



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

February 2021



### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

In-person meetings are suspended again.

Up to 25 Friends each week have been joining our meetings via Zoom, every **Sunday 10.30 am**. Instructions in emails. email list details are at <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>

If you have problems joining via Zoom, Martin Burnell may be able to help.

### QUAKER EVENTS

A **Special General Meeting** to discuss the future use of technology and blended meetings will be held on **Sat 6 Feb**, 10-11.30 am. You need to register in advance – see emails from GM.

Our Local Meeting for Business will be held at 1pm on **Sun Feb 28**.

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South Edinburgh Friends are very welcome to join the following Edinburgh Central Meeting events. All via Zoom: details from [rachel.frith@waitrose.com](mailto:rachel.frith@waitrose.com)

**Singing Group** – meets on **Tue 2 Feb** 7.30 pm

**Online coffee** – bring your own to an online conversation, 10.30 on **1st and 3rd Thursdays**.

**Book Group** – 12.15 (after Central MfW) on **Sun 28 Feb**, to discuss *The Snow and the Work on the Northern Line* by Ruth Thomas.

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### SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in February will be for **The Samaritans**, which is dedicated to preventing suicide. Ola Uduku will speak to this. [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) – there's a Donate button on their home page.

[More Events and News on the back page](#)





WE ARE 50. This was us in July 2010. *Rufus Reade*

Rufus has extended Ronald Halliday's history of South Edinburgh Meeting in the January issue of SESAME, in honour of our 50th anniversary. .

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## Are you ready for 2021?

BYM Recording Clerk Paul Parker explored some stark challenges for Quakers in 2021 in a BYM blog post in December. Extracts shown below, full post at [www.quaker.org.uk/blog/are-you-ready-for-2021](http://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/are-you-ready-for-2021)

### Quakers are invisible

We can be hard to find and hard to find out about. The move to worshipping online – which most meetings have managed to make so well – has made it even harder. Are we ready to make our Quakerism visible in 2021? Is our public face on display? What will we do to invite people to experience Quaker worship?

### Our meetings are fragile

The median Quaker meeting has 21 members, down from 24 in 2009. Where there is growth, it's in smaller meetings, rather than larger.

For some, the chance to see Friends online has been a precious time of connection in a lonely and disorientating year. But Friends who can't – or don't want to – worship online have been slipping away. Our children and young people have – in many meetings, not all – disappeared from view.

Are we thinking how to reconnect, rebuild and strengthen our Quaker community?

### There is work to do

The world around us is in crisis. Covid-19 has starkly exposed the pandemic of inequality in our society – manifesting through racial, economic and climate injustices. And we live in an uneasy time – one in which our divisions are deliberately exploited and polarised for political gain. We too get drawn into toxic debates, sometimes forgetting the power of listening and human connection in a time of mistrust of institutions and opposing tribes.

Are we ready to play our part in building the community we seek? Are we building bridges – personally, locally, nationally and internationally – which will help the world recover?

Are we willing to stand alongside those whose need is greatest, to use our voice to influence change? And are we willing to be silent, when it is another's voice which needs to be heard?

Thanks to Rosemary Hartill for highlighting this in January's *Terrace Talk*

## Eliza Wigham, Jane Wigham and two Johns

For our **Wikipedia pages of the month** we are indebted to the research of John Phillips of Central Meeting.

**Eliza Wigham** (1820-99) was a leading Scottish abolitionist and secretary of the Edinburgh Ladies' Emancipation Society. Much of her campaigning was undertaken with her stepmother **Jane Wigham** (née Smeal; 1801-88). Jane had led the radical Glasgow Ladies Emancipation Society, and her brother William had founded its forerunner, the Glasgow Anti-Slavery Society, in 1822. In 1840 Jane married the widowed **John Tertius Wigham**, described as a cotton and shawl manufacturer in one entry, and as a tea merchant and abolitionist in another, and they settled in Edinburgh. Eliza's campaigns included joining in one of the first women-led political campaigns, defending rights of sex workers in the Ladies National Association for the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. "Your manifesto has shaken us very badly in the House of Commons: a leading man in the House remarked to me, 'We know how to manage any other opposition in the House or in the country, but this is very awkward for us, this revolt of women'".

More pages are linked from the foot of these ones. Outrageously unknown – Eliza Wigham: 2 views/day. Jane Wigham: 2 views/day. A sequence of fascinating pages linked from the foot of these.

The family lived at 5 South Gray Street until after the death of Eliza's parents and then her brother in 1897, after which Eliza moved to Dublin. Other members of the prosperous Wigham family were successful shipbuilders and lighthouse engineers.

Our Area Meeting benefits from the John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust. This is a later John Wigham. The trust was established from the legacy of Manera Wigham who died on 4 December 2001. Her husband John had died in 1968. The legacy of about £40,000 was received in 2002 with the following terms:

- It must be administered by three Trustees to be appointed by Central Edinburgh Preparative Meeting.
- It must be known as "The John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust".
- It must be maintained as a separate entity distinct from the other funds of the Society.
- The income from the fund and also as much of the capital as the Trustees see fit shall be used to provide "grants to deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures of life, the purpose of such grants being to provide the recipients with some additional comfort or pleasure of an exceptional nature over and above the usual necessities of life." The Trustees shall, as far as possible, "avoid giving consideration to any case which could be alleviated by application to the normal national or local government authorities."

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## Prayer

At the end of a meeting in January, we briefly shared views and experiences of prayer. Tim recommended Carol Ann Duffy's *Prayer*, which you can read in full, but it's just 14 lines, and also hear it read at [www.thepoetryexchange.co.uk/prayer-carol-ann-duffy](http://www.thepoetryexchange.co.uk/prayer-carol-ann-duffy)

It begins and ends like this:

Some days, although we cannot pray, a prayer  
utters itself.

...

Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer -  
Rockall. Malin. Dogger. Finisterre.



## NEWS

**Wandsworth prison needs hats** Underheated, old, and cold Victorian prison needs knitted hats for its 1,476 inmates. These cannot be black, or peaked, or have ear pieces, or any kind of slogan on them. 'Beanies and bobble hats welcome'; please send to Visitors Centre, Wandsworth Prison, 17 Heathfield Rd London SW18 3HR.

**Quaker Faith in Action** is a monthly email newsletter that includes events and resources from QPSW (Quaker Peace and Social ) and more widely. This is just one of several **free Quaker newsletters** you can sign up to at [www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters](http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters)

This month the focus in these is the UN treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons, and on COP26 and climate change.

Rici Marshall Cross points in particular to the **Loving Earth Project**, a craftivism response: <https://bit.ly/2MHRNao> has 92 panels on display. There is a Zoom workshop on creating them at 10 am on **Sat 6 Feb**: book at <https://bit.ly/3rkHHqz>

**Quaker Cabaret Climate Ceilidh** – Portobello and Musselburgh Meeting are organising an online ceilidh on Sat 27 March 7.30-10 pm. 20 x 5 minute slots envisage, primarily hosted and performed by their members, but all welcome. Book at <https://ctzn.tk/EquinoxCeilidh>

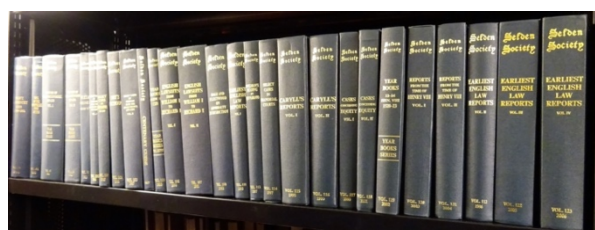
**Quaker United Nations Summer School** – 5-16 July – free this year, but virtual (no trip to Geneva). 25 participants age 20-26, keen to learn more on peace, disarmament, human rights, migration, climate change ... Application deadline 15 Feb. <https://quno.org/quaker-united-nations-summer-school>

**Britain Yearly Meeting 2021** will be online only, 31 July to 8 Aug. [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym)

## Something else

A Dog had been at Market to buy a Shoulder of Mutton; coming home he met two Dogs by the way, that quarreled with him; he laid down his Shoulder of Mutton, and fell to fighting with one of them; in the meantime the other Dog fell to eating his Mutton; he seeing that, left the Dog he was fighting with, and fell upon him that was eating; then the other Dog fell to eat; when he perceived there was no remedy, but which of them soever he fought withal, his Mutton was in danger, he thought he would save as much of it as he could, and thereupon gave over fighting, and fell to eating himself.

*John Selden 1584-1654, Table Talk*



Books published by the Selden Society. (GrindtXX, Wikimedia Commons). "A sentence per page, 300 per volume." (according only to rumour)

*Our newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Send your publishable thoughts (others also welcome) to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)*

*This edition, plus archives of previous issues, at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)*