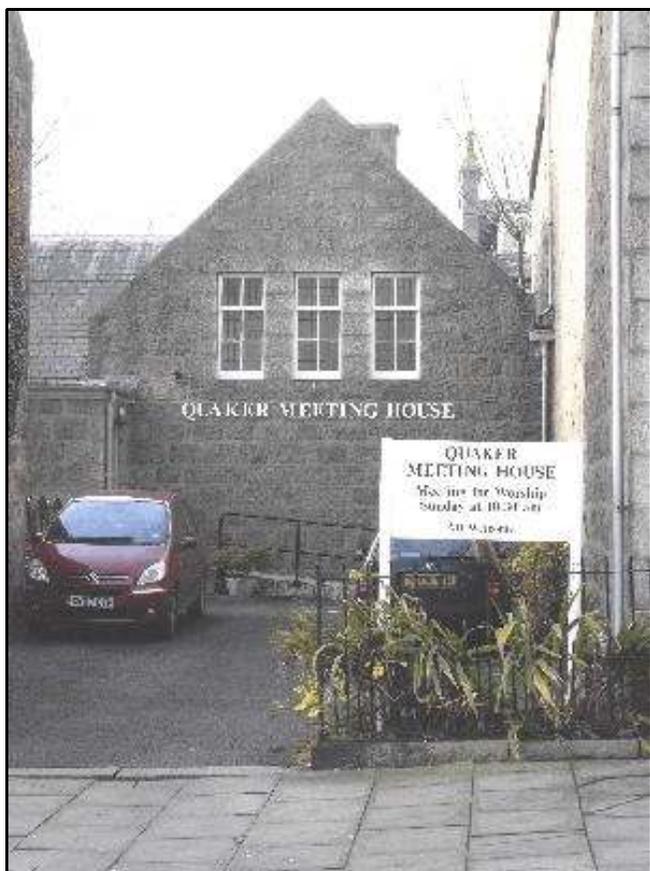


Scottish Friend



Aberdeen Meeting House, the location of General Meeting last October

3 Charter for Compassion	Robert Thompson
4 Happiness is a new shed	Evelyn Graham
6 Dunblane Young People's Outreach	Sarah Collings
8 <i>Becoming Friends</i>	Ginny Wall
10 Scottish Churches Housing Action	Daphne Foster
11 EAPPI - Journal and Talks afterwards	Phil Lucas
11 Poetry and music on the web	Andrew Kinnaird
13 Meeting for Sufferings	Peter Kennedy
16 Woodbrooke on the road at Kelso	Katie Bishop
19 General Meeting, October 2009	Jane Kelly
21 Dates for witness at Faslane 2010	Alison Burnley
21 Who's Who in Scotland	Bronwen Currie
23 What secrets are you hiding?	Bronwen Currie
24 Invitation to March GM	Robin Waterston

Michael Hutchinson took the cover photograph
The next *Scottish Friend* will be constructed in the middle of April, or as soon as the agenda for June GM is known. Please send material to me, Margaret Peacock, at 16 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie, G62 6LN, or nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk. Many thanks to all who have made suggestions. Please go on sending me news, reports, thoughts and pictures.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the Society of Friends in Scotland, Britain Yearly Meeting or elsewhere.



Charter for Compassion. Robert Thompson

On being awarded the 2008 TED Prize (Technology, Entertainment and Design), the highly respected writer Karen Armstrong was invited to make "one wish to change the world". She wished for and received help in creating and launching the Charter for Compassion. The Charter, drafted by a multi-faith and multi national group of religious writers was launched on November 12th this year.

The central aim is to return compassion to the centre of all religious, moral and political life.

The work of the Charter for Compassion is being assisted by an eighteen-member "Council for Conscience" and Quakers will be delighted to see the name of Jean Zaru, the Presiding Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting alongside Desmond Tutu, Julia Neuberger and others.

The Charter for Compassion has an excellent website at charterforcompassion.org - full of articles, video clips (including Jean Zaru) and practical advice on how to help the work of spreading the central message. You can add your name by affirming your support. (At the time of writing well over 25,000 people all over the world had done so.)

The panel awarding the TED prize described Karen Armstrong as being a "...powerful voice for ecumenical understanding". The Charter for Compassion articulates that sentiment with similar power and I believe it deserves the support of Friends..

Happiness is a new shed.



Before!

Some phone calls bring good news and this was one of the best. After being on a waiting list for five years, I had at last reached the top of the queue. I was being offered an allotment, well, only half a plot as there was such a demand, but that was fine by me. I could hardly wait for the key to arrive.

However, it was clear that the plot had not been worked for some time. All manner of items emerged from the soil, horseshoes, a pick axe, bricks, and a stirrup pump still in working order.

The shed had lots of character, but had certainly passed its "sell-by date" and was not very safe. It had lost its door and was fast disappearing below ground. That is when I thought of applying to the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust for an award to replace it, so that I would have somewhere to keep my tools, and garden materials. I am now the proud owner of a

bright new shed, which I have since painted blue. When the rain gets too heavy, I can sit inside it keeping dry and admire the plot through its two windows.

This plot was going to be a challenge, but one I have really enjoyed. Where else can you experiment with stuff salvaged from skips without offending the neighbours? Cooking the first potatoes was worthy of a celebration. I am so grateful to have received a grant from the Trust to enable me to buy the new shed. I have so enjoyed this summer taming this small plot of soil, and look forward to enjoying many more productive seasons.

Evelyn Graham.
Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting
18 October 2009



After!

Application forms for the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust may be obtained from Kay Wassell by phone 0131 667 8459 or via e-mail: kay.wassell@btinternet.com

DUNBLANE AREA QUAKERS

OUTREACH MEETING FOR FAMILIES & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Sunday 23rd May 2010

10:30AM, at Holmehill Annexe -

Scottish Churches House, Kirk Street, Dunblane FK15 OAJ

As with the first Outreach meeting, it will be an All-age Worship approach, involving silent reflection as well as noisier activities. Children, young people, students & parents can join in workshops which may include Quaker values and history, arts & crafts, seasonal exploration of the local woodland, and songs and music. Some may prefer to stay with the adults and older young people for silent reflection. We all meet up to share our experiences at the end of worship. The meeting finishes with light refreshments, home baking, fruit, teas, coffees, juice and squash.

Our aim is to support families and young people in the areas of Stirlingshire, Falkirk, west Fife, south Perthshire and west West Lothian. We also have occasional potluck lunches, picnics and other outings. We hope to send a group from Central Scotland to the Scottish young Quakers summer gathering.

We hold regular meetings for worship every Sunday and have a small, dedicated group of attending families, which welcome visitors.

After running two successful outreach meetings, we learnt a lot about how to make them work. We have also discovered that a strategic approach and much advance notice is required to publicise meetings across the many Quaker and other publications that all seem to converge in central Scotland.



Making white poppies and other flowers from old carrier bags

Most importantly, the meeting and outreach kids are having fun being together.

For further information please phone/ text:

Sarah d'Auvergne Collings, Linlithgow M: 07796/ 147 - 991

Mary Scott Watson, Dunblane M: 07960/ 856 - 1213

[Elaine Millar, Crieff – Childrens and Young People's Co-ordinator]

[Peter Hancock, Bridge of Allan – Clerk to Meeting].

For map to Scottish Churches House see www.quakerscotland.org/ and below.

Car-sharing is encouraged so please phone if you need a lift.

Kids: please check out the dedicated web-site for older children and young people at Quakers in Britain: yqspace.org.uk.

“ BECOMING FRIENDS”

Ginny Wall, project developer

Becoming Friends: Living & learning with Quakers, the learning project from Woodbrooke and Quaker Life that aims to nurture and support those who are new to Friends, is now live! The *Becoming Friends* course is available online and in paper format, providing Quaker meetings with an innovative new way to help introduce newcomers to Quakerism and Quakers. Already there are over 40 people signed up to the online course, with course forums buzzing with conversation, and the paper packs are selling well. Several Friends from Scotland have signed up online, with one or two who live in remote areas saying that they're really pleased to be able to access Quaker learning in this way.

