

SESAME

Number 175: December 2012

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Stoke Newington Quaker Meeting - What to do in a Meeting."

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SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Our next Area Meeting will be on Saturday 8 December at **11 a.m.** (PLEASE NOTE TIME), at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. The morning session will be devoted to discussion of the Concern of Tweeddale Meeting on the need "to create a new economy based on social justice, environmental sustainability and collective well being".

Friends are encouraged to bring their own lunch. There will be light refreshments at the end of the Meeting for Worship for Business. We would hope to finish no later than 5 p.m.

The Meeting House is wheelchair accessible with accessible toilet and also has an induction loop in the Meeting Room.

Kate Arnot, Clerk
South East Scotland Area Meeting

Library News

NEW IN THE LIBRARY AT VICTORIA TERRACE

New acquisitions in the MM Library at Victoria Terrace include:

God in All things by **Gerard W. Hughes** (shelf no. D317). A set of essays on Christian unity, spirituality, pilgrimage, prayer, courage in the face of ageing and pain, and more.

A Heart to Help: an introduction to the work of Quaker prison chaplains (G32) Briefly covers a history of the work, then describes how some chaplains currently working find challenges and fulfillment stretching beyond prison walls. Includes a glossary and book list.

The Quaker Reader edited by **Jessamyn West**. Pendle Hill 1962, 1992 (B95) Extracts from writings of Quakers from 1650 to 1962. Surprising inclusions from Walt Whitman, Elias Hicks, Elizabeth Fry, Max Picard, Logan Pearsall Smith, and

others. Introduced by a chronology matching Quaker events with general history.

"Nurturing Children's Spiritual Well-Being" by Margaret Crompton. Pendle Hill pamphlet. 2012 (PP419) Practical advice along with stories revealing children's innate spirituality and framed in the context of the four testimonies. Advices included to aid reflection.

The catalogue is online, at www.quakerbib.org.uk. (The holdings at Kelso and South Edinburgh are also included.)

Rhoda MacKenzie
Library Committee

Sharing South East Scotland's Sustainability Stories



More of Friends' stories

My attempts to live sustainably

I see trying to live sustainably as making 101 small changes, none of which is significant on its own but that will hopefully mount up to make a difference. There are so many confusing grey areas (is it better to buy British tomatoes from

heated greenhouses or Spanish tomatoes grown outdoors?) that it is easy to become discouraged and disillusioned. I have come to the conclusion that it is better to do what you can, on the basis of the information that you have and your own capabilities, than to do nothing.

I recycle my waste with Edinburgh City Council's kerbside recycling scheme. I re-use plastic bags and boxes, and wash out bread wrappers and the like so that I can use them more than once. I try not to use harmful chemicals if possible, and mostly use Ecover products and the like (I'm always looking in Real Foods, Earthy and Scotmid to see if they have new cleaning and personal hygiene products).

My flat doesn't have gas, and I've switched to Good Energy for electricity. It's more expensive than the cheapest providers but works out about the same as Scottish Power. I insulated the attic and put in secondary glazing as soon as I moved in, and spent most of the first two winters blocking off draughts (it seemed as if I would get one sorted out only to find another). I don't use the immersion heater - I use hot water from the electric shower or I boil the kettle - as it seems wasteful to heat up a tankful of water just to wash my hands or do the dishes. My on-going dilemma is about heating. I don't have central heating, only oil-filled radiators and a coal fire. I would like to get a wood burning stove in the living room and blow warm air into my bedroom using an extractor fan in the adjoining wall, but I'm aware that installing central heating would make my flat easier to let or sell in future.

I buy a lot of my clothes and household goods from charity shops. I love the eclectic selection and try on lots of styles that I wouldn't normally consider. If I change my mind after I've bought something and worn it a couple of times, I just take it back as a donation. In fact, these days I find high street shops decidedly dull! I've also bought cutlery, crock-

ery and bedding from charity shops, as well as my fridge and vacuum cleaner.

I could make a bigger effort to reduce food miles and buy more organic produce, but this is expensive and my diet is already limited by the fact that I can't eat wheat. But I am largely vegetarian and always buy fair trade - organic if I can afford it.

On the financial side, I chose ethical investments. They don't seem to be performing as well as non-ethical, but I'm easier in my own mind knowing that my pension will be based on 'good' businesses. I had to compromise with my mortgage though, as none of the more ethical providers would give me one because I live above commercial premises (my broker tells me that they are being particularly fussy at the moment). My personal accounts are with the Co-op, but their charges for business accounts are comparatively high unless you are a member of the Federation of Small Businesses, so at the moment I'm sticking with the HSBC.

Fiona Paterson, Central Edinburgh Meeting

My Hovercraft is Full of Eels - To Greece by train

Knowing how carbon hungry flying is, we made a decision some years ago not to fly for holidays. When a friend invited us to Greece however, the pull of fresh olives, sun-kissed beaches and warm seas got stronger and stronger.

So how easy and enjoyable would it be for myself, my partner and our son (then aged 10) to go to Greece by train and boat? We set up a blog to share our experiences (www.hovercraftfullofeels.org.uk)

Booking the tickets and planning the journey was complex and if Chris hadn't enjoyed reading the Thomas Cook timetable we might have given up! Tickets weren't on sale until 3 months before, and became available at different times.

We chose inter-rail tickets, as we wanted to return via Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary, but still had to pay supplements and make reservations on many trains.

We planned a true European adventure spending a day each in Paris and Venice on the outward journey, and in Brasov (Romania) and Budapest on the way back. We enjoyed the romance of passport checks in the depths of the night and meeting folk of all nationalities. We played cards with two young French women on the boat from Ancona to Patras, chatted in Spanish with two Argentinians in the couchette from Paris to Venice, and in German to three Romanians travelling from Brasov to the Danube for work. The different design of trains in each country, navigating our way through the different booking and reservation systems as well as the languages and currencies were all part of the adventure.

The European train structure is not joined up and it needs to become a cheaper alternative to flying - but would we recommend it as a holiday? - Certainly!

Jane Lewis, South Edinburgh LM

Installing solar panels – setting money aside for a sunny day

When we inherited some money in the 1990s we found ourselves an Independent Financial Adviser, and, with his help, we set it aside for a rainy day – basically distributed among a building society, an environmental investment fund and an ethical pension fund. Well, the building society demutualised, the investment fund failed to provide us with much interest and the pension fund was a disappointment on several counts; in fact, everything to do with banking has proved disillusioning.

A few years ago we saw two small solar panels on a friend's roof, heating their hot water system, so when we were cold-called about a year ago by a solar panel installer I asked him to come and talk to us. His visit lasted a couple of hours, after which I found four other companies in the Central Belt and we talked with each of them. From what they told us and our own research we discovered that

- Installing photovoltaic panels to generate electricity was very expensive (in fact, they have roughly halved in price during the intervening year);
- Their price can be offset using the government-guaranteed Feed-in Tariff (FIT) which is guaranteed over 25 years; the size of the FIT subsidy depends not on one's investment but on how much electricity one generates;
- One can generate significant electricity as far north as Edinburgh, even if one's panels do not face exactly south or if they are not tilted at an optimal angle;
- If we generate our own electricity we (a) save some of our normal use from the grid, and (b) export all the surplus power back into the grid.

We went ahead with 16 panels last summer. Since then it has rained more or less continuously, but we still reckon that the financial return far exceeds what any bank would have given us if we had not taken our savings away from them. Who knows what they would achieve if the sun shone a bit more? And it is always satisfying to watch how the kilowatts clock up even on a cloudy day...

We actually had lots of questions about this decision, most of which we still can't answer (for example, do the panels increase or decrease the value of our house? What will happen to FITs in the future? Will the panels damage our roof, or become dislodged in a winter gale?) But do feel free to come and ask us if you would like to know more.

John & Kerstin Phillips, Central Edinburgh LM

Trying to live sustainably in a rural setting: Home energy

Our village home, bought in 1997, is three miles from the gas grid. It's 260 years old, with thick sandstone walls and a Victorian extension with an un-insulated flat zinc roof. Central heating and hot water were provided by a grossly inefficient oil-fired Rayburn in the kitchen (which we loved using for cooking). Soon after we bought the house we installed a wood-burning stove in the living room. Two years ago we replaced the Rayburn with a modern condensing oil boiler, which burns half as much oil (but doesn't cook!) We contemplated putting in a biomass boiler but would have issues with fuel delivery – nearest lorry access is at the bottom of a long garden.

Last November, we installed a 4kWh 16 panel photovoltaic system on the back roof. It faces WNW: not ideal, but planners would not let us put them on the front. We're really pleased with the electricity produced, despite a poor summer - the Feed in Tariff meter reads 1600 kWh after eight months. We turned off the boiler for the summer, use our immersion heater to provide hot water and light the wood-burner if it gets cool in the evening. Too early to give figures, but the electricity meter is reading what it did at the end of February so our annual consumption from the grid will be greatly reduced. We moved to Good Energy, the greenest electricity supplier, some years ago.

As I write, the roofer is stripping the zinc roofing from the extension and putting on 120mm of insulation (the most possible due to the height of the parapet) before re-covering. We had insulation in the main roof brought up to modern standards years ago, grant aided. No grants available for flat roofs, unfortunately.

Phil Lucas, East Lothian LM

NOT HUNGRY, NOT SCARED

QPSW relief grant – MAG mine clearance project in Cambodia.

This year, Area Meeting again supported my application for a QPSW relief grant. I was able to add £3000 from local fund-raising to this. The project was to enable MAG to clear contaminated land in and around a village in Ou Sampor commune, northwest Cambodia. The village was inaccessible in the time available, but late in July 2012 I was able to visit a similar project, also using mine detection dogs. This is a very efficient way to check for the presence of explosives where the land is known not to be heavily mined: a single incident can cause such fear that the land is unused for years. In a climate like Cambodia's it quickly becomes overgrown, and the first step is to clear vegetation to allow access. This is done using a locally built machine called the Tempest which is landmine resistant.

The specially-trained (and very enthusiastic!) dogs are then able to cover the ground and signal the presence of any explosive which is then carefully investigated and dealt with by the team. The preparation and planning of these operations, whether using dogs, machinery or manual techniques, is meticulous, to ensure complete coverage of the area to be cleared.

However, the high point of my time in Cambodia was a visit to Ou Ampil, a village also in Malai district, which is now more than two years post-clearance. Usually I visit MAG's current projects: people seem tense and guarded, the land full of danger, their lives circumscribed. The difference between them and this community, now starting to prosper, was remarkable. They have been helped by a local NGO, CFEDA (Cambodian Family Economic Development Association) to make good use of the land. CFEDA have donated chickens and ducks: the villagers showed us with great pride the original birds and their offspring. There is a good market for chickens in Phnom Penh, and they are now able to sell the surplus. CFEDA also work with Heifer International to provide livestock.

The community had dug a pond, and had plans to extend it. The children all went to school, and looked happy, clean and con-

fidant. More families have moved here, attracted by the promise of safe land. As the village expands, so the community will need to start using land which is further away, and as yet uncleared. And so the work goes on, step by step.

I asked people to tell me their stories: This is one that stuck with me. Before clearance Bun Loth had a 30 metre by 30 metre piece of land. 'Was that enough?' 'No – we were hungry, and I was always frightened.'

'How much land do you have now?'

'30 metres by 96 metres.'

'Is that enough?'

'Yes – we are not hungry, and we are not scared'.

**Jane Pearn, Kelso LM
September 2012**

Quaker Life Representative Council Conference, Woodbrooke, 12-14 October 2012

The Conference was well attended by 76 representatives and 10 volunteer staff from 60 Area Meetings out of 72 in BYM.

The theme of the Conference was "Deepening the Life of the Spirit through Service". Quaker Life Central Committee was prompted to design the conference around growing concerns that the work of the Society needs more support from the Community.

It has been said that other religions build cathedrals and Quakers build committees - both of which require constant care and maintenance. Committees need people to sit on them and QL Rep Council was charged, within a prepared programme, to explore ways of encouraging Members and Attenders to enrich their spiritual journeys by participating in the work of these committees. The keynote speakers (Jocelyn Burnell, Nancy Irving and Oliver Waterhouse) de-

scribed their spiritual journeys, which were all supported by being involved in the work of the Society at home and abroad. The Society does not have paid officials (apart from staff at Friends House and some Meeting Houses) to carry out the work necessary to maintain a healthy organisation. Quakerism is based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ and all those who attend Worship regularly to nurture their faith have made a commitment to the Society of Friends which in turn provides a supportive environment, through its structures, in which the faithful can find their way. Our faith can be put into action effectively through giving service to our Community and beyond. The time-consuming work of the committees is to the benefit of us all. Being part of the governance of our Meetings helps us to get to know each other better, strengthens our community and brings satisfying personal fulfilment.

The Conference recognised that perhaps greater transparency is required to help Friends understand the governance of the Society and how its committees mesh together. For some reason, there is shyness about filling in the forms to show willingness to serve and to declare special interests. If it were done more widely, then Nominations Committees would have a useful aid to finding people to fill vacancies. Perhaps the yellow form from Woodbrooke, which encompasses all subjects the Society is involved with, may attract more attention. Much discernment goes into Nominations because it has to be done properly; it has been said that "Nominations is the holiest work we do". Meeting's appreciation and recognition for work done is very much part of creating a conducive environment to attract service from people. Several people at the conference complained that their Meetings were not as appreciative as might be expected. We must be sure that those appointed to undertake work are contented in the role and are being fulfilled by it.

This contentment and enthusiasm can inspire others to offer service to Meeting.

I would like to suggest that a series of talks and discussions are organised to explain how our Committees relate to each other and the work they do. I am convinced that there are many people who would be only too pleased, nay, feel privileged to be asked to join a committee or two and in so doing, with the upholding of Meeting, feel more involved in the community and less isolated in their spiritual journeys. "All work is empty save when there is love" (Kahlil Gibran).

John Fox

Venue 40 - reflections

I am hanging up my hat after 3-years' convening the Festival Committee, and was asked to share the five things that had struck me this year.

- I saw our Irish volunteers going out to meet the Dublin flight and bring in their next volunteer to Edinburgh. At early Meeting, outgoing volunteers often ministered and new ones would sit and listen, each unaware of who the other was, and the wider Meeting largely unaware of either. I thought they were like early Quakers, travelling in the ministry. They moved very light, led by a specific idea of Quakerism to find a common language with the strangers who housed them and the others on their shift. And it worked, as we accepted each other, rough edges and all. We do not know the politics of many early Quakers, but they had something stronger than the civic upheaval around them, and I saw so do we. We have a remarkable system of external volunteers.

- I understand different people have different experiences of the Festival but for most it means money and sometimes sore feet. I saw an old man and daughter off the National Bus Tour of Scotland make a beeline for our foyer, because they had remembered cheap coffee there last year. Another

day a woman came in for a rest when other cafes had closed. She listened to the performance hubbub around her, then wrote us a cheque from home for £100 towards our windows appeal. Ultimately an expensive cup of coffee!

- At Victoria Terrace I think we make special space for people who would otherwise have no platform. This year I saw our musical concerts draw mainstream Edinburgh through the door, in a way I had not appreciated before : the woman on the bus to Leith and the man waiting on a fitting room bench in Marks and Spencer. This may be something for us as Quakers to remember in future.
- We have written to thank all the friends who volunteered their help with such kindness this year. Here I want to thank AM Overseers particularly. They really kept an eye out for the Festival Committee; putting the date in their diary of when Venue 40 opened and helping to cover all the rota posts - from baking cakes after a week's work and sometimes on Saturday too, to bringing fresh produce and flowers, and staffing the till. They also opened their homes to accommodate volunteers from outside Edinburgh. We are very grateful to them for all they did.
- Within the AM I saw some local meetings who are Special Friends of the Festival. South Edinburgh is a stalwart, each year supplying beds and baking and hours of volunteering in the Meeting House. And though they are across the water and face more difficulties than most in reaching us, I saw Central Fife Friends generously give their time each year. In a tight spot, it was often Kirkcaldy Friends who came to fill unexpected gaps – and we thank them very much.

I know I would have observed different things if I had worked on lighting or the box office. Reading these, other Committee members will probably turn round and say what?? But that is the interest of the Festival.

Marjorie Farquharson

Windows to the World Appeal Update

An article appeared in Sesame in June 2012, explaining the work of the small committee formed to raise funds for the necessary repair and replacement of the windows to the Meeting Room and Library at 7 Victoria Terrace. We would like to update Friends and attenders on our progress to date, and most importantly to thank the many, many individual Friends, Attenders, Meetings and visitors to our building, who have helped so generously so far.

It is difficult to give a precise figure for the total raised to date, because of calculations about Gift Aid and other factors. However, around £40,000 has been committed so far, which is outstanding and speaks volumes for the generosity of so many people and meetings. We are humbled, and greatly heartened.

Application has been made to several grant making trusts, many of whom have also supported the Appeal, and also to Historic Scotland who have a scheme of Repair Grants for Places of Worship.

We also have a delightful display of the craft handiwork of our Children's meetings, in the library: stained glass window designs were created, and mark our progress towards the funding total, and a thermometer at the side is getting gradually higher as the total increases. Next steps are to progress with more grant applications, and research other sources of income. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

The colourful leaflet brilliantly designed for us by the talented John Fitzgerald was read by many Festival visitors. Plenty of stocks remain, so if any meetings or members would care for more copies, we can easily arrange copies for collecting, or mail them out. (Details below)

The committee was delighted when Susie Harding became Mum to Nina in August, slightly earlier than expected, but

amazingly she managed to hand in her PhD thesis beforehand. Congratulations to all of the Hardings. Susie's excellent handle on the organisation of our group has, happily, been taken on by the equally able and charming Anna Deregowska.

Thanks again to all our donors so far, and for all the support. Much appreciated, and we have made substantial progress.

Emma Griffiths & Anna Deregowska

Individual donations to the appeal are welcome by cheque or BACS. Please make cheques payable to: *South East Scotland Area Meeting* and send to : **Caroline Evans, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL.**

BACS payments can be made to the following account:

Name of Account holder: South East Scotland Area Meeting

Name of Bank: Triodos

Sort code: 16 58 10

Account number: 00652501

Reference: Windows to the World Appeal

(If sending donations by BACS, please drop us an email at sesam.appeal@gmail.com, so that we can thank you, and keep track.)

If you are a UK taxpayer, please include a statement to enable us to get Gift Aid on your donation. To qualify for Gift Aid you must pay an amount of UK income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax, at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on your donations in the relevant tax year.

Meeting for Sufferings

The agenda for the morning session of the October Meeting for Sufferings focussed on one of its functions, which is re-

sponding to minutes from Area Meetings. The issues seemed very practical and not necessarily relevant to Scotland.

Firstly we considered a minute expressing a concern that AMs have to appoint Registering Officers who need to be trained but then carry out few, if any, marriages. Various suggestions were made and AMs were encouraged to consider imaginative arrangements. We agreed to ask Registering Officers for their opinions.

We then heard from various AMs about the issues relating to the registration of Meeting Houses for civil partnerships. This legislation applies to England and Wales. The government has passed responsibility for it to local authorities who all seem to be dealing with it differently. The whole situation sounds confused and very far from promoting any kind of equality. I was glad it was not an issue the directly concerns us in Scotland.

The final minute we considered was from South West Cumbria about the burial of high level nuclear waste in Cumbria. This issue has been discussed and researched for many years and Cumbria has not been felt appropriate. However local councillors have volunteered, possibly because some financial benefits to the area have been offered, to look for areas for long term storage. The Area Meeting has been campaigning against this decision and we asked the Meeting for Sufferings clerk to write to the minster for energy and climate change supporting their position. Concern was expressed that this decision which has implications far beyond Cumbria has been passed by the government to the local authority.

Marigold Bentley from QPSW reminded us that the centenary of the start of world war one was approaching in August 2014 and that this would be an opportunity to express our testimony against war and ensure that celebrations did

not glorify war. Friends were encouraged to work with others locally and were reminded that resources are available from QPSW and the library at Friends House.

In the afternoon, after dealing with nominations, appointing our clerks to serve for 2013 and agreeing the dates for Sufferings in 2014, we heard from the Clerk of BYM Trustees. Two particular issues raised were the reintroduction of the Quota to fund central work and what should follow *A Framework for Action 2009-14*. The issue about the Quota has been referred to Trustees' Finance and Property committee for advice and we will return to it in the future. Trustees had looked at responses from Area Meetings and recommended that the *Framework* should not be replaced when it runs out in 2014. However they do see a need for a clear statement of vision for the work of Quakers in Britain.

There was some discussion about the usefulness of the *Framework* and what should replace it. Many have found it helpful in summarising our priorities but it is felt that it does now have gaps. We recognised the need for a clearly stated purpose which is owned by all and arises from a deeply held spiritual motivation. We need a document that builds on the *Framework* and agreed to return to this at a future meeting.

Finally we considered other minutes from Area Meetings most of which were referred to other committees. One concern that Sufferings will be returning to is the relationship between BYM Trustees and Meeting for Sufferings in terms of decision making. This is going to be one of the main topics for our residential meeting in February when we should have more time to give this our consideration.

Despite what had seemed a lengthy agenda, the meeting finished in time for most of us to enjoy tea and cake and some informal conversation before heading off on our journeys home. This kind of discussion is often very useful

in terms of making contacts and sharing information. If people want to know more, there are reports in *The Friend* of 12 October, and Meeting for Sufferings minutes and related documents are generally available on the BYM website.

Janet Grimwade

Living Eldership

A day-long workshop on *Living Eldership* was arranged by Woodbrooke and held in Newcastle-on-Tyne Meeting House on Saturday, 27 October. Jenny Routledge led it, assisted by our Friend Jane Pearn as her accompanying Elder. It was hoped that the choice of Newcastle as the venue would attract Elders from the North of England and from Scotland. In the event, most of those who attended, 16 in all, were quite local, with only two from Scotland GM, both from SE Scotland, Jane Pearn and me.

The emphasis during the day was on the apparent tension between Eldership as Doing and Eldership as Being. It was suggested that today there may be more emphasis on Doing, perhaps reflecting the loss of birthright membership. Nowadays, new members are usually adults who are often attracted to the Society of Friends because of its witness and feel that they should be concerned with Quaker activity, with doing rather than with being. Jenny Routledge urged us to rebalance the two demands, not, of course, to ignore doing but to bring doing and being together so that they inform one another. What Meetings look for in Elders is, she suggested, the gift of stillness which speaks of a quality of life. It is too easy, she thought, and may be inappropriate, to be over concerned with doing for its own sake.

Meetings do need leadership. But just as we acknowledge the priesthood of all believers, so too the leadership provided by Elders is within us all; Elders are not an elite since

all may be called on at various time to take on the role. Eldership comes easily to seasoned Friends but it is also the case that Eldership creates seasoned Friends.

Above all, perhaps, Elders must listen so that they are aware of the concerns and the needs of their meetings. But Elders themselves need to be supported and upheld. In large Meetings (such as Central Edinburgh) the Meeting may be full of former and future Elders on whose spiritual support it can rely. This is much more difficult in small Meetings where there may well be few if any Elders, past or present.

The workshop ended by raising two questions for us to answer:

1. What is Eldership like if it works well?
2. What can be done to enhance the role of Elders?

I raised a question about the title for the workshop: *Living Eldership*. Jenny Routledge agreed that it might be thought ambiguous and suggested as an alternative *Giving life to Eldership*, or *Bringing new life to Eldership*.

We were given a document to take away: *Some Advices and Queries for elders from Midwives of the Spirit Workshop*, Woodbrooke, May 2011.

Quaker Voices No 2/3 of May 2011 has several articles on the issue of Being and Doing.

Alan Davies
November 2012

Report on Oversight in SE Scotland AM, October 2012

We currently have our full quota of Overseers except in Central Edinburgh (one down with ten rather than eleven). Each of the small Local Meetings has one Overseer; South Edinburgh has four; and Kelso, who practice corporate oversight, have three Named Persons. We are fortunate that

in the small LMs we have experienced Overseers. Central and South Edinburgh, in the last three years, have both seen appointed a number of new Overseers.

LMs differ as to size, age groups, and people in membership. As a result the focus of oversight can be very different. Two years ago, Tweeddale Meeting had a regular seven or eight worshippers on a Sunday, almost all over the age of eighty, and these did throw up health problems. Now two people who are Buddhists join them, as well as two Quakers in their thirties who have recently moved into the area. East Linton Meeting is also growing with two attenders joining the seven or eight regulars. As they meet only twice a month, there can be difficulties in continuity in oversight, especially as some members have family commitments at weekends.. In my LM {Polmont) we have had an influx over the last three years of six people joining us - three having worshipped else where. Rather than six or seven regulars on a Sunday, we usually number nine or ten as well as four children. Our children's meeting has brought great joy and great challenges for us, while helping newcomers to feel a valued part of the Meeting has taken time. Penicuik and Central Fife Meetings seem to be ticking along as does South Edinburgh where Elders as well as Overseers have lists and join together for regular meetings.

Delivering oversight in Central Edinburgh is quite different from other meetings. With three hundred members and attenders on the books and many enquirers and visitors, keeping list up to date is a demanding job. Much of the guidance in Quaker ways takes place after Meeting for Worship and there is a children's meeting run by a committee, so the focus for oversight is therefore on meeting the needs of sick people.

Overseers are active in the discussion and study groups attached to our Meetings and in the case of Central Fife meet-

ings for learning. I am a companion to three younger members of the meeting as they work through Becoming Friends manual. Sarah Martin has organized a fun afternoon for folk on her list and last year they had a mince pie afternoon in Sarah's home. Another is planned for this November. Sarah is also a university chaplain. Madeleine Harding has convened the children's meeting for Central Edinburgh, I feel that the level of commitment shown by Overseers makes a big contribution to our Meetings being communities where joys and sorrows are supported and shared.

Maureen Anderson, Clerk to Overseers

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday, 20th October 2012 at The Quaker Meeting House, 7, Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

Minute 1: Apologies

The following Friends are prevented and send their apologies: Mark Bitel; Alison Burnley; Elizabeth Seale Carnall; Geoffrey Carnall; Hilary Davies; Alan Frith; Madeline Harding; Marilyn Higgins; Ken Jobling; Margaret Mortimer; Laurie Naumann; Jane Pearn; Jasmine Perinpanayagam; Sue Sierra; David Somerville; David Turner; Ida Turner.

Minute 2: Signing of the AM minutes of 16 September:

The minutes of 16 September 2012 have been published in *Sesame*. A copy has been signed by the clerk and entered in the Minute Book, amended under AOCB (a) to read "Assistant Manager" (not "Assistant Warden").

Minute 3: Extract 21.49 of *Quaker Faith & Practice* was read during our opening worship: words of George Fox, spoken shortly before his death in 1691

Minute 4: Matters arising:

Further to AOCB (a) of 16 September 2012, **Mijk Stokes** has been appointed to the post of Assistant Manager for the Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace.

Minute 5: Report from Overseers

Maureen Anderson, Clerk to Overseers, has reported on the work of our Overseers over the past year. We have almost a full complement of Overseers, with a variety of approaches taken by Meetings to this role and service. We have a varied mix of experienced and new Overseers. The focus of oversight can be very different depending on the size, growth of the meeting and geographic area. Meetings welcome new enquirers and seekers in different ways both through structured reflection and study and fun.

We are grateful to all Overseers for their service and "their contribution to our Meetings being communities where joys and sorrows are supported and shared."

We thank Maureen for her service as Clerk and ask that the report be published in *Sesame*.

Minute 6: Membership Matters

a) We have received a request from **Wallace Gilbraith**, who attended Central Edinburgh LM, that he wishes his membership to be transferred to East Scotland Area Meeting as he has moved to Perth. We agree to this request and ask Sue Sierra to effect it.

b) Further to minute 7(a) of 30 June 2012, we have been informed that Devon AM have accepted the transfer of membership of **Chris** and **Penny Holland**.

c) We have received a Certificate of Transfer of Membership from Hardshaw & Man Area Meeting for **Amy Rodger**, now 1/1, Cables Wynd, Edinburgh EH6 6DU. We gladly accept this Certificate and ask Marjorie Farquharson to welcome her on our behalf. We ask Sue Sierra to further this request.

d) [An application for membership was received].

Minute 7: Meeting for Sufferings

Janet Grimwade has reported on the last meeting of Sufferings, held 2 weeks ago. (The report of July's Sufferings has been published in *Sesame*).

Concerns from local meetings include the role of Registering Officers, the guddle over Local Authority administration of Civil Partnerships (not applicable to Scotland), and high level nuclear waste disposal.

The Centenary of the start of the 1914-1918 war may enable Quakers to publicise more widely our testimony to peace.

Afternoon business included a report from Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) Trustees, 2 key elements of which were a possible re-introduction of financial quotas for Meetings and some form of replacement, perhaps, for the *Framework for Action*. A residential meeting in February 2013 will enable a longer discussion about the roles of Trustees and Sufferings.

We agree that the Clerk, together with John Phillips, will draft a minute to Sufferings, outlining the difficulties we foresee with a financial quote. This draft minute will come to Area Meeting in December to be amended/agreed before being sent to Sufferings.

We ask that Janet's written report be published in *Sesame*.

Minute 8: Nominations

Nominations Committee puts forward the following for consideration, to serve to the end of December 2015 unless otherwise indicated:

a) **Elders - Susie Reade** (S Edinburgh); **Marilyn Higgins** (C Edinburgh) - renewal. We thank Alison Burnley and Andrew Kinnaird for their service, which is now complete.

b) **Overseers - Sara Davies** (C Edinburgh) and **Marianne Ferguson Rice** (C. Edinburgh). We thank Simon Jackson, who has asked to be released, for his service.

c) **Trustees - Laurie Naumann** (C Fife) - renewal

d) **'Windows to the World' Fundraising group - Anna Deregowska** (C Edinburgh)

e) **John Wigham Trust - Hilary Davies** (S Edinburgh) - renewal

f) **Convener, Funerals - Bob Harwood** (C Edinburgh) - renewal, to end December 2013

g) **University Contact, Edinburgh University - Sarah Martin**, (C Edinburgh) - renewal

We appoint all the above to serve as indicated.

Minute 9: Report from Festival Committee

Alan Sayle has reported on the financial position for Fringe 2012, for Quakers. In common with many Fringe venues, income was down compared to 2011. Week 3 had fewer companies and some empty "slots". Consequently, it is proposed by Festival Committee that we make the following financial contributions: £4,000 to Area Meeting, and £500 to each of our three designated charities (Minute 10 of 31 March 2012) - 'Windows on the World' Appeal by South East Scotland Area Meeting; Quaker Bolivia Link; and The Refugee Survival Trust; a total of £5,500.

We agree to these proposals and ask our Treasurer to effect them.

We note that a balance of £518.93 is projected as being carried forward into 2013 by the Festival Committee. The financial report is attached to these minutes.

Marjorie Farquharson, who is ending her three year service as Clerk to Festival Committee has reported on the work of Festival Committee.

She shared her personal views on her time as Clerk and made five points:

- The remarkable service by our wonderful volunteers who are adaptable, resourceful and, especially at handover times, show Quaker values in action
- Very different experiences of the Festival/Fringe. It is true outreach.
- Specific minority interests are catered for. Music attracts mainstream Edinburgh residents.
- We depend on Overseers to support both Festival Committee and volunteers.
- Other local meetings, especially South Edinburgh and Central Fife, contribute to the work before, during and after the 3 weeks of the Fringe.

We recognise that it has been a particularly difficult year and that the Festival Committee and others are to be congratulated in dealing well with difficulties.

Some companies come every year, especially youth groups which provide this opportunity to different young people each year. Other companies find us through the Fringe Office.

We thank Marjorie and Alan for their work and reports and all those who contribute, especially staff, at Venue 40.

We ask that Marjorie's report be published in *Sesame*.

Minute 10: A possible Workshop

Avis Swarbrick has spoken to her proposal, previously circulated by email, that Friends offer a Workshop on the Quaker Business Method during the Middle East Festival of Spirituality and Peace in March 2013.. Many events during this festival are held at 7 Victoria Terrace. Our business method is a unique and precious gift and it would be good to share it more widely. It is expected that this Workshop

would be held on Monday 4 March 2013 from 6.30 to 9 pm at 7 Victoria Terrace.

We warmly welcome this initiative and ask the existing Group to liaise, if required, with our Nominations Committee to take this proposal forward and to keep Area Meeting informed. Finally, we ask that the proposal be published in *Sesame*.

Minute 11: Residential General Meeting 17/18 November in St. Andrews

We appoint the following Friends to represent us at General Meeting:

Andrew Farrar; John Fox; Rachel Frith; Pat Lucas; John Phillips; Marianne Ferguson Rice; Anthony Buxton (s/c),

Minute 12: Quaker Life Representative Council

John Fox has given us an account of the recent Quaker Life Representative Council, held at Woodbrooke. The key word is "enthusiasm" for Quaker service. Some 60 Area Meetings attended the Conference whose theme was "Deepening the life of the Spirit through Service - putting our faith into action". Area Meeting representatives and staff from Friends House attended. Quaker Life Representative Council enables communication between local and area meetings and Friends House and is a key tool in supporting the life and worship of Friends. Keynote speakers were Jocelyn Burnell, Nancy Irvine and Oliver Waterhouse.

We thank John for his work and report and ask that the report be published in *Sesame*. The report is attached to these minutes.

We urge Friends to complete the Yearly Meeting Offer of Service form, available from 7 Victoria Terrace.

Minute 13: Request for speaker

We have received by email from the Principal Teacher of History at Broxburn Academy a request for Quakers to provide speakers on the Quaker vision of religion and society, with particular reference to the abolition of the slave trade (for S3s) and Conscientious Objection (Higher pupils). We welcome this invitation and are grateful to Phil Lucas and Stasa Morgen-Appel for offering to take this forward and report back to a future Area Meeting.

Minute 14: AOCB:

a) Further to AOCB (a) of 16 September 2012, in relation to the approved signatories for petty cash cheques, we agree to delete the name of Tom Nisbet, when appropriate, and add the name of Mijk Stokes as signatories to the Area Meeting Petty Cash account.

b) We are reminded that *Quaker Voices* can be ordered directly or through Andrew Farrar.

c) Currently, at 7, Victoria Terrace, there is a display of posters produced by the National Arboretum Memorial Project.

Closing minute

23 Friends from eight local Meetings attended all or part of this Meeting for Worship for Business. Our next Area Meeting will be on Saturday 8 December at 11 a.m. at 7 Victoria Terrace.

Kate Arnot

Clerk, South East Scotland Area Meeting

FUTURE AREA MEETINGS

Saturday 8 December, at 7 Victoria Terrace: 11 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Saturday 12 January at 7 Victoria Terrace 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Contributions to SESAME are always welcome. Please send your ideas and proposals to the Editors

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	10.30am
	(in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)	
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	7.00 pm

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! A large print version is available on request.