

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

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: SC019165

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
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YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees' Report

This is the Annual Report for South East Scotland Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

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 2024. 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 three worshipping groups.

Local meetings:

- Central Edinburgh (Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House on Victoria Terrace)
- South Edinburgh (Morningside)
- East Lothian (meeting in Dunbar)
- Kelso
- Central Fife (meeting in Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline)
- Penicuik
- Polmont (meeting in Falkirk since October 2024)
- 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)

Berwick upon Tweed (under the joint care of SESAM and Northumbria AM)

Recovery post-pandemic

Our 2022 and 2023 annual reports 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 2024, 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 seven occasions during 2024 in hybrid format with some Friends present in the room and others joining by video link. 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.

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. We took steps to improve the energy efficiency of the lighting in Edinburgh Meeting House in 2024 and hope to make further progress in 2025.

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 2024 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, ran into 2024, though personal involvement of Friends reduced after the first year and there have been no additional financial requirements. The project was completed at the end of 2024 and the steering group laid down. 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 2024. However we were able to let the building to CVenues as a performance venue.

OUR MEETING HOUSES

The Area Meeting's two meeting houses, located in the Edinburgh Old Town and in Kelso, are 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. Area Meeting endorsed the report of the 'Affordability Group' on 15th January 2024 and asked Trustees and the Meeting House Management Committee to take forward its recommendations.

In 2025 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. Letting rates have been increased in line with inflation

MEETING HOUSE STAFF

The Area Meeting employs a number of staff to manage the Edinburgh Meeting House.. Appointment of new job sharing managers in autumn 2024 led to a review of the staffing levels and structure, resulting in a small reduction in costs. Wages continue to be adjusted 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 as it is no longer required for staff accommodation.

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.

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. How it would affect functions carried out regionally, at Area Meetings, and financial and property management, is under active consideration. SESAM has agreed to the establishment of a SCIO to support Scotland wide Quaker work, and has nominated two Friends for appointment by General Meeting as foundation trustees. Further consultations and discussions are taking place within SESAM on opportunities and risks presented, including planning an open 'threshing meeting' which was held 1st March 2025. However no decision has yet been taken by SESAM on relinquishing responsibilities or assets to the new body. These proposals could ultimately lead to the winding up of SESAM, but they do not in the view of trustees affect its position as a going concern in 2025.

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 gains was a surplus of £255,586 as compared to a deficit of £24,572 in 2023. The overall result in 2024, after accounting for investment gains, is a surplus of £258,190 compared to a deficit of £15,521 (after accounting for investment gains) as reported in 2023. The surplus reported is due to the receipt of a substantial legacy of £319,959 during the year. However, the income from trading decreased by £7,535 compared to 2023 whereas income from charitable activities was comparable to the prior year including another successful Wiston Lodge weekend. General donated income was comparable to last year and investment income improved by £2,310. Expenditure overall increased by 11% with staffing, premises and professional fees accounting for the majority of the increase. Grant making was higher than normal as a large donation to Edinburgh Refugees was made following the wind up of the Failte Edinburgh project and distribution of most of the remaining funds. Capital improvements in 2024 included upgrading the Meeting House with LED lighting and new carpets.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Continuing concerns about the underlying financial situation meant that work which might have been undertaken in 2024 was again deferred. It is now planned that work on the courtyard side of the Edinburgh building will take place in 2025 when the outcome of the 2024 quinquennial review of the Edinburgh Meeting House is known. Some remedial action has already been undertaken at the Kelso meeting house. It is likely that there will also be some internal improvements and upgrades in the buildings.

RESERVES POLICIES AND LEGACIES

We have in the past aimed to maintain accessible reserves of around £100,000 to £120,000. These figures are subject to review in the light of the experience of the pandemic, increasing running costs, and a continuing shortfall of routine income against expenditure. At 31 December 2024, the level of unrestricted reserves was £698,000 (2023: £441,000). Trustees are reassessing the reserves policy in the light of this situation and in particular the legacy received in 2024.

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. Although no review of the investments was undertaken in 2024, a meeting was held early in 2025. 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 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 outwith 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 2023, the building was used by Fringe Central, and in 2024 by an outside promoter.

Kelso Meeting House has no paid staff, but the premises committee engages a cleaner for regular servicing of the building. Following the pandemic period, bookings continued to recover in 2024. Trustees are grateful to local Friends for the work they put in.

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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. At the end of 2024, it comprised 248 members (237 in 2023) worshipping in nine separate Local Quaker Meetings and three worshipping groups; the largest are Central and South Edinburgh with 92 (85 in 2023) and 36 (35 in 2023) 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 most recent having been made in 2024 although the report for Edinburgh had not been received at the end of the year. 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 continues. 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

Senior Statutory Auditor

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

Bankers

Bank of Scotland,
PO Box 17235
Edinburgh EH11 1YH

Triodos Bank,
Deanery Road, Bristol BS1 5AS

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

Investment Managers

Rathbone Greenbank Investments,
10 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PF

Solicitors

Balfour + Manson, 56-66 Frederick Street, Edinburgh EH2 1LS

OFFICE BEARERS (2024):

Alastair Cameron (Area Meeting Clerk)
Catherine Dyer (Area Meeting Assistant Clerk)
Jacqueline Noltingk (Treasurer to 30 September 2024)
Jonathan Riddell (Treasurer from 1 October 2024)

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Meeting House managers

Miranda Girdlestone (to 30 June 2024)
Michael Stokes (acting manager from 1 July to 10 November 2024)
Andrew Tucker and Samantha Searle (from 11 November 2024)

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TRUSTEES during 2024:

Kathryn Arnot (to 30 June 2024)	Jonathan Riddell (Treasurer from 1 October 2024)
Ben Davies	
Madeleine Harding (to 30 September 2024)	Ian Robertson (from 1 October 2024)
Katrina McCrea	Neil Turner (Clerk to the Trustees to 31 December 2024)
Jacqueline Noltingk (Treasurer to 30 September 2024)	Martin Ward

TRUSTEES at the time of signing this report:

Mark Ballard (from 1 January 2025)	Ian Robertson
Katrina McCrea	Martin Ward (Clerk to the Trustees from 1 January 2025)
Jonathan Riddell (Treasurer)	

Alastair Cameron (Clerk to the Area Meeting), David Sterratt (Convenor of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House affordability sub-committee to 15 January 2024), Henry Thompson (Convenor of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House Management Committee) 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 22 April 2025. It was signed on their behalf by Martin Ward.

This Report and the Statement of Accounts for 2024 were presented to an Area Meeting held in Edinburgh on 6 May 2025 and the Clerk of the Area Meeting was authorised to sign them.

Martin Ward (Clerk to Trustees)

Alastair Cameron (Area Meeting Clerk)

Date: 6 May 2025

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) South East Area (the 'charity') for the Period ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the Period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' annual use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- proper accounting records have not been kept; or

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- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our wider knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

Audit response to risks identified

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, OSCR and the charity's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters which we are required to address

In the previous accounting period, the Charity's level of income was such that the Charity did not require an audit and the financial statements were subject to an independent examination. Accordingly, the prior period financial statements were not subject to audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Alexander Sloan LLP
Accountants and Business Advisers
Statutory Auditor

1 Lochrin Square
92-98 Fountainbridge
Edinburgh
EH3 9QA

Alexander Sloan LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	386,183	47,527	433,710	118,377
Charitable activities	4	588	21,249	21,837	19,345
Other trading activities	5	107,810	-	107,810	115,345
Investment income	6	9,932	1,179	11,111	8,801
Total income		504,513	69,955	574,468	261,868
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	110,730	1,006	111,736	101,446
Charitable activities	8	139,339	67,807	207,146	184,994
Total resources expended		250,069	68,813	318,882	286,440
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains / (losses)		254,444	1,142	255,586	(24,572)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	15	2,604	-	2,604	31
Realised (losses)/gains on investments		-	-	-	9,020
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	14	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		257,048	1,142	258,190	(15,521)
Gross transfers between funds		11,753	(11,753)	-	-
Net movement in funds		268,801	(10,611)	258,190	(15,521)
Total funds at 1 January 2024		2,168,000	120,685	2,288,685	2,304,206
Total funds at 31 December 2024		2,436,801	110,074	2,546,875	2,288,685

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 21 to 36 form part of the financial statements.

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

BALANCE SHEET			
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	1,744,279	1,737,872
Investments	15	259,311	251,659
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,003,590	1,989,531
Current assets			
Debtors	16	18,121	24,859
Short term deposits		136,386	80,151
Cash at bank and in hand		425,377	222,311
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		579,884	327,321
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(36,599)	(28,167)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets		543,285	299,154
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		2,546,875	2,288,685
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	18		
General funds		642,742	374,725
Designated funds			
Property & Property Improvements		1,710,000	1,710,000
Fixtures and fittings		29,149	16,855
Various		54,910	66,420
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,436,801	2,168,000
Restricted funds	19	110,074	120,685
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,546,875	2,288,685
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

These accounts were approved at an Area Meeting held on 6th May 2025 and signed by:

Jonathan Riddell (Treasurer to Area Meeting)

Martin Ward (Clerk to Trustees)

The notes on pages 21 to 36 form part of the financial statements.

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities	23	279,930	(23,676)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income received		11,111	8,801
Receipts from the sale of investments		-	1,445
Purchases of investments		(6,521)	(4,816)
Purchase of tangible assets		(26,692)	(4,099)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash out flow from investing activities		(22,102)	1,331
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		257,828	(22,345)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		305,604	327,949
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		563,432	305,604
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents comprise:			
Cash held as part of the investment portfolio		1,669	3,142
Short term deposits		136,386	80,151
Cash at bank and in hand		425,377	222,311
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		563,432	305,604
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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 2024 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 2024

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 2024

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 8.

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 17 and 18.

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 2024
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 2023 in connection with their planning for the future.
- All capital expenditures over £1,000 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 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Donations from members and Other individuals	64,824	47,527	112,351	113,152
Legacies	319,959	-	319,959	-
Grants: <i>Francis Camfield Trust</i>	1,400	-	1,400	1,500
<i>Home Office</i>	-	-	-	3,725
	<u>386,183</u>	<u>47,527</u>	<u>433,710</u>	<u>118,377</u>

The income from donations and legacies totalled £433,710 (2023: £118,377) of which £386,183 was unrestricted (2023: £67,475) and £47,527 was restricted (2023: £50,902). 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 £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income from Quaker activities	588	21,249	21,837	19,345
	<u>588</u>	<u>21,249</u>	<u>21,837</u>	<u>19,345</u>

The income from charitable activities in the year totalled £21,837 (2023: £19,345) of which £588 was unrestricted (2023: £409) and £21,249 (2023: £18,936) was restricted.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Room lettings	62,972	-	62,972	69,013
Letting catering	24,903	-	24,903	22,925
Festival venue income	19,100	-	19,100	17,500
Sales of books & foyer refreshments	835	-	835	5,907
	<u>107,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,810</u>	<u>115,345</u>

The income from other trading activities in the year totalled £107,810 (2023: £115,345) of which £107,810 (2023: £115,091) was unrestricted and £nil (2023: £254) was restricted.

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Investment Income	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Dividends	6,582	-	6,582	4,874
Bank interest	3,350	1,179	4,529	3,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,932	1,179	11,111	8,801
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The income from investment income in the year totalled £11,111 (2023: £8,801) of which £9,932 (2023: £7,738) was unrestricted and £1,179 (2023: £1,063) was restricted.

7. Analysis of expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Goods for sale at Meeting House	14,330	-	14,330	12,452
Festival venue costs	-	-	-	10
Periodicals & PRS cost	92	-	92	260
Support costs of raising funds (note 10)	96,308	1,006	97,314	88,724
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	110,730	1,006	111,736	101,446
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The expenditure on raising funds in the year totalled £111,736 (2023: £101,446) of which £110,730 (2023: £100,474) was unrestricted and £1,006 (2023: £972) was restricted.

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Grant Making:				
Britain Yearly Meeting	25,000	10,534	35,534	35,885
General Meeting for Scotland	5,659	1,278	6,937	7,651
Northern Friends Peace Board	2,370	-	2,370	2,160
Northern Friends Youth Events SCIO	1,232	-	1,232	1,248
Edinburgh Refugees	-	10,796	10,796	-
Various grants < £1,000*	200	17,889	18,089	16,077
	<hr/> 34,461	<hr/> 40,497	<hr/> 74,958	<hr/> 63,021
Quaker Activities:				
Attendance at conferences & meetings	1,249	-	1,249	1,553
Bursary help (requested by Pastoral Friends)	840	-	840	1,510
Fàilte Edinburgh Quaker activities	-	1,000	1,000	1,407
Committee expenses	1,353	270	1,623	2,184
Administration costs	172	-	172	205
Books, newsletters, publicity & outreach	3,398	138	3,536	3,244
Reg' & memb'ship of other org's	243	-	243	279
Activities within local meetings	1,032	15,007	16,039	12,339
Premises costs of local meetings	284	9,888	10,172	10,528
	<hr/> 8,571	<hr/> 26,303	<hr/> 34,874	<hr/> 33,249
Support costs (see note 9)	<hr/> 96,307	<hr/> 1,007	<hr/> 97,314	<hr/> 88,724
TOTAL	<hr/> <hr/> 139,339	<hr/> <hr/> 67,807	<hr/> <hr/> 207,146	<hr/> <hr/> 184,994

*All grants were made to organisations, with the exception of expenditure of £500 from the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Fund, made to individuals under the terms of the bequest. Contributions by members of Local Meetings for Special Collections passed on £9,729 (2023: £8,233) for various charitable purposes.

The expenditure on charitable activities in the year totalled £207,146 (2023: £184,994) of which £139,339 (2023: £133,282) was unrestricted and £67,807 (2023: £51,712) was restricted.

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. 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.

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Meeting House expenses</u>		
Wages and salaries (note 12)	80,936	75,995
Council tax and utilities	28,327	29,156
Repairs and maintenance	6,867	10,534
Building upgrades	1,886	-
Professional fees	550	5,256
Recruitment costs	630	-
Insurance	9,057	8,182
Cleaning	15,964	14,265
Office costs and minor purchases	6,329	5,848
Staff training and miscellaneous expenditure	3,079	1,271
<u>Support of the Area Meeting</u>		
Accounting support	8,366	7,307
Audit/Independent examiner's fees (governance)	10,020	2,132
Investment management fees	1,575	1,453
Computing support, postage	757	629
Depreciation of fixed assets	16,117	15,420
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	4,168	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	194,628	177,448
	<hr/>	<hr/>
50% allocation to raising funds (based on time)	97,314	88,724
50% allocation to charitable activities (based on time)	97,314	88,724
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	194,628	177,448
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

	Grant Making £	Quaker Activities £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Costs	(74,958)	(132,188)	(207,146)	(184,994)
Income from Quaker activities	9,729	12,108	21,837	19,345
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cost funded from other income	(65,229)	(120,080)	(185,309)	(165,649)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

11. Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	16,117	15,420
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	4,168	-
Audit/Independent examination fee	10,020	2,132
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. Staff Costs

	2024	2023
The no. of staff on a head count basis	7	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Staff costs comprise:</u>		
Salaries and wages	76,862	72,886
Employer's social security costs	-	-
Employer's pension costs	4,074	3,109
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80,936	75,995
	<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 2.7 (2023: 2.9).

Remuneration of key management personnel for the year, including pension contributions was £44,535 (2023: £51,336).

The office bearers were not paid remuneration in the current or previous years. £417 was reimbursed to four trustees for administration and travel costs during the year (2023: £824 for administration and travel costs to three trustees).

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

13. Taxation

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

14. Fixed Assets

	Property/ improvements £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
<u>Cost/valuation</u>			
As at 1 January 2024	1,710,000	147,318	1,857,318
Additions during year	-	26,692	26,692
Disposals during year		(39,780)	(39,780)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2024	1,710,000	134,230	1,844,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Depreciation</u>			
As at 1 January 2024	-	119,446	119,446
Charge for year	-	16,117	16,117
Release on disposal		(35,612)	(35,612)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation at 31 December 2024	-	99,951	99,951
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Net Book Value</u>			
As at 31 December 2024	1,710,000	34,279	1,744,279
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2023	1,710,000	27,872	1,737,872
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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 2024 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 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15. Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value of quoted investments at 1 January 2024	248,517	236,095
Additions	6,521	4,816
Disposals	-	(1,414)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on revaluation	2,604	9,020
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value of investments at 31 December 2024	257,642	248,517
Cash held as part of the portfolio	1,669	3,142
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	259,311	251,659
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Historical cost of investments at 31 December 2024	255,388	250,342
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2024	2023
	£	£
The portfolio consists of:		
Unit Trusts	257,642	248,517
Bonds	-	-
Cash	1,669	3,142
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	259,311	251,659
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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.

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NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

16. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors	12,611	18,963
Prepayments	5,510	5,896
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	18,121	24,859
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	14,073	13,745
Accruals	16,526	8,422
Loans: Loans from members	6,000	6,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	36,599	28,167
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Loans from members: At 31 December 2024, £6,000 was outstanding (2023: £6,000). All loans are interest free and repayable on request within one month.

18. Unrestricted Funds – Current Year

	Balance at 1/1/24 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gain on revaluation £	Balance at 31/12/24 £
General account	374,725	396,355	(66,145)	(64,797)	2,604	642,742
Property account	1,710,000	-	-	-	-	1,710,000
Capital account	14,725	-	-	-	-	14,725
Victoria Terrace	39,536	98,258	(158,653)	56,217	-	35,358
Kelso Meeting House	12,158	9,900	(10,872)	(6,359)	-	4,827
Fixtures and fittings	16,856	-	(14,399)	26,692	-	29,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,168,000	504,513	(250,069)	11,753	2,604	2,436,801
	<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 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18. Unrestricted Funds – Prior Year

	Balance at 1/1/23 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Gain on revaluation £	Balance at 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
	<u>2,194,861</u>	<u>190,713</u>	<u>(233,756)</u>	<u>7,131</u>	<u>9,051</u>	<u>2,168,000</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 previous 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 was closed in the previous year 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 19.

19. Restricted Funds – Current Year

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Dec 2024 £
John Wigham Trust	4,869	2,513	(2,327)	-	5,055
Local Quaker Meetings	105,541	53,605	(42,399)	(11,753)	104,994
Fàilte Edinburgh project	10,275	2,025	(12,275)	-	25
Donations Fund	-	11,812	(11,812)	-	-
	<u>120,685</u>	<u>69,955</u>	<u>(68,813)</u>	<u>(11,753)</u>	<u>110,074</u>

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NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

19. Restricted Funds – Prior 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)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	109,345	71,155	(52,684)	(7,131)	120,685
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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”.

Fàilte Edinburgh was a project, set up through the UK Government-UNHCR Community Sponsorship Scheme, which aimed 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 project closed in 2024.

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: £12,253 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 2024. £500 of funds from Area Meeting were transferred to Portobello Meeting as a contribution towards the Wiston Residential weekend.

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SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

20. Analysis of funds – Current Year

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fixed assets	1,743,983	296	1,744,279	1,737,872
Investments	259,311	-	259,311	251,659
Current assets	470,106	109,778	579,884	327,321
Creditors	(36,599)	-	(36,599)	(28,167)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,436,801	110,074	2,546,875	2,288,685
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Analysis of funds – Prior 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/>

21. Related party transactions

Related party transactions during the year are disclosed in note 12.

22. Lease Commitments

At the reporting date the charity had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	577	106
Between two and five years	1,875	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2,452	106
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The lease payments recognised as an expense in the year totalled £538 (2023: £422).

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NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

23. Cash generated from operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	258,190	(15,521)
Losses/(gains) on investments	(2,604)	(9,051)
Depreciation charge	16,117	15,420
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	4,168	-
Less investment income	(11,111)	(8,801)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	6,738	(7,781)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	8,432	2,058
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	279,930	(23,676)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>