So, why *Becoming Friends*? Friends around Britain Yearly Meeting had asked for help providing the next stage of learning and support for newcomers to Friends after outreach programmes like Quaker Quest and Quaker Week have finished. Friends had also expressed a hope for new ways to help newcomers deepen their understanding of Quakerism and their feeling of 'belonging' in their meetings, whether or not they are currently considering applying for membership. The *Becoming Friends* project team worked closely with individuals and groups of Friends to develop and trial a course that meets both these objectives. The result is an exciting, interactive learning experience that offers newcomers flexible course materials, accessible in an online or paper format, combined with options for support from meetings, in particular from a *Becoming Friends* 'companion'.

The *Becoming Friends* course has been designed to be as flexible as possible, with participants working at their own pace and for as long as they wish. Throughout the course there are options for working alone and with others, using a variety of approaches, including on-line discussion groups, resources and links. There is a choice of learning units and activities to suit a

wide range of interests and learning styles.

Quaker Life and Woodbrooke hope that meetings will want to provide a *Becoming Friends* 'companion' to support newcomers working with the learning materials. The companion can help newcomers find out more about Quakerism through sharing their own knowledge and experience, and helping to arrange conversations and interactions with other Friends. Guidance for meetings about working with *Becoming Friends* is available (including to download from www.woodbrooke.org.uk/becomingfriends) and there will be regular courses to prepare Friends for service as *Becoming Friends* companions. Companion courses confirmed at present are at Woodbrooke from 14th - 16th May and at Swarthmoor Hall from 1st - 3rd October 2010. Book for either course in the normal way or see www.woodbrooke.org.uk/becomingfriends, and www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk for more information.

Experienced Friends and newcomers who took part in trials of *Becoming Friends* during 2009 reported that the regular conversations between newcomers, companions and other Friends were a highlight of the learning experience for all concerned. One newcomer said of the course, "It made me talk to loads of other Friends...it gave me a good excuse to do what I wanted to do anyway." Another trials participant said "both of us ...learned so much through the *Becoming Friends* project and felt the whole experience had been a blessing." The *Becoming Friends* online course costs £5 and the paper pack costs £10. To sign up for the online course go to www.woodbrooke.org.uk/becomingfriends. A free demonstration (use guest login) is available at <http://moodle.woodbrooke.org.uk>. Order the paper version from Friends' House bookshop www.quaker.org.uk/bookshop email: quakercentre@quaker.org.uk. tel: 020 7663 1030, Contact: ginny.wall@woodbrooke.org.uk 016977 41686 (Mon-Weds 9am-5pm)

Scottish Churches Housing Action Conference 2009
"Homelessness Hurts"
Daphne Foster

This year's conference was held as the world suffered under a harsh recession not seen for many decades. Around 70 delegates and contributors came together to look at some of the issues that give rise to homelessness and to examine some of the many schemes that have been set up to alleviate some of the hurt that has occurred to many who reside in our community.

The keynote address was given by Hardeep Sing Kohli who was involved in the BBC documentary "Famous Rich and Homeless"

Hardeep's contribution concentrated on his experiences of being voluntarily homeless for just 10 days knowing that he would return home afterwards. This does not apply to those living on the streets. Most do not know if their state of homelessness will ever end - it is so very real to them. Hardeep met one man who had been on the streets for 30 years. He also found that those who had least were very often the most generous. To quote " There is a community on the streets - people look after one another. Homelessness itself isn't the problem. People have a swathe of problems and homelessness is the result"

Hardeep's reactions to questions included the comment that he had been deeply affected. The programme was recorded in Nov 2008 but he could not bring himself to buy any new clothes until the following August. For many he found the community on the streets not very constructive - a different sort of community is needed. If given the opportunity more needs to be invested in the social services. Morale among the social service workers is, in some cases, as low as that among the

homeless. This problem could be addressed by removing child benefits from those earning more than 30K - need is not universal and there is no reason why benefits should be universal.

