



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

FEBRUARY 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** at Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for half an hour; and **4<sup>th</sup> Sun** at **10.30 am** at 3 Esplanade Terrace.

**At Barony St: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** for one year from March 2010. 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

**February's** special collection is for **Quaker Social Action** which has worked in East London since 1867 to resource and enable people living on low incomes. [www.quakersocialaction.com](http://www.quakersocialaction.com)

Save resources by downloading me from [quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)

### LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

**Mini-Mart** is after Meeting on the first Sunday of each month.

**Discussion after meeting** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> on Special Collections in the year ahead. Prior to the session, we will circulate some brief prompts to help F/friends to reflect in advance on points they may wish to bring to the discussion. (Mary Woodward and Hilary Davies)

**Area Meeting** will be hosted by us at South Edinburgh on Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at 2pm.

### OTHER EVENTS THIS MONTH

**New Book Group.** Third Sundays at 1pm; talk to Rachel Frith or suggest the first books at Victoria Terrace after meeting on **20<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship** – NOTE CHANGE OF DAY – now meets on **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays** (instead of 3<sup>rd</sup> as previously), 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors) Contact Mary Woodward or [edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com](mailto:edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com).

**Living Witness Day** on **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** afternoon at Victoria Terrace. Friends are invited set up a Quaker Sharing System akin to LETS (Local Exchange Trading System). We will identify what we want and have to offer and engage with those we think may meet our needs with their own offers and requests. This is designed to be as much about building community as getting stuff done. In the evening of the same day and in the same spirit, we will be holding DIY ceilidh. That is a bring and share your talents event. Readings, songs, Poems, a miscellaneous party piece affair. Contact Simon Jackson.

**Singing Group** meets on second Tuesday of each month at Victoria Terrace. 'Singers with perfect pitch very welcome!'. Contact Rachel Frith. Also **Taize singing** with the Penicuik Vault Singers in the sequence Penicuik, Dunfermline, Crichton and Rosslyn at 3.15 on Sundays. Contact Rachel Frith who can also offer lifts to most venues.

**Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Reading the bible with Friends** Third Tuesdays, 7pm at Victoria Terrace. Currently looking at Romans. More info at <http://bit.ly/9JgoU0>. Contact Alastair Reid, 447 4191 or [AlastairReid@btinternet.com](mailto:AlastairReid@btinternet.com)

## LEARNING

### Morningside Justice and Peace Group

promotes informed opinion on matters of concern. Meetings every Wed during autumn and spring, 10.30am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road in Edinburgh. Contribution of £1 requested.

[www.morningsidejandp.org](http://www.morningsidejandp.org)

**2 February** – Jeff Collin, Course Director, Global Public Health & Social Policy, University of Edinburgh: Public Health - winners and losers across the world

**9 February** – Isobel Lindsay, Writer and Journalist: The future of Scottish Education

**16 February** – Dr Mark Aspinwall, International Relations, Univ. Edinburgh: Powering ahead: recent economic tigers - China, India and Brazil

The next six meetings will be concerned with the May Scottish Parliamentary elections. Candidates will present their policy on Local Government, Education and Environment. Other areas may be raised during discussion.

**23 February** Margo MacDonald, Independent MSP

### Introduction to world faiths

The Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association is again organising a 10 week evening class from Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. Weekly presenters from each tradition with notes and Q&A sessions. 0131 228 8146 for more info. St John's Church, Princes Street EH2 4BJ

[www.eifa.org.uk/worldreligions.html](http://www.eifa.org.uk/worldreligions.html)

### University of Edinburgh Gifford Lectures: Science, Religion and Modernity

By Peter Harrison, Professor of Science and Religion at Oxford University. The series will offer a revised history of science-religion interactions in the West. It will consider the way in which religious concerns have shaped the study of nature over the past 2000 years, with a particular focus on the changing boundaries of science and religion. It will be argued that these two ideas - science and religion - are distinctively Western and modern, that they are mutually interdependent, and that a recognition of their history will help revise our understanding of their present relations.

Dates: 14, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 24 Feb 2011

Venue: St Cecilia's Hall, Cowgate, EH1 1NQ

All at 5.30 pm, free but ticketed: contact [lynn.hyams@ed.ac.uk](mailto:lynn.hyams@ed.ac.uk) or telephone 651 3168.

## RECOMMENDED ...

### Books, films, ....

#### Your recommendations here!

Items up to 50 words welcome by email or scrawled on the back of an envelope or sheep.

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## Making a loan to the Area Meeting

### *An appeal from the Area Meeting Treasurer*

An initiative is aimed at Improving the environmental quality of Victoria Terrace meeting house and making it more attractive for all who use it.

During 2010 the Area Meeting decided to take forward a programme of improvements to the meeting house at 7 Victoria Terrace, including replacing the windows of the meeting room and the hall with double-glazed units, refurbishing the kitchen and refurbishing the toilet areas. A small fundraising group was appointed and they have been working on an Appeal designed to raise funds for this work. This will be launched during the summer of 2011.

However, the Trustees would like to complete the work of replacing the windows as soon as possible. They are looking for Friends who could make an **interest-free loan** to the meeting for a period of about two years (while the Appeal is under way) to help to fund this initial work.

Could you lend the meeting a few thousand pounds for two years?

If so, please speak in confidence with John Phillips or Caroline Evens, or send one of them an email message (John: [john.h.phillips@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:john.h.phillips@blueyonder.co.uk), Caroline: [sesamtreasurer@googlemail.com](mailto:sesamtreasurer@googlemail.com)).

## THE ROCK TRUST

- Was our special collection in January
- An account of it is given below from David Turner
- After meeting on Feb 20th there will be a discussion about future collections
- What are your thoughts?

In the mid 1990's, inner city churches became aware of an ever-increasing number of young people sleeping in unsafe or poor accommodation. Under the leadership of a charismatic Anglican, Brother Basil, a trust was established; the first members of the management board being drawn from the major denominations. Funding was achieved for the purchase of a number of properties. Around ten young people in need were identified and invited to share accommodation, three or four in each flat, with a slightly older person as flatmate to give practical and emotional support – a key role to success. So the Rock Trust was born, and soon this initial provision, known as “Bedrock” was followed by the offer to the young people, when the time was agreed to be right, of single tenancies with continuing, though lessening, support – to be called “Stepping Stones”. All being well after a period, permanent accommodation could follow through arrangement with the local authority, and again a close watch was kept by the Trust staff to detect, at an early stage, signs of difficulty.

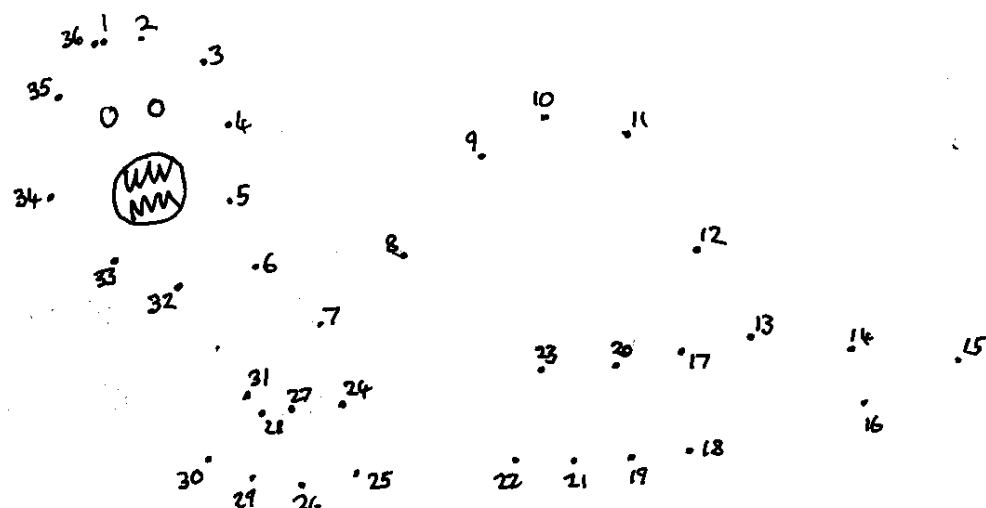
Soon, young mothers in danger of homelessness were being catered for in rented flats, with appropriate support. A Befriending Scheme, based on a model devised by Edinburgh Friends, was put in place for both young tenants and others seeking a “buddy”. A Friend was asked to be the Convenor of the Scheme, to be called “Keystone” and to be a Board member.

Over the years the Trust's work has blossomed profusely. There is now a Drop-in Centre that promotes healthy living, The Underground, classes in cooking and other self care, a Networks project fostering social experience, a Mediation service to resolve family and other conflicts and most recently a scheme to help young people “give something back” if willing – volunteering to work with charities fundraising and more general community engagement/integration (the Movers and Shakers).

This is just a flavour of an even wider picture. What next one wonders? The compassion, the flair, the commitment continues, though in an ever more difficult funding environment as local authority support diminishes. The churches remain the basic financial as well as spiritual underpinning of the amazing organisation. Friends have supported from an early stage and hopefully this support will continue to be generous.

David Turner

## From the children



## NEWS

### AFTERWORDS at the end of meeting

Through January and February, after the close of meeting, and before notices, there will be a brief opportunity for [Afterwords or prayer requests](#). This is a time when anyone may speak of anything that has been on their mind during meeting that didn't seem suitable to offer as ministry (or for which there wasn't time), or may ask for a person or situation (including themselves), to be held in the Light.

Although not part of the formal meeting, 'afterwords and prayer requests' is still held in the spirit of meeting for worship and therefore is not a discussion, or a chance to respond to ministry in a way that wouldn't be done during worship. The main point is to offer the chance for people to share concerns and thoughts that are not ministry as such but that may be important in terms of sharing with each other in the things which are eternal.

### Closure of Scottish Churches House

Scottish Churches House has been running at a substantial loss, and in January members confirmed the decision of the trustees of Action of Churches Together in Scotland to close it from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011. [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org)

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Welcome new babies** – Sun 13<sup>th</sup> March, 11am at Central Edinburgh Meeting. This is an Area Meeting event to which friends, attenders and babies from all meetings are welcome. Contact Madeleine Harding with any queries.

**Networking for Sustainability** Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April. 1.00 till 5.00 at Central Edinburgh Meeting House. Representatives from local meetings will tell us of their vision concerns and projects related to the environment and climate change issues. We are interested in what individuals do in their own quiet way to face up to this responsibility, and what we can learn from one another. Contact Simon Jackson.

**Summer Shindig** for younger friends – dates fixed are Sat 6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

**Wiston Lodge** is booked for the weekend of **16-18 September**. Emma and Mary-Jane are organising activities.

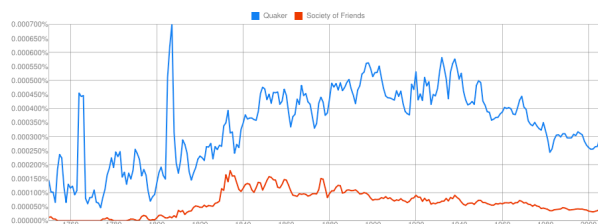
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To **Yoni** who will be 6 on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

And to **Saul** who will be 14 on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## UNMISSABLE ON THE WEB

**Quaker vs. Society of Friends** in Google Ngram Viewer <http://bit.ly/fsvd1F> This shows the usage of these words/phrases (or any others that you choose) in hundreds of thousands of books from 1750-2008. Hours of addictive fun.



This month's featured Facebook group: **Edinburgh University Quaker Society** (23 members).



Our previously featured group **I bet I can find 1,000,000 Quakers on Facebook** now has 4,183 members. That's less than in June – come on!

**YOUR STORY HERE** – The newsletter is usually distributed on and just before the last Sunday of each month. Send things you'd like to see to Neil Turner, [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com). The official deadline is the 2nd last Sunday.

**Read this (and more) online at**  
[www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)