



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

May 2021



From the Braid Hills

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Some meetings have resumed very limited meetings in person, but we do not expect to be able to do this at the Open Door at present.

20-25 Friends each week join our meetings via Zoom, every **Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**. After a 5 min break we then share conversation over coffee – skipped if there's a business meeting or other discussion following. On 1st and 3rd Sundays we have coffee in smaller breakout groups.

Joining instructions for Zoom meetings are sent in emails via our email list, which you can join at <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>. If you have technical problems joining, Martin Burnell has helped people with greater difficulties than yours.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in May is for **Northern Friends Peace Board** – a Quaker group that supports and encourages 'the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth'. Alison Burnley will speak to this. More at <https://nfpb.org.uk> where you can also donate directly.

April's collection for Railway Children features at the foot of page 3.

QUAKER EVENTS

On the eve of **Christian Aid Week** (10-16 May), **Sun 9 May** at 6.30 pm, there is an online celebration of its 75th anniversary. Sign up to attend at <https://bit.ly/2QKxshU>

Area Meeting will be held 7-9 pm on **Tue 11 May**. By Zoom of course.

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

Afternoon tea – Mon May 3 , 3.15-4.45 pm

Singing Group – meets every first Tuesday (so May 4) at 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 **4th Sundays**. On 23 May, *Speedboat* by Renate Adler.

Sampler 'Winter' by Hannah Robinson of Pennsylvania in 1819, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (see p4).



SEE how rude winter's icy hand
Has stripp'd the trees and sear'd the ground:
But spring shall soon his rage withstand
And spread new beauties all around

Tony Davies

Deirdre Armstrong interviewed Tony Davies over 15 years ago while they were in Edinburgh; Viv and Tony moved South in 2006. He died on 23rd February. What an interesting if restless life. Also a reminder that electronic copies of *Getting to Know* volumes 1 and 2 (1997-2010) are available from your editor.

Tony Davies

Where were you born and brought up? I was born in Warrington. We moved to London in 1939. To escape the blitz, I was sent to a Quaker boarding school in Herefordshire when I was 6. I didn't like my school, but it helped the family situation, because my mother, father and sister spent the war in one room in a hotel in Oxford, where my father worked in the RAF. The thing I liked best about my schools was the country around. My main achievement was being on the school photo twice.

What did you do when you left school? I knew from the age of 10 that I wanted to be a doctor. I went to St. Andrews University. While I was a student I went on a climbing trip to Austria and met Viv, who became my wife. She had just finished her midwifery training in Liverpool. I think that the best thing I have done in my life is marrying my wife!

Did you go abroad? Yes. Just after we got married I objected to being conscripted into military service. I was allowed to work as a medical officer on the British Antarctic Survey instead. I had to explain this to a tribunal of 30!

So I went to the Antarctic for 2 years. My wife went off to Northern Canada to work while I was away. The Antarctic was a great experience for me, with dog sledging and scientific research. After that we lived for a year in Hampstead while I finished my research. Then we moved to Birmingham, where I taught in the medical school. Our oldest child was born in 1963, the second in 1965 (girls) and then we adopted boys in 1967 and 1969. The boys were of Indian parentage. We felt 2 children was enough of our own.

We spent a year in France when they were young.

Until they were in their late teens I was a fairly law abiding citizen, working in hospital and medical school, although some of us from Hall Green Meeting felt it was right to break into and sit down outside a nuclear air base. We also refused to pay the poll tax until it was abolished.

When my youngest child was 16 I worked in the Sudan for 2½ years. It was hard for Viv at home, but it seemed the right thing for me to do, because they were short of medical teachers. I worked in an urban clinic and a camp for people displaced by the civil war. We hear little about it although it has been going on for decades with even more suffering than the Congo.

Altogether I have had 3 spells in Africa, separated by periods of work in the UK when there was illness in the family. I was in Zaire to study the transmission of HIV from mothers to children. Viv came out to start working there too. She was there 1 day when the political situation erupted and we were flown out. Unfortunately that was our only joint job abroad!

I took a job for 4 years in Edinburgh, researching HIV and drug users. I got involved in the Edinburgh Furniture Initiative.

