



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2021



### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Some meetings may be resuming limited in-person meetings in future weeks, but we do not expect to be able to do this at the Open Door. Portobello and Musselburgh are looking at very limited numbers meeting in person when it is permitted.

20-25 Friends each week have been joining our meetings via Zoom, every **Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**. After a 5 min break we then share conversation over coffee. On 1st and 3rd Sundays we share coffee in smaller breakout groups.

If you have technical problems joining, Martin Burnell has kindly offered to help. Joining instructions for Zoom meetings are sent in emails. You can find how to join our email list at <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in April will be for **Railway Children**. "We believe in a world where no child ever has to live on the streets". Originally in railway stations in India, now all over the world. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. More at [www.railwaychildren.org.uk](http://www.railwaychildren.org.uk) where you can also donate directly.

### QUAKER EVENTS

**Local Meeting for Business** will be held after our Meeting for Worship on **Sun 25 April**. Same Zoom link.

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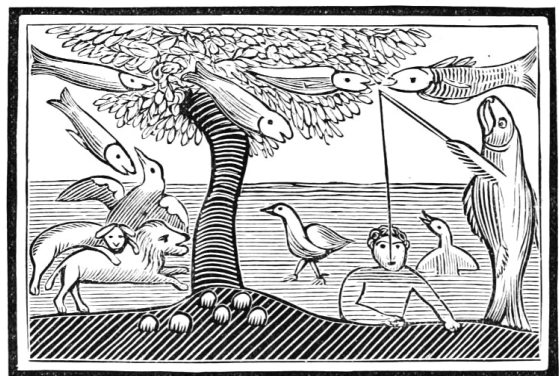
South Edinburgh Friends are very welcome to join the following Edinburgh Central Meeting events. All via Zoom: details from [rachel.frith@waitrose.com](mailto:rachel.frith@waitrose.com)

**Singing Group** – meets every first Tuesday (so March 2nd) at 7.30 pm

**Online coffee** – bring your own to an online conversation, 10.30 on **1st and 3rd Thursdays**, and also 5th **Thur 29 April**. (note: new Zoom link)

**Book Group** – 12.15 (after Central MfW) on **Sun 25 Apr**, *Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane.

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The World Turned Upside Down (details back page).  
Well it still is.

## Meeting for Business of 28 February 2021

Full minutes, including accounts, circulated separately. Highlights from Rici Marshall Cross:

- Notes from our discussion of how to hold our meeting for worship for business
- We will be holding our next Meeting for Learning about Transgender issues on Sunday 14th March
- We agreed to delay arranging a meeting with our MSP until after the May election. We will consider what to discuss with them once we know who they are (and whether they are part of an opposition party or a party in government)
- In 2020 we made a financial excess (income over expenditure) of £3,347. We agreed to make a donation to Area Meeting of £2,500 and offer a loan in addition of up to £1,500 if they need it to help with cash flow. We agreed to give £500 to The Open Door, either through renting the window to display Loving Earth Project textile artwork and remind passers by that South Edinburgh Quaker Meeting still exists, or as a donation as a gesture of goodwill and friendship.
- We agreed to consider longer term principles for our financial reserves, and a small group will consider this and bring suggestions to our next meeting
- We agreed to cover the cost of the updated book of members in order to avoid the complication of collecting payments. Friends may wish to make a donation of £3/£4 to general funds when it is convenient. We plan to deliver books to friends living locally via a small group of volunteers in the meeting, and post books to those living further away (expected towards end of March).

Our next Meeting for Business will be held on Sun 25 April after Meeting for Worship.

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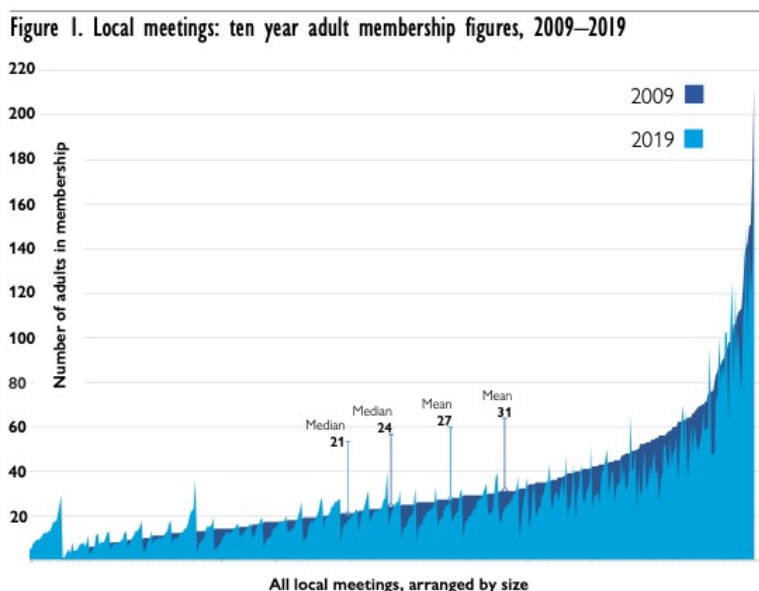
## The changing shape of meetings

You may have received General Meeting's **book of members** recently. Thanks to the delivery team. On the quaker.org blog, Penny Elliott picks a few things from the Tabular Statement that counts Friends every year. <https://bit.ly/3coPb7a>

Quakers (and most other churches) have seen slipping attendances over recent decades. The median meeting size is now 21, versus 24 10 years ago. However a quarter of meetings grew in size over that time.

General Meeting for Scotland recorded our 2020 Tabular Statement as 678 Members, 550 Attenders, and 119 children. There is more local detail in the minutes of March's Area Meeting.

GM Minutes record also a desire to consider organisational rearrangements might facilitate the working and developing of Quakers in Scotland.



## Surprising Quakers

### Inventors of the sanitary towel

The British Medical Journal of Aug 7 1880 first mentions this new invention from Messrs Southall and Barclay of Birmingham, after it was presented by a Dr Galabin to the Obstetrical Society in London 4 weeks previously. In January of the same year Dr Sampson Gamgee, also in Birmingham, invented the sterile dressings made of a thick layer of cotton wool between layers of gauze that became known as Gamgee dressings. By February he was apologising for not being able to supply samples, but gave the good news that Southall and Barclay's were taking on the manufacturing, and mentioned a suggestion that they could be developed into disposable babies' nappies. The patent for sanitary towels seems to have been lodged in August. In October 1880 Southall and Barclay's exhibited Gamgee's dressing pads at the Midland Medical Society.

The sanitary towel was revolutionary, but also expensive. Competition helped lower the price quickly from 3d to 1d each, 12 for a shilling (5p). 'Cheaper than washing' later became an advertising slogan.

During WW1 'Cellucotton' made from wood pulp was used in bandages in place of cotton wool. Informal use by nurses is said to have been the inspiration to make sanitary towels from the same material, when it became suddenly in surplus after the war ended. Kotex, also Kleenex, were new products made from it.

Online accounts often overlook early European developments, but Wikipedia's page on the sanitary napkin (689 views/d) gets it right. The tampon (Wikipedia page 1,145 views/day) was a US invention without Quaker connections. It was patented by Eale Haas in 1931, and the idea sold to German immigrant Gertrude Tendrich, who created the Tampax company.

Quaker journalist Thomas Penny (@ThomasWPenny) credits his grandmother Anna Southall with the original invention; perhaps that bit of detail is in the family archives. Southall and Barclay was a pharmaceutical manufacturer and supplier founded by Thomas and William Southall in 1820. In the 1890s they also produced photographic supplies and microscope slides for teaching. (Sir) Thomas Barclay, a later partner, described the number of workers increasing from 30-40 in 1860, to 800 in 1911.

SOURCES: from The Lancet 1880 and 1895, the Tenement House Glasgow @TenementHouse11 and [www.nts.org.uk/stories/tackling-the-taboo](http://www.nts.org.uk/stories/tackling-the-taboo), and <http://microscopist.net/SouthallBros.html>

According to the Science Museum, the pack in the image to the right was for sale in vending machines 1994-5-65.



Recommended watching: the movie **Pad Man** (2018) dramatizes the much more recent introduction of affordable sanitary towels in rural India. Currently available on Netflix

#### THE LADIES' SANITARY TOWEL.

THIS consists of soft wool, which has been treated with a disinfecting substance. It appears to be well adapted for the purpose which it is intended to fulfil, but while the price charged for it remains at three shillings a dozen, we cannot expect it to come into common use. This is a misfortune, for this towel has advantages, not the least of



#### New Inventions.

##### SOUTHALL'S NEW SANITARY TOWEL.

THE sanitary towel of this firm, as originally devised, has been a great convenience to women of all classes as a cleanly and economical method of dealing with catamenial troubles. It consisted of a pad of absorbent cotton-wool enclosed in a gauze covering, with a thin layer of non-absorbent cotton-



Thomas Penny  
@ThomasWPenny

This is my Great Great Granny Anna Southall. She invented disposable sanitary towels.

## NEWS

**Preparing for COP26** – scheduled for Glasgow in November. Celebrate the natural world by making a short journey to any place that is sacred to you on **Sat+Sun 10-11 April**, take photos and post them. <http://bit.ly/3bzcmtC>

**Stitches for survival** the Craftivism part of the preparations. You may recognise a face at <https://stitchesforsurvival.earth>

We have heard the sad news that **Tony Davies**, a South Edinburgh Friend before moving South in 2006, died in hospital in Plymouth on 23rd February. Many will remember in particular his concern for Palestine-Israel relations.

**John King** is at Findlay House, Fillieside Ward, Seafield Street, EH6 7LG. This is an NHS facility on the site of the old Eastern General Hospital.

## INTERNETS

Our **Twitter Account of the Month** comes from stand-up comedian and ex-Edinburgh student **Marjolein Robertson**, @MarjoleinR – Shetland dialect snippets and jokes from their croft at Walls.



Those whose attention span is up to 2 mins may also enjoy her series of funny short films at the BBC's **The Social**. Fave: **Dating in Shetland**. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p062v49y](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p062v49y)  
All at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p062v8wp](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p062v8wp)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Jacob**, who will be 10 on the 2nd.



## FROM THE CHILDREN



**Children looking after their parents.** From *The World Turned Upside Down, or 'The Folly of Man, exemplified in twelve comical relations'*. 18th century woodcuts via Public Domain Review <https://bit.ly/39jgr5b>

*Our newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Early forced rhubarb to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)*

*This edition, plus archives of previous issues, at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)*