

# SESAME

Number 224: June 2019

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Area Meeting at Kelso / John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust / Forthcoming  
Festival Events / Reflections on YM 2019 / Book of Discipline Revision /  
AM May Minutes / 'Quaker Quicks' – a new series / NOTHING on Brexit

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## *Sometimes I Radiate*

I want to leap,  
feet first,  
into a glorious pile of  
words.

Run my hands through them  
and throw them up  
like a pile of crisp autumn leaves  
on a sunlit day.

Short sharp words  
and luxurious long ones,  
humble and grand words.

I want to smell them  
And taste them  
And hear their sounds.

They dance  
in the sunlight  
then fall together  
A picture on a page.

**Jennifer Gray**

[See page 3]

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## SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Area Meeting will be held on Saturday 22 June 2019 at Kelso Quaker Meeting House. Tea and coffee will be available from 11.00 am, and we will start with worship at 11.30.

**Alastair Cameron**  
Clerk

### DRAFT AGENDA

1. Worship and introductions
2. Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 14 May 2019 in Edinburgh
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Membership matters
5. Appointments
6. Notice of wedding
7. General Meeting for Scotland
  - 7.1. Report on meeting of 8 June
  - 7.2. Appointment to attend Aberdeen meeting, 14 September
8. Conferences & events
9. Correspondence

#### *Break for lunch*

10. Kelso – a wide-spread meeting: sharing suggestions for problems of geography
11. Revision of *Quaker Faith & Practice* – session led by Mary Woodward
12. Living with privilege – thoughts following Britain Yearly meeting and considering the work to date of our Diversity & Inclusion Group – led by Phil Lucas
13. Closing minute

Kelso Quaker Meeting House is at Abbey Row, Kelso TD5 7JF, a few minutes' walk from the town centre. There is a hearing loop, disabled access and a disabled friendly toilet. The Borders Bus 52 service leaves Edinburgh St Andrew Square (Gate E) at 9.00, arriving at Kelso (opposite WH Smith) at 11.05.

Kelso friends will provide a soup and bread lunch. We are asked to bring other contributions for shared eating. We'll take an hour for lunch. If it's good weather and time allows, we may also manage a break during the afternoon for a short walk for those who wish it.

Children and young people are welcome. Please notify the Clerk, Alastair Cameron, [clerk.sesam@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.sesam@outlook.com) of those planning to come, so we can make suitable arrangements for their activities.

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## John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust

At our last Area Meeting, Annie Miller reported to us on behalf of the trustees about their work in 2018. (The purpose of the Trust is to make grants "to deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures of life, the purpose of such grants being to provide the recipients with some additional comfort or pleasure of an exceptional nature over and above the usual necessities of life".) Evelyn Graham, another of the trustees, adds:

"Jennifer Gray has written to say that the grant from the Trust enabled her to purchase a lap-top, which helped her to participate in a creative writing class:

*'To write a piece and cut and paste until the finished product appeared was sheer joy. I have found the creative outlet so profoundly satisfying. It has led to new friends, adventures and a new lease of life in retirement.'*

"It is a pleasure to learn that that the grant has been so helpful."

One of Jennifer's poems [see page 1] is the title piece of a collection of 'New writing from Battlefield' edited by Linda Jackson, and published by Seahorse Booklets.

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## Yearly Meeting Nominating Group

The YM Nominating Group, which is appointed at Yearly Meeting, has the remit to bring to the next Yearly Meeting, the following nominations:

Four Friends to serve on the Committee on Clerks; and

Nine Friends to serve on Central Nominations Committee.

I am now on this group until August 2020, along with another Scottish Quaker, Robert Wilson (of Orkney Meeting), and we shall both hope for prayerful support, practical help and guidance from Scottish Friends in finding people to serve in these roles.

**Rachel Frith**

## *2019 Festival Fringe Events at Venue 40 (Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House)*

The programme is slightly different this year, but the entertainment continues to be of the highest quality.

The theatre offers four shows each day: at lunchtime, in the early afternoon, at teatime, and early evening. The café, run by the same people as last year, will be open throughout the Fringe, even on days when there are no shows: its last day is Monday 26 August. The charities supported this year are the Grassmarket Community Project, Mary's Meals and Quaker work in Britain and abroad.

The **Meeting Room** will host a variety of events – exhibitions, art workshops, and another fascinating programme of talks and discussions from Luath Press: there's something for everyone's taste, ranging from *Oor Big Braw Cosmos* via *Meaning and mystery: the standing stones of Scotland* and *Paolozzi's Edinburgh: sculpture and streetscape* to *Going green: the art of living well* and *The Scottish Parliament 20 years on: visions of Scotland the Brave*. Meeting for Worship will be held every day, Monday to Saturday, from 11.00 – 11.30.

As ever there's an eclectic mix of shows! If you missed last year's smash hit, *Accident Avoidance Training for Cutlery Users*, you will be delighted to learn it's coming back. Highlights for me are *La Voix Humaine*, a Poulenc short opera which I love; *Keep Your Chin Up*, which features recently-discovered letters from a war-time wife to her soldier husband are brought to life by Polly Pattison, the writer's daughter [see opposite]; *Little Rabbit*, in which Susan, an adoptee with learning difficulties, is trapped by rising floods as Storm David batters. We are promised a "dark contemporary fairy story for adults" which has elements of both realism and the gothic.

Another must-see is surely *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, presented by Piccolo Teatro Nexonnais, bringing the trestle table technique, *théâtre du tréteau*, to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's classic poem. Those who need an annual Sorries fix will be pleased to know they are once again appearing at venue 40, as are huge favourites the Newbury Youth Theatre company, this time with the tall tale of *The Wizard of Winterbourne*, who uses the fearful spell *Open lock to the Dead Man's knock! Fly, bolt and bar and band! Nor move, nor swerve, joint, muscle, or nerve at the spell of the Dead Man's hand!*

Last but definitely not least, Majk Stokes and his musical friends will be here to entertain us as usual on August 3, 25 & 26 – all proceeds to our charities.

Tickets for most shows are already on sale from the Fringe Box Office: [edfringe.com](http://edfringe.com), or in person at 180 High Street. During the Fringe, they can also be bought in person from the venue box office.

**Mary Woodward**

WOTLARX presents  
**KEEP YOUR CHIN UP**

At the age of 77 years Polly Pattison is returning to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2019 with a one-woman show *Keep Your Chin Up*.

Long after the death of her parents Polly unexpectedly discovered a cache of 85 letters from her mother (Ethel) to her father (Ken) in the early years of World War II. Written between 1940-1943 the intensely personal letters from Ethel (in Hull) to Ken (North Africa/Italy) now give rare insights into everyday civilian life in those dark days.

Dramatizing her mother's words with sensitivity and humour Polly Pattison offers an unforgettable experience as she relives her mother's personal history, supported by extracts from her father's wartime diaries. These letters were written by Ethel about experiences which 'everywoman' shared. These women kept the home fires burning. *Keep Your Chin Up* is a tribute to them. It is for the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren of those women.

Running through the letters are the constant themes of desperation and frustration, and the terror of not knowing as she seeks reassurance on the health and whereabouts, not only of her Desert Rat husband, but of her younger brother Fred who, having lied about his age, saw action with the Royal Navy when he was sixteen years old. Ethel writes of loneliness, of being evacuated, nights spent in the shelters to escape enemy bombing, food shortages, ration books, clothing coupons, and lighter moments like games with the baby (Polly) and family gossip about a younger sister who was having 'a good war' thanks to a nearby USAF base.

### **About WOTLARX**

*Keep Your Chin Up* is produced by **Wotlarx**. Polly was last in Edinburgh in 2013 with her husband Dave in the two-hander *Can You Hear Seagulls*.

**Wotlarx** was formed by David and Polly Pattison to produce social-issues based works and have performed across the UK. They have also had work performed in Savannah GA (USA), and Zimbabwe. In recent years their concentration has been on staging quarterly variety shows raising funds for charities working to end homelessness.

### **Listings Information**

**Venue** The Quaker Meeting House Theatre (Venue 40)

**Tickets** £7.00 (£5.00)

**Dates** 5-10 August at 12.30 pm & 12-17 August at 14.30

## Britain Yearly Meeting, 2019

As ever I enjoyed Yearly Meeting – but that is nothing new. Sixty years ago I went to my first YM, having just been welcomed into Friends and been on the second Aldermaston March. One Friend said, “Well Alison, I cannot agree with you, but I will support you”: my goodness, in one sentence that was the the reason I had wished to be a Friend – and it is still a joy – with thankfulness.

This year we had a talk from Edwina Peart, who is the member of Friends House staff working on how inclusive and diverse we are. It was made clear to us that if we were able to think that we didn’t have to answer the ethnicity question on the survey then we are privileged. How many times have we asked a person of colour where they are from, only to ask (when they give the name of a town in Britain) where their parents or grandparents came from – *i.e.* where they are *really* from? And would we grill a white person in that way? It might well come up in conversation later on. It is time to realise that people of colour can be/may be/will be of colour *and* British – not English, you notice.

Later in the weekend I attended a session led by Vanessa Julye, a member of Philadelphia YM, who had once been asked with surprise, “What, Black and a Quaker?!” Vanessa is a very patient Friend, and is now being asked to speak to meetings around the States.

On the Sunday morning we had the families with younger children join us for a programmed meeting for worship. The children sat on the floor below the stage, and Chris Nickolay told us a story about the beginning of the world “when there was nothing, except perhaps a smile”. The story continued, but that was the best beginning I have ever heard.

The weather was good, so we were able to sit out in the garden and enjoy the sunshine. The children played and chased each other, and also included their less able friends.

In the mornings I walked through Tavistock Square, to say hello to Gandhi (his statue) and nod at the stone commemorating conscientious objectors, and then went into the half-hour early morning meeting for worship – a helpful start to the day.

We had a preview of the BYM Gathering next year (at Bath, 1-7 August) presented by Siobhan Haire and our own Adwoa Bittle.

Yearly Meeting is a time of challenge and joy – greeting Friends and missing others, it is a time of reflection and prayer, of laughter and learning. Recently I was asked what I was doing at a meeting on “learning how to do nominations” when clearly I had served on several nominations committees; to which I replied that I could always learn more. I feel the same way about attending YM: I may not remember but I can always learn more – and bits of what I have learnt may come back to me.

**Alison Burnley**

## **Book of Discipline Revision Committee – the work begins!**

Yearly Meeting 2018 was devoted to discerning whether the time was right to start the process of revising our Book of Discipline (a.k.a. *Quaker Faith & Practice* / 'The Big Red Book'). YM discerned that the time was right, and set in motion the search for a committee to carry this out.

After a lengthy and complex discernment process YM Nominations offered Meeting for Sufferings the names of twenty-two people to serve with the co-clerks, Rosie Carnall and Catherine Brewer, who had been appointed last November. The committee contains representatives of every decade from teens up to the 70s: the oldest member is in his late seventies, and there are only six members over the age of 66 – myself included. I am one of two Scottish members, the other being Nuala Watt of Glasgow Meeting; there are two Welsh members, and the rest are from AMs all over England.

Our first meeting as a committee was in London over the weekend 10-12 May, when we began to get to know each other and work out how we start to tackle this mammoth undertaking. I have been continually reminded that the last revision of our Book of Discipline took ten years – and I was both excited and somewhat apprehensive. Three people were unable to join us in Friends House. One was able to connect with us electronically: she could see and hear what was going on, but it was not easy for her to contribute to the sessions, which will need addressing in future. The other two couldn't be present: all three were given 'buddies' to fill them in on the weekend, and this will be our practice on all future occasions.

I was fortunate in knowing, to some degree or other, a number of the other committee members, largely through meeting them at Woodbrooke, either as a Friend in Residence or while doing Equipping for Ministry (EfM). I was friends with Nuala before we were appointed to the committee – but she didn't know any of the others, which must have been daunting. One committee member had brought along wee Norma, born the very day of our appointment: we were all delighted to make her acquaintance. The other 'committee baby' wasn't able to come as he and one of his mums were both unwell – we look forward to meeting him later this year. Some committee members have children, grandchildren, and wear any number of other Quaker hats as well: I feel quite glad to be single, with grown-up children but no grandchildren, and no other Quaker commitments apart from representing us at ecumenical gatherings – I'm finding it challenging enough to get to know these new people and deal with all we are being asked to do without having to take other stuff into consideration too!

Our first weekend was spent getting to know each other and starting to consider how we tackle the revision: it is not simply a matter of editing and rewriting our current Book of Discipline, but of considering how we

produce something that reflects British Quakers as we are today and how we want to be in the future – and what form this might take. We are thinking about ways in which we can work together, and how to embody last year's YM Minute 31 which encouraged us to be prayerful, creative, joyful and bold.

There is an on-line 'collection tool' by which you can submit passages and quotations that you would like to see in the new Book of Discipline – go to <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/qfp-idea/>. If you prefer a paper form, one is available from Michael S. Booth, Recording Clerk's Office, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ: [qfp@quaker.org.uk](mailto:qfp@quaker.org.uk). All submissions will be gathered and kept until such time as we are ready to attend to them.

We also spent time considering ways of keeping Friends informed about the progress of our work – e.g. workshops, visiting Meetings, and online communications. I have been invited to give reports to General Meeting for Scotland and South East Scotland AM this month, and will report regularly in future. I am also very happy to travel elsewhere if Friends would like to hear first-hand how we are getting on! There will be a weekend at Woodbrooke in November (8-10) entitled *Why have a Book of Discipline?*, open to anyone over the age of 13. AMs will be invited to send representatives, and other interested Friends are also most welcome. Many of the committee will be there, so do come and get to know us!

This will not, however, be our first public appearance: we took part in a session at Yearly Meeting. Friends were invited to come and meet us, worship with us, and engage with us during the Saturday lunchtime break – it was slightly scary to be handed the microphone and asked to introduce ourselves, but most heartening to receive Friends' good wishes, encouragement and prayerful support, especially from those who had been part of the group producing *Quaker Faith and Practice*.

I was also involved in a couple of sessions for people visiting from other Yearly Meetings, or who had been appointed to visit other YMs. It was great to meet Friends from other parts of the world, and learn not only what concerns they have at present, but also what they each call their Book – the Irish have *Quaker Life and Practice*, the French *Expérience et Pratique*, while the Germans simply call it '*Unser Buch*' [Our Book].

Your Revision Committee will meet as a whole over three more weekends this year, and in order to engage with Friends all over BYM will meet in York (July), Edinburgh (October) and at Woodbrooke (December). I look forward to meeting some of you during one or more of these weekends.

We are working on your behalf, and can't do this alone. Please uphold us through the rest of 2019 and the years to come.

**Mary Woodward**

# SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

## Minutes of Area Meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House

### 2019/05/01 Worship and introductions

During worship, we have heard a reading from *Quaker Faith & Practice* 23.102 and 23.99. These passages speak of finding the good in everyone we encounter, following the examples of both Jesus and Elizabeth Fry.

We have also heard of the death of our friend Anne Patrizio, who died on 13 April.

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

### 2019/05/02 Minutes of Meeting of Saturday 23 March 2019

The minutes of our last Area Meeting held on 23 March 2019 in Kinghorn, Fife, have been signed by the Clerks and entered in the Minute Book.

### 2019/05/03 Matters arising from the minutes

#### 1) *Festival Committee (2019/03/09 refers)*

Janet Grimwade reports progress towards Venue 40 arrangements. There will be a 30-minute period of silent worship daily from Monday to Saturday during the three week period of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. A number of workshop sessions will take place in weeks 1 and 2, organised by different groups. There has been a good response from volunteers: requests for accommodation and other help will be coming out shortly.

#### 2) *General Meeting for Scotland, Edinburgh, 8 June, 11.00 am-4.30 pm (2019/03/12 refers)*

We have heard that arrangements are in hand. Central Edinburgh soup-makers will be active, and others are asked to supply fruit, biscuits, cakes and other additional contributions. These should come with a clear list of ingredients, and it is helpful if those contributing notify Alison Burnley (South Edinburgh) in advance, to avoid duplication or over-supply. Help with washing up is also appreciated.

#### 3) *Looking through the lens of privilege (2019/03/13.1 refers)*

We have heard that the study groups on Britain Yearly Meeting's theme of privilege have been going well. They have focused on the need to be inclusive if we are to have a transformational impact. We encourage friends to attend the final session in the series later this week. We thank Rici Marshall Cross (South Edinburgh) and Sue Proudlove (Central Edinburgh) for their work in leading these.

#### 4) *Joint letter on the climate emergency from Edinburgh Interfaith Association (2019/03/14.2 refers)*

We have heard that the letter read at our last meeting was sent to all MSPs, and to the leader of City of Edinburgh Council in early April. Aside from a warm response from the Council leader, there has been a disappointing

lack of response from MSPs. We have heard from David Somervell (South Edinburgh) about progress on climate change issues with the City of Edinburgh Council. We encourage individuals and local meetings to take this up with their parliamentary representatives.

**5) *Central Fife LM (2019/03/06.2 refers)***

Central Fife Local Meeting has held experimental meetings in Dunfermline. It has now been decided to continue this practice at least until December 2019.

**2019/05/04 Meeting for Sufferings**

Henry Thompson (Central Edinburgh) has reported that the main consideration at the February meeting was to consider the 'post-truth world'. Their minute records the difficulty of finding the courage to challenge lies, particularly on social media. It considered whether we might find a way to promote safe online spaces, possibly mirroring our experience of establishing and supporting the Ecumenical Accompaniment Project in Palestine/Israel. At the April meeting, trustees considered their risk register. This has identified the risk of a lack of transmissible Quaker culture, arising from having many small meetings. This linked to the external review of the Vibrancy Project, which is aimed at helping Quakers achieve the aim of being 'a simple church supported by a simple charity to reinvigorate Quakerism'. YM Trustees are seeking an approach that serves all of Yearly Meeting, and not just the four vibrancy pilot areas.

**2019/05/05 Membership matters**

**1) *Application for membership***

[An application was received and visitors were appointed.]

**2) *Resignation of membership***

The Clerk has read a letter of resignation of membership from Matthew Naumann (Portobello & Musselburgh). [...] We agree to accept Matthew's resignation, and ask the Clerk to let him know.

**3) *Transfer of membership (out)***

Our Assistant Clerk (Membership) has received a Certificate of Acceptance for Sheana Roberts from North of Scotland Area Meeting. We hereby record this transfer.

**4) *Letter of greeting***

Following between-meetings procedure, our clerks have provided a letter of greeting on behalf of Annie Miller (Central Edinburgh), who travelled to South Korea in April:

*Dear Friends*

*South East Scotland Area Meeting, a constituent member of Britain Yearly Meeting, sends greetings to Seoul Monthly Meeting.*

*We have pleasure in introducing our Friend, Annie Miller, who regularly attends Meeting for Worship in Edinburgh.*

*Annie has had a concern about Basic Income for more than thirty years, and has written about it and given talks around the United Kingdom. We know she feels*

*privileged to have been invited to take part in the 2019 Korea Basic Income Expo, celebrating the introduction of a Youth Dividend to all 24-year olds in Gyeonggi Province.*

*Signed on our behalf,*

*Alastair Cameron, Clerk, South East Scotland Area Meeting*

Annie has given our Clerk a copy of the letter signed by the Clerk of Seoul Quaker meeting, Hongin Kim, who translated it for the worshippers.

Annie has told us briefly about her trip, which included her visit to Meeting for Worship.

We thank Annie for taking these greetings on her trip, and look forward to reading more in a future edition of *Sesame*.

### **5) Death**

We record the death of our friend Anne Patrizio (Central Edinburgh) on 13 April, while on holiday with her husband Joe in Italy, visiting Joe's family. The funeral, conducted by a humanist celebrant, was held in Edinburgh on Wednesday 8 May.

### **2019/05/06 Appointments**

Nominations Committee has put forward the following names for consideration:

1. *To serve from May 2019 until April 2022*
  - a. Annie Miller (Central Edinburgh) John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust
  - b. Sue Proudlove (Cent'l Edinburgh) Quaker Life Representative Council
2. *To serve from July 2019 to June 2022*
  - a. Kate Arnot (Polmont) Trustee (*Reappointment*)

We appoint these Friends accordingly.

### **2019/05/07 Britain Yearly Meeting 2019**

We note that the following Friends from South East Scotland AM are planning to attend Britain Yearly Meeting at Friends House, London, later in the month: Elizabeth Allen (*East Lothian*); Martin Burnell, Alison Burnley, Rici Marshall Cross, David Somervell (*all South Edinburgh*); Rachel Frith, Janet Grimwade, Ellie Harding, Madeleine Harding, Ken Jobling, Margaret Mortimer, Lin Murison (*all Central Edinburgh*); Joan Torbett-Schofield, Mary Woodward (*both Portobello & Musselburgh*). Two attenders from Tweeddale, Helen Holt and Lesley Morrison, also plan to attend.

We wish them well and will hold them and the whole gathering in the light

### **2019/05/08 Prison chaplaincy**

We have heard from our prison chaplain, Jenny Copsey (Kelso) about her work at HMP Edinburgh (Saughton).

Jenny reports important progress in our activities. Our payments to remand prisoners in need continue, with 25 payments made so far this year. There remains approximately £525 in the fund for the rest of the year. Several of the chaplains have expressed appreciation of our contribution, as has the Imam, who will suggest to those looking for a cause to give to around Ramadan, that they consider putting into the Quaker fund.

Relationships and communications with the chaplaincy team have improved, though workload and security arrangements can make things slow. There have been few requests from prisoners for visits, and Jenny lives at a distance, so she is considering alternatives such as email contact: she would be glad to hear from Friends who might join in writing emails to prisoners. One recent initiative has been to set up a creative listening group, in conjunction with the full-time chaplain. This will be a six-session course initially, and Jenny hopes to see it becoming a rolling programme.

Jenny is keen to explore the needs of female prisoners at Saughton. She links with other third-sector bodies through the Joint Faiths Board for Community Justice which meets in Glasgow. While she is encouraged by the many initiatives she sees, she notes that the prison population in Scotland is on the rise, partly because of new people entering the system.

We thank Jenny warmly for the time and energy she puts into this work on our behalf, and ask that she continue to keep us in touch with what it requires.

We have been invited to participate in planning the national Prisoners Week 2019 (third week in November), and to nominate a trustee for the ongoing work of Prisoners Week.

We hope this might be possible, and ask the Clerk to advertise the need more widely within the Area Meeting, inviting people to participate in this work.

### **2019/05/09 Roots of Resistance**

Cathy Holman (Portobello & Musselburgh) has introduced the work of Roots of Resistance, which will take action in September 2019 at the DSEI arms trade fair in London.

Nine friends have volunteered from Scotland, and Cathy together with Cath Dyer (Polmont) have agreed informally to co-ordinate participation. Cathy has explained more about DSEI.

Activities in London will include singing, craft activity and Quaker worship. The Sylvia Marshall bequest has offered financial support, and it is hoped that this will allow younger friends to join the action.

We support this initiative, and authorise our treasurers team to offer support up to £1,000 in total. We ask our Clerk to pass this minute to the Clerk of General Meeting for Scotland. We ask local meetings to consider ways in which they might participate, including financial support for individuals taking part, where needed.

### **2019/05/10 John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust** [*see also page 3.*]

Annie Miller has presented the annual report of the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust for 2018. The Trust has seen a year of transition, with several changes in trustees. It was a quiet year in terms of applications. Four applications were received and approved.

Annie highlighted two: a grant to the Galgael Trust which enabled twenty people from Glasgow to share a weekend on Iona, exploring issues of spiri-

tuality (Alastair McIntosh wrote about this in *The Friend* of 1 June 2018); and another allowing someone to participate in an artists' retreat at the Quaker centre in Congénies in France.

2018 opened with a balance of £9,431. Earmarked donations contributed £1,001 to the trust's funds, while grants amounted to £2,750, leaving a balance of £7,682 at the end of the year.

We thank the trustees for their work.

### **2019/05/11 Extinction Rebellion (XR)**

We have heard from Cath Dyer about her experience of participating in an event organised by Extinction Rebellion (XR) on 16 April. This involved a human blockade of North Bridge in Edinburgh, and resulted in the arrests of around 30 people, three of them Quakers. Charges of breach of the peace are being pursued. Cath notes that the whole event was very well organised and very peaceful, and that the police treated participants with respect the whole time.

We note that this coincided with major disruption organised by XR in London, lasting a number of days over Easter, and that again, many Quakers were involved. We record the following arrests of people connected with our Area Meeting, and ask the Clerk to forward this information to Meeting for Sufferings:

8 March, Oil Club dinner, National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh – 14 arrests, including two Quakers: Justin Kenrick (Portobello & Musselburgh), Eva Schonveld (Portobello & Musselburgh). Both held overnight at St Leonard's Police Station, Edinburgh, charged to appear in court; the Procurator Fiscal has since decided to take 'no further proceedings';

16 April, North Bridge Edinburgh – 29 arrests, including three Quakers: Justin Kenrick; Cath Dyer (Polmont); Lesley Morrison (Tweeddale). All held at St Leonard's Police Station, charged with breach of the peace to attend at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 14 May. All pled not guilty: held over for trials on separate dates – 21 August and 20 September;

25 April, Parliament Square London – Justin Kenrick arrested, held in Walworth Police Station overnight, released under investigation;

26 April, Parliament Square London – Justin Kenrick arrested, held in Belgravia Police Station overnight, released under investigation;

19 April, Waterloo Bridge and Parliament Square London; Saul Kenrick (Portobello & Musselburgh) arrested, held for over 50 hours; to appear in court on 28 June.

A number of XR meetings have been held at 7 Victoria Terrace, and more are planned; one Friend has met the cost of these, and has offered to do so again.

A crowdfunder for XR Scotland has been set up, and can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/extinctionrebellionscotland>.

### 2019/05/12 Library Committee

Our Library Committee has offered a number of volumes to the National Library of Scotland, who have indicated that they would welcome the donation of 803 items (from our collection of 1,807 books). Acceptance of this offer means that books currently in the AM library will be available for a wider audience which could promote Quaker history and philosophy. It also means that the books may be easier for Friends to access as the NLS is a fulltime library. The books will be kept in a good condition and valued. Finally the benefit of making the donation will mean the remaining books will be more effectively displayed in the (soon to be refurbished) library and crèche rooms in Victoria Terrace. This reflects the comments given to the library group during its initial assessment in 2017 from Friends to have a core collection, displayed better. We agree to take up the offer of the donation to the National collection, and authorise the Library Committee to make the necessary arrangements.

### 2019/05/13 Conferences and events

1. *How We Win*: workshop led by Emily Johns and Gabriel from *Peace News* on Saturday 18 May <https://hww18may.eventbrite.co.uk>
2. Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) Edinburgh Group on Friday 17 May informal discussion about DSEI 2019 Arms Trade Fair. Bring & share food. <https://dsei17may.eventbrite.co.uk>
3. International Conscientious Objectors' Day, 15 May, vigil by Wellington statue, east end of Princes Street, Edinburgh, 5.00-6.00 pm.

### 2019/05/14 Correspondence

1. Junior Yearly Meeting epistle: 12-15 April, Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire
2. Quaker UN Office (QUNO) Review, March 2019
3. Northern Friends Peace Board (NFPB) update, May 2019
4. *Our Homeless Neighbour*, newsletter for friends of Scottish Churches Housing Action, May 2019.

### 2019/05/15 Closing minute

33 members and three attenders have been at all or part of today's meeting. This includes one member who has recently moved from Bristol, and has been worshipping at Central Edinburgh. Local meeting attendance is indicated below:

Central Edinburgh	Central Fife	East Lothian	Kelso	Penicuik
16	2	5	1	-
Polmont	Portobello & Musselburgh	South Edinburgh	Tweeddale	
1	5	6	-	

We next meet on Saturday 22 June 2019, at the Quaker Meeting House, Kelso.

