

SESAME

Number 195: May 2015

Land Reform letter/ Powers of Attorney / CAAT /
Women's.W. Day of Prayer/ Sufferings Report/ C.O.Vigil/
AM Minutes/ Poems



Quaker Tapestry: Conscientious Objector Panel
(see pages 8-10)

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 23 June, for distribution week commencing 5 July. 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 Meeting 11.30 am on Saturday 30 May 2015, Kelso Quaker Meeting House

Area Meeting is hosted by Kelso Meeting, who will be sharing something of the life of their Meeting with us during the day. If you are coming from Edinburgh by public transport, a bus leaves Edinburgh bus station at 9.10 am and travels *via* Cameron Toll. There is a return bus at 5.15 pm (or at 4.05 if you need to be back early).

The agenda also includes impressions of Yearly Meeting, new guidance on pastoral care arrangements, a decision on the future of our Edinburgh Festival Fringe involvement and reports on the work of Yearly Meeting elders, and of Quaker Life Representative Council. There has been a steady flow of membership applications during the year so we can also expect to hear about some of those.

Please come if you are able; your friendship, engagement and support are much appreciated.

Phil Lucas Area Meeting Clerk

Visiting other Local Meetings in the Area Meeting

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. Throughout 2015, 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.

<i>Local Meeting (Place)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
Tweeddale (Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles)	14 June	10:30
North Edinburgh	28 June	7 pm

(Broughton St Mary's Church, Edinburgh)		
South Edinburgh (+ AM, 2 pm)	12 July	10:30
(Open Door, 420 Morningside Rd.)		
Polmont	30 Aug.	10:45
(Greenpark Community Centre)		
Central Fife	27 Sep.	10:30
(Hunter Halls, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy (opposite old Kirk))		
Penicuik	4 Oct.	11:00
(Valleyfield House, 17 High Street (<i>bring & share lunch</i>))		

All are warmly welcome!

Marilyn Higgins
On behalf of Area Meeting Elders

A Letter to *Sesame*

Area Meeting Minute 2015/02/02 ("Scottish Land Reform as a Spiritual Imperative of Economic Justice") describes the session on this subject, led by Alastair McIntosh of Glasgow Meeting. There follow some paragraphs in favour of Scottish Land Reform as a 'spiritual imperative of economic justice', and the reasons for it.

I am writing about this minute because it pre-supposes that everyone agrees that land reform *is* a spiritual imperative of economic justice ... The tone is political, dogmatic, it is assuming, to repeat myself, that we all agree. Some *don't* agree with the land reform proposals. But I don't want to go into arguments for or against land reform and thus make the same partial mistakes. There are a great many sides to this question and all of them can and should be debated. Then all sides of this question can be heard. As for myself I would be far happier with a gradual evolution of change, rather than having change thrust upon us in the way the minute suggests.

I am finding more and more that politics are entering in Quaker ethics - can I put it like that? This has been demonstrated again by the tone of the booklet issued for voters in the general election. There is a slant, it seems to me, to what is written in this booklet. It is almost as if the

Quakers have become a political party. And it is assumed we all agree with that slant.

To be sure, all would say that everyone is included, no one is excluded, we are inclusive and tolerant of all views. This might be said, but my own experience is that even while it is said, I sometimes hesitate to put forward my own views when it is assumed that everyone has achieved consensus. So I keep quiet - sometimes. And anyway, we are not a political party.

It is as if groups of all kinds, and the Quakers are included in this, so believe in their moral certainties being the 'correct' ones, that speaking contrary to these views you have to have a certain courage. Often times these days I have wondered if the Quakers were no longer my home.

Yet there are always and eternally, the hidden, meaningful things, the grounded spiritual centres of the soul, the world of beauty.

Angela Lemaire, Kelso Meeting, May 2015

Powers of attorney

Following my recent article in *Sesame*, several people have expressed an interest in meeting to discuss how powers of attorney might work for them, and some of the possible problems. If you are interested, let me know. Please note that my email address is not as in the list of members and attenders. It is hilarypatrick@gmail.com.

Hilary Patrick

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER EDINBURGH COMMITTEE

Anyone (and not just women) may attend these meetings, held in the Church of Scotland offices at 121 George Street. We begin at 10.30 am on Friday mornings and close at ap-

proximately 12 noon. There are representatives from all the Churches that are members of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS).

There are three meetings in February using a written Bible study prepared by Christian women of the designated country. At one meeting, we learn about the country – its landscape, what it produces – *e.g.* food, pottery, cloth – some history, memorable moments in its history, and some difficulties. We then go through the service that has been prepared – practising the hymns. The other two meetings are Bible studies with a speaker, using papers provided – and these are always interesting: there is discussion and an open exchange of views.

In April we have the AGM, choose dates for the following year and suggest speakers/facilitators. There is usually a meeting at the end of August or the beginning of September to catch up. The World Day of Prayer itself is on the first Friday in March at a church near you.

As Elizabeth Salter said – “What’s not to like?” It’s for women, it’s international and it’s ecumenical.

Alison Burnley

EDINBURGH CAAT GROUP – SUCCESS IN ITS 20th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

After an intensive eighteen-month campaign led by Edinburgh CAAT Group, the board of directors of the Edinburgh International Science Festival has ended the sponsorship of the Festival by the arms-related company Selex-Es. A success story indeed? Yes, but some work remains: Selex has still been providing a children’s game, “Rampaging Chariots”, at Edinburgh Arts Centre. Through continued dialogue with the board on this we hope for a change next year.

In 1995, a number of supporters of Campaign Against Arms Trade – with Quakers well represented - came together for an inaugural meeting of the Edinburgh CAAT Group, the first such group in Scotland, and the only one until a Glasgow group emerged in 2014.

Over the years the Edinburgh Group’s activities have all been related to the core aim: ending a trade that fuels conflict, aids repressive regimes and aggravates poverty. This is, of course, a long-term objective – the trade is legal, and is conducted by many states, including all the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. CAAT takes a step-by-step approach, and the work of local groups like ours is to challenge on specific issues, inviting public and political support for those particular aspects where action is most likely to have an impact.

One issue, promoted strongly at various times, is disinvestment. Group members have engaged with local authority and other pension funds, both directly with committee members and through petitions. Although arms continue to feature in most fund portfolios, Edinburgh Council’s pension fund has increased its proportion of ethical holdings. So, some progress.

Another perennial concern has been to raise public awareness of little-known aspects of the arms trade: the extent of government subsidies; the awarding of licences for arms exports to dictatorial regimes which imprison and torture protesters; the endemic corruption involved; the obscenity of the biennial DSEI Arms Fair in East London. At street stalls, through displays in public places, at public meetings and at conferences, the message has been spelt out in many innovative ways: all these things are unacceptable.

The advent of devolution for Scotland, and – most positively – the emergence of an administration seemingly favourable to a different approach to defence and security has partly opened a door to arms conversion and a shift of priorities from arms to renewables, that makes the most of workforce skills for good. The Group is well placed to

have an influence on this development, which has the support of MSPs and the STUC.

Some seven or eight years ago, the appointment of a new Development Worker resulted in the production of a presentation on the arms trade for schools: an interactive module that has been used by schools in Edinburgh and beyond, usually as part of RME [religious and moral education]. A small sub-group is available to assist when such a presentation is requested; preparation sessions are held from time to time for those interested. There is potential for developing the presentation as circumstances change.

Over its lifetime, Edinburgh CAAT Group has seen itself as part of the wider peace movement, and is accepted warmly as such. Strong relationships have been developed with Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre, with Edinburgh CND and with groups such as Jubilee Scotland and Protest in Harmony Singers. Twice a year, at the Edinburgh University Graduate Careers event, members share with the University's 'People & Planet' group in providing questions that young people moving into work might ask at stalls of arms companies, and armed forces recruiting for military sector jobs.

The Global Day of Action on Military Spending has been an opportunity to engage with public and politicians at the Scottish Parliament, taking the form of a vigil, with information on expenditure on arms (both worldwide, and by the UK) together with an indication of what a small percentage of these amounts could do for humanity if re-directed.

All this is just a summary of the Group's huge range of work. So what is ahead for its third decade? Much will depend on what support comes from those (Friends in particular) who are rooted in principled and passionate opposition to war and preparations for war, and who are willing to give time to work for the ending, however long it takes, of a trade that is as fundamentally wrong as the

slave trade was, with much wider implications, in today's world, for shattered lives and communities.

Enquiries, and offers of help, to David Turner, tel. 0131 669 1308; to Mark Bitel, mark@evaluation.u-net.com; or to Phil Lucas, phil.lucas1@gmail.com.

David Turner

C.O. Day Vigil: 15 May 2015, The Mound, Edinburgh

We are called to live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars. Do you faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your own way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God.

Advices & Queries, 31

I was asked to compare the experience of two Conscientious Objectors (C.O.s) with Quaker connections, one in the First World War, the other just after World War II.

John Hunter, my father-in-law, was born in 1890 in Derbyshire. His father was a Lt Colonel in the Fifth Sherwood Foresters and had been made an O.B.E. for his contribution to his regiment. John had been a member of the Officers' Training Corps at his public school and so was called up as soon as war broke out in 1914. He served for three years in the trenches, became a captain and was twice mentioned in despatches. In 1915 he was at Ypres where his battalion suffered severe casualties. By 1918, close to the end of the war, overwhelmed by the increasing dismay he felt by the suffering he had seen, marked vividly for him by the letters of condolence he had to write to the families of the soldiers who died under his command, he resigned his commission. As a serving soldier, he was court-martialled for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, dishonorably discharged, and sen-

tenced to death. After questions in Parliament (his MP said he was suffering from shell-shock), the sentence was commuted to imprisonment. Released after 9 months, he went to Poland with a Quaker Emergency and War Victims Relief Committee team, helping to revive agriculture. He became treasurer of the Mission, teaching himself in his spare time to knit, returning to the UK in 1922. He married, became a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and in due course was appointed as organizing secretary to Yorkshire Friends Service Committee, a post he held for some 20 years. He was vice-chairman of the Northern Friends Peace Board, and served his Quaker Meeting in various capacities.

Many C.O.s were accused of cowardice but after his three years in the trenches, John Hunter could not be regarded as a coward. Yet he was seen as bringing disgrace to his family, stripped of the right to vote, publicly humiliated in the London Gazette and shunned by his community.

His mother and father never spoke to him again and avoided all contact with his wife and children. John Hunter died in Scarborough in 1963 at the age of 73.

In his soliloquy, *To be or not to be*, Hamlet says: "Thus conscience doth make cowards of us all ..." - in John's case, it was the reverse: his conscience made him a hero.

My second example of a C.O. is myself. My father was an active member of the Peace Pledge Union in the 1930s and, in 1940, aware of the Quaker long term Peace Testimony, he found his way to his local Quaker Meeting. He became a Quaker, and I followed him into membership. In 1948 I was conscripted (WW2 was over but conscription continued until 1955). I registered as a C.O. and was ordered to attend a Tribunal which would make a decision on my application. I had already joined the Friends Ambulance Unit (International Service) and I was a member of the Society of Friends: my application was approved in quick time. Quakers with their 300 years of struggle and their dedication to peace were regarded by the establishment with respect.

Not for me the disgrace and the shunning and the imprisonment. How different from the treatment accorded to John Hunter 30 years earlier. My experience made me reflect that

some progress seemed to have been made, that society had come to accept that a convincing case could be made for not joining the war effort on the grounds of conscience, a sign perhaps that in spite of the jingoism we had become more tolerant of difference. Having said that, not all differences were regarded as equally deserving: the three cases before mine that came before the Tribunal were of Jehovah's Witnesses. Their applications were all rejected.

Alan Davies

Meeting for Sufferings, 28 March 2015

The final meeting of the triennium covered a variety of topics. Firstly we heard from the clerk of Trustees, who thanked us for helping to create a much more productive relationship between Sufferings and Trustees. The Treasurer presented a summary of the 2014 financial activities. Legacies had exceeded expectations and the level of contributions was similar to last year. Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, gave an update on the employment dispute at Friends House – this is available on the website.

The Long Term Framework working group then reported on their progress so far. They had had over 300 responses from LMs, AMs and other groups and individuals and are recommending the adoption of a short focused vision document with more detailed backup documents. There was a variety of comments both in this session and in a discussion at lunchtime which the group will consider. They will also be holding a special interest meeting at Yearly Meeting to get further feedback.

Most of rest of the day was taken up with three issues that reflect our involvement in the wider world. First we had a report from the Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (Q-CAT) which is carried by three AMs on behalf of BYM. Their focus is on educating Friends about the realities of the present world situation and working towards healing and peace. They are currently developing a workshop which AMs will be encouraged to use, revamping

their website, developing an interactive drama performance, a proposed conference, and updating their leaflet.

A recent conference of Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) had prompted several AMs to forward minutes expressing concern about destitute asylum seekers and supporting the statement the conference had produced. We heard from a number of Friends about work being done in their areas to support asylum seekers and refugees in various ways. It was felt that it would be useful to develop a public statement on this issue for use with national and local government and this was referred to QPSW to bring a draft to a future meeting.

A number of AMs had forwarded minutes expressing concern about the increase in Islamophobia. We had also been supplied with some background information about Muslims in Britain and were encouraged to find out more. We heard how some Friends are strengthening bonds of friendship with the Muslim community, and the importance of working together on what unites us was stressed. We encouraged the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations to continue its work through the Interfaith Forum.

As this was the final Meeting for Sufferings for a number of us, we finished the meeting with a period of reflection. There was satisfaction for the work that had been done in the past three years. It was also felt that it was a privilege to serve the Yearly Meeting and our Area Meetings in this way.

The meeting ended with tea, and a special cake that had been baked to say "thank you".

As usual the relevant papers are available on the Quaker website and reports are available in *The Friend* of 3 April.

Janet Grimwade

(This is my last Sufferings report for Sesame. Henry Thompson is taking over as representative, and Kate Arnot as the alternate)

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Draft Minutes of Area Meeting held at 2 pm on Saturday 18 April 2015 at Kinghorn Community Centre, Fife.

2015/04/01 Worship

During opening worship, *Quaker Faith & Practice* 10.17 has been read to us.

Written ninety years ago, this reminds how the spiritual life of a meeting is helped by its social life, and how important it is that we uphold, support and encourage each other. We have also remembered Elizabeth Templeton, ecumenical theologian and friend of Quakers, who died yesterday, and upheld Alastair Cameron and Mary Jane Elton, bereaved through the death of a little girl for whom they had been caring.

2015/04/02 Introductions

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

2015/04/03 The minutes of our last meeting, held on 28 February 2015 at 7 Victoria Terrace, have been signed and entered in the minute book.

2015/04/04 Matters arising

a) Militarization in society

As agreed at our last meeting, Local Meetings have been asked to take up the concern about militarization in schools with the local authorities in which they are set.

b) Equality week

Portobello & Musselburgh Meeting organized a vigil in Portobello High Street on Saturday, 8 March, a cold day. A few passers-by expressed interest, and Portobello & Musselburgh Meeting propose to take part again next year.

