

## Harvesting and sowing seeds

### Zoe Prosser (Local Development Worker for Scotland's) wrap up of her work in the last Quarter of 2022 – and looking forward to 2023!



*Print of snowdrops in green by Samantha Searle*

The final months of 2022 went by in a blur – with a lot of fascinating and fulfilling work. The winter break left me refreshed and really excited for the year ahead.

I am now two months into the year and the weeks have blown past very quickly with a lot of work that needs to go into the next newsletter (which should be out in six weeks' time). Both of our girls had nasty bugs they couldn't shake, and all the adults were fighting off colds with grim determination.

Nevertheless, the snowdrops, gifted to us by an Aberdeen Quaker last year, bloomed beautifully in the garden and my friend Sammi (who created the print of snowdrops to the left) and I have just finished painting both girl's bedrooms. So, things are moving forwards and Spring is coming.

Speaking of moving forwards, General Meeting for Scotland agreed priorities for Local Development work in 2023, these are:

1. Expanding role-holder networks
2. Supporting Quaker community building - locally, for families, and for everyone
3. Pointing the way to information about available resources and materials, including videos and non-traditional resources, to help Quaker Meetings and role-holders identify what they need.

This is something that will help to shape my work for Friends in Scotland, and I am very grateful for those Friends and meetings who took the time to get involved.

#### **Current Opportunities for Your Meeting:**

My ongoing work for Quakers and Meetings includes:

- RESTORE
- Quaker networks for role holders, such as Elders and Pastoral Care Friends.
- Support for Quakers – whether those are as individuals, groups, local and area meetings, or General Meeting.
- Gifts Work
- Membership

If you would like to know more about this work, I have put information up on the Quakers in Scotland website – please check here [\[https://www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings\]](https://www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings)

#### **New Opportunity to Support Peace Education:**

In my travels around Scotland, I have heard Friends express concern about militarization in schools, and a yearning to be more involved with peace education. If you are one of those Friends, this may be the opportunity you have been waiting for!

Can you provide a space for a travelling exhibition on Peace Education? The Parliamentary Engagement Working Group and Britain Yearly Meeting Peace Education staff are working to put on a touring exhibition that will go to the Scottish Parliament 6-28 September 2023.

It will feature multimedia examples of peacebuilding at the heart of schools, from young peacemakers mediating disputes to action on global issues. Peace artefacts will encourage curiosity and critical thinking. Accompanying workshop opportunities will give children and young people the chance to interact and add to the exhibition.

To find out more please go to [Peace at the Heart | Quakers in Scotland \(quakerscotland.org\)](https://www.quakerscotland.org/peace-at-the-heart) and please contact me if you have any questions.



## What else have I been doing from October to December?

### Options for Scotland

The Options for Scotland 2 Group have been discerning the way forwards to create the best environment for Friends to worship, witness and build community together. You have hopefully heard about the work before now, for more information please go to <https://www.quakerscotland.org/general-meeting/options-scotland>.

I am “accompanying” the Friends on this group. This means that I am not a nominated member of the group, I am there to bring my experience, make connections for the committee and support the work that Friends on the committee are doing. I attend the meetings, support the committee between the meetings and provide contacts and advice when it seems to be useful.

### Enquirers Day



*Dunblane Cathedral in the sunshine*

On 5 November I travelled to Dunblane to support an Enquirers Day organised by Friends from West Scotland Area Meeting.

I helped to facilitate a session and met newer Friends.

We had a great day, with lots of fascinating cameos from Friends from across Scotland – speaking about what being a Quaker means to them and explaining a bit more about our structure and the reasons we do what we do.

### RESTORE workshops with Central Edinburgh and East Lothian Friends

The workshops based on the RESTORE process was adopted by Local Development Workers to support meetings to move forward together after covid. Even now, Friends have found it a very valuable experience. During the workshops Friends look back and tell their stories about their experiences over lockdown and since. Then the meeting looks at how they wish to go forwards together. One Friend wrote:

“I feel after this weekend that you have helped me to reconnect with others in the meeting. I feel that my enthusiasm for Quaker meeting has been reignited and I can reconnect spiritually with others.”

### Visit to the South West Cluster

Friends in Wigtown, Castle Douglas and Dumfries were kind enough to invite me to come to a meeting for worship and learning between all three meetings. It was great to meet Friends who I have only seen through zoom, or not met at all.

After meeting for worship there was a lovely shared meal, and worship sharing afterwards organised by Friends in all three meetings.

### Visit to Aberdeen Meeting



*Slightly blurry photograph of snow-covered hills, blending into green fields. Taken on my way home from Aberdeen.*

I travelled to Aberdeen in a mild snowstorm. The meeting itself was a lovely opportunity to reconnect in person with Friends in the meeting – and the views enroute were rather beautiful. After Meeting we shared a meal and then I facilitated a chat about plans for the meeting.



*Picture of Zoe Prosser*

### Meet your Local Development Worker

I have drop-in sessions (via Zoom) where you can pop in, have a chat, or ask me questions. There are drop-in sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening. Please go to the end of the document for drop-in times and zoom details. You can always invite me to attend your meetings in person as well, I really appreciate worshipping with Friends across Scotland. Or you could invite me to a particular event your meeting is holding.

If you are interested in finding out more about me, I have a webpage and interview video on our Quakers in Scotland website. These reports will also be available online. To visit the page, please go to <https://quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings>

#### Zoom Meeting Details:

	Dates	Zoom details
Scotland Drop Ins - Morning	May 9, 2023, 10:30	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82830061734">https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82830061734</a> Meeting ID: 828 3006 1734
Scotland Drop Ins - Afternoon	July 13, 2023, 14:30	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://quaker.zoom.us/j/81742505630">https://quaker.zoom.us/j/81742505630</a> Meeting ID: 817 4250 5630
Scotland Drop Ins - Evening	Mar 14, 2023, 18:30 Sep	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82150494485">https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82150494485</a> Meeting ID: 821 5049 4485