



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

July 2019



All-age meeting, June 2019

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

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

Portobello: 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11am, Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello, EH15 2BP. With children's meeting. 1st Sunday evening meetings 7.30-8 also at Bellfield.

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 July is to support **Womankind** – supporting the power of women to transform their lives, and working for equal influence in decision making. Focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. www.womankind.org.uk.

LOCAL QUAKER EVENTS

It's July. Nothing to see here, but wide choice of other things, see back page.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

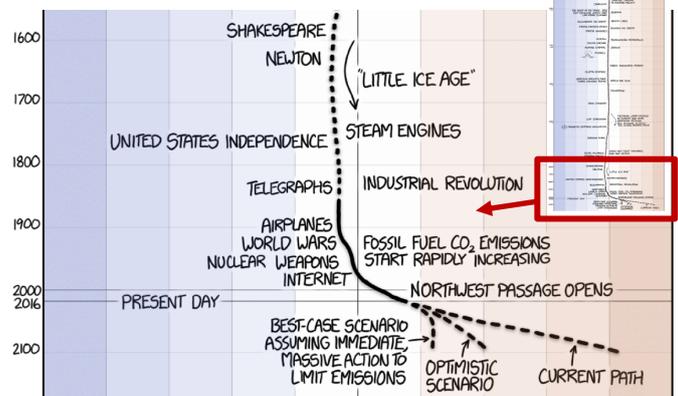
Rachel Frith offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

Singing group is taking a break in July and Aug, resumes September. It meets at Victoria Terrace on first Tuesdays at 7.30 pm.

Book Group at Victoria Terrace, ~1pm after meeting on 4th Sundays. July, *The Return of the Soldier* by Rebecca West; no meeting in Aug; in Sep, *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville. Please send suggestions for future books.

Taking a break at Venue 40 – could you help? Susan Robertson is looking for a couple of people to help with each of three quiet hours for all-comers, in the Meeting Room at Victoria Terrace, **2-3 pm on Mon 12, Tue 13 and Sat 24 Aug**. It is not intended to be a formal Friends meeting, merely a chance to sit in an informal quiet space. srobertson9@sky.com or phone.

Is global warming real?



Global temperatures from 20,000 BC to now, with predictions to 2100 AD. (See also pages 3 and 4) Randall Munro at xkcd.com/1732

VENUE 40



Is running a slightly differently organised but exciting programme again this year. Charities supported will be the Grassmarket Community Project, Mary's Meals and Quaker work in Britain and abroad.

The café will be open throughout the Fringe, even on days when there are no shows, till Monday 26th August.

Meeting for Worship will be held every day Mon– Sat, for half an hour at 11 am.

The theatre offers four shows each day in slots - lunchtime, early afternoon, teatime and early evening.

The full programme will be online at www.venue40.org.uk

If you missed last year's smash hit **Accident Avoidance Training for Cutlery Users**, you will be delighted to learn it's coming back. Other highlights for me are:

La Voix Humaine, a Poulenc short opera

Keep Your Chin Up features recently-discovered letters from a war-time wife to her soldier husband are brought to life by Polly Pattison, the writer's daughter

Little Rabbit, in which Susan, an adoptee with learning difficulties, is trapped by rising floods as Storm David batters. We are promised a "dark contemporary fairy story for adults" which has elements of both realism and the gothic.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is presented by French theatre company Piccolo Teatro Nexonnais, which brings the trestle table technique, *Theatre du Tréteau* to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's classic poem.

Those of you who need your annual **Sorries** fix will be pleased to know they are once again appearing, as are huge favourites the **Newbury Youth Theatre Company**, this time with the tall tale of **The Wizard of Winterbourne**, who uses the fearful spell *Open lock to the Dead Man's knock! Fly, bolt and bar and band! Nor move, nor swerve, joint, muscle, or nerve at the spell of the Dead Man's hand!*

The **Meeting Room** will host exhibitions, art workshops, and another fascinating programme of talks and discussions from **Luath Press**: ranging from *Oor Big Braw Cosmos* via *Meaning and mystery: the standing stones of Scotland* and *Paolozzi's Edinburgh: sculpture and streetscape* to *Going green: the art of living well* and *The Scottish Parliament 20 years on: visions of Scotland the Brave*.

Last but not least, **Majk and his musical friends** will be here to entertain us as usual on Aug 3rd, 25th & 26th – all proceeds to our charities.

Tickets for most shows are already on sale from the Fringe Box Office: www.edfringe.com or in person at 180 High Street. During the Fringe, they can also be bought in person from the venue box office.

Mary Woodward

Help may still be needed with:

Sitting quietly – Susan Robertson is looking for a little light help with each of three quiet hours for all-comers, in the Meeting Room at Victoria Terrace, **2-3 pm on Mon 12, Tue 13 and Sat 24 Aug.**

Janet Grimwade may still be looking for **B&B for two single people** for week 3 of the Fringe, **18-25 Aug.** Expenses covered. Please contact her at janetg19@btinternet.com

Interview with Kenneth about the school climate change protests

Deirdre spoke to Kenneth McIver on 16 June, and asked him how he got involved. He showed the slogan

RESPECT EXISTENCE OR EXPECT RESISTANCE

Kenneth: The first climate strike I went to was the Friday 22 Feb 19 one. It was about the 3rd. I was dragged there by my friends – I thought I had been trying to change my own lifestyle and other people's and felt that wasn't working. So why not try something else? The report made by the IPCC had just hit the media – we have until 2030 to massively change what we do and reduce our carbon emissions to keep below the target.

I didn't know what to expect. There were about 50 people chanting – everyone was very supportive. And after that I went every week and so did a lot of other people. It's always on a Friday – I leave school to go. On the big demo days (Feb 22nd, Mar 15th May 24th ...more expected) younger children come to join it from Primary, some with their parents, after 12 which is when school finishes on a Friday.

At my first one there was a decision to contact all the other groups of School Climate Strikers in Scotland. We decided on a logo which meant across Scotland everyone found the website. The UK Schools Climate Network didn't really have a presence in Scotland so they pass people on to us. Glasgow had a network page but we just had a huge What's App chat initially.

We have always gone to the Scottish Parliament. In Glasgow they go to George Square, in other places they go to the centre or sometimes opposite their school.

Politicians are not in Parliament on Fridays but we have had interesting meetings with MSPs. We've also met with Deputy First Minister John Swinney and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. She likes to talk but we want to see some action.

Edinburgh Council had a meeting they asked us to go to. The people who went said that someone, probably a councillor asked 'Do you have proof that climate change is real?' and everyone in the room laughed and he sat down without anyone answering him.

I spoke on May 24th to the whole gathering when 3-4,000 people were there. I don't know how I wasn't panicked! We all included different things in our speeches – mine felt OK. I did it again at the Stop Trump protest at St Giles – that was harder – my Gaelic teacher was there!

I've learned a lot more about it. Recently we had a letter from 144 Scottish scientists to the Scottish Government about Climate Change in support of School Strikers. About 10 of them came down to see us.

1. We want net zero emissions by 2030 – it is possible – solutions exist but we need to use them.
2. We want climate change to be included more in the curriculum.
3. The government need to communicate the severity of the situation to the public
4. We need the government to commit to action now they have declared a climate emergency – they need to DO SOMETHING!

We will have another big strike on 27th September at the end of a week of action from 20-27th.

Deirdre: were Quakers an influence on your involvement?

Kenneth: Yes. Being a Quaker I know what works if you want to make a change. I learned about sustainability in Quakers. It helps to have Quaker young people liaising all over Scotland.

Deirdre: The Meeting room was closing up – and Kenneth was off to keep the networks buzzing. We are very lucky to have such a thoughtful and active young person in our Meeting.

Randal Munro's diagram (p1)

Sparked debate, which didn't alter the message much. Many of the criticisms are dealt with at (long read) www.explainxkcd.com/1732 – itself an impressive site.

MORE NEWS AND DATES

Extinction Rebellion: a request from GM.

On 16th April a number of Friends and attenders joined the demonstration which blocked North Bridge. 29 people were arrested, including four or five Friends, and have been charged with breach of the peace. Legal advice and representation to challenge this is costing up to £900 each.

GM on 8th June and GM decided to encourage Friends in Scotland to individually support a fund to help people with this need. Donations at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/extinctionrebellion/scotland will be very welcome. Where you are invited to send a message of support, we suggest "In support of the North Bridge 29"

Cycle for Freedom from Torture – this ride from Hastings to Edinburgh reaches Scotland at its Wooler to Melrose stage on **Tue 23 July**, travels to Biggar, then Glasgow where it rests on Fri 26, then Falkirk Wheel, reaching Edinburgh on **Sun 28 July**. Ride, support, or just cheer; further info at <https://edinburghfft.org/cycle2019>

Our Wiston Weekend This famous event for South East Scotland Quakers takes place **Fri 6 – Sun 8 September**. For Friends and attenders of all ages, with a range of activities to suit all. Very family friendly. Stay in the Lodge, or camp. More info and bookings at www.boe.scot/wiston

Woodbrooke courses for July to Dec 2019. Most months there are 12-15 at Woodbrooke, but 17 are online, so you can do them from bed. Picks: Low carbon, writing, Quaker feminism, being a Quaker parent – but many more. Browse online at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/view-course-search or there's a booklet at meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kenneth will be 14 on the 21st. Oh yes he will.



SLOW RADIO



As presented by BBC R3, Slow Radio is slightly more demanding than Slow TV. There are often a few words of explanatory commentary, or fragments of insights into participants, on a background of some lovely soundscapes. Particularly recommended: Deaf shepherd (illustrated).

You can play now, or subscribe and save as podcasts. <https://bbc.in/2Zp4ymC>

Quaker relevance: 69%

This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month. Anticipated alliteration at this point is exhausted. Just send your ideas to neilturn@gmail.com

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

A Eugenics dilemma

Our Bayesian statistician Tom Leonard has been asked to submit evidence to a University College (London) enquiry on its association with the history of eugenics – the concept that the human race could and should be improved by racially selective breeding. Tom did his undergraduate studies and PhD there, and later discovered that several founders of his discipline played a significant role in developing the concept of eugenics. Several proponents were at UCL, but also contributed outstanding developments in statistics.

Francis Galton (515 visits/d on Wikipedia) came from Birmingham Quaker stock and is credited inventing the name 'eugenics'. It is said that his interest in eugenics was sparked by his cousin Charles Darwin's work on evolution. He made landmark contributions to the development of statistics, psychometric testing, weather maps, understanding fingerprints, and was a generous donor to UCL. The College now wonders how much to cleanse the institution of his name.

Read about this and more at <https://thomashoskynsleonardblog.blogspot.com>

