



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

December 2017



Wiston by Susie

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Every Sunday** at 10.30 am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, EH10 5HY, with children's meeting. **24, 31 Dec at 22 Bruntsfield Gdns.**

**Central Edinburgh** on Sundays holds a small, quiet, shorter meeting at 9.30 am in addition to main meeting at 11.00. Victoria Terrace.

**Weekdays at Victoria Terrace:** Wed 12.30-1.00. Plus 8.00 am for half an hour on Mon and Fri.

**At Portobello:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11am, Fisherrow Centre, South St, Musselburgh EH21 6AT. With children's meeting. Bus stop by Brunton Theatre. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evening meetings 7.30-8 at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church (formerly St Phillips), Brunstane Rd North.

**At Broughton St Mary's: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.** 7pm in the Drummond Room at Broughton St Mary's Church, 22 Bellevue Cresc.

**More meetings** are listed in Sesame, or see [quakerscotland.org](http://quakerscotland.org)

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

In December is for the **Ecumenical Accompanying Programme** in Palestine and Israel. David Somervell will speak to this. Further info at [eappi.org](http://eappi.org)

### LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

**Nominations to AM** – Threshing meeting. Victoria Terrace, **Sat 9 Dec**, 1-4.30 pm. See p4 and further background in Sesame. Official reps will be attending, but others welcome, please contact Elizabeth Allen [essallen@msn.com](mailto:essallen@msn.com)

**Local Meeting Party** – **Sun 10th Dec**, 5-7pm at 71 Nile Grove.

**Carols and mince pies** at Victoria Terrace, **Tue 12 Dec**, 7.30pm.

**Wiston Christmas** – lunch, singing and Meeting for Worship with South Lanark on **Sun 17 Dec**. £11, reductions for children. Contact Rufus, [rufusreade@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rufusreade@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0131 554 107 by Dec 10th. Please include dietary requirements and offers/requests for lifts.

**Meetings for learning** now on the 3rd Sunday of each month after Meeting. On **Sun 17 Dec** the topic will be our Advices and Queries. Please bring a sandwich or equivalent. Finish by 1.30.

Note that our Sunday meetings on **24 Dec** and **31 Dec** will be held at 22 Bruntsfield Gardens, as the Open Door is being redecorated.

**Christmas Eve shared lunch** at Victoria Terrace after Sunday meeting – see Terrace Talk for details of how to join.

### OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

The **Drop-In Group** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday afternoons, contact Sylvia Massey.

Rachel Frith offers **Coffee at Rachel's** at 10.15 on 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

**Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group** meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7pm. [www.edinwig.org.uk](http://www.edinwig.org.uk).

**Book Group** (Victoria Terrace, 4th Sundays) won't meet on Christmas Eve, back in January.



Happy Christmas from Bruntsfield Hospital, 1931 (Lothian Health Services Archive)

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

## Minutes of Meeting for Business held on Sunday 29 October 2017-11-13

*Please particularly note item 3 (boxed)*

**1. Opening Worship** – During opening worship we heard 24.49 from Quaker Faith and Practice on the importance of Human Rights and the role each of us can play in safeguarding them. There were 13 present.

**2. Minutes of our Meeting held on 16 July** – Matters Arising: We thanked our Treasurer and Alison Chalmers (with Sylvia, Sue F and David S as alternates) for using the Area Meeting proforma for recording our meeting collections – enabling recovery of a reasonable sum of tax paid each year.

**3. Simplifying what goes on after Meeting for Worship** Susie Reade, convener of Elders and Overseers, introduced the proposal from last Es&Os meeting. We recognised how valuable many find the current practice of going round saying our names. We also note that some experience pressure.

- So we ask Es&Os to refine the short script – for those closing the Meeting before Notices – to make it shorter and more open; and to generally read it out when new people or those with difficulty seeing are at Meeting.
- We also agreed to occasionally offer Name Badges to get to know our names.
- We agreed to suspend the practice of After Words and encourage all to minister in meeting if the spirit moves.
- We considered how we share the experience of Children's Meeting and the experience of the Adult Meeting; and we ask those closing Meeting to continue asking Children's Meeting to share what they have been doing and to discern each Sunday if it is appropriate to share adult meeting with our young people.
- We agreed that advance notices of events, courses etc be sent to Neil Turner, Editor for including in the monthly Newsletter.
- We ask that any other notices be given in writing to the Elder / Overseer closing Meeting – with Title of event, Start time, Date, Location and organiser, along with person to follow up with – so they can read them out and / or place on the table.

We agreed to review these arrangements at Local Meeting for Business in April 2018.

**4. Formalising our concern for people facing forced migration** We heard of the Quakers in Britain **Sanctuary Everywhere** project supporting refugees & migrants – developed by 300 Quakers, refugees and migrants. A growing number of Quaker Meetings have joined a network of Sanctuary Meetings which are committed to:

1. Joining local initiatives to build a culture of welcome
2. Building alliances with groups opposing racism
3. Working with others to change the laws on destitution, detention, deportations and removals.

More at [www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration).

We recognise that through our advocacy work we already raise these issues with our elected MP and MSP.

The Welcoming Association provides great opportunities for displaced people and are always keen for new people to get involved. The Detention Forum also offer very helpful resources which we might share among ourselves to learn more about the issues. We recognised the limit to what we might be able to do and we agreed to uphold our two friends already active in this area.

We ask our clerk to further enquire about the nature of support we might receive from Friends House if we were to sign up as a Sanctuary Meeting.

We agreed to hold a Meeting for Learning – on how to support refugees, asylum seekers and all those treated badly through xenophobia – after the planned Becoming Friends meetings.

**5. Promoting the spiritual life of our community** We agreed **Meetings for Learning** on the **third Sunday each month** after Meeting for Worship: 19 November, 17 December 2017; then 21 January and 18 February. Bring simple lunch to share ... so we can move quickly to the discussions!

**6. Laying down role of cheque signatory** Our bank advise that Brian Bleakley is still listed as a Cheque Signatory for Local Meeting account. We note that he laid down his role of Treasurer some ten years ago and ask our Treasurer to notify the Bank and ask them to remove his name.

## 7. Date of Future Meetings

- All welcomed to Area Meeting 11am – 5pm Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at Portobello.
- Our Local Meeting Party is at 5-7pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 71 Nile Grove.
- Meeting for Worship on Sundays 24<sup>th</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> December will be held at 22 Bruntsfield Gardens (The Open Door is being redecorated over this period.)
- We discussed planned 2018 Area Meeting and our own Business Meeting dates. We tentatively agreed to set our Local Meetings for Business on these Sundays: 4 February, 15 April, 27 May, 26 August and 2 October – and ask that all such meetings be listed in January Newsletter as is customary after next Area Meeting.

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## Nobel Peace Prize 2017 awarded to ICANW

The Nobel Peace Prize this year was awarded to The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICANW, for their contribution to a drive for the new United Nations Treaty To Prohibit Nuclear Weapons.

Quakers across the world have shown such commitment and been a part of this campaign, and in a quiet way to support those engaged in the process of gaining it. I was supported financially as well as prayerfully by Northern Friends Peace Board to attend the negotiations, and was able to participate for Scotland at the UN in Geneva and New York, where local Quakers there offered me hospitality, a warm welcome and support. Tim Wallis was also there for QPSW and we were able to work together with other faith groups and Friends, including Joseph Gerson of AFSC.

*Janet Fenton*

## Quakerly nominations are getting harder

Difficulty in filling appointments is being increased reported by many local meetings, including our own. Area Meeting is experiencing particular difficulties. As Don Stubbings explains in the current issue of SESAME, in part this is because we are all busier, and feel less able to serve, but it is also a fact that we are fewer. Don gives further background and suggests a couple of directions to begin to think through. These will be considered at a Threshing Meeting at Central Edinburgh Meeting house on **Saturday 9 December**, 1-4.30 pm. Tea/ coffee from 12.30 pm, and cake at the end.

