



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2021



Meeting in the Royal Ed community garden (p4)

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings every **Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**. Zoom and limited in-person options are available. In-person now includes fairly free numbers at the Open Door (but always subject to change), and (weather depending) in a local garden. Please contact neilturn@gmail.com about the garden option.

Joining instructions for Zoom, and updates on arrangements, are sent in emails via our South Edinburgh Announce email list. To be added, see <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>. If you have technical problems with Zoom, Martin Burnell offers help.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in September is for our just-resumed September weekend destination, **Wiston Lodge**. When we aren't there, it is a learning centre for children and young adults. Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. Donate and find more info online at <https://wistonlodge.com/donate>

QUAKER EVENTS

Local Meeting for Business will be held on **Sun 5 Sep** after Meeting for Worship.

Area Meeting takes place on **Wed 8 Sep**, 7-9 pm by Zoom. Draft agenda has been circulated.

Wiston Weekend resumes – at short notice, on **Fri-Sun 10-12 Sep**. Founded from South Edinburgh, now a regional event. Details at <https://bit.ly/3g0XUOj> Camping possible, in-house numbers limited. Please contact Jessica Patterson at poetrypatterson@gmail.com to check availability and sign up.

General Meeting for Scotland will be held on **Sat 11 Sep** from 10.15 am, by Zoom. Climate Justice and preparation for COP26 are major items; plus reports from group identifying organisational options, and from our Parliamentary Engagement Officer. More in Scottish Friend. How to join will be circulated via email.

South Edinburgh Friends are very welcome to join the following Edinburgh Central Meeting events. Rachel Frith hopes that meeting in person might now be possible, but please check with her. Zoom if not. rachel.frith@waitrose.com

Singing Group – meets every first Tue at 7.30 pm at Victoria Terrace (maybe).

Coffee – hope to resume meeting at Rachel Frith's house on first and third Thursdays, from 10.15 am.

Book Group – 12.15 (after Central MfW) on 4th Sundays. **Aug 29**, *Steamboat* by Renata Adler; **Sep 26**, *Jack* by Marilynne Robinson.



Edinburgh seagulls, from Rachel Chiu in the Grad show at Edinburgh College of Art. At www.rachiu.art don't miss her books-with-a-message on this and more.

Dedicated website creator of the month (pt. 22)

Erin McKean – worked as an undergraduate on the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, and caught that weird lexicography bug, later becoming editor-in-chief of American dictionaries for Oxford University Press. Now founder of a free-access, auto-generated online dictionary called **Wordnik**, which looks to be just as wild an enterprise as her side show the **Dress a Day blog**, “A dress, nearly every day”, at <https://dressaday.com> since May 2005. It has slowed a lot in recent years, but remains intelligent, interesting, and amusing. There’s a lot of sewing, with a prominent focus on pockets – “87% to hold stuff, 10% to give an excuse to add piping, 3% to put fun linings in”.



Flora: Soon my “date” will be here! Little does he know this will be the last prom he ever attends! My Boutonnière of Death shall ensure it!

Nora: If ... I can ... just ... get this ... electric collar off ... must warn Bobby!



Your captions:

Dora:

Laura:

An entry from 2008:

Ten reasons skirts are better than pants*

**for UK readers, please substitute "trousers" for "pants" throughout. Or just giggle, I don't care.*

1. Drawing your pants legs back from someone in disgust as you pass them is insufficiently scornful.
2. Studies have shown that wearing skirts is 90% effective in preventing VPL (visible panty line).
3. Ditto for plumber's butt, whale tail, and camel toe.
4. Ruffles on a skirt can be over-the-top glamorous. Ruffles on pants are only acceptable if your name is Mary, and a little lamb follows you everywhere you go.
5. It is impossible to smuggle someone in — or out — of prison, a masked ball, a hotel room, etc. by hiding them under your pants. Plus, there is no such thing as "hooppants."
6. When you strap a gun to your thigh in pants, you lose the element of surprise.
7. You don't have to have skirts hemmed differently for flats or heels.
8. Twirling in a pair of pants results in 87% less happiness.
9. The word "skirt" has both a singular and a plural form, usable by all ("I am wearing a skirt today." "Instantly Mrs. Bagnet put some pins into her mouth, and began pinning up her skirts all round, a little higher than the level of her grey cloak.") The word "pants" has a singular than can only be used by fashion-industry people ("Designers are showing a high-waisted, wide-legged pant for fall").
10. Skirt blowing up, revealing underthings? Sexy. Pants falling down, revealing underthings? Humiliating.

Quaker relevance: really nothing.

Erin McKean has written a couple of books that could make good Christmas gifts.

Electric cars again

The lost history of the electric car – a fascinating extended account of the ‘horse problem’ in cities in the late 1800s, and of competition between steam, petrol, and electric 1890-1910, and of inadequate recognition of the new problems substituted. Tom Standage previews his new book at <https://bit.ly/3yHUwir> (Guardian).

Some are saying that the emerging generation of electric vehicles is looking so attractive, that soon nobody will want to buy petrol or diesel. Will we be ready to cope with job losses in car manufacture, obtaining raw materials ethically, and providing enough low-carbon electricity?

LOCAL MEETING FOR BUSINESS April, June

As most recipients now receive the newsletter by email, and Minutes of Local Meeting for Business in the same way, we haven't been reprinting the Minutes in the newsletter in 2021. But had intended to include a note summarising each, as we did in April for February's meeting. So here catching up:

LMfB on 25 April 2021 included:

- Discussions on a cautious return to physical meetings – small group to seek advice and make proposals.
- Budget for our local meeting for next year, and principles for how much money we should hold in our bank account as reserves for our local meeting's needs within SESAM.
- Approved funding for a future course on Diversity and Inclusion from Woodbrooke.
- List of role-holders in our local meeting.

LMfB on 6 June 2021 included:

- Account of meetings in person resuming, with limited numbers and distancing, at the Open Door, and in the garden of Helen Cameron and Neil Turner, together with Friends on Zoom from their homes.
- Report from study group around Black Lives Matter and racism.
- Matters to cover in a meeting with our MSP Daniel Johnson.
- A display for the window of the Open Door in Refugee Week.
- Describing a proposal for community sponsorship of a refugee family.
- Principles for choosing our monthly charities.

Surprising Quakers (again): the Garibaldi Biscuit

The **Garibaldi biscuit celebrates its 160th anniversary** this year. This item also ends an unwelcome 16 month drought of biscuit mentions in this journal. The following extract is from nicecupofteaandasaditdown.com, where follow-on commenters include a descendant of its inventor.

A complete one off, the Garibaldi biscuit is unlike any other, and as such commands a unique position in the biscuit world. It has more currants in it than even a fruit shortcake. They come in big slabs with little marks where you are supposed to break them up. It's almost like they are shipping in kit form, and it requires a little extra bit of engagement from the biscuit eater.



The Garibaldi is relatively unsweet by modern biscuit standards, making it easy to eat several, or even a whole layer. It is good for dunking in tea, and its robust, plain but friendly nature, association with tea, and its long survival, give it a strong claim to the title of Archetypal Quaker biscuit.

The Garibaldi's creator is said to be John Carr, the brother of Jonathan Dodgson Carr. They came from a Quaker family in Kendal, where their father was a wholesale grocer and tea dealer, and their mother from a grocery family in Whitehaven. After apprenticeship to a baker in Stockton, Jonathan founded the biscuit company Carr's, growing from the bakers shop he opened in Carlisle in 1831. His brother John (not JDC's son, as inaccurately described in our Feb 2020 issue) joined Peek Frean's in London in 1860, having earlier not enjoyed a spell in his brother's enterprise. Peek Frean's was just 3 years old, but already employed 200 workers, and the Peek family were withdrawing. John had been to school with George Frean, and seems to have brought a lasting Quaker ethos with him to the business. His branch of the Carr family became a lasting part of Peek Frean's, and soon bought a site for a large new factory in Bermondsey.

At the time of the launch of the Garibaldi in 1861, Giuseppe Garibaldi was a popular international hero, 'general, patriot and republican', uniter of Italy, broadly socialist in principles, and anti-slavery. He received enthusiastic welcomes in the UK when he visited Tyneside in 1854, repeated in London 10 years later.

There have been tenuous suggestions that there is a more direct connection to Garibaldi than just capitalising on his reputation, but it seems probable that it was just that.

*Via Alison Hardie
Quaker relevance: 42%*

NEWS

The Epistle from Yearly Meeting is available at www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents as a video or document.

Preparation for COP26 – the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow **1-12 Nov**. For some ways to influence and participate, see <https://quakerscotland.org/cop26>

The peace bicycle – our Friend David Turner is hanging up his famous bike at 98, but putting it to further use to encourage us to donate to CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade). You could win the bike! Please join in at <https://bit.ly/3xw6lqV> David and Ida have moved to Stirling, but keep in touch.



On the front cover – an artist worked with people at the Royal Ed, and suddenly there were art-works about the community garden there. The clay people reminded me of Anthony Gormley's amazing *Field for the British Isles*, but these small clay folk seemed to be in a quietly waiting circle akin to a Quaker Meeting.



Carol Jennings

Longs of the month

Lectures from Yearly Meeting – at www.quaker.org.uk/ym/programme you can replay all of these, each around 1 hour:

Thomas Penny's **Swarthmore Lecture**, *Kinder Ground: Creating Space for Truth*

Alison Mitchell's **Retreat Lecture**, *Faith, hope and love: equality, truth and privilege in mental health*

Sam Donaldson's **Gorman Lecture**, *Old roots, new routes*

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge's **Salter Lecture**, *Quaker values in South Africa's struggle*.

Last month's competition

At 66 Braid Road, 10 mins walk from the Open Door, are the Hanging Stanes. These were the bases for gibbets used to execute two men found guilty of a violent mugging in 1814. Execution at the site of the crime was intended as a warning, but it turned out to be the last hanging carried out for 'highway robbery' in Scotland. Hundreds of people were said to have attended, despite it being a cold day in January 1815.



Biscuits on Scots Twitter

@WeedgieTheDug controversially contests the primacy of the Quaker Garibaldi, in favour of the upstart 52 years younger Carr/Frean product, the Custard Cream, launched in 1913:



Tae A Custard Cream:

Fair fa yer big fat custardy face
Ye pit flea cemetery in its place
Guid fur dunkin
Braw fur chowin
In ma biscuit tin ye're growin

Quaker relevance: -5%

Our newsletter is not reliably published on the last Sunday of each month. Late summer litotes to neilturn@gmail.com. They won't be the worst we've had.

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