



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

March 2020



*Coimetrophilia – a fondness for graveyards
(pointed out by @howardhawks on Twitter)*

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

South Edinburgh: every Sunday at 10.30 am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, EH10 5HY, with separate children's meeting.

Central Edinburgh – on Sundays holds a small, quiet, shorter meeting at Victoria Terrace at 9.30 am in addition to the main meeting at 11.00 am. Half-hour meetings at 8am on Mon and Fri, Midweek meeting 12.30 Wed.

Portobello: 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11am, Bellfield, 16B Bellfield Street, Portobello, EH15 2BP. With children's meeting. 1st Sunday evening meetings 7.30-8 also at Bellfield.

Broughton St Mary's: 4th Sunday. 7pm in the Drummond Room at Broughton St Mary's Church, 22 Bellevue Cresc.

More meetings are listed in Sesame, or see quakerscotland.org

SPECIAL COLLECTION

In March is for **Young Friends General Meeting**, which is particularly for 18-30ish Friends. It holds meetings in Feb, May, and Oct each year; more information at <http://yfgm.quaker.org.uk>

In February we supported **Gracemount Grow Stronger**, a community food growing initiative in Gracemount Walled Garden.

LOCAL QUAKER EVENTS

Gender diversity 101 – a discussion on Gender Diversity, led by Rici and Mairi. Meeting for Sufferings which has asked us to consider gender diversity and our attitudes to it. After MfW (around 12.10) on **Sun 1st March**. You are invited to bring and share something simple for lunch.

World Day of Prayer is recognised at many churches, including one near you, on **Fri 6 Mar**. Written this year by women in Zimbabwe.

Scotland General Meeting will be held at Central Edinburgh Meeting on **Sat 7 March**. Climate emergency, our communications, the future of parliamentary liaison, and more. Refreshments from 10.30, lunch provided, finishing with tea and cake at 4.30.

Local Meeting for Business will be held immediately after MfW on **Sun 8 March**. Please note date changed because of clash with ...

Meeting at Faslane on **Sun 15 March**. Details in Jan newsletter, or from Alison Burnley.

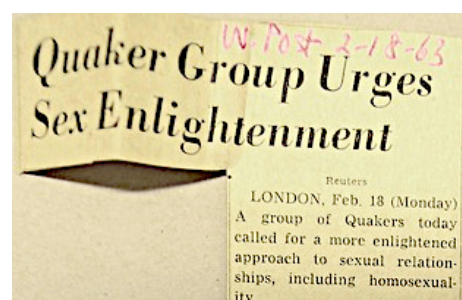
Area Meeting will be hosted by East Lothian Meeting on **Sat 21 March** at Bleachingfield Centre, Countess Crescent, Dunbar EH42 1DX. Theme **Living Earth, Loving Earth**. Refreshments from 10.30, all-age worship 11. In the afternoon, sustainability and climate change-related activities, some out of doors. Further info about clothes and catering in Area Meeting literature or at Meeting.

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

Rachel Frith offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on just the 1st Thur this month (5th March).

Singing group meets at Victoria Terrace on the first Tuesday each month, 7.30 pm.

Book Group at Victoria Terrace, ~1pm after post-meeting lunch on 4th Sundays. March: *Reservoir 13* by Jon McGregor.



1963, but we still do (page 3).

[More Events and News on the Back Page](#)

Minutes of Local Meeting for Business held 26th January 2020

1. Opening Worship

We heard from Quaker Faith & Practice 23.31 – Friends World Council for Consultation 1976 statement on torture – that emphasised both tortured and torturer as victims of this outlawed practice (Q-CAT being our charity this month and this being our concern).

We were 15 present. Simplicity of no shared lunch attracts more participation!

2. Minutes of our 27 October 2019 meeting – Matters Arising:

QPSW Call for Expressions of Interest in hosting a Climate Action Field Worker

We heard that East Lothian LM has been shortlisted but not the W Scotland bid and that appointment of any staff might be postponed due to funding delays.

