



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2013



MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

Every weekday at Victoria Terrace: 8am for 30 mins Mon-Fri.

Every Wednesday at Victoria Terrace: 12.30-1.00 followed by a simple lunch.

At Portobello: 1st **Sunday** at Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for half an hour; and 4th **Sun** at **10.30 am** at CHANGES Community Health Project, 108 Market Street, Musselburgh EH21 6QA.

At Barony St: 4th **Sunday.** 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (junction with Albany Lane). More info: Marjorie Farquharson.

Central Edinburgh meeting has an early Sunday morning meeting at 9.30am in addition to the regular 11.00am meeting at Victoria Terrace.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In September is for **Wiston Lodge**. We know this 1850s hunting lodge well! David Somervell or Deidre Armstrong will speak to this.

www.wistonlodge.co.uk

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

On first Sundays a **Mini-mart** is held after meeting, in aid of external charities.

Some Friends will be going to **Meeting at Faslane** on 1st **Sep**. Contact Alison Chalmers.

Our weekend at Wiston is Sep 6-8th. There will be a (small) meeting at the Open Door as usual.

General meeting in Perth – St Matthew's Church Hall, PH1 5TF, **Sat Sep 7th**.

We are hosting **Area Meeting at South Edinburgh** on **Sunday Sep 15th**, 2-4.30pm

After Meeting on **29th Sep** we will discuss Arrangements for Meeting for Business; see page 2 - Minute 13/13, and page 3.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

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

Singing Group 2nd Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace, contact Rachel Frith, who also offers lifts for Penicuik Vault Singers on Sunday afternoons. www.kosmoid.net/penicuik/vaults

Reading the bible with Friends meets third Tuesdays 7-9pm Victoria Terrace.

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

Book Group usually on third Sundays at 1pm, Victoria Terrace. But for Sep at 2pm on Sat 14th, Rachel's house: John Lanchester *Mr Phillips* (Oct, RL Stevenson *Weir of Hermiston*; Nov, Monica Ali *Brick Lane*; Dec, Dickens *Our Mutual Friend*.) Qs to Rachel Frith.

Film **A Two Sided Story**. Tweeddale Meeting has arranged a film screening in the Eastgate Theatre (Peebles) of this tale of an Arab-Israeli reconciliation project 'History Through the Human Eye'. £5, **Fri 27 Sep** at 7.30pm www.eastgatearts.com/?q=content/two-sided-story

Learning Saturdays at Kelso: Sep 28th at the Meeting House: *Good lives – living lightly on the earth*. 10.30 till not later than 4. It's helpful to contact Jane Pearn jane.pearn@btinternet.com 01750 21226.

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

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business, Sunday 21 July 2013

15 Friends were present. Prevented: Kerry Oliver, Sue Sierra.

During our opening worship we heard from Quaker Faith & Practice 3.29.

Minutes: of the Local Business Meeting held on 19 May 2013 have been circulated and signed.

Matters Arising:

(13/13) – Arrangements for holding meetings for worship for church affairs. We agree to hold the Meeting for Business and Learning which was proposed at our last meeting on 29 September after Meeting for Worship.

Alison Burnley reported that she had spoken to Sarah Richards, a member of Newcastle Meeting in Northumbria Area Meeting. Sarah would be keen to come to speak to us about her experience. It was clear however that the Northumbria experience is very different from what we are exploring since this is an Area Meeting in the context of a whole-day meeting, and we feel that it would not be useful to invite her.

Staśa Morgan-Appel is making progress with writing a discussion document on the topic, based on her experience in a previous meeting. We will ask Peggy Bartlett if she can make her list of concerns available, and if so, Staśa will incorporate this in her paper. We encourage everyone with input on the topic to communicate this to Staśa. This document will be published in the September newsletter.

We agree to publicise the meeting well, through various channels, so that Friends come well prepared. We ask Alastair Cameron, Chris Booth and Staśa Morgan-Appel to plan and organise clerking for that meeting.

(16/13) – Food banks. Sylvia Massey reported that she had investigated food banks. The main one for south-east Edinburgh is in Southouse at Blytheswood Care. It is Christian-based, but with no element of proselytising. They provide crisis food – each family can have only three donations of food (to last 3 days) in 6 months, and the system is based on vouchers given by churches, social work, schools, etc. There is a list of required items available.

Sylvia suggested that we could have a box at meeting where people can donate food. We welcome this suggestion, while remaining critical of the limitations of this approach, which still requires people to prove they are deserving of help.

We ask Alastair Cameron to write a brief piece for the calendar on benefits issues. We are aware that refugees and asylum seekers are particularly targeted by these policies.

19/13 – Review of arrangements after Meeting for Worship

We reviewed our practice of having a round of names after Meeting for Worship. While some Friends found this of limited use and institutionalised, we also found many benefits. It is helpful for new people, and having everyone say their names stresses equality. It is also very important to Friends with disabilities, and for some is necessary to enable them to participate fully in the life of the meeting. It is best if people can speak slowly and clearly and say both names.

We also reflected on having tea and coffee downstairs. Neither space is ideal – there are problems with noise and with people feeling trapped in both spaces. We ask Friends to be aware of the challenges other people may be facing. We generally agree that downstairs offers more flexibility and we agree to continue with this for the present. We ask that there be volunteers for both preparing tea and coffee and for washing up.

20/13 – Talks after meeting for worship

Elders and Overseers have asked us to consider the talks after Meeting for Worship as attendance at these tends to be small. They have asked what people want as a spiritual and getting to know you experience, and also whether the timing works.

We ask Elders and Overseers to run a survey to allow Friends to express their preferences. At a future meeting we will consider this further in the light of the results.

21/13 – Clerking

Chris Booth now wishes to lay down the post of clerk to our business meeting, and we agree to this. We thank him for doing the job for the past three years and we appreciate the way he has done it.

We appoint David Somervell to take on this post with Neil Turner as assistant clerk, starting with our next meeting on 20 October. We ask Alison Chalmers to continue to provide support, particularly in terms of agenda setting.

We will update the list of other clerking responsibilities and this will be printed in the newsletter. We ask Chris Booth and Alastair Cameron to do this.

22/13 – Bring and Share Lunch

We agree to hold a bring and share lunch for community building in our meeting on Sunday 6th October, at Alison Chalmers house.

Date of next meeting: Sunday, 20 October 2013, at the Open Door.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business?

Stasa Morgan-Appel contacted two past Clerks and a member of Elders in her former Meeting, where this has been the practice for a little over five years. She had received no further comments from local Friends.

MFWwAB is a Meeting for Worship for Business that follows directly from usual Meeting for Worship, maintaining a spirit of worship from one to the other.

At University Friends Meeting such meetings take place monthly except in the summer. A chalkboard with the agenda on it is turned so the blank side faces the room during the first part of Meeting. The Clerks' table is to the side. Friends are welcome to sit anywhere in the room.

A little before the half-hour mark, the Clerk stands up and describes what will happen next:

- explains that we will shortly move into Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; explains approximately how long it is expected to last; asks Friends to maintain worship during the transition
- invites visitors and newcomers to stay and participate in Meeting for Business and to learn about Quaker process in our Meeting;
- invites anyone who wishes to leave to do so and to take conversations into the Social Hall, where they will find tea, coffee, and snacks; explains printed announcements are available near the door;
- asks Friends who won't be able to see the agenda from where they are sitting to move so they can see the agenda.

The Clerk then sits down and settles back into silent worship. In a few minutes, the Clerk and appointed Friends move the blackboard with the agenda and the table. Friends who need to move to see the agenda or to leave the room do so. The room maintains a spirit of worship. A few members or Elders make themselves available in the Social Hall. Some Friends might check in with their children, and then return to Meeting for Worship for Business. Some children might join worship; some who have been present might leave for child care.

After Meeting has settled back into silent worship for a bit, the Clerk reads an excerpt from a relevant piece of writing. Silent worship continues.

The Meeting moves into the agenda, and usually runs for another hour or hour and a half. If more than an hour, the Clerk gains consent of Friends present. [That would be till 12:00-12:30 for us]

Then Meeting breaks for lunch. If the business is not complete, Meeting resumes after a 30-45 minute break, usually lasting another 30-60 minutes. [For us, this would mean ending 1:30-2:00pm.]

From Clerks of both kinds of Business Meetings: This works better for families with children than the former arrangements, since the regular childcare/First Day School people are more available. But in order to accommodate the families I've felt a lot of pressure to make sure the Meeting ends before 1 pm. With contentious major issues and long-winded Friends, this puts the Clerk in a difficult position.

...we thought we'd try the idea to see how it affected attendance, which had been dismal. The experiment worked to increase our numbers.

There's also a set of issues for new attenders: whether they are getting the chance to see a "pure" meeting for worship experience, whether they should stay past lunch, or even past the beginning of MMB, and fewer opportunities to discuss their experiences after worship since regular attenders will likely be caught up in the issues of business rather than their usual welcoming openness.

From an Elder: Can be challenging for families with small children; some Friends miss having the full hour of Meeting for Worship one Sunday each month.

...It helps somewhat to have a sense that it is a *Meeting for Worship* with attention to Business. I think various clerks have dealt differently with making the transition be a welcoming one to new comers and first-time attenders. We certainly have more members attending Business Meeting which is a great boon. When we go after lunch, we lose a lot of people, but that generally takes us back to the smaller number we used to have. So, that is a major plus.

Stasa Morgan-Appel

MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

Rachel Frith continues to offer **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.30 on first and third Thursdays

Food bank

There is a box at meeting where Friends can make donations. A list of useful items from the Trussell Trust www.trusselltrust.org:

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Sugar (500g)
- Fruit juice (carton)
- Soup
- Pasta sauces
- Sponge pudding(tinned)
- Tomatoes (tinned)
- Cereals
- Rice pudding (tinned)
- Tea Bags/instant coffee
- Instant mash potato
- Rice/pasta
- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned fruit
- Jam
- Biscuits or snack bar

What we're reading

A concise delight: Sophie Divry's *The Library of Unrequited Love*. 'To those who will always find a place for themselves in a library more easily than in society'. You don't catch flies with vinegar. *ANT*

Wanted – your recommendations here. Books, films, blogs, progs, vlogs. In 50 words.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To Esther who will be 14 on the 25th

UNMISSABLE ON THE INTERWEBS



Our **Facebook Page of the Month** is

Abandonedography (757

likes). Recommended if you agree that there's something moving about decay. Some striking images where you really want to know the back story.



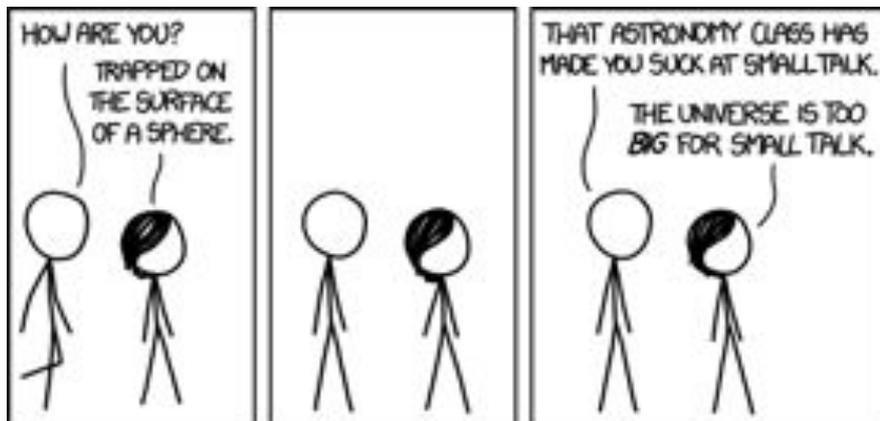
The newsletter is usually distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Send things you'd like to see to Neil Turner, neilturn@gmail.com. The deadline is the 2nd last Sunday.

Read this and more online at

www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh

For all ages

Sphere



xkcd.com