



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

MARCH 2011



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### 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

**March's** special collection is for **Frontier Primary Health Care**. Madeline Patterson of Central Meeting has worked closely with this charity in the North West frontier of Pakistan for many years. <http://fphealthcare.webs.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.

**General meeting** will be held on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> March in Montrose; the Montrose Day Care Centre Pamure Place, 11-4. Directions as for Angus Meeting, map at [www.quakerscotland.org/angus](http://www.quakerscotland.org/angus). The special topic will be End of Life Assistance.

**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.

**Local meeting for business** after Meeting on Sun 20<sup>th</sup> March.

### OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

**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 about going and lifts.

**Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship** meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, 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) 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/9JgoU0>. Contact Alastair Reid, 447 4191 or [AlastairReid@btinternet.com](mailto:AlastairReid@btinternet.com)

**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.

**Book Group.** New! Usually Third Sundays at 1pm at Central Edinburgh Meeting House; here are the first six titles (Qs to Rachel Frith):

Sat 19 Mar at 10 East Parkside at 2 pm – Edmund de Waal *The Hare with Amber Eyes*  
Apr – Susan Hill *EM Forster is on the Landing*  
May – Andrei Makine *A Life's Music*  
Jun – Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin *Three Cups of Tea*  
July – Reginald Hill *Arms and the Women*  
Sep – Jane Gardam *Flight of the Maidens*

[More events on the Back Page](#)

## Cover Photo - Protests in London

Deidre sends the photo of Roisin Armstrong which appeared on a New Statesman blog after the first protest against the rise in tuition fees on 4 Dec which was billed as a 'carnival against the cuts'. She was asking the policeman 'how can you work for a government which is asking you to do this?' She said 'the police are going to get cut too' He said 'do you not think you are all misinformed?' and then 'you are always protesting about one thing or another' She asked 'have you got kids who might want to study? Will you be able to afford it?'

Not long afterwards she felt that picture was taken a very long time ago because so much had happened. At Millbank some of her friends were hurt by the police when they had done nothing. They had a demo the week after this where they got kettled which seems to mean the police standing at every place it might be possible to get out and barring the exit. She was there for 4 hours and some of her friends for 8. There were police charges which were scary. Then a week later another protest where they ran in small groups all over the place and the police could not keep up and there seemed to be less violence. After that a group of students including her occupied the library at Goldsmiths for a few days.

Then she was in Parliament Sq and she was terrified - not in the path of police horses but watching and then kettled, then managing to run out but with friends who then got kicked by police as they had been pushed over in a charge trying to get out. Very disillusioned with lib dems, police, British democracy etc.

It all seems so sad when they have so much energy and imagination and such a lot of humour!. There were lots of individual banners - 'don't put us in the red, cut trident instead', 'rich parents for everyone' They are so worried about what will happen to everyone when these tuition charges come in. There were a lot of school students on these demos too. What an amazing lot! [roisin.armstrong@hotmail.com](mailto:roisin.armstrong@hotmail.com)

## Wiston Lodge – South Edinburgh Meeting's weekend away, 10-12 September 2010

Our theme was **Community and Reflection**. From Friday evening's very warming and inclusive singing session with children joining us at the end, followed by help to relax from Susan Robertson and finding out about secret friends through to the chance to do Xiang Gong with Margaret on the grass in the sun – it was a weekend of community. Children and some adults took part in a puppetmaking workshop with Emma – wonderful figures emerged which then came to life at the ceilidh in the evening making us laugh! The other side of the theme – more reflectively a group spent time on 'Writing a spiritual journal' with Rachel. Those who took part found it powerful.

After lunch a group went on a walk up a local hill (not Tinto) with David with a lovely view while the children played games which became more and more energetic (for the adults who joined in!) but then we could relax with Margaret's gentle massage workshop.

Most of the adults took part in a discussion on 'Living in a Religious Community' led by Meg and Mary.

A wealth of knowledge appeared from several people which deepened the discussion. We could have spent longer but our energising delicious Wiston food called us .... The ceilidh was wonderfully MC'd by Daniel and had lots of contributions from jokes to songs to serious things. We finished it with a few dances – both ceilidh and circle dances.

### Sunday

After our Xiang Gong opportunity we had All Age Worship with Lanark Meeting and people from Penicuik and Peebles joined us. Emma describes the All Age Worship:

*I thought of the busyness that community can bring which gets in the way of reflection. My experience of the last years has been one of the necessity of the existence of communities for me personally to allow for space for reflection so I wanted to allow us to be busy as a community in a reflective manner, this meant doing something physical occupying our hands in such a way that our thought could be quietly directed. The activity was making an ornamental hanging: choosing and using beads, bells, shells and buttons - all fairly large and ornate.*

*Rufus talked about the tradition of hanging significant objects akin to rosary beads and the children offered the boxes and baskets of shells etc. Each member of the group had a length of fish wire with a wooden bead on the end as a stopper, onto which they could thread their beads etc. The silence was broken by the rustle and clink of beads etc, as each went to work. It was delightful, and many styles, lengths and patterns were created. Ministry followed and we listened to talk of distracters and distraction.*

*One person spoke of her discomfort in making her hanging; she found herself envying the beauty of another's creation. Another spoke of her hive whose queen bee had died and the necessity to distract the*

*other bees whilst she introduced a new queen otherwise the whole hive would not survive. For me it was a joy to share and interesting to think about how generally I view the concept of distraction in such a negative sense*

Finally we were inspired by an extraordinary illustrated talk by Catherine Holmes about her experiences living and working with South African children in a school for orphans.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making it such a diverse and yet wonderfully cohesive weekend.



See back page for info about this year's Wiston weekend

## Special Collections for the year ahead

We had a good after-meeting discussion about special collections on 20th Feb. A brief report will be circulated prior to the next Local Meeting. The general feeling was that having a different charity each month was a good idea, and that the best responses came when Friends spoke to a charity from some personal connection or enthusiasm.

We ask as many South Edinburgh Friends as possible to come to the next local business meeting on March 20th with their suggestions for charities they would like to see supported, and to which they will be willing to speak. We will continue to support the main Quaker funds [e.g. the Common Fund, which is used to support central Quaker work, and QPSW], and would like the other charities to fall within the four categories of **Local charities, Work in developing Countries, Peace, Charities for people on the margins** (e.g. prisons, asylum seekers).

Mary Woodward

## 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)).

## MORE EVENTS

**The Big Society in a Wee Country** – How will David Cameron's idea work in Scotland? Thur **10<sup>th</sup> March** 7-8.45pm at Godfrey Thomson Hall, Moray House, Canongate (through arch to St John St). [www.egfl.net/activecitizenship](http://www.egfl.net/activecitizenship)

**Middle Eastern Festival of Spirituality and Peace** takes place during March with talks and other events on Iran, prisons, peace, and more. See [www.mesp.org.uk](http://www.mesp.org.uk) for details.

### 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)

Five more 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.

Mar 2 – **Jim Eadie**, Prospective South Edinburgh MSP for the Scottish National Party

Mar 9 – **Paul Godzik** City of Edinburgh Councillor and prospective Labour candidate for South Edinburgh

Mar 16 – **Mike Pringle** MSP and Liberal-Democrat candidate for South Edinburgh

Mar 23 – **Alison Johnstone** City of Edinburgh Councillor and prospective Green Party MSP for South Edinburgh

Mar 30 – **Gavin Brown** MSP and prospective Conservative Party candidate for South Edinburgh

**Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship Residential Spring Gathering** at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, **8-10<sup>th</sup> April**. The gathering is primarily for GLGF members but anyone may come to the Saturday. Final costs and programme to be confirmed, but please contact Alistair Gault to register interest or with ideas: [alistair.gault@phonecoop.coop](mailto:alistair.gault@phonecoop.coop)

**Networking for Sustainability Sat 30th April**. 1-5pm at Central Edinburgh Meeting House. Representatives from local meetings will talk of their vision concerns and projects related to the environment and climate change. 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.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To **Ade** who will be 16 on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

To **Benjamin** who will be 6 on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

And to **Esme** who will be 9 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## UNMISSABLE ON THE INTERWEB

This month's featured Facebook group:



**Petition to make it law that bendy buses make accordion noises when they turn round corners** (39,515 members; one of at least 50

bendy bus groups) <http://on.fb.me/nSIGS>

**Accordion players on YouTube** – there are lots. Not as many as there are about cats, but a lot.

## FURTHER AHEAD

**Our weekend at Wiston Lodge** is booked for the weekend of **16-18 September**. Mary-Jane is organising activities with the help of Emma, and Phil is looking after the money. Contact Mary Jane at 669 5129 or [maryjane@camell.me.uk](mailto:maryjane@camell.me.uk)

**Summer Shindig** for younger friends – dates are Sat 6th-13th August 2011.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Continuing error** – Sylvia Massey's email address is wrong (again) in the new book. The correct address has no dot in the Sylvia's name; it is [sylviamassey293@btinternet.com](mailto:sylviamassey293@btinternet.com)

### Wanted: a Co-Clerk

We are looking for a Co-Clerk of our Local Meeting for Business, to join Chris Booth. Clerking our business meetings is a spiritual rather than just administrative role; it is a vital but not arduous job, and a way of serving our Meeting. Full details are being circulated, please think whether it could be you.