



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

June 2017



Manchester, May 23rd

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 June is for **Scottish Churches Housing Action**. Churches-housing.org Alistair Cameron will speak to this.

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

General Meeting for Scotland is on **Sat 10 June** at Glasgow meeting house.

Picnic on the Meadows – join us with your picnic from 12.30 on **Sun 18 June**, jointly with Central. All welcome!

There will also be a **Meeting at Faslane** on **Sun 18 June**. Contact Alison Burnley for details.

Area Meeting at Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, KY3 9SS on **Sat 24 June**. The second all-day event, includes all-age section, bring-and-share lunch, what it means to be a Quaker today. Children will visit Earthship Fife.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

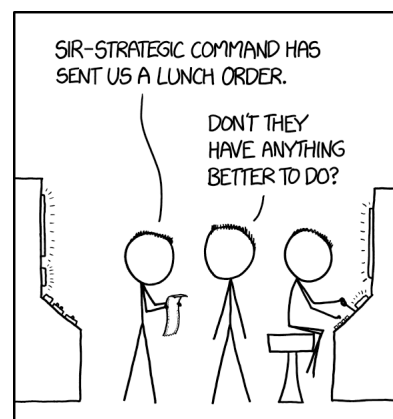
The **Drop-In Group** 1st Monday afternoons, contact Sylvia Massey.

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 28, Meera Syal's *The House of Hidden Mothers*. June 25, Robert Harris, *An Officer and a Spy*. Rachel Frith.



EVERYONE COMPLAINS ABOUT AUTOCORRECT, BUT WE FORGET ABOUT THE TIME IT PREVENTED A NUCLEAR WAR.

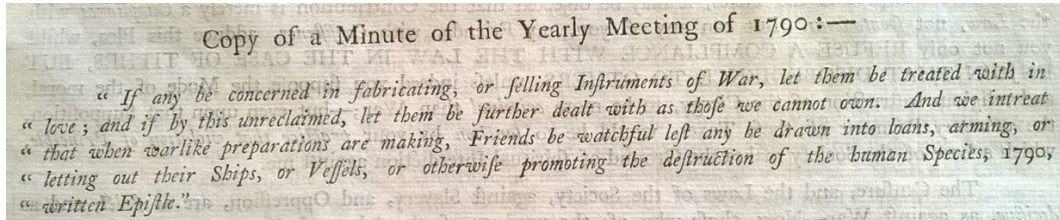
xkcd.com/1834 via Chris Booth

More Events and News on the Back Page

Unexpected Quaker tales: The Gunsmith

Samuel Galton Jr (1753-1832) was a Quaker who with his father owned the Steelhouse Lane works in Birmingham's 'gun district'. With the threat of the upcoming Napoleonic Wars, the Galtons' profits rose to £139,000 in 1799, equivalent of nearly £7M today (bit.ly/2rFjtJt).

Yearly Meeting raised the issue of arms manufacture in its 1790 Epistle, and this was finally picked up by his Monthly Meeting in 1792. By then Galton could point out they'd been in the business as Quakers for 70 years without any complaints.



"If any be concerned in fabricating, or selling Instruments of War, let them be treated with in love; and if by this unreclaimed, let them be further dealt with as those we cannot own. And we intreat that when warlike preparations are making, Friends be watchful lest any be drawn into loans, arming, or letting out their Ships, or Vessels, or otherwise promoting the destruction of the human Species, 1790, written Epistle."

The Meeting first refused donations, then disowned him altogether in 1796. An excellent Birmingham Archives article at bit.ly/2qq5NEJ documents the agonies of local Friends from contemporary minutes. Galton remained involved with Quakers though, and was a prominent local benefactor. On his father's death finally got out of arms and into banking, perhaps not unrelated to having married Lucy Barclay in 1777. He was accepted back into the Society in 1804.

Samuel was also known for hosting meetings of the famous Lunar Society at his grand home at Great Barr Hall. The Lunar Society attracted many of the brightest minds in the land, including other notable Quakers. Its Wikipedia page (see p4) is much better than his own.

Thoughts

An ey the licht shines I the mirk, an the mirk downa slocken it nane.

John's Gospel in Scots, translation by William Lorimer 1983, reissued 2012 (Canongate). Via Sylvia

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business held 30 April 2017

1. **Opening Worship** – During opening worship we heard 4.09 from Quaker Faith and Practice outlining how a concern can be brought to Local Meeting and Area Meeting. There were 13 in attendance.
2. **Minutes of our meeting held on 15 January** – No Matters Arising
3. **Local Meeting Annual Accounts for 2016** – We approved the set of Accounts prepared by our outgoing Treasurer Martin Burnell, and noted that both income and expenditure were about £3,600 lower compared to 2015. This was because another Local Meeting took responsibility for organising Wiston Weekend.

The closing balance in the Current Account was also lower, because £4,500 of surplus funds was passed to Area Meeting as agreed by Local Meeting.

Overall donations and other income of £7,050 more than covered our expenditure of £5,901, leaving a surplus for the year of £1,148.

Premises cost for the year was up slightly as this was the first full year of increased rent. We spent slightly more on books and publications, but kept within budget.

We passed on to the new 2016 Wiston weekend organisers a surplus of £135.92 left over from the 2015 Wiston Weekend.

We asked our clerk and new treasurer to investigate the possibility of claiming Gift Aid for our various bowl Collections.

This was the last duty Martin had undertaken as Treasurer and we thanked him again for his meticulous service, and welcomed Susan Robertson as his successor.

4. **Unconventional Oil and Gas or “Fracking”: a Quaker concern** – We heard about the Scottish Government’s invitation to respond to their Consultation on a Draft Scottish Energy Strategy. One of the associated documents outlined plans for a £10 billion Scotland’s Energy Efficiency Programme and one asked whether to make the Moratorium on “Fracking” a permanent ban.
We noted the statement from our Parliamentary Engagement Officer clearly supporting a ban on Fracking, and Pendle Hill Quakers’ appeal for support on their Meeting for Witness against Fracking to be held on Saturday 6 May.
We felt very concerned that a clear message be given to the Government that fracking was not compatible with our Quaker witness. We were concerned that our individual and collective voice be heard on these matters and asked our Clerk to:
 - Write to all members and attenders in Local Meeting encouraging them to respond in very good time to the consultations with guidance on points to make
 - Submit a positive response to the Energy Strategy consultations including Scotland’s Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) and a negative response to the Talking Fracking consultation
 - Forward this Minute to Area Meeting in recognition of our concern about these issues and ask Area Meeting to respond in the same way to the Scottish Government consultations.

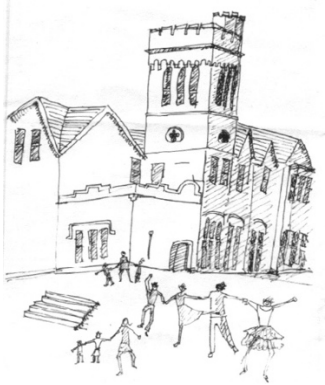
Below are live links to relevant documents:

- Friends House statement: quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/new-call-to-ban-fracking-in-scotland
- Notes by our Quaker Parliamentary Liaison Officer, for Friends wishing to respond: bit.ly/2s74XcM
- Scottish Government Consultation documents: bit.ly/2qZfxVz and www.talkingfracking.scot
- Friends of the Earth Scotland campaign website: www.foe-scotland.org.uk/fracking

6. **Any Other Business** – We were delighted to accept the offer of holding an open air Meeting for Worship – on a Sunday to be chosen – at the home of Catriona Courtier. Children would meet in the front garden. Timing would be from 10.45am so people could walk across the road. Our clerk agreed to liaise with Elders and Overseers.
7. **Dates of Meetings for Business in 2017** – Our next Local Meetings for Business will be held on the following Sundays: **16 July** and **29 October**. Note that Wiston Weekend this year is unusually late: **Friday 29 September – Sunday 1 October**.

MORE NEWS AND DATES

Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers There's another opportunity to sign up free for this online course, led by Ben Pink Dandelion: futurelearn.com/courses/quakers – Week 1 of 3 started 22 May, but you can catch up, and we'd like to hear a review.



Our **Wiston Weekend** is **Fri 29 Sep to Sun 1 Oct** Does this sound like a **NEW DATE?** – some may have heard differently, but this is the correct one for us (Central Edin Meeting has a later date).

Department of Error



Rachel Howell hasn't abandoned us for Central, but her home meeting is incorrectly recorded as Central Edin in the book of members. Sorry.

All-age watching

Sleeping Betty – 9-min beautifully animated version of the traditional tale, littered with asides and eccentricities. Faultless, funny, fine music. youtu.be/C6KDz8MIgmM From Claude Coutier and the Canadian National Film Board.



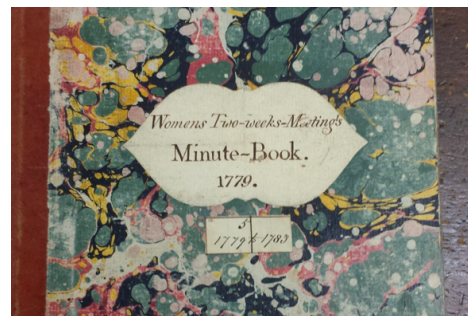
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BIRTHDAYS

19th June brings Jacob Blue's 16th birthday, so the last time he appears under this heading till he's 70. Congratulations, have a good one.



Unusually Quakerly online



Our **Facebook Page of the Month** is **Library of the Society of Friends** (898 Likes). It's a fascinating and frequently updated sequence covering diverse subjects and connections, lightly written and topical, with more info a click away.

Too Facebooky? Take a strong coffee to their seriously scholarly blog at quakerstrongrooms.org

Quaker relevance: 100%

Our **Wikipedia Pages of the Month** are **Samuel Galton Jr**, the Quaker gunsmith (1753-1832), and the **Lunar Society** (each month 1890 views and 1.6 edits). More about both above. Samuel Galton's page needs extending, perhaps from the excellent Birmingham Archives article.

Quaker relevance: 95%, 40%

This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month. Your Quakerly brief bit on beekeeping in Bolivia could be in it: send to neilturn@gmail.com

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