

SESAME

Number 190: October 2014

“Oh! What A Lovely War” – *a reminder* / What Vision for Area Meeting? – *an appeal* / What Future for Scotland? – *a workshop* / AM Trustees’ Report / Meeting for Sufferings / September AM Minutes



Kelso Quaker Meeting House

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 11 November, for distribution week commencing 23 November. The Editors reserve 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™ accompanied with hard copy. Email versions of Sesame are available in PDF and Word™ format. Contact the Editor

South East Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

**Saturday 25 October 2014, 11 am at Greenpark Community Centre,
Greenpark Drive, Polmont**

All Members and Attenders are invited to come to our Area business meetings. Greenpark Community Centre is an accessible venue a few minutes walk from Polmont Railway Station. From the station walk down Station Road and cross the Main Street into Airlie Drive. Greenpark Drive is first left opposite the supermarket. By car, leave the M9 at junction 4 and follow the A803 Main Street for the centre of Polmont. Look for Station Road on the left and turn right immediately afterwards then first left and the Centre is on your right with plenty of parking.

We look forward to seeing you for another full and interesting agenda, which includes Polmont Friends sharing the life of their Meeting with us and an exploration of issues concerned with death and dying.

Phil Lucas, Clerk

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Worship, introductions, minutes of our last meeting and matters arising
2. Polmont Quaker Meeting
3. Minute from South Edinburgh LM on militarisation in society
4. Minute from Portobello and Musselburgh LM on Israel/Palestine
5. Report on Junior Yearly Meeting
6. Festival Committee financial report and allocation
7. Membership matters
 - LUNCH *N. B. Please bring a packed lunch*
8. Appointments
9. The future of our Area Meeting – challenges and opportunities
10. What Happens Before the Funeral Wishes Form?
11. AOCB
12. Correspondence, notices and concluding minute.

Oh! What a Lovely War

31 October 2014 at 19.30 hrs

A reminder that as a contribution to the First World War commemorations, Tweeddale Meeting has booked the Eastgate Theatre, Peebles, for a showing of *Oh! What a Lovely War*.



Directed by Richard Attenborough in 1969, the film, like the stage musical on which it is based, summarises and comments on the events of World War I using popular songs of the time, and mixing allegory and naturalism in its narration of events. The cast includes Dirk Bogarde, John Gielgud, John Mills (*as Field Marshal Haig, above*), Kenneth More, Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Maggie Smith and Susannah York.

Tickets, £8 and £5, are obtainable from Eastgate Arts Centre 01721 725777

After the showing there will be an opportunity to discuss the film over a cup of tea or coffee. For any further details please phone **John Foster** on

01721 721050

What Vision for Area Meeting?

At Area meeting in September we heard two reports. Don Stubbings told us of the challenges facing the Nominations Committee; and John Phillips reported on behalf of Trustees about financial challenges past and future. [See p 7.]

Since 2004, 40 Friends have stopped being available for service, either through advanced age or death, or because they have moved away from the AM. They were doing 56 jobs (out of a total of 144) within AM. Since 2004, 17 Friends who are newcomers to AM have been doing 19 jobs. In theory there should still be enough Friends available. Sadly this is not the case. And Friends' reducing their amount of service is continuing.

For example, Janet Grimwade currently has three jobs: our representative on Meeting for Sufferings; convenor of the Meeting House Management Committee; and convenor of Central Edinburgh Elders. Twenty or thirty years ago, this was not unusual. Today it is the exception. Society in general has changed and the way Friends respond to requests for service has also changed. Friends who have been members of the Society for many years may have the idea that one was approached by Nominations Committee to see if one would offer to serve in some way that one had never really considered; one said Yes because Nominations Committee had discerned that the service might expand one's outlook *etc*, as well as being useful for the AM itself! Today Friends may very well decline, for a whole variety of reasons, including their existing commitment to charity and community work outwith the Society.

As an Area Meeting, we are very good at the taking on commitments to worthy causes, which is fine, particularly if there is an expanding number of Friends to do this. We are less good at prioritising what is most important and laying down things when there is a declining number of Friends able to do things.

This is not to say we don't have vibrant local meetings with new people becoming attenders. Indeed, we have recently celebrated the development of Portobello and Musselburgh meeting. And Friends are committed to keeping their local meetings running well. Not forgetting that General Meeting and BYM also regularly ask us for representatives.

John Phillips presented a picture, through a series of graphs, of our past, present and possible future financial situation. What was clear is that AM tends to run at an annual deficit of about £10-20,000, drawing on its reserves. Friends give what they can afford to support the AM, with around 150 individuals making regular donations. It is hard to predict what sort of total income this will give us each year, but many donors give more than £250, for which we are very grateful.

Over the years a few Friends have been in a position to make occasional large donations to help the AM when there has been an "exceptional" item of expen-

diture on the buildings at Victoria Terrace or Kelso. However, we should not rely on nor expect this sort of generosity in the future. We keep thinking that when we have finished paying for the last thing everything will be fine again - but of course something else always seems to crop up: currently, the need once again to repair the roof at Victoria Terrace. More importantly, we need to rebuild the AM's financial reserves. One can cope for a while, but not forever.

In 2008 Area Meeting asked a short-life working group to look at the future of Victoria Terrace and, in particular, its relationship to Central Edinburgh Meeting. They held two open meetings attended by 60 Friends, and reported back to AM in June 2009. The conclusion was that most people were positive about staying in Victoria Terrace. Minute 6 from AM on 14 November 2009 says:

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." We can of course worship without this building. But deciding to give up the premises and look for others might distract us more. The question is – is the Lord behind our building work?

Twenty years ago, we wanted to be a 'marker' for all sorts of community groups. Now, we feel the need to be a *community* that worships. This can mean giving a home to other groups who don't otherwise have room. It can also mean giving space to social enterprise. It too is part of the community. 7 Victoria Terrace serves our purpose well, but there are obvious difficulties in maintaining it. One Friend observed that it is a 'place of light' and imbued with worship.

This was probably the most significant review held by Area Meeting since the decision was taken to leave the old Stafford Street meeting house in 1987. Since 2008, we have been experiencing a recession and, as John Phillips said at AM, we now have more competition in attracting groups to use our premises, greatly reducing its occupancy and therefore the income that we derive from it.

We are not at crisis point yet. The nominations process will continue and the financial situation is intact for the moment, but we will increasingly have difficulties if we do not resolve the situations. We could deal with things piecemeal / in isolation, or we could take a more strategic approach

In this process we might want to ask several questions:

1. Do we wish to re-affirm our continued use of our two meeting houses?
2. Do we wish to continue to use the meeting house at Victoria Terrace as a Fringe Festival venue without any change to the present arrangements?
3. Can we prioritise those activities which require to be done and lay down others?

And there are examples of how things could be done differently. General Meeting for Scotland, held in Edinburgh in June this year, learnt about an experimental approach to organising Quaker business meetings. Sarah Richards from Northumbria Area Meeting shared how they have revitalized their AM Meetings. They introduced an AM working group to carry the business between AMs, they cut the number of meetings to four a year, they have a theme

and or a speaker, and AM is held for the whole of Sunday. Their main aim was to reduce time spent on business at AM so as to free up time for community building activities, and to enable people acting under concern to have space to share. In AM groups we discussed how a system similar to this might work - or not - in our own AMs.

Might we go beyond fixing a "problem", and think about new possibilities / opportunities which might lead to positive transformation?

Don Stubbings

What future for Scotland?

Towards a Quaker view of justice for people and planet

Saturday 22 November, 10.30am - 4pm
(tea and coffee provided, please bring your own lunch)
7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

Public engagement in politics is riding high in the wake of the referendum last month, and we want to be part of the conversation! The newly formed (AM-wide) **Quaker Social Responsibility and Witness (QSRW)** group believe that Quakers have something valuable and unique to say about securing a more just and sustainable future for people and planet. But we need your help. Please come along on Saturday 22 November and help us shape the Quaker contribution to the public debate about what kind of Scotland we wish to live in.

Jonathan Dale (of Central Manchester LM and QPSW's economic justice and sustainability group) will be speaking to us about what the world might look like if we all lived out our Quaker testimonies to the full. In the afternoon session, **Tim Slack**, from Liverpool LM, will facilitate our discussions using 'Appreciative Inquiry'. This facilitation process encourages people to focus on the positives aspects of a situation and the strengths of the people involved. It seeks out the best of "what is" to help ignite the collective imagination of "what might be".

The QSRW group hope that this day will be the start of a process of gathering thoughts and opinions (from both within and outwith the Quaker community) to put together into a pamphlet for publication that will offer policy makers and others an insight into the Quaker view of justice for people and planet.

For more information, please contact **Rachel Fitzgerald**

Tel: 0131 669 6166

Email: rachelfitzg@googlemail.com

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

A report from the Trustees to the Area Meeting

Edinburgh, 21st September 2014

The last formal report of the AM trustees to Area Meeting was made in February 2013. Since then, there have been two Financial Reports to AM. This report covers the work of your trustees in the period from April 2013 to July 2014.

Currently serving as trustees:

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

Edinburgh Meeting House

Planning to replace the large windows in the meeting room and hall started in 2010 when our architect sought planning permission. The work was eventually undertaken in two phases with completion in early 2014, at a total cost of over £110,000 (including all fees). Members of the AM mounted a special "Windows to the World" Appeal, which raised over £50,000 from Friends around Britain and from charitable trusts. A final grant of £30,000 from the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust enabled us to complete the project. Clearly, this work would not have been possible without the very generous support of members of the AM – including many short-term loans which meant easing of our cash situation.

In addition, the final upgrading of the kitchen area took place last winter. The new passage that connects the library to the crèche area has removed a serious hazard of small children running across the kitchen when adults are carrying laden trays and managing trolleys, as well as improving fire safety.

Kelso Meeting House

Kelso Friends have taken over responsibility for looking after the meeting house, both regular improvements and longer-term development. The Meeting has changed its energy supplier to a "greener" alternative as well as making a number of other improvements.

Meeting House staff

The AM trustees take overall responsibility for the staff we employ, though the Meeting House Management Committee (reporting to the trustees) ensures day-to-day care and support. We have recently introduced an improvement in pay rates, linking these to the Living Wage rather than to multiples of the Minimum Wage.

Nominations

Our AM Nominations Committee found it difficult to bring forward nominations for the positions of AM Health & Safety Adviser (vacant for some time) and for AM Treasurer (vacant when Caroline Evens stood down after serving for three years, in March 2013).

The Health & Safety advisor ensures that each of our meetings is conducted safely. In the absence of an appointee, the trustees have revised the AM manual and the instructions that are provided in our meeting houses. The post has now been filled by Andrew Hajducki (Central Edinburgh).

Since April 2013 the day-to-day work of the AM Treasurer has been shared among a team of helpers, including a professional charity accountant whom we have employed to help us with book-keeping and with drawing up the annual accounts. The position of Treasurer was taken up by Mark Hutcheson in July 2013 and the trustees are very grateful to him for taking on this work.

Annual Report & Accounts for 2013

The trustees are responsible for drawing up an annual report and a set of accounts. These were accepted by AM on 21 September and Friends authorised the clerk to sign them before submission to OSCR, the Scottish charities regulator. Copies of these are available from Mark Hutcheson for those who would like to receive them.

Future prospects

Further buildings developments

The trustees are taking advice from our architect concerning two matters at Victoria Terrace: first, reducing our dependence on electricity for heating the building and, at the same time, improving ventilation in the hall and the meeting room; and second, replacing the present galvanised roof

covering at the top of the building (involving scaffolding the building once again).

In Kelso there is a need to consider windows renovation and further pointing work as part of the general upkeep of the building.

An increase in general running costs

The trustees wish to draw Friends' attention to the steady increase in running costs of the AM – these will be particularly pronounced from 2014 as they need to budget for the following:

- Introducing annual payments of about £5-6,000 to our accountant;
- Increasing salaries payments for our meeting house staff (costing about £3,000);
- Payment to General Meeting for the employment of a Parliamentary Engagement Officer (about £2,000);
- A strong desire to increase our contributions to BYM and other regular recipients of grants such as Northern Friends Peace Board and the Northern Friends Youth Events Trust (summer shindig).

John Phillips

Meeting for Sufferings, 6 September 2014

After the initial period of worship, when 23.04 of *Quaker Faith & Practice* was read and we remembered former members of Meeting for Sufferings who had died, we considered two minutes received from Area Meetings. These both concerned government cuts and economic inequality. Central England AM is taking this forward by arranging a day conference "Food-banks are not enough" to be held on 29 November in Birmingham. We also had a minute from the Long-term Framework Working Group advising us that their final consultation letter is now available and asking that Meeting for Sufferings representatives help facilitate consultation and discernment in their meetings.

We heard from Tony Stoller, who is chair of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust which share trustees. Their work is very much seen as Quaker work. Although it is not a requirement of the Trust Deed, they have had a close relationship with BYM, with a joint Search Group which makes recommendations for new trustees. We agreed that this relationship was cumbersome and should be laid down, but more discussion was needed to look at what might replace it. The

Trust is keen to report regularly to Sufferings and open up to Quakers more generally and to work with Friends House staff on common issues.

We then noted the minutes of BYM, particularly those that Sufferings may need to work on, such as membership, a possible revision of the Book of Discipline and sustainability issues. We shared reflections of YMG and there was particular appreciation for how well the event was organised and the involvement of children and young people.

After lunch (which was served in the courtyard as the restaurant was closed due to building works), and agreeing various appointments, we heard a report from QPSW Central Committee. We were reminded that they act with and on behalf of Friends in work that strives to express Quaker testimonies, and they have a variety of specific programmes dealing with peace and justice issues both here and overseas. Sub-committees of Friends are appointed to oversee specific programmes, covering a wide range, some of which are well known, such as the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, but others, such as the Naga Conciliation, are not. A lot of the work is long-term and does not have immediate results. We discussed how best to communicate with Friends about this work and promote enthusiasm.

Finally we considered possible terms of reference for four different groups that Sufferings is setting up. Although all the groups are considering different issues, the way their work is conducted is the same: in faithful waiting on the Spirit in the expectation of being guided forward. We cannot constrain the Spirit. We approved the terms of reference for the Review Group of the Terms of Reference of Central Nominations Committee and for the Review Group on the relationship with Listed Informal Groups. After some amendments to make clear that we were talking about a possible revision, we approved those for the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group. However we were not clear on the terms of reference for the Sustainability Group, and asked for a briefing paper to be prepared for our next meeting.

At our next meeting in October we hope to take time for worship and reflection, including consideration of Sufferings as a worshipping community. As usual the papers and minutes are available on the website and there are reports in *The Friend* of 12 September. Please contact me if there are issues you would like to discuss or want more information.

Janet Grimwade

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

**Minutes of Area Meeting held on Sunday 21 September 2014
at The Open Door, South Edinburgh**

2014/09/01 Worship

During opening worship, a poem, *The Morning After – Scotland, 19th September 2014* by Edinburgh Makar, Christine de Luca, was read to us. Just three days after Scotland's referendum decision, we have been reminded that, in working for the future of our nation, the cracks must not be papered over. As Abraham Lincoln reminded us in one of his last great speeches, we must work always for reconciliation, with malice to none; the need will always be there.

2014/09/02 Introductions

We have ensured those present know each other's name and meetings. The attendance will be recorded in the concluding minute.

2014/09/03 The minutes of our last meeting, held on 5 July 2014 in Kelso, have been signed and entered in the minute book.

2014/09/04 Matters arising

- a) **Proposed Susan Stein performance about Ety Hillesum** (Minutes 2014/05/11a and 2014/07/05c refer)

The group appointed to organise this event has reported, with disappointment, that it has been cancelled by Susan Stein as there was insufficient support in the UK to make her tour viable. Unfortunately the group had spent some £70 on publicity and does not feel we should go ahead with an alternative January date offered. We thank the group for their work, will ask Susan Stein if she is willing to meet our needless expenditure and ask our treasurer to cover this if she declines to do so.

- b) **Workshop on 'Or whatever you call it' led by Rhiannon Grant** (Minutes 2014/02/14d and 2014/04/04 refer)

This workshop, to be held at Edinburgh Meeting House on Saturday 18 October 2014, has been advertised throughout the Area Meeting. There are twenty places with just two remaining to be filled.

- c) **Funding of Ramallah students at Summer Shindig** (Minute 2014/01/09 refers)

The Hexham based group which appealed for funding and was offered our donation has reported that, very disappointingly, only one student from Ramallah was able to attend. The female student was granted a visa by the UK immigration authorities but the male was refused, despite every effort being made to support the application.

We ask our clerk to explore with the Hexham group if there is anything further we can do to support them in their appeal to the Home Office to prevent this happening again. We will also explore whether the money we offered is needed this year and whether Summer Shindiggers themselves have protested to the Home Office.

- d) **Article on the Scottish Independence Referendum** (Minute 2014/07/14(1) refers)

After consultation with the editor of *The Friend*, two articles were commissioned and written by our clerks. They were published on September 5 and 12.

2014/09/05 South Edinburgh Local Meeting

South Edinburgh Meeting started as a splinter group from Stafford Street Meeting, a group seeking a quieter space. The Meeting still provides that, although for a period the involvement of several young families meant it was less quiet! It is lovely that many of these young people, now adults, still keep in touch. The setting up of Portobello & Musselburgh Meeting has left South Edinburgh smaller and quieter again, with only two little children, though more children would always be welcomed. The gain from this is depth of quiet spirituality and the fact that everyone is well kempt to everyone else. The Meeting has a strong family, caring aspect, which is much valued.

Short meetings for learning after Sunday meetings and occasional quiet days are much valued. The Meeting honours our testimony to equality and is very inclusive. It is a trustworthy Meeting in which members feel very supported. It has active engagement with local MPs and the Meeting's workload is well shared by those who attend. The annual Wiston Lodge weekend, open to those from other Meetings, continues to provide most valuable sharing.

The Meeting is not perfect, could perhaps engage more with the local community where it meets, but it is clear to us how strong in the Spirit the Meeting is and how much it is valued by its members. We thank them for sharing the life of their Meeting with us.

2014/09/06 Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts

a) John Phillips, clerk to our trustees, has reported to us on trustees' work. Maintenance and improvement of the Edinburgh Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace (7VT) is inevitably a major focus. The cost of replacing the windows totalled over £110,000, with help towards this received from the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and generous interest-free loans from Friends, some of which have been converted into donations. The kitchen has been updated and it is no longer necessary for children to access the crèche area via the kitchen.

Kelso Friends have now taken responsibility for the day to day care of the Kelso Meeting House and have moved gas and electricity supplies to a green provider.

Pay rates for staff at 7VT are now linked to the living wage rather than the national minimum wage. The Area Meeting health & safety adviser post has been filled, and the AM treasurer shares his work with a team of helpers, which includes a paid professional charity accountant.

b) Mark Hutcheson, our treasurer, has presented our accounts for 2013. Our reserves have fallen to an unhealthy low level, due mainly to the money spent on 7VT. We record our thanks for two generous legacies received from the estates of Avis Swarbrick and Brennan Sloane, which have been particularly welcome at this time.

We thank all those involved in the work done in running our meeting houses and especially to 7VT staff and those who contribute to raising income from our annual Festival Fringe activities.

A financial summary is attached to these minutes. We agree to accept the annual accounts so that they can be submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

c) John Phillips has shared with us charts depicting financial trends during the past seven years. Expenditure on the 7VT windows has left total assets (money in the bank) much diminished, and urgent work is now needed on the flat roof there, so the Area Meeting's financial situation remains challenging. Our contribution to General Meeting for Scotland's employment of a part time Parliamentary Engagement Officer and our desire to put our annual contribution to our Yearly Meeting back in place will make further demands.

We note that it may be time, following good practice, to change the auditors of our accounts and we ask our trustees to take this forward as they see fit.

We thank our trustees and our treasury team for all their diligent work on our behalf.

2014/09/07 Membership matters

a) Application for membership

Justin Kenrick, who has a long association with Friends, has written requesting membership. Kim Smith and Mary Woodward have met with Justin in support of his application, in which they say they 'are clear that Justin's Membership exists as a spiritual fact and simply needs formal recognition by South East Scotland Area Meeting.'

We accept Justin into membership and ask Chris Booth to welcome him.

b) Transfers out

South Wales Area Meeting has accepted the transfer of **Eileen Schott**.

Jean Bryden has written requesting that her membership be transferred to West Wiltshire & East Somerset Area Meeting; and **Rosie Roberts** has written requesting that her membership be transferred to Sheffield & Balby Area Meeting. We ask Sue Sierra to send transfer certificates for both.

c) Transfer in

We have received a certificate of transfer from West Scotland Area Meeting for **Elizabeth Allen**, who has moved to North Berwick and is worshipping with East Lothian Local Meeting. We accept Elizabeth into membership of South East Scotland Area Meeting and ask Pat Lucas to welcome her.

2014/09/08 Reports on Yearly Meeting Gathering

Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering was held on the campus of the University of Bath in early August. David Somervell reported on the sense of swimming in a deep flowing river and found it a rich and rewarding experience. Alison Burnley, who tries always to attend Yearly Meeting, also clearly enjoyed being part of this unusually large gathering of some 2000. She thought the themes were helpful. Chris Booth was attending his first Yearly Meeting. He found the experience of being among so many challenging and found the theme ('What does it mean to be a Quaker today') rather inward looking, but it was, nevertheless, a fascinating experience. Highlights for him were swimming in the River Avon and singing with Friends. David Somervell was deeply impressed by what he heard of the work of Quaker Peace & Social Witness staff - our money is being very well spent - and by the huge variety of concerns shared and opportunities available.

Those who took advantage of Area Meeting bursary help are very grateful and David urges others to attend in the future.

2014/09/09 Appointments and Nominations Committee report

a) Appointments

Our Nominations Committee has brought the following names to us:

to serve from October 2014 to the end of September 2017,

as Trustee – **Pauline Browell-Hook** (Central Edinburgh LM)

as Elder – **Jane Pearn** (Kelso LM);

and to serve from January 2015 to the end of December 2017,

as Elder – **Nicola Read** (South Edinburgh LM)

We appoint these Friends accordingly.

b) Release from service

The following Friends have asked to be released from service :

as Elder - **Anthony Buxton** (Central Edinburgh LM)

as our representative on Quaker Life Representative Council -
Jasmine Perinpanayagam (Central Edinburgh LM)

We release them accordingly and thank them for their service.

c) Termination of term of service

Ken Jobling has completed his service as a Trustee and we thank him for his service.

d) Nominations Committee report

Don Stubbings (convener) has shared with us some of the challenges facing our Nominations Committee. In particular Friends are being sought for the following appointments:

- 1) Four Elders who attend Central Edinburgh;
- 2) Three Overseers, also from Central Edinburgh;
- 3) An editor for *Sesame*;
- 4) A Line Manager for the Meeting House Managers;
- 5) For the Festival Committee:
 - a Treasurer,
 - a Box Office Co-ordinator, and
 - a Website Editor.

We ask Don to write a piece for the next issue of *Sesame* so that these challenges are more widely shared. [See p. 4.] We will return to a consideration of them at our next meeting.

e) Further names sought

We have been asked by other organisations to provide (a) a Quaker to serve on the Edinburgh Peace Initiative committee and (b) another (or the same?) to serve on a committee set up by the Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre and the Fellowship of Reconciliation to erect a Conscientious Objectors memorial in Edinburgh to mark the centenary of the Military Service Act, 1916 [which introduced conscription].

Friends or Attenders who are interested in serving in either or both of these roles are invited to contact our clerk.

2014/09/10 Report on Meeting for Sufferings

Janet Grimwade has reported to us on the Meeting for Sufferings held on 8 September, 2014 and will put her written report in the next issue of *Sesame*.

Minutes from two Area Meetings concerned government cuts and economic inequality. Central England are organising a day conference on this in Birmingham on 29 November.

The Long-term Framework Working Group has started a consultation process on the next phase of the Framework, to which Area Meetings are asked to contribute (and which we shall consider at our November meeting). The relationship between Britain Yearly Meeting and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Housing Trust is being explored, with the hope of closer interaction.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee reported on the impressively wide range of QPSW work, much of it long term and not bearing immediate results. It is not easy to communicate effectively with Friends about some aspects of this work and ways of addressing this were discussed.

We are reminded that papers and minutes of Meeting for Sufferings are posted on the Yearly Meeting website.

We thank Janet for her report.

2014/09/11 Report on QUNO Summer School

Ruth Cape, whom we appointed and supported to attend the 2014 QUNO Summer School, is unable to report in person, but her inspired and inspiring written report has appeared in *Sesame* and we were urged to read it.

We thank Ruth for representing us and for her report.

2014/09/12 Correspondence and notices

- a) A discussion group at Polmont Meeting on responses to the Referendum result: Sunday 5 October from 1 pm.

- b) Scottish Churches China Group meeting at Augustine United on 'Chinese Christians': Tuesday 23 September at 2 pm.
- c) Evening of reflection led by Charles Eisenstein at St John's Church, Princes Street: 5 October at 7.30 pm
- d) A petition calling for a citizen-led UK wide constitutional convention on www.electoral-reform.org.uk
- e) *Oh! What a Lovely War* – film put on by Tweeddale Meeting at the Eastgate Theatre, Peebles on 31 October at 19.30. Tickets from Eastgate Arts Centre 01721 725777, £8 and £5
- f) Woodbrooke courses for Elders and Overseers – see Woodbrooke website

2014/09/13 Concluding minute

35 members and one attender from seven Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 14	Central Fife -	East Lothian 2	Kelso 2	Penicuik 1
Polmont 2	Portobello & Musselburgh 2	South Edinburgh 12 + 1A	Tweeddale	

We next meet at Polmont, on Saturday, 25 October 2014 at 11 am.

(Signed)
Phil Lucas, Clerk

Tweeddale Meeting – a reminder

Until at least the end of the year, our Meetings for Worship will continue to be held at 10.30 am on the second and fourth Sunday in the month, at

Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles, EH45 9BU

Unfortunately there is no bus service to Cavalry Park from the centre of Peebles on Sunday, and it is quite a long walk! If you need a lift, please phone **01721 721050** or **01721 722329** before 10.00 am.

Looking forward to seeing you.

John and Daphne Foster, Co-Clerks

'Politics'

cannot be relegated to some outer

place, but must be recognized as one side of life, which is as much the concern of religious people and of a religious body as any other part of life. Nay, more than this, the ordering of the life of man in a community, so that he may have the chance of a full development, is and always has been one of the main concerns of Quakerism.

Lucy F. Morland, 1919

Quaker Faith & Practice, 23.06

We reprint Rhoda's poem, the layout of which was inadvertently altered in our last issue (Eds.)

One Quaker

Sometimes it's hard to be one among none.
 I say I'm a Quaker;
 they think I'm confessing to an anxiety disorder.
 I say I go to Meeting on Sundays;
 they wonder what committee I'm on now.
 I say I've been to Sufferings;
 they believe the problem of suffering is eternal.
 I say I'm an Overseer;
 they think I work in construction.
 I admit to having been an Elder;
 they are politely surprised I am old enough.
 I suggest silence can be more than golden;
 they drift away, chatting. I join them, later.

Rhoda MacKenzie

PEBLIS TO THE PLAY.

I.
 AT Beltane, quhen ilk bodie bownis
 To Peblis to the Play,
 To heir the singin and the soundis;
 The solace, suth to say,
 Be firth and forrest furth they found;
 Thay graythit tbam full gay;
 God wait that waid they do that stound,
 For it was thair feist day,
 Thay said, or
 Peblis to the Play
 (attributed to King James 1 of Scotland: see page 3)

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

First Sunday in the Month
 Penicuik & Peebles Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik 11.00am
Children welcome, bring and share lunch.
 Portobello & Musselburgh: 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: contact
 Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for more details

Second Sunday in the Month
 Portobello & Musselburgh CHANGES Community Health Project
 108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA 10.30am
 Tweeddale Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles
 All welcome but please phone to confirm.
 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389. 10.30am
 Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy 10.30am
 (in Kirk Wynd opposite the Old Kirk)
 East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar 11.00am

Third Tuesday in the Month
 Edinburgh Uni Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms 1.00- 1.30pm

Fourth Sunday in the Month
 Portobello & Musselburgh CHANGES Community Health Project
 108 Market St, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 6QA 10.30am
 Tweeddale: Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles
Details as Second Sunday above 10.30am
 Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above 10.30am
 Barony St Meeting, Broughton St Mary's Church Edinburgh 7.00 pm

Last Sunday in the Month .
 East Lothian: St Andrew's Centre, Dunbar 11.00am

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, Mark Hutcheson. An email version of *Sesame* is more ecological and is free! 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. SC019165