3. Short update on the impact on Area Meeting of STIR review

Area Meeting on Monday 20 January heard a positive report of alternating all-age, all-day Saturdays hosted by Local Meetings with weekday Meetings for Business at Victoria Terrace. We were glad to hear of three applications for membership.

4. Meetings with our Elected Representatives

After our recent meeting with Daniel Johnson, MSP, we considered that we would do well to be guided by the Local Meeting for Business with regard to any issues raised.

We agreed that it would be helpful for those who meet with our elected representatives to be sure that what is being discussed is a gathered concern of Local Meeting. What process we use to determine this was not clear to us so we invited all to consider how best to proceed and will return to this at our next Meeting for Business in March.

We heard of a Local Meeting in England that invited their MP to attend Meeting and afterwards share a little of what their role entails with those present; and will consider this in March LMfB.

We noted that Esther liaises with our local MSP and Deirdre liaises with our MP.

5. Our Charities for 2020 and beyond

Susan thanked those who had identified the 18+ charities for consideration and asked us to try and choose which to support. We were clear that we wished to support Gracemount Grows Stronger in February & Young Friends General Meeting in March and shared ideas about many others. We asked Elders and Overseers to select a further 12 at their meeting in February.

6. Meetings for Learning

Gender Diversity: We have been invited by Meetings for Sufferings to reflect on Young Friends General Meeting statement on Trans and non-binary inclusion and Quaker Life Central Committee's initial statement on Quakers and Gender Diversity. Mairi and Rici will lead a Meeting for Learning on "Understanding the Issues around Gender Diversity" at a Bring and Share Lunch on Sunday 9 February. The clerk agreed to send an invitation to AM list.

Young people and the Climate and Ecological Emergency; Deirdre agreed to invite Kay and other young friends to share with us their experience of growing up in an uncertain world – and what they are trying to do about it. Date to be decided. We noted that Scottish Youth Climate Strike plan Fridays For Future events on 14 February and 14 March.

7. Dates of Next Local Meetings for Worship for Business

We heard that the proposed dates for LMfB clash in March and May with Meeting at Faslane and agreed to bring these forward by one week. Dates are now on Sundays **8 March, 10 May**, 20 September and 29 November – straight after Meeting for Worship. Put them in your diary / change March and May if necessary.

Peacemaking and conciliation

Ecumenical Accompanying opportunities are around again, deadline 24 April. Could you volunteer to be an observer/peacekeeper in Palestine/Israel? <http://bit.ly/32iTSZj>

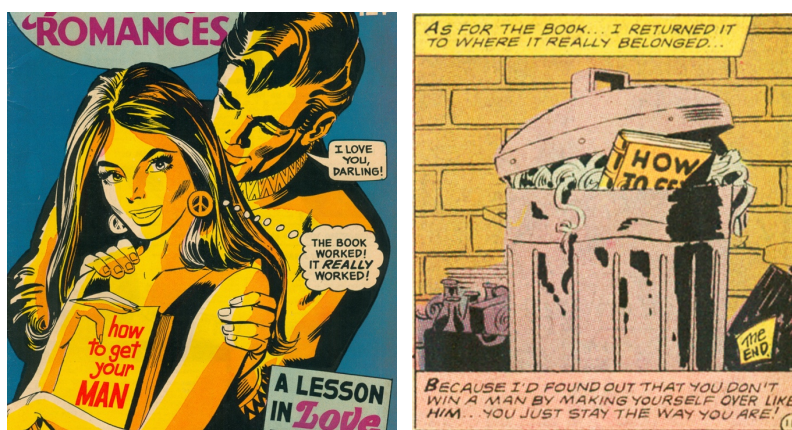
On the Quaker Britain blog here's a great short account of Quaker conciliation: <http://bit.ly/2ujYge9> – mentioning a new book *Dining with diplomats, praying with gunmen* that is based on experiences from an event at Woodbrooke.

Study with me ...



A South Korean thing. Students film themselves studying, no faces. Hours watching an occasional page turn. Soooo Quakerly. And you thought it was weird to film the view from a Norwegian train window for two hours. As an introduction, try *Study with me at the library*: https://youtu.be/3rE-1_ye4Zw

Romance, Quakers, and Sex (Valentine's corner)



From the inimitable **Sequential Crush** blog, the cover and closing panel of *Girls' Romances* #139 (March 1969). Many stories in these comics sought to provide reassurance to insecure readers, insecurities reinforced by the dominant media of the day (and so it continues). Some contained a more subversive, liberationist message, usually not highlighted on page one. Fine earrings though. www.sequentialcrush.com

We're so beyond this in 2020. For the Fleabag era, there's a really well produced podcast **A Quaker Take on Sex** – search in your podcast player, or go to <https://soundcloud.com/qwitness/a-quaker-take-on-sex>. It begins with a reminder that Quakers began their discussions about modern views of sex as long ago as 1957, initially through concern for the difficulties faced by those engaged in same-sex relationships.

It moves on to an engaging interview with Lucy Anne Holmes, Quaker author of romantic fiction, founder of the No More Page 3 campaign, and meeting house warden. Uninhibited on the Orgasm that Could Create World Peace. More anxious about the edginess of discussing spirituality, and, before publication, on the Quaker response to her 2019 frank personal chronicle of sexual enlightenment, *Don't Hold My Head Down*.



The original and remarkable **Towards a Quaker View of Sex**, 'from 11 Quakers', was finally published in 1963, though discussions began 6 years earlier. Its tolerant, respectful ethos provoked both praise and criticism, internal as well as external.

If you want to be reminded of that, and read more of the story behind it, there is an outstanding, readable, detailed account from www.lgbtran.org at <http://bit.ly/2VihLPz>

Quaker relevance of this page: 99%

MORE NEWS AND DATES

Forgotten women of faith – on International Women's Day, **Mon 9 Mar**, 6pm at Victoria Terrace Meeting House. Lynne Barty-Taylor will contribute about Sarah Mapps Douglass, the 19th century Black American Quaker reformer.

Churches of Sanctuary, Fri 13 Mar 2pm at Church of Scotland HQ, George St; and Day conference for **Churches working with asylum seekers, refugees and migrants**. Central Church Tollcross from 10am. More on both these in Alastair Cameron's Area Meeting email (10 Feb), or at Meeting.

Summer Shindig is the famous residential summer event for 11-16 year old North British Friends or Attenders. It is being held at Ackworth School, Pontefract, from **Sat 25 July to Sat 1 Aug**. Deadline for applications April 4. Volunteers to join staff also welcome. Bursaries available. More from www.quaker.org.uk/events/summer-shindig or email summershindig@gmail.com

Other events for young and youngish Quakers are listed at www.yqspace.org.uk/find-event. For those 18-30ish, Young Friends General Meetings are held in February, May, and October each year.

And for YP organisers – there's a useful set of links to resources at www.quaker.org.uk/cyp and a day for those organising young Friends events, in Sheffield on **28 March**: <http://bit.ly/36ZobFv>

Inspiring non-violence – there may still be time to join this online course scheduled from 24 Feb: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/inspiring-nonviolence (run by Woodbrooke).

Yearly Meeting Gathering will be held from **1-7 Aug** (Sat to Fri) at the University of Bath. Further info at www.quaker.org.uk/ym

This newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Ideas, content and comments welcomed by neilturn@gmail.com

This edition, plus archives and more, available from quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Ben**, who will be 15 on the 18th. May your Quaker biscuits be not from ships.



WITCH HUNTS ON THE WEB

Our **Wikipedia page of the month** is **Witch Trials in early modern Scotland** (87 views/day). This fascinating, horrifying, and scholarly entry was translated into Turkish by two University of Edinburgh students to mark Wikipedia's 19th birthday, and the lifting of the Turkish government's Wikipedia ban. In five major series of trials from 1590-1662 it is estimated that 4-6,000 people were accused, and over 1500 executed.



The North Berwick Witches meet the Devil in the local kirkyard, from a 1591 pamphlet 'Newes from Scotland' printed in London at the time of the first round of trials.