We were given very short notice of Equality Week this year but understand it is planned to make this an annual event.

c) Memorial meeting for worship for Jeanne Walmesley

A memorial meeting for Jeanne Walmesley, for many years a member of this Area Meeting, has been arranged for Friday, 29 May 2015 at 2 pm in Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House.

d) General Election

Our clerk sought offers to organize a hustings or similar event during the period before the General Election on 7 May. There were several expressions of interest in attending such an event but no offer was forthcoming. Many such meetings will be organized by others and we encourage Friends to exercise their citizenship by engaging in the political process at this interesting time for both Scotland and the United Kingdom.

2015/04/05 Central Fife Meeting

Laurie Naumann and Frances Fimister have shared something of the life of Central Fife Meeting.

We have heard about the history of the Meeting in this part of Fife, from its start in the early 1960s to the present day. The Meeting is now settled in Kirkcaldy. The number of adults has remained constant over the years. At the moment there is no children's meeting.

Central Fife Meeting is currently without an Elder and is supported by Area Meeting Elders. It is a pleasure for Elders to visit this Meeting. We were reminded that one of the joys of attending was hearing the call of the seagulls and the sound of church bells.

Frances shared with us her experience of the Meeting. She spoke of having had in the past a deep spiritual experience during Meeting for Worship, which brought her back to Friends. She appreciated the warm welcome she received at Meeting and getting to know the community of Central Fife Friends, with its range of ages. She has always felt listened to and enjoys the new discussion meeting in

Burntisland. Meeting for Worship is central to her life as a Friend and she appreciates the regular reading of *Advices and Queries*.

We thank Central Fife Friends for their report and Laurie and Frances for presenting it.

2015/04/06 Report on Meeting for Sufferings

Janet Grimwade has reported on the Meeting for Sufferings held on Saturday, 28 March, the final meeting of the current triennium. The meeting included an update from the Long Term Framework Working Group, which had received more than 300 submissions from meetings, groups and individuals.

Three Area Meetings are carrying forward the Yearly Meeting's concern for the abolition of torture. The aim of Q-CAT (Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture) is to inform Friends about the realities of torture and to work towards creating healing and peace, working with both torturers and the tortured. They are developing workshops which meetings will be encouraged to use.

There is much concern among Quakers about destitute failed asylum seekers and Quaker Peace and Social Witness have been asked to draft a public statement on this issue. There is also concern about the increase in Islamophobia and we are encouraged to inform ourselves and to build links, where we can, with Muslim communities.

Janet's service as our representative on Meeting for Sufferings ends with the Yearly Meeting next month and we thank her for her faithful work and reporting.

2015/04/07 Report from Area Meeting Overseers

John Eccles and Sara Davies, co-conveners of Area Meeting overseers, have presented a report outlining their work over the past year. They have shared with us the variety of ways in which oversight and eldership, sometimes in combination, are organized in our nine Local Meetings.

Two Meetings, Penicuik and Central Fife, have overseers but no elders. Kelso Meeting currently has only elders appointed by Area Meeting and has set up a pastoral care group, comprising both members and attenders, which is convened by another member. East Lothian, with two elders and one overseer, is considering setting up a pastoral care team to ensure everyone's needs are met. Both South Edinburgh and Portobello & Musselburgh have elders sharing the oversight; at South Edinburgh, elders have lists in the same manner as overseers, whilst Portobello & Musselburgh has set up four pastoral care wheels, with one elder or overseer in each wheel, covering a total of about 40 people and are still learning what works best.

Central Edinburgh is still by far the largest Meeting, with nearly 300 people on the lists. Although the meeting is thriving, it does give large lists for the seven overseers, and under the guidance of Area Meeting is considering the appointment of non-members as overseers. Polmont has set up a circle of three people, at present including one attender, providing their pastoral care team. We note that Tweeddale Meeting has one elder and one overseer.

Although all overseers and elders are members, in practice much of the caring is done by both members *and* attenders, and Area Meeting is asked to give guidance on how non-members may be involved in a task traditionally done by overseers in membership.

Area Meeting overseers meet twice each year and additionally enjoy two meetings per year jointly with elders, an arrangement which usually works well. Overseers have also been kept particularly busy recently nominating Friends to meet with membership applicants, work approached with joy and enthusiasm.

We note that Sara Davies's term of service will end later this year and her successor as co-convenor is being sought.

2015/04/08 Pastoral care and oversight (Minute 2015/02/11 refers)

Area Meeting overseers have shared with us a picture of the variety of ways in which Local Meetings are ensuring that pastoral care is provided for members and attenders and we agreed at our last meeting that we should be informed on this and should give guidance as necessary on the involvement and appointment of non members to the tasks traditionally undertaken by overseers.

We are clear that the eldership role requires those who are well grounded in the Quaker way and committed to it, probably through membership. We welcome, on the other hand, the variety of practice in providing pastoral support which has developed in local meetings and encourage this. We note that asking someone to undertake a role can sometimes encourage them towards greater commitment.

We ask local meetings to keep both the Area Meeting nominations committee and clerking team informed of any changes of pattern in local pastoral care and also to ensure that they continue to take part in Area Meeting overseers' and elders' meetings. We ask the Area Meeting clerk to work with convenors of AM overseers, elders and nominations committee to draw up written guidelines reflecting this discussion and best practice within our Yearly Meeting.

2015/04/09 The Future of our Festival Fringe involvement

We have heard from John Fitzgerald, convener of the Venue 40 Strategic Review Working Group, set up to review our participation in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He has updated us on the work done so far. The group hopes to present its final report and recommendations to our meeting on 30 May.

Currently the working group is looking at people, purpose and possibilities. They have a sense of why this activity is happening and what the options for the future might be. They would now appreciate some input from Area Meeting on the place Venue 40 activities have in our

life and work and how important we perceive them to be. To inform the working group's consideration, John asked us four questions:

- * *What does Venue 40 contribute to the life of Area Meeting?*
- * *What are the chief goals of Venue 40 as a Quaker concern?*
- * *If Venue 40 were to cease operation, what would Area Meeting lose?*
- * *Could Venue 40 be more supported by Area Meeting?*

We are clear that we wish the use of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House as Venue 40 to continue. Attending a Festival Fringe event in the Meeting House is often the first time people come into contact with Quakers. It can make a profound impression on them, as going into a Meeting House is a very different experience from attending events in other venues. We also like the idea of being able to put on a range of shows, which might be challenging.

We welcome the opportunity Venue 40 provides to bring together both local Friends and Friends from other parts of the country. This is a significant point of Quaker outreach for the whole of Britain Yearly Meeting. There are times when being quiet is not best. During August, when Edinburgh is buzzing with activity, the Meeting House is the obvious and open face of Quakers.

Having said this, we are mindful that the running of Venue 40 takes a great deal of energy, time and commitment. This has become a burden and we are in danger of losing the benefits. We need to seek ways of continuing with this activity which will lessen the burden on a few people, in particular the Meeting House managers. Can we have an ongoing training programme to provide new people to take over key roles on the Festival committee?

We are concerned that if this activity became unsustainable, those charities, which are supported by it, would no longer benefit.

We acknowledge that in asking for Venue 40 to continue, we need to be prepared to commit to support it as an Area Meeting.

We encourage the working group to explore more sustainable ways of running Venue 40.

2015/04/10 Report on the Quaker Peace and Social Witness Spring Conference

Abby Boulton, attendee at Central Edinburgh and North Edinburgh, and Ursula Fearn, attendee at East Lothian, represented us at this weekend event, held in Swanwick, Derbyshire.

They have reported on their experience of the event and their introduction to the work of Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW). We were reminded that the QPSW speakers programme provides Meetings with the opportunity to find out more about this work.

We thank Abby and Ursula for their reports.

2015/04/11 Membership matters

a) New membership applications

Since our last meeting, membership applications have been received from [*three*] attenders, and Friends have been appointed by our between meetings procedure to meet and explore their applications with them. [...]

b) Previous membership applications

i) Conor Watt

Rachel Fitzgerald and Laurie Naumann met with Conor Watt in Edinburgh on 17 March. An account of that meeting has been read to us. Conor has explored various church traditions and has a strong sense of Christianity in his own spiritual journey, but has been led since 2011 to find a home among Quakers. He has worshipped in Central Fife Meeting and taken part in the Edinburgh University Quaker Society, and Young Friends General Meeting. He feels membership would express the outward conviction of what is there already; it would give him the context to develop his spiritual journey and he is aware of the responsibilities involved. He has a particular interest in social justice and in confronting militarism.

We welcome Conor Watt into membership and ask Anna Mitchell to welcome him on our behalf.

ii) Cath Dyer

Anna Levin and Henry Thompson met with Cath Dyer, a regular attender at Polmont Meeting, in Cath's home in Falkirk and an account of that meeting has been read to us. Cath, one of six children of a Church of Scotland missionary, came across Quakers first as a teenager in Zambia. She studied medicine in Lusaka, occasionally attended Quaker meetings but, on her return to the UK with her new husband, became an Anglican and stayed with the Episcopal Church when she later moved to Scotland. She has taken a very active part in the musical life of the church but found the hierarchical structure difficult. Eventually, in 2008, she found Polmont Meeting, where she felt completely at home. She has been attending regularly since early 2013.

Music is still very important to Cath and is part of her spiritual experience. *Quaker Faith & Practice*, she found, expresses 'what I have been trying to say all along' and her comfort and engagement with Quaker worship has grown. Cath has been helped by a course on spirituality at Woodbrooke and by her reading of Quaker authors. Ben Pink Dandelion's 2014 Swarthmore Lecture made a particular impression.

We welcome Cath Dyer into membership and ask Laura Dunkel to welcome her on our behalf.

iii) Hilary Patrick

Audrey Sinton and Elizabeth Allen met with Hilary Patrick on Thursday, 9 April, 2015 and an account of their meeting has been read to us. Very serious about her faith as a child, Hilary had no church affiliation during her student years but later found Central Edinburgh Meeting in its Stafford Street days. She remembers Monthly Meetings at that time, where she observed and was profoundly influenced by the use of the Quaker business method. Hilary served on Premises Committee in the early times in Victoria Terrace and even line-managed the wardens. But,

beset by great busyness, she escaped to the beauty of the liturgy at St Mary's Episcopal Church and was later confirmed an Episcopalian, moving in time to St John's, attracted by the Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre and the One World Shop.

Hilary came back to Quakers in October 2013 and attends Central Edinburgh, where she is playing a part in the life of the Meeting, and the North Edinburgh Worshipping Group. She described Meeting for Worship as being at the centre of her life and the community aspects of Meeting as being very important too.

We welcome Hilary Patrick into membership and ask Marianne Ferguson Rice to welcome her on our behalf.

c) Record of transfer of membership

The transfer to Sheffield & Balby Area Meeting of **Rosie Roberts** was accepted by that Meeting in November 2014 but has not previously been reported to us.

2015/04/12 Appointments and release from service

a) Appointments

Our Nominations Committee has brought the following nominations for our consideration:

To serve from April 2015 to end of March 2018:

- a. as overseer – **Michele Gunn** (Central Edinburgh, second triennium)
- b. as overseer – **Clayton Cameron** (Central Edinburgh)
- c. on Festival Committee – **Don Stubbings** (Central Edinburgh, second triennium)

These names being acceptable, we appoint them accordingly.

b) Release from service

Ann Forsyth (World Day of Prayer representative) and Madeline Patterson (Archives Group) have asked to be released from service. We agree to their release and thank them for their service

We note that Henry Thompson (Assistant Treasurer) and Sue Sierra (AM Assist Clerk (Membership Records)) have

completed their terms of service and we thank them also for their service.

2015/04/13 Hosting of General Meeting for Scotland

a) We are hosting the residential General Meeting in Edinburgh on Saturday and Sunday, 14 -15 November 2015, and need to make arrangements for overnight hospitality, catering and other entertainment. John Fox, who coordinated these arrangements last time we hosted General Meeting, has agreed to do so again. We appoint him and agree to support him in any way we can.

b) We have been asked to host General Meeting for Scotland on Saturday 11 March 2017. We agree to do this. The managers of Edinburgh Meeting House have been asked to book this in the meeting house diary.

2015/04/14 Correspondence

We have received the annual report of Ackworth School General Meeting and an invitation from Quaker Campers to join their annual camp in Wales in July / August.

2015/04/15 AOCB

Alison Burnley has reminded us that Action for Churches Together in Scotland has decided to sell Scottish Churches House in Dunblane. The sale is likely to take place in June and member churches are being invited to consider together potential uses for the proceeds of the sale. Alison will be representing General Meeting for Scotland at a meeting on this matter being held in Edinburgh on 14 May and would welcome suggestions for any projects Quakers may wish to propose.

2015/04/16 Closing minute

21 members and 7 attenders representing 6 Local Meetings have attended all or part of this Area Meeting, as indicated below:

Central Edinburgh 9m + 1a	Central Fife 4m + 5a	East Lothian 3m + 1a	Kelso 1m	Penicuik -
Polmont -	Portobello & Musselburgh 1m	South Edinburgh 3m	Tweeddale -	

We next meet in Kelso. on Saturday 30 May 2015 at 11.30 am.

Signed
Phil Lucas, Clerk

For the Memorial Meeting for our late Friend Geoffrey Carnall, his family produced a collection of writings by and about him, which included several of the poems written to chide "domestic foibles".

Long Telephone Calls

You've been an hour upon the phone:
I think you might ring off.
I've tried to hint with gentle groan
Or still discreeter cough

That I too want to have a line
To friends around the town;
Those friends may think, O daughter mine,
Our phone has broken down.

For 'line engaged' is what you get
If something is amiss;
It's what friends hear too when you're set
On long colloquial bliss.

And think! And think! You may prevent
Someone from getting through –

A dearest friend on pleasure bent
And entertaining you.

So keep in check your social flow,
Ten minutes, if you will;
Then all can have their turn, also
It will keep down the bill.

Wasting Electricity

Ouch! The hot tap in the sink
Scalded my hands – they’re turning pink
Some heedless oaf has been and gone
And left th’immersion heater on.
How long it’s been on, who can say?
There’ll be a hefty bill to pay
(The last bill left me quite appalled) –
And all for what? A blistering scald!
It will not do. Make up your mind,
When to a bath you are inclined,
Yes, flick the switch to make it hot,
But in your bath-towel tie a knot.

Something not included in the booklet (but which Geoffrey himself could quote from memory) is the description of him by Philip Larkin in a letter, after he had been preferred to Kingsley Amis for a lectureship at Queen’s University, Belfast, in 1952:

... my friend Kingsley got an interview [but the post] went to a white-faced little worm who sounded like something out of Bunyan: *Carnall* (“Faith” he said “my name is *Carnall*, brother to *Mr Fleshy* of the town of *Concupisence* [...])

Selected Letters of Philip Larkin, p.188

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	
<i>Children welcome, bring and share lunch.</i>		
Portobello & Musselburgh: Old Parish Church Hall, Bellfield Street	7.30pm	
First Tuesday in the Month		
Edinburgh University Common Room, Muslim Prayer Rooms (opposite the Weir Buildings) at Kings Buildings: contact Sarah Martin 07818050853 or sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk for more details	1pm-1.30pm	
Second Sunday in the Month		
Portobello & Musselburgh St James Church Hall, Rosefield Place	11.00am	
Portobello EH15 1AZ		
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 as above	11.00am	
Tweeddale: Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles		
Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above	10.30am	
N. Edinburgh Meeting, Broughton St Mary’s Church Edinburgh	7.00 pm	
Fifth Sunday in the Month		
Central Fife Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy as above	10.30am	
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