



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2014



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: 1st Sunday at Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for half an hour; and **2nd 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 the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (junction with Albany Lane). More info: 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

In April is for **Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum** – Israeli and Palestinian families supporting peace and reconciliation. Margaret Anderson will speak to this. familiesforum.co.uk

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

Area Meeting will be held at Central Edinburgh on **Sat 12th April**, 11-4pm.

A **Celebration of Equal Marriage Legislation** will follow Area Meeting on **Sat 12th April** at Central Edinburgh Meeting House, 4.30-6.0. Please email mark@evaluation.u-net.com if you'd like to attend.

Meeting at Faslane with Scottish Churches against Nuclear Armaments is also being held on **Sat April 12th**.

Talk after meeting – on **Sun 20th April** Margaret Anderson will lead a discussion on Active Hope.

Meeting our MSP – Friends have organised a meeting with Jim Eadie MSP at the Scottish Parliament on **Sat May 3rd**. Details from Phil Noble, David Somervell or David Turner.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

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

Singing Group 2nd Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace, contact Rachel Frith, who also offers lifts for Penicuik Vault Singers on Sunday afternoons. www.kosmoid.net/penicuik/vaults

Rachel Frith continues to offer **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on first and third Thursdays

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

Book Group on third Sundays at 1pm, Victoria Terrace. April – John Williams *Stoner*. Qs to Rachel Frith.

Quaker Art Group – outdoor painting and sketching around Edinburgh and beyond during the Summer, commencing **Sat May 3rd**. Contact John Fox foxarch@btinternet.com or tel.

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

Meeting for Business, Sunday 19th January 2014

We opened with a reading from Harvey Gilman on the nature of Quakerism (QFP 20.20)

Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting

24/13 Talks after meeting for worship and meetings for learning - We recorded thanks for Anna Mitchell's talk in November on her work with those involved in domestic violence – especially the hope that new approaches can help address behaviours.

Alastair Cameron offered to lead a reflection on impact of austerity on poverty in Edinburgh. Elders and Overseers will consider this and other possible future topics.

26/13 Representative on the Open Door Board - We thanked Martin Williams for representing us on the Board of the Open Door.

27/13 Our weekend away at Wiston Lodge Fri 5 – Sun 7 September 2014

We thanked Phil Noble for his work managing the bookings over many years. Deirdre & Susie seek volunteers to assist in this and other aspects of organising the away weekend.

1/14 Establishment of new Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting

Alastair Cameron told us about the new Meeting recognised by December 2013 Area Meeting. He recounted how David Turner and Janet Fenton had initiated a Sunday evening Meeting for Worship 15 years ago. This has now grown to a vibrant group worshipping monthly on 1st Sunday evening and 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10.30am.

Chris Booth is Clerk, Kim Smith Assistant Clerk, Mary-Jane Elton, Life of the Meeting Clerk and Vanessa Ferrato, Treasurer. Premises are under review – along with Eldership and Oversight for both our meetings. Alastair agreed to place a note in The Friend.

We welcomed these moves as an organic process and, despite losing worship every week with such lovely friends, we agreed to come together each year at Wiston.

2/14 Recognising important roles people play to support our Meeting

- We recognised Sue Freshwater's continuing work in running the **Opening Rota** for Sunday.
- We agreed that everyone can offer to scribe for anyone hard-of-hearing coming to Meeting.
- We thanked Kerry Oliver for her work running **Minimart** each month and seek a replacement.
- We thanked Anna Mitchell very much for her work nurturing our **Library**, cataloguing books and resources; and welcomed Kerry Oliver as Librarian once she has passed on Minimart.

3/14 Advocacy roles and responsibilities – liaising with our elected representatives

We thanked David Turner very much for leading our engagement with our MP and MSP and . heard that Area Meeting on 11 January had warmly supported the idea of appointing a Quaker Parliamentary Officer in Scotland and we considered how best to maintain our own communication with our MSP and MP at a meeting planned Sunday 26 January after Meeting for Worship.

4/14 Allocation of income from Minimart

In March 2013 we agreed that funds raised could be used "to support any urgent concern where our donation would make a difference to a smaller organisation. If no appropriate urgent need emerges sooner, the money will be allocated as one lump sum ..." We agreed to donate current balance to the Save the Children Syrian Appeal.

5/14 Concern from CAAT about inappropriate sponsorship of the Science Festival

We heard that the Edinburgh Campaign Against the Arms Trade has raised this issue with the Board of the Science Festival and we asked the Clerk to write a letter conveying our wish to see educational activities untainted by association with companies manufacturing arms.

6/14 Preparation for Yearly Meeting Gathering (Saturday 2nd to Saturday 9th August in Bath)

We heard about the exciting plans for YMG and invite anyone interested to contact Stasa Morgan-Appel who convene informal discussions for those interested in learning more.

Date of next Meeting – 16 March at the Open Door after Meeting for Worship.

Minutes from March's meeting in the next issue.

Getting to Know – Christopher Speirs

So how is it that you are a Quaker?

I've been a Quaker all my life. My parents were both Quakers. I went to children's meeting until I was about thirteen years old and then I joined the adult meeting. That was in Birkenhead where we lived. I went to two Quaker schools: Bootham School which is in York, and after a year I moved to Ackworth school, four miles outside Pontefract. Following that I was a trainee at Kew Garden in London. I chose to join South Edinburgh Meeting because I knew people there.

How did it happen that you have a flat near the Edinburgh Botanic Garden?

My father encouraged me to buy this flat at Boat Green, Canonmills. The idea was to be near to my work at the Botanic Garden. I was in the garden every week day plus 12-6 in the glass houses on occasional week ends. I like living here up on the top floor. But my father wouldn't have liked the stairs. You can see for miles, right across to Corstorphine Hill. I'd like to do the garden here but it's not mine to do. That's a bit sad.

And daily life now?

I was born a month before the first Christmas of World War II and I am now 74 years old. I like living in Edinburgh with all the visitors of every nationality under the sun.

I'm reading Inspector Poirot. I like classical music. I am very keen on ties, as this photograph shows!

Tesco's is next door. It's a wonderful firm. Sometimes I go up the road to the café in M&S in Princes Street. I did evening classes at the university in history. I still get the magazine 'History Today'.

What about your family?

I have two younger brothers: David, who is a dentist in Canada and Richard who worked as a GP in Arbroath.

My mother, Jessie was a good gardener and potter. I've actually got two of her paintings. She died a long time ago, and my father re-married Moira with whom I'm often in touch. I regard my step-mother as my real mother now.

I had a stroke a few years ago which has affected my memory, so I get a bit of help from social workers. My step-mother, Moira, is on her own now because my father, Claude died recently. He was a great cook, especially of apple pie.



Susie Reade

Southhouse Food Bank

South Edinburgh Friends continue to be very generous in contributing food and cash to our local food bank at Southhouse, and by Mid March we have been able to send £160 and a wide selection of tinned food. I am very grateful to the car owners involved. The staff at the Food bank greatly welcome our involvement and told us that last month the number of families needing help was larger than ever before.

As families can normally only receive help 3 times in a 6 month period it is misleading to hear it said that people are "living off" food banks. They can only provide for emergencies such as delay in benefit payments (the main cause) or other emergencies. Those coming to the Food bank have frequently had to walk a long way to get there and bringing their children too. With no spare cash a mishap is rapidly a catastrophe.

Alison Burnley is now a Volunteer at Southhouse and is very willing to give more information.

Sylvia Massey

MORE NEWS AND DATES

Yearly Meeting Gathering is in Bath, **Aug 2-9th**. Preparatory activities will include a meeting on **Sat 7th June**, and there is a wealth of wonderful, clear information at groupsplaces.com/QuakerYMG

Witnessing for peace on the centenary of World War 1 – Resources to support discussion are available at www.quaker.org.uk/WWI

Our Elders and Overseers – a couple of changes make it timely to list them again. Our E&O group is now: Hilary Davies, Sue Freshwater, Phil Noble, Susie Reade, David Somervell, and Neil Turner.

Mary Woodward's hand-made notebooks are for sale at Woodbrooke – if you were going there and able to take some that could be very helpful. 0131 665 9192 or mpwfisherrow@gmail.com.



The Open Door, our meeting place, is an outreach charity for the elderly and those with support needs. It could do with more support, please take a look at what they offer on their website theopendoor-morningside.org.uk There you can also see you can help by volunteering, donating, or becoming a Friend of the Open Door.

What we're listening to

Gems from Radio 4, all available to play again:
More or Less describes how to master Internet dating.

Business Daily – soporific and/or fascinating, in 15 mins had an interview with the inventor of Wi-Fi (created to keep cash registers up to date) Vic Hayes, 5 mins on live trading in the London Metal Exchange, and the secrets of workplace personality.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A very happy birthday to **Jacob**, who will be 3 on the 2nd, and to **Saskia**, who will be 12 on the 19th.

TANGLED IN THE WEB



The Internet has something for everyone. Our **Facebook Group of the Month** is **Creepy dolls** (3,639 Likes).

To help you get over that you can subscribe to **The Friend's** electronic version for £48 per annum, saving 37% over paper copies. Free trial also available at thefriend.org/subscribe

The newsletter is usually distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Send things you'd like to see to Neil Turner, neilturn@gmail.com. The deadline is the 2nd last Sunday. Read this and more at quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh