



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

October 2018



Wiston 2018

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

South Edinburgh: 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.

Portobello: NEW DETAILS 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11am, Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello, EH15 2BP. With children's meeting. 1st Sunday evening meetings 7.30-8 also at Belfield.

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

Kings Buildings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1-1.30. UoE Common Room, Muslim prayer rooms, opp. Weir Building. sarah.martin@ed.ac.uk

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In October is for **Changing Faces** – empowering those with disfigurement changingfaces.org.uk Sylvia Massey will speak to this.

LOCAL QUAKER EVENTS

Quaker Week is **Sat 29 Sep – Sun 7 Oct**

Exploring spirituality – at Victoria Terrace, afternoons of **Sat 6 Oct** and 10 Nov. 2.30-4.30. See page 3.

There will be a **Meeting at Faslane** on **Sun 7 Oct**. For further information see Jan newsletter online, or speak to Alison Burnley.

Local Meeting for Business will be held after Meeting for Worship on **Sun 28 Oct**.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

The **Drop-in group** usually meets on 1st Monday, due to resume in October.

Rachel Frith offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at her house at 10.30 on 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

Singing group meets at Victoria Terrace on First Tuesdays at 7.30 pm.

Book Group 4th Sundays after lunch at Victoria Terrace. Sep 30: Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*. Oct: Anthony Powell, *A Question of Upbringing*, or another from *Dance to the Music of Time*. Rachel Frith.



Everyday militarism. Printable poster and nice interactive graphic at www.quaker.org.uk/teaching-resources

More Events and News on the Back Page

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business, Sunday 26 August 2018

1. **Opening Worship** – We heard from Quaker Faith and Practice 23.05 which speaks of evils latent in our culture – and encourages us to “drag them into the light.” We were 13 gathered.

2. **Minutes of our meeting held 27 May 2018** – Matters Arising:

We thanked those who helped with arrangements for Area Meeting we hosted 23 June where we heard about Campaign Against Arms Trade and Peacebuilding.

3. **UK complicit in torture: *Detainee Mistreatment & Rendition 2001-10.***

We heard of the above report by the House of Commons *Intelligence and Security Committee* published in June 2018 which made clear that British intelligence officers were involved in incidents of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CIDT), paid for people to be taken away (“rendition”) and that many people knew about this. We recognise that such behaviour merely encourages others to also behave inhumanely. Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (QCAT Briefing 58) has more details.

We are so concerned about this that we ask Area Meeting to consider these grave issues of state secrecy and truth and integrity in public life; and for Area Meeting to request Meetings for Sufferings to consider how best Quakers in Britain might bear witness against such wrongdoing by the state.

We ask our clerk to contact Ian Murray, our MP, requesting he write to the appropriate minister calling on the Government to set up a judicial inquiry into the UK’s role in rendition and torture. We thanked David Turner for bringing this issue to our attention.

4. **Local Meeting: Engagement and Outreach**

We heard of preparations for **Quaker Week** Saturday 29 Sept to Sunday 7 October – where this year’s aims are to help Local Meetings in their commitment to genuine welcome; and to extend that welcome to enquirers from all backgrounds.

We asked the clerk to book the Open Door display window for the week and to ask if we might have some permanent poster up to welcome all to MfW each Sunday. Sue Freshwater offered to help David create a display using posters etc sent by Britain Yearly Meeting. The Local Meeting Welcome leaflet is to be reprinted.

We were reminded of the importance of actively welcoming newcomers to the meeting and encourage all to engage with visitors in the social time after Meeting.

We encourage all to volunteer in this year’s **Doors Open Day** at 7 Victoria Terrace on Saturday 29th Sept. Last year 300 people visited! Offer 2-hour slots to John Phillips.

We reviewed arrangements at the end of Sunday worship and welcomed the improved provisions for notices – whereby advanced ones are put in the Calendar and written details of imminent ones are given to Elder / Overseer closing Meeting for reading out.

Some of us really value hearing people’s names at the end of Meeting so we ask the Elder / Overseer closing Meeting to use their discretion on when to “go round”.

We heard views which showed something gained and something lost in not having After Words; so we agreed to review again early in 2019.

We thanked Elders and Overseers for organising roughly monthly Meetings for Learning (MfL) this past year and look forward to the last one to be planned by Catriona and Esther on “Ministering in Meeting” on Sunday 23 September.

We ask the clerk to issue a survey asking for 1) ideas for MfL topics people want to hear about and 2) topics people might offer. We noted it helps if two people present.

We recognised that some people attending meeting are hard of hearing and ask those Opening up to put a Notepad and pen on the table for a volunteer to scribe Ministry for those with hearing difficulty. We also invite those closing Meeting to enquire after absent friends – so that we might be kept informed of those prevented from attending.

5. Reviewing our Finances for 2017

Our new Treasurer Susan Robertson has reported on our 2017 income & expenditure. We heard that – considering late transfer of members' 2017 donations via Area Meeting – that there was a small surplus of £450 for the year on income of just over £6,000. Nearly £2,500 of this was in Special Collections donated to 12 charities.

We have just over £4,600 in three accounts – which is a fair bit more than our current rent for Open Door of £64 / week or £3,328 / year.

