



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

May 2017



MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

Every Wed at Victoria Terrace: 12.30-1.00. Plus 8.00 am for half an hour on Mon and Fri.

Central Edinburgh on Sundays holds a small, quiet, shorter meeting at 9.30 am in addition to main meeting at 11.00. Victoria Terrace.

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 May is for **Quaker Action Against Torture**. qcat.org.uk Sylvia Massey will speak to this.

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

Local Meeting for Business will be held after Meeting for Worship on **Sun 30 April** (brought forward from May). Agenda includes our accounts, and fracking in Scotland.

Our **Christian Aid mini-mart** is on **Sun May 14th** Please bring donations on the **7th** or **14th May**.

De-mystifying Quaker Structures – after MfW on **Sun May 14**. Central and Portobello and Musselburgh friends also welcome. Bring and share lunch to supplement soup.

Evening Area Meeting will be held on **Mon 15 May, 7-9pm** at Central Edinburgh meeting house.

There will be a **Meeting at Faslane** on **Sun 28 May**. Contact Alison Burnley for details.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

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

Singing Group 1st Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace. Contact Rachel Frith.

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

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

Book Group At Victoria Terrace after Meeting on 4th Sunday of each month. May, *Felix Holt* by George Eliot. June, Meena Syal's *The House of Hidden Mothers*. Rachel Frith.



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

Quaker finances



The puffins asking this question were photographed on Fair Isle by Rufus.

Thoughts

True silence is the rest of the mind; and is to the spirit, what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment.

William Penn, 1699

Clothes

Our theme for page 3 goes beyond.

Regrets on my old dressing gown

A warning to those with more taste than money – Denis Diderot

Friends, hold on to your old friends. Friends, fear the hand of sudden wealth! Let my example be a lesson to you. Poverty never has to meet appearances; wealth is always obliged to.

Why didn't I hold on to it? It was used to me, I to it. It fitted the folds of my body snugly yet loosely; shabby-genteel it might have been but it was also handsome. The new one I've acquired is starchy and rigid; it makes me look like a tailor's dummy. If a book was rimed with dust, one of the flaps of my old dressing gown served to wipe it clean. If the ink was too clotted to run out of my pen, there was its hem to clean the nib. You could tell how often it had rendered me this service by the long black lines it bore. Those long lines said: this is a man of letters, a writer, an honest toiler. Now I look like a rich poseur, and nobody could tell what I do.

In the protection of my old dressing gown I had no reason to fear a clumsy servant or my own sloppiness. Nor did I have to worry about sparks from the fire or the odd splash of water.

I was absolute master of my old dressing gown; I've become slave to the new one.

Nor is that the end of it, my friends. Listen, and I'll tell you what a ruin luxury has made of my life since I went in pursuit of it. ...

Translated by Iain Bamforth. This extract comes from the whole essay at iainbamforth.com



Over several pages, the author goes on to describe how he has got into debt to redecorate his house, as it is made to look shabby by the new dressing gown. The phenomenon of new purchase leading to a spiral of consumption was named as the **Diderot effect** in a 1998 book, and it's caught on.

Regrets on my old dressing gown was written in 1772 by the French philosopher and art critic Denis Diderot in response to the gift of a dressing gown, along with some pictures and furniture, from wealthy patron Madam Geoffrin.

Image: Diderot portrayed by Louis-Michel van Loo, 1767 (Wikimedia commons)

Unravel – following the fate of our discarded clothes



A film that follows cast-off garments to the garment recyclers of Panipat. It's the characters that make this film – they come across as lovely, positive people. But they don't know much of life in the West.

Sometimes you get lovely things.

I always wanted to meet a Western person. To see what they're like.

Everyone here says that the clothes come over because there's a water shortage in the West. Water is just as expensive as clothes for these people. That's why they wear their clothes a couple of times, and then throw them away. But who knows, maybe they just don't like washing their clothes?!

We find these really strange things ... knickers ... they come with pearls and fake stones stitched on them. Some poor helpless thing must be forced to wear them abroad.

Some of the clothes make me laugh imagining how people wear them. What do these people eat abroad to get this fat?!

13 mins, highly recommend at youtu.be/bOOI5LbQ9B8 (ANT)

MORE NEWS AND DATES

BYM want to hear from **Quaker young people about social media**. If you are 13–18 please use the link surveymonkey.co.uk/r/yqsocialmedia to let them know.

QFP survey: What have you learned from Quaker Faith and Practice? Please complete the survey at surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ReadingQfp



Our Friend Rachel Howell (now of Edinburgh Central meeting) won the Best Personal Tutor award at the Teaching Awards of Edinburgh University Students Association last week.

BIRTHDAYS

No birthdays to officially recognise for May, is that right? Under-17s and those aged round numbers of 70 or more, protest away.



Unmissable online

Our **Wikipedia Page of the Month** is **Denis Diderot** (1713-84) (650 visits/day, 11 edits/month). See page 3.

Quaker relevance: 53%

What we're reading/ listening to

Touch life (12 mins) shows a young blind Polish woman preparing to meet her boyfriend's parents for the first time. Gently and insightfully told, beautifully set in Edinburgh, screenreaders and dog included. Watch it at youtu.be/R6U_am_cSRc

ANT

This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month. Attempt to influence it by emailing neiltun@gmail.com

Newsletter, archives, and more can also be found at quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh