

SESAME

Number 169: February 2012

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 6th World Conference of Friends 18



Mt Elgon, an extinct volcano, rises up to over 14000 feet on the Kenya-Uganda border. Though close to the Equator, it normally has snow and ice on its peaks. The 6th Friends World Conference will be held in Kenya in April (*see page 18*)

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Published by South East Scotland Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Material for the next issue should be sent to the editor Alan Davies at 49a Lockharton Avenue, Edinburgh EH14 1BB, (email: a.davies@ed.ac.uk) at the latest by **Tuesday 13 March**, for distribution week commencing **25 March**. The Editor reserves the right to condense articles. If possible please submit articles by email, sending as an attachment as well as in the body of the email, or on CD-ROM typed in Word TM accompanied with hard copy. Email versions of SESAME are available in PDF and Word TM format. Contact the Editor.

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Sunday 26 February 2012 at 2 p.m.

At the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh

Our next Area Meeting for Worship for Business will be held on Sunday 26 February 2012, at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, at 2 p.m. We hope to finish about 5 p.m., followed by light refreshments.

As always, all members and attenders are most welcome to take part. There is a stair lift to the room in which we meet, an accessible toilet and an induction loop system.

As well as the regular business matters, we will receive the Tabular Statement for 2011, consider the remit of Trustees, and look forward to General Meeting on Saturday 3 March.

Kate Arnot Clerk

SE Scotland Area Meeting

Future Area Meetings:

Sunday 26 February, at the Open Door, South Edinburgh, at 2.00 pm

Saturday 31 March, at Kelso, 11.30 am - 4 pm:

Saturday 12 May, at Kirkcaldy, 2 pm - 5 pm

Saturday 30 June, at Polmont, 2 pm - 5.30 pm

Sunday 16 September, at the Open Door, South Edinburgh, 2 pm - 5.30 pm

Saturday 20 October, at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, 11 am - 4 pm

Saturday 8 December, at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, 2 pm - 5.30 pm

2013

Saturday 12 January, at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, 11 am - 4 pm

Sunday 24 February, at the Open Door, South Edinburgh, 2 pm - 5.30 pm

Future Sesame Copy Deadlines

AM Saturday 31 March: deadline Tuesday 13 March

AM Saturday 12 May: deadline Tuesday 24 April

News of Friends, Meetings, and Issues

World Day of Prayer

A Reminder that World Day of Prayer will be at a church near you on 2 March 2012.

Alison Burnley

Meeting for Worship at Faslane, 2012

Please be in touch (about 10 days in advance) if you wish a seat in a car from Edinburgh. You will need to bring: something to sit on; something to eat; and weatherproof clothing. Dates for the year are:

11 March; 13 May; 24 June; 12 August; 14 October; 11 November

Alison Burnley

Eldership and Oversight Introductory Days 2012

Introductory days for Eldership and Oversight are to be held in nine different meeting houses throughout the Yearly Meeting in 2012. These days are organised jointly by Quaker Life and Woodbrooke. Those closest to our AM area will be on Saturday 12 May in Newcastle and 16 June in Glasgow.

For further information about registering for one of these days please contact Mark Holland, Educational Administration, Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ - 0121 415 6785 or mark.holland@woodbrooke.org.uk

For more information on Eldership & Oversight generally, please contact Michael Booth, Support for Meetings officer, Friends House, at michaelsb@quaker.org.uk or 020 7663 1023.

Israel/Palestine comes to Edinburgh

At 7 pm on Thursday 29 March, we are privileged to host at 7 Victoria Terrace two representatives of The Villages Group, a small

Israeli-founded NGO, which is doing remarkable work supporting threatened Palestinian communities in the West Bank. **Hamed Quwasmeh** (Palestinian) and **Erella Dun** (Israeli) have included Edinburgh in a brief UK tour. Come and support them, hear their stories and get up to date with the situation in this troubled part of the Middle East.

This event is part of the series of talks arranged through the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre.

Living Sustainably

Threshing Meeting

**Saturday 10 March. 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh
10.00 for 10.45 am until 3.00 or 4.00 pm**

At Yearly Meeting last year we committed ourselves to working towards becoming a low carbon community, and every Area and Local Meeting has been asked to respond to this challenge. To kick-start our response in South East Scotland, we are inviting all in our Area Meeting community to take part in this threshing day.

