

SESAME

Number 187: May 2014

Tweeddale AM/ Visits to Meetings/ Crossing the World / Meeting for Sufferings/ April AM Minutes / Mental Health / YM Gathering/



Friends Ambulance Unit ambulance and driver, 1945
(Conscientious Objectors of WW1 and WW2
were commemorated last week)

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Area Meeting: Saturday 24 May at 2 pm, in Peebles

Tweeddale Meeting will be hosting Area Meeting on 24 May, which will be held in the Andrew Leckie Church Hall in Eastgate, Peebles at 2 pm. There is a bus stop close by. If you are driving, park in the large car park on the left as you approach Peebles from Edinburgh and walk through to Eastgate (see the map which follows). We shall be receiving a number of interesting reports and considering further whether attenders should be excluded from the meeting when we discuss membership matters. Tweeddale meeting is going through an awkward period as it is having to find a new home, so your support for them will be particularly welcome at this time. Please come if you are able.

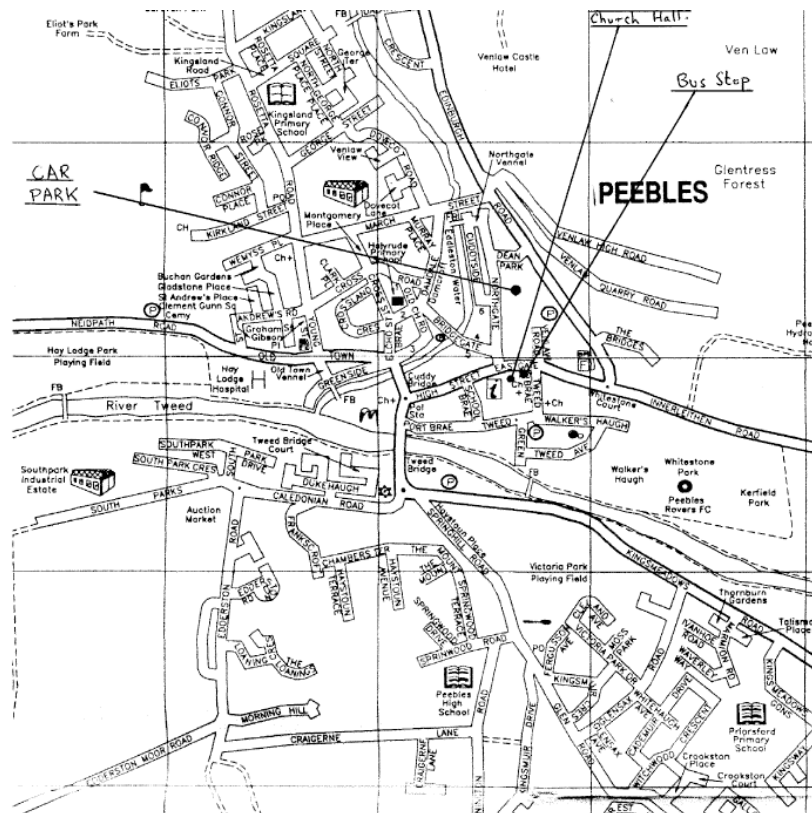
Phil Lucas (Clerk)

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

AGENDA

1. Worship
2. Introductions
3. Minutes of last meeting, held 12 April 2014 in Central Edinburgh Meeting House
4. Matters arising from previous meetings.
 - a) Jane Pearn's application for a QPSW relief grant (2013/12/08 and 2014/04/05)
 - b) The formation of an Area Meeting Social Responsibility Group (2014/04/07)
 - c) Supporting each other in the Area Meeting (2014/04/12)
5. Membership matters
 - a) Kelso LM minute recording the death of Bill Forbes
 - b) Request from East Sussex AM for the transfer of membership of Bob Harwood
 - c) Membership application
 - d) Presence of attenders during membership discussions
6. Report on our work with children and young people – Mary Jane Elton
7. Report on the work of our Prison Minister – Margaret Mortimer

8. Report on the work of our Archives Group – Pat Lucas
9. Report from our representative on Quaker Life Representative Council – John Fox
10. Appointments
11. AOCB
12. Correspondence
13. Concluding minute



Visiting Other Local Meetings within our Area Meeting

IMPORTANT: Please could everyone note that the visit to Tweeddale Meeting in Peebles scheduled for 8 June has unfortunately been cancelled due to changes in Meeting venue. We hope to reschedule this visit in the future when more permanent premises are found.

We are all encouraged, from time to time, to visit other Local Meetings within our Area Meeting, to help build a shared sense of community. As a nudge in this direction, during 2014, we are suggesting particular Sundays when Friends might like to visit each other. The list below details these plans. Even if you cannot go to the Meetings listed, please hold them in the Light and give them your prayerful support.

Local Meeting	Date	Time	Place
Kelso	18 May	10:30	Abbey Row, Kelso
Barony Street	22 June	7 pm	33 Barony Street, Edinburgh
Portobello/Musselburgh	13 July	10:30	CHANGES, 108 Market Street, Musselburgh
Polmont	31 August	10:45	Greenpark Community Centre
Central Fife	28 September	10:30	Hunter Halls, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy (opposite old Kirk)
Penicuik	5 October	11:00	Valleyfield House, 17 High Street (bring & share lunch)

All are warmly welcome!

Marilyn Higgins
Clerk of Area Meeting Elders

TOWARDS A QUAKER VIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH

I attended the conference *TOWARDS A QUAKER VIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH* at Friends House on the 15 March. Over 100 Friends attended, with a wide range of backgrounds brought together by an interest in mental health. The day was split in two: the morning session given over to a series of talks, and the afternoon to workshops.

Jane Muers, Director of the Retreat, opened the morning by giving the day's task – to consider the question: What would characterize a distinctly Quaker understanding of mental health? It was also a hope to build The Retreat's links with Friends, sharing experiences and informing practice. The steps leading to the conference were several; concerns raised by young Friends who chose mental health charities

for their appeal but hoped to raise the profile of mental health issues amongst Friends, had led to the formation of a mental health cluster on the Quaker Life Network. The core group are working at present on the stories project hearing from Friends and Meetings aiming for publication at the end of the year, and the Retreat and active Quaker witness which was behind the day. There are now also annual courses at Woodbrooke designed for Elders and Overseers, Mental Health in our Meetings, hoping to focus on how Meetings can support people with mental health issues and manage the difficulties that arise.

William Tuke, a Yorkshire Quaker, founded the Retreat in 1796, having been appalled by the squalid and inhumane conditions in which patients with mental illness were treated. He came up with the idea of a purpose-built retreat in its own grounds for Quakers with mental illness run by Quakers. It is based on Quaker principles with the belief that there is that of God in every person irrespective of mental state. The philosophy remains one of kindness, what they call mild treatments which are evidence based and early intervention.

Paul Farmer, the Chief Executive of Mind, then spoke about the external environment and the situation mental health services are in. There has been a disproportionate cut in the budget for mental health. Changes to welfare provision have also had a significant impact on those with mental health problems.

He stressed the challenges in particular of finding services for young people with emerging psychosis, and the issues for those without capacity. He said there was a need to address mental health in the workplace as it was the biggest cause of sickness and not adequately dealt with.

We then heard from a user of services, a carer and a Quaker working in Mental Health, all with a Quaker perspective on their own experiences. These were all enlightening and moving accounts of people struggling and coming to terms with mental health problems.

After lunch we were split into small working groups to look at a series of questions including: what would characterize a distinctively Quaker understanding of Mental Health? what we can learn from Friends' experience of mental health issues, their own and others and within our meetings? in what way can we ground our witness? and might a network of Quakers in Mental Health be valuable?

This was a large task and the discussions were preliminary and not concluded. Some spoke of wishing for more guidance in dealing with issues within meeting and the lack of guidance in faith and practice.

A common thread was that the Quaker approach to mental health is firmly rooted in Quaker testimonies, especially the testimonies to equality and truth. Another distinctive Quaker response is respect for that of god in everyone leading to a perspective on mental illness with a concern for the whole person and the whole of society. Kindness, mild treatment and walking alongside are key characteristics. But so is respect for others, with firm boundaries.

There was recognition that examples of all kinds of mental illness can be found amongst our members and attenders and can impact on our meetings in unexpected ways, sometimes in ways Friends find distressing. There is a great deal of fear and prejudice towards mental illness in our society and Quakers are not immune to it. Making space for sharing and talking about our own encounters with mental illness and those who are mentally ill can be a way of dealing with our fears and exposing our prejudices.

With regards to grounding our witness, it was clear we need both a spiritual grounding and the means for practical action. As a faith community, a big priority is to nurture and support those who suffer mental distress and also those who have to live alongside it or have a role in alleviating that suffering. The meeting for worship and how we apply our testimonies are the cornerstones. It is not realistic or fair to expect Elders and Overseers to do all the work in providing support and assistance and as a meeting we all must share the responsibility. It was suggested that we might adapt the concept of circles of support, or foster a pattern of supportive Friends or even arrange a local meeting "for sufferings".

Regarding a network of Quakers in mental health, Friends shared a number of ideas but there was uncertainty here, and as many questions as answers. This one-day event was successful and further collaboration between the Retreat, General Meeting and the Quaker Life Network cluster on mental health was thought a good idea; for example, in planning events at Yearly Meeting Gathering. The Quaker Life focus on helping meetings that are encountering mental health issues is very valuable. It was wondered whether this could be the vehicle to develop some kind of framework for spiritual accompaniment and circles of support for Friends. Or would this replicate self help groups out there already? A partnership with campaigning organizations such as MIND, Rethink Mental Health, and the Mental Health Foundation is one possibility.

Meg Davies

Crossing the World

Death, then, being the way and condition of life, we cannot love to live, if we cannot bear to die.

William Penn, 1693

Last month I took delivery of my coffin. When I tell people this, the usual reaction is embarrassment or nervous laughter. Are they anxious that preparing for death is inviting it closer? I can't see it like that.

The decision to give the coffin a place in my home arose almost by accident. To spare my family worry and expense, I'd made a funeral plan. I wanted a plain wooden box from sustainable sources and I'd found someone who could make it. But it's a small-scale business and they couldn't store it for me. Once I'd seen their photos I thought it was a shame to waste the craftsmanship, only for it to be buried or burnt. And I had just the place for it.

Made from Scottish larch with dovetail and 'dowel-and-biscuit' joints, it has hemp handles - no metal or plastic fixings. Rectangular rather than the traditional shape, the only hint of its ultimate purpose is the lid - slightly rounded at the head end, a little tapered at the foot. It sits now in my bedroom, draped with a beautiful piece of silk. It's practical too, holding several spare blankets. I will have a lifetime's use of my simple, unremarkable box. And when the time comes it will travel with me.

Macabre? I don't think so. I will die: so will we all. That much is certain. What could be more natural, or more necessary? The world is already too crowded with humans. As I moved the furniture to make room for my coffin I had a sense of peace and quiet pleasure. Some mental and emotional blocks seemed to shift too. I have made space for my death, neither dwelling on it nor averting my eyes from it, and in doing so it feels as though I've made more space for living.

I've been asked how I feel about waking up every morning to this *memento mori*. Quite comfortable, actually. Seeing it makes me smile and encourages me to make the most and the best of the day ahead. 'Live each day as if it was your last': it's good counsel, if not to be taken literally. Not abandoning the chores and the difficult phone call, but valuing every moment and each person I encounter. Not deferring being a better, more faithful Quaker until tomorrow, next week, next year. Because each today is all I have. It's advice that's no easier to follow than it was before - but at least I have an inescapable daily prompt.

Jane Pearn

Yearly Meeting Gathering – Bath 2014

The bookings are in, the draft timetable is in place, and almost two thousand of us will be descending on the University of Bath in early August. Is that all we need to do now - sit back and think about what to pack? Of course not, because we shall all be part of that gathering, whether we have been involved in planning, asked to speak, presenting a report, taking part in the groups fair, or equally importantly, a Friend on the bench. And those who can't join us have just as much part to play as we consider the wonderful act of 'Spiritual preparation'. This document, headed 'What it means to be a Quaker today' is already in our meetings, and the time is right to gather together in our local communities and do the real business of preparing our hearts and minds.

For two Yearly Meetings we have dwelt upon our spiritual journeys, and now we come to the final chapter - how does membership affect your journey? Quakers believe in sharing our deepest beliefs and promptings, since this is the way to true discernment. Membership may be one of the manifestations of our commitment, and it may involve deeper attachment or possibly a personal transformation. How does being a member enhance our spiritual journeys? The more we share our thoughts and reflections, the better we shall be prepared for Bath. It can be in whatever community you feel you belong, or online at our forum www.quaker.org.uk/ymforum. The important thing is to do it.

Bath will also provide the opportunity to look forward, at how we live out our faith in the world. What can you bring and share? What is happening in your life and the life of your community to witness to our testimonies? We may not always realise how much our lives do show our beliefs, and it often takes an open discussion with another to appreciate just how our faith shines through. And, if your witness is for peace, what can we learn from the experience of 1914?

The planning committee have been quite clear in discerning that YMG will have time for you as well as for corporate activity, and the programme has many slots when you will need to choose what to do. Not just the Wednesday getaway day, but also the Journeys sessions for which you may need to book a place, the Options that help build our joyous community, and much time to engage with the arts in a variety of forms. Do start thinking about your choices.

And finally, remember the governance of our Yearly Meeting. As usual, our governing bodies will be presenting their reports, with

preparation sessions in advance. These documents will be in your meetings in June, and essential reading for all of us, to know what is being done in our name. Read in advance, and come prepared!

Colin Billett – Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

Cancellation of Tweeddale's invitation for Friends to Visit

Unfortunately, we can't have the use of Tweedbridge Court any more after the end of May. They are going to pull it down, and then rebuild!

This means that we cannot welcome Friends from other Meetings to visit us on 8 June. We will be able to continue to meet, using a small room in the offices of The Bridge in Peebles. However, this room is only just big enough to take us, and possibly a couple of visitors, but no more.

We are busy searching for something more suitable in size.

Daphne Foster

Meeting for Sufferings

Our April meeting covered a variety of different topics, starting with consideration of some revisions to Chapter 8 of *Quaker Faith & Practice* dealing with Quaker Life Representative Council and Friends Trusts which will go to YM for approval.

Following the decision to recommend to YM that the process of revision of the Book of Discipline should begin, it was agreed that there was a need to set up a group to oversee and coordinate a period of preparation to ensure good communication with Friends and Meetings and possibly arrange conferences, courses *etc.* The Recording Clerk was asked to bring terms of reference for this group to our next meeting, and Nominations Committee was asked to bring forward names. Trustees have been asked to make provision for this work.

We agreed updated terms of reference for Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group, and then adopted a statement on economic inequality which had been drafted by QPSW. We felt the statement was a useful starting point and could be used as a basis for action and speaking out.

Members of the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations shared news of their activities over the past year. There have been some difficulties with other groups due to our position on same-sex marriage, and the committee has prepared a document on Frequently Asked Questions to try and help with this. Our decision to

boycott goods from the Palestinian settlements has caused tension with some Jewish groups. There can often be difficulties with language but other churches value Quaker involvement as we often "ask the difficult questions".

After lunch we considered the interim report from the Minute 36 Group, which was established by Meeting for Sufferings to support and monitor the progress towards fulfilling our commitment to become a low carbon sustainable community. The group is to report to YMG this year when there will be discussions about how this work is to be continued. The report covered some of the work that had been done so far and outlined some of what still needs to be done. We were happy with the report and also pleased to hear the Trustees had been looking at how this work can be supported financially as until now there has been no separate budget for it.

We had several minutes from AMs. We were pleased to hear that North & West Cumbria have agreed to form a single AM to be known as Cumberland AM. Southern Marches AM are looking at the possibility of creating a memorial to the innocent victims of wars at the National Memorial Arboretum, and AMs were asked to contact them if wishing to support this. We had two further minutes expressing concern about the alternative name of "the Light" for the Large Meeting House when letting it to outside groups. Many felt it was not really appropriate to discuss this again as we had dealt with the issue at our meeting in February and we agreed that we were happy with the minute produced then.

Finally we heard from Trustees and the YM Treasurer. There is a surplus of £2 million for 2013, mainly due to legacies, and it has been agreed to use legacies for particular projects. Some concern was expressed about the use of the Co-op Bank. There is an on-going review of banking procedures and QPSW is preparing a note of advice concerning the Co-op Bank which will be sent to AMs.

As usual all the papers for the meeting and the minutes can be accessed on the Quaker website, and there are reports of the meeting in *The Friend* of 11 April.

Janet Grimwade

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

**Minutes of Area Meeting held on Saturday 12 April 2014
in Edinburgh Meeting House**

2014/04/01 Worship

During opening worship, *Quaker Faith & Practice* extract 25.02 was read to us. Written in 1988, this reminds us of the environmental crisis facing the world, that it is the poor who will suffer first and that we have responsibility to take positive action to address the crisis.

2014/04/02 Introductions

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

2014/04/03 Minutes of our last meeting,

held 23 February 2014 at the Open Door, South Edinburgh, have been signed and entered in the minute book.

2014/04/04 Matters arising

Further to minute 2014/02/14d, our clerk has arranged for Rhiannon Grant to lead a day workshop at Edinburgh Meeting House on Saturday 18 October 2014 (10 am to 4 pm). The title is '*Or Whatever You Call It – Quakers Naming the Mystery*'. Rhiannon has been doing research at the University of Leeds into British Quakers' use of language.

2014/04/05 The Ground Beneath Our Feet

Further to our decision minuted in 2013/12/08 to support Jane Pearn's application for a QPSW relief grant to support the work of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Sri Lanka, Jane has given us a presentation on that work.

Jane has been involved with the work of MAG, mainly in Cambodia, for the past fifteen years. MAG was founded 25 years ago and is now based in Manchester. Jane sees its work being often for the forgotten people of forgotten wars. Many states and people are affected, with more than 3,600 killed or maimed by mines each year.

Jane vividly illustrated her talk with photographs, statistics and samples of actual mines. MAG has 2,500 staff worldwide, mostly local people, with a small team of international staff,

and has worked in forty countries, clearing huge areas of land in these countries. It also works to take light arms out of use. Jane has shared with us more detail of what has happened since in Cambodia, the country where MAG works which she knows best. The United States started a secret bombing campaign there in 1968, which was followed by the Khmer Rouge period (1975-1998). Jane graphically illustrated the difference which MAG's work is able to make to family and village life there. MAG has a flexible approach, adopting new technology as it is developed and using techniques appropriate to each task.

We are very grateful to Jane for sharing with us so powerfully the work of MAG and her own dedicated support of it.

2014/04/06 Report from Meeting for Sufferings

Janet Grimwade has reported on the Meeting for Sufferings held on 5 April. Main items included:

- the preparation work that is needed to reach a decision at Britain Yearly Meeting 2014 on the revision of our Book of Discipline;
- a statement from Quaker Peace and Social Witness on government cuts;
- the interim report of the 'Minute 36 Group' on the Canterbury Commitment, again in preparation for Yearly Meeting Gathering.

It was noted that a new Area Meeting has been established, Cumberland AM, a merger of two existing AMs and that Southern Marches Area Meeting is seeking to establish a memorial to non-combatant victims of war at the National Memorial Arboretum.

We thank Janet for her report and note that it will be published in *Sesame*.

2014/04/07 Sustainability**a) Our Yearly Meeting's Canterbury Commitment**

Don Stubbings and Rachel Fitzgerald have reported on a conference held last month at Swanwick to share the progress of our Yearly Meeting's commitment to become a

sustainable community and to explore taking that commitment forward.

Don first shared with us a brief response to the conference from David Somervell (South Edinburgh LM), who also attended. David found much of the work of Quaker Peace & Social Witness in this area to be really inspiring. Don was impressed by a report* which has shown that it is technically possible to reduce carbon emissions to zero and greatly reduce energy consumption in a number of significant areas. The BYM Canterbury Commitment group has been supported by Quaker Peace and Social Witness but has no separate budget.

(* 'Zero Carbon Britain: Rethinking the Future' is the third report from the Zero Carbon Britain project; it be found by entering its title in an internet search engine.)

Rachel said she found the conference 'discombobulating' but came away with a strong sense that we need to concentrate on the positive. How can we live joyfully and creatively while learning to live more simply? It is about building the power for change from within and between; changing the power from above will follow. She warmed to Gill Westcott's belief that growth is not necessary; we can reduce GDP while increasing well-being. Rachel was also impressed by a presentation on the Lancaster Co-housing Scheme.

Don told us that BYM Trustees have divested from two fossil fuel companies. The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) is making submissions to the European Union on moving to a sustainable future, while the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) is looking at the impact of climate change on people's lives. We were referred back to Minute 23 of the same Canterbury Yearly Meeting concerning the renewal of our testimonies to truth, justice, integrity and equality in this context.

We were referred back to two of our own minutes: Minute 1 of March 2012, which set up a small group to take the Canterbury Commitment forward, and Minute 2 of January 2013, which set up a group to take forward our concern on economics. The suggestion was offered that it would be

helpful to bring the work of these two groups together to form a joint Social Responsibility Group. We will return to this suggestion at our next meeting.

We then spent a short time in small groups sharing positive steps we have taken and could take, prompted by a flip-charted suggestions list. This is on-going work and we are grateful to Rachel and Don for encouraging us to take it forward at both individual and corporate levels.

b) Our Area Meeting Policy for Sustainability

Don Stubbings, who drafted a new Sustainability Policy for the Area Meeting has reported to us on the consultation process on the draft policy. We agree to adopt this policy and thank Don for his work on it.

2014/04/08 Financial update

Mark Hutcheson, our Treasurer, has reported on the Area Meeting's current financial position. He told us that at 31 December 2013 approximately £75k was held in bank accounts, though some of this was committed. We anticipate receipt of around £25k in Gift Aid for 2012 and 2013, and around £25k in VAT refunds on refurbishment work. Immediate priorities are to rebuild reserves (to a minimum of 6 months operating costs) and fully to reinstate our contribution to Yearly Meeting funds.

Since the start of 2014 one major loan has been repaid and two smaller loans converted to donations. Payment has been made for capital works on both the kitchen and the windows at 7 Victoria Terrace.

The appeal for 2014 has been distributed and Friends are asked to complete Gift Aid certificates where appropriate. Mark thanks his treasurership team members of Ann Forsyth and Henry Thompson, our accountant, Heather Hartman and John Phillips, clerk of AM Trustees. We thank Mark for his report and for all his work on our behalf.

2014/04/09 Appointments

a) Our nominations committee has offered us the following names for appointment:

To serve from April 2014 to the end of March 2017 as

Elder – Madeline Patterson,
Overseer - April Middleton and Margaret Mortimer
Health & Safety Adviser – Andrew Hajducki
Window Display (Edinburgh QMH) - Tony Peach
 To serve from April 2014 to the end of March 2016 as
Elder – Kim Smith
Overseer - Mary Jane Elton
 We appoint these Friends as shown above.

b) We agree to release Marion Grothey from service as an overseer at her request. We note that Margaret Mortimer (elder) and Megan Davies (overseer) have also finished their appointments and we thank all three for their service to the Area Meeting.

2014/04/10 Membership matters

We have received a request for the transfer of Bob Harwood's membership from South East Scotland to Sussex East Area Meeting and we ask Sue Sierra, our Assistant Clerk (membership) to send the necessary certificate.

2014/04/11 Notice of intention to marry

Our Registering Officer has informed us of the intention of **Anna Mitchell and Brian Cleland** (neither of whom is at present in membership) to marry under the care of Friends at Comrie Croft in Perthshire, on Thursday 28 August 2014. A meeting for clearness has been held. Joyce Taylor, Registering Officer for East Scotland, has been informed and has agreed for the wedding to take place in her area under the care of our Area Meeting.

2014/04/12 Supporting each other in the Area Meeting

Area Meeting Elders have initiated a programme to encourage each other and all members and attenders to participate from time to time in meetings for worship other than their home meeting. We welcome this and encourage Friends to take part. We note also that AM Elders are supporting Central Fife Local Meeting at a time when, through the loss of several members, it is in need of such support. We

understand that Marilyn Higgins (convener of AM Elders) has put work into helping people prepare for their visits to Meetings and thank her for this. This has been published in *Sesame*.

As part of this endeavour to support each other and build the community of the Area Meeting, we have been asked whether it would be helpful to receive periodic reports on the life of each Local Meeting in the course of the cycle of Area Meetings. We have heard that this practice has been successful in Meetings elsewhere and that smaller Local Meetings value support from Elders' visits.

We note that we should do this in a way which does not burden smaller Meetings. The process should encourage reflection on the life of the Meeting, which should be a helpful process. We agree to decide at our next meeting which Local Meeting should start this process.

2014/04/13 Towards a Quaker View of Mental Health

Megan Davies has represented us at a conference on this theme organized in Friends House by staff of The Retreat. Over 100 Friends attended.

The conference was asked, 'What would characterize a specifically Quaker approach to mental health?' Support for mental health services has been disproportionately cut while mental health issues are the greatest cause of absence from work. Our testimony to equality and truth is at the heart of the Quaker approach and we must bear in mind that mental health issues affect a proportion of our members and attenders and sometimes the life of our Meetings. The Quaker Life Network includes a mental health group. Developing such networks will be valuable.

An informal mental health group existed here for a short time after a visit to the Area Meeting from a representative of The Retreat. We have been reminded that physical health and mental health issues require very different approaches and that we all need sensitive awareness and understanding of how to support those suffering from mental ill health.

We ask Megan to send her report to AM Overseers and to publish it in *Sesame*. We encourage those who share this

concern to network and to come back to Area Meeting if they feel further support would be helpful.

2014/04/14 Dates for General Meeting and Area Meeting 2015-16

We agree to the dates and venues proposed for General Meeting for Scotland as listed here:

2015 7 March, *East*; 6 June, *North*;
12 September, *West*; 14-15 Nov., *South East*

2016 5 March, *East*.

We have received the following suggested dates and venues for our Area Meeting for the same period and will return to these after time for appropriate consultation. (*N.B. list corrected from that on AM agenda*)

2015	11 Jan, 2 pm	South Edinburgh (<i>already agreed</i>)
	28 Feb, 11 am	Central Edinburgh (<i>already agreed</i>)
	18 Apr, 2 pm	Central Fife
	30 May, 11.30 am	Kelso
	12 July, 2 pm	South Edinburgh
	29 August, 2 pm	East Lothian
	24 Oct, 11 am	Central Edinburgh
2016	28 Nov, 2 pm	Central Edinburgh
	10 Jan, 2 pm	South Edinburgh
	27 Feb, 11 am	Central Edinburgh

2014/04/15 Provision of *Quaker Faith and Practice* in hospitals

Lin Murison has reported that there is no longer a copy of *Quaker Faith & Practice* in the Sanctuary at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Marilyn Higgins, convener of AM Elders, has met with Sandy Young, the person responsible for oversight of spiritual and faith provision in NHS Lothian, who is more than happy to place copies of *QFP* in hospitals where there is suitable provision. Marilyn has given him copies for the ERI and the Hospital for Sick Children. He would be happy to put three other copies at: St John's Livingston, the

Western General and Royal Edinburgh Hospitals, which are the other Lothian hospitals that have quiet rooms or chapels of some sort and that kind of material out and is willing to buy replacements if any of them is 'borrowed'.

We agree to give further copies of *Quaker Faith and Practice* to NHS Lothian for this purpose and thank Marilyn Higgins for taking the initiative on our behalf. We also ask Jane Pearn to place a copy, on our behalf, in Borders General Hospital and Laurie Naumann to investigate the hospitals in the Central Fife area with this in mind.

2014/04/16 Festival charities

John Fitzgerald, convener of our Festival Committee has reminded us that it has been our practice to give part of the proceeds of our Festival Fringe activities each year to two charities outwith the Area Meeting and usually to give to each such charity for three consecutive years. The Refugee Survival Trust will continue for 2014 but the Quaker Bolivia Link has come to the end of its triennium. The Committee recommends that this year the successor charity should be one concerned with the clearance of unexploded ordnance in previous war zones and suggests the Halo Trust.

John has made clear that the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) was also considered, and that the decision to propose the Halo Trust was a marginal one. In view of our strong connections with MAG and aware that our endorsement of a bid for grant aid to it should be more than just 'rubber-stamping', some in the meeting have felt this would be a preferred charity.

We agree to support the Refugee Survival Trust and MAG in 2014. We thank the Festival Committee for bringing this to us.

2014/04/17 AOCB

We have received reports on the QPSW Annual Conference, held at Swanwick last month, from Frances Fimister and Tony Carter, both attenders at Central Fife LM. We ask for these to be published in *Sesame*.

2014/04/18 Correspondence and notices

- a) We are informed that audio files of the addresses from the QCCIR 'What's God got to do with it?' conference on which Lyn Barty reported last month (Minute 2014/02/12) are available on the Britain Yearly Meeting website.
- b) BYM's Media and Advocacy Team is holding a one day workshop at Edinburgh Meeting House on Saturday 12 July 2014 on speaking out for Quakers through political and media channels. One place has been booked for the Area Meeting and others may be available. Those interested in attending are invited to contact the Area Meeting Clerk.

2014/04/19 Concluding minute

27 members from seven Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 16	Central Fife 1	East Lothian 2	Kelso 1	Penicuik 1
Polmont -	Portobello & Musselburgh 3	South Edinburgh 3	Tweeddale -	

We next meet in Peebles on Saturday 24 May 2014 at 2 pm.

(Signed) **Phil Lucas**, Clerk

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

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

Tweeddale Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House,

Dukehaugh, 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: East Linton Community Hall 11.00am

Third Tuesday in the Month

Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms 1pm- 1.30pm

Fourth Sunday in the Month

Tweeddale: Tweedbridge Court, Margaret Blackwood House,

Details as Second Sunday above

Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above 10.30am

Portobello & Musselburgh 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

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