After the keynote address several workshop sessions were run. These included volunteering, use of Church property and extending the work of Scottish Churches Housing Action. I went to the latter which covered prisons, supported lodgings and the Theology of Home.

Andrew McLellan, former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland, issued a challenge on behalf of some of our most vulnerable people. He pointed out that homelessness can lead directly to being sent to prison and on release can lead directly to being made homeless. For some, a vicious circle. Because of storage difficulties some can lose all their possessions when sent to prison making the problem of getting rehoused and resettled the more difficult. Andrew took three cases - a sex offender in Peterhead, a woman in Cornton Vale and a young man in Polmont. None of these were in a local prison. Their local social workers being remote made the chance of getting housing sorted out before discharge very minimal. Ideas to help included ways of storing possessions so that they have something on release, befriending while in prison and inviting the clergy to make use of spare space.

In the workshop "Theology of Home" there were three different presentations. Alan Dixon of the Salvation Army presented work from research commissioned by the Salvation Army as published in "The Seeds of Exclusion". Alan highlighted the high levels of drug and alcohol abuse, and untreated mental illness among users of their services.

Iain Gordon of the Bethany trust introduced the Trust's "Passing the Baton Project" - where groups are set up to welcome people who have experience of homelessness into their circle. Graham Blount of the Centre for Theology & Public Issues related these examples of exclusion and isolation to what is meant by "home" .

Something for you to think about. What do you mean when you use the word "HOME"?

Phil Lucas is spending the first three months of 2010 as an ecumenical companioner in Israel-Palestine. He would be happy to add names of any Scottish Friends to his email list for journal reports while he is in the field and will be available from May 2010 to give illustrated talks based on his experience to Quaker Meetings or, even better, to local Churches Together, peace groups or similar. Email him at phil.lucas1@gmail.com

Those of you who liked Andrew Kinneard's Christmas song in the last issue of *Scottish Friend* may like to read more of his work. He asks me to say that Friends are welcome to browse his website at <http://www.soundclick.com/andykinneard>

Stumbling Block or Stepping Stone?

Reflections on the Residential Meeting for Sufferings

Peter Kennedy, co-representative for GM

Meeting for Sufferings met over the weekend of 15-17 January. There was a departure from the normal one-day meetings in Friends House when we met for our first residential weekend at High Leigh, a conference centre in the Hertfordshire countryside.

The main themes for the weekend were “Nurturing the Spiritual Life in Our Meetings” which is Priority A of the Faith into Action strategic plan; “Meeting for Sufferings as communicator”; and “Equality” as well as some tabled business, e.g. progression with Britain YM’s concern on same sex marriage, appointments to the central work, etc. Over the course of the weekend we heard from a number of Friends who gave brief talks as to what inspired them and helped bring a spiritual dimension into their temporal lives.

Home Groups met on four occasions and we became more of a worshipping community as we learnt more about each other during a wide range of discussions and games and being able to share each others fellowship over meals, etc. Concerns were expressed by some about the cost of the event, though others saw this as an investment in building our worshipping community on strong foundations.

Throughout the weekend we were challenged about how we adapted our community into the “crucible” role envisaged of us when Sufferings gave up its trusteeship role. Some Friends felt we needed to turn up the heat and tackle more thorny issues such as the various inequalities we see in our divided nations.

We considered how we both communicate with, and ultimately report back, to our constituent nominating bodies. One novel way of experiencing this in home groups, was for two “volunteer” Friends to play a game – one had their back to an obscure picture and some paper and a pen, whilst their companion tried to explain what was on the picture. Other members of the Home Group observed. Although simplistic, the aim of the game is to show that simple, and two-way communication is vital in achieving effective communications – we need to be given permission to ask questions of our representatives. So contact me and/or Margaret Peacock and let us know what Scottish Friends think about the business Meeting for Sufferings will be considering – Agendas, etc are available via the YM website, www.quaker.org.uk

We were pleased to share in the launch of a new study programme “Becoming Friends” which is both an online and/or book based course for those new to Quakerism developed by Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in association with Quaker Life. Copies of the paper course materials are available for £10 plus postage from the Quaker Book Shop, and an online version can be accessed for £5 from www.woodbrooke.org.uk/becomingfriends The programme consists of eight units examining various aspects of Quakerism. Some of our Home Groups were fortunate to take part in some of the exercises from Becoming Friends, whilst others took part in exercises from Quaker Quest, a programme which has been designed to enable Meetings to engage in Outreach activities. We also shared in the launch of Quaker Voices, a bi-monthly journal which replaces Quaker Monthly.