At the end of that job I went to Zambia to teach, continuing until July 99.

What part have the Quakers played in your life? I didn't attend Quakers for 25 years after leaving school. When the children were young I went to the Methodist church with Viv, because we felt it was best if we worshipped together. When they were older and could understand Dad doing his own thing I went to Hall Green Meeting in Birmingham – a very lively Meeting. We've never had a problem with Viv and I not being in the same church. I am a Quaker because most Quakers take seriously Jesus' imperatives that we must love our neighbour (using neighbour in the broadest sense), and our enemies. I am not happy with miracles and angels, the virgin birth and resurrection. I don't believe in a God who has us like puppets on a string. If God means the love that is in everyone I can go along with that. I used to have problems with the 'Kingdom of God', but now I believe this exists where people love each other. I prefer not to go to church services where people sing or say things which they do not believe. I believe in working towards social justice in the world, and I have been upset recently by the distribution of wealth in Britain becoming more unequal. I feel I would be regarded as an atheist in another denomination. However Quakers accept me.

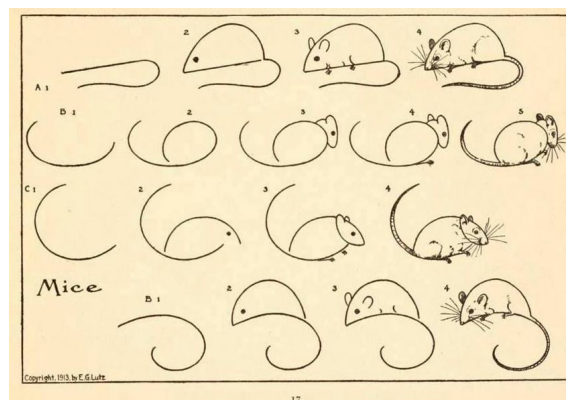
At home for a bit longer

How to draw

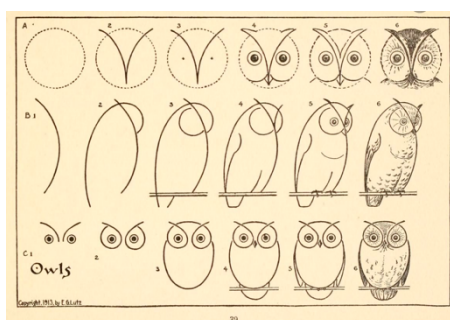
And an early idea for Christmas.

How to draw a mouse, from *What to Draw and How to Draw It* by EG Lutz. Published in 1913 and now free to read online at wonderful <http://publicdomainreview.org>

You can buy it for about £10 new, or half that second hand online. Lutz was a successful author of a series of similar books, including *Drawing Made Easy* in 1921. One is said to have inspired Walt Disney. His Wikipedia page gets just 6 views per day, almost as if he was a lesser-known ancient Quaker.

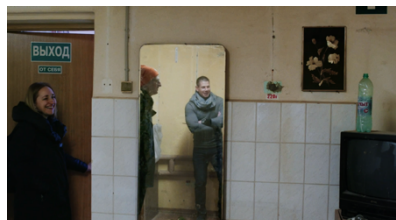


Lutz is also the apparent target, 100 years later, of the Internet meme *How to Draw an Owl*:



1. Draw some circles.
2. Draw the rest of the ***** owl.

Short of the month: **The guard and the Kandinski**



Continuing the art theme. Russian fly-on-wall observation of visitors and a fit and surprisingly knowledgeable security guard, when a multi-million pound Kandinsky painting is displayed in an abandoned Moscow power station. Includes a very funny line that completely fails the filter of “would this be OK if it was said by ...” to make us feel guilty.

6 mins at <https://bit.ly/39YN4W2>

Longs of the month: **more Russian films; Lion; Oscar contenders**

I want more in Russian. Really? Try some full-length ones, some amazing, some weird, at <https://klassiki.online> Sub(scription) required for comprehensive viewing, but 20 from a wide range of genres are free. Silent comedies to moving regional classics. *The Diamond Arm* was a big hit accidental-smuggling family comedy in the 1960s. Non-Russian speakers – switch on CC-English, they default to ‘off’.

Railway Children (last month’s charity www.railwaychildren.org.uk) is the ‘charity partner’ of **Lion**, a 2016 film from a true story about a 5 year old boy who got lost on Indian railways, and as an adult used Google Earth to find his family again. Running away to uncertain fate via railway stations is a common story worldwide, and that’s what the charity addresses. **Lion** scores 84%/91% on rottentomatoes.com which is high even for non-fiction. Available via Netflix or Amazon. Trailer <https://bit.ly/32H4PFa> *Eoin Rutter*

Or there are **2021’s unusually promising Oscar favourites**; Chloe Zao’s **Nomadland** (94%/82%), in which a woman loses everything and travels across the USA in a van, encountering landscapes, armies of other neglected itinerants. Or **Minari**, about migrant struggles and acceptance. **Promising Young Woman**, ‘deathly dark satire of gender politics’, risks being least Quakerly. Your 30 word reviews of any of these welcome.

NEWS

The **Quaker Universalist Conference**: Life, Time and Eternity, will be held by Zoom on **May 7, 8, 12, 14, 15**. There will be presentations from different perspectives: Anthropology, Christian, Muslim, Zen Buddhist, Hindu and Scientific; and small group discussions. Free but registration required. Dorothy Buglass will be going, would you like to join her? Further details and registration at <https://bit.ly/3cOP3xO> or contact Tony Philpott, aphilpott335@gmail.com

John King is happy that he has now moved permanently to a care home near where he used to live: Marionville Court, 1 Lochend Road South, EH7 6BP. Alison Burnley also has a mobile number for him. And, for when visiting is allowed again, it's on the No. 5 bus route.

Zoe Prosser commences her new post as **Local Development Worker for Quakers in Scotland** on May 3, joining a team of similar posts throughout Britain. She was previously Events and Committee Services Officer with Britain Yearly Meeting.

Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) is over three online weeks this year, its final week running into Yearly Meeting sessions over the weekends from **Fri 31 July** and **Fri 6 Aug**. Key themes are anti-racism, gender diversity, and climate justice. Bookings open in June. www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Truth in the Era of Fake News. Journalist and great great grandson of Anna Southall (see April issue) Thomas Penny will be giving the **Swarthmore Lecture** on **31 July** as part of YMG. More info at <http://bit.ly/swarthmore21>

Wanted: Photos of Quakers – for use in news and outreach. Nik Dadson posts a different suggested theme each month, and guidance about consent etc at www.quaker.org.uk/resources/photographs



Then email yours to photos@quaker.org.uk

INTERNETS

WHAT IS YOUR 17TH-CENTURY QUAKER NAME?



The first letter of your last name:

A: Lancelot	N: Marrabilla
B: Zebulon	O: Tryall
C: Isaak	P: Mascal
D: Purcifull	Q: Provided
E: Dorcas	R: Zeruah
F: Grissel	S: Herodias
G: Zephaniah	T: Seemerrie
H: Geryase	U: Penticost
I: Parnell	V: Job
J: Gulielma	W: Trustrum
K: Barbary	X: Degery
L: Springett	Y: Lettice
M: Tacey	Z: Wandlin

The month you were born in:

January: Stabbb (yes, three B's)
February: Whitehead
March: Toldervy
April: Hooton
May: Jelly
June: Snashfold
July: Tittery
August: Cockery
September: Wigglesworth
October: Peacock
November: Smedley
December: Crab

Our **Twitter account of the month** is [@IsabellaRosner](https://twitter.com/IsabellaRosner) (3210 followers, 5,418 Tweets), who tweeted this. She is a US visitor doing a London PhD on Quaker women's needle/wax/shell work 1650-1800. Her podcast 'Sew What' at <http://seewhatpodcast.com> is intense with cheery lovely bits. One lovely bit was the sampler on p1.



A widely circulated video of Icelanders playing volleyball before an erupting volcano seems metaphorical of so many things. Discovered and re-posted by Rut Einarsdóttir of www.scrapweapons.com

Our newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. In case the typesetting is completed weeks in advance, get your content early to Hooton Seemerrie at neilturn@gmail.com

This edition, plus archives of previous issues, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh