



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

MARCH 2010



'Meeting Place', St Pancras Station

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Every Sunday** at 10.30 am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, EH10 5HY, with separate Children's meeting

**Early Meeting on Sundays** at Victoria Terrace: A six month experiment from February. 9.30 am for 45 minutes. Young people welcome but there is not a separate children's meeting. (Main Victoria Terrace meeting is at 11 am)

**Every morning Mon-Fri:** 8am for 30 mins at 7 Victoria Terrace (Central Edinburgh Meeting), EH1 2JL

**At Portobello:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Sunday** at Old Parish Church Bellfield St EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for about half an hour; and 4<sup>th</sup> **Sunday** at **10.30 am** at 3 Esplanade Terrace.

Save resources by downloading me from [quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)

... NEWS and more short items on Page 4

### LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

The **Drop-in group** is back! Please come along if any activity interests you – at the moment there are 7 of us. **Mon Mar 1<sup>st</sup> - Modern Art Gallery**, with planned visits in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays of Apr-June to the Botanics, Seabird Centre at North Berwick, Jupiter Artland at Wilkieston. Contact Sylvia Massey for more information.

**7<sup>th</sup> Mar Mini-Mart** after meeting in aid of Wiston Lodge [www.wistonlodge.co.uk](http://www.wistonlodge.co.uk)

**13<sup>th</sup> March Scotland General Meeting**, Glasgow Meeting House, 11-4pm. Alastair Cameron is talking about A Home for Everyone. Agenda also includes same-sex marriage.

**21<sup>st</sup> March Local Meeting Meeting for Business** at the Open Door after Meeting (12.30 pm)

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

This month's special collection is for work in **Haiti** supported by Mercy Corps, an international charity whose European office is based in Edinburgh. [www.mercycorps.org.uk/haiti](http://www.mercycorps.org.uk/haiti)

### OTHER EVENTS

**The UN at work in Gaza** a talk by Hind El Arabi. **Mon Mar 1<sup>st</sup>** 5.30pm, Candlish Hall, St Georges West Church, Shandwick Place EH2 4RT

**Focus on the Peace Testimony**, 7.30-9.30 on **Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Mar** at Victoria Terrace. Contact Ann Forsyth or Jasmine Perinpanayagam, or more info from mfw notices.

A chance to meet the new Scottish Churches Racial Justice Officer Francis Alao, **Thur 11<sup>th</sup> Mar**, Ch. of Scotland Office, 121 George Street, 11am-12.30. Contact Rachel Frith by 4<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Singing Group** at Victoria Terrace **Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Mar** at 7.30pm (Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue, this one's different)

**Banking on Justice** – Churches investing in a fairer future. **Thur 18<sup>th</sup> Mar** at 4.30pm, St George's West Church. £10/£5. Further info from David Turner, 669 1308.

**Spiritual Friendship – Woodbrooke on the Road.** Victoria Terrace **Sat 20<sup>th</sup> March**. Contact Madeleine Harding, or more info at mfw notices.

**Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship** meet on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month**, 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St. Contact [edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com](mailto:edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com) or Mary Woodward.

## Getting to know you: Joan Burra

I talked to Joan on an autumn afternoon, looking out on her beautifully tended garden, now prepared for winter.

*Where were you born and brought up?*

I was born in India, in the Himalayas. My father was in the Indian army with the Gurkhas. He joined up during World War 1 and continued after the war for financial reasons. During my childhood the family lived in India interspersed with English home leave. At the age of 11 I was sent to a boarding school in England for the daughters of army officers. This was 1938 and war started a year later which meant that I was no longer able to return to my parents for holidays. I was not happy at school and missed my parents so far away, but I did well academically. I had a brother older than myself. We spent holidays with my grandmother near Petersfield in Hampshire.

*What did you do after school?*

In 1944 I obtained a place at Edinburgh University to study medicine. I was the youngest in an intake of 180 students. I was much happier here than at school and enjoyed the life in digs with other students. I met my future husband at this time. He joined up before he had completed his studies in forestry but returned at times and after the war came to finish his degree. I had done three years of medicine and had to decide whether to marry or finish my course. He was joining the colonial service as a forester with a posting to Dominica. It was unusual at that time for a married woman to pursue an independent career. We married but because of the difficulties caused by the war we had to wait eight months for a passage on a ship to the West Indies. The preliminary year was spent in Trinidad and then we moved to Dominica where our first two daughters were born. Dominica was enjoyable. We lived in two government-owned houses. Dominica is about the size of Arran but there was no road from north to south. A visit to the north entailed putting the car on a boat for it to be transported by sea!

After Dominica we went to Cyprus for two years. This was much less congenial. The climate was disagreeable – very hot in summer and very cold in winter, with living accommodation intended only for heat. Our third daughter was born in Cyprus. Then my husband was offered a post as conservator in chief for forestry in Jamaica. We stayed for seven years and loved it there. We built our own house outside Kingston. The educational services were excellent and open to all races. However, as Jamaica approached independence we had to decide whether to stay on and join the Jamaican service or take early retirement. The children were then 14, 11, and 8 and we opted to return to UK, to complete their education. We took a farewell tour via the U.S.A and Canada - my brother, an architect, had emigrated and settled in Toronto - and then we returned to Britain on the liner, the Queen Elizabeth.

In England we settled in Herefordshire where my husband joined a firm of forestry consultants. My widowed mother came to live with us for 13 years, following a stroke. My husband developed arthritis and had to give up forestry but became very skilled in woodwork. He specialised in making and repairing spinning wheels and made 220 in total.

After my mother's death we decided to move to Comrie in Scotland. Two daughters had trained as OTs, married and settled in Edinburgh with their families. I stayed 24 years in Comrie, the longest time I had spent anywhere. My husband became quite disabled and died in 2001 at the age of 84. After a year on my own I decided to move to Edinburgh to be nearer my family and in 2003 moved to my present house. I have lived in 13 different houses and made a garden in each one!

One thing I haven't mentioned is that I enrolled in the Open University when it was quite new and took a science degree. I graduated at the Usher Hall some 50 years after I would have done had I followed my original career plan! Now at the age of 82 I find that most of my time is taken up looking after myself, my house and garden and I prefer to stay home in the evenings. Looking back on my life I seem to have been mainly occupied looking after other people and making gardens which is different from my plans at 17. When I was in Comrie I looked after a patch of the nature reserve for the Scottish Wildlife Trust but had to give it up because of my husband's increasing disability

*What brought you to Quakers?*

We had always been to one or other church. Starting off as Anglicans we preferred the Methodists in the West Indies and then reverted to the parish church when we returned to the UK. However, we became more and more disillusioned with the dogmatism of the church services and the creeds which did not reflect our beliefs. We thought that Quakerism might suit us better and around 1981 made contact with Dunblane Meeting. We were attenders for a long time but became members about 15 years ago. *(Contd back page)*

## ELDERS AND OVERSEERS GROUPS – JANUARY 2010

These Elders' and Overseers' groups are simply a way within the meeting of making as sure as we can that individuals are not overlooked – they are not a substitute for caring and talking, listening and responding to one another. Each member or attender is in a group under the care of an Elder (E) or overseer (O). We hope we have included everyone who attends South Edinburgh Quakers. If your name does not appear on this list and you are a member or attender of South Edinburgh Quakers, please speak to Sandra Riddell.

### **Alison Burnley (E)**

Jim Balfour  
Brian Bleakley  
Frida Bleakley  
Chris Booth  
Helen (Turner) Cameron  
Patience Cowie  
Janet Fenton  
Alec MacPherson-Glasgow  
Family Murray  
Athena Oliver  
Kerry Oliver  
Rufus Reade  
Susie Reade  
Christopher Speirs  
Annie Thomas  
Carrie Thomas  
Neil Turner  
Pol Yates  
Esther Zijerveld  
Leo Zijerveld  
Saskia Zijerveld

### **Rachel Howell (O)**

Margaret Anderson  
Callum Booth-Lewis  
Dorothy Buglass  
Martin Burnell  
Juliet Hawthorne  
Jane Lewis  
Sandra Marks  
Phil Noble  
Nicola Read  
Brennan Soane  
Mary Steven

### **Sandra Marks (O)**

David Bell  
Joan Burra  
Alison Chalmers  
Hilary Davies  
Sue Freshwater  
Rachel Howell  
Sheila Menzies  
Susan Olley (+Calvin and Joe  
Langhorn)  
Sandra Riddell  
Judith Shepherd  
Margaret Suddaby

### **Sandra Riddell (E)**

Deirdre Armstrong  
Meg Beresford  
Alison Burnley  
Alastair Cameron  
Mary Jane Elton  
Liz Gould  
Mary Halliday  
Ron Halliday  
Daniel Milton  
Emma Milton  
Yoni Milton  
Christine Richards  
Jenny Robertson  
David Somervell  
Mark Tanner  
David Turner  
Ida Turner

### **Neil Turner (E)**

Calum Cameron  
Kirstyn Cameron  
Matthew Cameron  
Ade Cross  
Benjamin Cross  
Beth Cross  
Jacqueline Erskine  
Aran Kenrick  
Blue Kenrick  
Justin Kenrick  
Saul Kenrick  
Nicky Moore  
Ben Reade  
Hannah Reade  
Eva Schonveld (Kenrick)  
Peta Sandars  
Jen Shepherd(+Charlotte,  
Samuel  
and Emily Foggo  
Catherine Somerville

### **Susie Reade (O)**

Maeve Armstrong  
Roisin Anderson  
Elaine Carnegie  
Josh Hearn  
Sylvia Massey  
Sue Noble  
Ian Robertson  
Rosamund Robertson  
Robert Robertson  
Isaac Turner  
Josiah Turner  
Samuel Turner  
Hazel and family Williams  
Hilary Williams  
Thea Williams

### **Alison Chalmers (O)**

Peggy Bartlett  
Eric Caulton  
Islay Dow  
John Gallilea  
Bill Gilroy  
Adam Holmes  
Catherine Holmes  
Elspeth Lucey  
David Marshall-Brough  
Kirsten Nielsen  
Rebekah Noble  
Thomas Noble  
Gillian+family Steven  
Ola (&Esme Frith) Uduku  
Mary Woodward

(from page 2) My husband was treasurer of Dunblane Meeting for some years. Because Comrie was a considerable distance from Dunblane we could not take part in all their activities. My middle daughter who lives in the south of England and her husband became Quakers at about the same time as we did and have been very involved. Their eldest son was active in Young Friends while he was at university.

Because my life has been spent in so many different places I have friends all over but these days contact is mostly by correspondence at Christmas. I have been coming to Meeting at South Edinburgh for about six years. It is very noisy after Meeting and it is not always easy to talk to people. I am sorry that the South Edinburgh afternoon discussion group has been discontinued and I would enjoy some alternative in an afternoon.

Dorothy Buglass spoke to Joan Burra, November 2009

## NEWS

**New meeting** East Edinburgh Friends propose to hold a monthly Sunday evening Meeting for Worship at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St EH3 6NX. If approved, it will be a one year experiment. East Edinburgh Friends will pay the rent but all are welcome to attend. Marjorie Farquharson will act as Correspondent.

**Using our resources well** – a set of 10 queries from Friends House.

Our **Collection** for the Scottish Churches Housing Action "Cup of Tea" appeal on Jan 31st, Homelessness Sunday, raised £50. Thank you.

## UNMISSABLE ON THE WEB

**Tales of Mere Existence** by Lev Yilmaz (YouTube). 'Procrastination', and this one:



"I've never really decided if I believe in God or not".

**Using our resources well.** A set of queries from Quaker Stewardship Committee (Friends House): <http://bit.ly/bjG7hW>

**Read this** (and more) online at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)

Send things you'd like to see in the newsletter to Neil Turner, [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com), on or before the second last Sunday of each month.

Tell us what you'd like to see on the Web too

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To **Ade** who will be 15 on March 1<sup>st</sup>

To **Benjamin** who will be 5 on March 18<sup>th</sup>

To **Esme** who will be 8 on March 22<sup>nd</sup>

## FROM THE CHILDREN ...



... Grow bigger children! ...



(PS ... these aren't the same ones!)