We considered how best to support appeals from Local Meetings for help with improvement / repairs for Meeting Houses which come direct or via The Friend. We authorise our clerk and / or clerk of Elders / Overseers to liaise with the Treasurer and send a donation of say £10 - £20 where appropriate up to a total of £200 / year.

We agreed a budget similar to 2017 plus this £200 and thanked Susan for her service.

6. Filling important roles in our meeting

- We still seek a Quaker representative as a trustee of The Open Door
- Esther has agreed to join the Opening Up rota. Anyone else? [It's not hard!]
- Esther has agreed to liaise with Daniel Johnston MSP to arrange our next meeting
- We invite one or two friends to coordinate the next few Meetings for Learning.

7. Area Meeting

We heard that Annual reports – a long one to the charity regulator and a short Quaker Activities in 2017 were endorsed at the meeting held 14 August; and that a generous legacy has been given to Area Meeting – which will be subject of careful decisions for its use. Next Mtg 22 Sept.

The clerk shared proposed dates of Area Meetings in 2019:

7pm	Mon 28 Jan at 7VT
All Day	Sat 23 March in Central Fife
7pm	Tues 14 May at 7VT
All Day	Sat 22 June, Kelso
7pm	Wed 4 Sept at 7VT
All Day	Sat 9 Nov Portobello / Musselburgh

Our Local Meetings might then be held on Sundays 13 January, 3 March, 28 April, 9 June, 25 August and 27 October. Comments / clashes to clerk!

8. Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 28 October after Meeting for Worship

EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY – *Diverse Concepts and Experience.*

On two Saturday afternoons, at 7 Victoria Terrace, 2.30-4.30. Tea/coffee from 2.00 - 2.30 pm. Usually a talk, questions and answers, sharing experiences and discussion, and a time of meditation or silent worship. All welcome. Free, donations welcome.

Sat 6 Oct Fiona Pearson **Visionary artists from Spencer to Paolozzi.** Looking at the work of 20th century artists who have had personal faith or a philosophy of life forces in nature and humanity that was inspirational. over the last 31 years. Fiona Pearson was senior curator at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art for 25 years. She grew up as a Quaker but left in 2005 doubtful of her pacifism and of organised religion.

Sat 10 Nov Bashabi Fraser. **Rabindranath Tagore's Concept of the *Jiban Debata* – his Lord of Life.** The Bengali poet, musician and artist Tagore (1861-1941) remains hugely influential. Prof. Bashabi Fraser is professor of English and Creative Writing and director of the Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies, Napier University.

For further information, contact anniemiller15@gmail.com, or tel: 0131 447 3268.

MORE NEWS AND DATES

1-7 Oct is Challenge Poverty Week. Full information at <http://povertyalliance.org>

**CHALLENGE
POVERTY
WEEK**

CHALLENGE POVERTY IN
SCOTLAND? AYE, WE CAN!

Vigil for Palestinian Christians at the Catholic University Chaplaincy in George Square, 6-7 pm on **Sat 3 Nov**. Younger people are leaving and the elderly are left without care. Catriona Courtier is hoping to attend and hopes some Friends might like to join her at the simple and beautiful chapel.

Quaker activist gathering – are you a Quaker activist? One-day workshop at Lancaster Meeting House, **Sat 3 Nov** 10-4.30. Enquiries to Ben Foley, benf@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1056 www.bit.ly/QuakerActivistGathering2018

Fragrances – some find themselves sensitive to fragrances and perfumes. We are asked to be aware of this in making our preparations to come to Meeting.

Biscuit Reviews

You have sent but one palinode and no quatrains, so leaving space that has to be filled with biscuit reviews. Future generations may uncover our archive and conclude that South Edinburgh Quakers were eccentric biscuit-worshippers with a sideline in strange corners of the Internet.

Lyons Fruit Snap Jacks



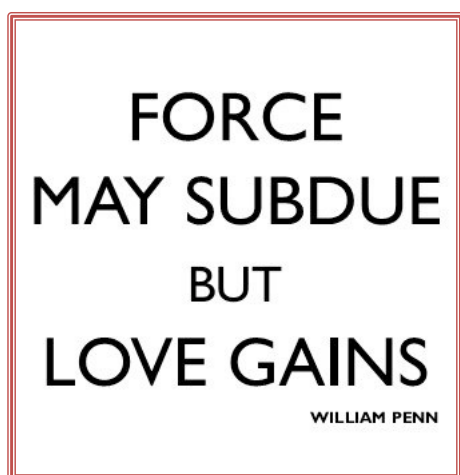
Today (4 Aug 2004) I'm joined by biscuit enthusiast Andrew who helped out in the Fig Fest. Andrew has been eating biscuits for roughly 35 years but only considers his last six months to be in a professional capacity. Throughout this review I'll be drinking Tetley tea (round tea bag) and Andrew will be drinking a very big and milky cup of Earl Grey.

Make no mistake this is an Oat based biscuit, and should not be approached in casual fashion, as it requires some eating ... Andrew comments "It's not a session biscuit" ...

So all in all in all this is a satisfying biscuit, and probably a good choice for a tea break when doing any serious manual labour like digging up tree roots.

www.nicecupofteaandasitdown.com

Quaker relevance 54%



A 1930 Northern Friends Peace Board poster

Definitely unquakerly from Twitter



This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month. We'd like an excuse to publish a romance, and relish a rebus. Rite to neilturn@gmail.com

This edition, plus archives and more, available from quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh