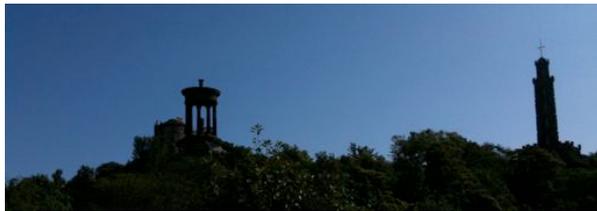




SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

January/February 2012



Calton hill from Calton Cemetery (From our Great Cemeteries of Edinburgh series, see p5)

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

Every weekday at Victoria Terrace: 8am for 30 mins Mon-Fri.

At Portobello: 1st Sunday at Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for half an hour; and **4th Sun** at **10.30 am** at CHANGES Community Health Project, 108 Market Street, Musselburgh EH21 6QA.

At Barony St: 4th Sunday. 7pm at 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors). More info: Tony Gross or Marjorie Farquharson.

Central Edinburgh meeting has an early Sunday morning meeting at 9.30am in addition to the regular 11.00am meeting at Victoria Terrace.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

January's special collection is for the **Quaker Common Fund**. Rachel Howell has spoken to this.

February's special collection will be for the **Destitution Network**, which supports refugees and asylum seekers excluded from the social welfare safety net. Pol Yates will speak to this. destitutionaction.wordpress.com.

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

Mini-mart in aid of Wiston Lodge after Meeting on each **first Sunday**. www.wistonlodge.co.uk

First Sundays – focus for children. Bring 'em, do stuff.

Meeting for Business 15th January after Meeting

Speaking of G/god – a journey in quotes **through January**, and a Quiet Day (10.30-15.30) on **Sat 28th Jan** at Alison Chalmers' home. See page 4. Quotes circulated at meeting.

Ministry – a discussion after Meeting on **19th Feb**. Mary Woodward and Hilary Davies leading.

Area meeting is at **South Edinburgh** on **Sun 26th Feb**

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

The **Drop-In Group** 1st Monday afternoons. Anyone who is interested and available is welcome, contact Sylvia Massey.

Singing Group on second Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace, contact Rachel Frith. Ask also about the Penicuik Vault Singers, Sunday afternoons in different places.

Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship meets on 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors) Contact Mary Woodward or edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com or 07543 975 590.

Reading the bible with Friends Third Tuesdays, 7-9 pm at Victoria Terrace. Using the Friendly Bible Study Method – no previous experience necessary. More info from Henry Thompson.

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

Book Group. Usually Third Sundays at 1.15pm at Central Edinburgh. *Mary Wollstonecraft* (Claire Tomalin) for January. Woolf, Bennet, Athill follow. Qs to Rachel Frith.

This newsletter is usually issued on the last Sunday of the month, but this one covers Jan/Feb and is (apologies) longer as a consequence.

Read us online at quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh Please send items and comments to Neil, neilturn@gmail.com. Deadline is usually the second last Sunday of each month.

More Events on the Back Page

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business, Sunday 15 January 2012

14 Friends were present.

Prevented: David Somervell, Mary Jane Elton, Alastair Cameron, Ida Turner.

Minutes:

Minutes of the Local Meeting for Business held on 9 October 2011 have been circulated and they have been signed by the Clerk.

Matters Arising

- (23/11) – **Update on Area Meeting Nominations Committee**
Our Elders and Overseers have asked LM to suggest someone else to serve on this committee. We agree to appoint Alison Chalmers to serve in this role.
- (26/11) – **Library**
Anna Mitchell has offered to take on responsibility for the meeting library. She plans to go through the books and, with consultation, weed some out. She proposes making up a tray of recent and relevant books to be taken out at each meeting. She also proposes to meet with the librarians at Central Edinburgh to talk about cataloguing our books.
We thank Anna for her offer and ask her to take on this work.
- (29/11) – **Meetings with politicians**
David Turner reported that we have had a successful meeting, on 3 December, with Ian Murray our MP. The main topics discussed were the Millennium Goals, the Arms Trade, and Iran. Deirdre Armstrong will write a full report on the meeting in the newsletter. The group intends to meet with Jim Eadie MSP, possibly on February 25th, and will meet on Sunday 29 January to prepare. Details will go in the newsletter.
- (32/11) – **Sign outside the Open Door**
Chris Booth has reported that the cost of a new sign would be around £60, not including design of the artwork. He did not find a supplier willing to sell a replacement sign without the base. Sylvia Massey has asked the Open Door to find out whether their suppliers, Signbuilders, can provide the sign only to slot into the existing stand. Failing this, we agree to purchase a complete new sign with appropriate information. We ask Chris Booth, Mary Woodward and David Bell to design the artwork and take this forward.
- (20/11) – **Archives**
Sylvia Massey reported that minutes from 1970-76 are missing (the period when our meeting started). 1987-89 are also missing. She asks anyone who finds these or knows where they are to let her know.
We agree to dispose of our copied of Monthly Meeting and General Meeting minutes.
Pat Lucas has issued guidelines on indexing minutes, which we will attempt to follow. Sylvia agrees to continue with this work.

1/12 – Wiston Lodge Weekend

Deirdre Armstrong has reported that the dates have been booked (7-9 September) and that a deposit has been paid. We ask Kerry Oliver to take responsibility for bookings and collecting money (with advice available from Phil Noble).

We need a small group to plan the activities and we will put a notice in the newsletter asking for volunteers. One person from Children's Committee will be on this and we need two others. Elders and Overseers will be responsible for seeing that two people are found and will put a notice in the newsletter.

2/12 – Special collections

We agree that Pol Yates will take on the task of coordinating special collections, and we thank Mary Woodward for her work on this.

We agree to the following special collections:

- February – Destitution Network (Pol Yates)
- March – FWCC (Alison Burnley)
- April – Coach House (Hilary Davies)
- May – LendWithCare (Mary Woodward)
- June – HIV/Aids at JLZwane Church, South Africa (Pol Yates)

3/12 – Discussions after Meeting for Worship

We agree that on 19 February Mary Woodward and Hilary Davies will lead a discussion after Meeting for Worship on the topic of Ministry.

Elders and Overseers propose a talk on Becoming Friends led by Alison Burnley and/or Mary Woodward in either April or June. E&Os will decide this at their next meeting.

We also have the Swarthmore Lecture and the Toolkit on Sustainability. We agree that these would be of interest and ask E&Os to finalise details.

4/12 – Board of the Open Door

David Somervell has reminded us that he wishes to step down from the Board of the Open Door. We ask him to write a notice, including a job description in the newsletter and we will ask Sandra Dixon to speak to us about what is involved.

Date of next meeting: Sunday, 18 March 2012, at the Open Door.

The Becoming Friends programme

Becoming Friends is a course devised by Woodbrooke and Quaker Life for people who would like to increase their knowledge and understanding of Quakers. It is designed both for newcomers and established Friends, can be used by both groups and individuals, and is not aimed at bringing participants into membership. The Companion's role is to accompany the person or group during their enquiry, to answer questions and direct them to sources of information, and to "be a supportive, listening presence" as they reflect on their learning. It is perfectly possible to follow the course on one's own: the material is available both in book form and on-line, which enables each participant to use their preferred medium for study.

What does the course consist of?

There is an introductory unit, which enables the course participants to get to know each other, set out ground rules [confidentiality, time and length of meetings, what each person is hoping to get from the course etc] and choose which unit they wish to start with. The eight self-contained units can be studied in any order:

Silence and Waiting, Experiencing Quaker Community, Faithful Diversity, The Sacred in the Everyday, Advices and Queries, Deep Roots and New Growth, Faith in Action, and Speaking of God.

Within each unit there are Distinctives, Discovery and Deepenings: what makes Quakers distinctive; finding out more about the particular topic; and going more deeply into what this means for one personally.

For example: the unit Deep Roots and New Growth is designed to help one find out about the roots and history of the Quaker faith and our commitment to ongoing change.

The **Distinctives** section offers an overview of Quaker history, and give examples of the lives and insights of early Quakers, talk about Quakers as a prophetic community, outline the history of Quaker structures such as Yearly Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings, and show the steady, rooted Quaker approach to putting faith into action, both now and in the past.

The **Discovery** section suggests ways of exploring this further – for example, looking at panels of the Quaker Tapestry, exploring the Quaker timeline given in the Distinctives section of the unit, talking about Quaker stories from the past or exploring Swarthmoor Hall in person, or in a 'virtual tour'.

The **Deepenings** section suggests reflecting on a person or incident from Quaker history that interests or appeals; responding to a prayer written by a contemporary American Friend; making an image for one's own rootedness in response to the image of Quakerism as a well-rooted tree, able to grow and even accept grafts; reflecting on the writings of the Quaker mystics; engaging with the Quaker discipline of waiting for the right time for action or change.

What is so great about the course?

I spent about a year and a half at Pendle Hill, the Quaker Centre for Study and Contemplation in Pennsylvania, and greatly appreciated the opportunity to develop my understanding of my own religious experience and learn from those of Quakers and non-Quakers alike. Most people are unable to take time out of their lives in this way, and don't have many opportunities to talk about their faith or explore new ideas: Becoming Friends gives people the opportunity to have these conversations.

When I first started attending Meeting I felt, and still feel very strongly, that there is often insufficient opportunity for both newcomers to Friends and long-term members and attenders to talk about their faith and learn from that of others: Friends are very good at the "Do you work? Do you have children? Where do you stay?" sort of conversations, but are less comfortable / able to talk about spiritual matters. This course offers an excellent opportunity for everyone to explore Quakerism in as much depth as they choose, and offers the opportunity to share these explorations with others, either one-to-one or in a group.

The wide range of topics, and material within each topic, means that there is 'something for everyone': and there is much that encourages one to explore and deepen one's faith. Having the material available as both a book and on line means that one can choose one's preferred way to follow the course, or dip in and out as one wishes.

What's happening in my Meeting? What's planned for the future?

Alison Burnley and Mary Woodward from South Edinburgh Meeting, [and Marilyn Higgins from Central Edinburgh] went on the 'Becoming Friends Companions' course at Swarthmoor Hall last autumn, and are facilitating 'Becoming Friends' groups within their Meetings. There is also a 'waiting list' in South Edinburgh, and it is hoped that a second group will start meeting some time over the winter. If people are unable to come to a group meeting, they could follow the course on their own and either meet regularly with a companion or arrange to meet as and when they felt the need.

We would be delighted to give other Meetings further information about the Becoming Friends course, and any help they might want to enable them to set up groups for themselves.

What do I know about how this is used in other Meetings?

I know of several other Meetings where the course has been used by the whole Meeting as part of their monthly study sessions, while others have groups of both newcomers and established Friends, as well as running the course for enquirers.

How to look at the free demo of the Becoming Friends online course

1. Go to the Woodbrooke Moodle site at <http://moodle.woodbrooke.org.uk>
2. You don't need to log in, as the free demo allows 'guest user' access.
3. Scroll down to the bottom of the main site page and click on Becoming Friends in the course categories list.
4. On the next screen, click on Becoming Friends: Living & learning with Quakers free demonstration course
5. When prompted to log in, click on login as a guest.
6. The next screen will be the Becoming Friends demo.

Bed & Breakfast Scheme

This was set up many years ago to generate funds for Victoria Terrace Meeting House, and at the same time provide opportunities to meet people from Quaker meetings further afield. The scheme provides relatively low cost accommodation in Friend's homes. We suggest a figure for the donation. Requests for accommodation mostly come from elsewhere in the UK, but occasionally from abroad.

The scheme is operated very simply and can almost always be organised through email communication. As current co-ordinator Alison Perks (Edinburgh Central Meeting) receive requests and forwards terms & conditions to the enquirer. If they wish to go ahead and book on that basis, Alison then circulates the host group to establish availability. The allocated host's contact details are then sent to the enquirer to get in touch directly to make the necessary arrangements.

Alison is looking for additional willing hosts. It is not a huge commitment as requests probably average two a month, duration of stay is a maximum of three or four nights, and it is obviously acceptable to refuse any particular request. So far I have not had to turn anyone away! So here is an opportunity for you to offer hospitality and meet new people.

If you think this is for you or would like further information, then please contact Alison Perks – details in the Members & Attenders book.

Speaking of G/god

A journey in quotes through January and a Quiet Day, 10.30-15.30 Sat 28th Jan at Alison Chalmers' home.

Throughout January we will be offering via the mailing list and at MfW quotes from various sources which we hope will challenge you to think deeply about speaking of G/god. We invite you to enter into dialogue and, for those of you who choose to attend the Quiet Day, to bring your personal stories and reflections with you.

Please let Mary Woodward or Leti (Juliet) Hawthorn know by Jan 22nd if you would like to attend the Quiet Day. Soup and hot drinks will be provided – bring sandwiches, etc to share.

Contact m.p.w@btinternet.com / 665.9192; or letihawthorn69@gmail.com

From the Children

Fireworks

Sam put bangers outside the Meeting House window.
There were fireworks.



Great Cemeteries of Edinburgh

Part 1 of an occasional series: your contributions welcome.



Old Calton Burial Ground (1718). David Hume's grave is one of the famous ones. There are striking views, plus a widely visible obelisk in memory of the Chartist Martyrs who fought for universal suffrage and were tried in 1793, and a memorial to Scottish soldiers who fought in the American Civil War.

Help send Ade away ...



Ade Cross is going to Mongolia in the summer to work with orphans, help build shelters. So he is offering his services throughout the winter for donations and will gladly do:

- Gardening
- Snow shovelling (well you never know)
- Car washing

... but other suggestions welcome. Please text him on 07584 079470

POEM

From Civilized

What it is to be civilized?
To be civilized is to remove negativity
From the mind and heart of the individual
From society, and from the world

The eradication of prejudices of bigotry,
Tribalism, Classism, Nationalism and Racism.
The removal of oppression, exploitation and
injustice.

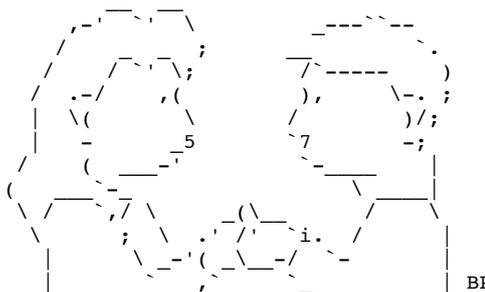
To be civilized is to be fair and kind.

It is not civilized to stop hating Jews,
And start hating Muslims,
To be civilized is to stop hating,
And to start loving.

For men to treat women as queens
And women to treat men like kings
To see the good in all, to respect one another
And share the love of common humanity

*Mungo Dalmar is a prisoner whose writing
comes via David Turner*

UNMISSABLE ONLINE



'Friends' One of over 2000 pieces of ASCII art (made by typing) from www.ascii-art.de/ascii

Facebook Page of the Month



clotheyourselfinrighteousness (769 Likes) is a flashback to the 'Naked Quaker' protests of the 17th Century, on which the Fortean Times (6025 Likes) had a scholarly article (oh yes it did) last year. bit.ly/vBdW9i

... a man, a Quaker, came naked through the [Westminster] Hall, only very civilly tied about the privates to avoid scandal, and with a chafing-dish of fire and brimstone burning upon his head... crying, "Repent! repent!" (Samuel Pepys, Diary, 29 July 1667)

MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

World Day of Prayer Bible Study and Preparation days are held at the Church of Scotland Offices at 121 George St at 10.30 am on the following Fridays: **Jan 27th**; Feb 3rd; Feb 10th, Feb 24th. World Day of Prayer is the first Friday in March.

Jocelyn Bell Burnell - A Celebration of Women in Astronomy – Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-6 George St, on **Mon 20th Feb at 6pm**. Tickets £5 from the Usher Hall.

DATE and VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Our weekend at Wiston Lodge will be **7-9th September**. We need people to join the organising group. Please contact Alison Burnley if you can help.