(Signed)  
Alastair Cameron  
Clerk  
Cath Dyer  
Assistant Clerk

## Quaker Quicks

The first in a new series of short books on Quaker themes, *Quaker Roots and Branches*, by John Lampen, appeared last year; we hope to have a review in a future issue.

Two others have so far been published – *Telling the Truth about God*, by Rhiannon Grant, tutor of Quaker Roles at Woodbrooke; and *What Do Quakers Believe?* by Geoffrey Durham – and a further four titles are scheduled to appear between July and December 2019. These are: *Money and Soul*, by Pamela Haines; *Why I am a Pacifist*, by Tim Gee; *The Guided Life*, by Craig Barnett; and *Practical Mystics: Quaker Faith in Action*, by Jennifer Kavanagh.

Each one is quite short – most are 80 pages long, some stretch to 88 – and all are priced at £6.99. They appear under the “Christian Alternatives” imprint of John Hunt Publishers, and, although intended for enquirers and newcomers, may also be of interest to Friends of longer standing.

*Editor*

If we sometimes think things are wrong with our meetings for church affairs, it would help us to look at the situation on perspective if we could realise how many troubles arise not from the system, but from our human imperfections and the variety of our temperaments and viewpoints. These meetings are in fact occasions not merely for transacting with proper efficiency the affairs of the church but also opportunities when we can learn to bear and forbear, to practice to one another that love which suffereth long and is kind. Christianity is not only a faith but a community and in our meetings for church affairs we learn what membership of that community involves.

*Church government*, s. 713 (1968)

## *Quaker Meetings for Worship in South East Scotland*

### **Every Sunday**

Central Edinburgh: 7 Victoria Terrace	9.30 am & 11.00 am
South Edinburgh: Open Door, 420 Morningside Road	10.30 am
Polmont: Greenpark Community Centre	10.45 am
Kelso: Quaker Meeting House, Kelso	10.30 am

### **Every Wednesday**

Mid-Week Meeting: 7 Victoria Terrace	12.30 – 1 pm
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### **First Sunday in the Month**

Penicuik: Valleyfield House, 17 High St., Penicuik <i>Children welcome, bring and share lunch</i>	11.00 am
Portobello & Musselburgh: Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello EH15 2BP <i>Half an hour – no children's meeting.</i>	7.30 pm

### **Second Sunday in the Month**

East Lothian: Dunbar Town House, High Street, Dunbar	11.00 am
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### **Second and Fourth Sundays in the Month**

Portobello & Musselburgh: Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello EH15 2BP. <i>Children welcome.</i>	11.00 am
Tweeddale: Nomad Beat, 10-11 Cavalry Park, Peebles <i>All welcome, but please phone to confirm 01721 721 050 or 01896 850 389</i>	10.30 am
Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am

### **Fourth Sunday in the Month**

North Edinburgh Meeting: Broughton St Mary's Church, Edinburgh	7.00 pm
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### **Fifth Sunday in the Month**

Central Fife: Hunter Halls, Kirkcaldy (Kirk Wynd, opposite Old Kirk)	10.30 am
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### **Last Sunday in the Month**

East Lothian: Dunbar Town House, High Street, Dunbar	11.00 am
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So far as we know, there are no regular meetings for worship on University premises. **Mark Borthwick** is the named Quaker contact on the University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy website, and there is a Facebook Group at [www.facebook.com/groups/EUQuakerSoc](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EUQuakerSoc)

### **Distribution of *Sesame* and *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. An email version of *Sesame* is more ecological and is free; if you would prefer to receive it this way, or to change the address to which a paper copy is sent, or if you would like to get one by post and currently do not, please contact **Joanna Swanson** at [jmswanson69@gmail.com](mailto:jmswanson69@gmail.com). A large print version is also available on request. Published by the 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. Printed by Footprint UK, Riverside Works, Edinburgh Road, Jedburgh TD8 6EE.