



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

October 2011



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.

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. (till November at least)

At Barony St: 4th Sunday. 7pm at 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors). More info: Tony Gross or 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

October's special collection is for Peace Direct, which supports local peacebuilders around the world. www.peacedirect.org David Turner will speak to this.

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

9th Oct – Local Meeting for business. A week early to avoid half term week. After meeting and finishing promptly, please come.

Mini-mart in aid of Wiston Lodge after Meeting on each **first Sunday**. www.wistonlodge.co.uk

15th Oct (Sat) – Area Meeting at Kinghorn, Fife, 11-1.30 (note changed location)

Mon 24th Oct, Victoria Terrace, 7-7.30pm, Michael Bartlet will be speaking on a political topic. Michael is the Quaker parliamentary liaison officer.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

Song and dance – Sat Oct 1st 2-5 pm at Victoria Terrace (details in last newsletter). Rachel Howell sr_rachel@hotmail.com; 0131 557 8376

Singing Group meets on second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace, contact Rachel Frith. Ask her also about the Penicuik Vault Singers, Sunday afternoons in different places, lift available.

Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship meets on 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors) Contact Mary Woodward or edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com or 07543 975 590.

Reading the bible with Friends Third Tuesdays, 7pm at Victoria Terrace. Currently looking at Romans. More info at <http://bit.ly/9JgoUO>. Contact Henry Thompson.

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Shared (vegetarian) food followed by discussion or talk. Usually at Methodist Church, Nicholson Square. Contact Alison Burnley or Bronwyn Harwood.

Book Group. Usually Third Sundays at 1.15pm at Central Edinburgh: Oct – JM Coetzee's *Youth*; Nov – Murakami. Qs to Rachel Frith.

Apologies for the length of this month's newsletter. No time to make it shorter. Read us online here (Phil has instructions):

quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh



[More events on the Back Page](#)

Meeting with Jim Eadie MSP

On Saturday 17 September, Friends had an initial meeting with Jim Eadie, SNP, who replaced Mike Pringle at the May Election to the Scottish Parliament.

Jim Eadie told us about his career to date and the particular interests he brings to his new role. Currently he Chairs the Committee with responsibility for the Regulation of Care for vulnerable adults, alongside a range of other interests and responsibilities. He was open about his life long commitment to Scottish Independence and more recently to a Nuclear Free Scotland. He also volunteered his commitment to the importance of partnerships and collaboration when MSPs from different parties agree on specific issues.

We spoke about the Quaker commitment to the abolition of Nuclear Weapons and the need for a gradual process of moving towards International Agreement. We acknowledged the range of opinions which Quakers in the UK hold in relation to the future of Nuclear Energy. He welcomed papers on these issues which were offered to him and encouraged an on-going dialogue with Quakers on this concern.

The Westminster reserved power in relation to Welfare Reform was discussed. The ripple effect of benefits changes and the recession on the most vulnerable people in our country was explored. Again Jim Eadie seemed very willing to learn from the experiences and knowledge of Friends, for example, in relation to evidence in recent decades of the failure to increase the percentage of disabled people in employment and how this is likely to impact on Welfare to Work policies. We also shared concerns about the way in which Fitness for Work assessments are being carried out and the outcomes reported in some sectors of the Press in a rather biased way.

It was encouraging to hear Jim Eadie emphasise his own view about the importance of Scottish Citizens focussing on what kind of Society we hoped to create for our shared future. The issue of an open, informed and full debate leading up to the Independence Referendum was also touched on.

Time was running out but we did convey concerns about threats to the existence of two valued services for refugees in Glasgow. Jim Eadie suggested he should involve an MSP colleague who represents a South Glasgow constituency in this matter. David Turner will follow this up.

Finally, Jim Eadie shared his interest in continuing to meet with Quakers three or four times a year. It will be helpful to discuss such on-going contact with Parliamentarians at the next South Edinburgh Local Meeting for Worship for Business. Current Quaker concerns e.g. marriage equality; sustainability and the environment, were not discussed in this first meeting. What issues do Friends want to bring to any future discussions?

Hilary Davies and David Turner

Getting to Know ...

Kerry's story is circulated with this Newsletter. Kerry is now co-ordinating these interviews of people in our Meeting with Alison Chalmers. Please contact Kerry or Alison if there is anyone you fancy interviewing. Many haven't been interviewed yet, and now we have a list of who!

Scotland General Meeting Residential Weekend 2011 in Edinburgh

Volunteers required to provide accommodation and contribute to catering and a social evening.

South East Scotland Area Meeting will host the 2011 residential General Meeting for Scotland at Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace Edinburgh on **Saturday and Sunday, 12th and 13th November**. If you feel you are able, Area Meeting invites you to help with overnight accommodation for visiting Friends (including a simple light breakfast other meals being provided by General Meeting), catering and a Saturday evening social. November may seem a long way off but there is much to do to ensure the smooth running and success of the event. Your contributions will have a marked impact upon the success of the weekend for which our Area Meeting thanks you in advance.

To assist with the forward planning, would you please fill out the form below with your name, postal/email address/telephone number and tick or number the boxes appropriately and return it to my home address as soon as you can (address at the bottom of the form).

Many thanks indeed, in Friendship.

John Fox



From..... Postal/email address.....

..... tel.no.....

I cannot provide accommodation

I would like to offer the following accommodation for visitors to Scotland General Meeting residential weekend 12 & 13 Nov 2011. (Please put numbers of persons in the boxes; a couple counts as a 1).

Single person(s)	Friday 11th November	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday 12th November	<input type="checkbox"/>
Couple(s)	do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	do.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single persons sharing	do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	do.	<input type="checkbox"/>
My home can offer	downstairs bathroom,	<input type="checkbox"/>	transport to/from my home,	<input type="checkbox"/>
	wheelchair access,	<input type="checkbox"/>	and a simple light breakfast.	<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like to contribute towards catering for the event.
A menu will be provided to select your contribution.

I would like to contribute towards the Social Evening *.....
*Please indicate what you might like to contribute; recite, sing, read or tell a story, play an instrument, monologue, perform a one-act play etc

Please return this form to **John Fox at 24/5, Sinclair Place, Edinburgh EH11 1AN**, or email to foxarch@btinternet.com or place in my mailbox at 7 Victoria Terrace.

Please add your comments here:

SES Friends who are attending, please also register, even if you don't require accommodation.
www.quakerscotland.org/gmquestionnaires_forms, or paper forms in separate mailing or from meeting.

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business, Sunday 21 August 2011

15 Friends were present. Prevented: Hilary Davies, Sandra Riddell

Minutes of the Local Business Meeting held on 15 May 2011 have been circulated. We accept these, and they have been signed by the Clerk.

Matters Arising

(20/11) As mentioned at our previous meeting, we have been asked by Scotland General Meeting to appoint a custodian of records. We ask Sylvia Massey to look into the whereabouts of LM minutes, etc and to report back to our next meeting.

(17/11) Quaker Week: We have booked the Open Door window from 9th-16th October, and Emma Milton has agreed to set this up. We will check whether she needs help with this. Rachel Howell has been asked to facilitate a meeting on 29th September at which Jocelyn Bell Burnell will speak. Alison Burnley will keep us informed of other events being planned by Area Meeting.

22/11 Dates for Area Meetings

We have received a list of dates and venues for forthcoming Area Meetings up till February 2013. This is attached to these minutes *[it was published in the August Newsletter]*. We note that South Edinburgh Meeting will host Area Meeting on 26 February 2012, 16 September 2012, and 24 February 2013.

We also note that the Area Meeting on October 15th this year is now to be held in Kinghorn at 11:00am. Young Friends will show us how not to run a Quaker business meeting.

23/11 Area Meetings Nominations Committee

We ask Elders and Overseers to bring forward to LM the name of someone to serve on AM nominations committee. We thank Dorothy Buglass for her service on this committee over the past six years.

24/11 Becoming a low-carbon community

Rachel Howell read Minute 36 from Yearly Meeting Gathering to us. This is attached to these minutes *[it was published in the September newsletter]*, and will be circulated by email and in the newsletter.

YMG had heard from four "prophetic voices", whose talks are available on the Britain Yearly Meeting website. The Swarthmore Lecture by Pam Lunn had also been very powerful.

One theme that was stressed was the need to be accountable to one another. The connection between environmental justice and economic justice was another important theme which emerged. Participants had been encouraged to consider this concern throughout the week, which fed into a considered corporate discernment process.

The minute explains clearly that this is not a new concern, but is deeply rooted in our Quaker testimonies. There was a strong concern that we need to act from a spirit of joy and tenderness when making uncomfortable changes.

Meeting for Sufferings has been asked to look at a framework for sharing our successes, and to look at issues of policy that we might be led to adopt and advocate. The minute also includes a clear call to action and radical change for individual Friends.

Once the minute has been disseminated and Friends have had a chance to digest it, we ask Elders and Overseers to consider space in the calendar for a threshing meeting.

We ask Rachel Howell to talk at Wiston on this subject.

On the matter of accountability we may have much to learn from the practice of the Iona Community.

We recall the need to integrate our activities in other communities with our Quaker practice. Friends from Portobello are invited to share their experience of work in this area in that community.

We note that QPSW is producing a sustainability toolkit with suggestions for practical action, and that the Living Witness Project also has useful resources.

25/11 Special Collections

We agree to hold special collections in coming months for the following causes:

- October – Peace Direct. David Turner will speak to this. Alternatively, if he cannot establish contact with Peace Direct, the collection will be for the International Peacekeeping Fund.
- November – Quaker Bolivia Link (Deirdre Armstrong).
- December – Scottish Churches Housing Action – (Alistair Cameron).
- January 2012 – the Common Fund (Rachel Howell).

We ask all Friends to offer suggestions for future causes (and people willing to speak to them); these should be given to Mary Woodward. We note the importance of contributing to core Quaker funds such as QPSW, Northern Friends Peace Board, FWCC, the Common Fund, and the bursary fund for Yearly Meeting.

26/11 Library

Mary Steven, our librarian, has been unwell and we need to consider the way forward. We ask Rachel Howell to ask her if she wishes to relinquish the task, and if so, we ask Elders and Overseers to look at a way forward.

27/11 Economic Justice and the Sustainable Global Society

Following the Zero Growth economy events in 2009, Woodbrooke, QPSW and Northern Friends Peace Board are organising a programme to examine the centrality of economics and economic justice to the achievement of a sustainable peaceful global community.

A one-day conference will be held at Friends House, London on 24th September, and we encourage any interested Friends to attend.

We are asked to forward to Area Meeting suggestions for nominees to attend a residential seminar at Woodbrooke (4th to 6th November). If Christine Richards is interested we will suggest her name to Area Meeting; we ask Alison Burnley to speak to her.

28/11 Reminders of upcoming local group meetings

Friends are reminded of two upcoming meetings:

- 18 September: a discussion after meeting for worship, on 'End of Life Questions' which GM has asked us to consider. We ask those who were at General Meeting to consider how to introduce the topic.
- 20 November: business meeting and clerks' training with Phil and Pat Lucas.

Date of next meeting: Sunday, 9 October 2011 at the Open Door.



ALL AGE PUZZLES

There were no winners last month. Phil's answer 'a QR code' was a partial answer to the quiz from August 2010. So here is another chance.

Question 1 (5 points): interpret ...



Question 2 (5 points):



For what occasion is this the right dress?

Answers with your card on a silver tray to Neil T.

Poem: The Friends Party

I shall wear a long green pinafore dress
With flare,
Dare to put up my hair
And catch a Quaker there.

Catherine Somerville

UNMISSABLE ONLINE

gezenn.wordpress.com is Patience and Leo's blog.

Our **Facebook Group of the Month** is [My Sister Said if I get One Million Fans She Will Name Her Baby Megatron](#) (1,669,880 fans).



YOUR STORY/RECOMMENDATION HERE –

The newsletter is usually distributed on and just before the last Sunday of each month. Send things to Neil Turner, neilturn@gmail.com. The official deadline is the 2nd last Sunday.

MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

Residential GM in Edinburgh – Nov 12-13th.
See page 3: Volunteers please!

QUAKER WEEK

Quakers and peacemaking

An opportunity for in-reach and out-reach. A series of free public talks at Victoria Terrace Meeting House with questions and discussion. Each is preceded by a light vegetarian supper (soup, rolls and fillings) at 6.15 with the talk at 7pm, followed by open discussion then tea/coffee and biscuits at 9. All are welcome.

Do join us and let others know.

Thur 29th Sep – A Quaker Astronomer Reflects. Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

Mon 1st Oct – The Quaker Peace Testimony: what does it mean to Friends? John Phillips.

Wed 3rd Oct – Expect the Best: Quakers and the Political Process. Alastair Cameron and Janet Fenton.

Fri 5th Oct – Quakers and the alternatives to violence project. Mark Bitel.