

# SESAME

Number 178: April 2013

Hong Kong Meeting for Worship, Kelso Learning Saturday,  
Peace Pilgrimage, Sustainability, Sufferings. AM Minutes



After Meeting for Worship. Hong Kong, March 2013: see page 4-7

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## SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

The next Area Meeting will be at **East Linton Community Hall** on Saturday 13 April from 11.30 am to 4 pm. The 11.30 start is to fit in with bus times given below.

If coming by car, follow the A1 as far as the second Haddington 'Abbotsview' junction, from which follow the A199 for East Linton. After 3+ miles, turn left into East Linton village, and after the railway bridge turn immediately left. The community hall is about 300 metres on the left, past the Coop and next to a bus stop (for the North Berwick-Dunbar service). There is car parking on the road or off the turning nearly opposite the hall. Use the hall's side entrance.

If coming from Edinburgh by bus, use either the Perryman's **253** for Berwick on Tweed, which leaves the bus station at 10.10; or the First Bus **X6** for Dunbar, from Haymarket stopping in Princes Street and London Road. (There is one which goes along Princes Street soon after 10.15.) Ask to be put down at Bridgend, East Linton, by the Linton Hotel. On alighting, walk back a few steps and turn right into the village, then 300 m past the shops (*see drivers' directions above*).

There are buses back to Edinburgh at 16.55 (X6), 17.19 (253) and 17.55 (X6).

Area Meeting clashes with the big 'Scrap Trident' event in Glasgow so we shall understand if some feel that should have precedence.

**Phil Lucas**

## AGENDA

**Morning session 11.30 am – 1.30 pm**  
(Coffee *etc* available from 11 am)

1. Worship
2. Change of clerk
3. Attendance
4. "Engaging with our Yearly Meeting " - A session introduced and led by the BYM2013 Group  
Lunch 1.30 – 2.20 pm (Soup provided)

#### **Afternoon session 2.20 pm – 4.00 pm**

5. Signing of Area Meeting minutes
6. Matters arising
7. Economic Justice
  - a) Tackling the Poverty Premium – minute from South Edinburgh meeting
  - b) Economic Mythbusters – new online course in May-June 2013
  - c) Europe and Economic Justice – QCEA conference in Brussels, 15-17 November 2013
8. Draft accounts for 2012
9. Request from Northern Friends Peace Board
10. The future of Swarthmoor Hall
11. The work of our Nominations Committee
12. Appointments and release from service
13. Membership matters
14. Correspondence
15. AOCB

### **Theism**

On Sunday, 28 April from 1-3 pm in the Meeting Room, 7 Victoria Terrace, you are very welcome to come and share our experience, whatever it may be, of 'that of God' in our lives. We will use simple activities to explore what some of us mean by God (or the Light or whatever term you prefer), as well as the difficulties others of us find in giving any meaning to such words. Please email any queries to Jasmine Perinpanayagam on [danceperi@gmail.com](mailto:danceperi@gmail.com)

### **Tai Chi invitation**

Area Meeting has received an invitation from the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Great Britain to be represented at the Grand Opening of their new Scottish Regional Centre

premises at 69 Marionville Road, near Meadowbank. This takes place on Friday 19 April 2013 between 11.30 am and 2.30 pm.

The invitation says: ' Grand Openings are spectacular and lively events, and often include displays of Tai Chi and related arts of health, a Chinese lion dance, words of greetings from distinguished guests and Society leaders, and lunch. In Scotland we also hope to include local traditions such as piping and highland dancing. It's very child-friendly, and families of invited guests are welcome.'

If you are interested in representing Quakers at this event, please contact the AM Clerk, Phil Lucas, 01368 850227, [phil.lucas1@gmail.com](mailto:phil.lucas1@gmail.com), by Monday, 15 April.

### **Quaker Camps**

Quaker Campers are hoping to hear from those within the area meeting who may be interested in joining their camp this year, and encourage anyone in need to apply to overseers for financial support.

Quaker Campers is a listed informal group (*Q.F.&P.* 13.19) recorded in the Book of Meetings: we are Friends from all parts of Britain who enjoy camping together. This year's camp is in Derbyshire from 27 July to 3 August. Booking is essential. Everyone is welcome. Details from Quaker Campers clerk Yvonne Dickson, [yhq100@hotmail.com](mailto:yhq100@hotmail.com) or tel. 01244 300992.

Catering is individual, but Quaker Campers normally hire a large field with room for communal activities such as the short daily Meeting for Worship and the shared pudding evening.

**Yvonne Dickson**

### **Hong Kong Meeting for Worship**

*Alan Davies was in Hong Kong recently and attended meeting for worship with Hong Kong Friends, as pictured on our cover. The following is taken from the Meeting's webpage.*

We meet for worship every First Day (Sunday) from 10.30 to 11.30 am followed by tea and coffee and often an impromptu lunch. We are an unprogrammed Friends Meeting held in the David Kwok Room on the top floor of the Annex of St. John's Cathedral in Central. The Cathedral is on Garden Road, and the Annex building is next to it. Go into the Cathedral compound and you will see that the Annex is L-shaped. In the corner of the L there is a staircase, and the David Kwok Room is at the top.

The room space is rented from St. John's Cathedral - we have the room booked from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please feel free to come along from 10 a.m. onwards: the half hour before the meeting starts can be used to help set the room up by putting chairs in a circle, but also allows people an opportunity to browse the books in our bookcase, or perhaps to have a drink and just settle down on a sofa beforehand.

We are a friendly welcoming group, so no worries if you're late, just go in quietly and sit down - as silent worship may have begun. There is nothing expected of you, provided that all those present respect our practices, including remaining silent unless offering ministry. After worship, all people present are usually invited to say a few words of introduction, but there is no obligation to do so. Often after worship, after introductions but before our fellowship properly begins, we will usually have a period for 'after-thoughts': people may share thoughts that they had during worship but didn't quite make it to ministry during worship. We're a fairly relaxed group, and readily welcome all those who come along. Whether you want to get involved or just observe, it's OK! Typically someone will ask you if you would like to be on a contact list for emails, and there may be a sign requesting donations, but please be assured that visitors have no obligation to do so.

We are the Meeting for Friends worshipping in the unprogrammed tradition in Hong Kong. We do not have

separate Area/Monthly/Local/Preparative meetings at present - there is only one Meeting as we are stand-alone from other Yearly Meetings.

Hong Kong Friends have come from all over the world and all sorts of backgrounds. We mainly use the English language as the common denominator. There are other Quaker groups in Hong Kong worshipping in programmed traditions.

#### **1841 - present**

Individual Friends played an important role in the founding and development of Hong Kong, in both government and commerce, a tradition that continues to this day.

The Japanese interned Friends, such as the Sewell family, at Stanley Prisoner of War Camp on the South Side of Hong Kong Island for the duration of hostilities. During and immediately after the Second World War, the Friends Ambulance Unit provided a unique and much needed humanitarian support and transport network across China. This work was reflected in the 1947 Nobel Prize awarded to Friends for our then 300 years work for peace.

Following the war, Friends played an active role in the reconstruction and re-establishment of Hong Kong, often working closely with the redoubtable Anglican Bishop Hall of whom it is said "under every good thing in Hong Kong you will find Bishop Hall's name." The close connection between Friends and Anglicans - and other faiths - goes back generations. One noted Anglican Bishop of Hong Kong, Bishop Hoare, was from a Friends' family and his family reverted to Friends after his untimely drowning in a typhoon in 1903.

Starting in the late 1940s Friends founded "rooftop schools" (not always on rooftops) for children of migrants from mainland China and later also provided relief services for refugees from Vietnam. In 1979 Hong Kong Friends Meeting founded Oxfam Hong Kong to gather relief for Cambodia. Oxfam Hong Kong is now

independent of Friends and has grown into one of the biggest Oxfams in the world. Friends introduced Alternatives to Violence Programme and Peer Mediation into Hong Kong schools as a way to defuse and reduce bullying.

Our numbers have never been large but we have also rarely hid our light under a bushel.

### Peace Pilgrimage 2013

An article in *Sesame* in 2007 inspired me to join my first long-distance walk for peace. I had been on demos and protests, camped at Torness and visited Greenham Common but the idea of a 90-day walk from Dublin to London to draw attention to the link between uranium mining, nuclear power, nuclear weapons and nuclear waste was much more of a challenge. Could I walk 16 miles a day, day after day? Could I sleep on the floor of a cold hall with 20 other assorted bodies? How would I get on with a bunch of fanatics?

The walk was organised by Footprints for Peace; I joined them for 4 days and fell in love with long-distance walking. Unable to commit to longer, I caught up with the walkers in Yorkshire and we walked through rain and shine, over hills and dales, on roads and muddy tracks, by canals and across ankle-deep marshland. The walking was fine. The sleeping, on a Meeting House floor, after a hearty meal supplied by Friends was fine. The fanatics were lovely people and no more fanatical than me; possibly less so.

In the following years I have joined parts of Footprints for Peace Walks as they continued from London to Geneva in 2008 and from Geneva to Brussels in 2009. Footprints planned to walk in the USA in 2010, so a group of Scottish walkers decided to walk in solidarity, at home here in Scotland. Scotland's Peace Walk took place in August 2010. We walked the routes of the convoys which carry nuclear warheads on the public roads to and from Faslane, drawing the attention of local

people to the dangerous cargoes which are being carried near to their homes.

July 2011 found me walking in the Loire Valley with the French anti-nuclear group and 2012 was a mini peace walk, walking the St Cuthbert's Way in 3 days (with help of a bus on the final day).

I was delighted to find out about the Pilgrimage for Peace and Economic Justice planned for this summer. It is being organised by Andrew and Sarah Greaves of Hexham Quakers. The main theme of the pilgrimage is to focus public attention on the government's proposal to spend up to £100 billion renewing the Trident nuclear missile system, while continuing to slash NHS, education and social welfare budgets, including vital financial support for some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities across the UK.

The Pilgrimage starts on Iona on 19 May, makes its way through Scotland *via* Faslane, Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Borders, continuing on to Holy Island and then through England to London, arriving 19 July. Keen to become involved and join the Pilgrims for as much of the walk as possible, I offered to find accommodation in the Borders where I live and have local contacts. We have offers of church halls, Kelso Meeting House, village halls and a conference room. Hospitality has been offered too and the Pilgrims will be given an evening meal.

You can find out about the Pilgrimage on [www.justpeacepilgrimage.com](http://www.justpeacepilgrimage.com). You can become involved by joining the Pilgrimage to walk for as long as you like – a few miles, a day, a week or more. You can offer to help find accommodation for the Pilgrims or help with hospitality at the overnight resting places. You can offer support along the route by being available to pick up tired or injured walkers as they pass through your area. You can tell everyone you know about the Pilgrimage; it is open to all.

I hope to walk with you in peace.

Kath McDonald

## Sustainability in Area Meeting

In Minute 36 of Britain Yearly Meeting (30 July - 6 August 2011) our Yearly Meeting made “a strong corporate commitment to become a low-carbon, sustainable community.” What does this mean for our Area Meeting?

- At its September meeting following Yearly Meeting Gathering in 2011, AM agreed to become a subscribing member of the Living Witness Project.
- In subsequent months we held a number of meetings for learning.
- In February 2012, we used the YM carbon calculator for meeting houses (from the Sustainability Toolkit) to calculate our carbon footprint. Both Central Edinburgh and Kelso meetings completed the “Meeting Check-Up” of sustainability activities. The results were sent to QPSW.
- In March, Area Meeting agreed to set up a working group (called SSSS), to work with local meetings and discern the way forward.
- In May, the Festival Committee agreed that Venue 40 should sign-up to the Edinburgh Festivals Green Venue Initiative.

As part of this ongoing activity, a draft **Environmental Policy Statement** has been written. There are different aspects to the policy, some particularly applicable to running our Meeting Houses but also for local Meetings and individuals to benefit from.

It was discussed at Area Meeting on 24 February 2013. It was agreed to distribute the policy as widely as possible and ask for feedback. AM will next discuss it in September.

A copy of the policy is available on the Southeast Scotland page of the General Meeting for Scotland website. The link is <http://www.quakerscotland.org/ssss>

If you would prefer a paper copy, please let me know.

If you have comments, please send them, electronically if possible, to me at [djstubbings@cooptel.net](mailto:djstubbings@cooptel.net) by the end of July.

Don Stubbings

## First Learning Saturday, 16 March at Kelso Meeting House



About thirty of us from Kelso, East Lothian and Tweeddale Meetings gathered together in Kelso Meeting house on Saturday morning to be welcomed with a very acceptable cup of coffee, or tea. This warmth and thoughtful consideration continued throughout the whole day. This day was led by Doreen Dodd and Jane Pearn.

We started with a Circle of Worship, which opened up some new light for me. Beginning at the top and moving clockwise, **essentially** we must go to Worship with our “hearts and minds prepared”. This really

means we should read, pray or otherwise do some positive preparation during the preceding week. Then we cross the threshold. We were reminded that once the first person sits down the Meeting for Worship has started. Stilling our busy minds and centring down in order to be able both to give and to receive ministry - there may not be any vocal ministry and this is quite all right - then emerging and closing with the shaking of hands. After-words and notices, - or the other way round - leading into fellowship with Friends. For me, personally, 'emerging' was the important word and I would have put it earlier in the circle after 'centring'. Then followed a period of open worship, during which we each, in silence, chose a postcard picture and shared our reactions - with a partner. If we wished, we could speak briefly into the silence about why we had chosen that particular one. My postcard was a very clever photograph of a horizontal shaft of brilliant light over distant hills emerging from overnight darkness in the sky above and in the foreground. We finished the morning with a period of worship sharing.

#### What Is Ministry?

Doreen opened the afternoon by reading a selection from *Quaker Faith & Practice* \* These prompted individual offerings from several people arising from these and the morning's activities. Jane then introduced us to *The Boundaries Game*.\*\* Divided into two groups to begin with, this led to lots of laughter, friendly argument and sometimes enlightened thinking. Followed by the whole group talking together, this game was remarkably successful in making us think, rethink and relax into gathering together the threads of the whole day.

We ended our day with worship sharing. Details about how this works differ but the important thing is that anything which is shared, being it very personal or not, is never divulged to anyone outside the original group.

I found it a very special, and inspiring, day. Thank you to Jane and Doreen and all those in both Kelso and East Lothian Meetings who put in so much hard work to

make it happen.

We are looking forward to the next meeting in this series which is to be held in the Kelso meeting house on Saturday, 1 June 2013. It is entitled *Your Spiritual Gifts* and will be led by Thomas Swain of Philadelphia Meeting.

**Daphne Foster**

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\* *Quaker Faith & Practice*: 2.41; 2.01; 2.13; 2.47

\*\* *The Boundaries Game*: Quaker Life Committee on Eldership and Oversight - Quaker Books

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### Report to Area Meeting from the Trustees to the Area Meeting

This report covers the work of the Area Meeting Trustees in the period from April 2012 to January 2013.

#### Currently serving as trustees:

Martin Burnell ( <i>South Edinburgh</i> )	Brian Mayes ( <i>Central Edinburgh</i> )
Caroline Evens ( <i>Central Edinburgh, AM Treasurer</i> )	Laurie Naumann ( <i>Central Fife</i> )
Ann Forsyth ( <i>Central Edinburgh</i> )	John Phillips ( <i>Central Edinburgh, Clerk</i> )
Mark Hutcheson ( <i>Penicuik, Assistant Clerk</i> )	Rufus Reade ( <i>South Edinburgh</i> )
Ken Jobling ( <i>Central Edinburgh</i> )	Henry Thompson ( <i>Central Edinburgh, AM Assistant Treasurer</i> )
Phil Lucas ( <i>East Lothian, oversight of Kelso Mtg House</i> )	

#### Edinburgh Meeting House:

The *roof slates* on the rear of the building were causing problems during southwesterly storms; they were replaced with heavier slates during January 2013.

The refurbishment of the *toilet and washroom areas* was undertaken during June and July 2012. Rather irritatingly, the final snagging work has still not been

completed so we have yet to receive a final bill for this work.

The *replacement of the windows* in the hall and meeting room will be divided into two contracts: the work will start with those on the west face of the building, the windows most adversely affected by weather. However, we have yet to receive the final contract details. We have received a very encouraging and generous response to the appeal for special funds and we hope that this will enable us to make a start.

Trustees are considering installing *air source heat pumps* to warm and cool these two rooms in order to reduce heating costs, and to provide a better control of their internal environment.

#### **Kelso Meeting House:**

Kelso Premises Committee have been investigating alternative energy sources for the building – sadly, the roof is not suitable for installing photovoltaic panels, but they are planning to change their gas and electricity supplier. In addition to keeping the building in good repair, they have ensured that safety checks (such as checking fire precautions) are undertaken regularly.

#### **Legal compliance:**

The Trustees have kept abreast of various changes in *employment* good practice.

They have looked into the *insurance cover* provided for those who hire rooms in the meeting houses.

Revised *safeguarding procedures* for caring for children have been put in place – these are applicable to the whole Area Meeting.

Discussions with the *Environmental Health* inspector have resulted in further improvements in kitchen practice; the meeting house managers have been helping members of Central Edinburgh meeting to adopt this.

#### **Health and safety:**

Unfortunately AM Nominations Committee have been unable to bring forward the name of an individual willing to serve as AM Health and Safety adviser since

May 2012. We are fortunate that our meeting house managers have this aspect well in hand, but the trustees have been revising the AM guidance documents and they will in due course take on the task of helping other local meetings with implementation of good practice.

#### **Finance:**

The trustees are grateful to all who oversee financial matters within the Area Meeting. In particular they are grateful to those Friends who have assisted them with fundraising for the improvements to the Edinburgh meeting house. It is crucial that we should complete the current refurbishment work so that whole Area Meeting can resume a more normal financial position, including resuming its regular donations for the work undertaken by Britain Yearly Meeting.

**John Phillips**

*Clerk to the Trustees  
February 2013*

### **Meeting for Sufferings February 2013**

February's Meeting for Sufferings met at Woodbrooke over the weekend of 1-3 February. This gave us more time for consideration of the role of Sufferings and its relationship with other bodies such as BYM Trustees and Area Meetings. Sufferings has a caring role in relation to the work of BYM and also a role in considering the vision that can lead to action. In order for all the different bodies to work together and to trust in decisions made, good communication is essential.

We asked Trustees to share the detail of how decisions were reached. Area Meetings are asked to include in the minutes they send to Sufferings some description of the process that led to their concerns being sent. The new Deputy Recording Clerk is working on flow charts which will help AMs be clear about sending minutes to Sufferings and will clarify what happens when a minute is received. However there was some concern that there did not seem to be a process for keeping AMs informed about what had happened to their minute.

We considered our own ways of working and broke into small groups to consider what Sufferings needed to work effectively, what creative ideas do we have for new ways of working and what do we find difficult. Reflections from the groups were noted and will be considered by the Arrangements Group, who make up the agenda, and the Support Group.

In addition to time spent on these issues, we dealt with various items of business. We heard from the YM treasurer that the finance and property committee had spent a day considering issues around contributions and the possible reintroduction of the quota. From some research that has been done, it would appear that the level of contribution per member has gone up but there has been a decline in membership. The reintroduction of the quota would therefore not be the answer to the overall decline in contributions. It is hoped that enabling Friends to be aware of the breadth of work carried out through the Trustees annual report and more transparency in the accounts would help increase contributions.

We agreed that YM 2015 would be held from 1-4 May at Friends House and heard from the YM clerk that the theme of this year's YM would be trust- trusting in the spirit and trusting in the discernment of our own governing bodies. There are also queries about discernment to reflect on and respond to.

We considered several minutes from committees and AMs. We heard from QPSW Central Committee that our minute from AM concerning the Citizens Income had been discussed and they had proposed providing some support to Annie Miller to promote discussion of this among Friends, including a special interest group at YM. Another minute asked us to consider whether spiritual healing should be included as one of the priorities in any future version of a Framework for Action (this will be coming up at our meeting in July). A minute from South East London expressed concern about the use of drones. QPSW has been involved in this issue and Friends were encouraged to sign up to Drone Wars UK and to discuss their concerns. We also considered a minute expressing

concern about welfare reform which had also been discussed informally between sessions. We were reminded of the work that had already been done, such as the statement on equality and were encourage to speak out in whatever ways we can.

We dealt with other required business, including nominations, the procedure for appointing the YM treasurer and revisions to parts of Quaker Faith and Practice in rather a rushed session on Sunday morning.

As well as discussing communication in sessions a lot of communication went on over meals and at other breaks when we enjoyed the space offered by the new garden lounge. We had a chance to get to know each other better through shared activities in our free time and in a Quaker treasure hunt. Hopefully this will help us in working together at future meetings.

**Janet Grimwade**

## **SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING**

Minutes of Area Meeting held at The Open Door, Morningside, Edinburgh on Sunday, 24 February 2013.

### **Minute 1: Apologies**

The following Friends are prevented and send their apologies: Cathy Bell; Mark Bitel; Elisabeth Carnall; Geoffrey Carnall; Alison Chalmers; Alan Davies; Mary Jane Elton; Caroline Evens; Daphne Foster; John Foster; Marilyn Higgins; Sylvia, Massey; Bill Paxton; Sadie Paxton; Avis Swarbrick; Mary Woodward.

### **Minute 2: Signing of AM minutes of 12 January 2013:**

The minutes of 12 January 2013 have been published in *Sesame*. A copy has been signed by the clerk of that meeting, Phil Lucas, and entered in the Minute Book.

**Minute 3 :** Extract 23.32 of *Quaker Faith & Practice* was read during our opening worship. This was written by Ursula Franklin in 1979.

### **Minute 4: Matters arising**

Phil Lucas has reported briefly on the contribution a small group of AM Friends are making to the curricu-

lum of Broxburn Academy on the part Quakers played in the ending of the slave trade and on conscientious objection to war. We look forward to hearing further of this.

#### **Minute 5: Sustainability**

Don Stubbings has told us of his work on our Festival Committee and also on an umbrella group of 11 Festivals within Edinburgh which share a commitment to being environmentally friendly. We should have a policy on sustainability (arising from the 11 Festival umbrella group). Friends House does not know of any Quaker Meeting within Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) which has such a policy on sustainability.

Don and others have looked at Quaker guidelines, especially Woodbrooke's and have drafted an initial policy.

John Phillips, as Clerk of Trustees, informed us that Trustees had considered this at their last meeting. Trustees commend this draft to us. It consists of a framework, with suggestions that we may find helpful both as a community and individuals. It builds on the work arising from Minute 36 of BYM at Canterbury, 2011.

There are different aspects to the policy, some particularly applicable to running our Meeting Houses but also for local Meetings and individuals to benefit from.

A possibility may be that this is published on our General Meeting website. We agree also to distribute it widely within Area Meeting and seek feedback by the end of September 2013.

We also agree to send this to the Economic Sustainability and Peace Sub Committee of QPSW. The final policy may be of use to all of BYM, and perhaps especially in Scotland.

We ask Don Stubbings with others to write an article for *Sesame*. We thank Don and all who have contributed to this work.

#### **Minute 6: Nominations and appointments**

(i) We agree to make the following appointments, whose names have been brought to us by our Nomina-

tions Committee, all to serve to the end of March 2016 unless otherwise indicated:

**a) Elders: Anthony Buxton** (Central Edinburgh) – reappointed;

**Bill and Sadie Paxton** (job share at Polmont) – reappointed to end March 2014.

**b) Overseers: Maeve Starrs-Cunningham** (E. Lothian); **Marion Grothey** (Central Edinburgh).

**c) Trustee: Mark Hutcheson** – reappointed.

**d) AM Clerk: Phil Lucas.**

**e) Assistant Clerk: Rosie Roberts** to end March 2014.

**f) Northern Friends Peace Board: Jane Lewis** from July 2013 - end June 2016.

**g) Festival C'tee: Rachel Frith, Cathy McCurrach, Alan Sayle** – all reappointed; **Andrew Farrar** – reappointed to end Sept 2014.

**h) Prison minister: Margaret Mortimer** – reappointed.

**i) Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Mary Jane Elton** – reappointed.

**j) Quaker Life Representative Council: Jasmine Peripanayagam** and **John Fox** as our representative and deputy respectively, and both reappointed.

**k) Working Group on Economics: Roger Kelly, Annie Miller, Alan Sayle, and Duncan Wallace;** alongside **David Hume** who was appointed at the last AM. We note that there is no time span set for this group, and ask that members consider this and report back to AM.

**l) AM representative on GM Nominations Committee: Pat Lucas** until a longer-term appointment is made.

**m) Library Committee.** It was reported to Nominations Committee that only four members of this committee are currently active: **Peter Arter, Brenda McGovern, Rhoda Mackenzie, and Jim Pym.** We reappoint them, and appoint in addition **John Fox** and **Rachel Frith** to join them, all to serve for three years from April 2013.

(ii) We have been informed of the following appointments made by Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee:

a) To QPSW Central Committee: **Laurie Naumann** (re-appointment) and **Liz Law**;

b) To Crime, Community & Justice Sub Committee: **Kate Arnot**

c) To EAPPI Group: **Phil Lucas**

(iii) We thank **Marjorie Farquharson**, Clerk to Festival Committee; and **Pat Lucas, Brian Mayes & Eileen Schott**, Overseers, who have completed their service in those roles.

#### Minute 7: Tabular Statement

Janet Grimwade, deputising for Sue Sierra, has presented the Tabular Statement for 2012. We have 247 members and 351 attenders, including 95 children, a decrease of 7 members and an increase of 4 children as attenders. Below are listed the numbers for each of our Meetings.

	Members	Attenders	Children
Kelso	16	31	2
Central Fife	13	12	9
East Lothian	9	5	0
Edinburgh Central	129	128	62
Edinburgh South	51	45	17
Penicuik	10	19	1
Tweeddale	7	8	0
Polmont	12	8	4

A copy is attached to these minutes, after amendment in Section 3 Returns of Marriages to One Party a member of BYM to a non member (Female/Male). We thank Janet and Sue for their work.

#### Minute 8: Membership Matters

a) Further to minute 10 (i) (a) of 8 December 2012, we have received a certificate of acceptance of transfer of membership for **Alison and Mike Perks** from Hampshire and Islands AM.

b) We have received a certificate requesting we accept the transfer of membership for **Rachel Fitzgerald** 36 Danube Street Edinburgh EH4 1NT from North East Thames Area Quaker Meeting. We gladly do so and ask Don Stubbings to welcome her on our behalf.

c) [An application for membership was received]

d) Central Edinburgh Overseers have been investigating several members for whom we have no current contact details and are requesting that the membership of the following be terminated in terms of *Quaker Faith & Practice* 11.31a:

John Beevers; Lachmi Bennett; Iain Duthie; Jeff Hadow; Lois Martin; Simon Norris; Simon Taylor; and Robert Webb.

We agree to this proposal.

e) Overseers have also discovered that **Michael Hastie** died 4-5 years ago. We belatedly record this and that obviously his membership is terminated.

#### Minute 9: Trustees Report

John Phillips has reported on the work of Trustees over the past year. They last reported to AM in March 2012 and have met 5 times since then.

Much time is devoted to the care and repair of our Meeting Houses. Much work is required for 7 Victoria Terrace. Major pieces of work are: replacing slates on the roof; toilets and wash areas upgraded and improved; replacement of windows is planned in 2 stages, the first phase to be finished by the end of this summer. Air source heat pumps will also be considered.

Kelso Meeting House is also important, and an asset for Area Meeting. Kelso Meeting has been considering

“greening” the Meeting House. Much minor work has been carried out.

Trustees have responsibility for legal compliance in respect of *e.g.* employment, public and employers liability insurance, health & safety. Finally, but not least, Trustees have responsibility for finances, within AM, including all of our local Meetings. A huge task has been fundraising for major repairs at 7 Victoria Terrace and we thank all those involved.

It was confirmed that we pay all employees as a minimum the living wage.

We thank John and all Trustees for their work and report and ask that the report be published in *Sesame*. A copy is attached to these minutes.

#### **Minute 10: Scrap Trident**

Phil Lucas has informed us of the latest and ongoing work to prevent the Westminster Government’s proposed replacement of the Trident nuclear weapon programme, which it is estimated will cost £100 billion at a time of austerity, when spending on health, education, pensions and disability benefits is being severely challenged. We are asked to be a named organisation in the Scrap Trident campaign. We agree to this and further ask that this be notified to General Meeting and its Parliamentary Liaison Function Group. Individuals were also invited to sign the petition at [scraptrident.org](http://scraptrident.org). We encourage Friends to have a visible Quaker presence at events in April; details will appear in *Sesame*.

#### **Minute 11: General Meeting, Saturday 2 March 2013, Glasgow**

We appoint the following Friends to represent us: Margaret Anderson, Andrew Farrar, John Fox, Pat Lucas, Phil Lucas, Brian Mayes, John Phillips, Alan Sayle

#### **Minute 12: Two courses at Woodbrooke**

a) Quaker Life jointly with Woodbrooke 26 - 28 April: “Being Faithful in Present Times” (Eldership & Oversight Conference). Morag Ferguson, Overseer, and Janet

Grimwade, Elder, will attend. We ask the Treasurer to pay all necessary expenses.

b) “Creating Support for End of Life and Bereavement” 13-15 March. This Conference was drawn to our attention. Stasa Morgen-Appel can attend. We ask the Treasurer to pay all necessary expenses.

#### **Minute 13: Meeting for Sufferings**

Janet Grimwade has reported on the most recent Meeting for Sufferings, which was residential at Woodbrooke. A whole weekend gave much more time to reflect in Sufferings’ links to other parts of BYM and also on the necessity of good communication.

Friends need to know not just the decision arrived at but the process of how decisions are made. This is applicable to all constituent parts of BYM.

Much of the weekend was inward looking but also looked at financial contributions from members, which are increasing, though, as the number of members is decreasing, contributions overall have not increased.

In 2015, BYM will be held in early May.

Our Minute on Citizen’s Income was discussed and Annie Miller has been invited to bring it to the attention of Friends during Yearly Meeting this year.

We thank Janet for her report which is attached to these minutes and ask that it be published in *Sesame*.

#### **AOCB**

a) European and Middle Eastern Young Friends have requested financial support for their Spring Gathering, to be held in Yorkshire, in April 2013. This year they hope to welcome Young Friends aged 18-35 from all over Europe and beyond for a week of reflection, workshops and spiritual exploration. It is a wonderful opportunity for Young Friends to share experiences with each other and get to know one another in a supportive and friendly environment, which transcends borders. They already have applications from Georgia, Italy, Germany and France, as well as Britain. Their theme this year is “The Body Electric; Exploring Spirituality through our Creative Power.” It includes art, music and drama work-

shops and they will work in conjunction with the Leavers who are generously offering their expertise free of charge. They will also work for a day as volunteers in the local community to express how they can use their bodies for the benefit of others. In a world of ever increasing pressures on and expectations of young people, Spring Gathering offers a chance to celebrate the joy of simple living and worshipping together, bringing them closer to God. We agree to donate £200 and ask our Treasurer to do this.

b) Rhoda MacKenzie has told us the University of Edinburgh plans to restore the old meeting house on the Pleasance and the project architect wonders if the building was originally harled or left with a stone face. It was built in the 1790s when both styles were used. Anyone who knows is invited to contact Rhoda.

c) Further to Minute 10 of 20 October 2012, a Workshop on Effective Decision-making will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday 4 March 2013 at 7 Victoria Terrace. Participants will be given the opportunity to experience Quaker decision-making so we need a number of Friends to be present. We thank Avis Swarbrick and all those who have ensured this workshop has come to fruition.

d) Friends were reminded that the work of both nominations and advocacy is much easier if we share information about our own expertise, interests and skills. Both General Meeting for Scotland and Friends House are urging us to let them know of these to enable our faith in action to be taken forward with the engagement of as wide as possible a number of Friends.

**Closing minute:** 30 Friends from six local Meetings attended all or part of this Meeting for Worship for Business. Our next Area meeting will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in East Linton at 11.30.

**Kate Arnott**

Clerk, South East Scotland Area Meeting

### 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		1 0.45am
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 & Peeble Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik		11.00am
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*Children welcome, bring and share lunch.*

Portobello: Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street		
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#### First Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms		1pm- 1.30pm
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(opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: *contact*

*Sarah Martin 07818050853 or [sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk) for more details*

#### Second Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House,		
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Dukehaugh, Peebles *All welcome but please phone tconfirm.*

01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389.		10.30am
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Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy		10.30am
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(in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)

East Lothian: East Linton Community Hall		11.00am
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#### 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,		
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*Details as Second Sunday above*

Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy <i>as above</i>		10.30am
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Portobello: CHANGES Community Health Project		
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108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA		10.30am
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Barony St Meeting 33 Barony Street, Edinburgh		7.00 pm
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#### Last Sunday in the Month

East Lothian: East Linton Community Hal		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.

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