

# SESAME

**Number 244: November 2022**

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AM on 5 November / Fàilte: *news & pictures* / Will Aid / General Meeting / NFPB / John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust – a *note from the new Trustees* / Meeting for Sufferings / NPT / BIEN 2022 Congress / Festival Committee / Peace & Justice has a new home / Ukraine: *Opposing both sides*; Geoffrey & Elisabeth Carnall Award event / Zoe Prosser LDW / September minutes / ... &c.

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Fàilte Edinburgh: a trip on the Union Canal, 15 October  
(See page 5)

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## SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

The next Area Meeting will be held at the Old Kirk, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1EH, on Saturday 5 November. The meeting will start at 10.45 am; tea and coffee will be available beforehand, from 10.15. It is expected that items 12 and 13 will be taken after lunch.

### DRAFT AGENDA

1. Worship and introductions
2. Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 7 September 2022
3. Matters arising from previous minutes
  1. *Jim Pym testimony* (Minute 2022/01/07 refers)
  2. *'Warm bank' at Quaker Meeting House* (Minute 2022/09/06.3 refers)
  3. *Quaker Week 2022* (Minute 2022/09/07 refers)
4. Decisions by between-meeting procedure:
  1. *Memorial meeting for Rachel Howell*
  2. *Convenership, Management Committee*
5. Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign booking of Edinburgh QMH
6. Membership matters:
  1. *Reports on visits for membership*
  2. *Application for membership*
  3. *Resignation*
  4. *Transfers*
7. Matters from local meetings
  1. *South Edinburgh: memorial minute for our Friend Hilary Davies*
8. General Meeting matters
  1. *From the GM Parliamentary Engagement Working Group: nominations for 'Time for Reflection', Scottish Parliament*
  2. *Appointment of reporter, GM at Aberdeen on 19 November*
9. Reports
  1. *Festival Committee* [see page 24]
  2. *AM Treasurer – proposed hardship fund; contribution to BYM*
10. Appointments

11. Dates for Area Meeting in 2023
12. Living Witness (*including minute from South Edinburgh LM*)
13. Closing minute

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### Living Witness – Agenda Item 12

*The concluding minute from the gathering at Woodbrooke in August of Living Witness (reprinted in Sesame 243, pages 6-7; it may be helpful to re-read it in full) said this:*

**We recognise that injustice in the ownership and control of resources raises questions about our entire political and economic system**

*and Friends are called on to be “whole with creation” in confronting the crises facing it and us. David Somervell, who was at the gathering, will lead us in considering how we may do this.*

*The website of Living Witness (Quakers for Sustainability) is here:*

<https://www.livingwitness.org.uk/>

*and provides more information about the group, details of publications, and PDFs to download. There are links to the text of the closing minute from the August gathering, and to the ‘Quaker Human Dimensions’ blog.*

*On the day after Area Meeting, COP27 opens at Sharm-el-Sheikh in Egypt, and runs from 6-18 November. The UN, and the Egyptian government, which holds the presidency, have both set up websites for it, at:*

<https://unfccc.int/cop27> and <https://www.cop27.eg/#/>

*Saturday 12 November is a **Global Day of Action** called by Egyptian groups at COP27. As part of this there will be a **march in Edinburgh** organised by the Edinburgh Climate Coalition, Climate Justice Coalition, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Global Justice Now and Extinction Rebellion Scotland. The booking link is below.*

Join us In Edinburgh, St Andrew Square at 12:00 for a family friendly march that brings to life the multiple crises we are facing. At each location along the route, groups will engage the march in key issues and resistance: expect music, art and excitement! All welcome

St Andrew Square: *International Climate Justice: Make Polluters Pay*

HSBC, Hanover Street: *Cancel all Debt to Global South Countries*

Santander, Hanover Street: *End Fossil Fuel Finance*

Market Street: *Solidarity with Egypt: Free All Political Prisoners*

UK Government Office, Sibbald Place: *No New Fossil Fuel Projects*

Scottish Parliament: *End the Cost of Living Scandal – Just Transition Now*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/this-crisis-demands-actionedinburgh-cop27-march-tickets-443146361697>

[For more on Climate Justice see overleaf, and the GM and NFPB reports on pages 10 & 14]

## *Christian Aid Talking Climate Justice Tour*

**St George's Tron Church, Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2JX**

**Saturday 12 November 2022 at 7.00 pm**

Join us for a climate justice conversation in Glasgow. We'll reflect on the beauty and fragility of creation and grapple with the challenges of poverty and the climate crisis.

We'll hear from our guest 'conversationalists' – including **Sally Foster Fulton** (Head of Christian Aid Scotland), **Jen Morris** (Secretary, Young Christian Climate Network Scotland (YCCN)) and **Ross Greer MSP** – as they talk through how the Church can respond to these challenges and call for climate justice.

To find out more and register for tickets, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-climate-justice-tour-glasgow-tickets-402633356207>

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## **A Message of Thanks**

Friends will know that when they donate to South East Scotland Area Meeting they are invited to say how they would like the money distributed – how much to Area Meeting itself, to their local meeting, to the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust, possibly to General Meeting for Scotland, and to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). We collect any gift aid and add it on before remitting the money, which we do twice a year. Following a recent payment to BYM, I received this email from the Recording Clerk, Paul Parker:

*I'm writing to add my personal thanks to the more formal acknowledgement letter attached to this email. I'm so grateful to Friends in South-East Scotland AM for your continuing support for Britain Yearly Meeting's work.*

*We're living in such challenging times, and for me they emphasise just how important it is that Quakers are there – to provide people with caring, loving communities which can support them to live faithful lives, and also to act out our faith in the world with bold work to change things. This contribution from South-East Scotland Friends really helps BYM to plan ahead with confidence, to support meetings to thrive, and to continue to work for peace and climate justice. Thank you all so much.*

*Warm greetings to you all.*

*in Friendship*

*Paul*

I know some Friends donate direct to BYM and receive personal thanks, but I thought those who ' earmark ' part of their donations to AM for BYM would like to know their support is appreciated.

**Jacqueline Noltingk**  
**Area Meeting Treasurer**

## Settling in *Fàilte Edinburgh – November Update*

[Our refugee family wishes us not to print their names, but has allowed us to publish photographs. The pictures here (and many more) will shortly be appearing in colour on the Fàilte Edinburgh page of the Quakers in Scotland website, at <https://www.quakerscotland.org/south-east/failte-edinburgh>.]

Friends have been asking how we are getting on with our Community Sponsorship project. As *Sesame* readers already know, the Syrian family we are supporting arrived in Scotland in mid-August.

In view of the fact that they have been living here for just over two months we feel a lot has been achieved. The weeks have passed in a flurry of appointments, communication challenges, more appointments, continuing communication challenges ... and then suddenly it's half-term and the sun has been shining for at least two days. As you can see from the picture on the cover, life has not all been an uphill trek, indeed there have been days of serenely smooth plain sailing.

The children are settling into their new schools and initial reports have been extremely positive. Their English comprehension is increasing and they are eager to try out a few words. "Wow" is a particular favourite just now! They are enthusiastic, polite and sociable – a real credit to their parents and a delight to spend time with.



The three children

For their parents the settling-in period has been just as hard as we were led to expect. Learning English from scratch is extremely difficult although they have made several friends in class and they like their teacher. Other Arabic speakers have been enlisted to help them. Their lessons, however, all take place on the other side of the city from where the family lives and they find the travel quite tiring.

Adjusting to the change in climate – from hot desert conditions near Cairo to the mild sunshine and showers of a typical Edinburgh summer – is another challenge and they, like us, dislike the rain. One or two proposed expeditions have been cancelled in consequence.

All of the family caught head colds soon after arrival and now have a keen appreciation of the umbrellas we donated for their use – indeed they have just bought themselves another one!

Till now they have been accompanied to nearly all of their school, medical and Job Centre appointments by one or more of the Failte Edinburgh volunteers. Every appointment needs to be fitted in around school drop-off and pick-up times, ESOL classes and Friday Prayers at the Mosque. Each visit requires the presence of a pre-booked interpreter (either in person or by telephone.) A detailed report must then be written up about every trip or visit. So far, seventy-eight such reports have been filed. Naturally this is all quite time-consuming in terms of planning and execution.

The half-term canal boat trip was a huge success, however; so was a trip to the Botanic. The weather was kind on both occasions, the children and their parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves, herons were spotted, ducks were fed, trees climbed, hot chocolate consumed and new friends quickly made. For the volunteers it was a chance to leave business behind and interact with members of the family and each other simply for pleasure.

**Lynne Barty**



At  
Harrison  
Park,  
after the  
boat trip,  
15/10/22



Above: At the Botanics, 18/10/22 (with the daughter of one of our volunteers)



Right: On the boat trip, 15/10/22, with Gareth of the Fàilte Core Group

## *Special Meetings and altered arrangements*

**M**EEETING FOR WORSHIP TO WITNESS FOR PEACE will take place on 13 November (Remembrance Sunday) at 10.30 am, near the fountain at the west end of Princes Street Gardens, in support of the meeting for worship being held simultaneously outside HMNB Clyde, the Faslane naval base. *All those able to attend are invited to do so.*

**T**HERE WILL BE A MEMORIAL MEETING for our Friend **Rachel Howell** on Saturday 19 November at 2.00 pm, at the Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. (Her funeral took place in Yorkshire on Friday 7 October.)

**25** DECEMBER 2022 is a Sunday (as is 1 January 2023); arrangements for Meetings for Worship are affected by both being holidays. Getting to meeting by public transport may also be more difficult. There is timetable information at <https://www.travelinescotland.com/lts/#/timetables>

*Central Edinburgh LM* will hold a blended meeting at 11.00 am on both days, with coffee, but no lunch, afterwards; soup will resume on 8 January. On both days, the 9.30 am meeting will take place **ONLY** on Zoom.

*Central Fife LM* will NOT meet at the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy, on 25 December, but there is a possibility of meeting at Hunter Hall, 27 Kirk Wynd (opposite the Old Kirk). **Please contact Laurie Naumann if you would wish to attend.** There will be NO meeting in Dunfermline on 1 January. **Friends are encouraged to join another meeting by Zoom on those two Sundays.**

*East Lothian LM* [which meets twice monthly, on the second Sunday & the last] will NOT meet on 25 December; the Dunbar Town House will be closed.

*Kelso LM* will meet as usual at 10.30 am on both days.

The *North Edinburgh worship group* will NOT meet on 25 December.

*Penicuik LM* [which meets on the first Sunday in the month] has yet to decide if there will be a meeting on 1 January; contact **Mark Hutcheson** nearer the time, or see the Meeting's website at <https://www.hutcheson.org.uk/>.

*Polmont LM* will NOT meet on either day.

*Portobello & Musselburgh LM* will meet as usual at Bellfield on both days: at 11.00 am on 25 December, and at 7.30 pm on 1 January.

*South Edinburgh LM* will meet on both days, but by Zoom **ONLY**.

(*Tweeddale LM* is unaffected, meeting on 13 December and 10 January.)

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**K**EEP YOUR MEETINGS in the power of the Lord God, that hath gathered you; and none quench the Spirit, nor despise prophesying, but keep up your testimony in public and in private.

George Fox, 1666



## Will Aid, November 2022

**K**NOWING THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE, it is strongly recommended that Friends make their wills in time of health and strength of judgment, to prevent the inconvenience, loss and trouble that may fall on their relatives and friends through their dying intestate. We counsel that none postpone this duty to a sick bed, an improper time to settle our outward affairs. Even if we should be favoured with a clear understanding, this ought not to be diverted from a grave consideration of the approaching solemn change. Making his [sic] will in due time can shorten no man's days, but omission and delay have proved very injurious to many.

This extract (§ 427 in the previous Book of Discipline), drafted in 1782 and revised in 1911, is based on Yearly Meeting advices of 1691 and epistles of 1695 and 1703, reflecting Friends' longstanding concern that all should give due thought to preparing for death; the advice of 1782 also "earnestly recommended" that Friends "employ persons skilful in law and of good repute to make their wills".

Any reader of *Sesame* who has not yet done so has the opportunity this month to make good the omission and contribute to charity at the same time. Solicitors participating in the Will Aid scheme – who can be found at <https://lookup2022.willaid.org.uk/#/> – will draw up a basic will without charging their usual fee. Instead, they invite clients to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid. The suggested donation is £100 for a basic single will or £180 for basic 'mirror wills' (for married couples). Donations are divided between the nine Will Aid charities, to help people in need in the UK and around the world. The nine are: ActionAid; Age UK; the British Red Cross; Christian Aid; NSPCC [*National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children*]; Save the Children; SCIAF [*Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund*]; Sightsavers; and Trócaire [*the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland*]. A basic will covers an estate in which everything is left to a few family members, friends and charities; which does not require detailed inheritance tax advice; and which has no assets outside the UK. It will also include a couple of executors. It does *not* include setting up trusts, powers of attorney or other devices, which would be charged separately by the solicitor. Solicitors' fees vary across the UK, but most would charge considerably more than the suggested donation. Will Aid is available **during November only**.

Once made, a will drawn up under the Will Aid scheme can be registered free with Certainty (the National Will Register); the usual cost is £25 + VAT. The Register does not hold a copy of the will but records which solicitor is storing it.

For more information on Will Aid see <https://www.willaid.org.uk/>.

*There is advice on will-making in Quaker Faith & Practice, 20.65 & 20.66; also (in 20.46) an extract from John Woolman's Journal on a dilemma unlikely to arise. (ED.)*

## General Meeting for Scotland, 10 September 2022

General Meeting was held at the Meeting House in Edinburgh, with – for the first time there since before the onset of COVID-19 – soup provided at lunchtime, and cake afterwards. Twenty-two Friends and one visitor were present in person to enjoy them; participants on Zoom brought the total to fifty, including three attenders.

### *Activities by, with, and for Children & Young People*

The meeting heard read an enthusiastic report of Shindig 2022 (held at Ackworth School, 30 July–6 August): after the annual gathering of 11–16-year-olds had been reduced to an online event only in 2020 and 2021, the resumption of the residential gathering had been much appreciated. It is hoped that some who attended may be at the next General Meeting.

Mary Troup reported on working with children and young people, and the joy it brings. She looked ahead to Quaker Week (24 September – 2 October) which in 2022 has the theme ‘Welcoming Families’.

### *Parliamentary Work*

The paper from the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) as ever contained much of interest; Carolyn Burch spoke to it. Work by the PEWG and others on the climate crisis and related matters was the subject of a separate report. Carolyn spoke on the specific issues of energy efficiency in buildings, and peacebuilding/peace education, and on the general matter of how the PEWG, and Friends in meetings and individually, can best engage with Holyrood.

In August, PEWG members and others had met with Patrick Harvie MSP, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants’ Rights, to discuss the Scottish Government’s Heat in Buildings strategy, and this conversation is to be kept going.

Likewise, in respect of peacebuilding, the group is staying in contact with ministers Ivan McKee, on attaching stronger conditionality to Scottish Enterprise funding of companies whose products have possible military applications, and Angus Robertson, on the planned Scottish Peace Institute.

On peace education, the motion introduced by Paul McLennan MSP which commended the Quaker report *Peace at the Heart*, had attracted the support of 34 MSPs, including (perhaps surprisingly) the Conservative leader, Douglas Ross, and also Labour’s deputy spokesperson on Children & Young People, Martin Whitfield, who was very enthusiastic about the report and invited the PEWG to take part in a series of roundtables that he and Michael Marra are planning to review Scottish Labour’s approach to education. (*Peace at the Heart* is at <https://quaker.org.uk/documents/peace-at-the-heart>)

Maggie Chapman MSP put down a motion praising Britain Yearly Meeting for the intention to make reparations for the transatlantic slave trade (see: <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-04846>),

and it is hoped the knowledge of this commitment may make MSPs more receptive to Friends' lobbying on issues such as Loss and Damage. Carolyn reminded Friends of the effectiveness of letter-writing. The PEWG has, on behalf of Friends corporately, responded to consultations on the circular economy (as described at <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview>), and on land reform, for which it drew on the expertise of a small advisory group of Friends.

At General Meeting in November, there will be discussion of the PEWG's priorities – currently, the climate emergency, economic justice and peace-building – and whether these need changing for the next three years.

### *Quaker Matters*

Also before the lunch break, our representative Ann Kerr presented her report of **Meeting for Sufferings'** July meeting, of which more details are at <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ourorganisation/meeting-for-sufferings/papers-and-minutes>; and Mary Woodward and Nuala Watt updated Friends on the continuing work of the **Book of Discipline Revision Committee**. (There were reports of both in *Sesame* 243.) Earlier, General Meeting had been reminded of its response to the question "What might rightly be brought before Yearly Meeting in 2023?", submitted to the **YM Agenda Committee** in July to aid its discernment in planning for Britain Yearly Meeting next year; the Committee had sent copies of its relevant minutes.

### *Appointments*

In the afternoon, the Meeting heard a Nominations report; and a number of appointments made by between-meetings procedure had been minuted at the start of the meeting.

Among the appointments, Mary Woodward was made the GM representative to the Ecumenical Officers' Forum (under the Scottish Christian Forum which is successor to ACTS), and Kate Arnot is to represent Friends at the Scottish Religious Leaders Forum; Neil Turner joined the Option 2 Working Group; and Simon Harding and Roz Currie were appointed to the Northern Friends Youth Events Charitable Trust (which organises Shindig).

### *Climate Justice*

Richard Raggett of the PEWG reported on work in collaboration with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) and other bodies including Christian Aid and Interfaith Glasgow; Andrew Tomlinson, our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, chairs the SCCS Policy & Advocacy working group. The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan for carbon emission reductions is due to be published in 2024, and the working group, which is already in regular contact with the civil servants drafting it, hopes to meet cabinet members in the autumn. In preparation, SCCS has commissioned research into fiscal levers the Scottish Government can use to tackle climate crisis.

It was suggested that Friends refresh their memory of Minute 33 from

Yearly Meeting 2021 ('Faith-based action for climate justice'), which is here: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/yearly-meeting-minutes-substantive> and Minute 33 from Yearly Meeting 2022 ('Faith, Community, Action'), at: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/yearly-meeting-minutes-2022-full-final>.

The PEWGW is preparing material to help Friends lobby MSPs, in particular in respect of Loss and Damage – *i.e.* "climate impacts which cannot be or have not been mitigated or adapted to", as Oxfam defines the term; see: <https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2022/02/what-is-loss-and-damage-and-why-is-it-so-vital-for-climate-justice/>

The Scottish Government has already declared its commitment to L & D reparation, and announced its establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund while COP26 was taking place in Glasgow; the PEWGW welcomed this. An international day of action was scheduled for 22 September.

[See the NFPB report on page 14 for more on Loss and Damage.]

Friends were also urged to inform themselves on 'Resilience': defined (by Oxfam again) as "the ability of women and men to realize their rights and improve their well-being despite shocks, stresses and uncertainty" – see:

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/the-oxfam-framework-and-guidance-for-resilient-development-604990/>

Information is regularly posted at the BYM and Scottish Friends websites on events and courses, such as the Zoom sessions on *Building Resilience* which ran in March/April, and the Young Adult Climate Crisis Retreat at Woodbrooke in September/October.

### ***A Quaker Study Centre?***

In 2003, an attender, Gerald Richards, bequeathed a collection of four hundred books to West Scotland Area Meeting in the hope they might form the nucleus of a Quaker Study Centre in Scotland. In 2004, it was agreed they should be housed temporarily in the library at Glasgow Meeting House, and General Meeting in November agreed to appoint a working group to explore options. The group reported in 2005 and 2007, but evidently no suitable venue could be found for a study centre, and nothing has been done since. The books occupy space at the Meeting House which is now needed. Some of the paperbacks are no longer in a usable condition, while many of the scientific books are seriously out-of-date. It was agreed, therefore, to appoint a group to examine the books, deciding which to discard, which to offer to the libraries at Friends House and Woodbrooke, and which to give to charity shops. It was minuted, nevertheless, that "We remain open to the idea of having a Quaker study centre in Scotland, sometime in the future."

### ***'Options for Quakers in Scotland'***

Lesley Richards (of Worcestershire & Shropshire AM), convenor of the Options 2 Working Group, updated the Meeting on its work. The group is the successor to the one set up to examine the proposal from North Scotland

AM that the four area meetings and Scotland General Meeting be amalgamated into a single body; its remit is to:

- *Explore and analyse changes to our Quaker structures, which might be of future benefit to Friends in Scotland;*
- *Keep a watching brief on changes being adopted by Quakers elsewhere to learn from the experience of others; [and]*
- *Monitor how we are putting into practice the suggestions for strengthening our Quaker community in Scotland.*

When it is completed next year, the group's report will go to the four Area Meetings in the first instance, before it and any recommendations arising from it are considered at General Meeting in June.

### ***Enquirers' Day: 5 November 2022***

This one-day event, "for people who know little or nothing about Quakers, and for those who have been around Quakers a while and want to explore further" will be held in Cathedral Halls, Dunblane, and also on Zoom. It is being organised by West Scotland AM. For more information, or to book a place, contact Gill Reid (tel. 01292 319050; email: [gillreid3@btinternet.com](mailto:gillreid3@btinternet.com)).

### ***Opposing War Memorial***

The establishment of a memorial to conscientious objectors, and all who have opposed war rather than fighting in it, was proposed several years ago, and in 2018 a consortium of organisations backing the proposal was formed to raise funds. A competition to design the memorial was won by Kate Ive; a site in Princes Street Gardens was approved by the City of Edinburgh Council; and of the sum needed to build and install the memorial (then estimated at £164,788) some £68,000 was quickly raised. However, the pandemic put the work on hold, and changes at Peace & Justice have meant it is no longer feasible for it to lead the project, although it wishes to remain involved. The Iona Community has reaffirmed its commitment, as have various individuals – General Meeting agreed to do the same, but did not feel able to take the lead role which Peace & Justice is relinquishing. This may include finding a new site, if, as seems likely, the new ruling group on the Council withdraws permission to use the original one, working on a simplified design (Kate Ive is willing to do this) and, of course, raising the considerable sum to complete the work, costs having risen significantly and the money previously donated having been depleted.

The minute on this matter concludes:

***We ask Friends to consider if they might be able to volunteer to help with the Opposing War Memorial project. Friends considering this should get in touch with Janet Fenton: [janet@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:janet@peaceandjustice.org.uk)***

The next General meeting will be at Aberdeen Meeting House (98 Crown Street, Aberdeen AB11 6HJ) and on Zoom, on 19 November, "if nothing occurs to prevent".

*Notes prepared from the GM minutes, with thanks to Rachel Frith for her help. (ED.)*

## Northern Friends Peace Board, 24 September 2022

The Board's third meeting of 2022 was at Glasgow Meeting House. Before the pandemic this was often our autumn venue, enabling members from southerly parts of 'the North' – the compass of the NFPB extends to Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire – to combine attendance at our meeting with participation in the witness at Faslane next day if they were staying overnight in Scotland. However the convenience of Zoom, and a weekend of major rail disruption, meant that only nine were present at Elmbank Crescent (two of them local Friends joining us), with 18 members and another visitor online. Suzanne Wilson, our co-clerk, was among those prevented from attending; Mary Alice Mansell was at the table in her place.

### *Climate Issues*

After introductions, we turned our attention to the climate crisis. Phoebe Spence spoke to her written report of the Living Witness conference at Woodbrooke in August (its concluding minute was in *Sesame* 243) and we were joined online by Livvy Hanks of QPSW, to speak about Loss and Damage, the subject of an international Day of Action earlier that week.

A sense of being "on the cliff edge" had informed the minute, Phoebe told us, but it had been inspiring to hear from Friends engaged in many different form of action. From the weekend, she had taken various messages: that we must "Let our lives speak"; that our words must be balanced by listening and understanding; from a session on war, that the military mentality, with its emphasis on discipline and obedience, is itself pernicious; and that our witness must include practical help *now*: "money in the future will be too late". (She had also been struck by how Woodbrooke has been affected by the various recent crises; and that the vegan food (which participants had enjoyed) was named as if it aspired to be meat-based rather than being "unique [and] characterful" in itself – "something to note", she thought.) Only about a third of Area Meetings were formally represented at the gathering, which might indicate that even among Friends there is a serious need to raise awareness.

Livvy's presentation began with a forceful five-minute film, which can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96wtZnglTCQ>. (Livvy said that having seen it at least twenty times it still makes her hair stand on end.) As the 'third pillar' of climate action, after 'mitigation' and 'adaptation', 'loss and damage' is the most difficult for the Global North to address, since, unlike the other two, it offers no scope for gain: there may be profits to be made in enhancing sustainability under the other two pillars, but straightforward reparation brings no immediate advantage to those paying. Thus although there have been calls since 1991 for a scheme of compensation, it was not until much later that it was written into the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and really only in the run-up to COP26 last year that it seemed to acquire urgency as an

issue. The Scottish Government set up a Loss and Damage Fund, closely followed by the regional government of Wallonia (Belgium), though the sums allocated – £2m and €1m, respectively – while perhaps useful for research, could not possibly have any appreciable direct impact on the global problem. Denmark is the first sovereign state to have set up a fund, having pledged 100m kroner (about \$13m), though this too is a token sum in the face of the hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of losses inflicted on poor communities. What is needed is a mechanism to effect large-scale transfers and to make polluters and profiteers pay: new global taxes will be under discussion at COP27 (at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt, 6-18 November) as will possible action by the World Bank and IMF.

Livvy had pictures of the Day of Action on 22 September, and spoke of what Friends can do to "Make COP Count". Wera Hobhouse MP tabled an Early Day Motion on Loss and Damage on 8 September, but the Queen's dying on that same day meant it was not debated – the text can be read at <https://commonsbusiness.parliament.uk/Document/59109/Html?subType=Standard>

There are two new articles on L & D (and some older ones) on the Quakers in Britain website:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-join-international-action-for-a-loss-and-damage-fund>

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/climate-economic-justice/make-polluters-pay-campaign>

Our minute concluded: *"We recognise that climate justice is essential to global peace and so will be a continuing part of the work of the Board."*

### **Members' Forum**

As well as hearing about the memorial meeting for Anni Rainbow, and the recent event with Paul Rogers in Edinburgh [see pages 33 and 30] we had news of work with refugees, about Quaker Roots, on plans for some meeting houses to be 'warm banks' – places to go for those who cannot afford to heat their homes – and an update from Janet Fenton on Peace & Justice – its partnership with Secure Scotland and its new premises [see page 26].

### **Trustees' Report/Financial Statement**

We had brief reports from from the Clerk of Trustees, Peter Spiers, and from our Treasurer, Deryck Hillas.

### **Ukraine**

At our meeting in June, it was felt there was a need for an event to explore concerns raised by the war in Ukraine. A small group had met to take this forward. Several points emerged in its preliminary discussion:

- *Friends want to be better informed. What can we do to empower Friends to do something that contributes to a solution? We have a belief that there will be a future without war, and that we shouldn't accept it as an inevitability.*
- *Rethinking security is important – recognising root causes and the need to address unresolved conflicts.*

- *Friends are struggling with what the peace testimony means, with a deal of discomfort around this. Because of this difficulty, they are in some (?many) cases putting the war into the background. There is a feeling amongst some that protest is not effective – so what can we do? It will be important to explore different narratives and practical ways for Friends to take action.*

From this, the group proposed a series of four online sessions with the possible themes *Quakers and the war; Political dimensions, from national to international; Refugees; and Truth, media and messaging in time of war*. It remained to identify possible speakers and resources, but it is intended that the sessions will take place before the next Board meeting, and that they will be open to Friends generally.

### ***Nuclear Weapons***

Janet Fenton told us of the encouraging outcomes of the meetings in June on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons [see Sesame 243\*], and that the NPT Review [reported in more detail on page 20] had not been all bad: Costa Rica, on behalf of 147 states (*i.e.* many more than the states parties to the TPNW) had presented a ‘Joint Humanitarian Statement’ – see:

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/npt\\_conf.2020\\_63\\_advance.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/npt_conf.2020_63_advance.pdf)

– which stressed that the NPT is concerned with *eliminating* nuclear weapons, rather than just controlling their spread. (Also: on 22 September, five more states signed the TPNW: Barbados, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti and Sierra Leone.)

### ***Being a Representative***

While some of our members are co-opted by the Board itself, most are appointed by Area Meetings, and so the topic of what being a rep entails is raised at least once a triennium: how best to inform Friends in Local and Area Meetings of what the Board is doing, while also picking up the Meetings’ concerns to bring to us, if they relate to ‘*the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth*’ which has been the Board’s purpose since its foundation in 1913. Friends shared ideas and experiences of service. The issue of how to widen participation also concerns us – the new rep from North Scotland AM is our only member under 30 – and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Board meets again on 26 November, at Lancaster Meeting House.

**Alan Frith**

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\* Friends wishing to read the full texts rather than a summary will find the Vienna declaration from the Meeting of States Parties (four pages) here:

[https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP\\_2022.CRP\\_8-Draft-Declaration.pdf](https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_8-Draft-Declaration.pdf)

and the Action Plan (eight pages) here:

[https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP\\_2022.CRP\\_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf](https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf)



## *The John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust*

**T**HE JOHN WIGHAM (ENJOYMENT) TRUST was founded in 2003 after a legacy was left to the Society of Friends in Scotland on the death of John Wigham. The purpose of this legacy was to provide the means of making 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”.*

Applicants can apply for a grant of up to £600. Journeys to significant places or people; a much needed holiday; help to purchase a garden shed, a soup maker, an i-pad or other technical equipment, are just some of the ways that awards that have been given to previous successful applicants.

Applicants have informed us of the joy and benefits these grants have made to their lives. It can be hard to reach out and ask for help, but, if Friends notice those who would benefit from the trust, please speak to an Elder/Overseer at Meeting who could tactfully encourage them to make an application.

All Meetings have paper copies of the application form and a digital copy is available on request. Please contact Joanne Power (see the Book of Members for contact details) for any queries about applications, or to request a digital copy of the application form.

An application form needs a signature from a Quaker sponsor. This sponsor must know the applicant well enough to judge that they meet the criteria for the award and will stay in contact with them throughout the process; however it is the applicant's responsibility to complete and submit the forms.

*We look forward to receiving your applications.*

In Friendship,  
**Joanne Power, Carol Dean and Kate Arnot**  
 (JW(E)T trustees)

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There will be **Taizé Singing** at Crichton Collegiate Church on **6 November** at 3.00 pm. When it next gathers, on **4 December**, the group will join the church's carol service. Contact **Rachel Frith** for more details.

## Meeting for Sufferings, 1 October 2022

Papers for the meeting are at:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/mfs-2022-10-agenda-and-papers>

and the minutes can be read at:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/mfs-2022-10-follow-up-package>

I attended on Zoom, which is good in many ways but not in others and does feel rather two-tier, in that those in the meeting room can be far more engaged than those attending virtually.

### *Review Group*

We heard several reports, the first an update from Sarah Donaldson, clerk to the group reviewing Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting Gathering and Meeting for Sufferings. Its final report and recommendations will be presented in December. "Spirit led discernment is at the heart of who we are" we were told.

We heard about attempts at simplifying our processes. Meeting for Sufferings, Yearly Meeting, and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees are all doing valuable work; it is to be regretted that, despite advances in technology there is not better communications between the three.

Changes are needed but change happens anyway. Magnus Ramage, of Northamptonshire AM, quoted Heraclitus: "No-one steps into the same river twice. It's not the same river and he's not the same man."

### *Report from Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees*

This group is understaffed, was affected by COVID and has to report each year to the Charity Commission; nevertheless its clerk Caroline Nursey was able to tell us about the successful refurbishment of the Library at Friends House and the appointment of 15 Local Development Workers, who are already proving very effective by listening to the needs of Friends throughout Britain. There are workshops for Friends to engage in.

We were informed about grants and loans for energy efficiency for Meeting Houses. This can be a big burden when trying to futureproof our places of worship.

Trustees may be contacted at: [bymtrustees@quaker.org.uk](mailto:bymtrustees@quaker.org.uk)

### *News from Scotland*

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk of General Meeting for Scotland, reported on the work and the level of activity here.

I felt rather proud to be Scottish as she spoke. We are already doing the things in Scotland which our Friends in England would dearly love to do – such as having a good rapport with our Parliament, through our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Andrew Tomlinson.

The work of our Local Development Worker Zoe Prosser was also mentioned [see page 34]; and particular concerns were highlighted, including

peace education in schools; the climate crisis, and reducing fuel poverty in Scotland; restorative justice; and opposing the use of fossil fuels, and the deployment of nuclear weapons [*see the report of GM, page 10, and passim*].

There is plenty to be done but if we work together we can do much. Scottish Friends are already working with other Faith Groups, because, as the African proverb says, *If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.*

### **Membership**

What do we mean by Membership, and is it important to be a Member rather than an Attender when serving on committees? This was discussed at some length. "Friends in Good Standing" is a phrase used to describe people whether or not they are in Membership.

The use of the word "Overseer" is something that bothers some Friends.

Please remember, if you have a view on the work of Meeting for Sufferings, let me know, or email: [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk)

Jane Kelly

## **Recommendation: a book from the AM Library**

*The Power of Silence: the Riches That Lie Within*, by Graham Turner (2014)

It is no surprise to find a book about silence in a Quaker library. When the author was first persuaded to try a little silence he felt no need of God and religion and was about to embark on a career in journalism but he found new worlds, new perspectives opening up, and this book is an account of visits to people who value silence. Again there is no surprise that he went to India, to speak to Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and Jains, and elsewhere to meet other religious folk: Trappists, hermits, Quakers. The surprise for him (and us?) was the value put on silence by actors, musicians, psychotherapists and peace workers in Lebanon.

I very much enjoyed it.

Rachel Frith

**Q**UAKERS, who retain more wisdom than most moderns, owe it, I believe, largely to their practice of silent meditation. If we spent half an hour every day in silent immobility, I am convinced that we should conduct all our affairs, personal, national, and international, far more sanely than we do at present.

Two minutes a year, on Armistice Day, are given to silence, and all the other minutes of the year to largely futile bustle. The proportion is wrong; if the silence were longer, the bustle would be less futile.

From 'The Decay of Meditation' by **Bertrand Russell** (1872-1970),  
4 November 1931

[in *American Essays, 1931-1935*, reprinted as *Mortals and Others*]

## NPT Review – A Study in Failure

*The last Sesame included the Interfaith Statement setting out the hopes of 104 faith organisations as to what might be achieved at the Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), in New York, 1-26 August. To the frustration of many, the Conference ended without agreement, after a Russian walk-out. Rebecca Johnson, of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, was there ...*

ON FRIDAY NIGHT [26 August] I saw Russia's delegates blame others for Moscow's decision to veto the outcome document, putting another nail into the NPT coffin. The delegation then staged a walk-out that was meant to be intimidating, but just looked pathetic. Everyone was exhausted. It was long after the Tenth Review Conference should have ended, but the Argentine President Gustavo Zlaouinen had gone several extra miles to try to find language that Moscow would agree to on Zaporizhzhia, the endangered nuclear power plant in Ukraine. The text had already been watered down many times. What Russia really wanted was a text that would not contain any mention of Zaporizhzhia. As the NPT is supposed to deal with risks from nuclear power as well as weapons, that was impossible for others to accept. The text before us no longer contained explicit mentions of the war on Ukraine, but reference had to be made to finding ways to ensure that Zaporizhzhia did not explode into a worse nuclear catastrophe than Chernobyl and Fukushima.

The clock ticked on. In the end, after delaying the start of the plenary until two hours after it should have finished, Zlaouinen called the meeting to order, explained his efforts, and asked for consensus on the revised document. Russia gave a rambling speech about being willing to keep negotiating for many more days and weeks if necessary, blaming 'others' (and by implication Zlaouinen) for not meeting Russia's 'concerns'. And so the NPT ended.

I have participated in NPT conferences since 1995. Periodically I had to nip out the back of the UN General Assembly Hall to explain the developments and answer questions from journalists. Amid heightened nuclear threats, proliferation and war, I would explain, the need for tackling nuclear dangers and achieving nuclear disarmament were more vital than ever, and yet this most recent NPT Review Conference failure was not a surprise. This is the first time Russia has openly vetoed, but I've watched US delegations block consensus over mentioning Israel in text supporting nuclear-free- or WMD-free-zone efforts (2015) or on nuclear disarmament (1990 and 2005), in which Washington was often accompanied by London's government of the day, though not always to the final mat.

Without in any way downplaying the globally serious humanitarian and environmental dangers when military threats combine with nuclear facilities like Zaporizhzhia, trapping it in the vicious war on Ukraine, it is important to put this into the NPT context. Russia's veto over Zaporizhzhia is consistent with the military sense of entitlement that nuclear weapon possessors have

been given since 1945. Regrettably the NPT in 1968 was structured to reinforce the status of five nuclear-armed states and promote nuclear technologies for what were then called 'peaceful purposes'. Despite many well-meaning intentions and efforts by nuclear-free countries over decades, NPT conferences are still riddled with contradictions that drive proliferation and nuclear dangers rather than eliminating them.

In this 2022 delayed conference Russia and other nuclear-armed NPT members have spent four weeks criticising each other while colluding to block meaningful recommendations and actions on nuclear disarmament and nuclear dangers from the existing nuclear arsenals and facilities. Despite the rhetoric, they helped each other to keep and wield their own nuclear weapons, come what may.

France and various NATO allies worked away at removing language that reflected the real world facts, agreements and importance of the 2021 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As Russia was busy deleting references to Zaporizhzhia, on the penultimate day, France wore Zlaupinen down to edit the single paragraph acknowledging the TPNW with a further deletion to remove the basic fact that the first meeting of TPNW states in Vienna this year had adopted a declaration and programme of action. [*ICAN's summary of the Vienna Declaration and the Action Plan was in Sesame 243, pages 19-22.*]

For the record, the TPNW was launched at the 2010 NPT Review Conference to take the implementation of NPT obligations on nuclear weapons forward. The first meeting of TPNW states parties in Vienna successfully adopted concrete and forward-looking outcomes that clearly and practically address issues that the NPT has not been able to do, including ways to prevent nuclear use and acquisition, verifiably eliminate nuclear arsenals, and assist and remediate nuclear-impacted communities and environments.

Closer to home, the UK delegation focussed mainly on presenting itself as a responsible NPT member working on nuclear safety, security and verification. It stayed close to the US and supported some EU positions, but generally glossed over UK nuclear modernisation and proliferation-promoting policies and claimed lots of credit for promoting and selling nuclear technologies around the world, a bit like UK weapons sales. At the NPT Conference the US, UK and Australia wrangled with China about Australia's nuclear submarine plans (AUKUS) while ignoring concerns and opposition from numerous Pacific countries. But mostly the UK head was kept fairly low – after all, there's no credible government to take decisions while a couple of uninspiring Tory ministers vie for unrepresentative Tory votes to decide which of them will be anointed UK prime minister.

In the end, after sound, fury and a staged walk-out by Russia, an NPT 'Depositary State' meant to be responsible, it was left to many delegations to have the last word. In the UN General Assembly Hall late on Friday night, I heard strong and inspiring speeches of hope and determination from all over the world as well as the disappointment and anger of those that truly understand nuclear dangers and humanitarian risks.

Among these, several noted how the final text had been badly cut, skewed and weakened by all the nuclear-armed states, especially on nuclear disarmament. Pacific nations and others underscored the lost NPT paragraphs on assistance for victims of nuclear use and testing; Ireland lamented the loss of important paragraphs on women's full participation in all areas of disarmament and diplomacy; and several reiterated the vital contributions made by civil society. Costa Rica's ambassador quoted from her earlier joint statement on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which was supported by 147 states. Austria called on all NPT members who want to achieve actual progress on nuclear disarmament to join the TPNW. Mexico's joint statement on behalf of many nuclear-free nations and peoples was especially inspiring: *'We will not rest until the last state has joined the TPNW, the last warhead has been irreversibly dismantled and destroyed, and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth.'*

[This report originally appeared on the website of CND UK at <https://cnduk.org/another-npt-fails-due-to-reckless-nuclear-armed-governments/> and is reprinted with permission. Ed.]

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*Aidan Liddle, UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, gave a speech at the end of the NPT Review Conference; it is here:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/non-proliferation-treaty-review-conference-speech-by-uk-permanent-representative-to-the-conference-on-disarmament>

*The Women's International League for Peace & Freedom has gathered a considerable amount of information on disarmament issues which is available here:*

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2022>

*The official UN website for the NPT is*

<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/npt2020/media-center-and-news>

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## BIEN2022

### CONGRESS

*The 21<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network took place 26-28 September: in Brisbane, Australia, for participants in person, and also online. Annie Miller was among those who joined the proceedings remotely, despite the nine-hour time difference between Queensland and the UK ...*

**T**HE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S CONGRESS was *'Crisis and Transformation'*. The conference started with a video address by Andrew Yang, who, in 2018, had announced his candidacy for the US presidency in 2020 on the BI ticket, brilliantly renamed as the *'Freedom Dividend'*. The first plenary was given by Scott Santens, also from the USA, on the topic of *'Crisis, Transformation and Basic Income: A Comparative Perspective'*.

I soon became aware of the difficulties caused by the time difference. By 10.30 pm (BST), I was observing, rather than participating in, their early morning sessions (starting at 7.30 am, Australian Eastern Standard Time), before tumbling into bed for a few hours' sleep before catching the last sessions of the day at 7 am (BST). Also, I found the platform used for remote participation unnecessarily complex, designed to let speakers give every fancy version of their presentation they could think of to impress an audience, which was entirely inappropriate for BIEN's type of conference. This added to the stress.

The first day traditionally is devoted to developments in the host country, and the sessions that followed were mainly presented by people in Australia. The parallel sessions were arranged into three streams, each usually lasting an hour and a half, with up to four presenters in each session. Thus, each presenter may have had only 15 minutes to get their message over, with half an hour between them in which to answer questions. The sessions on the first day ranged from 'Modelling BI', 'Pathways to BI', 'Work and BI', 'Building support for BI', 'Inequalities and BI', 'BI, Gender and Care', 'BI and Social and Ecological Crisis', and 'BI and the Arts'. As usual, these turn out to be very frustrating when one wants to follow two simultaneous parallel sessions. One plenary was devoted to a discussion by indigenous Australians on 'Building Power to Dissolve Power: Building Political Paths to UBI'.

The first day finished with an inspiring keynote speech by Guy Standing, a charismatic co-founder of BIEN, whose current interest is in recent international legislation that enables states to extend their territorial rights over the sea to 200 miles. He calls this the Blue Commons. Unfortunately, many countries (including the UK) are turning these over to private interests, which Standing calls the 'Plunder of the Commons', often with adverse ecological outcomes. He points out that if the Blue Commons were to remain as a common asset, it could produce a dividend, or BI, for everyone.

The second and third days each hosted a set of six parallel sessions punctuated by plenaries, keynote speeches and panel sessions. Philippe Van Parijs, 'the Godfather of BI', (in the best possible sense), is always worth listening to, and his keynote speech 'Climate, COVID, Putin: Dawn or dusk for UBI?' was no exception. Whilst warning of the potential setbacks, he was able to indicate encouraging ways forward.

One paper has stuck with me. In a Panel Session entitled 'Re-envisioning a feminist basic income framework', Almaz Zelleke pointed out that while the introduction of a BI could benefit many women, it would not bring about gender equality in society. Zelleke referred to the work of the philosopher Nancy Fraser, who criticised the former 'universal breadwinner', and the 'care-giver parity', models of gender equality that had been put forward in the 1970s and 1980s. Fraser claimed that gender equality would only be obtained via the 'universal care-giver' model, where everyone con-

tributes equally to paid work and to caregiving, and Zelleke declared that she was working towards this, together with the introduction of BI.

The next BIEN Congress will be held in South Korea, 23-26 August, 2023. The country has carried out a great amount of research and analysis into BI: in 2019-20, it held a BI experiment in its largest province, Kyonggi, where every 24-year-old received the equivalent of £750 for a year in quarterly instalments.

The pandemic and the automation of many jobs has increased interest in BI, so that it is beginning to be regarded as mainstream. There is still a long way to go, but it will have to be part of any nation's justice and wellbeing programme eventually.

**Annie Miller**

Guy Standing's *The Blue Commons: Rescuing the Economy of the Sea* (2022) is a recent Pelican book, still only available in hardback (ISBN 978-0-241-47587-4); his earlier books, *Plunder of the Commons: A Manifesto for Sharing Public Wealth* (2019: ISBN 978-0-14-199062-0) and *Basic Income: And How We Can Make It Happen* (2017: ISBN 978-0-14-198548-0) are both in paperback. Annie Miller's own books on BI – the *Handbook*, *Pocketbook* and *Essentials of Basic Income* – are all available in paperback from Luath Press, and as e-books. (Editor)

The February 2022 edition of *Le Monde diplomatique* had an article on BI in South Korea, which can be read (in English) at:

<https://mondediplo.com/2022/02/05korea-box#:~:text=In%20July%202021%20he%20told,14%25%20of%20the%20average%20salary.>

## Festival Committee

The Festival Committee ran a limited programme at Venue 40 this year due to financial constraints, but what we did seemed to work well. A performance space, created in the hall without the need to hire seating, was used in the first week by Newbury Youth Theatre, and by Majk Stokes and Beth for several concerts which raised funds for Quaker work and for the Grass-market project. All the performances seemed to have reasonably good audiences. People were encouraged to book tickets through the Fringe box office and we ran a pop up box office for half an hour before each performance. This, and checking e-tickets, seemed to be manageable within the staffing resources. Unfortunately we had no approaches from suitable groups wanting to use the performance space in weeks two and three.

The exhibition of the eighty *Loving Earth* panels, very well displayed in the Meeting Room, was visited by almost 400 people. This showed the benefit of its being advertised in the Fringe programme, thanks to the Sylvia Marshall fund. Thanks are also due to the volunteers who acted as stewards during the three weeks and those who ran two workshops encouraging a creative response to the exhibition. Panels created by Stitches for Survival



were displayed in the foyer and were also seen by the visitors.

We had two successful talks. In one, Michael Mears spoke about his play *The Mistake*\*, which he was performing at another venue; the other, arranged at short notice by Luath Press, was about the development of the Festival over 75 years.

Festival Committee is now considering options for 2023. There are various things we need to take into account. Alan Sayle will no longer be acting as Treasurer. New Meeting House Managers will be in place by August. A performance licence will still be required for any commercial performances at a cost of well over £1,000. We like the idea of keeping things simple and within our financial and staffing resources.

We hope to be able to discuss these at Area Meeting and to get some idea of the level of commitment and support there is for the Festival at a time when our resources are limited.

**Janet Grimwade**

\* *It is hoped that The Mistake, which won the Mervyn Stutter 'Spirit of the Fringe' Award 2022, will be touring in 2023; Peebles is one of the possible venues. For more information see <https://michaelmears.org/the-mistake-a-new-play-about-the-day-the-world-changed-forever/>*

## Learning about Mindfulness for Life

I am currently learning to teach/guide a course developed by the Oxford Mindfulness Centre called *Mindfulness for Life*. This is through a Scottish organisation called Mindfullybeing – see: <http://mindfullybeing.co.uk/about-us/> – and the Course leader there is a part of BAMBA: the British Association of Mindfully-Based Approaches, see: <https://bamba.org.uk/about-us/>.

To practice facilitating the *Mindfulness for Life* course (under supervision), I am looking to find people interested in joining an 8-9 week series of two-hour online sessions – there is no charge.

There will be an initial session to help potential participants understand more and decide whether they wish to continue, which I hope to hold on 5 January 2023 at 7.00 pm. Starting the following week, the course would then run until late February/early March.

The course has developed from a secular evidence base and the language and focus is thus broadly 'non-religious'; more a tool for practical self-learning and kindness. However, it does inevitably also recognise links to ancient religious traditions – particular Buddhism, but also Sufism and contemplative Christianity; and perhaps can also be understood as 'post-secular' given its use of poetry and religious texts.

Please contact me if you might be interested.

**James Henderson**

## A New Home for Peace & Justice Scotland

**E**VEN AS AN EXCEPTIONAL ENGLISH LITERATURE SCHOLAR at Oxford in 1945, Geoffrey Carnall was already active for peace: a registered conscientious objector, he worked in India, 1948–50, and came under the influence of Horace Alexander and Gandhian non-violence while India and Pakistan struggled on the brink of war. He was an academic in Belfast before coming to Edinburgh in 1960, where he met his wife Elisabeth Seale Carnall, a like-minded spirit, a founder of the Quaker Women's Group and active in the Campaign Against the Arms Trade. Geoffrey's involvement with the peace movement included direct action and a court case (which he won) on the legitimacy of leafleting people as they left the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. He and Elisabeth were appreciated for their generous Quaker hospitality, and in 1980 they set up a small peace centre that grew into Peace & Justice Scotland. Geoffrey and Elisabeth nurtured the project until their deaths in 2015. Their legacy includes an annual award and lecture in their name. Scottish Friends too many to mention have been actively supportive throughout its existence, either on the board or as volunteers or employees, and the current Convenor of P & J Management is Mary Alice Mansell, of Glasgow Local Meeting.

The P & J met various needs: a venue for meetings and envelope stuffing, a place to sew or paint banners, a postal address for campaigning groups with storage for leaflets, petitions and placards. Later, there were printers, word processors and then computers and projectors, the essential (pre-Google) library, and a developing relationship with the new Scottish Parliament. P & J memberships became a source of income as well as the community of interest, and campaign partnerships became part of the ethos.

In 2011, the P & J was joint organiser (with Trident Ploughshares and Acronym) of a conference in Edinburgh on the legal status of nuclear weapons, at which Christopher Weeramantry, a former judge at the International Court of Justice, was principal speaker. A re-enactment of the 1909 Women's Suffrage procession in Edinburgh revived the Scottish branch of WILPF [*the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom*]; and, as the east coast Centre for Scotland's for Peace, P & J was responsible for conferences at the Scottish Parliament on Afghanistan, Nuclear Disarmament and Human Security. The Peace & Justice Centre promoted users' activities in *Peace & Justice News*, through action alerts, and by displaying their leaflets. By now, envelopes were stuffed by Skills Path (volunteer opportunities for disabled people) and resources included the library, periodicals, meeting and exhibition space and mailboxes. About 25 groups were regular Centre users and membership was over 200. Although membership declined (by 2020 it stood at 87) social media was reaching people in new ways, and the Paper Cranes visual arts project attracted significant funding as well as reaching out to a whole new and different community. The

schools project was taking the message to youngsters, but was sadly impacted by school closures, and pandemic-induced delays and changes. The original need for a physical space for Peace & Justice is different now, but it has become apparent that it *is* still needed, despite a shrinking world where virtual meetings and working from home have become normal. We need to rebuild our capacity to come together safely while using technology to share resources. Austerity politics, Me Too and Black Lives Matter have affected how we understand each other. The huge demos and public meetings of the 80s are part of the peace movement's history. On the one hand, responses that extend beyond the nation state are possible and vital; on the other, friendship and community are needed to enable tenacity, and the capacity for immediate and local action and responses to injustice and suffering.

Peace & Justice Scotland has a 'National' identity and requires a 'shop window' and an accessible and neutral open door, to improve diversity and engagement with individuals, communities and groups. This will be a base where students and early career graduates can be mentored and develop their skills, where administrative support for the changes needed for peace and environmental sustainability can be provided, and where arts, music and the spoken word can help us envision a safer and better future. P & J has been working closely for the past few months with **Secure Scotland**, the group that is challenging prevailing ideas of security through discussion groups, film, a moot court and blogs. When words like 'security' and 'defence' are used to describe actions that waste resources we need, and put us all in danger, it's time to reconsider and start a better conversation.

After a long summer of heightened expectations, dashed hopes and some very differing possibilities, things are at last properly on track for a new space for our words and actions for peace to be planned, administered and shared. Peace & Justice Scotland and Secure Scotland will enjoy a new home from 1 November – and as soon as we are in it we will be able to plan events and look forward to being part of the local and international community. While Secure Scotland brings much needed financial support to acquiring a base, this project needs and deserves support. There is still furniture to find, we aim to purchase a new infra-red eco heating system, and we need volunteers to keep the doors open, and to develop and implement new or ongoing work for peace and the climate.

The new address is **58 RATCLIFFE TERRACE, EH9 1ST** where we hope to be able to offer information, meeting space, arts and craft items and a chance to check out music, crafts or spoken word events, workshops and more. If you might want to hold a meeting there or help out, or you'd be interested to come and see it, or to get updates, please call or text **07795594573**, email [hello@securescotland.scot](mailto:hello@securescotland.scot) and [contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk), or call in when the space is open.

**Janet Fenton**

## How to Oppose Both Sides of a War

This article by **David Swanson** of *World BEYOND War* is, with permission, taken from his 'Let's Try Democracy' website; see <https://davidswanson.org/how-to-oppose-both-sides-of-a-war/>. (Also of WBW is Yurii Sheliashenko – see page 30.)

**I**T'S TRICKY to oppose both sides of a war, and rarer even than supporting both sides. The weapons dealers support both sides.

Following their TVs, people all over the world spend a lot of time expressing the opinions conveyed on screen regarding a particular war that is far from the worst one raging at the moment. It is the war that creates the greatest risk of nuclear apocalypse, but that is not typically mentioned.

You cannot just state that you oppose *both* sides, because that will be taken by almost everyone as asserting the unrelated and ridiculous proposition that the two sides are identical; and *that* will be understood as outrageous propaganda on behalf of whichever side the listener opposes.

So you have to denounce specific outrages by Russia while in the same breath denouncing specific outrages by the United States/Ukraine/NATO, while simultaneously explicitly making the obvious point that these outrages are different from each other and placing them in historical context.

You can't just provide a video exclusively denouncing US/NATO/Ukraine outrages, such as this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0unEYRB7RAQ>

or a video exclusively denouncing Russian outrages, like this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJIXnoQwH2Y>

even if you like both videos, because one of the two cheering sections will have tuned out by the time the speakers have cleared their throats.

You can't even speak up for peace, because it will be taken as a horrible insult to whichever side someone favours – and not simply as an insult, but as suspected paid propaganda for the other side, as in this instance:

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/in-australia-a-mural-for-peace-deeply-offends-people-suffering-war-fever/>

One thing you *can* do is set up a webpage offering a collection of resources:

[https://worldbeyondwar.org/ukraine\\_action/](https://worldbeyondwar.org/ukraine_action/)

but a great many people will never go to it or scroll down any farther than it takes them to mistakenly guess which of the two sides you are on.

You can even set up an entire website making the case that all wars are outrages on all sides and debunking each common myth to the contrary and explaining the available alternatives – ours is here:

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/>

– but it will generally be understood (even agreed with and sympathized with) as applying to every other war in history; but not to the current one.

So you actually need to take a deep breath and tell people:

**I** OPPOSE ALL OF THE HORRIBLE KILLING AND DESTRUCTION IN UKRAINE, fully aware of the imperialistic history of Russia and of the fact that NATO expansion predictably and intentionally led to this war, disgusted that peace activists in Russia are locked up, and sickened that they are so effectively ignored in the U.S. that imprisonment is not needed except for high-profile whistleblowers — and I hold these weird positions while actually not suffering from any particularly extreme ignorance of the history of the Cold War or NATO expansion or the death-grip of U.S. weapons dealers on the U.S. government, or the status of the U.S. government as top weapons dealer, top promoter of militarism to other governments, top foreign base builder, top war instigator and top coup facilitator; and yes, thank you, I have heard about the rightwing lunatics in the Ukrainian as well as the Russian governments and militaries, I just haven't picked one of the two I want to be killing people or overseeing nuclear weapons or power-plants during battles, and I am indeed sickened by all the slaughtering of people the Russian military is engaged in, even while I can't fathom why human rights groups should feel ashamed for reporting on the atrocities being committed by the Ukrainian military, and I do know how much the U.S. and UK have done to prevent peaceful resolution as well as how much Russia has, and I am aware that some Russians feel scared and threatened and that Russian-speaking Ukrainians have felt scared and threatened, just as I am aware that other Ukrainians — not to mention Western television viewers — feel scared and threatened; in fact I myself feel quite scared and threatened that the risk of nuclear apocalypse is going to keep climbing while the war continues, and I think that both sides, while radically different, and deserving blame for very different things, should be able to recognize at the very least that a stalemate that drags on and on, killing and destroying, while building the risk of nuclear war, serves nobody other than the weapons dealers, not even the politicians, so that it would be better to negotiate peace now than to do so later or to find it to be too late, that the world has non-optional environmental and disease crises it could be better dealing with in the absence of this insane butchery; and this could be recognized with or without recognizing that the two sides have been able to negotiate, with some outside help, on questions of grain exports and prisoner exchanges, rendering ridiculous the tired claims by both sides that the other side is a monster with whom one shouldn't and couldn't negotiate; and with or without recognizing that both sides have engaged in both unspeakable horrors and restraint of various sorts, targeting helpless people for death while suffering both more than is acceptable and less than is possible; and with or without beginning to open any minds to the alternatives that existed for both sides even at the point of greatest escalation, and the nonviolent unarmed defence alternatives that exist for governments and nations around the world should they choose to pursue them on the scale that would make them most effective.

Then take another breath and duck below the table, just in case.

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“Now thrive the armourers ...” Act II Chorus, *Henry V* – quoted by Paul Rogers on the current world situation, 21/9/2022: see overleaf.

## *Geoffrey & Elisabeth Carnall Peace Award 2022*

### PEACE AND SECURITY AFTER UKRAINE

TO MARK THIS YEAR'S AWARD, an event at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 21 September, took the form of a short talk by the award-winner, **Paul Rogers** (Professor Emeritus of Peace Studies at Bradford University), followed by a discussion in which he was joined by **Yurii Sheliashenko**, speaking from Ukraine, **Vijay Prashad**, in Santiago (Chile), and, present in person, **Christine Bell**, who took the chair and, towards the close, offered her own comments. About twenty people were in the hall, and forty more joined on Zoom; **Janet Fenton**, on behalf of Peace & Justice, the organisers, introduced the proceedings and presented the award.

**T**HIS WAS A HIGH-POWERED GROUP OF SPEAKERS: earlier in the month, Yurii had been named as co-recipient of the International Peace Bureau's Séan MacBride Peace Prize 2022; he works with the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement (UPM), the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO) and World BEYOND War. Vijay is Director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, and a senior non-resident fellow at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China; Christine is Professor of Constitutional Law and Assistant Principal (Global Justice) at the University of Edinburgh, and has been advising the Scottish Government on its plans for a Peace Institute; and Paul Rogers himself: a recognised authority on matters of war and peace for almost fifty years.

His introduction set out the context of the Russian invasion: a world in which wealth inequality is sharply escalating; where the climate crisis is impacting on people's lives and can no longer be ignored; but where the approach to threats is that they be controlled or suppressed rather than seen as problems to be solved. (Despite this, solutions may exist and in fact be closer than we realise – he cited work on renewable energy at Stanford and Oxford.) The immediate crisis, blamed on Putin and his cronies, has its own origins. When the Soviet Union collapsed, it did so in “tens of weeks” rather than through the decades of decline it took the British Empire; and for its former rulers (such as Putin) it seemed that Russia was treated with contempt, with NATO and the EU encroaching on its former territories. The ‘special military operation’ is thus redressing a balance, in their view. Any explanation in these terms is seen as appeasement, however. The war, he said, is not winnable by either side – indeed, the terms ‘win’ and ‘lose’ are dangerous in themselves. (NATO's stance in the Cold War was that it would use nuclear weapons if it were losing a conventional war, which is now Putin's.) It is absolutely true that Russia has behaved abominably. Europeans are now seeing the reality of modern warfare: the assaults on Ukrainian cities with no regard to civilian casualties had a precursor in the attack on Fallujah during the Iraq war, and operations in Libya and Afghanistan were similarly indiscriminate. Western states may be reluctant

to accept it, but in the Global South the war is *not* seen as a conflict of Good against Bad.

It has, however, been good for business: certain sorts of business, at least. Japan is looking to double its military expenditure, and arms spending in Europe is greatly increased. A negotiated peace will mean Putin making most of the concessions, but some in the West now see the opportunity to cripple Russia for a generation. 200,000 Russians have already left out of opposition to the war [*this was before the mass flight in response to the 'partial mobilisation' which began on 22 September*] yet among older generations (who may share the sense that Russia has been bullied and humiliated) it has hardened antagonism. The risk is real that the war could escalate out of control. Many of the world's arms-control agreements had already been allowed to lapse; despite the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we are on a downward path at present, he said. Nevertheless, humanity has come through times when things looked bleak – Hope is key. But it is “a difficult time and a dangerous time” that we are living in.

Yurii spoke of being an advocate for peace in Ukraine, which is “not easy”: Ruslan Kotsaba, co-founder of the UPM, is facing trial on a charge of treason for opposing conscription. Meanwhile, Volodymyr Zelenskiy has said he will fight for ten years; Vladimir Putin, that he will fight for 21 years (the duration of Peter the Great's war against Sweden). Conscientious objection is not recognised in Ukraine, or in Russia or Belarus, and EBCO, IFOR and others had that day launched a petition to the EU to grant asylum to deserters or evaders of conscription from those states. [*It is here: <https://you.wemove.eu/campaigns/russia-belarus-ukraine-protection-and-asylum-for-deserters-and-conscientious-objectors-to-military-service>*]

He praised the UN for “achieving miracles” in brokering the Black Sea Grain Initiative, to help prevent global hunger and stabilise spiralling food prices worldwide by enabling exports to continue from Ukrainian ports, and he suggested three ways to resist the militarism sweeping the world. Reduced to bullet points, these were:

- “Truth to Power” – securing peace through diplomacy;
- Invest in Peace Culture – peace education is needed in schools, particularly in Ukraine and Russia; and
- Help the Needy – poverty fuels conflict.

Vijay began with warm words for the other speakers: Paul was a worthy winner, and Yurii is “a brave character”, opposing both sides of a war from within it. He amplified Paul's comments on perceptions of the invasion in the Global South, citing Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Narendra Modi of India as leaders who have refused to take sides. Europe, he said, is “pickled in hypocrisy” in its condemnation of Russian atrocities and disregarding of international law. Fiona Hill, former presidential advisor to Donald Trump, has written that an interim agreement between Putin and

Zelenskiy was reached in late March to end the fighting, but was dashed by Boris Johnson's intervention, pledging to arm Ukraine [*the article is here: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/russian-federation/world-putin-wants-fiona-hill-angela-stent>*].

For most of the world, the war's significance is in its effect on the prices of grain and oil. However the current crisis predated both it and the COVID pandemic, as outlined in the UN Human Security report:

<https://hdr.undp.org/content/2022-special-report-human-security>

According to Vijay, it results from the failed policies of the '70s and '80s, and is the legacy of "Reagan and Pinochet and Thatcher".

Questions were taken from the floor, including: "*If what is going on is not a 'war', then how can Russia negotiate?*" and "*What if Russia 'wins'?*" In response to the latter, Paul said he would expect Putin to try to consolidate any supposed victory by further expansion, "restoring Russian greatness" – an aspiration directly comparable to Trump's "MAGA" and that articulated in the rhetoric of Brexit [*"Empire 2.0" etc.*]. Yurii expanded on Vijay's reference to the terms provisionally agreed in March/April (Russia would withdraw from Ukrainian territory except Donbas and Crimea; Ukraine would commit to remaining neutral) and he accused Johnson of having prioritised the interests of armaments sellers. Again Vijay reminded us that Europe and 'the West' are not the world – 40 % of the world's population lives in a member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, as against 10 % in the G7 nations – and he thought Truss and Macron in particular are "living in a fantasy" as to their global influence. He spoke of the "Group of Friends in Defence of the U.N. Charter" formed last year on the initiative of Venezuela, comprising sixteen UN member states and Palestine, subsequently joined by two others, and committed to upholding the rights of states to self-determination and non-interference, as guaranteed in the Charter, against illegal sanctions or other forms of coercion [*see: <https://www.voltairenet.org/article214532.html>*]

Yurii agreed that both the US and Russia are looking for geo-political hegemony, and are to be resisted.

From the chair, Christine Bell offered her own reflections on how conflicts begin, and on mediation, and raised the question of the "socio-economic agenda for change". Vijay had found grounds for optimism in the declaration to his country's armed forces by the newly elected President Petro of Colombia that "since 1810, you have been preparing for war; in 2022, you must start preparing for peace." [*The next day's Guardian carried this report: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/22/colombia-gustavo-petro-total-peace>*]

Yurii said ending wars "depends on the ability of people to resist systemic violence". Paul said we need to hear the "wise views" of others.

Janet Fenton closed the meeting with thanks to all participants.



## *News of Friends and others*

*After twenty-five years, **Cathie McCurrach** has retired from the staff of Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House. On 25 September, a party was held to thank her, with some fifty Friends present at 7 Victoria Terrace. She will be much missed.*

***Anni Rainbow**, an activist in many causes and a former trustee of the Northern Friends Peace Board, died in June having been ill for some time. NFPB coordinator Philip Austin writes: "She brought passion, love, humour, insight, wisdom, friendship and determination to all she did." There is an obituary by Melanie Ndzinga at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/22/anni-rainbow-obituary>*

*Of **Godric Bader**, who died in September aged 98, his daughter Hansi Manning writes: "Guided by his beliefs as a Quaker, he sought the complete transformation of industry, to bring about peace and justice in the world. For him, common ownership meant that businesses should be directed for the benefit of all employees, and run in accordance with clear ethical, spiritual, social and environmental values." See:*

*<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/sep/02/godric-bader-obituary>*

*After the announcement of the death of **the Queen**, Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting, said: "We give thanks for the grace of God shown in her life of service and faith." See:*

*<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/queen-elizabeth>*

*Several readers commented on the article 'The Destruction of a Father' in the last Sesame (pages 16-18). Friends may be interested to know that **Valery Panyushkin** has also written 12 Who Don't Agree: The Battle for Freedom in Putin's Russia (2011), which is available from Europa Editions as a paperback (ISBN 978-1-60945-010-6) and as an e-book (ISBN 978-1-60945-928-4).*

*Our American Friend **George Lakey** has written an interesting article about **Bayard Rustin** (1912-1987), a Quaker who influenced Martin Luther King and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2013. It is here: <https://wagingnonviolence.org/2022/08/remembering-the-genius-of-bayard-rustin/>*

***Sydney Kentridge** – whose brother and sister-in-law, Arnold and Marian, were known to Friends of Watford Meeting, though none of them was or is a Quaker – was one of the lawyers who secured the acquittal of all the 156 accused in the South African Treason Trial of 1956-61; he acted for the defence in the Rivonia Trial, 1964, and represented the family at the 1978 inquest into the death of Steve Biko in police custody in 1977. 5 November 2022 is his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we wish him well.*

***John Ainslie** was coordinator of Scottish CND until his untimely death in 2016. In the words of his obituary in The Guardian, he was "an authoritative and internationally respected nuclear researcher ... the author of twenty reports on aspects of nuclear policy, starting in 1992 with Cracking Under Pressure, about defects in nuclear submarine reactors". His archive of research material is now being made available online. See: <https://peacenews.info/node/10308/ainslies-archive>.*

## Zoe Prosser – Local Development Worker

“AS A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WORKER, you will support Quaker communities to be inclusive, welcoming and all-age. The support areas include worship, community, organisational management, social action, collaboration in the wider community, and outreach. You will provide accompaniment, facilitation, project support, and training. You will work alongside others in Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke Learning to provide resources and opportunities that grow from the identified needs of local Quakers.”



*From the LDW job description – see Sesame 233*

ZOE was introduced to Friends at General Meeting for Scotland on 12 June 2021. She has since been involved with the Options 2 Working Group (see pages 12-13), meetings of which she attends; after COP26, her report ‘Joy and Sorrow at COP’ was included in GM Minute 21/11/09 – see:

<https://www.quakerscotland.org/sites/quakerscotland.org/files/minutes/General%20Meeting%20November%202021%20minutes.pdf>

*Her main work, however is with local Friends and Meetings. She visits and helps meetings at their request, providing targeted support. She also has a number of ongoing projects that meetings can get involved with – she describes them here:*

### RESTORE

RESTORE is a series of workshops that Local Development Workers have put together, following the easing of COVID restrictions, to support meetings to rebuild and look towards an exciting future. [See Sesame 238, page 4, for an explanation of the acronym and the seven key areas represented by each letter.]

I have had the pleasure of running RESTORE workshops with Area Meetings, Local Meetings and residentials, and feedback has been amazing.

*“I have never felt so included in the whole meeting as I did today”*

*“Very clear, accessible and thought provoking”*

This is something that I can adapt to the needs of the meeting inviting me. To find out more, please go to

<https://quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings/restore>

### Role Holder Networks

The network for Elders, Overseers and the Pastoral Care Teams across Scotland is continuing every other month.

This is a drop in session to which all members of the Elders, Overseers and Pastoral Care Teams are invited. Any member holding one of these roles is very welcome to attend, and I create a summary report after the meetings, for those who were prevented. If you are a member of a pastoral care team and have not yet been invited, please could you contact me on [zoep@quaker.org.uk](mailto:zoep@quaker.org.uk) and let me know and I will add you to our mailing list.

The first network for Nominations committee members met in August.

I am planning a network for clerks of Local Meetings.

Please let me know if you have a suggestion for another network that I should consider setting up.

### Gifts Work

Until we know ourselves and each other, how can we organise ourselves effectively, appoint Friends to roles and build our community?

In this workshop I plan to take the meeting through an exploration of gifts and service, considering what you want to achieve as a community and the skills that you have within.

This can cover a concern of your meeting, but it has been conceived as a way to support the meeting's inner growth, encouraging Friends to understand each other's skills to build them into the community of Friends in that meeting.

I hope by the end of the workshop Friends will feel more confident knowing what their skills are and what they bring to their meeting, and accepting (or turning down) service. I also hope that the course will help meetings start to think about how to make the roles fit the skills of the Friends within their meeting (rather than the risk of the other way round).

This is a new piece of work: the workshop can be shaped to the needs of the meeting interested in trying it. I hope it will be available as an in-person, online and blended session.

I have monthly drop-in sessions on Zoom, in the morning, afternoon and evening (details below). In these sessions, you can pop in, have a chat or ask me a question. These have been running for some time and it has always been lovely to meet new and old Friends.

Time of day	Dates	Zoom details
Morning (10.30 am)	26 January, 2023	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://quaker.zoom.us/j/84957113031">https://quaker.zoom.us/j/84957113031</a> Meeting ID: 849 5711 3031
Afternoon (2.30 pm)	16 November, 2022 15 February, 2023	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82907091250">https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82907091250</a> Meeting ID: 829 0709 1250
Evening (6.30 pm)	13 December, 2022 14 March, 2023	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82150494485">https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82150494485</a> Meeting ID: 821 5049 4485

If you are interested in finding out more about me I have a webpage and interview video on the *Quakers in Scotland* website. My quarterly reports (the next in January) will also be available online. To visit the page, please go to:

<https://quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings>

**Zoe Prosser**

*General Meeting in Aberdeen will be discussing priorities for Zoe's work in 2023.*

# SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

**Minutes of Area Meeting held on Wednesday 7 September 2022  
at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, and by remote videoconferencing**

## **2022/09/01 Worship and introductions**

During worship, we have heard read from *Quaker Faith & Practice* 22.95. William Penn writes “we cannot love to live if we cannot bear to die”. We have remembered with affection Peggy Bartlett and Rachel Howell, both of South Edinburgh LM, who have both died in recent days.

We ask Mariot Dallas (*Pol [online]*) and David Somervell (*SE [in the room]*) to serve as Elders for this meeting. We thank Cathy Holman for serving as Assistant Clerk for this meeting, in the absence of Cath Dyer.

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

## **2022/09/02 Minutes of Meeting of Saturday 25 June 2022**

The minutes of our meeting held on 25 June 2022 at Kelso Quaker Meeting House and online have been signed and entered in the minute book.

*[The full minutes are included in both the print edition of Sesame, and in the PDF emailed to Members and Attenders on the circulation list, but are redacted in this publicly available version. – Editor]*

[Redacted]

**2022/09/13 Closing minute**

37 Friends (32 members and five attenders) have been at all or part of this meeting, either in person or by Zoom.

Local meeting attendance is indicated below:

Central Edinburgh <b>13</b>	Central Fife <b>1</b>	East Lothian <b>4</b>	Kelso <b>4</b>	Penicuik <b>-</b>
Polmont <b>1</b>	Portobello & Musselburgh <b>6</b>	South Edinburgh <b>7</b>	Tweeddale <b>1</b>	<i>Visitors/Others</i> <b>-</b>

We record our thanks to the meeting house staff who have given us hospitality and facilitated this blended meeting.

We next meet on Saturday 5 November 2022, an all-day meeting hosted by Central Fife LM. Detailed arrangements will be sent out when made.

(Signed)

Alastair Cameron, Clerk

Cathy Holman, Assistant Clerk, *this time*

## THE BOOK OF MEMBERS

A new edition of the Book of Members and Attenders is currently in preparation and will be available early in the New Year. The Book covers the whole of Scotland General Meeting, and includes names and contact details – postal address, landline and mobile phone numbers, and email address – for the Members of the four Area Meetings, and for known Attenders, the names grouped under the Local Meeting with which they are most associated. It will be available to buy, but may be purchased *only* by those whose names are included – it is a confidential document, subject to the restrictions of data protection legislation.

It is assumed that readers of *Sesame* will have access to a copy.

### *A Message (in fact several messages) from the Editor*

*To save the Area Meeting money, it is intended in 2023 to revert to sending out paper copies of Sesame by **second class post**. For these to reach readers in time for Area Meeting, the new issue will have to be with the printers earlier; which will compel the Editor to be much stricter in regard to the deadline for accepting submissions. This date is always shown on the front page of the current issue. Contributors take note.*

*If you are **NOT** a contributor – please think about becoming one! If you have news or thoughts to share with Friends in South East Scotland, this is the place. Items need not relate exclusively to Quaker activities, though should be of possible interest to Friends; if in doubt, contact the Editor. Feedback on articles is also welcome; it is helpful to know what readers appreciate (or are inclined to skip unread).*

*Although email transmission is not entirely cost-free in environmental terms, it does save paper and stamps, so if you currently get a paper copy but could manage with just a PDF, then please let us know. Alternatively, if you would like to start getting a paper copy, please send the Editor your name & address. Copies are distributed without charge, though donations towards the cost of printing and postage are gratefully received by the AM Treasurer, **Jacqueline Noltingk**, % Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL.*

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

Contact details of named Friends are in the Book of Members. 'QMH' = Quaker Meeting House

### **MEETING IN PERSON**

**Central Edinburgh** – QMH, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

Sundays at 9.30 and 11.00 am. Tea & coffee after both; soup and bread & cheese lunch, 12.30.

Wednesday, 12.30–1.00 pm. Tea & coffee; you may bring your own lunch.

Contact the office, [centraledinburgh@quaker.org.uk](mailto:centraledinburgh@quaker.org.uk) or 0131 225 4825, for updates; see also <https://www.quakerscotland.org/central-edinburgh/covid-guidance>.

**Central Fife** – The Old Kirk, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy KY1 1EH

On the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays at 10.30 am. On 1st Sundays, also at 10.30 am, at

Linburn Scout Hall, Abbey View, Dunfermline KY11 4HA.

Contact **Laurie Naumann** for further information.

**East Lothian** – Dunbar Town House, 79 High Street, Dunbar, EH42 1ER

On the 2nd & last Sundays of the month at 11.00 am. Contact **Di Simcock** for updates.

**Kelso** – QMH, Abbey Row, Kelso TD5 7JF

Sundays at 10.30 am. Contact **Marianne Butler** for updates.

**North Edinburgh worship group** – St Mary's Church, 12 Bellevue Cres., EH3 6NE

4th Sunday in the month at 7.00 pm. – contact **Tony Gross** for updates.

**Penicuik** – Venue to be confirmed: contact [penicuikquakers@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:penicuikquakers@blueyonder.co.uk)

1st Sundays at 11.00 am – contact **Mark Hutcheson** for updates and further information.

**Polmont** – Greenpark Community Centre, Greenpark Drive, Polmont FK2 0PZ

Sundays at 10.45: contact **Marriot Dallas** for updates, and if bringing children.

**Portobello & Musselburgh** – Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello EH15 2BP

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11.00 am, with a children's meeting.

1st Sundays: Evening meeting at 7.30 pm; NO children's meeting.

Please contact **Robin Liebmann**, if you plan to attend at either time.

**South Edinburgh** – The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 5HY

Sundays, 10.30 am. Contact **Rici Marshall Cross** for information/updates.

**Tweeddale** – 2nd Tuesdays, at 6.30 pm. Contact **Anna Lawrence** for more details.

### **MEETING BY ZOOM**

**Central Edinburgh** – for login details contact [centraledinburgh@quaker.org.uk](mailto:centraledinburgh@quaker.org.uk)

Every Sunday at 9.30 am and at 11.00 am (blended with the meetings in person).

**Central Fife** – for login details contact **Laurie Naumann**

On the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays at 10.30 am, blended with the meeting in person.

**East Lothian** – for login details contact **Di Simcock** or **Phil Lucas**

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm; NO meeting on the 1st Tuesday in the month.

**Kelso** – for login details contact **Marianne Butler**; blended with mtgs in person, as above.

**Penicuik** – for login details contact **Mark Hutcheson**

**Polmont** – for login details contact **Mariot Dallas**

Also Wednesdays at 8.00 pm (online only).

**South Edinburgh** – for login details contact **Rici Marshall Cross**

Sundays at 10.30 am, blended with meetings in person.

1st Thursdays at 8.00 pm (online only). Meeting for worship (30 mins) followed by chat.