



# Terrace Talk

## Highlights of Newsletter, Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting September 2020

### WHAT'S INSIDE includes:

- Reopening the Meeting House safely .. what might content us, p1
- Climate emergency - what we can do, and are doing .. p2
- Black Lives Matter - new Quaker study groups, p7

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### DIARY DATES:

2 September: Area Meeting, p8

6 September: Meeting for Worship for Business, p1

8 September: Talk on Race & Climate Justice, p8

12 September: General Meeting - guest speaker from *Christian Aid*, p8



**BIRTHDAYS:** Katie Q, 8; Caleb F, 3; Joel H, 12. Happy Birthday!

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To obtain the **Meeting Link for our Meeting for Worship on Zoom every Sunday at 11:** contact [office@equaker.org.uk](mailto:office@equaker.org.uk)

**Weird to have no Festival Fringe this August in the Meeting House!** In the absence, Madaleine Moffat suggests we all share more things that inspire and cheer. Ideas welcome for Terrace Talk please!

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### Returning to Victoria Terrace Meeting House ...

*At the end of July, elders and the Meeting House Management Committee invited Friends' views on how to plan for resumed activities. 40 responses to the questionnaire were received. Laragh Quinney reports:*

#### **Resuming Meeting for Worship in person**

Friends have clearly missed the experience of worshipping together in person. When asked how soon they wished to resume, 55% wished to do so either as soon as possible, or as soon as Trustees deemed it to be safe.

Re safety measures: 88% of respondents would be happy to book a place to attend Meeting. 98% would be happy for their details to be temporarily held for Track and Trace purposes. 90% would be happy for the Meeting to be held across more than one room if necessary. 93% would be happy to bring their own food or drink if necessary. Several detailed suggestions were received on how the Meeting might manage numbers, and these have been passed to Elders.

#### **Meeting for Worship via Zoom**

Most of those responding had attended Meeting for Worship via Zoom during lockdown, and of these 83% do not usually experience problems. Zoom was described as a 'lifeline' for some Friends. There was appreciation of the Meeting House Managers, Clerks and Elders for enabling the Zoom Meetings. There were comments, however, that Meeting via Zoom is a very different experience, which can be less engaging. Some Friends experience issues with noise, or network problems.

#### **A blended Future?**

Going forwards, 88% of respondents felt that we should plan for a blended Meeting for Worship, with those gathering in person at Victoria Terrace joining the online Zoom Meeting. 60% felt that resuming in person

Meetings should wait until the necessary technology was in place to allow this, The Meeting House Managers have been setting up such a system. This should help us to support the 45% of respondents who do not feel ready to resume meeting in person.

All responses were collated, and shared with Elders, to inform the plans for returning to Victoria Terrace. Thank you to all Friends who participated for your detailed, thoughtful submissions.

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## Green Light

Welcome! This is the first of a new series about what we and others can do, and are doing, about the climate emergency. It's partly inspired by words from Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and UN Commissioner on Human Rights:

*First of all, make climate change personal in your life. Second: 'Get angry and get active'. The third step – and I think this is the most important - we have to imagine the world that we want to hurry towards.*

Over the next few months, Terrace Talk will focus on: *In the Home; How We Travel; What We Buy; Land Use and Marine; Energy; the Circular Economy*. If you or any other Scottish Friends, have interesting stories to tell about how you are addressing the climate emergency in any of these areas, please share asap with [teditors@gmail.com](mailto:teditors@gmail.com)

We start this month with FOOD. Our city council recently launched [Edinburgh Talks Climate](#), a place where people can find tips, share ideas, inspire others, and take local action to help address the climate emergency. They want to hear from people about the sustainable food choices we've made, or how we've managed to reduce food waste, [join the discussion](#).

### Here's a quiz to get you going:

1. How many people in the UK suffer food poverty or food insecurity? (it's the worst in Europe)
2. A lot of junk food is eaten. What percentage of people in the UK are either obese or overweight?
3. How much does Type two diabetes alone cost the NHS a year?
4. What percentage of UK overall waste comes from what's in our bins on a household level? And how much of that gets recycled?
5. Global agribusiness is worth £2.4 trillion every year. It is concentrated in the hands of a small number of very large and powerful organisations. How many?
6. How many companies control seed population?
7. How many companies control 70% of the agrochemicals business that supports that industrial agriculture system?
8. How many supermarkets control the food market?
9. What percentage of fruit that we eat is produced at home?

Answers on last page

### Some ideas about what we need:

- a future rooted in agroecology, ie food and farming for the benefit of the climate, in harmony with nature.
- the avoidance of food waste
- the amount of meat in our diet reduced to healthy levels (specially beef and lamb, which produce lots of methane)
- Increased production of home-produced food to protect against the sudden disruption of vulnerable 'just-in-time' imported food supplies flown around the world.
- much stronger policy frameworks to restrict or ban the selling of unhealthy food, and food produced in damaging ways.
- international measures to stop the concentration of food power in the hands of such a small number of countries.
- the encouragement of vertical farming in cities and urban centres.

Maybe worth having a look at a 20-minute talk and slides by Professor Tim Lang, City University: How changing the way we consume food can reduce emissions This was part of the wide-ranging material prepared for the Climate Assembly earlier this year <https://www.climateassembly.uk/> - the material really is a fantastic resource. Over 100 UK citizens took part. Their recommendations to the government about how to get to net-zero by 2050 are due to be published this month.

### What Friends in our Area Meeting are doing



*THE PENICUIK STOREHOUSE is a community-owned enterprise with a small shop selling coffee and pastries and a range of healthy locally grown organic and fair trade fruit, veg and other produce. It is also a great deal more ...Our Friend, Jane Kelly, tells the story:*

30 years ago, when Roger and I wanted organic, fairtrade, environmentally-sound produce for our family which we found hard to source locally, we began to buy in bulk and opened a weekly “not-for-profit shop” for 2 hours each Saturday to sell the surplus. Gradually this evolved into an enterprise listed in green magazines. In the mid-1990s we became a collecting point for organic vegetable boxes as well as surplus produce from our own and others gardens. The hallway of our house became a hub for like-minded people to exchange ideas and make friends.

We began a local Quaker meeting, then we all started a Development Trust with a weekly Open House in the Town Hall and a weekly public cinema. By 2008, we planned a food-growing initiative in a local walled garden and began hosting the first of 200 help-exchange helpers from around the world. Local and corporate volunteers joined our growing initiative, we got £30,000 *Climate Challenge* funding from the Scottish Government, and many of us felt empowered to turn our growing into a 7- day retail community hub to help eradicate food poverty and food waste.

In the summer of 2015 we planned offering shares in a community benefit society to take on big empty premises in the town’s High Street. This is a society entirely for community benefit, not member benefit, with strict democratic rules. Our proposals coincided with a Scottish Government community initiative to

reverse decay in town centres, and we applied and were granted £150,000 towards our capital costs. With local schools' involvement, we set about raising more thousands from the public in £25 shares. With hard work by local schoolkids and 100% doorstep leaflet drop, we met our targets and the capital grants conditional on that fundraising were paid. There were many obstacles of illness, resignations, unforeseen building problems and time delays, but the supporters held together and in November 2017 we transferred Roger's weekly shop to a 7-days-a-week operation - the Storehouse. Thanks to a grant from the *Scottish Land Fund*, we were also able to purchase our building outright from its original owners, the Co-op, instead of renting it on a long lease.

Keeping the dream alive has taken plenty of energy. We have a community benefit society: *Penicuik Community Alliance Ltd*, to run the place. To begin with, volunteers ran the food shop, but now, with the help of grants from the *Climate Challenge Fund*, we employ 3 people who have brought the dream forward in leaps and bounds.

### ***A Sustainable Community Hub***

The whole purpose is to reconnect people with their own food production and supply, with issues of food poverty, community nutrition and food waste.

From its beginnings in the 2015 share offer, *The Storehouse* has always had a strong presence on social media. Its selfless band of loyal customers and volunteers has given our community remarkable resilience throughout COVID19 lockdown. In the face of the inevitable building control delays, we have a busy working shop, fresh produce suppliers, a refillery, heating systems, two street frontages, a passenger lift installed and the basis of a community café. To prepare for this before lockdown, we ran a weekly free community café in a nearby church hall. An indoor market is planned together with a lot more social and training space once the big upper floor is fitted out. The community has no shortage of ideas!

From the start, the Storehouse has supplied delicious whole milk to customers in returnable glass bottles from an independent farm on the Isle of Gigha by sharing a pre-existing delivery route. During the great winter freeze two years ago when supermarket milk supplies couldn't reach this town and undelivered milk in transit was being emptied to waste, our usual deliveries got through.

***Response to the pandemic*** The Storehouse was ready to step up to community's needs when the pandemic began. In the weeks before lockdown our business was already running at double its historic level. With central and local government support, the Storehouse became a focus for supplies to the vulnerable and isolated. And with many of the previous helpers shielded at home, a new army of volunteers stepped forward, making facemasks, putting safety systems in place, packing fresh produce and grocery boxes, delivering to households and collecting daily flour supplies from our local mill, working flat out. Our community shop manager played a key role and the shop remains open seven days a week.

Currently vocational training is being given to youngsters for a 3-week period, leading to possible longer and more lasting involvement. This is proving popular. It's not restricted to retail. There are opportunities with IT, with hospitality, with building work, with local identity and with growing food. Working at many levels and through local events, the Storehouse will aim to extend the reach of recycling and zero waste, with a clear place in the very heart of the town and its community.

*And over in America?* How do you persuade Trump to believe climate change is happening? Tell him Obama didn't care about it...

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*The corn was orient and immortal wheat, which never should be reaped, nor was ever sown. I thought it had stood from everlasting to everlasting.* Thomas Traherne, Centuries of Meditation

## Deepening our Spiritual Life

### *In the Life*

My piece was pat and all ready to say,  
She rose first. I threw my piece away.  
My well-turned stuff  
Was not so rough  
As hers, but easy elegant and smooth.  
Beginning middle end  
It had and point  
And aptly quoted prophet priest and poet.  
Hers was uncouth  
Wanting in art  
Laboured scarce-audible and out of joint.  
Three times she lost the thread  
And sitting left her message half unsaid.  
*'Why then did thee throw it  
Into the discard?'*  
Friend,  
It had head  
(Like this). Hers oh had heart.  
*Robert Hewison, 1965*

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## Witnessing to our Faith in Action

### **Special appeal for September: International Voluntary Service (IVS)**

*Richard Williams, of our clerking team, has been a volunteer with IVS for many decades and currently Company Secretary. He writes:*

The international movement of which IVS is a part started in the aftermath of World War One in 1920, when Pierre Ceresole, a Swiss pacifist who became a Quaker, set up a reconstruction project near Verdun in France in which participants from the countries which had been at war worked and lived together in a spirit of brotherhood.

The first project in Britain took place in 1931 in Bryn Mawr, where Friends had a poverty and unemployment relief project. The IVS project attracted volunteers from Norway and continental Europe as well as Young Friends and others from Britain. By the end of 1931, 116 volunteers had built a swimming pool, a children's paddling pool and a park in land donated by the Duke of Beaufort and contributed a total of 47,000 volunteer-days of labour.

89 years later IVS is an organisation which still facilitates the exchange of volunteers to undertake community work in more than 80 countries. In 2020, despite Covid-19, some volunteers are giving their labour for 2 – 4 weeks, 15-20 volunteers are spending 1 – 12 months in Britain, and a similar number via the EU funded Erasmus+ programme elsewhere in Europe.

Through IVS's sister branches and partners around the world volunteers are experiencing living abroad and learning from different cultures and people, while getting deeply involved with a concrete project that is for the benefit of the local community.

Support IVS and donate via <https://ivsgb.org/donate-2/> Or donate to IVS account: Bank of Scotland sort code 80-20-00 Account No: 00358054

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### Local business meeting Sunday 6 September 2020, 12.15 pm, by Zoom

Will include discussion about how to reopen the Meeting House safely; memorial minutes; financial update; and update on Quaker Week.



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### **Social/community building**

To obtain the links, contact [office@equaker.org.uk](mailto:office@equaker.org.uk)

**Coffee mornings on 3rd and 17th September at 10.30 am**

**Singing** at 7.30 on Tuesday 1 September at 7.30.

**Book Group** Sunday 27 September at 12.30 following Meeting for Worship. Thomas Keneally *The Daughters of Mars*.

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### **People**

Sad to report that **Jim Pym** was taken to the Western General Hospital on Friday, 21 August, following a fall at his home, in which he fractured three ribs. Only one visitor on a regular basis is allowed by the hospital, but cards to Jim in Ward 27, or via Annie, would be most welcome. The staff are helping to manage the pain and to build up his strength again, prior to his return home. Your thoughts and prayers will be much appreciated.

### **Request for accommodation:**

An MSc student at Edinburgh University seeks a room in central Edinburgh from September. George is the son of a Quaker living at a distance from Edinburgh. Contact [office@equaker.org.uk](mailto:office@equaker.org.uk)

### **Artworks on Meeting House railings**



*Sue Proudlove writes:* Our railings are one of the latest sites for the Black Lives Matter Mural Trail, which now includes installations in several Scottish cities. Wezi Mhura, the project coordinator, has assembled a talented group of Scottish artists from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, and 'our' panels are by Ayo Adedeji. Ayo is studying art and animation at the moment, and was very excited about his artworks being on public display on our railings. Other artists' work can be seen at The Hub, Dancebase, The Queen's Hall, and many other locations - see Wezi's website for details:

<https://www.wezi.uk/blm-mural-trail/>

## Deaths

**Nan Stewart**, born Annie Fawkes on 4 October, 1918 in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, died quietly and peacefully at home in North Berwick on Monday 20 July 2020.

**Mal Cowtan**, husband of Derek McLean, Orkney LM, passed away peacefully in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Wednesday 5 August. A private burial took place on 20 August at Cloverly Woods of Rest, Fyvie, in Aberdeenshire. Mal was buried beside a silver birch, his favourite tree. Mal had been a member of our meeting for many years. John Phillips has more information for anyone who knew him.

**Ron Halliday** of South Edinburgh meeting died on 6 August 2020. He had had a severe stroke a couple of weeks before that and never fully regained consciousness. Family were able to be with him, and a small funeral according to Ron's wishes was held last week at Mortonhall.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/scotsman-uk/obituary.aspx?n=ronald-halliday&pid=196620595>

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## AM

### Black Lives Matter: new Quaker Study Groups

South Edinburgh Local Meeting want to learn more about our implicit role in systemic injustice - especially that experienced by people of colour here and across the world. And this concern was adopted by SE Scotland Area Meeting this June.

*David Somervell continues:* Friends and Attenders were invited to express interest in joining a group and 23 have done so. Four 'Best Times' have emerged: A: Mondays 7.30-9pm; B: Thursdays 6-7.30pm; C: Fridays 10.30- 2noon; D: Fridays 6-7.30pm

Additional expressions of Interest are now invited from others who would now like to join one of the groups - probably meeting once a month September to December, and in groups smaller than eight.

Sessions may be 90 minutes or 2 hours - decided by the group. Short video / book / articles might be discussed initially. Probable first book is Reni Eddo-Lodge's book, *Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race*. You can get it from

<https://www.lighthousebookshop.com/shop/book/why-im-no-longer-talking-to-white-people-about-race.md>

If interested, please register via [office@equaker.org.uk](mailto:office@equaker.org.uk)

## Race & Climate Justice

AM are to co-host a meeting about this on Zoom, **8 Sept, 6-8pm**. Geoff Palmer, Professor Emeritus at Heriot Watt University, will reflect on how structural racism impacts not just people of colour, but also all of us in a country dominated by a continuing colonialism.

Sign up here: <https://race8sept.eventbrite.co.uk>. Our role as hosts includes sharing in facilitating break-out sessions; contact David Somervell if you are able to help.

## Next Area Meeting - Wednesday 2 September at 7pm

The AM newsletter SESAME is available on <https://quakerscotland.org/south-east>

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## General Meeting

*Next Meeting:* 12 September, 10.15 -3pm. Zoom details to be circulated nearer the time.

**Sally Foster-Fulton from Christian Aid Scotland**, will speak about aspects of *Christian Aid* work, followed by breakout groups to discuss questions set by Sally. There will be updates on the preparations for our Local Development Worker in Scotland; how GM work continues during the Coronavirus restrictions; on our parliamentary engagement work; and on steps to improve our communications. Also one of our Young Friends will tell us about the online Shindig held in August.

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## Britain Yearly Meeting

**And finally, returning to climate action, alongside peace and justice... if you are 16-35, is this next for you?**

A group of young Quakers working with *Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)* is running a series of five Saturday online 90-minute workshops to build a community of young Quakers around the world who are interested in these subjects.

The first workshop was on 29 August, but you can still sign up for any of others on 12 and 26 September, and 10 and 24 October. Each will be based on one of the Quaker testimonies - *Truth, Peace, Justice, Simplicity, and Community* - and will include speakers, small group discussions, and a chance to share experiences and reflect together. All Friends aged 16-35 are welcome.

<http://fwcc.world/young-friends-worldwide-for-climate-action-peace-and-justice>

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*Terrace Talk* is published normally on the last Sunday of each month (or 1st of next month if very close). Please provide copy for the next issue by end of Tuesday 22 September. Please include complete and accurate information, and contact name and phone number. Send copy in plain text form to [teditors@gmail.com](mailto:teditors@gmail.com) (preferred), or phone editor on 0131 558 7180. We appreciate Quaker simplicity. To unsubscribe, e-mail editors. We also welcome comments and feedback.

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## Answers to quiz:

1. 2.2 million; 2. 75%; 3. £12 billion a year; 4. 12%, half; 5. 4; 6. 4; 7. 4; 8.4; 9. Less than 20%. We import a lot of exotic tropical foods that we can't grow here.