



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

March 2018



A good day at the museum, we red

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 March is for **Edinburgh Young Carers**. Susie Reade will speak to this. youngcarers.org.uk

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

World Day of Prayer – the service, written by the women of Surinam, will be held at a church near you on **Fri 2 March**.

General Meeting will be held at Victoria Terrace Meeting House on **Sat 10 Mar**

Area Meeting will be hosted by East Lothian Meeting on **Sat 17 Mar** from 11am. St Andrew's Centre, 9 Bayswell Road, Dunbar EH42 1AB

Our **Meetings for Learning** – 3rd Sundays after Meeting. **Mar 18:** Sanctuary Everywhere, and being a Meeting for Sanctuary. Bring a sandwich, finish by 1.30. (No MfL in April).

There will be a **Meeting at Faslane** on **Sun 25 Mar**. Further info in Jan newsletter.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

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

Singing group meets at Victoria Terrace on **Tue March 6** at 7.30 pm.

Book Group (Victoria Terrace, 4th Sundays after lunch, ~1pm). Mar, Jenny Erpenbeck, *Go Went Gone*. What next? Ideas to Rachel Frith.



Italy (see p4)

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

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business 4 February 2018

1. **Opening Worship** – During opening worship we heard 20.42 from Quaker Faith and Practice – George Fox writing on the importance of Simplicity. There were eight present. We thought of Sylvia and Ron who were each celebrating their 92nd birthday!
2. **Minutes of our meeting held 29 October 2017**– Matters Arising:
 - We heard that the clerk planned to meet with members of Edinburgh City of Sanctuary group and awaits response from Friends House about support given to Local Meeting for the Quakers in Britain **Sanctuary Everywhere** programme
 - We heard of three Meetings for Learning – starting with lunch after Meeting for Worship and finishing by 1.30 pm – in November on Silence, December on Advices and Queries and January on Faith in Action. Different Friends have facilitated chapters from 'Becoming Friends' each time. The next one is on 18th February on Faith in Action Pt 2. We agreed to a Meeting for Learning on **Sanctuary Everywhere** on 18 March.
 - Note that our autumn LM will be on 28 October - not 2 October (wrongly minuted)
3. **Selecting our Monthly Charities for 2018**

Susan Robertson and David Somervell offered 14 to choose from. We agreed Scottish Churches Action for Housing for February and attached list for rest of 2018. (*March*, Edinburgh Young Carers; *April*, Northern Friends Peace Board. Full list in next month's issue.)
4. **Meetings with our elected representatives: MSP and MP**

Those who met with Daniel Johnson MSP on 20 January had asked him about:

 - likely impact of EU Withdrawal Bill on devolution and human rights in Scotland
 - Militarisation in Schools: what John Swinney MSP, Education Secretary has done on this issue? And can any work be done to support wider apprenticeships?
 - On Health and Social Care – concern at how to adequately fund the merged service – needing cross-party support to increase funding via Scotland's tax-raising powers at local and national level.
 - The option to alleviate Destitution of families seeking sanctuary under Section 22 of the Children's Act 1995.

Deirdre advised that plans are in preparation for meeting Ian Murray MP.
5. **Caring for those who are not able to attend Meeting for Worship**

Alison Burnley raised a concern on how we support those prevented from attending. We recognised that we are all responsible for each other in our meeting. Alison B agreed to liaise with Susie and Elders and Overseers to offer support / offer lifts and / or meetings at home. We ask everyone to alert people to anyone slipping through our caring network.
6. **Preparing for the Area Meeting we host on 23 June at Open Door**

We realise that expectations run high and numbers attending likely greater than capacity of the Open Door ... so we ask our clerk and Catriona to identify a suitable local location. We agreed that Alison C, Catriona and the clerk draft a theme and agenda for sharing at Area Meeting on 14 May and that Children's Committee to start thinking about All-Age Worship.
7. **Representing our Local Meeting**

Esther has not been able to attend the occasional meetings of Morningside Christian Aid network and has to lay this down. Alison C to consider it. Es&Os are taking soundings on who might join AM Nominations Committee.
8. **Any Other Business**

Next General Meeting for Scotland is at 7 Victoria Terrace on Saturday 10 March; and next Area Meeting is to be held in Dunbar on Saturday 17 March – with a Sustainability theme. All welcomed to both. Next Local Meeting is on Sunday 15 April.

For International Women's Day, Thursday 8th March

Edinburgh University's first woman graduate

James Barry (c.1789-65) studied Medicine in Edinburgh 1809-12, his final examinations being deferred as he seemed too young. The Earl of Buchan, wrote to the University authorities pointing out that the regulations made no mention of a minimum age, and Barry was allowed to sit. He defended his thesis and knowledge of medical cases to the professors in Latin, as was then required. He went on to become a successful military surgeon, eventually a General. In his postings around the world, and particularly South Africa, he became known for his skill and high standards, but also for his fiery and difficult personality. Florence Nightingale wrote a strongly worded account of her interaction with him.



When he died in 1865, it was discovered that he was a woman. This was received with sensational public interest – and more fascination than criticism.

Barry was born Margaret Bulkley, daughter of a Cork family. When the family's fortunes foundered, Margaret came to London with her mother seeking help from her mother's brother, a successful historical artist called James Barry. They didn't get much help, but then her uncle died leaving some money. University education for women was not entertained in early 19th century Britain, and Margaret's subterfuge and medical education were made possible through the active support of several men. Francisco de Miranda, a prominent and adventurous Venezuelan exile in London, gave access to his library. A doctor friend of Miranda's tutored Margaret in subjects she hadn't learned. A discrete lawyer was involved, and the Earl of Buchan in Edinburgh.

Margaret suddenly became James Barry during the sea voyage from London to Leith. It is possible that the long term plan was for her to follow Miranda to Venezuela, where she might be able practise medicine as a woman, but her mentor was imprisoned in Spain shortly before her graduation, and remained in captivity until his death 4 years later. Erskine published *The Anonymous and Fugitive Essays of David Steuart Erskine, The Earl of Buchan* (see below and back page) in his own name just after Barry's graduation. He seems to have given significant support and encouragement during her time in Edinburgh.

It is an astonishing story, based on impressive original research, grippingly told in *Dr James Barry, A Woman Ahead of Her Time*, by Michael du Preez & Jeremy Dronfield, 2016. You will have to borrow or buy that (recommended), but you can dip into Erskine's eccentric essays freely at bit.ly/2GdoCbq

On Female Education.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BEE.

(June 22. 1791.)

SIR,

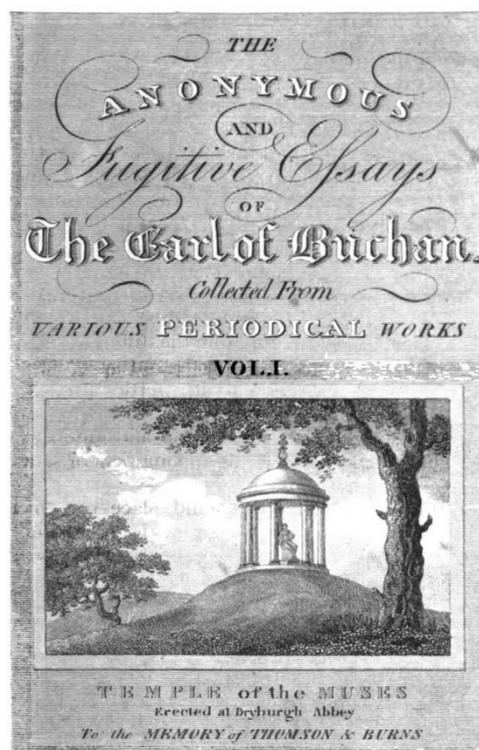
YOUR kind reception of the letter I sent you under the signature *a fortunate daughter of idleness*, induces me to hope you will not be displeased to have a few further observations on that important subject, the result chiefly of my own experience, which I shall use the freedom in this, and perhaps a few other letters, to communicate to you. It is a subject that has long engrossed a great share of my attention; and, could I flatter myself with the hope of turning the attention of those

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of my own sex more towards it than has been the fashion of late, I should not despair of very soon seeing happy effects resulting from it.

It is an astonishing fact, for the truth of which I appeal to all your most intelligent readers in Europe, that the education of women has never been made the subject of serious inquiry by any of the myriads of scribblers that have infested the republic of letters, since the days of the famed philosophers of Greece, to this moment. Turn over the whole papers



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MORE NEWS AND DATES

Quake is a new monthly eNewsletter from Friends House. Free. Sign up at bit.ly/quakemail

Mini Mart Thank you to everyone for bringing and buying so generously on 28th January, Homeless Sunday. We raised £150 for Scottish Churches Housing Action. *Bridget and Sylvia*

Our Wiston Weekend 7-9 Sep – Help sought. Jessica Paterson, from Polmont Meeting, has coordinated the bookings and payments for the last couple of years, but this year is unable to. Could you? Training and support given.

Jessica Paterson poetrypaterson@gmail.com

What we're reading

The Anonymous and Fugitive Essays of David Steuart Erskine, The Earl of Buchan (1816). An eccentric who published many anonymous essays in periodicals, then aged 74 reprinted them in his own name. The one to look for is *On Female Education* ... see p3 for background

Our [Wikipedia page of the month](#) is The **Edinburgh Seven** (26 views per day), which describes the progress of the first (acknowledged) female students at any British university. They entered Edinburgh University in 1869 to study Medicine, but were prevented from graduating by an uprising of protest from many students and some staff. Rule changes followed, and it was 1892 before women were fully allowed to complete degrees in Scotland.

Edinburgh missed its opportunity to be the pioneer then, but the women completed their studies elsewhere. Sophia Jex-Blake returned to Edinburgh as its first woman doctor in 1878. She founded a dispensary that became Bruntsfield Women's Hospital, overlooking the Links (now flats). Several Wikipedia pages have been created and/or extensively updated by apologetic Edinburgh University staff over the last 3 years.

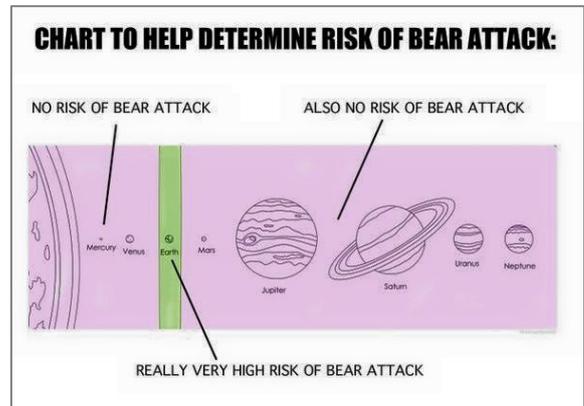
This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month, most of the time. Kontributions, knowledgeable or knavish, welcomed by neilturn@gmail.com

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

Happy Birthday

To **Ben**, who will be 13 on the 18th, and to **Tom Leonard**, who is a bit older

May you both be protected from bears:



Terrible maps

Tom will be celebrating his 70 years at Vittoria on the Walk, on the evening of **Sat 24 March**. Please contact him, leonardthomas70@googlemail.com or by post or phone **before Mar 3rd** if you're able to join him.

Unmissable Maps online

Historic maps of anywhere in Scotland at maps.nls.uk/geo/find A smart new interface enables you to pick from any era after you've put down a marker or searched for your place.

Our **Facebook Page of the Month** is **Terrible Maps** (69,855 likes). They do Twitter too – apparently everyone does now (not us, obviously). Caution: occasionally useful maps, such as the one on bear attacks above.

Quaker relevance -5%



Countries arranged by geographical location. Note how all the African countries are clustered together, as are all the European countries. New Zealand is a real outlier, on the extreme edge.



Countries by shortest building (<50m, >50m).