

Scottish Friend

April 2006



Edinburgh Meeting House, the location of last General Meeting

Published by Quakers in Scotland

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I am indebted to Alastair Reid for the cover photograph.

After counting the replies to the questionnaire, I can report that the name "Scottish Friend" is the most popular one for this newsletter, by a narrow margin. I am also presuming that those people who did not reply are content with that name, which was tested on the last issue.

If you are interested in the dialogue with Judaism (p.9), please note the imminence of the closing date.

Since next General Meeting is on 10 June, the next *Scottish Friend* will be constructed in the first week in July, as soon as the agenda for September GM is known. Please send material to me, Margaret Peacock, at 16 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie, G62 6LN, or nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk.

Many thanks to all who have helped me in my novitiate. Please go on sending me news, reports, thoughts and pictures.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the Society of Friends in Scotland, Britain Yearly Meeting or elsewhere.

Friends and the Arms Trade

David Turner

Members of the Religious Society of Friends were fully involved in the establishment of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade in 1975. Some from other traditions who shared the concerns of Friends and felt the need for action on arms trade accepted production of weapons for defence. All were at one on presenting a challenge to a trade which fuels conflicts, aggravates poverty and debt, encourages repressive regimes, diverts investment needed for health and wellbeing – all without justification or benefit to any other than the companies and their share holders.

Today, as then, Friends have diverse views on conflict management, and not all reject all recourse to military action in certain circumstances, but every Friend I have met in the past 30 years supports a process of arms conversion, leading to an end to the arms trade.

In Scotland, the Edinburgh CAAT Group has been active for over ten years in highlighting the extent of Government subsidies needed to keep the trade in business, challenging the investment by local authorities, health boards and educational bodies – churches and charities too! – demonstrating at arms fairs, working to expose the influence arms firms have on government policy, and much much more. It has always been hoped that CAAT groups would emerge in other parts of Scotland, especially where there are clusters of individual supporters; but so far there have been none. However a new, exciting venture of Edinburgh CAAT group is the appointment of a part-time development worker, one of whose tasks is networking with Scottish organisations and groups sharing our concerns over arms trade. Though initially this will be in the Edinburgh and Lothians area, it opens up possibilities of wider outreach and encourages the vision of growth in other parts of the country.

For this to happen much depends on the availability of funding. If Friends who have an interest in seeing CAAT move into new areas feel they would like to help this along, or would simply like to strengthen the resources of the Edinburgh CAAT group, they can obtain more information from Liz Law on 01786 824730 or Sylvia Massey on 0131 229 4236.

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Simplicity

The testimony to simplicity is integral to Quaker faith: our spiritual responsiveness depends on being as free as possible from dependence on material security. Quakers therefore seek to resist the temptation to define their place in society by acquiring possessions. In so far as we are led towards true simplicity we will increasingly be called to dissent from much of what the modern world stands for.

Simplicity is not just about possessions but also about attitudes. Because of their integrity in business dealings, many early Friends prospered in business, especially in the 19th century. The wealth they accumulated was not, however, sought for its own sake but was often used for the wider benefit of society and especially the dispossessed. We live much less simply than our forbears a hundred years ago, or than people in most other countries in the world. Simplicity involves constantly challenging the way we live and what our true needs are, and especially how our own standard of living is sometimes achieved at the expense of others. It means standing aside from the fuelling of wants and manufacturing of new desires.

(Paragraphs from “The Quaker Testimonies” booklet, the source of the Clerk’s quotation on the back page.)

Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Thomas Ewan Faulkner: 1911 -2004

On the 7th of March 2004, Dundee Quakers lost a very remarkable friend. Ewan joined the Society of Friends in 1940. When he died, a few weeks before his 93rd birthday, he had been a faithful member of Dundee Meeting for 64 years. In all that time Ewan was committed to attending regularly Meeting for Worship and business meetings. As long as he could climb the stairs of Dundee's Victorian Meeting House, he would be there. His gentle and discerning ministry impacted on the life of our Meeting. His phenomenal memory helped the Meeting keep things in historical perspective. He was in turn Clerk of Dundee PM and for many years an Elder. He was a Trustee of Dundee Friends' Property Trust and its clerk for fifty years.

Ewan lived simply, having little need of comfort and luxuries. He preferred to walk whenever possible, and only reluctantly would accept a lift in a car going to Meeting. He ate sparingly and spent as little as possible on himself preferring to give to his favourite good causes. Tolerant of others of different beliefs, he was a man of sharp observation tempered with a non-judgmental appreciation of human frailty. We knew him as a man deeply committed to family, to the Quaker Meeting and to social service in the community. He and his wife Margaret met in 1938 travelling to a Fellowship of Reconciliation Conference in Holland. They also visited a refugee camp in Germany together - early indicators of their shared concerns and commitment to working for peace.

They lived in Dundee from their marriage in 1939, bringing up 4 children, participating fully in the life of the Meeting and supporting each other in their social concerns. Service to the community was one of the hallmarks of Ewan's long life. These included being active as Chair of the Christian Auxiliary Movement and spending time helping those in the slum areas of Dundee who had got into financial difficulties through hire-purchase agreements; collecting rents for a voluntary housing scheme and listening to the social problems of local people; volunteering at the Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau. He never hesitated to challenge beliefs and policies which he thought were wrong.

Actively concerned with poverty, Ewan had canvassed for the Labour Party in 1945 and became a local Labour councillor from 1954. In 1955 he became Convenor of Education. The five years to 1960 was a time of post-war expansion and he oversaw the building of many new Primary schools all over the city for the children of Dundee. He was a member of the Eastern Hospital Board while Ninewells Hospital, Dundee was being equipped and built. He successfully prevented the introduction of private beds ensuring that single rooms would be used for those in greatest need.

All this activity stemmed from his deep religious convictions. He tried to live "Be patterns, be examples unto all nations..." In reflecting on his life and service we have come to appreciate how his early roots had shaped him and had grown down deep over the years producing the extraordinary person we knew. He grew up in penury. His mother was widowed when he was two, but he was a much loved and cherished son who in turn cherished the values she instilled as she managed their affairs to ensure there was always food on the table. He won scholarships that funded his education culminating in a degree in Mathematics from Cambridge University. His time at Cambridge, as undergraduate and during 4 years of postgraduate research, developed his talents as a mathematician. In 1935, he won the Raleigh prize for his dissertation on algebraic surfaces. But Cambridge also was the place of his widening awareness of the world of social policy and economics. Here the seeds of his future commitment to pacifism and eventually to the Religious Society of Friends were planted.

The convictions and ideals he developed at university were to influence the rest of his life. His lifelong support of the Labour party ended when he resigned his membership in 2003. The letter he wrote to Prime Minister Blair was a testimony to his unswerving belief in peaceful negotiation. He was appalled at New Labour's decision to invade Iraq.

He moved to Dundee in 1937 to become lecturer in Mathematics at the University College of Dundee, remaining until his retirement 41 years later. Ewan met Quakers through involvement in the Peace Pledge Union and started to attend the local Quaker Meeting, becoming a member in 1940.

At the start of the Second World War, he had registered as a conscientious objector and was given exemption conditional upon continuing his existing occupation at the university. During the war years he chaired the Dundee Peace Pledge Union, and enjoyed solidarity and friendships with other pacifists, both religious and political. During the war there were no elections or much political activity but Ewan gave lectures on the social and economic issues raised by the 1942 Beveridge Report, and Rowntree's 'Poverty and Progress'. It is easy to forget the influence of major world changes. Britain was still a colonial ruler, and meetings of the 'Friends of India' were part of the support for the movement towards independence. Ewan was part of that group. Margaret and Ewan were good companions.

Despite his busy public life, Ewan readily supported her work in running the Dundee branch of Amnesty International and the drop-in centre in the Meeting House for the Chilean refugees from the violence of Pinochet's regime. Ewan cared for her throughout the period when she was a partial invalid and missed her greatly when she died. In his last years, with no Margaret for company, he regularly joined an ecumenical house group and engaged in thoughtful and sometimes hilarious discussions to celebrate Advent, Lent or Harvest. We do not have this intellectual giant walking amongst us any more. He is greatly missed, but his pacifist ideals and simplicity of lifestyle were a living witness to his Quakerism. His mother, whom he thought the world of, would have been well pleased with her son's life so well lived.

Signed on behalf of East of Scotland Monthly Meeting,
Rob Mackay - Clerk

Basic introduction to the world's faiths

A Certificated Course for the General Public and Professionals with a Work Place Need, jointly organised by Creative Space & Edinburgh Interfaith Association

The course is open to everyone; no prior knowledge of any faith tradition is required.

At Creative Space, St Georges West Church, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, 7.00pm-8-30pm

20 April	Introduction	Prof Frank Whaling
27 April	Judaism	Rabbi David Rose
4 May	Christianity	Rev. Jayne Scott
11 May	Islam	Soihab Saeed
18 May	Hinduism	Lalitha Natarajan
25 May	Sikhism	Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
1 June	Bahai	John Parris
8 June	Buddhism	Jodi Higgs

Cost £40 for the series (concession available) Registration in advance is advisable.

The sessions will include a presentation and discussion, with space for questions and reflection.

To register interest in a place please e-mail Fiona Bennett: mail@creativespacesgw.org.uk

For fuller details, visit www.creativespacesgw.org.uk/events/event_details.asp?id=64

To register and confirm your place please send a completed booking form (Name, address, phone and email) and cheque to:

Creative Space Bookings
St George's West,
58 Shandwick Pl., Edinburgh EH2 4BJ



Christianity & Scotland's other faiths:

A Dialogue with Judaism

10.30am—3.00pm

26th April 2006

Scottish Churches House
Dunblane

Rabbi Nancy Morris, of the Glasgow New Synagogue will lead participants in an encounter between the two faiths. Be prepared to be enlightened, challenged and stimulated!

Cost: £16. Send your details (incl. dietary requirements) to: Reservations Secretary, Scottish Churches House, Kirk Street, Dunblane, FK15 0AJ, by 15 April.

"Rabbi Nancy Morris, Scotland's first female rabbi says she believes sectarianism may have led to a lack of anti-Jewish feeling in Scotland. Describing her impressions of religious attitudes, the Canadian lawyer turned rabbi says: "What's really interesting, which I haven't noticed, but I have heard from talking to people, is the Catholic-Protestant divide. I hear things that are shocking, with people needing to assess whether you are Catholic or Protestant, which football team you support, where you shop and which barber shop you go to. It's interesting as I think maybe that has helped there be less anti-Semitism in Scotland because they have been too bothered by concentrating on each other to be anti-Semitic, so Jews have always felt like part of the gang here."

Life & Work, July 2004

* * * * *

Peace Vigil in St. Andrews

Ursula Carson

Several members of St. Andrews Meeting joined a Peace Vigil in Church Square, St. Andrews, on Sunday evening 19 March. The Vigil was organized by Maureen Jack who is a volunteer member of the Christian Peacemaker Team. It was held in memory of Tom Fox, an American Quaker and also a member of the CPT, who was kidnapped with Norman Kember, Jim Loney and Harmeet Sooden, and recently killed in Iraq. Maureen Jack has on occasion talked to our Children's Group and was due to leave for Israel on 21 March. Also present at the Vigil were members of other churches in St. Andrews, and June Braithwaite with a CPT member and her family.

The Winding Road by Anne Rado.

A 27-page Booklet of poems £4

Available from the author at;

Ivy Rose Cottage, The Straad, Rothesay, ISLE OF BUTE. PA20 OQF
Telephone 01700 502349

Anne Rado is a member of the Milngavie Meeting now resident on the Isle of Bute. (Where else would a poet want to be?) What constitutes good poetry will always be open to discussion. For myself something which leaves you feeling slightly uneasy, e.g. De la Mare's `The Listeners`. Or as with the poem below something which reminds me of the past. Having read this one for a few moments I was a young boy again wandering the Northumbrian hills.

There are seventeen poems in the booklet and most are longer than the one I've selected. They cover a wide range of subjects some of which will leave you sad and some will definitely make you smile which I should add was the author's intention. The booklet starts with the author's `Prologue` which mentions some of the poems and gives some background details. Finally if you would like a `signed` copy please request it when ordering. So on to the poem I chose.

`Reflection`

Wind of the heavens blow over the mountains
Over the land, the sea and the air,
Wild as my soul as I wander the moorlands
Wind on the heather and wind in my hair.

Breath of God blow over the mountains
Lord of the land, and the sea and the air,
Fill my soul with the power of your spirit,
Wind on the heather and wind in my hair.

Madeline Patterson

Many Friends will have contributed to organizations involved in relief work following the massive earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005. Some will have read my articles in "Sesame", which explain the longstanding connection of myself and my husband John with the NGO Frontier Primary Health Care (FPHC) in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan (NWFP). In 1991 VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) placed me with FPHC as Administrator; John later became Medical Adviser. Trust between ourselves and the organisation became deep and mutual, and continued over the years as we continued to make later trips in new roles as Advisers and in my case, Researcher.

This personal connection, still lively, prompted me to try to do something specific and direct about the disaster. I phoned Dr. Emel Khan, Director of FPHC, the day after the earthquake. Although the six-minute major shock and many aftershocks were felt in Mardan District, where FPHC is based, relatively little damage had occurred there. 30-40 people were killed in Mardan City, and some schoolchildren were injured, but there was nothing like the devastation experienced in Kashmir and other parts of NWFP. FPHC has six Health Centres and a fairly new Emergency Obstetric Centre: only the oldest mud-brick building suffered any damage. All staff, patients and their families are safe and well: this amounts to about 150,000 people. It was clear that FPHC was in a position to help, rather than having to ask for aid for itself: local people could help local people. I appealed to colleagues at the University here, to family and (F)friends.

As FPHC has no organizational base in this country, I could not go public, so I opened a special account in my own name. In November and February I was able to transfer a total of £4336 to FPHC's dollar account in Mardan. This is the only money FPHC has received specifically for earthquake work.

Local action

Immediately after the 'quake, Dr. Emel Khan set up collection points where local people (themselves rural poor) could bring donations of food, clothing and money. Many victims struggled down from remote areas as winter drew on (as we have seen on television) into new camps set up by the Government of Pakistan. Dr. Emel's efforts to start two new Health Centres for earthquake-affected people in areas within reasonable reach of Mardan were superseded by resource-rich agencies such as UNICEF and the Government moving in. But before Christmas he was asked to provide training for staff of these and other organizations in nutrition skills, and also to set up demonstration kitchens in some camps and affected villages. This is ongoing, and FPHC has also been able to distribute some basic foodstuffs, stoves and cooking equipment.

Health for All?

Adequate food supply and nutrition is one of the eight components of Primary Health Care or "PHC" as promoted by the 1978 Declaration of Alma Ata with the slogan "Health for all by year 2000". The focus is public health. "PHC" does include curative medicine, but the main aim is to keep people well rather than to treat illnesses. Global "Health for all by year 2000" has still not by any means been achieved, but FPHC is an NGO providing health care in keeping with the aims of the Alma Ata Declaration.

FPHC was founded in 1980, when a group of Austrians set it up to look after 30,000 Afghans in three of the many refugee camps in Pakistan.

Its development over the years is a fascinating story, but not relevant at this point.*

As a public-health oriented NGO with highly appropriate skills and experience FPHC is well able to contribute in the aftermath of the disaster, and also later when the work is less about relief and moves towards long-term reconstruction and development. Many displaced people will never have had proper health care, because the Government's health service particularly in remote areas has never functioned efficiently.

It is significant that FPHC's success (confirmed by several external evaluations) owes much to trained volunteer health workers from the community, male and female, and rigorous supervision and reporting systems: in other words a combination of professionalism and voluntarism.

FPHC and Friends

In the mid-1990s when the NGO faced an uncertain future, grants from two Quaker Trusts and from South East Scotland MM helped it to survive. The plan was to extend FPHC's work into villages in the neighbourhood of the three refugee camps originally served. Additional donors became interested, including the Government of Pakistan. By the end of the century FPHC was providing health care to about 105,000 people, by then mostly Pakistanis, while including the original refugee group. I have found no other example in Pakistan of a formally declared policy of non-discrimination between refugees and local people.

--and Friends in Scotland

Since the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, the Executive has set up an International Development Fund to encourage work by Scottish NGOs in partnership with local NGOs in the developing world, particularly in Malawi and other African countries. Following the tsunami, the Fund was made available for work in affected countries, and just before Christmas 2005 the Executive revealed a further extension to the Pakistan earthquake. Executive staff having made it clear that applications would be considered only from organisations, I felt frustrated by this apparent restriction. However, SE Scotland MM has initiated a small group to consider how to take things forward. We have collected much relevant information and two of us (Geoffrey Carnall and I) have had a discussion with Scottish Executive staff. They appeared sympathetic and were open about the Development Fund being a new exercise for their Department; they also mentioned the Small Grants Fund. They are feeling their way, because hitherto overseas aid has been administered by the Westminster Department of International Development (DfID).

Meantime, our small group (and some other Friends) have been wondering if it is appropriate that any negotiation regarding a national resource (the Development Fund) should be confined to a local MM.

Is it more fitting that the national body of Friends in Scotland should develop a relationship with the new devolved arm of government exclusive to us in Scotland? And should sums of money (rather greater than originally hoped for, and with a potential for continuation) continue to be managed via the bank account of an individual member of the Society?

Friends House in London has active involvement in developing countries, including some Pakistan contacts. But devolution and the new Development Fund adds a new dimension to concerns and activities in of Quakers in Scotland.

Is there a potential for exciting new developments?

*A case history of FPHC "From Medical Relief to Community Health Care" can be found at <http://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/817>

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Book of Members and Attenders.

Several errors have been noticed in the introductory pages. A fresh set, corrected up to 1st January, can be had on application to the Administrative Secretary, whose address is on page v.

Jeny Faulkner has changed her email address to jenyf@arrannames.co.uk

New Group to enable Communications

Mike Brown

March General Meeting in Edinburgh agreed to set up a Communications Function Group which will create and implement a strategy to raise awareness of the Quaker presence in Scotland, maximise opportunities for outreach and aid the effective operation of Friends across the country.

The proposals agreed by General Meeting were based on a report from a working group set up previously by GM. The group consisted of Pamala McDougall (GM Clerk), Mike Brown and Joyce Taylor.

The Function Group will consist of a representative from each Monthly Meeting.

It is hoped that these representatives would have some experience of working for or with the media or a related communications field. In addition the Group would include the Clerk of General Meeting, a representative from the GM website group and a representative from Scottish Friends Newsletter Function Group.

While the Group will meet at least twice a year, it is envisaged that most of its work would be carried out via email.

The remit for the Group is wide ranging:

- To support and advise General Meeting, its function groups and officers on issues of publicity and media relations.
- To advise and assist in the dissemination of views and information from General Meeting to other parts of the Religious Society of Friends, the Quaker community and externally.
- Identify opportunities for General Meeting to engage with the current media agenda by way of providing comment and information.
- Offer advice and be a resource to local meetings.
- Liaise with the Media Relations Officer at Friends House.
- Link with the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group.
- Provide a link with The Friend and other Quaker publications.
- Advise and make recommendations on the consistent use of Friends' visual identity in Scotland.
- Report annually to General Meeting.

Monthly Meetings will now bring forward names for the Group and GM Nominations Function Group has been charged with bringing forward the name of a convener.

Summer Gathering 2007

Gilly Charters

Summer Gathering comes north of the border in 2007, to the spectacular setting of Stirling University. From July 21st to July 28th this campus will be the UK centre of Quakerism, with up to 800 Friends from all over the world arriving to develop a lively, inclusive Quaker community. The theme is still evolving but will be based on questions around the relationship between faith and action.

We hope that everyone leaving Summer Gathering 2007 will be spiritually enabled, challenged, provoked and energised so that we're all more aware of our role as Quakers in society and of the need to help change society. More details will emerge as the Summer Gathering Planning Committee continues to grapple with the development of this theme to produce an event that will inspire 21st Century Quakers of all ages.

We are looking forward to working closely with Scottish Friends and trust that you will help us bring this vision to fruition.

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General Meeting, 11 March 2006

Norman Peacock

Scotland had Quaker-style Meetings some five years before George Fox visited in 1657 and we still sometimes find ourselves ahead of Friends House in our practices. It was, however, coincidence that we should in our morning business session have created a Communications Function Group in apparent anticipation of the afternoon exposition by Eudora Pascall of her role as Media Relations Officer for Britain Yearly Meeting. While maintaining the momentum necessary in today's culture of 'instant response', Eudora emphasised that we must be guided by our Testimonies and particularly by that of Truth and Integrity. To this end, 'instant' should usually be interpreted as asking for half-an-hour's delay in making the response in order to think it through. As her early experience with the protracted discussions over the Quaker statement on the National Lottery showed, however, delay should not be too long and, with her progression from very part-time to very full-time Officer, Eudora has brought an increasing sense of urgency to public relations ('outreach') at Friends House which should be an example to the whole Society.

Speed of response may be hazardous but with the backing of manifest Truth and Integrity it can only help to spread knowledge of our other Testimonies: it is no use hiding our light under a bushel while we discuss the benefits of using organic tallow for our candle.

At a membership of 700 in a population of 5 millions spread over distances often measured in hundreds of miles, both inreach and outreach have always exercised Scottish Friends and our Communications Function Group will have an interesting task in assisting Monthly Meetings as well as contributing to our web-site and particularly being involved in our responses to Consultations by the Scottish Executive which are much more comprehensive and widespread than Westminster Green Papers.

As a report from our network representative in Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) showed, the provisions for children and young people are a most important aspect of internal communication for all Scottish Churches where great care is needed because of recent legislation. Along with two General Meetings in northern England we have set up a well-regulated Trust to organise Youth Events in succession to the Great Ayton Summer Schools following the closure of that School, and for the first time the Event will be in Scotland at Dunbar. Throughout the year there are also Youth Link Weekend events which bring together teen-agers from all over Scotland. Nor have we neglected the bread-and-butter provision for children at local Meetings where helpers from across Scotland will have benefited from a workshop led by a travelling team from Friends House.

Scattered as we are and subject to the vagaries of the British climate (the snow depth was measured in feet in Aberdeen and Inverness that week) the forty-odd Friends welcomed that most important function of General Meeting, the opportunity to talk to one another and enjoy the hospitality of Edinburgh Friends as well as to oversee the progress of the Society in Scotland.

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

Montrose 10th June 2006

Directions to the Day Care Centre, Montrose.

From the railway station cross over the roundabout and head right to Hume St. At the end of Hume St. cross the High St and right towards the Old Church. Go down Churchyard Walk, across the road and down Museum St. Turn right onto Panmure Place and the Day Care Centre is on the right just past the museum. There's free parking all along Panmure Place.

Buses stop in the High Street. The church with a spire is a landmark.

"Simplicity is not just about possessions but also about attitudes."

From *The Quaker Testimonies*

THEME Living Our Testimonies Today
TOPIC Simplicity
WHERE? Day Care Centre, Panmure Place, Montrose
(see map on previous page)
WHEN? 11am - 4:00pm-ish
WHO FOR? All Friends and Attenders
AGENDA? Items postponed from last GM
Disability issues and Archiving our records.
Summer Gathering, Stirling 2007 -
Chris Skidmore and Robin Davis will update us.
One edition on, and our new editor of the
newly named "Scottish Friend" will tell us how
it's going.
And there will be more ~~~

The afternoon session deals with our Testimony to "Simplicity" and we will hear from Friends who have something to say on the topic. We would also like to hear what YOU have to say!

Please let John Melling, Assistant Clerk, know of any attenders who would like to join us in Montrose. We will make them very welcome.

Pamala McDougall, Clerk to GM

