



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

November 2012



Mull of Galloway lighthouse

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

November's special collection is for **Northern Friends Peace Board**. Alan Frith or Jasmine Perinpanayagam will speak to this. nfpb.org.uk

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

First Sundays – focus for children. Bring 'em, do stuff; also followed by **Mini-mart** in aid of Wiston. www.wistonlodge.co.uk

Discussion after meeting 11th Nov – topics to discuss with Ian Murray MP (19th Jan)

Meeting at Faslane, Sun Nov 11th. Leave Edinburgh 8.30am. If you need a lift contact Alison Burnley 10 days in advance. Bring something to eat and something to sit on.

Residential General Meeting St Andrews, **Nov 17-18th** Booking forms and info at meetings and www.quakerscotland.org. Themes: peace-building, sustainable security and conflict-resolution, World Gathering of Friends in Kenya.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

The **Drop-In Group** 1st Monday afternoons. Anyone who is interested and available is welcome, contact Sylvia Massey.

Quaker Knitting at the NLS cafe on Thursday evenings 5-6 pm. moragferguson@hotmail.com (or call)

Singing Group 2nd Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace. Contact Rachel Frith. Ask also about the Penicuik Vault Singers, Sunday afternoons in different places.

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, 7-9 pm at Victoria Terrace. Using the Friendly Bible Study Method – no previous experience necessary. More info from Henry Thompson.

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

Book Group will meet on Nov 24th (probably) on *Erasure* by Percival Everett. Qs to Rachel Frith.

[More Events on the Back Page](#)

Minutes from Local Meeting for Business Sun 21st October

15 Friends were present. Prevented: Kerry Oliver, Alison Burnley, Ida Turner, Alistair Cameron.

The meeting was opened with a short reading about the Canadian Inuit people's "state of mind beyond dreaming" called *quiinuinaqtuk*.

Minutes: Minutes of the Local Business Meeting held on 15 July 2012 were circulated and signed.

19/12 – Engagement with political representatives – David Turner reported that Friends had met with Jim Eadie MSP. They had discussed three topics:

- The proposed change in the SNP's policy on an independent Scotland joining NATO. Friends had presented their view that Scotland's aim to be a peace promoter was not consistent with membership of NATO. Jim Eadie said that he appreciated the point but felt that joining NATO would not affect the SNP position of getting rid of Trident.
- Secondly, Friends brought the report of the Commission on Women Offenders to his attention. We were glad to hear that the Scottish Government has accepted 33 out of 37 clauses of this, and this seems likely to lead to radical change. Friends drew his attention to three relevant Quaker initiatives: Circles of Support and Accountability, Alternatives to Violence Project, and restorative justice. He has agreed to bring these to the attention of Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill.
- On welfare reforms, Hilary Davies spoke of the cuts and the difficulty of disabled people remaining hopeful. Friends were concerned about whether it was appropriate that a private company, ATOS, should be involved in benefit assessments. We were aware that benefits is an issue reserved to Westminster, but Jim Eadie felt that one thing the Scottish Government could do was to provide more support for advocacy. Hilary stressed that employers also need support for employing disabled people.

We thank Pol Yates for minuting the meeting clearly. The main points will be shared in the newsletter. We hope to meet with Jim Eadie again in March.

A meeting with Ian Murray MP is planned, but he has no Saturdays available before 2013. Friday afternoon to be explored, along with topics of concern to be raised. Action David Turner and David Somervell.

20/12 – All Age worship – We have received minutes from both Elders and Overseers and from Children's Committee reflecting on the experience of the All Age Meeting for Worship held on 3 June. The minute from E and Os was as follows:

'it was felt that there were ways in which it could have been made more suitable for all ages:

The excellent story from Madeleine Harding was beautifully told though it was more geared to young children rather than young people and adults.

Because the little scenes with wooden figures etc were on the floor, it meant that the space was readily invaded and perhaps earlier planning would have suggested that they be placed on a table to keep them safe from innocent interference.

The activity table at the back of the Meeting Room meant that there was still activity and conversation after the story which made silent worship or ministry difficult. It might have been better if the children had done their follow up activity upstairs and then come down to talk about it.

Earlier planning might also have thought of some toys for toddlers to give them a happy amusement and let the story move forward for the older children.

Because of the lack of peacefulness, there was anxiety in some of those at the all age worship rather than a feeling of having been engaged together in a spiritually enriching experience.

It was agreed to make this minute available to Children's committee to facilitate future planning, especially bearing in mind the needs of all ages in such a MFW.'

Deirdre Armstrong explained that Madeleine had been invited in order to draw on Central Edinburgh's experience. It had been helpful in that we had learned that this was not the right approach for us. Deirdre stress the importance of feeling that children are involved in meeting and that adults are part of children's meeting. In South Edinburgh we now have very few children, who don't all come together, so we sometimes have to work with the lack of a viable group. On June 3 there had been 5 children from Central Edinburgh and 3 from south Edinburgh, so the majority were strangers to our meeting and took a long time to settle.

We do wish to continue to explore all age worship, while respecting those who value the peacefulness of our meeting for worship. We will use the information from both minutes and go forward in a spirit of hopefulness, following a pattern more like our practice in the past.

We note that Journeys in the Spirit are holding an all age worship help session at Victoria Terrace on Saturday 1st December. It would be helpful if not just Children's Committee members attended – book via Deirdre.

21/12 – Special collections – We agree to hold special collections for the following causes:

- **January 2013: Circles UK** (Circles of support and accountability to prevent sexual abuse re-occurring. Alison Burnley to speak. We ask David Turner to investigate whether money can go to a local branch.)
- **February: Reprieve** (Investigates secret prisons and provides representation for people on death row and in Guantanamo Bay. David Somervell to speak.)
- **March: Scottish Churches Housing Action** (Alastair Cameron to speak.)
- **April: Unity in the Community** (Helping those seeking refuge in Glasgow. Pol Yates to speak.)
- **May: Bhopal Medical Appeal** (David Turner to speak.)
- **June: Britain Yearly Meeting funds.**

22/12 – Wiston Lodge – Wiston Lodge has been booked for the weekend of September 6-8, 2013. There will be a meeting this week of those involved in this year's planning, to work out how we can best carry out the necessary jobs.

Most who attended Wiston this year felt it was successful. We thank Rufus Reade, Anna Mitchell and Lux Anderson for their planning, Kerry Oliver for handling the bookings, and Deirdre Armstrong for later extra support. The weekend was much appreciated by Friends from Polmont.

23/12 – Mini Mart – We have heard from Kerry Oliver, who has been co-ordinating mini-mart. She feels that it is now time to re-assess whether we should continue to give the money raised from mini-mart (around £25 per month at most) to Wiston Lodge, for whom it is a token contribution, though a token of our emotional support. Kerry has proposed that the money might be used: to add to our monthly special collections; to give to a small charity which would benefit proportionately more from the small amount which we raise; or to contribute to our own Wiston Lodge costs, which are currently partly met from Local Meeting funds.

Kerry has also asked us to consider whether we still wish to have mini-mart every month: it could be held four times a year, which might make it more of a special event, or we might consider it time to lay it down entirely.

David Somervell felt that even our small contribution was not insignificant to Wiston Lodge. We agree to add Wiston Lodge to our list of special collections (September 2013). From the end of this year, we will no longer send monthly contributions to Wiston Lodge. Instead we will send the money to a small charity such as Lendwithcare.org. We invite more specific proposals to be considered more fully at our next meeting.

Mini-mart is generally appreciated, particularly the fresh produce and home baking. We agree to continue mini-mart on a monthly basis and to re-market and re-enthuse people. We accept Kerry's offer to continue organising, and will review in 6 months. We thank Kerry for her work to date.

We ask those responsible for notices to remind people of mini-mart the week before, and for it also to be announced at Portobello/Musselburgh meeting.

24/12 – Sign outside Open Door – David Somervell will follow up on this and report to our next meeting.

25/12 – Quaker Council for European Affairs – We have received an email from Marion Fairweather asking our meeting to consider subscribing to their newsletter, *Around Europe* or to become an Associate Member. Based in Brussels, QCEA is our liaison with the European political institutions. It carries out in-depth research which it reports, and lobbies MEPs and civil servants on matters of interest to Friends. We agree to become associate members at a cost of £32 per annum. We ask Stasa Morgen-Appel to read the reports and keep us informed of any items of interest.

26/12 – Christmas/Winter Feast – All are invited to a discussion on a Quaker View of Christmas, on December 9th at 7 Victoria Terrace, which will help unpack our ideas.

There will be an event at Wiston Lodge on a Sunday before Christmas – more details and exact date will appear in the newsletter.

We agree to hold a bring and share meal after meeting for worship on **December 16** (subject to plans of Children's Committee). The focus will be celebration both of our community and of the religious festivals of this season. We invite Jane Lewis to lead some singing, with both Christian and non-Christian songs. We recognise that Friends have differing theologies and view of the Christmas festival, and we aim to celebrate the diversity of our approaches to the Light. Feeding each other and sharing food is sacred work.

We remind Friends of the opportunities which exist for service in the community at this season.

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

MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

Singing the Goddess Workshop, Sat 10th Nov, 2-5 pm, St. John's Church Hall Princes St/ Lothian Rd. Pieces mostly from Earth spirituality and feminist spirituality movements. For more info contact Stasa Morgan-Appel or see reclaimingscotia.wordpress.com

Morningside Justice and Peace Group meets at the Open Door on Wednesdays 10.30 am for 1 hour.

7 Nov Collateral damage: meeting the complex needs of veterans returning to civilian life. James Meah, Veterans First Point, NHS Lothian

14 Nov Ethics and Religion: an odd couple? Richard Holloway, Writer and Broadcaster

21 Nov The environmental and social consequences of extracting marginal sources of fuel. Rob Edwards, Writer and Journalist

28 Nov China's present and future role in the world. Dr Daniel Hammond, Lecturer Chinese Politics and Society, University of Edinburgh

5 Dec Church and State in Political Engagement. Dr Matteo Bonotti, Lecturer, Religion and Politics, Open Studies, University of Edinburgh

Worship/worship-sharing at Full Moon Tue 27th Nov, 6.45 for 7, contact Stasa Morgan-Appel

Unpacking Christmas facilitated worship-sharing/worship-discussion session at Central Edinburgh, **Sun 9 Dec**, 1 pm

Meeting with Ian Murray MP – Open Door **Sat 19th Jan** at 12.30pm. Planning Nov 11th.

The newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month, with deadline the preceding Sunday. Please send items and comments to Neil, neilturn@gmail.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A bumper month: Happy Birthday to:

Aran who will be 9 on the 1st

Athena who will be 9 on the 26th

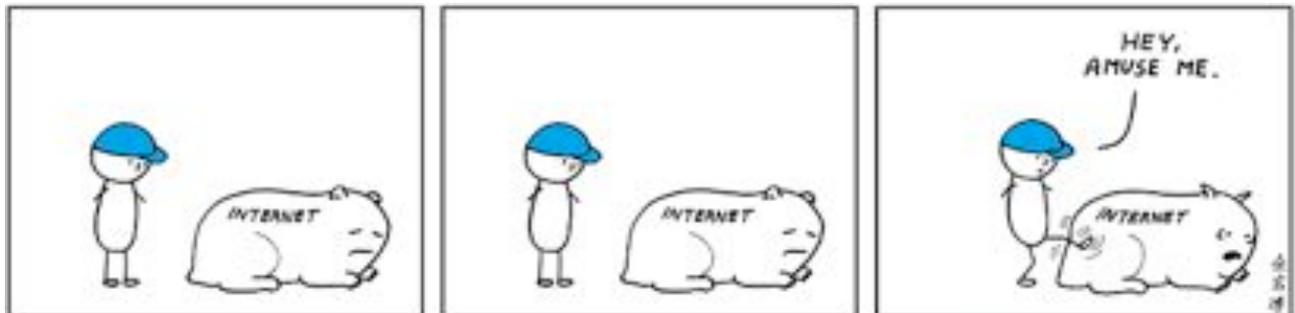
Daniel who will be 11 on the 28th

On your birthday you get to say "All Your Base Are Belong To Us"



UNMISSABLE ONLINE

Our **Facebook Group of the Month** is [Northern Lighthouse Board](#) (374 Likes).



abstrusegoose.com

Sometimes it's just not in the mood.