



July 2020



MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We are not holding Meetings for Worship in any of our usual locations at present. The nature of the premises makes it unlikely that we will re-convene at the Open Door for some time yet. Victoria Terrace is reviewing options but opening in July also seems unlikely.



But 25+ Friends each week have been joining our meetings via Zoom, **Sundays 10.30 am**. Children's meetings also possible now. Details in emails.

We're keen that everyone should have the best possible access, so please ask for help. First Qs to Martin Burnell or David Somervell.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In July is for **Quaker Homeless Action** – you probably know about this, and current urgency, but Alison Burnley will speak to this at Meeting. www.qha.org.uk

QUAKER EVENTS

Thursday afternoon Zoom get-togethers: 2.30 pm most Thursdays. Joining details in emails.

South Edinburgh Friends are also welcome to these Zoom events organised from Edinburgh Central:

Singing Group* – 7.30 pm on **Tue 7 July**.

Online coffee* – bring your own to an online conversation, 10.30-12 on **Thur 2, 16, 30 July**.

Book group* – will discuss John Berger's *G*, at 1pm, after Central Edinburgh's MfW, on **Sun 26 July**.

* for joining details, please contact Rachel Frith, rachel.frith@waitrose.com

Community Coronavirus commentary



Quakerly (Alison Burnley)



Touristy
Protection against the shiny nose virus

More Events and News on the Back Page

Our Friend David Bell (1937-2020)

David's funeral was held on 21 May.

David Bell was born in Hornchurch, Essex. He attended a Methodist Sunday School, but in his teens he questioned the teachings, and began what was to become a lifelong practice of thinking deeply about spiritual matters. He worked out that Christians should be pacifists and socialists, and explored various paths including Quakers, Catholicism, Buddhism, and the Episcopalian church. In the end, he decided that Quakerism was the best fit for his ideas and values, while continuing to value Buddhist philosophy, and also attending St Mary's Episcopal Church in Dalmahoy. Attending St Mary's gave him the opportunity to sing, which he enjoyed, and it complemented his love of classical music.

While David worked for the Civil Service as a scientist, he indulged his twin passions of art and hillwalking at the weekends. Those activities came together as he loved to paint pictures of the scenery he enjoyed so much. A number of fellow Quakers (and non-Quakers) have David's paintings on their wall to remind them of a favourite place. He also enjoyed spending time working in a shared allotment, particularly when there was an opportunity to stop for a cup of tea.

David was active in the local community of Ratho where he lived for over 30 years. He attended a local art group and his love of art, eye for detail and appreciation of the varied contours of the land meant that he was an ideal choice to design the toposcope (brass plaque which points to distant hills) in Tormain wood on the outskirts of Ratho.

David was a member and walk leader for the Ramblers Association. His exploring was not limited to the UK but covered diverse destinations from the tip of South America to venturing into the Arctic Circle.

David was a quiet man but that is not to be confused with being shy or ineffectual. He was a conscientious Quaker, attending BYM and AM and writing letters to MPs, councillors, and any appropriate body to raise concerns. He did not particularly enjoy the social chitchat over a cup of tea after meeting but he considered it part of Meeting and managed to bond with at least one other Member over their shared discomfort of that time. David didn't initiate contact with children in Meeting but made enough of an impact on a very young Jacob, for Jacob to recognise him and remember his name while in the supermarket later.

David was a complex man. He was clear about what he liked and what he didn't. He was thoughtful and serious. He worked better on his own and was very thorough. He had a sense of humour which was not immediately obvious. David knew how to hang pictures as well as paint them. He could let loose his inner child by flying a kite, was good at Trivial Pursuits, loved strawberries and chocolate, indeed generally loved food.

By the summer of 2017, Alzheimer's led to him moving into St Margaret's Care Home, where staff became very fond of him. At first he managed to take an active part in the activities on offer there and always enjoyed his visits to the dining room. David's memory continued to decline, but his underlying gentle manner didn't change. In May 2020, David contracted Covid19 ,and he died on 9th May.

"Are there not different states, different degrees, different growths, different places?"

Isaac Penington, 1667 <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/10-27>

Susan Robertson



Sophie Bevan writes in the British Yearly Meeting blog:

200 years ago, Quakers took a stand against slavery, deeming it unlawful in the eyes of God. *But what have we done since then?*

Be honest with yourself.

Are you the person you believe you are? Are you truly following the advices and queries from the big red book?

Some of you aren't.

This was read at BYM Trustees recently, from a blog by Scott Woods in 2014:

Racism is an insidious cultural disease. It is so insidious that it doesn't care if you are a white person who likes black people; it's still going to find a way to infect how you deal with people who don't look like you. Yes, racism looks like hate, but hate is just one manifestation. Privilege is another. Access is another. Ignorance is another. Apathy is another.

The painted stone was left at St Margaret's Well, Holyrood Park.

Minute from our Local Meeting for Business Sunday 21 June 2020

Our local Meeting, like many across the globe, has been reflecting on recent Black Lives Matter protests.

White Friends in our meeting may not personally experience negative discrimination on the basis of colour, nor can we know the institutional racism experienced by people of colour. It can be difficult for us to see how white privilege exacerbates these injustices and ways in which we too are racist.

We seek to challenge racism in ourselves and others and want to learn more about systemic discrimination on the grounds of colour, and about how we benefit from this. We see this as a communal responsibility because racism diminishes us all.

We trust in the spirit to guide us – and help us to be humble when we are shown our own seeds of racism – opening ourselves to the potential for transformation.

Our Meeting is reminded of positive steps taken in many aspects of life in Scotland and across the world and we remain optimistic about where our reflections and our learning can take us.

We share this minute with our Area Meeting and ask that friends more widely take up our concern.

Should the statues come down?

In a gently persuasive talk, Professor Sir Geoffrey Palmer thinks not: "Remove the evidence and you remove the deed". But he sure wants us to explain it. <https://youtu.be/nrx5yQnx6QM>



He also mentions the 172 Edinburgh individuals who were compensated for 'losing their property' at the end of slavery. An eye-watering amount of money was paid – presumably because the government felt it was necessary and worth it to end slavery. Search the recipients and explore more at www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs

Via <https://efi.ed.ac.uk/should-we-take-the-statue-down> (Edinburgh Futures Institute).



The Colston statue in Bristol and Dundas in Edinburgh

Roger Ball writes on the Bristol Radical History Group's website (<https://bit.ly/2CegUaV>) of the anomaly that Edward Colston's statue (which ended up in the harbour recently) was ever erected. Was it, as suggested on the plaque beside it, erected 'by the people of Bristol'? Records suggest that they were notably reluctant to come up with the money. He suggests out a more worthy recipient for the honour, Richard Reynolds.

Richard Reynolds was successful before he married Hannah Darby and joined her family's truly remarkable Quaker Coalbrookdale iron business. "Reynolds returned to Bristol in 1804 and became a great philanthropist and benefactor" <https://bit.ly/3d9O0FP> (Quakers in the World).

Wikipedia: Richard Reynolds is short but sweet – worthy of extension to increase its views from 14 per day. **Henry Dundas** has 3,438 views/day. It has had 118 edits in the last month, compared to its historical average of 2/month.

The statue of Henry Dundas is out of easy reach. He notoriously pressed to delay the abolition of slavery, but some, heavily reflected on his current Wikipedia page, attribute this to a pragmatic abolitionist position.

Lockdown entertainment: shorter things

Virtual Benedetti sessions – during the lockdown, Nicola Benedetti and her Foundation got together to create a fantastically ambitious sequence of remote sessions, mostly with children. “7159 participants, 66 countries, ages 2-92, 40 ambassadors, 64 live Zoom sessions, 200 videos” – followed by some amazing editing. Explanation, highlights and performances in an uplifting 1 hour at <https://youtu.be/wl3jm4z4AZs>



First Love – a 10 min film that makes you grimace then smile, about two youngsters 9-12 meeting in an Australian car park. Accents appropriate to setting. Via aeon.org. *Two cars, one night* is at <https://bit.ly/3iaSNdO>



Deep-sea beauty – 4 min of stunning high-resolution views of creatures seen on dives up to 4 km below the surface into the Ningaloo Canyons, off Western Australia. The squiggly line at the beginning is apparently the longest creature ever encountered, at 57 metres. https://youtu.be/e_PyW3XHrw0

Quaker things

A virtual tour of the Quaker Tapestry www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk – click on the link on the home page.

A play about Margaret Fell performed at her house, Swarthmore Hall. A 2008 production from Squarepeg Productions (later Heroica Theatre Company), free to view. An hour at https://youtu.be/_CgQ3xQC-wo

QUAKER ZOOM

Terrace Talk highlights Joyce Taylor's reflective report to General Meeting's on the effects of Zoom on Quaker meetings and business. A lot of pros, but also some shortcomings. This leaves us only to provide some practical advice from an anonymous Friend. Not to be taken too seriously.

Advanced etiquette guide for ZOOM Quaker Meetings

Beyond 'mute your microphone'.

Is it OK to drink coffee in a Quaker Zoom meeting? Generally not, unless you fake a coughing fit first.

What about in the social time afterwards? You can eat a whole vegetarian brunch then if you like.

At the end, instead of shaking hands, may I kiss my adjacent friend? Yes, but no tongues.

How long is it appropriate to speak about myself in the social time afterwards? 59 seconds.

What if something inappropriate appears on another Friend's screen? You are allowed a Quakerly smile, and to relish the moment.

I can only see the top of Friend Q's head. For this or similar minor mishaps, the best approach is often to try a Quakerly private message (QPM), or to remember SIBTKQ (sometimes it's best to keep quiet).

Is it OK to join half way through? Leave early? If you are under 25 or over 75 this is regarded as healthy normal behaviour. If this is you, live the dream.

Is it OK to have pets on screen? Of course, it's the Internet. But it's also Meeting, so they should be calming and peaceful.

What should I have in the background? Friends love honesty, and relish clues about your life and what you have been doing. So they expect unmodified natural backgrounds, scattered clothes, and unmade beds.

May I attend from my bed? You get extra points for attending from your hospital bed, or from your sick bed at home. Otherwise, no.

Is it OK to attend in PJs? It may be, if it leaves some ambiguity as to whether it is nightwear. So not Paisley-pattern warm winter flannel.

Do I need to be dressed below the waist? Well usually we can't tell.

Now I don't know what to wear! Live adventurously.

Lockdown entertainment: more substantial things

With a loose theme of living well despite adversity, personal characteristics, past circumstances, here are

Two books Thought-provoking, leaning to positive tales of women ‘on the spectrum’.

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine (Gail Honeyman) was a surprise blockbuster novel with a central character whose clunky, literal, unfashionable, solitary, but recognisable personality has an elements in it that many will relate to. As the tale unrolls, crumbs from her traumatic past are sprinkled.

Convenience Store Woman (Sayaka Murata) is shorter, equally eccentric, more lyrical and subtle. It is also funny – indeed both are. Translated from the Japanese, but the cultural differences highlight the universality of the personal characteristics.



Three online films/ series to keep you watching too late

Unorthodox (Netflix) pictures a sheltered, claustrophobic Hassidic orthodox Jewish community in New York, based on a real story. It centres on a young woman who rebels, and escapes to the eye-opening liberal environment of Berlin. From there the community seek to fetch her back. Its characters are real, struggling, conflicted, and often misguided, but you feel for them and understand how they got there. Ignore unlikely plot elements and revel in the tale, aspirations, and portrayals.

Normal People (BBC) – from a memorable book by Sally Rooney, to which the series is quite true. A tale of initially slightly weird young experimentation and love, in which again background handicaps emerge with time. Here is all the mistake-making, inadvertent cruelty, and way-seeking of youth, with intermittent glimpses of the haven that can come from a truly respectful relationship. But all does not progress smoothly. The two protagonists alternate in favour and fortune, while the viewer/reader agonises. You want them to do better, but your plaintive “*Why can’t he/she just ...*” is needed to the very end.

Exceptional for breathtakingly natural and good (but also bad) examples of negotiating sex and consent. You might show it to your teens for just that. Though they or you might prefer you not to be in the same room.

Shoplifters. Traumatic pasts are also in the background of this moving, tremendous Japanese film of underclass urban life. One surprise follows another, but successive disasters or disastrous revelations fail to rock the family unit, or make us have anything but hope for the characters. You go away sympathetic and optimistic, while puzzling how could that be, an impressive trick.

A useful place to find out where to watch this or other off-beat films is www.which.co.uk/filmfinder

Four short online exhibitions each in danger of leading to hours of looking further



Toulouse Lautrec and colleagues from Victoria Art Gallery in Bath – his classic posters, plus some strikingly modern representations of cycling, still a thrilling new thing in 1896. <https://bit.ly/3dYliYG>

The British Museum’s Timothy Clark zooms in on **Hokusai**’s hugely influential ~1830 *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*. 3 mins at <https://youtu.be/8z9zRbwh43I> looking back at a 2017 exhibition.

Susie Reade’s JW58 is stunning and moving. Accompanied by extracts from diaries from her mother’s journey and sojourn in Moscow, and we still don’t know what she was really doing there. Take time to click through the diaries and images in the galleries at www.antallasolais.org/jw58-online-exhibition

The extraordinary genius of **Artemisia Gentileschi** (1593-1656) is celebrated at <https://bit.ly/2C06mvW> – a thoughtful essay on how regard for her has been repeatedly coloured, and alternately disregarded or claimed, by commentators from different ages and viewpoints. Always citing her sex and experiences as a woman. For further reading, her Wikipedia Page (815 views/day) is a good start.

MORE NEWS AND DATES

New to Quakers? This year's **Enquirers Meeting** will take place by Zoom, on **Sat 18 July, 10.30-3** with a break for lunch. For anyone who wants to find out more about Quakers

- Want to explore Quaker worship?
- Want to find out more about how we are organised?

Contact gillreid3@btinternet.com for details.

A **one-day Yearly meeting** will be held online for up to 1,000 participants on **Sun 15 Nov**. More information later at www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Note: Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020 has been **deferred to 2021, 31 July – 6 Aug**. If you were booked for 2020, you can simply transfer to those dates, again see www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Memorial Meeting for Pat Lucas (East Lothian Meeting) will be held on **Thur 30 July** at 8pm. Many know Pat as previous warden (with Phil) of Edinburgh Central Meeting, and through roles in our Area Meeting.

Climate, COP26, and Quakers – on the climatefringe website, which provides a platform for sharing Scottish events and discussion, Rosemary Hartill summarises Quaker views and support:
<https://climatefringe.org/quaker-blog>

Quaker Concern Over Population (QCOP) is convened by our own Jonathan Riddell, now of Alton Meeting. On their website they address difficult questions such as, is it racist to seek to reduce birth rates? Do we really need an argument with Hans Rosling? www.qcop.org.uk

Support for young people's meetings – monthly meetings for those holding online children's and all-age meetings, cypadmin@quaker.org.uk

Action Village India, our May charity, has a newsletter giving details of what they are doing, and how they are coping with COVID-19
www.actionvillageindia.org.uk/newsletter

Delayed attribution

Lego Zoom meeting – Tony Wilkes (Central Edinburgh) was the creator of the wonderful Lego Zoom meeting pictured last month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Kenneth**, who will be 15 on the 21st.



Catherine Lyons won a competition to get her delicious Rhubarb and Caramel infused with Cardamom flavour made by Oscar's Gelato. Available on Portobello promenade from Oscar's kiosk at the foot of Pipe St.

While there – are you as aware as you might be of the Portobello Public Pencil Sharpening Project?



This newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Send your thoughts and ideas to neilturn@gmail.com

Please get in touch if you know someone who would benefit from a posted or delivered copy.

This edition, plus archives of previous issues, available from

www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh