



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

August 2020



### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We are not holding Meetings for Worship in any of our usual locations at present. We don't expect an early return to our meeting place at the Open Door, but watch for news of this and other Quaker locations.

25+ Friends each week have been joining our meetings via Zoom, every **Sunday 10.30 am**. Instructions in emails.

Some Friends have also been meeting informally online on **Thursday afternoons**. Details again in email.

Martin Burnell or David Somervell are able to answer Qs about how to use Zoom to join us.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

In August is for **Quaker Social Action**, 'taking practical action against poverty since 1867'. Alison Burnley will speak to this. There is a 'Donate' button and more information on their website, <https://quakersocialaction.org.uk>

### QUAKER EVENTS

Not many Quaker events are scheduled for August, when usually the city is thronged with visitors and performers. But this year the city has an eerie quietness (left).

Tom Shakespeare's **Swarthmore Lecture** 'Openings to the infinite ocean: A Friendly offering of hope' is being live-streamed on Zoom at 7.30 pm on **Sat 1 Aug**. There's an additional heading 'Searching for hope in the era of Coronavirus'. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/about/swarthmore-lecture](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/about/swarthmore-lecture) for more info and to join.

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The following online events are organised from Edinburgh Central Meeting, but South Ed Friends are very welcome. Please email for login details, [rachel.frith@waitrose.com](mailto:rachel.frith@waitrose.com)

**Singing Group** – via Zoom on **Tue 4 Aug**

**Online coffee** – bring your own to an online conversation, 10.30-12 on **Thur 6 and 20 Aug**.

**Book group** – will discuss *Cities* by Italo Calvino on **Sun 23 Aug** at 12.30.



Thank you to Phil and team

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

## Do you remember what it used to be like?

From the archives of Children's Meeting, an account from a different era.

### **In meeting today**

The doorkeeper came in and her seat squeaked

In the top floor flat opposite, a woman hung washing  
Humming

At the window of the flat below, a man with no shirt tackled last night's washing up  
Radio 1 playing

A seagull cried

A dog barked

A friend spoke of decay and renewal

A train went by

A stomach rumbled (really loudly)

A man smiled excitedly into the distance

Someone's eyes welled up but didn't quite make tears

My leg jerked

Someone spoke about real friendship

The clock ticked

The children came in

Hands were shaken

The notices were read

We spoke over tea and coffee

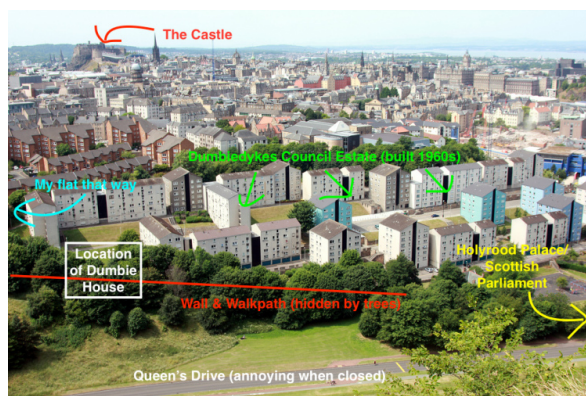
We went home

## LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

### WALKING

#### The world's first school for the deaf at Dumbiedykes.

You're allowed out now, so could go by this unexpected historical fragment, just outside the Holyrood Park boundary 200 hundred yards South West of Our Dynamic Earth. Also reachable by following the Innocent Railway right to its city end, and continuing on the same line straight North past the Engine Shed, down Braidwood Gate and into Dumbiedykes. Tall stone wall to the right with small, high commemorative plaque just as you hit road.



Read about its remarkable history and location in an excellent blog post by historian Chelsea Sambells, mentioning its famous visitors and international influence, at <https://bit.ly/39vN3HO>

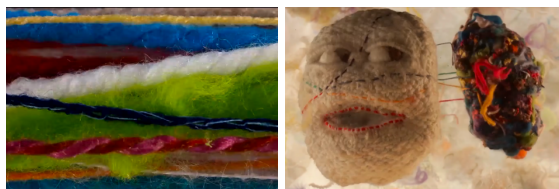
There are more good insights into this and wider Deaf History, on Wikipedia. Start with Thomas Braidwood, and British Sign Language, then find more further links than you have time for.

### READING

***"The first one that died sure unnerved me. I had to go to the nurses' quarters to cry it out. The next three weren't so bad."*** From a letter home sent by 18 year old Lutiant LeVoye, who volunteered to nurse sick soldiers in Washington DC during the influenza pandemic of 1918. Someone whose new experiences of adult life happened during a crisis. Dark mixed with mundane, courage with fear, learning coping mechanisms. <https://bit.ly/2ZYsG2K>

**Tim Cresswell's *Plastiglomerate*.** Our own Tim published a new book of poetry. Hear samples at [timcresswell.net](http://timcresswell.net) or on Twitter, @CresswellTim

### WATCHING: short



**Love Story.** A lovely, wordless, 7-minute love story in yarn-based animation. Anushka Naanayakkara won a BAFTA for it in 2017. Technically amazing, and she conveys so much feeling with just wool, music, and a camera. <https://vimeo.com/381319795>

**Climate change Science is over 100 years old.** Its history is concisely and engagingly brought to life in this 5 minute animation from BBC Ideas. Eunice Foote may have been the first to express the effects of carbon dioxide clearly: 'An atmosphere of that gas would give our earth a high temperature' (1865) <https://youtu.be/gnw3Ly7c-zM>

**A homeless life,** Lily by herself <https://vimeo.com/370683081> Evenly told and without self-pity. 10 min short. There's an interview with the director Giulia Gandini at <https://bit.ly/3hfiPLF>

### LONGER: Scotland's uncomfortable slavery past, and what can We do.

**Nuanced discussions on statues and slavery** from the University of Edinburgh 'Historians on Dundas and Slavery' with John Cairns, Stephen Mullen, Melanie Newton: <https://edin.ac/32kjtMz> and from Edinburgh World Heritage (Olivia Kanyike, Geoff Palmer, Lisa Williams, M Newton) at <https://youtu.be/eEJ3BsmcnEU>

Via Roisin Armstrong, a pointer to two lists of **Anti-racism resources:** <https://bit.ly/2ADrE1M> and (aimed particularly at white people and parents) <http://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES>  
Details of our own reading and discussion group at <https://bit.ly/SESAMBLM>

## MORE NEWS AND DATES

**Revising Quaker Faith and Practice** – you are warmly invited to join discussion groups around this, to inform the thinking of the Revision Committee. Four fortnightly sessions start **28 July**: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/revising-qfp](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/revising-qfp)

**Mental health** Quaker Voices on Mental Health is a new body meeting first on 22 August, 10.30-3 with breaks, please request Zoom link from [quakervoicesonmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:quakervoicesonmentalhealth@gmail.com)

There will also be a forum reflecting on well-being and spirituality through the pandemic, 10.30-2.30 on Sat 7 Nov, funded by The Retreat York Benevolent Fund. Limited places. Contact [mhdo@retreatyorkbfund.com](mailto:mhdo@retreatyorkbfund.com)

More information on Quaker resources for mental health at <https://bit.ly/2OZicKc>

A one-day **Yearly meeting** will be held online for up to 1,000 participants on **Sun 15 Nov**. More information later at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym)

**Build Back Better** – developing a Quaker vision for how we'd like our economy and society to change after the COVID-19 pandemic. Briefing pack and ideas from BYM at <https://bit.ly/2CbFFos>

**The kind of Scotland we'd like to see** was the major topic of our last Area Meeting. See AM Minutes in Sesame and fuller notes at <https://bit.ly/2Edpg3w> – and there are links to further resources at [www.quakerscotland.org](http://www.quakerscotland.org) (see news item on home page).

**Woodbrooke** has moved its courses online. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/course-brochure](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/course-brochure) shows what's on offer.

Our May charity has a newsletter with information about how they are managing with COVID-19, see [www.actionvillageindia.org.uk](http://www.actionvillageindia.org.uk)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

A huge welcome to **Esther Jane** Marshall Cross who arrived in this world on the 20th June. Congratulations to Rici and Danny.

From there it's just a small jump to **Peggy's** 100th birthday on Saturday 8 August!

*This newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Send your thoughts and ideas to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)*

Please get in touch if you know someone who would benefit from a posted or delivered copy.

*This edition, plus archives of previous issues back to Dec 2010, available from*

[www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)



School gates covered with farewell greetings from the prematurely ended last term. Due to open for the new school year soon.