 2020 and has been £25,000 since 2021.

Trustees, the treasury team, and management committee, express their thanks to the Area Meeting's accountant, Heather Hartman, for her work and advice during the year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

ORGANISATION AND AFFILIATION

The Area Meeting is a constituent part of Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). This is a Christian denomination founded in the seventeenth century. For charitable purposes, its principal objective is the advancement of religion.

Quaker faith & practice is regarded as the nearest equivalent to a governing document for the whole Religious Society, being a book of faith and practice constituting the Society's Christian discipline. It was first issued in manuscript form in 1738 and has been rewritten periodically. The most recent (fifth) print edition was published in 2013. The online edition includes later updates.

Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends currently contains about 70 Area Meetings (as well as a number of wider groupings encompassing several Area Meetings). Membership of the Society is held within an Area Meeting, and this is also the main charitable and accounting unit.

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South East Scotland Area Meeting is one of four making up General Meeting for Scotland. It comprises 237 members (240 in 2022) worshipping in nine separate Local Quaker Meetings and three worshipping groups; the largest are Central and South Edinburgh with 85 (92 in 2022) and 35 (34 in 2022) members respectively. In addition, a similar number of non-members (known as 'attenders') regularly attend meetings for worship and participate fully in the life of the Society.

Decisions affecting the life and work of the charity are taken corporately by the membership within the context of a Meeting for Worship for business, God's will for the meeting being discerned without the need for voting when the meeting takes place within a spirit of worship. Minutes are approved at the conclusion of each item of business when unity has been reached.

GOVERNANCE AND CHARITABLE TRUSTEES

The Area Meeting adopted its governing document at a meeting held on 27 October 2007 with minor revisions being adopted in 2021 and 2023. Its trustees are all members of the Religious Society of Friends and are appointed under the terms of this governing document. Trustees report regularly to sessions of the Area Meeting.

The Area Meeting also appoints office bearers (who are not trustees for the purposes of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations). They include a clerk and assistant clerk, a registering officer for marriages and members of an Area Meeting nominations committee. The Area Meeting treasurer is a trustee *ex officio*.

The process for the appointment of trustees is that names are brought forward by the Area Meeting's nominations committee; appointment is by minute of the Area Meeting in session. There is a process for inducting new trustees who are also encouraged to attend a training course for Quaker trustees organised by Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. Other events are organised on occasion by Britain Yearly Meeting to enable trustees and treasurers from Area Meetings throughout Britain to meet in person or online and to share best practice and experience.

RISK MANAGEMENT

An assessment has been made of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems are in place to mitigate its exposure to such risks. The assessment is reconsidered at regular intervals.

Architects undertake quinquennial inspections of both meeting houses, the next being due in 2024. These reports give the trustees warning of major issues as well as detailed information to assist them with any minor repairs that are required.

Area Meeting policies covering safeguarding, health and safety and food hygiene are in place. A revised safeguarding policy was accepted in 2023 and training is in progress. Data Protection is also kept under review.

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THE AREA MEETING'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the Area Meeting to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of its financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing its financial statements, the Area Meeting is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (the Charities SORP);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Area Meeting will continue in operation.

The Area Meeting has appointed a body of trustees as required by its 2007 governing document. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Area Meeting and which enable the trustees to report that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Area Meeting's governing document, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities (Charities SORP FRS102).

The trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Area Meeting and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with good practice recommendations by OSCR, all Trustees have completed a declaration of eligibility.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: SC019165

PRINCIPAL OFFICE:

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

ADVISERS:

Accountant

Heather Hartman BA (Hons) CA,
Hartman Figures Limited T/A Charity Figures
c/o 9 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6AT

Independent Examiner

David Jeffcoat FCCA,
Alexander Sloan LLP,
1 Lochrin Square, 92-98 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QA.

Bankers

Bank of Scotland,
61 Leith Walk, Edinburgh EH6 8LS

Triodos Bank,
Deanery Road, Bristol BS1 5AS

Charity Bank Ltd.,
Fosse House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge TN9 1BE

Investment Managers

Rathbone Greenbank Investments,
10 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4NT

Solicitors

Balfour and Manson, 54-66 Frederick Street, Edinburgh EH2 1LS

OFFICE BEARERS (2023):

Alastair Cameron (Area Meeting Clerk)
Catherine Dyer (Area Meeting Assistant Clerk)
Jacqueline Noltingk (Treasurer)

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Meeting House managers

Antony Wilkes and Susan Proudlove (to 3 March 2023)
Miranda Girdlestone (from 27 February 2023)
Michael Stokes