One observation about nominations was that, although there were only a handful of names before us, some Friends had

expressed some reservations on proposed second re-nominations and our Nominations Committee were asked to give some explanation as to why these were required, since although permitted under Quaker Faith and Practice, the need for them is seen to be in "exceptional" circumstances, rather than being the norm.

It was a very enjoyable, though tiring, weekend. I think we did achieve some, if not all of our goals for the weekend.

A passing thought to end with.... During the epilogue on Friday night a selection of poems were read out. One, by R Lee Sharpe, that spoke to my condition, inspired the title for this report and I wish to share it with you :-

*Isn't it strange how princes and kings,
and clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
and common people, like you and me,
are builders for eternity?*

*Each is given a list of rules;
a shapeless mass; a bag of tools.
And each must fashion, ere life is flown,
A stumbling block, or a Stepping-Stone*

Which, Friend, are Thee?



A postscript from Margaret Peacock - the other co-rep.

The new wording for QFP chapters 15 and 16 on Trusteeship and Stewardship was agreed, and should be finally passed at YM. Meanwhile the text is available as a resource for incumbents. If you can't find it on the website, ask me or Peter or your local representative.

Our long-term programme is exploring the priorities in "A Framework for Action", and will devote two sessions to each, to give AMs time in between to react to the findings of the first. Last time was the first session on Priority A - "Strengthening the spiritual roots" we heard from, among others, a Friend who had written a spiritual journal from an early age, and now runs a group in his Meeting. Another hoped to be in "a gale of the Spirit", quoting Brother Lawrence, who stated that "we must always work at it, because not to advance in the spiritual life is to go back. Those who have the gale of the Spirit go forward even in sleep".

Please try to discuss this priority in all your business meetings, and informally, and before March 27th let your representatives know your ideas. Even if we do not speak in the plenary sessions we discuss things in our home groups and informally.



WOODBROOKE on-the-road in KELSO Katie Bishop

Seventeen F/friends from Kelso and Tweeddale Quaker meetings, plus one from North Northumberland, gathered on Saturday 12th September. We had invited Lizz Roe from Woodbrooke to lead us on 'Deepening the Spiritual Life of our Meeting'.

Following worship time, the day was structured, but within the framework we were encouraged to express our own thoughts. I admit some preconceptions of a lecture followed by lengthy earnest discussion, but the day unfolded as one of cheerful discovery.

In twos and threes we considered why we had attended and

what we hoped to gain. We agreed that to be open and honest with each other is essential and open to the spirit of God as we are able. While recognising and respecting differences, we can build on similarities. Trusting each other may sometimes mean taking a risk, but when barriers come down we can move forward.

A short break gave the chance to move about, greeting one another (all labelled!) taking a break and enjoying the sunlit yard. Indoors Lizz covered tables with cards bearing various images or words. We were to contemplate these and find one that 'spoke' to us about our spiritual lives. Disregarding initial recognition or recollection, I finally picked up one which evoked an intense and very personal response – quite unexpectedly. We shared our revelation within our small group, each expressing our human experience.

Now in groups of six we were asked to think about what goes on in our meetings, what is good and what could be better. For how can we work on building the strength of our Meeting without an analysis of what it does at the moment? The conclusions were shared.

A few things that were raised were that we in the Borders are widely scattered, but in Kelso a cluster system is helping us keep in touch and include those who cannot come. This summer before the first Sunday Meeting for Worship, f/Friends have volunteered to share part of their life journey. This has brought greater understanding in various ways of darkness and light, and enriched all present. Our Meeting House marks our presence in the community and makes it easy for visitors and enquirers to find us. However we are always aware that all Area Meeting members contribute to maintain the building and it can be difficult to fill all the roles and jobs the meeting

requires. Tweeddale Friends saw the advantages in not 'owning' a building, but greatly value their 'hub' at the home of the Fosters, where their library is housed and where they meet regularly. For all of us, Meeting for Worship is the centre, with the strength of silence, friendship and mutual support.

After a very social lunch hour out of doors, Lizz spoke briefly on ministry, as having all or some facts, feelings, meanings and 'core' (inward light). Rich ministry does not need a theme or rounding off. The silence itself may meet our need.

We were asked to write down our thoughts on topics that could help deepen the Meeting's spiritual life. Post –it notes with suggestions were grouped together under the headings of 'Celebrating', 'Working Meaningfully Together', 'Expressing Friendship', 'Learning Together' and 'Sharing Spiritual Practice. We felt each heading deserved more time than the day could afford, but could be expanded on in our meetings afterwards. Learning for instance: could we find an opportunity for shared learning despite being so scattered, using the bible, writings of earlier Friends biographies, or from other sources of enlightenment from past or present? And as for Celebration.....!

We finished the session in quiet contemplation of what we had gained through the day and meditating on the strengths we sometimes take for granted and the areas in which to grow. As we created a fabric collage we thought about how we could build and deepen our own spiritual lives and that of the Meeting and it left us with a physical reminder of a very special day. We felt very lucky to have had the chance to enjoy such fellowship and such a good learning experience. We were very grateful for the guidance Lizz and Woodbrooke-on-the-road brought us.

Residential General Meeting Aberdeen,
November 20th-22nd 2009

Jane Kelly

'Encountering Friends Worldwide'

There is something very hospitable about going to a Residential General Meeting for Scotland. We are so scattered; Highlands, Lowlands, East and West. Friends in The Home Counties may not appreciate the 'Meetingmiles' Scottish Friends clock-up to know one another in things eternal and temporal !

Residential GM's are like families coming together to hear news, celebrate achievements, catch up on how work is going, share joys and sadness etc. People come and go. Most of us know names and faces of Friends who have died since we last gathered. Our big distances and small numbers make Meetings for business very personal. 'Meetingmiles' was a new phrase I heard this weekend and it is salutary Friends!)



Michael Hutchinson took this photo of
Friends fraternising in Aberdeen

An undercurrent to the weekend was heard from our main speakers that the time is now to embrace the new technologies. Will future GM's be video conferences? This would radically cut our CO₂ emissions, and save miles of driving or other means of travel.

Will email communications reduce the acres of forest we Quakers use up if we continue to send out paper documents? The issue of distance was very relevant to this GM. We welcomed Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Recording Clerk from Friends House, London.

Our two speakers both had exceptional experience of Friends across the world. Ali Ghanem, a Syrian Muslim Quaker doctor who currently lives in London was the former clerk of Europe and Middle East Young Friends. Bronwyn Harwood, from Central Edinburgh has had world-wide encounters with Quakers during her service with Friends World Committee for Consultation. She told us how information about Quakerism is being translated into many of the languages of the newly acceded European countries. Goglemail, Online websites and Facebook are the new tools of Quaker Outreach.

It seems there is a growing hunger for information on our work for Peace and Justice, concern for the environment, and climate change. Interests become faith-based friendships. Both Friends had attended Europe & Middle-East Young Friends' gathering in April this year where they addressed two searching questions: How has your faith been formed and informed by the faith of others? How do your beliefs interact with 'the other'?

Ali revealed to us that it was our unique methods of business which so moved and impressed him. When he applied for

membership he told the visiting Friends that he wanted to join Quakers to prevent us becoming extinct! What a joy to be part of a group whose bright young things are highly committed to Quakerism, and who will be our future.

I expect we will continue to travel and meet face to face, but I foresee it becoming rarer. Most Sundays I travel 30 miles to Meeting for Worship. From rural Perthshire, where I live, GM was 155 miles round trip to Aberdeen....but it was worth it to know that the future of Quakerism is in good hands.

Witness for peace at Faslane 2010 All at 11-00 am.
(Bring lunch and something to sit on)
April 4 (Easter Sunday.
We would also be supporting Trident Ploughshares.)
June 20
August 29
September 26
November 14

Alison Burnley

Who's Who of GM for Scotland Bronwen Currie

I imagine that by the time you are reading this you will have noticed that there is no Book of Member and Attenders being published this year. This was a decision taken by General Meeting last year that, with an eye on the way in which we use our resources, we would try publishing a Book only every

second year, and instead produce a list of amendments in the intervening year.

That list of amendments has now been produced and distributed to all Local Meetings, and maybe you have a copy already. But if you have not, and it is not possible for whatever reason to get a copy from that source, I can supply you with a copy either in electronic format for you to print yourself, or as a paper copy. And the choice does not end there! You can either have a list of amendments, referenced by page number to the 2009 Book, or if you would prefer I can send you a full list of members and attenders in your Meeting or your Area Meeting (this would be simply stapled A4 and look very like the checklist which you may have seen in the autumn). Or of course you could have both: the list of amendments to the whole of GM and a full list of folk in your Meeting.

With regard to the 2009 Book I still have several spare copies. If you need one, please check first of all that there are none left in your Meeting (because these will already have been paid for by your AM), but if there are not then let me know and I can supply you with a copy for £6.85 including P&P.

One advantage this year is that I have been able to accept amendments almost to the point of distributing the list (because it didn't have to go to a printer) so although it is of course out of date now (because someone will undoubtedly have been born or moved house), it should have been spankingly up to date on 1 January! However you may also find disadvantages to the system. It will be really useful, over the next year or two, to hear your views – please let me know what you think, at scotfriends@gmail.com, or 01496-850 006

What secrets are you hiding?! Bronwen Currie

No - not the Thought Police - just a reminder about our GM register of skills and experience! From time to time I am asked by our Representative Friend or a member of Nominations Committee for names of Friends who have knowledge or expertise in a certain area - perhaps to represent us on an ecumenical working group or simply to provide information or direction as to where to go for that information. But out of over 1600 members and attenders in Scotland (OK - some of them are children) we have only 73 on our skills and experience database, so quite often I'm unable to suggest any names.

I am quite certain that there is a wealth of experience and knowledge out there that we don't know about, from human trafficking, through housing, to wind turbines and beyond! Please Friends, if you haven't already done so, fill in a form and send it to me. The form can be downloaded at http://www.quakerscotland.org/gmquestionnaires_forms and either posted or emailed to me (scotfriends@gmail.com), or if you don't have internet access phone me on 01496 850006 and I will post you a form. Your data is kept securely and only divulged to someone who has a genuine need to know, such as our Representative Friend or a member of Nominations Committee. You are not committing yourself to attending lots of meetings or serving on a committee (even if you are asked you can also say no!) but you might just have access to that vital bit of information that is needed by someone else.

So please don't put it off - fill in a form and let us know what light you are hiding under your bushel!

General Meeting for Scotland
Glasgow 13th March 2010 11am until about 4pm

"Slavery as an evil shared many of the qualities of the present housing situation - it benefited the wealthy, created an underclass and denied them human rights. The solution was painful, for abolition often required that slave owners abandon their investment with no recompense. To change our attitudes to housing will be no less of a challenge to us than slavery was for the reformers, not only because institutional evil is hard to recognise but also because so many of us benefit personally from the present situation."

Richard Hilken, Quaker Faith and Practice 23.23

Dear Friends and Attenders throughout Scotland,

Our special topic for this GM is the challenge of providing a home for everyone. It will be introduced by Alastair Cameron of South Edinburgh Meeting. Alastair is Chief Executive of Scottish Churches Housing Action. It develops projects to help homeless people, linking this with work to prevent homelessness in the first place. It connects the values of the churches with positive action on this crucially important issue.

We will also discuss a variety of business items including where we are following the decision last summer concerning the religious celebration of same-sex marriage.

Please join us in Glasgow, keep up to date with Scottish Quaker work, meet Friends from across the country and uphold our business method, depending as it does on good participation from as many of us as possible.

Robin Waterston, Clerk