



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2020



Firth of Forth from Lauriston Castle

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We are not holding Meetings for Worship in any of our usual locations at present, but 25+ Friends each week have been joining our meetings via Zoom, every **Sunday 10.30 am**. Instructions in emails.

Technical Qs to Martin Burnell or David Somervell.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

In September is for **Wiston Lodge** – which many of us hoped we would be visiting again at this time of year. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. <https://wistonlodge.com> There is a link on their website to make a direct donation, or send it by post to Wiston Lodge, Biggar ML12 6HT, or you can keep it on one side until we reconvene physically.

### QUAKER EVENTS

The first cautious reopenings of some Quaker places, including the café at Friends House in London, are being hinted at now. But nothing in person locally just yet.

*All these events are via Zoom. Logins in emails.*

**Area Meeting** will be held on **Wed 2 Sep** from 7pm. Agenda will include approving accounts, and a report from Mary Woodward from the Book of Discipline Revision Committee.

**General Meeting for Scotland** will be held on **Sat 12 Sep**, 10.15-12 am and 1.30-3 pm

**South Edinburgh Local Meeting for Business** will be held after Meeting for Worship on **Sun 20 Sep**.

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

**Singing Group** – via Zoom at 7.30 on **Tue 1 Sep**

**Online coffee** – bring your own to an online conversation, 10.30-12 on **Thur 3** and **17 Sep**.

**Book group** – will discuss *The Daughters of Mars* by Thomas Keneally on **Sun 27 Sep** at 12.30.



Tam Joseph's huge *The Hand Made Map of the World*, worth going to see on Middle Meadow Walk now.

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

## REMEMBERING LIVE MEETINGS

A poem written with the children, published in the newsletter in 2012.

### We were supposed to write a poem

*Lines of explanation from the children on having nothing to report today*

We were supposed to write a poem

We sat quietly for two minutes  
But were interrupted by a road drrrrrrrrriiiiiiii

Y had a weird dream  
And had to tell us about it

Z got locked in the loo  
We had to pick the lock

Tom coughed his guts up  
So we put them back

Rebekah got into a bit of a pickle  
Two of us had to get her out

A sea monster came up the U-bend  
So we flushed it

A ghost bus stopped outside  
We had to watch it

P was looking at Q in a peculiar way  
And wouldn't say sorry

N had a nosebleed  
We had to mop the floor

A had an accident with scissors  
We stitched it back on

Six dragons came to eat you  
But we fought them off

Then we sat down to think of something to write  
But we were out of time

## Black Lives Matter

Reading and discussion groups, likely to be meeting in small groups once each month Sep-Dec. More info and expressions of interest at <https://bit.ly/SESAMBLM> or speak to David Somervell.

BLM protest in Holyrood Park (Deirdre Armstrong). 170 years ago the remarkable anti-slavery campaigner and 'philanthropic man of colour' Frederick Douglass got into trouble for protesting 'Send Back the Money' here (a demand that the new Free Church return money from slaveholders), along with some Quakers. He was a remarkable and impressive man: read his Paisley speech on the topic here: <https://bit.ly/34MZhvi> – and about his time in Scotland and Britain at <http://frederickdouglassinbritain.com/journey/Scotland>



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## Alison recommends some reading

**The kidnapped** (Dwight L Wilson; QuakerBooks) – short stories about slaves, fictional but populated by real characters you'll recognise, including Harriet Beecher Stowe. It begins "My name is Sarah Ferguson. I was born in slavery but, with the help of the Underground Railroad, stole myself and fled to Ohio."

Two by Sue Monk Kidd. **The Invention of Wings** – a slave girl in the Grimke household and a daughter of the household do their own thing together, educate and learn and teach, and go north. "Brilliant". And **The Secret Life of Bees** – 'a motherless daughter's discovery of family reality and of the strange and wondrous places we find love' (Washington Post)

**Between the World and Me** (Nehisi Coates) – a letter to his son about the hazards and hopes of a black male living in a white world.

**Strength in what remains** (Tracy Kidder) – true story of a man from Burundi who arrives in New York.

"The best book I've read this year" – **The Salt Path** (Raynor Winn). A couple in their 50s made homeless, left everything they knew and walked 630 miles round the coast of Cornwall with only what they could carry. Heartwarming love story with beautiful descriptions of feelings, birds, plants, the sea, and the people they meet.

Alison Burnley

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## Schopenhauer's 38 ways to win an argument

We hope you'll hate that you recognise the strategies in this <http://mnei.nl/schopenhauer/38-stratagems.htm>



## A levels and Asylum: the difference language makes

A distressing and depressing comparison of the presentation of two stories of distress on the same day. Outrage at A level results with potential to 'destroy the opportunities' of candidates, versus how appalling it is that anyone should seek to come to the UK to improve their difficult or desperate lives. From the Quaker Council for European Affairs at <https://bit.ly/2QyIGTx>

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## RONALD HALLIDAY

Our Friend Ronald Halliday died on August 6th, after a stroke. He leaves Mary after 75 years of marriage. Ron was our clerk for some years, and in 1984 wrote a history of the first 14 peripatetic years of South Edinburgh Meeting, bringing us to the Open Door in 1984. You can download a copy from the right hand column of our webpage, and there is a map of our previous meeting places at <http://bit.ly/ocYXPJ>. A small funeral was held at Mortonhall Crematorium.





## NEWS AND DATES

Job vacancy for a **Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer** – closing date 3rd Sep. Details at [www.quaker.org.uk/jobs](http://www.quaker.org.uk/jobs)

**Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)** have appointed Emma Cockburn as their first worker in Scotland.

Our longstanding Friends **David and Ida Turner** are moving to Abbeyfield in Stirling at the end of September. They will be nearer their family, but we will miss seeing them.

A one-day **Yearly meeting** replacing Yearly Meeting Gathering 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)

**Yearly Meeting Gathering 2021** will be held **31 July – 6 Aug**. Booking opens in January. [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym)

Our **Twitter account of the month** is teabag artist [@RubySilvious](https://twitter.com/RubySilvious)



## Our newsletter archives



*One of the first mobile libraries, which began touring Perthshire communities 99 years ago. @CPKLibraries*

Electronic copies of our archive of newsletters back to December 2010 are available online on our webpage (see box below). Further electronic archives back to 2003, and paper copies back to 1997, are held by the newsletter editor.

*This newsletter is usually published on the last Sunday of each month. Send your scandal and soulpieces 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)