## Refugees and asylum seekers

Winter is upon us and we are urged to reflect on the cruel conditions thousands of refugees fleeing conflict in Iraq and Syria. Over 2,000 children seek asylum - more than a third of the many thousands incarcerated in makeshift camps on the islands in Greece.

**Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees** ([sfar.org.uk](http://sfar.org.uk)) has a short briefing ([bit.ly/2A79tPW](http://bit.ly/2A79tPW)) which asks us to write to our MPs urging them to raise these issues with the Government, and for them to do everything they can to help alleviate the crisis in Greece. Also to write to our MSPs asking them to urge the Minister for International Development and Europe to raise Scottish concerns with the UK Government.

Alf (Lord) Dubs, one of the 669 children saved from the Nazis by Nicholas Winton on the *Kindertransport*, has been outspoken about the continuing need to support refugees. He urges donations to Safe Passage. More information at [bit.ly/2AaMEJ0](http://bit.ly/2AaMEJ0)

*Hilary Patrick (GM representative on SFAR), Esther Shreeve, David Somervell*

## MORE NEWS AND DATES

**Edinburgh Churches for Sanctuary** ministry update and screening of **Syrian Voices**. A fascinating 15 min film that follows three Syrian families as they settle in our city, followed by a discussion with the film makers. **Wed 6 Dec**, 7pm, Cornerstone Church, The Old School House, Morningside. [trinamckendrick.com/syrian-voices](http://trinamckendrick.com/syrian-voices)

*Esther Shreeve*



Susie thanks everyone who came to her exhibition, which raised over £2000 for Mercy Corps.

**Building and nurturing an all-age community** Training Workshop at Victoria Terrace Meeting House, 11-4 on **Sat 13 Jan**. Understanding, ideas, confidence building for all involved or who'd like to be. Facilitated by Madeleine Harding. Tea and coffee; please bring your lunch.

**Mini-mart on Homeless Sunday, 28 Jan**. Please bring along baking goodies, allotment surplus and any items you might have left over from Christmas on the day, for a mini-mart after Meeting. Funds to Scottish Churches Housing Action.

*Sylvia and Bridget.*

## Department of error

Catriona's fascinating account of *The Diary of a Free Kindergarten* in the November issue mentioned a mysterious 'Miss Holmes' in the text. We meant the author, Lileen Hardy.

*This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month, mostly. wHolesome Hogmanay contributions to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)*

*This edition, plus archives and more, are available from [quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)*

## Bumper Christmas online tips

**YouTube of the week** – 2017 Ted Hughes prize-winner Hollie McNish has gained more attention via the Nationwide Building Society's poetry-based ad campaign. As well as using motherhood as a topic, she does adolescence, boyfriends, and sharp politics: racism, bodies, violence.



Friends might particularly like her variously angry, clever, funny rants

*Mathematics*, [youtu.be/bjX5XHnONTI](https://youtu.be/bjX5XHnONTI)

*Embarrassed* (dramatised) [wp.me/p8tvQR-gp](https://wp.me/p8tvQR-gp)

*Willies are more dangerous than guns* – an anti-violence polemic, [youtu.be/\\_6Bwn9uuCc4](https://youtu.be/_6Bwn9uuCc4)

The books: present ideas.

Quaker relevance 73%



**Twitter** account of the month [@DamienKempf](https://twitter.com/DamienKempf) provides a steady stream of medieval manuscript illustrations. Amusing, beautiful, or gruesome. This man appears to be trading Death for glasses of beer. Perfect for Christmas cards.

Quaker relevance 19.2%

**Song(s) of the month** (experimental – send yours) Giovanni Felice Sances (1600-79) set *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* to music. Beautifully sung by Cristina Kiehr; hear the first 4 mins at [youtu.be/K9S0SK1NWTQ](https://youtu.be/K9S0SK1NWTQ)

*Ai Du* by Ali Farka Toura with Ry Cooder – laid back from Mali in *Timbuktu* (1994). Via Sam Turner [youtu.be/zLVdrgd8w\\_s](https://youtu.be/zLVdrgd8w_s)

Quaker relevance – Happy Christmas