



Terrace Talk

Newsletter, Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting April 2021

Hello everyone!

WHAT'S INSIDE INCLUDES:

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- And to Summer Shindig - face to face! Well, maybe... p3
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- Latest figures - is it large or small Meetings that are growing? p5

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. *Passion flower*



Easter Song by George Herbert

*I got me flowers to straw Thy way,
I got me boughs off many a tree;
But Thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st Thy sweets along with Thee.*

*The sunne arising in the East,
Though he give light, and th' East perfume,
If they should offer to contest
With Thy arising, they presume.*

Can there be any day but this,

Though many sunnes to shine endeavour?

We count three hundred, but we misse:

There is but one, and that one ever.

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Deepening our Spiritual Life

Yes, back to a blended meeting! 4 April 11am

From Friday 26 March, communal worship can resume, with the limit for attendance increased from 20 to 50 people if the place of worship is large enough to allow distancing.

It's now four months since our last blended All-Age Meeting for Worship. Our allowed numbers will be less than 50, but If you would like to attend on 4 April, please book using this link to Eventbrite by 5 pm Wednesday 31 March.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-age-quaker-meeting-for-worship-tickets-146156356597> If you know someone who is not confident or able to book online but who would like to attend, you can make the booking for them, inserting their name and phone number. This will be used for contact tracing and for us to provide this Friend with any additional information they may need prior to attending. If you plan to attend as a couple or family, please have one person book the correct number of tickets, so that we know you want to sit together and are entitled to do so under the Scottish Government guidelines. . The Safety Committee will confirm all places, on Thursday 1 April and will provide further information about what to expect.

Here is the short video, which shows the new layout of the meeting room.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxjfk9E5ncY>

To ensure good ventilation the windows will be open, and you are welcome to bring a rug with you. Everyone will wear a mask at all times and masks and sanitiser will be available if required. There will be two doorkeepers downstairs and contact details will be taken for track and trace purposes. The contact details will be kept securely, and for no more than 3 weeks. There will be a copy of Quaker Faith and Practice on each chair. If you want to refer to any other books, please bring them with you. You can also bring a device to read suitable material online if you wish. There will be no refreshments of any kind, so bring a bottle of water if you want one. It will be helpful if Friends attending the meeting house arrive between 10.50 and 11.00. Please note that the doors will be shut and locked by 11.10am.

Friends are asked to leave the building once we have heard the notices. Care needs to be taken to maintain a social distance. Doorkeepers and staff will be on hand to explain the toilet arrangements. For any questions, Friends should contact Laragh Quinney via office@equaker.org.uk

Financial update - Meeting House

Currently there are several uncertainties regarding our costs and income. Area Meeting has rebated one-third of our rent until the end of April, when the situation will be reviewed. During lockdown we are receiving no local collections or lunch monies and we have still to receive from Area Meeting clarification as to the amount of funds earmarked for our Local Meeting. Now we can resume blended meetings, our rent rebate will be reconsidered.

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Witnessing to our Faith in Action

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland sends warm thanks to Friends who, along with thousands of others across Scotland, signed the online letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change sharing concerns that the current Climate Change Plan update does not have the ambition and detail we need to meet our targets: *'Thank you for adding your voice and personal messages and showing that there is strong support for transformative action.'*

Month's Good Cause - Sistema Scotland - 4 April

Hilary Patrick writes:

Sistema Scotland improves lives and strengthens communities through music. They are based in four deprived communities across Scotland. Their *Big Noise* programmes develop a wide range of life-skills and experiences through membership of a symphony orchestra.

The inspirational staff musicians are not only teachers but role models and mentors. They engage with children and young people, encouraging them to play music together, celebrating achievements, nurturing friendships and offering individual support.

Being part of *Big Noise* is fun and rewarding - and free of charge - and the musicians work with children from birth through to adulthood in a seamless programme. The children develop confidence, teamwork, pride and aspiration as well as the capacity to work hard. They are supported to reach their potential.

Nicky Pritchett-Brown, who has worked for *Sistema Scotland* almost since it began in 2008, looks forward to sharing on Zoom on 4 April the impact of its work and how we can help more of Scotland's most vulnerable children and young people make a *Big Noise*!

Online donations can be made at <https://www.makeabignoise.org.uk/funding/> Do please leave a comment to let Sistema know that your gift is from the Edinburgh Quaker appeal. Or you can send a cheque payable to *Sistema Scotland* to me, Hilary Patrick, your Treasurer. My address is in the Book of Members. Please provide contact details, so that Sistema can thank you.

Promoting Quaker Values, Beliefs, Approaches...

Summer Shindig returns - face-to-face! Well, maybe ...

Yes, a real face-to-face summer shindig is planned to return to Ackworth School 31 July - 7 August 2021. If things get tricky again, the shindig will not be cancelled, but will transform itself into a virtual online event held the week before 23 July- 24 July at home. So Plan A, and Plan B.

As in previous years: Summer Shindig is a week-long residential event primarily for young people from Scotland and Northern England who are connected with Friends. Young people between 11 and 16 years old on 30 June this year can apply.

Sia Smith, the coordinator writes:

We are working towards a real event with some changes to reduce the risks. This means the young people all arriving by car, being tested upon arrival and no leaving the site during the week, but please be aware if during the week someone does develop symptoms and gets a positive test back the event will be immediately brought to an end.

Each young person has to sign a declaration agreeing that upon arrival at Summer Shindig they will take Lateral Flow test for Covid 19, I socially distance until they have a negative result, and understand that should they test positive, they I will need to go straight home.

Ackworth School in North Yorkshire has been a fantastic venue with plenty of space both indoors and out. It's also lovely to hold the event in a Quaker school. As a boarding school they already have a lateral testing system in place, an isolated sick bay and have assured us they are prepared and able to host an event like ours.

Applications are taken on a first come first served basis but should be returned by 14 April at the latest. The cost for the event is £330 for the first child and £300 for subsequent children in the same family. If required, please tick the box relating to bursary help on the application form. It is important that cost does not prevent anyone from attending.

The link to the sign-up form is here: <https://forms.gle/xwaQRe1CQmvKY5ZA9> For further information, see: <https://summershindig.wordpress.com/>

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Exploring the Quaker Life - enquirers' event. Saturday 24 April 10.30-1.00 by Zoom. This online event is for those who wish to explore being a Quaker in Scotland today. Contact Mariot Dallas, via office@equaker.org.uk

People

Book of Members

Copies of the new Book of Members are available at £3.50 for anyone listed in the book under Central Edinburgh (other local meetings have their own supplies). Contact Jacqueline Noltingk via office@equaker.org.uk

Memorial Minutes For **Monica Jackson**, see p? **Andrew Kinnaird** will be in the next edition.

Social/community building/arts/fun

Get your kilt on!

If your boots are made for walking, why not take part in the Christian Aid Kiltwalk? Go for a walk (of any length), cycle, jump on a trampoline or take the family on a scavenger hunt. The Kiltwalk is happening virtually all across Scotland from 23-25 April. Get moving for Christian Aid and The Hunter Foundation will increase your sponsorship by 50%! [Sign up today](#) and name Christian Aid as your chosen charity. Money is collected through Just Giving. Lauren McFarlane will be delighted to support you to get set up lmcfarland@christian-aid.org

On Zoom:

Coffee mornings. Thursdays 1, 15, 29 April. 10.30-12 863 8069 6626
pw 203456. Note that this is a new link.

Singing group. Tuesday 6 April at 7.30. 106 451 170 pw 144309

Book group: Sunday 25 April after Meeting for Worship to discuss *Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane. 121 083 985. pw George

Something Understood - The Greatest of These Is Love?

John Fox heard this on Radio 4, and recommends it. Just click.

And here's one of the world's best known pieces of music as you've never heard it before ... It's Vivaldi, played by two young musicians on a bandura (sort of a cross between a lute and a balalaika) and a button accordion, shot amid the stunning scenery of the Korostyshev Canyon in the Ukraine. *'A lot of time we dreamed play this composition, because Storm by Antonio Vivaldi this one of hard classical composition in the world. We learned this cover about half year, and we will be very grateful of you share this video.'* [Click here to watch](#)

General Meeting

Engaging with candidates for the next election

Discover our revitalised 'Quakers in Scotland' website - <https://www.quakerscotland.org/our-work>

On our 'work' pages, you can find:

- Our Quaker guide to engagement with candidates for the **Scottish Parliamentary Elections** in May: a guide to running a hustings meeting plus briefing papers on a range of issues. All under *Parliamentary Engagement Documents*.
- Information about current climate action
- A new area on COP26

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- The text of our submissions: to the Scottish Government's *All our Rights in Law* consultation; and to the 3rd Scottish Land Use Survey
- News of other parliamentary engagement work
- The PEWG's positional paper to guide their work

NB Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Woodbrooke are working together to run monthly online sessions, supporting Quakers who are interested in taking action on climate change in the run up to - and during - COP26. These sessions are open to all Quakers and will provide a space for spiritual grounding, as well as sharing and learning about taking action for climate justice. [Learn more and sign up on Woodbrooke's website.](#)

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Monday 12 April, 5pm. Learn about the work of *Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees* [SFAR](#) from Sabine Chalmers, SFAR Co-ordinator. She will outline the needs and experience of refugees in Scotland. Hear too about what Quakers are already doing at a local level to engage with and support refugees, and consider what else could be done. Quakers are one of 13 bodies working in partnership through SFAR. Hilary Patrick represents us. The event is organised for General Meeting by our Area Meeting, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81693642230?pwd=Uy9hV05BTy9rUmlzYlMzdVFnNTVjdz09>; Meeting ID: 816 9364 2230; Passcode: 252470

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Britain Yearly Meeting/Woodbrooke

Rethinking the use of our buildings

Self-catering accommodation at **Swarthmoor Hall** will reopen on 12 April for individuals or single households. But as our recording clerk, Paul Parker, writes, the closure of Friends House and Swarthmoor has been a problem, because BYM is very dependent both on the income they generate, and on the visibility we get from the 400,000-odd people who pass through the doors every year:

But it's also made us realise that they are just buildings, and we need them to work for us. Friends House will remain the administrative centre for Quakers in Britain, but we're likely to use it quite differently. Staff will probably spend less of their time there, and we'll see more staff working from other locations, including our new hub in Leeds (at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House). Before the pandemic, around 1 in 7 BYM staff were based outside Friends House. In the future, that proportion will be much higher, making us a truly national organisation.

We're expecting to see committees meeting face-to-face less often, and making the most of their time when they do to work on the gritty strategic issues that are harder to tackle online. We've seen that events, conferences and workshops can have a much wider reach if they're held online. More than 900 Friends took part in last year's QPSW Summer Series, for example, compared with around 150 who could have attended the cancelled Spring Conference. We'll be doing more of that, although in-person gatherings won't disappear entirely.

Number-crunching

- Membership of Britain Yearly Meeting is down by more than half from our peak in the mid-20th century, to 12,498 in 2019.
 - There was a net loss of 200 members for the year.
 - one new member in each of our 470 local meeting next year would stop the fall. ●
- Since 2009, 22 % of Local Meetings have grown by 10 % or more, and...
- 54 % of Local Meetings have shrunk by 10 % or more

- 10 % of our Meetings have over 50 members, and account for about 1/3 of our membership.

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- Small meetings are more likely to be growing than large meetings. More than half the meetings which are losing membership are largish, that is, with 20 or more members.
- a simple consequence of the numbers is that approximately one in 20 Quakers has to be a treasurer.

Memorial Minute: Monica Jackson, 16 September 1920 – 7 April 2020

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Meister Eckhart.

Monica Jackson's long life was rich in love - for her family, her mountains, her dogs, her friends, all of these being aspects of the divine. Over the years she pursued a deepening spirituality which informed her relations with others and the world, and her joyous appreciation of life.

She was born Heather Monica Morris in South India, to parents running a coffee plantation. The eldest of three sisters, Monica spent an idyllic childhood roaming the jungle; teaching herself to read by the age of five was the beginning of her life-long love of books. At eleven, she was sent to Arlesey, a Catholic girls' school in England, where she impressed her teachers and continued to enjoy a good deal of freedom.

In 1942 she married Bob Jackson in Bangalore, and their children Sue and Simon were born in 1943 and 1944. Monica had a passion for mountains; she became well-known among climbers as a member of the first all-women expedition to the Himalayas in 1955, exploring the Jugal Himal region of Nepal, where they climbed a previously unknown peak which they named Gyalgen, after their beloved Sherpa. In the late 1960s, Monica decided that she needed some higher education and took a degree in social anthropology at Cambridge. She followed this up with an M.Phil. on "Caste and Kinship in Chamaraj Nagar" and then gained a Ph.D. with her thesis "Caste Cultures and Fertility in South Karnataka" from Edinburgh University at the age of 64. For her research she returned to the part of South India where she grew up. Living in a village hut, she was delighted to find that her childhood knowledge of the Kanada language came back to her. Monica and Bob first attended Quaker Meeting in Stafford Street, Edinburgh, in the 1970s, subsequently coming into membership. Monica quickly became involved with the Quaker Concern for Animals and supported numerous animal charities across the world. She served on the library committee, and was an enthusiastic member of the informal hill-walking group, sharing with others her love of the hills. A notably courageous climber, she was also active in the Ladies Scottish Climbing Club. Her service to Friends as a participant in Meetings for Clearness was much valued; she was generous with her time, and brought insight, warmth, and wisdom to these meetings.

After Bob's sudden death in 1986, Monica began reading widely in esoteric and mystical literature, and mentored several friends in spiritual matters, including Annie Miller. Between 1996 and 2001, she and Annie established and hosted a series of twenty 'Spiritual Workshops', the basis of which was an experiential element of spirituality, rather than mere discussion and theory. Monica was particularly fond of the teachings of Meister Eckhart, a 13th century German theologian, philosopher and mystic, and was open to insights from all religions. Amidst this spiritual depth, Monica was also known amongst Quakers and non-Quakers alike for finding a funny side to God, often rejoicing in laughter.

It is hard to do justice to the range of Monica's interests. She was an active member of the Scientific and Medical Network, not only being invited to address meetings of the local group, but also hosting them occasionally at her home. Monica was a voracious reader encompassing a huge range of topics, including psychology, sociology and anthropology. She devoured novels, and had a particular liking for crime fiction, on which she ran university evening courses. Her knowledge of books she had read was encyclopaedic and she was happy to admit that she was addicted to reading; she became acutely aware of this while attending a silent retreat, which limited her reading to one passage from the Bible each day. This reduced

her to reading the cereal packets on the breakfast table.

Monica exemplified the advice, "Live adventurously", and conversations with her provided unexpected and sometimes startling glimpses into a life full of variety and experience. Fortunately, she was a writer as well as a reader, and her books, *The Turkish time machine*, *Going back*, and *Tents in the clouds*, reflect her distinctive voice. Always generous in appreciating other people's qualities, Monica was genuinely modest

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and unassuming about her own considerable gifts and achievements. She possessed an open and lively mind, a warm interest in people, and a real gift for friendship. She delighted in welcoming people to her home on Crawford Road in south Edinburgh, where she was a well loved neighbour for many decades. Monica's natural instinct was to find that of God in everyone, and this drew many friends to her, Quaker and otherwise.

She did indeed walk cheerfully over the world, and even at the age of nearly a hundred, could still recall in detail every one of the beloved mountains she had climbed.

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MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

<https://zoom.us/j/121083985?pwd=emF6UWo0blpwUG1FUTN0SjllSDkwdz09> Password: georgeBut

Usual Zoom 11 am meetings, but also:

4 April: All-Age blended Meeting.

11 and 25 April: 9.30 am online worship

18 April: blended meeting... hopefully

25 April: North Edinburgh worshipping group, 7pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76842175660?pwd=dXdPWXNJclZtWWR5QkpEU1g4MHFRZz09>

Meeting ID: 768 4217 5660; Password: 3DzjP3

8 and 22 April: Epilogue. 9 pm. 30 mins online worship, followed by time for chat, hot chocolate etc

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88245289431?pwd=Tm5NR0Znc3ZUT3NIMUw3c0pRa0wxQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 4528 9431 Passcode: Cocoa Join by phone: 0131 460 1196

OTHER MEETINGS BY ZOOM:

Central Fife – for login details contact Laurie Naumann

On the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 10.30 am

East Lothian – for login details contact Di Simcock, Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.

Penicuik – for login details contact Mark Hutcheson, 1st Sunday in the month at 11am. **Polmont** –

for login details contact Mariot Dallas, Sundays at 10.45; preceded by Children's Meeting,

10.00-10.30. Wednesdays at 8pm.

Portobello & Musselburgh – for login details contact Mary Jane Elton 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11am.

South Edinburgh – Some 20 or so Friends each week have been joining Sunday meeting at 10.30am.

For the link, contact Sandra Riddell, 0131 446 3663.

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Terrace Talk is published normally on the last Sunday of each month. Please provide copy for the next issue **by end of Tuesday 20 April**. Please include complete and accurate information, and contact name and phone number. Send copy in plain text form to teditors@gmail.com. We appreciate Quaker simplicity. To unsubscribe, e-mail editors. We also welcome comments and feedback.
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