



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

August 2016



Make Musselburgh Marvellous

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

**At Edinburgh Central** (Victoria Terrace), **during the Fringe:**

- Sundays at 9:30 am for about ¾ hour and at 11 am for about 1 hour
- Daily, Mon to Sat, 12:30 pm for 30 minutes

**At Portobello, also different from Aug.** Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP, on **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 7.30 pm** for half an hour; and **2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 am** for 1 hr (includes children's meeting). **28 Aug** Fisherrow Community Centre 11am. But please check with Kim Smith, 0131 665 8166 [kimsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:kimsmith@yahoo.com)

**At Broughton St Mary's: 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://quakerscotland.org)

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

In August is for **Positive Help**, which support those affected by HIV or Hep C. Gwen Rowland will speak to this. [positivehelpedinburgh.co.uk](http://positivehelpedinburgh.co.uk)

### LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

Children are invited to activities at Central Edinburgh meeting on **Sun 21** and **Sun 28**. And there is an all age worship there on **Aug 14**.

### OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

*In August Friends are expected to enjoy the summer sun, crowds, and all the joys that the city has to offer. Except at Venue 40, Quaker activities are reduced. Please check everything.*

The **Drop-In Group** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday afternoons, contact Sylvia Massey.

**Singing Group** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace, *but not in Aug.* Contact Rachel Frith.

Rachel also offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month.

**Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group** meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7pm, *but not in Aug.* Thackeray in September.

**Book Group** meets on 4th Sundays at Victoria Terrace after Meeting. *But not in Aug.*

**Radical Spirituality: The Early History of Quakers** – free online course commences **Oct 3** [futurelearn.com/courses/quakers](http://futurelearn.com/courses/quakers) (Quaker Week). Watch the video trailer there. Ben Pink Dandelion and Woodbrooke; looks good.



There are quiet places even in August

**More Events and News on the Back Page**

## Minutes from Local Meeting for Business, Sun 26 June

### 1. Opening Worship

We heard the second paragraph of 3.03 from Quaker Faith and Practice (QF&P) – about holding our Meetings for Business in the spirit of love.

There were 8 members and attenders present.

### 2. Recommendations of the Area Meeting Short Term Review Group

We have reflected on the discussions held at Area Meeting in Kelso. The intention had been to involve more people in the meetings and the life of the Area Meeting – with a longer quarterly meeting made more attractive to wider participation – with interim agenda-setting meetings between.

We hoped there would remain the opportunity to attend all OR part of a longer meeting. We hoped the new approach might be attractive to younger people and noted the idea to consider an all-age residential perhaps every second year.

We look forward to seeing the proposals implemented and will consider how best our Local Meeting can contribute to the life of the Area Meeting.

We welcomed the proposal to establish a Communications Strategy Group exploring Facebook, Twitter, email etc while still ensuring those not online are fully included.

We ask if friends prevented from attending this meeting today might be able to attend next Area Meeting in Tweeddale on 16 July where revised proposals will be further considered.

### 3. Meetings for Learning

We reflected on how rewarding recent Meetings for Learning had been – held in between our Business Meetings. We valued the opportunity to reflect on the different parts of QF&P and recognized the opportunity to possibly explore some of the earlier chapters – on how the Society of Friends organises itself – in future meetings.

We invited all to bring forward ideas for structure, priority topics and timing for future meetings.

We thanked Susie Reade, clerk of Elders and Overseers for setting the series in motion and enquired if she might share thoughts on what has worked well.

We noted the next planned meeting at 4pm-5.30pm Monday 27 June at 71 Nile Grove on Global Heating and Climate Chaos after the “Paris Agreement” – What can we do? How do the issues relate to QF&P 20.14 + 20.27-36 Simplicity and Equality?

Catriona Courtier and Susan Robertson hope to explore possibilities of an open MfL[bring a friend] in the first week of October to coincide with Quaker Week.

### 4. Local Outreach: Our place in the Morningside Community

We have been invited to reflect on how our Quaker Meeting is seen by the residents, passers-by, Open Door Staff & Volunteers, and Customers etc? We considered:

- a. Could we use the Open Door window each year to convey something about Quakers – as we used to do?
- b. The clerk has agreed to order a large free-standing notice to put out on Sundays and to finalise revisions for the Welcome Leaflet ... and to think about other places where we could put occasional information?
- c. We agreed to organise occasional Open Time e.g. use the Cafe part of the Open Door for 2 hours on a Sunday from 12:30 for anyone to call in, have a cuppa, look at literature and chat with a couple of Quakers?

We identified Quaker Week 1-9 October 2016 as the best opportunity to try out these ideas and asked the clerk to bring forward proposals and liaise with the Open Door.

## 5. Important Roles we all share

We noted a number of small changes in our list of Local Meeting roles – Susan Rigg appointed as an Overseer, Mairi McCormack to lead on managing the Library, Vacancies continuing for Meet and Greet at the front door when Alison B is away and bringing flowers when Margaret Anderson is away.

We noted that Sylvia Massey wishes to lay down the role of rep on Morningside Christian Aid group and invite expressions of interest in the rewarding role.

## 6. Dates of Next Meetings – note changes

We have noted a long gap and propose to meet again on **Sunday 4 September** and on **Sunday 30 October** after a bring and share lunch. ~~And to NOT meet on 18<sup>th</sup> September – now cancelled.~~

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## Meeting for Learning on Quaker marriage

After an excellent lunch generously provided by Catriona, we looked at Quaker marriages which originated in the Quaker belief that “marriage is The Lord’s Work” and denying the role of church ministers and the civil authorities in England, though Scottish law had always recognised marriage without a priest or minister, so Quaker marriages had always been lawful in Scotland. Early Quakers were exhorted on pain of being ostracised to only marry from within the Quaker community. The London Yearly Meeting became an opportunity to meet eligible partners.



By the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century the British government had recognised just two groups who could be married outside the Church of England: Jews and Quakers. They were both recognised for the quality of their record keeping.

Early Friends instituted meetings for ‘clearness’, to ensure that those intending to marry were clear to do so, and free of impediment.

Following the discernment of Yearly Meeting in 2009, Quakers recognise equally the union of same sex, and heterosexual couples.

The marriage vows must acknowledge ‘Divine Assistance’ or ‘with God’s help’.

Trivia: the paperwork must all be completed in ink which is supplied by the authorities; it is known not to fade for at least 180 years! Many so-called permanent inks do fade especially when exposed to sunlight.

*Rufus Reade*

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## What if? (would Quakers kidnap a baby??)

From *Life after Life* (Kate Atkinson) via Deirdre and *The Friend*

‘Don’t you wonder sometimes’ Ursula said, ‘if just one small thing had been changed in the past, I mean, if Hitler had died at birth or someone had kidnapped him as a baby and brought him up in – I don’t know, say, a Quaker household – surely things would be different.’

‘Do you think Quakers would kidnap a baby?’ Ralph asked mildly .

‘Well, if they knew what was going to happen they might.’

‘But nobody knows what’s going to happen. And anyway they might have turned out just the same, Quakers or no Quakers ...’

## MORE NEWS AND DATES

# VENUE 40



Tea and entertainment at the venue from Aug 8<sup>th</sup>.  
More info at [www.venue40.org.uk](http://www.venue40.org.uk)

**Enquirer's Weekend** at Coatbridge, Fri-Sun **2-4 Sep**. £200 full board. [patlucas1@gmail.com](mailto:patlucas1@gmail.com)

**Wiston Weekend** is **9-11 Sep**. Contact Jessica Paterson (Polmont Meeting).

General Meeting are holding a **Family Weekend** at Pitlochry Youth Hostel, Fri-Sun **14-16 Oct**. Contact Madeleine Harding, 554 6794, [madinleith@gmail.com](mailto:madinleith@gmail.com)

**Drought in Malawi appeal.** Drought is affecting 6.5 million people in a country recently devastated by flooding. The Scottish Government will match up to £70,000 raised by Christian Aid's public appeal until 31 October, and GM is encouraging local meetings to support this. The easiest and most direct route is at [christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/malawi-food-crisis](http://christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/malawi-food-crisis)

### What to watch in the Festival

**Outside the box** – Liz Rothschild presents a show about death at Summerhall, Aug 5-25 at 11.50 am.

**This Evil Thing** – Michael Mears. A well-reviewed play about conscientious objectors in WW1. New Town Theatre (Venue 7), 96 George St. Aug 4-28 (except 16, 23). 12 noon.

*Deirdre Armstrong*

## BIRTHDAYS

Kenneth was of course 11 in July, not 9 as falsely advertised. So this month's treat for your editor is



Spinach

## ESSENTIAL INTERNETS

Our **Facebook page of the month** is **EdFringe** (120,802 likes), because the Venue 40 page was last updated in 2013.

Quaker relevance: 19%.

Our **Wikipedia page of the month** is **Spinach** (1,164 visits per day). It omits to mention the perils of its oxalate content, and the sensible strategy for circumventing that, eating it with custard. But it's Wikipedia, that can be fixed.

It shows that spinach does contain quite a lot of iron compared with most other vegetables, but that the oxalate beside it probably prevents its absorption (and also absorption of its calcium).

If you want iron, peas are good, and soy beans are brilliant.

The spinach production of China is extraordinary.

Quaker relevance: 14%

*Send things you'd like to see here to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com) by the Sunday before. Want it hot by email? Contact same address.*

*Or it, archives, and more SouthEdQuak things at [quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)*