Coffee will be available from 10 am and the first session will start at 10.45 am, when we shall watch the DVD of Pam Lunn's challenging Swarthmore Lecture together and briefly record our personal responses. At 1.30 pm, following a bring-your-own lunch, we shall start the process leading towards our corporate response. This session will end with tea at 2.45, after which we may continue for an hour if we feel the threshing process needs it.

This session is preparation for the morning session of Area Meeting at Kelso on 31 March, but you will be most welcome to take part in the Threshing Meeting even if you are unable to be in Kelso.

Rachel Fitzgerald, Phil Lucas, Don Stubbings

Meeting for Sufferings, 4 February 2012

The main topic for this meeting was Advocacy or Speaking Out. However we also dealt with a number of other items of business.

Following Yearly Meeting's minute on sustainability, we agreed the terms of reference for the Minute 36 Commitment Group which will do the detailed thinking on sustainability and collate the reports from Local and Area Meetings. It will be answerable to Meeting for Sufferings and be made up of representatives from Sufferings, other Quaker bodies and the standing committees.

We heard plans for this year's Yearly Meeting. As the Monday is not a public holiday, most of the business will be taken early in the weekend; there will be workshops on Monday morning and it will finish earlier. The themes will be economic justice and sustainability and what it means to be a Quaker today.

We agreed the dates for Yearly Meeting Gathering in 2014 – it will be held from 2-9 August at the University of Bath – and the dates of Meeting for Sufferings in 2013.

As usual we heard a report from Trustees. A modest amount of funding has been identified to do work on sustainability and it had been agreed that Management Meeting could seek funding for this from external bodies. The review of standing committees is on-going and Quaker Finance and Property Committee and Quaker Communications Committee will be laid down from YM 2012. New arrangements will be made to oversee the newly created Communication and Services function.

In a rush at the end of the meeting we approved the revisions of chapters of *Quaker Faith and Practice* – Chapter 16, on Quaker Marriage, Chapter 6, relating to the holding of Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting Gatherings, and Chapter 7, regarding the terms of reference of Trustees and the size of Meeting for Sufferings. These will all go to YM in May.

In introducing our main topic, Paul Parker, the recording clerk, stressed that one of the key roles of Yearly Meeting and its staff is to carry out advocacy on behalf of Quakers in Britain. He also pointed out that a great deal of advocacy is done by Friends at local level. There are three main areas and we heard from staff involved in all of them. Firstly, on work with decision makers, we heard from

Michael Bartlet, parliamentary liaison secretary, about recent work done with MPs and peers, in cooperation with other churches, on the Welfare Reform Bill. Then, on work with opinion formers, we heard from Anne Van Staveren, media relations officer, who emphasised the importance of this work as our reputation, fundraising and outreach are all affected by media coverage. This is an area where things can move quickly and responses are required. Guidelines have been drawn up to help deal with this. Finally we heard from Helen Drewery, general secretary of QPSW, about the campaigning work carried out which often involves working with other groups.

Continuing on the same general theme we heard about the Quaker Council for European Affairs which represents Quakers in Europe, does work with MEPs and keeps Quakers informed about what is happening in Europe.

A minute of concern on this topic had come to us from Southern East Anglia Area Meeting. They had offered a substantial amount of money to fund a specific post to support the work of the parliamentary liaison officer. Trustees had pointed out that it is not practice to receive a donation for a specific post. This led to a lengthy discussion on the importance of advocacy and on how to respond to this offer. We were unable to reach unity on this issue and as people were beginning to leave to catch trains home, it was agreed that we would return to this at our next meeting at the end of March.

If you would like to know more, there is a fuller report in *The Friend* of 10 February, the minutes of Meeting for Sufferings can be found on the website, or you can speak to me or Rachel.

Janet Grimwade

**"O wad some Power the giftie gie us
to see oursels as ithers see us!" (i)**

A glimpse of Edinburgh Quakers in 1924

Our Area Meeting archives group has unearthed some fascinating material, including an anonymous article from The Evening Dispatch, an Edinburgh-based newspaper, dated 23 May, 1924. The bold reporter had decided to visit the Edinburgh Meeting House in the Pleasance on Sunday morning, 'following some interesting correspondence in these columns'. Extracts from his report follow:

"The building from the outside of the pend in the Pleasance can barely be seen for trees. Walking through the gateway and under the pend I found myself, to my surprise, in a wide court, one side of which was occupied by a grave yard. I learned later that under the flat gravestones lay the remains of several well-known people, including a sister of John Bright.

"Walking towards the house at the far side of the courtyard, I came upon a party of three, a lady, a gentleman, and a boy in Highland dress. As I reached them the second mentioned spoke, and, apparently mistaking me for a Quaker from more distant parts, asked me how far I had come. I mentioned a district of Edinburgh. 'O, then, you are a stranger?' he returned, 'You have never been at our meeting house before?' I replied, 'no,' and we walked on across the gravelled yard to the house.

"... Save for a few daffodils on a green covered table at the distant end, the room was devoid of anything suggestive of decoration. From each end of the table up to the door ran several lines of heavy forms, facing one another across a narrow aisle. Three forms stood in a tier immediately behind the table. These were unoccupied. On the other benches the members of the congregation numbered seven, and five more came in within a few minutes.

"Though it was not yet eleven o'clock those present were already bowed in silent worship. With eyes closed the members remained thus for almost a complete hour, during which the silence was unbroken, save for a few seconds near the end, and the tick-tock of

a clock. Some sat bowed in thought, others upright with eyes covered. Several members sat all the time without as much as moving a muscle or raising an eyelid.

"It was an intense silence, a silence which was almost overpowering. The solitary stranger did not pray; he only sat; frankly, non-plussed and amazed. Minutes passed, which seemed to increase in length as they grew in number, and nearly three-quarters of an hour had gone when a lady rose and spoke almost in a whisper – 'the Lord Jesus Christ ... King ... beloved of all ...' The rest of the words I could not hear.

"At length a gentleman in front of me stirred, then rose. Others followed within two minutes, and the service was over. The muteness was gone now, and the members talked in groups animatedly with one another, at length wending their way outside. A gentleman ... came over, and for the second time the visitor found himself mistaken for a Quaker. This was not remarkable, since Quaker people look no different from and have the same dresses as 'ordinary' folk. When the stranger explained his mission was one merely of inquiry, he was cordially received ...

"The congregation by this time had departed. Pointing to the three tiers of seats at the back the clerk remarked that at one time they were occupied by the older members of the congregation; the older they were the higher they sat. It sounded, however, too much like 'the guid, the unco guid, and the almost perfect,' so nowadays the forms were never used

"[Quakers] have many curious tenets. One is to 'take a man at his word.'

"The story is told of a stranger who visited a meeting house one Sunday, and on leaving was invited by a Friend to have lunch at his home nearby. With not unnatural reserve the visitor hesitated. 'Oh, no, it is really too kind of you,' he began, but to his surprise his polite insincerity was at once accepted, and the Friend immediately turned on his heel and went off.

"A business man, who sent an order to a Quaker, firmly believed he would receive the customary rebate for prompt payment, so in for-

warding the account with his cheque a few days later he deducted 'Discount 5 per cent.' Back came a letter from the Friend pointing out that his goods were sold at a certain price, and that was the sum which would require to be paid.

"It may be mentioned in conclusion that the Quakers in Britain number about 26,000 all told. In Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands they are strongest. In Scotland the total number of members and associates is between 400 and 500, and this number is growing."

The Pleasance (or Plaisance) Meeting House, where this reporter had his interesting experience, was eventually sold to the University and can still be seen. Go under the arch into the courtyard and look to the far right hand, south east, corner. Between that and the backs of the Plaisance houses is a patch of grass, the old Quaker graveyard. The stones have been moved to stand against the wall and many can still be read.

The patch of grass has sometimes served as a beer garden during the Fringe. A few years ago, local residents attempted to enlist Quaker support to prevent this happening. I'm afraid we replied that modern day Quakers would more probably be joining in the fun above ground than being disturbed by what was happening over their ancestors' remains.

Phil Lucas

"... as others see us" (ii)

Matilda Mitchell writes:

The last of the weekday services held by Kelso Churches Together for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held according to Quaker worship. In the little Roman Catholic Church in Kelso, I explained (as usual) very briefly what the form of service would be, and then read Isaac Pennington from *Quaker Faith and Practice* 27:13, just the first paragraph (at the suggestion of the Clerk to Meeting, Jane Pearn):

"Even in the apostles' days Christians were too apt to strive after wrong unity and uniformity in outward practices and observations, and to judge

one another unrighteously in those things; and mark, it is not the different practice from one another that breaks the peace and unity, but the judging of one another because of different practices . . ."

Kelso Meeting thought two responses from the clergy might be of interests to *Sesame* readers. Here they are – verbatim. John Evans is a retired clergyman in the Episcopal Church of Scotland and Jenny Earl is the minister of Kelso Old Parish Church (and several others!)

Jenny Earl

Dear Matilda,

I promised to send you my thoughts while at worship on Friday, and I nearly forgot. Here it is, for what it's worth. It was a lovely, lovely meeting - but it occurred to me afterwards what a pity it was that you had to miss the dear Friends' funeral because of it. (I am convinced, by the way, that Quakers make the best soup!)

Love and hugs in return,
Jenny

Response to the final meeting of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

I came to worship honoured to have been asked to be the recipient of the handshake that would signify the end of the meeting, honoured, as I remarked, to be invited to be a Quaker for a day. Perhaps, therefore, I was thinking and responding differently from usual.

And so, the silence began. As did my musings. 'How lucky Matilda is!' I thought. 'She doesn't have to do any preparation for this' (thinking, maybe a little self-righteously, of the three hours I had spent preparing to lead the previous day's service, seeking out music, and poetry, choosing among the Bible readings, printing out an order and so on).

How wrong I was. Over the next few minutes God spoke to me.

And I came to this conclusion: that the willing separation from the busy cacophony of the world, the seeking out of this quiet place, the stilling of chatter in the mind, the glad surrender of the soul, the openness, the alertness, the waiting, the waiting...THIS is the REAL work.

John Evans

Dear Matilda

Thank you for this morning / afternoon's worship; I particularly enjoyed your short reading. A voice from the 16th(?) / 17th (?) century - it almost seemed prescient. I think more and more folk are questioning the authority of 'institutions', particularly large organisations like the church, who take it upon themselves to act as the final arbiters on many matters. A unity of free souls will be far more effective than a unity of large organisations to become an even larger organisation! Paul, the apostle, wrote somewhere words to the effect that 'the letter (of the Law) kills'; but 'the Spirit gives life'.

As aye and with warm greetings to you and to Douglas,
John

Agnes Coats, aged 93, of Clovenfords Meeting, and formerly of Kelso Meeting, died peacefully in Grange Hall Care Home on 12 January 2012. She was the devoted wife of Wilfred; beloved mother of Alasdair and Marion; dotting granny of Bruno, Tina, Stephen, Graham and Shawn; and proud great-granny of Shawn and Ryan.

The funeral, after the manner of Friends, was at the Borders Crematorium (Melrose) on 20 January, and a Memorial Meeting was held in Miller House (sheltered housing) in Melrose on 23 January.

The family would like to thank all the Friends who came to either or both Meetings, some of whom had not even met Mum. Mum joined the Society in her 70's, having been a Friend at heart all her life but unable to join due to family circumstances. She was so happy to be in their fellowship for the last 20 years of her life, and made many new friends there.

Marion Wilson

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday 14 January 2012 at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

**Minute 1: An Introduction to A Citizen's Income
Welfare Reform: Our Spiritual Concern**

Annie Miller has introduced work she and colleagues have done on a Citizen's Income. Annie has had this as a concern since the 70s and an organisation was set up in 1984.

She gave the faith imperative for this concern, with Biblical and Koranic quotes and also *QF&P* 20.32, written by John Woolman.

Despite the Welfare State, inequalities have increased. Child poverty has decreased but is still too high with 1 in 4 children now living in poverty.

Welfare Benefits can be complex to access and can inadvertently provide disincentives to work and also tend not to treat people as individuals. The tax system, through loopholes, subsidises richer people whereas the marginal deduction rate moving from benefits to work can be as high as 96% (or the person is only better off by 4p in every £1).

What sort of society do we want?

Quaker testimonies lead us towards a society which

- values individuals
- is inclusive
- has greater equality through the re-distribution of income and wealth
- protects the vulnerable and contributes to financial security.

She then defined a Citizen's Income Scheme (outlined in the attached paper). There are arguments against a Citizen's Income but its benefits massively outweigh the objections. She outlined actual figures for full, partial and child's Citizen's Income (again included in the paper). Her calculation, based on these figures, indicate a 42% flat rate of income tax would cover the costs.

Is the political will there?

There is hope from the book "The Spirit Level" which shows how

a more equal society benefits everyone, and describes pilot studies in Namibia and India; also, an equal distribution of a dividend from an oil refinery in Alaska.

Three and a half decades of economic growth has benefitted the top 40% with the poor being worse or no better off.

Questions and comments followed on a wide variety of topics and led to suggestions as to how we and Annie may take this concern forward through Quaker and other channels, especially those concerned with issues of poverty and disadvantage but we also need to talk to those whom we would not expect to agree with such an initiative.

Another possibility is a training weekend at Woodbrooke to widen the pool of potential enthusiasts.

A Citizen's Income could redistribute income from rich to poor and geographically, thereby enabling regeneration of poorer local economies and boosting growth.

We agree to forward a summary of this minute, together with the attached paper to Meeting for Sufferings, requesting it be forwarded to Quaker peace and Social Witness.

We thank Annie for her presentation, which contributes to our forthcoming Area Meeting on Economic Justice and Sustainability.

Minute 2: Apologies

The following Friends are prevented and send their apologies: Maureen Anderson; Geoffrey Carnall; Alison Chalmers; Alan Davies; Hilary Davies; Daphne Foster; John Foster; Janet Grimwade; John Harris; Marilyn Higgins; Jane Pearn; Alison Perks; Henry Thompson.

Minute 3: Signing of the AM minutes of 26 November 2011

The minutes of 26 November 2011 have been published in *Sesame*. A copy has been signed by the clerk and entered in the Minute Book. Minute 11(d) is incorrect and will be amended.

Minute 4: Opening Worship

Extract 23.05 of *Quaker Faith & Practice* was read during our opening

worship. It was written by William Charles Braithwaite in 1919.

Minute 5: Matters arising

Further to Minute 7(a) of 26 November and Minute 12 of 15 October [on our donation to the N.L.S. of a first edition of Fox's *Journal*], we have received a letter of thanks from the National Library of Scotland. A copy is attached to these minutes. The Clerk will now inform the National Library of the date of Quaker Week 2012, asking if the book could be displayed during this week.

b) Further to Minute 13 of 26 November 2011 [on Economic Justice and Sustainability], a Threshing Meeting will take place on Saturday 10 March 2012 at 7 Victoria Terrace from 10.30 am to 4 pm. Further details to follow.

Minute 6: Quaker Week 2011

Marianne Ferguson Rice has outlined the discussions around planning Quaker Week within the Area Meeting.

At Central Edinburgh there were four talks, the first of which, by Jocelyn Bell Burnell, had a good attendance. However, mainly Quakers attended the other three talks.

Rosie Roberts has reported on the first Quaker Week in Central Fife. After much consideration, it was decided to host two events; an evening with Phil Lucas talking about Israel and Palestine and the Ecumenical Accompaniment programme; and, a week later, an Evening with Friends, with a carefully introduced Meeting for Worship, followed by a simple companionable supper of soup and bread and cheese. Both were very well received but numbers were not as expected. Perhaps it was the Meeting which benefitted most.

Is there a definition of success arising from Quaker Week? We do not know of a definition and there may be different purposes of Quaker Week. It does make Quakers known and is a benefit to each Quaker meeting.

In 2012 we may want to consider other ways of making the Religious Society of Friends more widely known.

Quaker Week 2012 will be an agenda item at AM on 26th Feb. We ask that both reports be published in *Sesame*; both reports are attached to these minutes.

Minute 7: Nominations and appointments

a) Our Nominations Committee has brought forward the following names for appointment to serve from 1 January 2012:

David Somervell (South Edinburgh) as Overseer - to end December 2014; and

John Phillips as Clerk of AM Trustees - to end December 2014.

We agree to appoint these Friends accordingly.

b) Request for release: Rachel Howell as Chaplain to Edinburgh University (Sarah Martin is continuing as Chaplain). We agree to this request with immediate effect.

c) Further to minute 11(d) of 26 November 2011, Nominations brought forward the name of **Jasmine Perinpanayagam** as alternate to Sufferings from May 2012. Concerns were expressed that Jasmine may be being asked to undertake too much work but Alastair Cameron, Clerk to Nominations, has checked with Jasmine and she is willing to serve as alternate. We appoint her accordingly.

d) Quaker Peace & Social Witness Committee (QPSW): We have been informed that **Laurie Naumann** has been re-appointed by Meeting for Sufferings to serve from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014.

Minute 8: Requests for Support

a) Jane Pearn of Kelso LM has written to ask for the support of S.E. Scotland AM. She is requesting a £6,000 grant from QPSW on behalf of mine clearance in Cambodia. Friends were reminded that we supported a similar application last year. Jane sends her apologies for today as she is at another Quaker commitment.

We agree to support this request and look forward, hopefully, to a successful outcome.

b) Madeline Patterson has told us of an NGO in Khyberpukhtun KhwaMwep in Pakistan. S.E. Scotland Area Meeting has supported an application to QPSW previously to extend work with girls' education and to set up an emergency obstetrics centre. The girls' school is now financially self sustaining. A new application by Mr. Khan of the Obstetrics Centre has been prepared as the building was bombed. This proposal for £6,000 is being brought to us today for support.

We agree to support this application for one year to QPSW (with the possibility of extension).

c) Leti (Juliet) Howell of South Edinburgh LM is training to become a Healthcare Chaplain. To be recognised by the UK Board of Health Care Chaplaincy she has to have the formal backing of her faith community. She is requesting a Meeting for Clearness to discern whether Area Meeting should support this request. She has suggested Sylvia Massey, Alison Chalmers, Mary Jane Elton, David Turner and Hilary Davies (all South Edinburgh LM) and Christine Davis (Dunblane) to form this Meeting for Clearness. Additionally she is requesting one Friend whom she does not know.

We appoint Sasha Morgan-Appel and Madeleine Harding (s/c).

Minute 9: Membership Matters

a) Further to Minute 9(b) of 15 October 2011, we have received the Certificate of Acceptance of Transfer from East Scotland AM for Jill Tutton.

b) Further to Minute 10(d) of 26 November 2011, following a meeting with Rachel Frith, the Friend concerned has withdrawn her request to resign her membership of the Religious Society of Friends.

c) Further to Minute 10 of 11 September 2011, Henry Thompson and Alison Chalmers have reported on their meeting with **Duncan Wallace**, who is seeking membership. We warmly welcome Duncan into membership of the Religious Society of Friends and ask Rachel Frith to do so on our behalf and inform Central Edinburgh LQM. The report is attached to these minutes.

d) **Ann Barrett**, now of Flat 2, 20 Darnell Road, Edinburgh EH5 3PL has written requesting that her membership be transferred from Leicester AM to our Area Meeting. She is now attending South Edinburgh LM. We agree to this request and ask Janet Grimwade to implement this.

Minute 10: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)

JYM for Young Friends aged between 15 and 18 takes place between 15 and 18 May in London. Rebekah Noble of South Edinburgh LM will attend. We agree to pay travel costs and the costs of the weekend and ask the Treasurer to action these.

Minute 11: Meeting for Sufferings

Rachel Frith referred us to the report in January's *Sesame*. There was an excellent report on the work of the Retreat.

Minute 12: General Meeting

The next General Meeting is on Saturday 3 March 2012 hosted by East Scotland Area Meeting. SE Scotland AM provides the reporter for this Meeting (*i.e.* to write for Scottish Friends Newsletter and the same article for *The Friend*). Can Friends who intend to attend please consider this service? At February's AM we will ask for representatives and a reporter.

Minute 13: Meeting for Worship for Marriage

There is a request for appointment of Meeting for Worship for Marriage between Christopher Booth and Stephanie Jane Lewis on Saturday 23 June 2012 at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, time to be arranged. We gladly agree to this request and ask Elders to appoint Friends to attend.

Minute 14: AOCB

a) Phil Lucas, Assistant Clerk, cannot attend Area Meeting on Sunday 26 February, 2012. Alastair Cameron will act as Assistant Clerk.

b) **Tool Kit Day** will take place on Saturday 24 March 2012 at Victoria Terrace. This day is for all those interested in work with Children and Young People. It will be run by Madeleine Harding and Helen Chambers (Quaker Life Network, Children and Young Peoples Trainers), and will include ideas and resources for activities. This is intended to be a lively and interactive day.

c) Quaker Peace and Social Witness Spring Conference 23 to 25 March 2012

Owing to the timing of this notification, this is coming directly to Area Meeting. The closing date for bookings is 27 January 2012. We are invited to send one or two F/friends to attend. The theme of the Conference is Faith in Action: Exploring the work of QPSW. It is being held at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. One person has already expressed an interest. The Clerk will circulate around the SE Scotland Announce e mail network and will liaise with Nominations if more than two Friends wish to attend.

d) The Retreat

On 5 February after Meeting for Worship and lunch, there will be a speaker from the Retreat at 7 Victoria Terrace. Friends are encouraged to attend what will be a stimulating talk and discussion.

Closing Minute

27 Friends from eight local meetings attended all or part of this Meeting for Worship for Business. The next Area Meeting will be on Sunday, 26th February 2012 at the Open Door at 2 p.m.

Kate Arnot

Clerk, South East Scotland Area Meeting

Sixth World Conference of Friends

17 – 25 April 2012

The largest worldwide conference of Friends since 1967 comes together from 17-25 April 2012 in Kenya. The theme is Being Salt and Light - Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world. One thousand Friends will gather on the campus of Kabarak University, near Nakuru, Kenya. They will come from many parts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and North America.



The venue - Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya

A World Conference is a once-in-a-generation event. It is an opportunity for Friends from around the world to come together and share, from our common heritage, in the things that are eternal. The 2012 World Conference is an opportunity to:

- meet Friends from around the world
- continue your own faith journey
- explore different aspects of being Salt and Light in today's world

- with Friends from all traditions
- experience Friends' worship and traditions in Kenya
- grow together as a family
- foster international understanding
- strengthen our Quaker witness
- help develop a message for Friends in the 21st century



Quaker Meetings for Worship in South East Scotland

Every Sunday

Central Edinburgh:	7 Victoria Terrace	9.30am & 11.00am
South Edinburgh:	Open Door, 420 Morningside Road,	10.30am
Polmont:	Greenpark Community Centre	10.45am
Kelso:	Quaker Meeting House, Kelso	10.30am

Every Wednesday

Mid Week Meeting:	7 Victoria Terrace	12.30pm- 1pm
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First Sunday in the Month

Penicuik & Peebles:	Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik	11.00am
	<i>Children welcome, bring and share lunch.</i>	
Portobello:	Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street	7.30pm

First Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms	1pm- 1.30pm
(opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: <i>contact Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for more details</i>	

Second Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale:	Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House, Dukehaugh, Peebles <i>All welcome but please phone to confirm. 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389.</i>	10.30am
Central Fife:	Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)	10.30am
East Lothian:	East Linton Community Hall	11.00am

Third Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms	1pm- 1.30pm
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Fourth Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale:	Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House, <i>Details as Second Sunday above</i>	10.30am
Central Fife:	Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy <i>as above</i>	10.30am
Portobello:	CHANGES Community Health Project	
	108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA	10.30am
Barony St Meeting	33 Barony Street, Edinburgh	9.30am

Last Sunday in the Month

East Lothian:	East Linton Community Hall	11.00am
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Distribution of Sesame & Scottish Friends Newsletter

The current practice is to distribute one copy of Sesame and the Scottish Friends Newsletter to every Member and Attender household. Contributions to the costs of Sesame are always warmly welcomed by the Area Meeting Treasurer, Caroline Evens. An email version of Sesame is more ecological and is free! (see page 3). A large print version is available on request.

Published by Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain: South East Scotland Area Meeting, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. Scottish Charity No. SCO19165