



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2015



The Union Canal at Slateford Aqueduct (opened 1822)

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.

At Portobello: 1st **Sunday** at Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for half an hour; and **2nd and 4th Sun** at **11 am** at St James' Church Hall, Rosefield Pl, Portobello EH15 1AZ (includes children's meeting). Queries to Kim Smith, kimdsmith@yahoo.com, 0131 665 8166.

At Broughton St Mary's: 4th **Sunday**. 7pm in the Drummond Room at Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Cresc. More info: Marjorie Farquharson.

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In September is for Wiston Lodge, where we're going the first weekend in Sep. wistonlodge.co.uk

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

Militarization of Youth – Mairi Campbell-Jack is speaking at St John's Church at 6pm on **Sun 31st Aug**. See also page 2.

Our Wiston weekend: 4-6 Sep is fully booked but wonderful.

Meeting with Jim Eadie MSP at his Constituency Office at 4.30 pm on **Fri 11th Sep**, 13-15 Morningside Drive, EH10 5NX

Meet BYM Trustees at Victoria Terrace, 3pm on **Fri 11th** and at meeting on **Sun 13th Sep**. More info on back page.

Plaque unveiling for John Barlow (1815-1856), **Mon Sep 14th**, and later at the Quaker Burial Ground at the Pleasance. See back page.

General Meeting for Scotland will be held in Glasgow on **Sat 12th Sep**.

There will also be **Meeting at Faslane** on **Sun 27th Sep** – Alison Burnley has details. We are also invited to join Friends in **Central Fife** at their regular meeting this Sunday (10.30 Hunter Halls, Kirk Wynd, opp Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy).

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.

Rachel also offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on Thur 17th Sep (usually 1st and 3rd Thursdays).

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

Book Group meets on 4th Sundays at 1pm, Victoria Terrace. Aug; Bulgakov's *The Master and Mararita*. Oct; Emma Healey's *Elizabeth is Missing*. Qs to Rachel Frith.



Wiston Lodge

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

An informal note on our Meeting for Business on Sunday 19th July

Whither Area Meeting?

Meeting for Business was largely turned over to a discussion led by Jane Pearn (Kelso) and Don Stubbings (Central Edinburgh), preceded by a shared lunch. This is an informal note, not agreed minutes.

15 Friends and Attenders were present. In opening we heard from Quaker Faith and Practice 23.19, about social injustices.

Some drivers to holding discussions about AM were described in Area Meeting minutes and in preparatory material, and we were reminded of these. Two key issues confronting us are that AM struggles to fill its posts, and that it is living beyond its means at present. We did not discuss financial aspects at this meeting but focused on what it does, and how.

We were guided to 'think radically' about AM, without specific limits, and did so.

Most of us felt closest to our local meetings. We valued our wider Quaker networks greatly, but on a background of these strongly positive thoughts noted possible reasons why AM may not be gathering the support it would like:

AM was associated with organisation and business first, only second with community, even by the selected group present. Very few of us regularly attended AM. It was also described as more 'outward facing' than local meetings.

Some questioned the need for three levels of Quaker organisation in Scotland (Local, Area and General meetings).

AM processes and meetings were felt to be ponderous and unattractive to those with families or otherwise busy lives to lead. Could more be done by individuals or smaller groups than now?

We parted cheerfully and look forward to comparing thoughts from other local meetings.

Our next Meeting for Business is scheduled for Sunday 18th October, after Meeting for Worship. Contact David Somervell or Neil Turner with items for discussion.

Militarisation in our schools

From Terrace Talk Aug 2015

Mairi Campbell-Jack, Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer writes: The most up-to-date data we have on armed forces visits to secondary schools comes from this Forces Watch report, which was co-sponsored by the Educational Institute for Scotland. Statistics in the report cover 2010-11 and 11-12 .

Headlines include:

- Across Scotland, 83% of all state secondary schools (303 schools out of a total of 367) were visited at least once during the two-year period.
- Armed forces visits to state secondary schools account for 95% of all visits at the secondary level and 100% of all visits made by the Army. Only 28 independent schools in Scotland providing secondary education (50%) were visited by the armed forces [all services] during the two-year period.
- Of the 32 Scottish local authorities, 50% (16) had armed forces visits to all, or almost all, of their state secondary schools (95% or more). Six were visited 20 times or more.
- All Army visits were made to state secondary schools; they made no visits to independent schools.
- Further education and sixth-form colleges were in general visited more frequently than secondary schools. Three colleges were each visited 20 times or more.

Becoming Friends

This is a course that can be followed in a small group, in a pair or alone. The learning materials are accessible and flexible. People new to Quakers and long term Friends have found the materials inspiring. Those who have already completed the course might find attendance in a different group an interesting experience. It is likely a group will commence mid October 2015.

If you would like to know more then please contact Susie Reade (0131 554 1078).

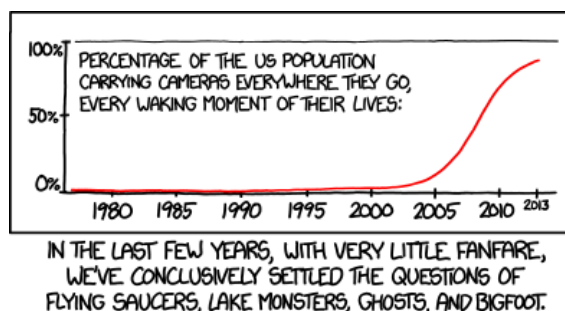
South Edinburgh Foodbank

It is now just 2 years since we began to support the South Edinburgh Food Bank in Southhouse. Friends may be interested to know that in this period we have given £580 in cash to the Centre along with several bags of food, toiletries and "extras" every few weeks. I am indebted to Phil Sawbridge for driving me up to the Centre and my thanks to everyone who has contributed so willingly. Alison Burnley is a volunteer at the Food Bank and would, I am sure, answer any queries about the work done there.

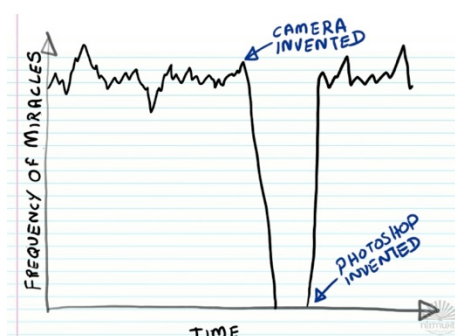
Sylvia Massey

For the reflective

From the interweb:



xkcd.com/1235



Nirmukta "Promoting science, freethought and secular humanism in India"

For a contrary view, see (for example) 'Face of Jesus found in jar of Marmite' (Daily Telegraph 28 May 2009).

MORE NEWS AND DATES

BYM Trustees are holding their autumn residential at Victoria Terrace, Fri-Sun **11-13 Sep**. They will be joining local Friends at worship on the Sunday morning, and Paul Parker (Recording Clerk), Juliet Prager (Deputy) and some of the trustees will be available in the hall of the meeting house at 3 pm on Friday to meet South East Scotland Friends over tea. If you're going, a note or call to Victoria Terrace would be helpful so they know how many to expect.

Mon Sep 14th Remembering Quaker and pioneer of veterinary science **John Barlow** (1815-56) – unveiling a blue plaque at 1 Pilrig St at 10.30 am, and a reception there, then later to his grave in the Quaker burial ground at The Pleasance. His son John Henry Barlow became a noted Quaker statesman in the early 20th century, and is the subject of a good Wikipedia entry. Invitations emailed, so please ask someone for details if you'd like to attend.

His grandson Antony Barlow will be speaking about him at Victoria Terrace after meeting there on **Sun 13th**.

Accommodation needed – General Meeting for Scotland's Residential weekend is in Edinburgh, **14-15th Nov**. Could you offer accommodation for visiting Friends? Please contact John Fox, foxarch@btinternet.com or via Victoria Terrace



Hearing difficulties? We need feedback: If any of our regular or occasional visitors find the hearing loop/ microphone useful, could you speak to (or ask for) Phil Noble?

What we've been watching

Well lots. Including two pipers playing brilliant music in the middle of the dark Meadows the other night. You've been shy, but here's one ...

Sirenia by Jethro Compton – Memorable, moving lighthouse two-actor tragedy wonderfully located in something very like a lighthouse, way up in India Buildings. Venue: cheap sushi, expensive beer. *A visitor from Oxford.*

Your own 30 word reviews welcome

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Esther** who will be 16 on the 26th!



ON THE WEB



Our **Facebook Page of the month** is **Crema Caravan** (586 Likes), stationed at Summerhall during the Festival. Nice story at ow.ly/2buMBX

Quaker relevance: 38%.

New look at Quaker.org.uk

A new website launches Sep 1st, breaking any links you may have within the old site. Go to (haha) old.quaker.org.uk instead of quaker.org.uk if you've lost something. You'll probably find you've forgotten what you went there for though.

Alison declares that she isn't very interested in this news.

Read this newsletter, past issues and more at quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh

It is usually distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Send things you'd like to see to neiltur@gmail.com. Not on the list to get it? Same address. Deadline the Sunday before.