



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

November 2017



Conscientious Objector, by David Jagger, 1917
(British Realists at MOMA2 till Oct 29 - recommended)

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 November is for **Prison Phoenix Trust Scotland**, theppt.org.uk/scotland It encourages spiritual welfare through meditation and yoga. Rachel Howell will speak to this.

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

There will be a **Meeting at Faslane** on **Sun 12 Nov**. Information from Alison Burnley.

General Meeting for Scotland at Elgin on **Sat 18 Nov** has an interesting programme and number of visitors from afar. Business from 11, refreshments from 10. It is hope that Friends will be able to stay with local Friends in Aberdeen or Inverness.

Area Meeting will be held at Portobello on **Sat 25 Nov**. Details at meeting.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

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

Singing Group 1st Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace. Contact Rachel Frith.

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



[More Events and News on the Back Page](#)

One of the first Kindergartens, in Canongate



Photograph by Francis C. Inglis, Calton Hill, Edinburgh.

A SCHOOL MUSTER

The diary of a Free Kindergarten

By Lileen Hardy, 1913

Available free online at
archive.org/details/diaryoffreekinde00hardrich

Catriona Courtier

This little book is a charming account of a “child garden” that the author set up and ran in the slums of the Canongate from 1906 to 1912. She was one of the first people in this country to try to put into practice the ideas of the German educationalist Friedrich Froebel who started the kindergarten movement. She writes that the aim was not to give instruction but to create an environment in which the child’s “inherent capacities” would unfold into “a pure and perfect whole, just as a seed becomes a flower in the hands of a skilled gardener”.

It was not easy. And Miss Holmes is often exhausted. The patch she first takes over is littered with broken bottles, cans, boots, stays, potato peelings, two dead puppies and one dead cat. These have been thrown out of the windows of the surrounding tenements. Every morning it is necessary to go round and pick up what has been thrown down the night before. The children don’t know what grass is. One little girl’s favourite game is to play at being drunk which she does with horrible realism. But gradually the garden becomes respected by the community.. Some mornings there is nothing to pick up. Snowdrops and daisies bloom and the children take keen pleasure in their “floo’ers”.

One of the delights of the book is the comments the children make, always reported in broad Scots. Life is harsh in the old town. Meals often consist only of “pieces” of bread and jam eaten in the street and when Miss Holmes appears in a new blouse and says she has made it herself, she is asked “What oot o’? Yer mither’s skirt?”

Miss Holmes also gives us insight into the attitudes of philanthropic middle class ladies like herself in this period. She says that many girls and women who are free from the necessity of earning a living could find great fulfilment by giving themselves thus to the service of Christ in His poor children.

The Kindergarten starts with three children and by the end has fifty but however hard she tries Miss Holmes never manages to entirely stamp out bad practices such as children being given ha’pennies to spend on sweets, even if their families are very poor. “While we think we are establishing a deep rooted love of duty for its own sake, at home the child is being bribed with ha’pennies. The children are just as loving and lovable as any other children. At five they are alive with desire for the mysterious and spiritual. But the evil effects of the street are appalling. The mother’s ignorance, even her undisciplined love itself is bound to crush out a great deal that is good”.

Deirdre gave a talk on the work of Friedrich Froebel to the Monday club earlier this year and showed us some pictures from the book. The children are all wearing little pinafores. People wondered about this and I can now reveal that they were indeed provided by the kindergarten but the mothers had to wash them at weekends. Deirdre leant me her copy of the book and I know she would be very happy to lend it to others.

At the end of her diary, which she published to raise funds for her nursery, Lillian Holmes looks forward to a day when the Kindergarten movement, through reforming the culture of the poor, would no longer be needed. The creation of the Welfare State has ameliorated, at least for a time, the extreme poverty people suffered in the Canongate in Edwardian days of but Froebel’s idea that small children learn best through play is still influential in nursery practice in Edinburgh today.

Giving to Friends via CAF

I don't know if you find the demands on your purse with all the charity concerns around us a bit overwhelming, but if you do I'd just like to introduce Charity Aid Foundation (often known by its initials CAF) which operates a bit like a bank account. You can pay in money any time you want, by standing order or over the phone with a debit card.

CAF reclaim any of the 20% tax you will have paid on this money (assuming you are a tax payer – if you are not it's still quite good but not as persuasively excellent!), and you can then ask CAF to pay out money as regularly as you like to your nominated charities just like a standing order on a bank account. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer you can reclaim the difference between the 20% tax rate and the higher tax band.

CAF make a small charge for reclaiming the 20% tax, but it gives you a bigger pot of funds to distribute.

The great thing is that you don't need to remember each month to send funds to Monthly Meeting for example: CAF do it for you. And if for some reason your account runs dry the CAF account will stop until its refilled.

I like to remember some charities once a year (you know the sort of thing: the anniversary of being saved by the Lifeboat, or on the birthday of my budgie something for the RSPB), so I set up a standing order to cover this.

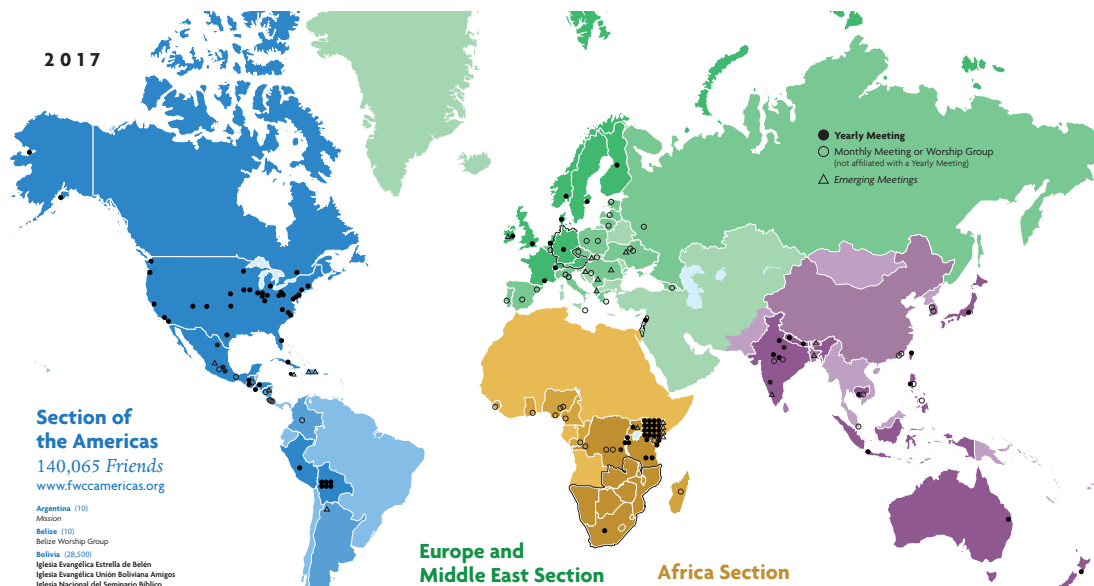
What's great is that you get statements showing what your giving has involved, and in the event of a major tragedy your statement will show you if you have surplus funds to send to an earthquake appeal or the like.

And yes you get a cheque book, and a 'bank' card. You can only send money to registered charities, and once you've put money into the CAF account you can't reclaim it!

Piece of cake! Here is a fictional monthly statement.

By the way, autumn is an excellent time to review such matters!

Rufus



World map of Friends, from a new poster from FWCC

MORE NEWS AND DATES

Longing and Belonging and Balfour – an ‘evocative music and spoke word concert marking the centenary of the Balfour Declaration’ by Bristol Friend David Mowat, 7.30 at the Storytelling Centre on **Sat 4 Nov** (costs). More at bit.ly/2zH6I9N

Space to pencil your contribution to the next issue. Your 30-word review would fit perfectly.

Happy Birthday

To **Aran**, who will be 13 on the 1st, and to **Athena**, who will be 14 on the 26th.



In honour of the Scottish Empire

Certainly Quakerly online

The new Quaker blog from Friends House quaker.org.uk/blog continues to provide interesting posts, and mentioning it helps our relevance count (they like enumerating) no end.

Oct 26: Eight things we learned at Quaker Activist Gathering (reading time 4 minutes).

Sep 29: How do we build an economy on Quaker principles? (reading time 5 minutes).

Quaker relevance 99%

Not unQuakerly online

Twitter account of the month is **Inappropriate Gavels**, @igavels. Entirely devoted to correcting the misconception that British judges use gavels.



Quaker relevance 0.3%

This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month, most of the time. Your contributions welcomed by neilturn@gmail.com

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