



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2012



Smoke from scores of BBQs on the Meadows on a late March evening (#somethingwronghere)

### 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.

**Every Wednesday at Victoria Terrace:** 12.30-1.00 followed by a simple lunch.

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

**At Barony St: 4<sup>th</sup> 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

April's special collection is for the Coach House Trust ([www.thecht.co.uk](http://www.thecht.co.uk)), a Scottish charity active in mental health and environmental and social justice. Hilary Davies will speak to this.

### LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

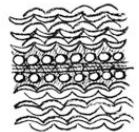
**First Sundays** – focus for children. Bring 'em, do stuff; also followed by **Mini-mart** in aid of Wiston. [www.wistonlodge.co.uk](http://www.wistonlodge.co.uk)

**Becoming Friends** 15<sup>th</sup> April talk after Meeting by Alison Burnley and Anna Mitchell and/or Lux Anderson.

### OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

**Advices and Queries around the world** Study Groups at Victoria Terrace, 7-9pm on Mondays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April. Contact Andrew Farrar. [aifarrar35@gmail.com](mailto:aifarrar35@gmail.com) (or call)

**Quaker Knitting** at the NLS café, Thursday evenings 5-6 pm. [moragferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:moragferguson@hotmail.com) (or call)



The **Drop-In Group** 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors) Contact Mary Woodward or [edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com](mailto: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** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7pm. [www.edinwig.org.uk](http://www.edinwig.org.uk).

**Poetry at Kelso Meeting House** Traveller's Tales – Pim Claridge and Robert Leach read poetry inspired by journeys at Kelso Meeting House, 7.30 pm on Fr April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Book Group.** Will discuss *Stet* by Diana Athill on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, instead of on the usual third Sunday. 1pm at Central Edinburgh. For May, E. Hoffman's *Lost in Translation*. Qs to Rachel Frith.

[More Events on the Back Page](#)

## Let my soul speak

*A reflection by Leti Hawthorn on the after-worship session on spoken ministry held on 19th February 2012*

Nine F(f)riends joined Hilary Davies and Mary Woodward for this stimulating session. We heard from them both about their experience of vocal ministry, both receiving and giving and this helped to set the scene

When she came to Quakers Hilary, like many of us, feared what others would make of what she said and did not speak at all for the first few years. Guided by the advice to offer your ministry, leave it, don't expect comment she felt able to speak.

Mary came to her first Meeting for Worship in deep turmoil. She left knowing that nothing had changed but that she felt different. Through time at Pendle Hill her prayer became: Dear God, if you really want me to speak can you make me NOT able to NOT say this? and referred us to QFP 2.66:

*Ministry is what is on one's soul, and it can be in direct contradiction to what is on one's mind. It's what the Inner Light gently pushes you toward or suddenly dumps in your lap. It is rooted in the eternity, divinity, and selflessness of the Inner Light; not in the worldly, egoistic functions of the conscious mind.* Marianne McMullen, 1987

Hilary then introduced us to Lectio Divina, a form of prayerful divine reading out loud which has been practised in monasteries and convents for centuries. The passage which had been circulated previously (from As&Qs 12-13) was read twice - the first time through we heard the words of the passage, the second time through we concentrated on the words and, when a word/phrase resonated with us, we stayed with it and reflected on it rather than continuing to listen. The final aspect was to respond to what had struck us which we then did through worship sharing.

For me there were two words which stopped me in my tracks, tender and unworthy – not only am I to offer ministry tenderly but also receive it with tenderness. This reminds me to show tenderness towards myself as much as I offer it to others. The sense of unworthiness is my sackcloth-and-ashes, not consciously false humility but a vulnerability that can keep me mute or, if I do feel moved to speak, cause me to interpret all other ministry after mine as a correction of mine, and I have to rush away after Meeting for fear of receiving criticism. Some of the points others made which have stayed with me are:

- it is the beauty of Quaker ministry that it belongs to all
- it is our shared responsibility to state our need and to be aware of one another's needs, particularly in relation to hearing
- "trusting that the words will be given to you" refers not just to the words we speak but also to the words we receive
- the ministry of silence can be as refreshing as spoken ministry, sometimes perhaps more so!
- the ministry of song is valued – music can express a depth beyond words. Others join in, others would like to if they knew the words/the tune/had the confidence!

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## Future Quiet Days

Mary Woodward and Leti Hawthorn would like to offer Quiet Days and/or shorter periods of reflective space on a more regular basis for South Edinburgh and Portobello/ Musselburgh Meetings. If you would be interested in taking part, please could you contact Leti with your responses to the following:

**Day of the week and timings:** Saturday 10.30-3.30; Tuesday evening 6-9 pm; Friday evening 6-9 pm (we will look at specific dates once we hear back)

**Venue:** we have been generously offered the use of Alison Chalmers' home but would like to make sure this doesn't become a burden to her by using other venues as well if possible. We know that there is also interest for Quiet Days in the Portobello/Musselburgh area.

- Can you offer space in your home for a small group?
- Perhaps you are aware of a space that we can hire at a reasonable rate? Please enquire and then let us know!

**Children** - this is beyond what we can offer to organise so please consider how you can help. Perhaps you would be happy to offer a children's activity or have a suggestion about this and could offer to facilitate some discussion? Please indicate if a) you can help or b) you need childcare. We can then put you in touch with each other!

## From the Children: We were supposed to write a poem

*Lines of explanation from the children on having nothing to report today*

We were supposed to write a poem

We sat quietly for two minutes  
But were interrupted by a road drrrrrrriiiiiiii

Y had a weird dream  
And had to tell us about it

Z got locked in the loo  
We had to pick the lock

Tom coughed his guts up  
So we put them back

Rebekah got into a bit of a pickle  
Two of us had to get her out

A sea monster came up the U-bend  
So we flushed it

A ghost bus stopped outside  
We had to watch it

P was looking at Q in a peculiar way  
And wouldn't say sorry

N had a nosebleed  
We had to mop the floor

A had an accident with scissors  
We stitched it back on

Six dragons came to eat you  
But we fought them off

Then we sat down to think of something to write  
But we were out of time

*As reported to Neil*

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## Report on Living Sustainably: Threshing Meeting

A small group of Friends from four different local meetings met together at 7 Victoria Terrace on Saturday 10th March to take part in a threshing meeting on the issue of environmental sustainability and our corporate response to the Yearly Meeting's commitment to becoming a low carbon community. See the full report in SESAME. This will also have been the topic at Area Meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> so more to follow

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## We're reading/ watching/ listening to ...

**Quakers on the Radio** – An "In Our Time" programme *George Fox and the Quakers* is being broadcast on **Thur 5 April** at 9 am and a shortened version at 9.30pm, Radio 4, or on iPlayer.

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01f67y4](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01f67y4)

**Your recommendations here!** Items up to 50 words on your latest book, film, TV prog. Send them by telegraph, telegram, tele-message, telephone. Not telepathy. [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com).

## MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

**Easter Play** – dramatised reading in Princes St Gardens at 12.30 and 1.30pm on Good Friday, **April 6<sup>th</sup>**. [www.easterplay.org](http://www.easterplay.org)

### Global day of action against military spending



Silent vigil at the Scottish Parliament 10-2 on **Tue April 17<sup>th</sup>** with the theme *Arms Conversion – saving lives, saving skills*. The world spends

\$7 billion every week on arms. Further info from David Turner, 0131 669 1308

## Future Dates and Volunteers

### Accommodation for volunteers at Venue 40

We need 11 or 12 places each week **August 5-12, 12-19 and 19-26<sup>th</sup>**, and hope to find some new homes as some stalwart providers need to be replaced this year. Please contact Rachel Frith.

**Quaker Campers** This year's camp is in Norfolk **28<sup>th</sup> Jul – 4<sup>th</sup> Aug**. Everyone is welcome but booking is essential. Details from Yvonne Dickson, [yhq100@hotmail.com](mailto:yhq100@hotmail.com) 01244 300992. Catering is individual, but Quaker Campers normally hire a large field with plenty of room for communal activities such as the short daily Meeting for Worship and the shared pudding evening.

**Our weekend at Wiston Lodge** will be **7-9<sup>th</sup> September**. The theme will be Reflections. Please contact Alison Burnley if you can help.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To **Jacob**, who is 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

And to **Saskia** and **Tom**, who are 10 and 16 on the 19<sup>th</sup>

## UNMISSABLE ONLINE

Meme of the Month is **Ha! Ha! (Quaker) Guy**



[knowyourmeme.com/memes/ha-ha-guy](http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/ha-ha-guy)  
(Do you know your memes?)

Meanwhile, at PepsiCo, the Quaker Oats Man has had a makeover to make him look healthier:



Loses his double chin, gets a haircut, 'we took about 5 pounds off him ... The goal is not to have anyone notice that he is different' apparently. [bit.ly/HwwKs7](http://bit.ly/HwwKs7)

The newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month, with deadline the preceding Sunday. Please send items and comments to Neil, [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)