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TRUSTEES during 2023:

Kathryn Arnot (to 30 June 2023)	Katrina McCrea
Ben Davies	Jacqueline Noltingk (Treasurer)
Madeleine Harding	Neil Turner (Clerk to the Trustees)
Philip Lucas (to 31 March 2023)	Martin Ward

TRUSTEES at the time of signing this report:

Ben Davies	Jacqueline Noltingk (Treasurer)
Madeleine Harding	Neil Turner (Clerk to the Trustees)
Katrina McCrea	Martin Ward

Alastair Cameron (Clerk to the Area Meeting), David Sterratt (Convenor of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House Management Committee to 31 March 2023 and thereafter Convenor of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House affordability sub-committee), Henry Thompson (Convenor of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House Management Committee from 1 April 2023) attended meetings of trustees during the year. Minutes were copied to Catherine Dyer (Assistant Clerk to the Area Meeting).

This Report was approved by the trustees on 4 June 2024. It was signed on their behalf by Neil Turner.

This Report and the Statement of Accounts for 2023 were presented to an Area Meeting held in Kelso on 22 June 2024 and the Clerk of the Area Meeting was authorised to sign them.

Neil Turner (Clerk to Trustees)

Alastair Cameron (Area Meeting Clerk)

Date: 22 June 2024

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE AREA MEETING**

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 as set out on pages 16 to 32.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulation 2006 (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. That gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounting Regulations (as amended); and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the Accounting Regulations 2006 (as amended) have not been met;
or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Jeffcoat FCCA
Alexander Sloan
1 Lochrin Square
92-98 Fountainbridge
Edinburgh EH3 9QA

Date:

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	67,475	50,902	118,377	120,824
Charitable activities	4	409	18,936	19,345	12,577
Other trading activities	5	115,091	254	115,345	66,997
Investment income	6	7,738	1,063	8,801	5,047
Other income	7	-	-	-	906
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		190,713	71,155	261,868	206,351
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	100,474	972	101,446	79,033
Charitable activities	9	133,282	51,712	184,994	165,237
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended		233,756	52,684	286,440	244,270
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains / (losses)		(43,043)	18,471	(24,572)	(37,919)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	16	31	-	31	(8,355)
Realised (losses)/gains on investments		9,020	-	9,020	(44,498)
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	15	-	-	-	200,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure)		(33,992)	18,471	(15,521)	109,228
Gross transfers between funds		7,131	(7,131)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds		(26,861)	11,340	(15,521)	109,228
Total funds at 1 January 2023		2,194,861	109,345	2,304,206	2,194,978
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds at 31 December 2023		2,168,000	120,685	2,288,685	2,304,206
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The charity has no other recognised gains or losses other than the result for the year as set out above. All activities of the charity are classified as continuing.

The notes on pages 18 to 32 form part of the financial statements.

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BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	1,737,872	1,749,193
Investments	16	251,659	239,177
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,989,531	1,988,370
Current assets			
Debtors	17	24,859	17,078
Short term deposits		80,151	85,232
Cash at bank and in hand		222,311	239,635
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		327,321	341,945
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(28,167)	(26,109)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets		299,154	315,836
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		2,288,685	2,304,206
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	19	374,725	369,241
Designated funds			
Property & Property Improvements		1,710,000	1,710,000
Fixtures and fittings		16,855	21,934
Various		66,420	93,686
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,168,000	2,194,861
Restricted funds	20	120,685	109,345
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,288,685	2,304,206
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

These accounts were approved at an Area Meeting held on 22 June 2024 and signed by:

Jacqueline Noltingk (Treasurer to Area Meeting)

Neil Turner (Clerk to Trustees)

The notes on pages 18 to 32 form part of the financial statements.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers): South East Scotland Area Meeting is an unincorporated Scottish charity with registered number SC019165. The Principal Office is:

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)– Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

The presentational currency in the financial statements is Pound Sterling and the level of rounding is to the nearest pound.

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) South East Scotland Area Meeting meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires the Trustees to make judgements, estimates and assumptions which affect reported income, expenditure, assets and liabilities. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in the formation of estimates, together with past experience and expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable. Actual results in the future could differ from such estimates.

Judgements

The judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management have made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

In relation to the charity's properties: The Trustees consider that the value of the properties at 31 December 2023 is not materially different to the amounts reported in professional valuations carried out in March 2023.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

The estimated useful economic life and residual value of the properties is considered to be not materially different to the current value stated in the accounts and consider a depreciation charge in respect of the properties is not necessary.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations and legacies includes all income that is in substance a gift, made to the charity on a voluntary basis. This is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants of a general nature, where entitlement is not conditional on delivery of a specified level of service, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. A legacy, in whole or part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Income from charitable activities includes income earned both from the supply of services and from performance-related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by the charity. Grants where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.
- Income from other trading activities includes income earned from trading activities to raise funds for the charity and is recognised when receivable. The Quaker Meeting House in Edinburgh is used as a venue during the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe in normal years. Members from throughout the Area Meeting participate in all aspects of running this venue, funds raised through and expended on behalf of this activity being accounted for in a separate festival committee account, a designated fund of the Area Meeting. In addition, funds are raised through sales for the public, including catering, within the Edinburgh Meeting House.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- **Acting as agent:** The Area Meeting acts as agent in passing funds, received from the public for performances during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, directly to performing companies. These transfers are not shown in the accounts.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Expenditure

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the functional categories of resources expended in the Statement of Financial Activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

- Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by a charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes. It comprises expenditure incurred in advertising Quaker activities to the public and in selling items (such as refreshments) to the public in the Quaker meeting houses. The expenses shown are the cost of such items as well as the cost associated with using the meeting house as a venue during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries including grant making. It includes both costs that can be directly attributed to such activities and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them including costs related to the governance of the charity. Grants payable are made in line with the objectives of the Area Meeting. The Area Meeting gives priority to Quaker bodies but does consider grants to other organisations.

The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts as the monetary value is not easily measured.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. They comprise the costs associated with employing the meeting house managers and with running the two Quaker meeting houses. The meeting houses support all Quaker activity within the Area Meeting and, in addition, they provide a facility for the use of local communities (through which they contribute to Quaker fundraising).

The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 9.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all employees who have elected to participate. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available for any purpose of the Area Meeting. The Area Meeting makes transfers for internal purposes between its funds; these are shown gross in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and in more detail in Notes 18 and 19.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the charity for particular purposes. **Restricted funds** are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Fixed assets

- Land and buildings are shown at their market value at the date of their valuation with no adjustments for appreciation or depreciation. Although they are normally revalued at approximately five-year intervals, the Trustees decided to obtain revaluations in March 2022 in connection with their planning for the future.
- All capital expenditures over £250 are capitalised by the charity for its charitable purposes.
- Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as follows: Fixtures and fittings: - 20 % straight line.

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the market value at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of the investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors and sub sectors.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are recognised at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash at Bank and In Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or the opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where South East Scotland Area Meeting has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially measured at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Donations from members and Other individuals	65,975	47,177	113,152	118,324
Legacies	-	-	-	1,000
Grants: <i>Francis Camfield Trust</i>	1,500	-	1,500	1,000
<i>Home Office</i>	-	3,725	3,725	500
	<u>67,475</u>	<u>50,902</u>	<u>118,377</u>	<u>120,824</u>
	<u>67,475</u>	<u>50,902</u>	<u>118,377</u>	<u>120,824</u>

The income from donations and legacies totalled £118,377 (2022: £120,824) of which £67,475 was unrestricted (2022: £60,219) and £50,902 was restricted (2022: £60,605). The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with accounting standards, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not measured in the accounts.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income from Quaker activities	409	18,936	19,345	12,577
	<u>409</u>	<u>18,936</u>	<u>19,345</u>	<u>12,577</u>
	<u>409</u>	<u>18,936</u>	<u>19,345</u>	<u>12,577</u>

The income from charitable activities in the year totalled £19,345 (2022: £12,577) of which £409 was unrestricted (2022: £184) and £18,936 (2022: £12,393) was restricted.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Room lettings	69,013	-	69,013	49,373
Letting catering	22,925	-	22,925	12,916
Festival venue income	17,500	-	17,500	1,183
Sales of books, foyer refreshments, B & B income etc	5,653	254	5,907	3,525
	<u>115,091</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>115,345</u>	<u>66,997</u>
	<u>115,091</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>115,345</u>	<u>66,997</u>

The income from other trading activities in the year totalled £115,345 (2022: £66,997) of which £115,091 (2022: £66,823) was unrestricted and £254 (2022: £174) was restricted.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Investment Income	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Dividends	4,874	-	4,874	3,958
Bank interest	2,864	1,063	3,927	1,089
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,738	1,063	8,801	5,047
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The income from investment income in the year totalled £8,801 (2022: £5,047) of which £7,738 (2022: £4,795) was unrestricted and £1,063 (2022: £252) was restricted.

7. Other Income	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Grants: <i>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</i>	-	-	-	-
Insurance receipt	-	-	-	906
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-	-	906
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The other income in the year totalled £nil (2022: £906) of which £nil (2022: £906) was unrestricted and £nil (2022: £nil) was restricted.

8. Analysis of expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Goods for sale at Meeting House	12,452	-	12,452	7,437
Festival venue costs	10	-	10	32
Periodicals & PRS cost	260	-	260	303
Support costs of raising funds (note 10)	87,752	972	88,724	71,261
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100,474	972	101,446	79,033
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The expenditure on raising funds in the year totalled £101,446 (2022: £79,033) of which £100,474 (2022: £78,119) was unrestricted and £972 (2022: £914) was restricted.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Grant Making:				
Britain Yearly Meeting	25,000	10,885	35,885	34,738
General Meeting for Scotland	5,681	1,970	7,651	6,426
Northern Friends Peace Board	2,160	-	2,160	2,151
Northern Friends Youth Events SCIO	1,248	-	1,248	1,243
Various grants < £1,000*	1,389	14,688	16,077	11,829
	<u>35,478</u>	<u>27,543</u>	<u>63,021</u>	<u>56,387</u>
Quaker Activities:				
Attendance at conferences & meetings	1,553	-	1,553	1,440
Bursary help (requested by overseers)	1,510	-	1,510	802
Fàilte Edinburgh Quaker activities	-	1,407	1,407	15,209
Committee expenses	2,131	53	2,184	104
Administration costs	90	115	205	108
Books, newsletters, publicity & outreach	3,244	-	3,244	2,509
Reg' & memb'ship of other org's	279	-	279	232
Activities within local meetings	736	11,603	12,339	8,327
Premises costs of local meetings	509	10,019	10,528	8,859
	<u>10,052</u>	<u>23,197</u>	<u>33,249</u>	<u>37,590</u>
Support costs (see note 10)	<u>87,752</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>88,724</u>	<u>71,260</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>133,282</u></u>	<u><u>51,712</u></u>	<u><u>184,994</u></u>	<u><u>165,237</u></u>

*All grants were made to organisations, with the exception of expenditure of £3,270 from the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Fund, made to individuals under the terms of the bequest and £889 made to individuals from the Area Meeting Hardship Fund. Contributions by members of Local Meetings for Special Collections passed on £8,233 (2022: £5,763) for various charitable purposes.

The expenditure on charitable activities in the year totalled £184,994 (2022: £165,237) of which £133,282 (2022: £110,070) was unrestricted and £51,712 (2022: £55,167) was restricted.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Analysis of support and governance costs

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs that relate to the governance function. Governance costs and other support costs are apportioned separately between charitable activities and raising funds for the year. Refer to the table below for the analysis of support and governance costs and the basis of apportionment.

	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Meeting House expenses</u>		
Wages and salaries (note 13)	75,995	62,457
Council tax and utilities	29,156	18,804
Repairs and maintenance	10,534	11,104
Building upgrades	-	-
Professional fees	5,256	40
Recruitment costs	-	805
Insurance	8,182	6,290
Cleaning	14,265	10,453
Office costs and minor purchases	5,848	5,992
Staff training and miscellaneous expenditure	1,271	132
<u>Support of the Area Meeting</u>		
Accounting support	7,307	7,604
Independent examiner's fees (governance)	2,132	1,988
Investment management fees	1,453	1,828
Computing support, postage	629	423
Depreciation of fixed assets	15,420	14,601
	177,448	142,521
	177,448	142,521
50% allocation to raising funds (based on time)	88,724	71,261
50% allocation to charitable activities (based on time)	88,724	71,260
	177,448	142,521
	177,448	142,521

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. Summary analysis of expenditure and related income for charitable activities

	Grant Making £	Quaker Activities £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Costs	(63,021)	(121,973)	(184,994)	(165,237)
Income from Quaker activities	8,216	11,129	19,345	12,577
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cost funded from other income	(54,805)	(110,844)	(165,649)	(152,660)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

12. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	15,420	14,601
Independent examination fee	2,132	1,988
	<hr/>	<hr/>

13. Staff Costs

	2023	2022
The no. of staff on a head count basis	8	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2023 £	2022 £
<u>Staff costs comprise:</u>		
Salaries and wages	72,886	59,791
Employer's social security costs	-	-
Employer's pension costs	3,109	2,666
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	75,995	62,457
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

No employee was paid a salary of more than £60,000 per annum in the current or previous years. The average number of full-time staff (full time equivalents) was 2.9 (2022: 2.4).

Remuneration of key management personnel for the year, including pension contributions was £51,336 (2022: £48,134).

The office bearers were not paid remuneration in the current or previous years. £824 was reimbursed to three trustees for administration and travel costs during the year (2022: nil).

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14. Taxation

As a charity, the Area Meeting is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

15. Fixed Assets

	Property/ improvements £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
<u>Cost/valuation</u>			
As at 1 January 2023	1,710,000	143,219	1,853,219
Additions during year	-	4,099	4,099
	-----	-----	-----
As at 31 December 2023	1,710,000	147,318	1,857,318
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Depreciation</u>			
As at 1 January 2023	-	104,026	104,026
Charge for year	-	15,420	15,420
	-----	-----	-----
Depreciation at 31 December 2023	-	119,446	119,446
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Net Book Value</u>			
As at 31 December 2023	1,710,000	27,872	1,737,872
	=====	=====	=====
As at 31 December 2022	1,710,000	39,193	1,749,193
	=====	=====	=====

The three Edinburgh properties were valued in March 2023 by Ryden Property Consultants and Allied Surveyors, Edinburgh. They considered the market value of the properties to be £1,595,000 on this date. The Kelso property was also valued in March 2023 by Allied Surveyors, Selkirk. The market value was considered to be £115,000. The Trustees consider that the market value of the properties at 31 December 2023 is unlikely to be materially different to the March 2023 valuation amounts and therefore consider it reasonable to carry these values in the accounts. The following summarises the values at the time of the valuations:

	Edinburgh Meeting House	Flat 4, 6 Upper Bow, Edinburgh	Flat 3F2, 6 Upper Bow, Edinburgh	Kelso Meeting House
Market valuation	£1,000,000	£385,000	£210,000	£115,000

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

16. Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market value of quoted investments at 1 January 2023	236,095	431,289
Additions	4,816	249,304
Disposals	(1,414)	(436,143)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on revaluation	9,020	(8,355)
	248,517	236,095
Market value of investments at 31 December 2023	248,517	236,095
Cash held as part of the portfolio	3,142	3,082
	251,659	239,177
	250,342	246,980
	250,342	246,980
	2023	2022
	£	£
The portfolio consists of:		
UK Equities	-	-
Overseas Equities	-	-
Unit Trusts	248,517	236,095
Bonds	-	-
Cash	3,142	3,082
	251,659	239,177

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value, using the bid price. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

The significance of the financial instruments to the ongoing financial sustainability of the charity is considered in the financial review and investment policy of the Trustees Annual Report.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of the investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors and sub sectors, particularly as the charity is reliant on the dividend yield in part to finance its work.

The charity has managed the investment risks by retaining an expert advisor and operating an investment policy that provides for a high degree of diversification of holdings quoted on a recognised stock exchange. The charity does not make use of derivatives and other similar complex financial instruments.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors	18,963	13,547
Prepayments	5,896	3,531
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	24,859	17,078
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Creditors	13,745	13,821
Accruals	8,422	6,288
Loans: Loans from members	6,000	6,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	28,167	26,109
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Loans from members: At 31 December 2023, £6,000 was outstanding (2022: £6,000). All loans are interest free and repayable on request within one month.

19. Unrestricted Funds – Current Year

	Balance at	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gain on	Balance at
	1/1/23	£	£	£	revaluation	31/12/23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General account	369,241	77,850	(61,343)	(20,074)	9,051	374,725
Property account	1,710,000	-	-	-	-	1,710,000
Capital account	14,725	-	-	-	-	14,725
Festival account	1,996	-	(5)	(1,991)	-	-
Victoria Terrace	59,831	104,543	(152,066)	27,228	-	39,536
Kelso Meeting House	16,847	8,320	(11,165)	(1,844)	-	12,158
Library Committee						
account	287	-	-	(287)	-	-
Fixtures and fittings	21,934	-	(9,177)	4,099	-	16,856
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,194,861	190,713	(233,756)	7,131	9,051	2,168,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19. Unrestricted Funds – Prior Year

	Balance at 1/1/22 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gain on revaluation £	Balance at 31/12/22 £
General account	516,935	65,649	(53,042)	(107,448)	(52,853)	369,241
Property account	1,510,000	-	-	-	200,000	1,710,000
Capital account	14,725	-	-	-	-	14,725
Festival account	1,569	1,183	244	(1,000)	-	1,996
Victoria Terrace	9,732	61,845	(118,097)	106,351	-	59,831
Kelso Meeting House	21,514	4,230	(8,937)	40	-	16,847
Library Committee account	267	20	-	-	-	287
Fixtures and fittings	20,105	-	(8,357)	10,186	-	21,934
	<u>2,094,847</u>	<u>132,927</u>	<u>(188,189)</u>	<u>8,129</u>	<u>147,147</u>	<u>2,194,861</u>

The general account is used for the main income and expenditure items of the Area Meeting.

The property account represents the market value of property held and the value of any improvements work during the year.

The capital account is a designated account for legacies and donations received by the Area Meeting utilised for major capital projects.

The Festival account, operated by the Festival Committee was closed during the year. The Victoria Terrace account is for all transactions involved in running the Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House, including its special use during the annual Edinburgh Festival following the closure of the Festival account.

The Kelso Meeting House account is used for all transactions involved in running the Kelso Quaker meeting house.

Library Committee account is for all transactions involved in the upkeep of the Meeting House Library. This has now closed with remaining funds transferred to the general account.

Fixtures and fittings relate to the value of fixtures and fittings within the main Meeting House at 7 Victoria Terrace.

For transfers between unrestricted and restricted accounts, see Note 20.

20. Restricted Funds – Current Year

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Dec 2023 £
John Wigham Trust	5,364	2,775	(3,270)	-	4,869
Local Quaker Meetings	96,129	51,087	(34,431)	(7,244)	105,541
Fàilte Edinburgh project	7,852	4,438	(2,128)	113	10,275
Donations Fund	-	12,855	(12,855)	-	-
	<u>109,345</u>	<u>71,155</u>	<u>(52,684)</u>	<u>(7,131)</u>	<u>120,685</u>

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

20. Restricted Funds – Prior Year

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Dec 2022 £
John Wigham Trust	5,731	1,483	(1,850)	-	5,364
Local Quaker Meetings	94,400	36,947	(26,418)	(8,800)	96,129
Fàilte Edinburgh project	-	23,230	(16,049)	671	7,852
Donations Fund	-	11,764	(11,764)	-	-
	100,131	73,424	(56,081)	(8,129)	109,345
	100,131	73,424	(56,081)	(8,129)	109,345

The John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust was established when the Area Meeting received a legacy during 2002 from the late John Wigham for the purpose of establishing a trust to provide grants to “deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures of life”. The trust was established by minute of South- East Scotland Monthly Meeting in November 2002. Inland Revenue recognition of the charitable purposes of the Trust was given in 2003. Grants may be made from income and from capital. The Area Meeting appointed three trustees who started recommending the award of grants during 2004.

Funds contributed by members or collected for use in Local Quaker Meetings within the area of South-East Scotland Area Meeting, and therefore not under the direct oversight of the Area Meeting itself, are shown as restricted. There are eight such funds, shown under the collective heading “Local Quaker Meetings” following the closure of Tweeddale Local Meeting during the year.

Fàilte Edinburgh is a project, set up through the UK Government-UNHCR Community Sponsorship Scheme, which aims to support a refugee family in the community, providing accommodation, English language training, and help with practicalities like accessing health services, benefits, schools and jobs, and so ultimately enabling them to live independently in Edinburgh.

The Donations Fund contains donations made by members to be passed on for Quaker work out with the Area Meeting.

Transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds:

Transfers: £7,244 was transferred from Local Quaker Meetings to the Victoria Terrace account and General account for the purposes related to the running of 7 Victoria Terrace and the Area Meeting during 2023. £113 of funds collected from Local Quaker Meetings were transferred to the Fàilte Edinburgh project during the year.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. Analysis of funds – Current Year

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fixed assets	1,737,062	810	1,737,872	1,749,193
Investments	251,659	-	251,659	239,177
Current assets	207,446	119,875	327,321	341,945
Creditors	(28,167)	-	(28,167)	(26,109)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,168,000	120,685	2,288,685	2,304,206
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Analysis of funds – Prior Year

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Fixed assets	1,748,051	1,142	1,749,193	1,552,869
Investments	239,177	-	239,177	445,148
Current assets	233,742	108,203	341,945	231,322
Creditors	(26,109)	-	(26,109)	(34,361)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,194,861	109,345	2,304,206	2,194,978
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

22. Related party transactions

Related party transactions during the year are disclosed in note 13.