



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2015



MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

Every Wed at Victoria Terrace: 12.30-1.00.

At Portobello: 1st Sunday at Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for half an hour; and **2nd and 4th Sun** at **11 am** at St James' Church Hall, Rosefield Pl, Portobello EH15 1AZ (includes children's meeting). Queries to Kim Smith, kimdsmith@yahoo.com, 0131 665 8166.

At Broughton St Mary's: 4th Sunday. 7pm in the Drummond Room at Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Cresc. More info: Marjorie Farquharson. *(This is the meeting previously held at Barony St)*

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

In **April** is for the **Quaker UN Office**, which represents Friends' concerns for peace and justice. David Somervell will speak to this. quano.org

In **March** was for **Medecins Sans Frontieres**, msf.org.uk

LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

Area Meeting will be at Central Fife on **Sat 18th Apr** at 2pm.

There will be a **Meeting at Faslane** on **Sun 12th Apr**. Contact Alison Burnley for details.

Sylvia will be holding a **mini-mart** after meeting on **Sun May 3rd**. Please bring donations on the day or the week before.

Britain Yearly Meeting 2015 will be held at Friends House in London, **1st-4th May** (Fri-Mon)

Read the **Quaker General Election Pack** online at election.quaker.org.uk. For instance, Qs to ask about economic inequality in the section on economic justice. Election day is **Thur May 7th**

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

The **Drop-In Group** 1st Monday afternoons, contact Sylvia Massey.

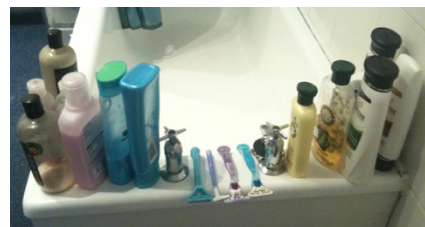
Singing Group 2nd Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace. Contact Rachel Frith.

Rachel also offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on first and third Thursdays.

Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group meets on 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm. www.edinwig.org.uk.

Book Group meets on 4th Sundays at 1pm, Victoria Terrace. Apr *Troubles*, JG Farrell; May *And the Land Lay Still*, James Robertson; Jun *The Adoption Papers*, Jackie Kay. Qs to Rachel Frith.

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



Right ordering
Aye but. www.ealingquakers.org.uk/jargon_buster

Minutes of South Edinburgh Quaker Meeting for Business 15 Mar 2015

10 friends were present. We heard Quaker Faith and Practice 10.03 on the spiritual life of local meetings during opening worship.

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of our 25 January 2015 meeting had been published in the March Newsletter. They were signed by the Clerk. Matters arising from last meeting:

- **14/14 Wiston residential weekend: Fri 4th – Sun 6th September 2015** – Still seeking an Assistant Event Booking person to shadow Alastair and n Activities co-organiser to plan ideas with Deirdre.
- **16/14 Quaker rep on Open Door Board** – This opportunity remains open.

04/15 The Spiritual Life of Our Meeting

We recalled how members of our Local Meeting shared our own experience of the spiritual life of our meeting at the Area Meeting we hosted in November. Elders and Overseers have since reflected and wondered whether further consideration might be given to this issue? We were challenged to think carefully about “Why do I come to Meeting?” as a start for spiritual conversations.

We heard about “Being Friends Together – a learning project from Woodbrooke and Quaker Life” – helping local meeting address exactly some of these objectives. We heard that the authors had led a workshop at Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014 in Bath and this sounded particularly creative and adaptable.

The experience of friends participating in our “Becoming Friends” groups – often just six coming together – was very valuable; but was this sometimes dwelling a little in the head not the heart? We were asked: “Do we each of us have a responsibility (and an opportunity for growth) for contributing, for sharing for supporting each one of us?” Yes – but not in an enforced way.

Several urged transparency in how we work: making clearer the processes; how to keep in touch; where to find out e.g. about the newsletter.

We determined that any such further reflecting together is best done in a social, informal setting – sometimes just after Meeting, sometimes over a meal, sometimes just being together and meeting of hearts not just heads. Maybe we could also consider taking one big issue and explore it from our hearts?

Going forward we welcomed the idea of an informal lunch – before and leading into next Local Meeting on Sunday 17 May – where we focus on how the spiritual concerns arising from Britain Yearly Meeting early May affect us. The clerk agreed to organise this.

We invited those leading the current and recent “Becoming Friends” sessions to ask current and past participants to reflect on “... where next?”

We invited all to review the “Being Friends Together” material and bring thoughts to next Local Meeting. Look up the material at <http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>

05/15 Enforced destitution of Asylum Seekers and Refugees

We heard that over 70 friends had met at Woodbrooke in autumn 2014 – convened by **Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network** www.qarn.org.uk. A [statement about destitution](#) [attached to LM Agenda] had been prepared for Local Meeting endorsement.

We heard that Leicester Area Meeting had already taken this statement to Meeting for Sufferings early March 2015. We heard that faith groups in Glasgow have stepped in and provide a drop-in facility for those seeking refuge / sanctuary seekers; but this is clearly not sufficient.

We encouraged this concern to be set within the wider discernment about the growing inequality in society. We asked our clerk to

1. raise this concern with Area Meeting – asking that it be included as a national priority under the focus on social and economic justice – for the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group and for Mairi Campbell-Jack, Parliamentary Engagement Officer, and
2. to raise this concern with our MSP Jim Eadie.

Any Other Business

We heard that Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) will shortly be considering how best to use the significant sum available from the sale of Scottish Churches House in Dunblane. Ideas to Phil Lucas, Area Meeting Clerk and to Alison Burnley.

We were reminded of the importance of each one of us looking out for and assisting friends with particular needs – both before and after meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday 17 May 2015, at the Open Door.

Being Friends together

Being Friends Together offers Quaker meetings a fresh way of approaching their ongoing development as living communities of faithful people. together.woodbrooke.org.uk

It is packed with

- **activities** and ideas from previous Quaker learning projects
- some **newly written and recorded material**

suggestions for useful **websites, courses and actions** that meetings can engage with

Deirdre Armstrong

For all ages



An amazing toy collection

www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-30439066

www.youtube.com/user/henders007

For weirder (at times gruesome, warning) collections of old stuff, try www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b053pzmb

The photo on page 1 of the eclipse on March 20th is credited to *a neonatologist*.

MORE NEWS AND DATES

Scrap Trident Coalition are organising a national demo in Glasgow on **Sat 4th April**, assemble George Sq 10.30 am. And at Faslane North Gate on **Mon 13th April**. scraptrident.org

Apply to join the **Ecumenical Accompaniment programme** in Palestine and Israel, deadline 27th April. quaker.org.uk/applyeappi

The Quaker bookshop at Friends House has a varied and always interesting **Book of the month** page (quaker.org.uk/shop/books-of-the-month) – books in March included *Happiness by Design*, *Miss Carter's War*, *A Sky Full of Kindness*.

Our local meeting's **Wiston weekend** is Fri-Sun **4-6 Sep** when people from South Edinburgh, Portobello and Musselburgh, Polmont and possibly Peebles and Penicuik Meetings meet up and have a relaxing time getting to know each other better. Programme soon – we will have the usual mixture of outdoors/indoors, children's, adults and mixed activities, all age worship on Sunday with Lanark Meeting and good cooking in pleasant and welcoming surroundings.

The application form is available at meeting, and has been sent round electronically to those on the email list.

The newsletter is usually distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Send things you'd like to see to neilturn@gmail.com. Deadline is sometimes the Sunday before that.

Not on the list to get this newsletter? Contact neilturn@gmail.com

You can read this, past issues and more at quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Jacob**, who will be 4 on April 2nd, and **Saskia** who will be 13 on the 19th!

Here is a poem.

I dig, you dig, we
dig, he dig, she
dig, they dig....

It's not a
beautiful poem,
but it's very deep.

ON THE WEB

Our **Facebook page of the month** is



Belles on Bikes Edinburgh (566 likes). *Helen Cameron*

But we also have a bonus second for April, **Hippy Peace Freaks** (1,147,678 likes). *Sandra Riddell*

