



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2017



Playfair Library, *From Shanghai with Love* celebrated the history of the Qipao and newer Shanghai fashion.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

Central Edinburgh on Sundays holds a small, quiet, shorter meeting at 9.30 am in addition to main meeting at 11.00. Victoria Terrace.

Weekdays at Victoria Terrace: Wed 12.30-1.00. Plus 8.00 am for half an hour on Mon and Fri.

At Portobello: 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11am, Fisherrow Centre, South St, Musselburgh EH21 6AT. With children's meeting. Bus stop by Brunton Theatre. 1st Sunday evening meetings 7.30-8 at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church (formerly St Phillips), Brunstane Rd North.

At Broughton St Mary's: 4th Sunday. 7pm in the Drummond Room at Broughton St Mary's Church, 22 Bellevue Cresc.

More meetings are listed in Sesame, or see quakerscotland.org

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In September is for **Wiston Lodge**. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this.

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

General Meeting for Scotland will be held on **Sat 9 Sep** in Dundee. Central Baptist Church Hall, Ward Rd DD1 1LP. 10.30 for 11 till 4.30. This is an all-day meeting catering for all ages.

Area Meeting will be held in Kelso on **Sat 23 Sep**. Bring a packed lunch.

Doors Open Day, also **Sat 23 Sep**, includes Victoria Terrace Meeting House for the first time. John Phillips has recounted its interesting history in this month's Terrace Talk, Central Edinburgh Meeting's newsletter.

Our **Wiston Weekend** is **Fri 29 Sep to Sun 1 Oct**

Quaker Week 2017: In turbulent times: be a Quaker. Quaker week is **30 Sep – 8 Oct**.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

The **Drop-In Group** 1st Monday afternoons, contact Sylvia Massey.

Singing Group 1st Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace. (not held in Aug) Contact Rachel Frith.

Rachel Frith offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group meets on 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm. www.edinwig.org.uk.

Book Group At Victoria Terrace after Meeting on 4th Sunday of each month. Autumn programme mysterious, but Sep on books by Molly Keane.



Badger, Shropshire

More Events and News on the Back Page

Our Festival reviewers this year have been to bad drama, thrilling theatre, brilliant comedy, top-of-the-world opera and music; but in their reports to us have focused on visual arts.

Irina Sendler at the Dovecot Gallery

A rug hanging in the Dovecot Festival exhibition *Daughters of Penelope* is dedicated to Irina Sendler. The name sent me scurrying off to look up the name, and what emerged was the most moving story of the 2500 babies she and her team smuggled out of the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII.

Every day, under the guise of a health worker looking for typhus, she took out babies in the bottom of tool boxes, or concealed beneath the stretcher of the ambulance. The ambulance driver had taught his dog to bark to cover up the cries of the babies, which in turn set off the barking of the guard dogs.

Sendler hid the names of each child and the foster family in a jar which she buried beneath an apple tree, so that after the war there was a chance of reuniting the babies and their families. Sadly most of their parents in the ghetto were killed.

Daughters of Penelope runs until January. More about Irina Sendler at irenasendler.org/facts-about-irena



Rufus Reade

Hayley Whittingham at Thomson's Tower



Hayley Whittingham is a student at Edinburgh College of Art. She has a dozen paintings/pastels in the Playfair-designed tower in the corner of the wonderful Dr Neil's Garden in Duddingston, 11am-4pm until 1st September.

Neil Turner

Caravaggio at the Royal Scottish Academy

Sitting in Meeting this summer in the basement of the Open Door, I was reminded of this exhibition. The sun came out and shone into the dim room from the side window. A ray lit up the gold sleeve of Margaret's blouse. It made think me of the way the light falls on the orange velvet breeches of the soldier in *The Taking of Christ*. Suddenly I saw our Quaker meeting as a Caravaggio painting. I became aware of my Friends' stillness, their various postures, the position of their hands, their faces. Some had their eyes closed. Others seemed to be gazing at things only they could see. I was conscious of everyone's dignity and grace. It was not so much my Friends who were transformed but my perception of them.



Caravaggio was brought up in Milan when it was dominated by its Archbishop, Carlo Borromeo. Borromeo encouraged meditation on the life of Christ through visualising ordinary people acting out biblical roles. Caravaggio may have been influenced by the northern Italian Counter-Reformation, which valued simplicity over pomp and splendour. He had the ability to make people seem three dimensional and real in his painting and often represented biblical figures as poor people with bare, dirty feet and torn clothing. In his adult life in Rome however these ideas were being replaced by a return to magnificence under the influence of the "baroque" cultural and religious movement. One of Caravaggio's paintings, an altar piece *The Death of the Virgin* was rejected by a church that had commissioned it because he had painted Mary as a pauper rather than as a Queen.

Caravaggio used workmen and prostitutes as models. In the two paintings here, the same elderly working man has been used as a model for a soldier in *The Taking of Christ* and as a model for St James, with his cockle shell brooch, in *Supper at Emmaus*. The inn at Emmaus is a simple place. The disciple on the left has a torn sleeve. But it is here, to the poor and ordinary that God reveals himself. If we look closely, we can see the image of a fish, the secret sign of Christ, falling magically on the tablecloth, and a halo forming in the shadows around Christ's head.

The exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy includes work by other artists who were influenced by the way Caravaggio painted light and shade, and runs until 28th September.

Catriona Courtier

