



October  
2006

# Scottish Friend



The Fraser Centre, Milngavie, home of Milngavie Meeting.

## ❖ Contents ❖

3 Episcopal Church Synod	Alison Burnley
5 Quaker Centenarian	John Hebborn
6 GM minutes on website	Graham Marsden
7 Dundee Meeting needs a caretaker	
8 Peace Movement Events in September	Geoffrey Carnall
10 Clerk's corner	Pamala McDougall
14 West Scotland Hearing Impairment Survey	Robert Steele
16 September General Meeting Report	Phil Lucas
19 New way of working for GM clerks	Pamala McDougall
20 Gazebo for Summer Gathering	Barbara Potter
21 2007 Summer Gathering	Jane Woodford
23 Programme for Residential GM	John Melling
24 Invitation to General Meeting	Pamala McDougall

Next General Meeting is on 25-26 November, and the next *Scottish Friend* will be constructed as soon as the agenda for March GM is known. This will probably be in the first week of January. Please get in touch later about when I should like your material, and send it to me, Margaret Peacock, at 16 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie, G62 6LN, or [nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk).

Many thanks to all who have made suggestions. Please go on sending me news, reports, thoughts and pictures. For the front cover I am particularly interested in photographs of your meeting places.

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.

Published by Quakers in Scotland, 01667 451 451  
Printed on recycled paper by  
Print Force, Milngavie, 0141 956 1052



Attending the Episcopal Synod within two weeks of our Yearly Meeting was a mild culture shock. As one would expect the days began and closed with worship - hymns, prayer and music. This gave a roundness to the day.

The Synod began with an hour's preparation for first timers and an explanation: this was helpful and informative. We then joined others at St Mary's for the installation service of Uris Jones as Primus of Scotland. (Interestingly, all three Primus in Britain are now Welsh - small cheer!)

The planning for the Synod was meticulous - all delegates from other denominations were welcomed personally by the Primus, and we were allocated a "buddy" who was always there to help, answer questions and explain things. My buddy introduced me to people, answered all my awkward questions and was fun. She gave up her precious time of networking and all those important conversations with her friends in order that I should not be alone or feel lost - which was greatly appreciated. I was pleased and interested to discover that I did know some people there.

The papers that needed reading arrived just as I was in full swing in preparation for Yearly Meeting, so though I managed to read some of them they were not quite as studiously read as they probably merited.

Decisions were made after some discussion, by voting. I found this stressful - not that I took part, of course, but it seemed rather uncompromising. The discussion involved people putting their carefully thought out points of view and well prepared arguments. There were only ever two sides to the discussion - there was never any suggestion that there might be another way.

Of course I do not know how much discussion there had been back in the dioceses or how long the issues had been around - so I could be being too judgmental here. The voting was with purple cards for the house of bishops, blue cards for the house of clergy and yellow for the house of laity.

The matters before the Synod on the Thursday were of interest and importance but not earth-shattering - keeping homes for the elderly; care for children and vulnerable adults. I was fascinated and gripped by it. Someone asked me if I was bored - not at all, not for a moment. But I was exhausted. Any moments of silence gave me space and were much appreciated.

On the Friday there were more reports and decisions. Reports on projects both here in Scotland and abroad, involving young people doing work camp type work in Latin America, and a summer gathering type week. All good healthy activities. There were no young people present, it being during the week and June (so exam time?). This was a huge lack but it was not clear how Synod could be held at a different time given the jobs held by many people present!

At one point we heard how we should not despair that congregations were full of old people. These are the people with riches of knowledge and experience; a wealth of helpful ideas to impart to younger ones. An interesting way to look at what is normally seen as a reason for dismay. We need to rejoice more and complain less. I liked that.

I would not have missed it for the world and thank General Meeting for making it possible for me to attend. (The Saturday, the Synod's third day, saw me in Montrose for General Meeting!)

## **Rene Chapman of Spean Bridge - 100 years old!**

Surrounded by friends and three generations of relatives, Rene Chapman has had a very special birthday party, attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, bringing greetings from the Queen. Rene lives in Spean Bridge, which is not exactly downtown Quakerland, so this article is to introduce her to Scottish Friends. Rene has lived with her friends John and Audrey Hebborn for thirty years, ever since her retirement.



Photograph by Geoffrey Fairbairn

Rene's parents were corn and seed merchants in Twickenham, and she worked in the family firm for a number of years, before taking up a post doing general support work at the Christian healing centre at Crowhurst, near Battle. Crowhurst, although an Anglican foundation, is very much like Lattendales used to be - a place of quiet healing for spirit, mind and body. There her talent for empathising with patients was greatly appreciated, not least by Audrey Hebborn, to the extent that, when Rene retired (aged 73), the Hebborns invited her to stay with them while she looked for a place of her own. And there she is still! At the time they lived in Hildenborough, Kent, and attended Sevenoaks Meeting. Rene accompanied them there, and felt so much at home in the quietness

that she eventually joined the Society.

Rene has not been able to attend Lochaber and Lorn Meeting for some time, but is in touch with Friends there, who occasionally visit the Hebborns' home to hold a Meeting for Worship.



## **Reading the Minutes of General Meeting Graham Marsden (Quaker Scotland Admin)**

Didn't get a chance to read the latest General Meeting minutes? Well, no problem! By the time you read this Scottish Friend article, you will be able to view and download a copy direct to your personal computer. Haven't got a computer? Just ask a Friend within your Quaker circle who has Internet access to go onto the Scottish Friends' website, and do it for you.

The GM Minutes you view on the website will have been checked and perhaps "sensitively edited" by the GM Clerk and her assistant Clerk, but any changes will be minimal and the sense of the meeting will have been retained.

The new facility follows agreement of Friends attending September's GM to allow the wider publication of our GM minutes. This was proposed to ensure as wide as possible number of Friends in Scotland have the opportunity to see what has been and is said and done in their name by General Meeting. Who knows, perhaps this may lead to other Quaker groups within Scotland discussing whether they would wish to make their published material available in a similar way.

Clearly, caution has to be exercised regarding the publication of personal details, so the GM Clerk, Assistant GM Clerk, Webmaster

etc will be checking the minutes prior to publication. Interestingly, Meeting for Sufferings minutes have been on the BYM website for some time now, without, we understand, any significant editing or problems.

This move to make GM minutes as accessible as possible mirrors our wider society: information on just about every subject is now available on the World Wide Web. Those who regularly check out our website will know *Scottish Friend* is now available on the website as are other resources including the individual Data Protection consent form we use in our meetings

One issue we may have to look at as the website is developed is our website address; currently it is through an Internet Service Provider and the address is possibly not as memorable as it could be - [www.quakerScotland.gn.apc.org](http://www.quakerScotland.gn.apc.org). No doubt a future GM may be asked to discuss this and other possible developments.

Meantime, if you have access to the Internet, do please check out the increasing availability of Scottish Quaker resources, and take a part in the future of this valuable resource - particularly September's GM Minutes.



### **DUNDEE MEETING seeks WARDEN/CARETAKER**

A vital role to support the needs of a small Meeting. Caretaking duties in exchange for rent-free 4th floor flat. Applicants should be in sympathy with Quaker values.

For details phone Elly on 01382 880 664 or e-mail: [brigfut@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brigfut@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Peace Movement Events in September      Geoffrey Carnall**

I am not sure when the term 'peace process' first came into general circulation, but the date would be significant. It would mark the point when an appreciation of how peacemaking actually works became part of mainstream political discussion. It was not so in my young day. There was War and there was Peace, and you got Peace through Strength. And now of course we have a Culture of Peace, and the UN has dedicated a decade to it. While it must be admitted that the chief event so far in the decade has been the invasion of Iraq and its bloody and chaotic aftermath, even so this has been an object-lesson in the fallacy of Peace through Strength. It is the Iraqis themselves who have paid a monstrous fee for this lesson, and the debt we owe them is incalculable. The least we can do is to learn from it, and there are signs that this may be happening, even in the bosom of the Conservative Party.

Two events in Scotland this September attempted to reinforce the message. One was the Long Walk for Peace, from the submarine base at Faslane to the Scottish Parliament. Our Friend Janet Fenton was responsible for much of the organisation of the Walk, and the hardy group of people who walked all the way were warm in their appreciation of everything that she had done. The rally outside the Parliament at the end was a stirring occasion, with Cardinal O'Brian assuring us that Trident must not be replaced, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Alan MacDonald, drawing an encouraging parallel between Trident, the Berlin wall and the apartheid regime in South Africa. In 1961, who could possibly have given a confident answer to the questions 'Do you really, truly think that the wall will ever come down, or apartheid end peacefully?' The wall has gone, apartheid has gone, and Trident will go too (cheers). Bruce Kent expressed delight at the friendly hospitality that the walkers encountered everywhere. There was indeed, he admitted, one egg thrown, but it was

probably an English egg (cheers and laughter). The occasion closed with a large delegation being received in the Parliament by the Nuclear Disarmament Cross-Party Group, and they took the opportunity to make their point vigorously.

Another Cross-Party Group, the one for a Culture of Peace in Scotland, arranged a one-day conference on 16th September to consider what was involved in such a culture. There were workshops on the Alternatives to Violence Project, the Inverclyde Peace Initiative, Edinburgh's Peace and Justice Centre, and the Juniper peace education programme. The Juniper programme lays great emphasis on inner strength and anger management, and I suspect that peaceniks like myself could well do with a dose or two of this Juniper mixture to enhance our effectiveness. The speaker at the plenary session was Brian Walker, a former Director-General of Oxfam and prime initiator of the Preparing for Peace project undertaken by Westmorland General Meeting. As most Friends will know, this project brought together weighty people from several disciplines - General Sir Hugh Beach, Sir Samuel Brittan, Sir Michael Howard, Robert Hinde and other members of the British establishment - to make clear that war was an obsolete institution, no more inherent in human nature than slavery or monarchy, and equally ripe for abolition. It did not work, it could not work. Read all about it in the book of the project Preparing for Peace, and there is even fuller material on the project's web-site.

Brian Walker spoke to Central Edinburgh Meeting the following day, and it is clear that those who heard him will carry the peace message forward with renewed energy and confidence.

## CLERK'S CORNER

**Pamala McDougall**

Here is my account of some of the events at which I have been privileged to represent you. I also enormously enjoyed them.



Photograph courtesy of the Stirling Observer

### 1. Presentation of the Scottish Quaker Tapestry.

A very pleasant reception was held on 15th Sept, when many Friends and friends gathered in Dunblane to see the presentation of the panel which is now on permanent loan to Scottish Churches House. The House had generously supplied delicious refreshments and your GM clerk welcomed everyone, invited them to admire the panel, and presented it to Alastair Hulbert, Warden at SCH, for staff and the many visitors to enjoy. Alison Burnley, whose idea it was to create the tapestry and who worked on it with other embroiderers, told us the story of how it came about. When the Quaker Tapestry Exhibition normally housed in Kendal was displayed in St Giles Cathedral, Alison had an idea. (Watch out when Alison has ideas!) She thought of working on a panel for

demonstration purposes, to involve visitors to the exhibition - all ages, including children - some with experience and some with none - in adding stitches to the panel. It is now handsomely framed and can be seen hanging in the main lounge at SCH. Alastair accepted the panel on behalf of the House and spoke movingly of it joining other precious works of art. We were glad to have embroiderer Joan Burra with us who also worked on the panel and to be joined by ecumenical friends of Quakers and SCH.

## 2. "Creating a Culture for Peace" Conference.

A cross - party group of the Scottish Parliament arranged this conference which I attended on Friends' behalf on 16th September and held in the parliamentary building. Chris Ballance MSP welcomed us and the keynote speaker was our Friend Brian



Seven Friends were involved in the Conference:  
Pamala McDougall, Peter Cheer, Martin Mansell, Brian Walker,  
Rachel Rogers, Geoffrey Carnall, Daphne Sanders.

Photograph: Hugh Peebles

Walker, ex-Director of Oxfam. There were several workshops to choose from, three of them led by Friends. Janet Fenton of the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, Martin Mansell on 'Alternatives to Violence' and a session on the book 'Preparing for Peace' edited by Brian Walker, Rachel Rogers and Daphne Sanders, all of Westmorland GM. I attended the one given by Ximena Vengoechea on 'Promoting Peaceful Behaviour using Creative Movement'. I may be moved to use what I learned at the next GM! Zimena is an amazing young human rights lawyer with an MA in Peace Studies. Geoffrey Carnall will be writing in this issue about the conference in his own inimitable style, but anyone interested in learning more about the cross-party group can email Chris Ballance on [chris.ballance.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:chris.ballance.msp@scottish.parliament.uk) or log on to the website <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/crossPartyGroups/groups/cpg-copis.htm>

## 3.Scotland's Long Walk for Peace

This really was the highlight for me, although I have to confess that I only joined the walk in Edinburgh on the last lap. But who could refuse an invitation from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to walk with him? The Long Walk was organized by Scotland's for Peace and was expertly arranged and marshalled by our Friend Janet Fenton among others. It started from Faslane on Thursday 14th September and ended 5 days later in Edinburgh with people joining in for varying lengths of time. It was a privilege to represent Friends at St John's Church where we gathered for a foot washing ceremony. I only got to wash one pair of feet and they turned out to belong to a visiting Quaker! There was a great atmosphere with banners of every hue representing groups from the Communist party to church groups to political groups. I held my 'Quakers for Peace banner proudly made 'by request' at Edinburgh meeting house just minutes before

take-off! It caught the eye of *The Scotsman* photographer and we were prominent in the following day's edition.

After marching to the parliament building we held a rally outside where the First Minister sent Margaret Curran MSP to greet us, which we were informed was significant. Without any preparation, I was asked to address the rally of around 500 and followed Bruce Kent, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brian, union leaders and Bashir Maan to add our Quaker voice. I spoke of the long Quaker history in the peace movement, of the seeds of hope and peace in our hearts and of the responsibility of the politicians to listen to the people of Scotland against weapons of mass destruction. I quoted the motto of 'Scotland's for Peace' of which we were proud to be a part "I desire that Scotland should be known for its contribution to peace and justice rather than for waging war". After such passion and rhetoric I really was quaking! Afterwards, some of us met with MSPs in the parliament building when the politicians listened to our comments and suggestions for a more peaceful world. No answers, but we were assured that our contributions would be taken into account. Sandra White MSP has lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament calling for a referendum on whether or not Trident nuclear submarines should be replaced when they reach the end of their shelf life. You can email for a campaign leaflet to [Sandra.white.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Sandra.white.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

Lastly, I was interviewed by 'Life and Work', the Church of Scotland magazine for an article about Quakers including our relationship with the church. Being GM clerk has some fascinating, challenging, interesting but scary moments, at times! If God sends us on stony paths he will provide us with strong shoes.



## **West Scotland Hearing Impairment Survey**

**Robert Steele**

The Disability Equality Group [DEG] of the West of Scotland Monthly Meeting recently conducted a survey of hearing needs among constituent Meetings and the resultant report was given to Monthly Meeting in August 2006. The purpose of the survey was to ensure that, as far as possible, those with hearing impairment were not excluded from Meeting life by virtue of their impairment as well as to raise awareness of a problem that is often unrecognised. What follows is a very brief synopsis of that report. All Meetings in West of Scotland should have copies of the full report.

Most meetings do have some members with varying degree of hearing impairment. Often, but by no means always, such hearing loss is age related but individuals do not always realise they have hearing loss - 'why do children and television actors speak so badly these days?' - and they develop strategies for coping. This makes the extent of hearing loss, and thus problems facing Meetings, hard to gauge. Further, the diversity of Meeting venues precludes a 'one size fits all' solution. Nevertheless steps can be taken by Meeting and individuals.

Those Meetings that use Local Authority premises which appear to have no facilities for the hearing impaired e.g. induction loop or other communication support installed, would be well advised to contact their Authority. The 1995 Disability Discrimination Act [DDA] makes it unlawful for a service provider to treat the hearing impaired less favourably than a hearing customer or one with a different disability. One Meeting did just this and was provided with a hearing induction loop on 'permanent loan'. It is a mistake to assume that dealing with a Local Authority will be like walking through water. For smaller Meetings, especially those which alternate venues, there are a variety of portable loop systems and other technical aids available. Meetings which have a loop should have a sign displayed for the information of visitors.



Also Meetings should not forget the simple things such as speaking up and standing up when ministering; only one person speaking at a time in meetings and reducing the background noise as far as possible. In regard to this last, remember that children's voices tend to drown out other voices for the hearing impaired so notices and announcements are likely to be missed. A restructuring of the Meeting format may resolve this.

Experience has also taught that those with hearing aids sometimes do not know how to use them properly and thus labour under unnecessary difficulties. Loops and other technical installations also need to be used properly, regularly checked and maintained and switched on.

For individuals who feel that they are suffering from hearing loss the first port of call should be their GP. The Royal National Institute for the Deaf website [www.rnid.org.uk] contains a vast amount of easily accessible information, from what technical aids are available to information packs about your rights. The latter includes how to deal with local authorities, together with standard letters to send to service providers. Their catalogue 'Solutions' contains a wide range of products for the deaf and hard of hearing.

West Scotland MM minuted that Monthly Meeting venues needed to be chosen to ensure good facilities and to this end the DEG will produce guidelines. It was also proposed that MM purchase a portable system that could be used in rooms in Glasgow Meeting house which do not have a permanent system and be carried to other venues. Can similar thoughts be given to GM venues? Maybe other monthly meetings could do something similar to ensure good GM facilities.

Finally, though unable to offer technical advice, I am happy to advise Friends of where to look for help with hearing and listening problems. Email robert@rastele.vispa.com or phone 0845 223 5289 but please note I am away for the months of December and January.

## **Report of General Meeting in Glasgow 9.9.06 Phil Lucas**

Almost 40 Friends gathered in Glasgow Meeting House for an interesting day of business and fellowship, clerked by Pamala McDougall with the assistance of John Melling.

During opening worship, we heard part of QFP 6-08 about a Friend who devoted energy and prayer to supporting Yearly Meeting, a passage challenging us not to be half-hearted in what we bring to our worship for business. We also recorded the deaths of five Friends: Elizabeth Salter and Walter Lever (SE Scotland), Roma Foster and Pat Kass (East of Scotland) and Bobby Harrison (West Scotland) and were told of two new members: Susie Warden (SE) and Barbara Organ (W).

During the nominations business we were told how difficult it has been to find an assistant clerk but that Robin Waterston (E) has agreed to serve for a year from November 06. Proposals for the way forward with clerkship are to be published in the issue of the Scottish Friends in which this report appears. A small group to find a new convener of nominations committee was formed, an Archive Group appointed and Kate Arnot was appointed to arrange an informal event at Kindrogan in May 07.

Simon Best, co-ordinator of the Under 19s Programme for the Yearly Meeting, spent the morning with us. He explained how plans are developing for the Under 19s part of the Summer Gathering, which is being planned for 21 - 28 July 2007 in Stirling. The programme for all age groups is to be closely integrated under the heading 'Faith into Action' and Simon asked for help to find both core team members and daily volunteers to help staff the work with children and young people. The Scottish Link Group has already agreed to help plan the programme for the over 14s. He said how good it would be to have a lot of people from Scotland



participating (we'll let the English and Welsh in too) and would especially like to encourage families and those new to Quakerism to attend. It sounds as though it is going to be a really enjoyable week. Get it in your diaries now!

Ian Arnot told us that our 2007 slot at Kindrogan (25 - 27 May) is going to be used by the Summer Gathering Planning Group but that there would be space for Scottish Friends to gather informally too. Kate Arnot will be making arrangements for that (see above). The really good news for those of us who have found the Yearly Meeting/Kindrogan clash unfortunate is that from 2008, we can have a mid June slot at Kindrogan. 13 - 15 June 2008 is provisionally booked - put that in your diary too!

Geoffrey Carnall gave a brief but typically lively personal view of Yearly Meeting 2006, saying he found the best way to cope was to let it all wash over him, but praising the clerking and challenging us to a lunchtime competition to estimate the weight of the YM documents. Mary Latham told us about the new arrangements for YM nominations and that the appointed committee will have to find more than 100 names each year. The joys of being a do-it-yourself church!

Peter McCaffery has represented us on a Scottish Churches group planning ways of marking the bicentenary of the act abolishing the slave trade, an anniversary to be marked not as an occasion for any sort of self-congratulation but as a way of drawing attention to a morally problematic area of our past and to the continuing slave trades of the present. There will be a key event in Blantyre in July 2007 and a freedom walk in Musselburgh. The statement drawn up by the group after much debate and which it was hoped that we and the other churches would endorse was not without its problems for us, in particular the use of the word 'repent'. After spending some time airing all our difficulties with it, we repented

and agreed we could support it.

We agreed that GM minutes could go on our website and that we would trust our clerks to edit the website version when necessary and Paul Burton told us about progress with setting up a charity to use the Gerald Richards bequest for establishing a Quaker study centre in Scotland.

Michael Hutchinson, assistant recording clerk for Britain Yearly Meeting, spent the day with us and in the afternoon we explored with him and with John Melling the part Scottish Friends can play in the changing structures of our Yearly Meeting. John helped us look at the structural changes we need to make and how these could be reflected in revision of our Book of Discipline.

Michael had recently spent time, with Pamala, at Meeting for Friends in Wales, which he told us is beginning to work well because it is now seen as a base for spiritual energy and a body that does things. The problem facing Scottish Friends, he said, is that we are old! By which he meant that General Meeting for Scotland is long established and it's always harder to change things when this is the case, but RECAST presents us with a rare opportunity to move things forward. In an inspiring talk, Michael gave us three criteria for moving forward:

- \* Practising discernment ... listening to the Spirit and asking what can we do for God;
- \* Making sure that what we are doing is building community;
- \* Witnessing to what we have discerned ... making sure that we are making a difference.

We agreed that there needs to be improved communication between Friends House and our General Meeting (Michael thought it would be helpful for someone from Friends House to visit us more often) and that we need to repeat our request, made some

time ago, for direct representation on Meeting for Sufferings and assistance with our administrative costs, a request now being made also by Meeting for Friends in Wales.

We finished the day with a splendid Glasgow tea, compensation (together with the interesting business and community- building) for spending a beautiful early autumn Saturday indoors.

\*\*\*

### **GENERAL MEETING CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK** **Pamala McDougall**

At GM in September 2006 Robin Waterston's name was accepted as Assistant Clerk from November 2006 to November 2007. The following proposal is offered as a discussion paper in preparation for the item to come to GM in November. GM may also want to consider other models of clerkships e.g. co-clerks. This proposal for change, however, has the support of the Central Committee.

Nominations Function Group has experienced great difficulty in finding a name for GM Assistant Clerk to take over as Clerk in June 2007. The job of GM Clerk has grown and developed since devolution, with opportunities for involvement and influence of the Scottish Parliament and the Executive, and with our responsibilities as a member of ACTS and the growth of ecumenical activities and interfaith relations in Scotland.

Even with the help of the Administrative Assistant, clerkship is a time consuming and challenging post, drawing on a variety of inter-personal and administrative skills. It may be time to consider GM clerkship in two parts, leaving the Assistant Clerkship as it is. Robin Waterston has agreed to have his name put forward as GM Assistant Clerk with a view to becoming Clerk after June 2007, but

only if the clerkship did not involve the ecumenical responsibilities. Robin and I met to discuss how this could work in practice and we propose the following posts:

#### **1. GM Clerk**

- a) would prepare for, clerk and write the minutes of GM.
- b) convene and clerk the Central Committee
- c) share the public representation of Quakers in Scotland as appropriate

2. A new post - title to be decided by GM but a suggestion would be Ecumenical Officer or Representative. The new post holder would deal with all other commitments, especially ecumenical, and share the public representation of Quakers in Scotland as appropriate. The work would include:

- Membership of ACTS Forum
- ACTS Member Church representatives' meetings
- Meetings for "church leaders"
- Interfaith activities
- Ecumenical events
- Scottish Churches House - supporting and promoting use
- CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) liaison/attend meetings.

\*\*\*

### **A Gazebo for the 2007 Summer gathering**      **Barbara Potter**

Is there anyone who would be willing to lend the Summer Gathering a gazebo for the continuing worship space which we plan to have in the grounds of Stirling University? Ideally we would like one with removable sides, large enough to shelter 10 to 20 people, but we are not clear how big that would be! (We have an offer of an 8ft square one but that is definitely too small.) The dates of the Gathering are 21-28 July 2007.

**Summer Gathering - Stirling University**  
**July 21st -28th 2007** **Jane Woodford**

Dear Friends,

This letter is to tell you of this very exciting event being planned for next summer.

The venue is beautiful ... green park-land with mature trees, a loch, modern buildings, an Olympic swimming pool, peace and calm; overlooked by high crags and the famous Wallace monument ...That's the Stirling campus, in the centre of Scotland. It is easily accessible by train, car or bus from other parts of Scotland.

The underlying theme of the week is living our witness. Sustainability, creativity, and a gathered community are our aims. This is the first time a Summer Gathering has come north of the border, so we really want to encourage as many Friends in Scotland as possible to come and spend the week together. You can live on the campus, or choose to camp at an excellent campsite close by.

There will be an action packed Under 19's programme.

There will be opportunities for Art, drama, music, swimming, cycling, listening, dancing, story writing, making a film, storytelling, singing, worshiping, eating together, laughing and making new friends.

One whole day will be spent enjoying a wide choice of visits. You can go hill walking, or visit Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, go to Edinburgh, Glasgow, or by coach to many other interesting places.

The Quaker Theatre Group, 'The Leaveners', will perform their new production of 'George and the Chocolate Factory'. Another night there will be a Ceilidh.

For people who like to get up early, there will be activities for 'Larks' ...yoga, Tai chi etc. At the other end of the day, for those who are 'Owls', there will be late night events - films, yoga, or earnest discussions!

Each day will start with worship, followed by speakers who will explore and develop our theme - trying to live simply and sustainably.

One special week-long project will be the creation of a 'Quaker Labyrinth'. When completed it will be an outdoor 'walking meditation' for all of us to use.

For this communal art project, every single participant to the Summer gathering is asked to bring a bag of little treasures - bits of coloured shiny (sweetie) papers, wool, ribbon, flowers, leaves, and a tiny pebble from your garden or nearest beach.

We hope to attract over 600 people to The Gathering! If that sounds daunting, don't panic, there will also be clusters of small group meetings around the campus. For example, your morning worship-group, and some activities, will be with other people living nearby in your student residence.

If you have an idea for an activity you'd like to offer, please get in touch with any of the planning committee soon. We look forward to welcoming you next summer!

Jane Woodford, on behalf of the Summer Gathering Planning Committee

Tel: 01828-686 371  
janekirakira@aol.com



## PROGRAMME FOR RESIDENTIAL GENERAL MEETING

INVERNESS, SATURDAY 25 & SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER

**Saturday** Meeting in Old High Church Hall, Academy Street.  
(300 yards to the right on leaving the railway station  
200 yards from bus station and Rose Street car park)

10-15 am Coffee on arrival  
11-00 am Meeting for Worship  
11-25 am Business  
1-00 pm Lunch  
2-15 pm The Quaker Testimonies - Marion McNaughton  
An exploratory consideration of our testimonies.  
3-30 pm Tea  
4-00 pm The Testimony to Equality [1]  
A Friend will speak on sexual equality  
5-00 pm Further session to be confirmed  
5-45 pm Break  
6-30 pm Evening meal  
7-30 pm Social time  
Quaker books and posters will be on sale

**Sunday** Meeting in Friends' Meeting House, Scaniport - 4  
miles from the city centre on the Dores Road (B862). (Transport  
arrangements will be made on Saturday, and there is car parking.)

9-30 am The Testimony to Equality [2]  
A Friend will speak on disability equality  
10-30 am Coffee  
11-00 am Meeting for Worship  
12-30 pm Buffet lunch  
Transport will be provided to the city.

A booking form is enclosed. Please observe the 9 November  
deadline.

## RESIDENTIAL GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

Inverness 25th-26th November 2006

"As the testimonies come from leadings of the Spirit, this may  
mean taking a stand against common social practices. The  
interaction between faith and action, as expressed in the  
testimonies, is at the heart of Quaker spiritual experience and  
living".

From 'The Quaker Testimonies' produced by the Testimony  
Committee of QPSW.

THEME ~ Living Our Testimonies Today  
WHERE ~ Inverness, in the beauty of the Highlands  
WHEN ~ 25th - 26th November 2006  
WHO FOR ~ All Friends and Attenders (will attenders please  
let Robin Waterston, Assistant Clerk, know if they are coming)  
GUEST SPEAKER on the theme ~ Marion McNaughton  
Marion was for 10 years Woodbrooke Tutor in Practical Theology  
and is active in interfaith and peace initiatives. She is presently  
Chair of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.  
TESTIMONY TO EQUALITY ~ Sessions on sexual equality and  
disability equality will be introduced by two Friends.  
BUSINESS AGENDA ~ will include

Trusteeship  
Civil Partnerships  
Consultations from the Scottish Executive  
Proposal to change the nature and responsibilities of GM Clerks  
FORMIDABLE? NO! ~ These are important issues but we will  
have time for friendship, fun, and getting to know each other 'in  
the things which are eternal'. Not to mention GM food!

Your Friend,  
Pamala McDougall, GM Clerk