



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

February 2024



Wester and Easter Craiglockhart hills from Buckstone Snab (Braid Hills summit)

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings usually **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**
Held at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, or remotely by Zoom (hybrid, except on the 4th Sunday each month).

Notices, other options, and late changes are sent by weekly email. Join the email list by clicking the link at <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>

On the **First Thursday** of each month we meet for **30 min at 7.30 pm** by Zoom, followed by chat.

Arrangements for children: see online.

Other local meetings

Central Edinburgh and Portobello-Musselburgh are closest. Times are listed in SESAME, but for full info and a map, see <https://quakerscotland.org>

Several South Edinburgh Friends also attend Central Edinburgh's **Midweek Meeting on Wednesdays**, 12.30 for 30 mins at Victoria Terrace meeting house. Tea and coffee are available, and you can bring a packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in February is for **Scottish CND**. David Somervell or Deirdre Armstrong will speak to this. More about their work and campaigns at www.banthebomb.org (Donate button at top).

QUAKER EVENTS

Latest updates at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

Central Edinburgh's **Winter Ceilidh** is on **Sat 3 Feb**. See Central events below.

Funeral meeting for Sue Freshwater at Edinburgh Meeting House, Victoria Terrace on **Fri 9 Feb** at 3pm at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House, Victoria Terrace. Followed by tea and cakes.

South Edinburgh Quaker Book Group meets at 2pm on **Thur 15 Feb** to discuss Delia Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*. Contact Carol Jennings, Catriona Courtier or Alison Chalmers.

Woodbrooke Where You Are – AM's programme of 5 whole-day sessions at Victoria Terrace starts with *Essentials of Quakerism* on **Sat 24 Feb**, led by Ben Pink Dandelion. Booking before 15 Feb at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/sescotland (see emails for password, or link at top of column) which also has full details of this and future events.

Local Meeting for Business will be held after Meeting for Worship on **Sun 3 Mar**.

General Meeting for Scotland will be held at Edinburgh Meeting House on **Sat 9 Mar**.

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

Coffee at Rachel's house, from 10.15 am on first and third Thursdays. Please confirm with Rachel.

Winter Ceilidh at Edinburgh Meeting House on **Sat 3 Feb** 4.30-8.30 pm. Dancing, games, food, turns. Contact david@sterratt.me.uk to offer a turn or to help. Open to Friends from other meetings. Please label food you bring for potential allergies.

Book Group – Fourth Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. February: *On Time and Water: a history of our future* by Andri Magnason



For Valentine's day, we present John Francis Campbell of Islay, saviour of Gaelic folklore (see Jan issue). Pictured in 1868 when he was 47 (National Lib Scotland). Other options, p4.

Notes from meeting for worship for business held on Sun 3 December 2023

Full minutes have been circulated by email, but please ask if you need a paper copy. Key points:

- **Meeting with our local MP** Ian Murray was summarized in our January issue
- **Blended meetings** – some debate around this; decision to continue as now and review in 6 months
- **Appointments** – We need a third co-clerk, and another Elder. *Could this be you?*
- **Notices and announcements** are spoken at the end of meeting, available in the newsletter, and recently, put in weekly emails. How to keep these concise and consistent was discussed. A page for forthcoming events was subsequently set up at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents> as a trial.
- **Next meeting for business** – after MfW on Sun 3 March.

Morningside Justice and Peace Group

Continues its talks every **Wednesday** during the autumn and spring months from 10.30am to 11.30am at the Eric Liddell Centre, Holy Corner. You are invited to pay £30 per term or £3 per talk.

Feb 7 Mike Wedderspoon, Director of Strategic Engagement and Delivery, Scottish National Investment Bank. *'The Scottish National Investment Bank – Investing with impact for social change.'*

Feb 14 Dr. Ben Coulson, Lecturer in International Relations, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh *'Are Russia, China, Iran, North Korea the new Anti-Western Axis?'*

Feb 21 Ruth Evans, Advisor, Community Ownership Development Trust Association.
'Community Ownership – how does that work?'

Feb 28 Eurig Scandrett, Senior Lecturer in Public Sociology at Queen Margaret University and Chair, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign. *'What next for the Palestinians?'*

Mar 6 Lindsay Beevers, Professor of Environmental Engineering, University of Edinburgh.
'Flooding – causes, problems and solutions.'

Mar 13 Derek Mitchell – Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Scotland.
'This endless cost of living crisis. What can we learn from Citizens Advice Scotland?'

Mar 20 *tbc*

Dates of Faslane meetings

Now appear in the table at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents> but here they are for the whole year. Sundays:

10 Mar	23 Jun
21 April	22 Sep
19 May	10 Nov

On these Sundays there is a Meeting for Witness for Peace at the West end of Princes St gardens, between the Ross Fountain and the Bandstand. From 10.30. Take something warm and something to sit on. On the same days there is a Quaker meeting at the North gate of Faslane naval base, starting at 11 am.

Welcome new members

Area Meeting on 15th January warmly accepted applications from two South Edinburgh Friends into Membership, Angela Napuk and Ros Robertson. And so do we!

GOOD NEWS

Copyright - Climate change



Mickey Mouse is in the public domain (partially)! On Jan 1st one of the Internet Archive's most-read posts ever announced that the 1928 Disney cartoon Steamboat Willie was out of copyright. It's great, you can watch it at <https://archive.org/details/steamboat-willie-mickey> though it probably wouldn't be made quite the same way today. The image further down this page shows a now-legal, climate-relevant derivative work from its Mickey v1.0, by @missbettyfinn.

Hannah Ritchie seems to be moving into the role left vacant by the death of Hans Rosling, as lead spokesperson for optimism about hard truths. She was brought up in Falkirk, but studied environmental geosciences, carbon management, and global food systems in Edinburgh. She is a data science researcher and communicator, and heads research for the excellent Our World in Data.

Are we the last generation – or the first sustainable one? 12 mins at <https://bit.ly/49c2BxZ> "It's become strangely normal to tell our kids that they're going to die from climate change". Hannah Ritchie's TED talk has had over 1 million views since it was posted in September. Compare with:

Hans Rosling: *The magic washing machine*, 9 mins at <https://bit.ly/3tYSLAF> (best lecture ever?) He also did a party trick with a somewhat stilted Bill Gates at <https://youtu.be/2nDh8MQs-Y>

Such powerful communicators. Hannah Ritchie is popping up a lot just now around publication of her book *Not the End of the World*. Or there's more detail for free in her blog at www.sustainabilitybynumbers.com

Climate and more in the Scottish Parliament

From Sarah Komashko, our Parliamentary Engagement Officer.

Would you consider writing to your MSP to encourage them, along these lines, to attend an event? It follows Lesley Morrison's reflection last year "Are we being good ancestors?". A short recording of that is available at <https://bit.ly/3MtdjYr> Suggested text:



Dear [MSP] [*find yours at www.theyworkforyou.com/msp*]

As one of my local MSPs, I'm emailing to encourage you to accept the invitation from Christine Grahame MSP to an event on 'Climate and Health – your constituents' concerns', taking place on **Wednesday 13 March from 18:00-19:30** in the Fleming Room.

Quaker Lesley Morrison gave a Time for Reflection last year on the interconnectedness of the climate and health crises. This event by Quakers in Scotland and MedAct builds on this reflection, looking at how effective responses to the climate crisis are important for health too. The event will include:

- Brief talks from doctors and professionals who work on health issues
- A short film on "Health professionals' role in the climate crisis" (commissioned by the medical journal The Lancet)
- Input from young people
- Time for your questions and discussion with the experts in the room

I would be so glad if you could make time to come along to the event which will provide useful information to help you respond to your constituents' concerns about the interconnection between climate and health.

In Friendship,

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Ecocide – A bid to make 'ecocide' an illegal act was put to GM, where it was not felt possible to sign up to the proposal, and more recently to AM, where it was felt that further consideration was required. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland has produced a draft response to a proposed bill at <https://bit.ly/49aHdsI> It is partially supportive, but outlines some problems with the proposition.

Strengthening Scottish children's rights. Sarah Komashko writes about the UNCRC bill in the BYM blog at <https://bit.ly/3Ohxp8m>

To receive Sarah's occasional emailed Parliamentary updates, email SarahK@quaker.org.uk

News and future events

Quaker responses to Ukraine – in a one-off webinar on **Tue 13 Feb**, 6.30-8 pm, hear how Quakers in the UK and Europe are taking actions to respond to needs. A Woodbrooke event. <https://bit.ly/4b9PGOJ>

Climate vigils – Christian Climate Action Scotland holds a vigil outside the Scottish Parliament on the last Tuesday of each month, 12-2 pm. This month **Tue 27 Feb**.

Christian Aid events in Scotland include annual supporters 'gathering' on Zoom, 10am on **Tue 27 Feb**. Full events list at <https://bit.ly/caidevents>

Quaker retreats in Languedoc – If you like your retreats hotter, you might like to look at <https://maison-quaker-congenies.org/en>

Plants are our teachers – Susie Reade recommends this workshop series held on weekends and half days at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. Between 2nd March - 2nd Nov. ££ with discount for multiple events. More info at <https://artandecology.earth/plants-are-our-teachers-2>



VALENTINE CORNER



'From the Elizabethan period to the 18th century, a bent coin could be a love token, and was sometimes used in marriage rites instead of wedding rings'. Also a good luck token (JSTOR, <https://bit.ly/3uJEeIR>). The photo above shows a 1700s 'crooked sixpence' turned into a 21st century love token by @LondonMudlark (fascinating other discoveries in there).

There was a crooked man who walked a crooked mile
He found a crooked sixpence against a crooked stile
He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse
And they all lived together in a little crooked house.

*Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday of each month. March mares to neilturn@gmail.com
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh*

Cult of Beauty If you are close to Friends House before 28 April, you could drop into this thought-provoking exhibition at the nearby Wellcome Collection, which includes the sculptures and models below. <https://bit.ly/3HAF3ag>



Left: Esquiline Venus and Idolino, from 500 BCE
Right: Barbie scaled up to life-size, Adel Rootstein Ltd (mannequin manufacturers) 2009, with male fashion mannequin Oriol. Barbie has a 21 inch waist.