



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2026



Newtongrange pit (1890-1981). Now the National Mining Museum and start site for one of the excellent self-guided walks at www.mining-landscapes.org This one around the largest mining village in Scotland. (Multimedia, by Rosie Nimmo, Portobello artist and musician.)

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We meet on **Sundays 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, and remotely by Zoom (hybrid).

Recent notices 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.

Children are welcome anytime. For details of planned activities, 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 **Midweek Meeting on Wednesdays**, 12.30 for 30 mins at Victoria Terrace meeting house. Tea and coffee available, you can eat your packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our charity in April is the **Living Rent**, 'Scotland's tenants and community union'. Deirdre Armstrong has provided more information on page 2 and will speak to this. www.livingrent.org has more info and you can donate at www.livingrent.org/donate

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Book Group on *Ice* by Ella Lena Lundberg, **Thur 2 April**, 2 pm, location tbc.

Hustings – two of interest clash on **Wed 8 April**: the Salvation Army at their premises on East Adam Street at 1900, info and booking www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/108623 and at 1830 the Scottish Food Coalition at Augustine United Church, book at www.tickettailor.com/events/scottishfoodcoalition/2040667

Intermediate meetings – We are invited to a meeting organised by Central Edinburgh Friends to consider how, if we join QiS, these could work, and what they might be called. **Sun 12 April** at 7 Victoria Terrace, 1-2.30 pm. *Detail on page 2.*

SES Area Meeting at Edinburgh Meeting House and online, **Mon 13 April**, 7-9 pm. Details by email.

Preparation for BYM – online sessions **13-17 April**, further info at www.quaker.org.uk/ym and www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents

Meeting for Peace in Princes St Gardens **Sun 19 April**, 10.30 at the Peace Tree, between the bandstand and the Ross Fountain. To coincide with meetings at Faslane.

Britain Yearly Meeting at Friends House, London, **Fri April 17-19**. Places need to be booked online at www.quaker.org.uk/ym

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

Coffee at Rachel's house usually on first and third Thursdays, please confirm with Rachel.

Central Book Group – third Sundays after soup. April: *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler.



A better known piece of Newtongrange artwork

The Lochrin Burn



The 1759 map of South Edinburgh in our February issue faintly showed a trace of a disappeared watercourse, the Lochrin Burn. It ran Westwards from the South Loch (the Meadows; Hope Park), under Fountain Bridge, and joined the Water of Leith at Roseburn.

After being depleted by use as a water supply to not only the population, but also to breweries and distilleries, the loch was drained progressively from

1657-1804. Middle Meadow Walk formed a causeway over the partially drained loch.

A 1784 map (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400071>) unkindly identifies the burn traversing the Meadows as 'Common Sewer by Lochrin', though it and a later map show its banks flanked by trees (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400027>). In 1852 it remained visible in part at the segment to Fountain Bridge, but subsequently the course is only traceable where it has influenced the positions of buildings and boundaries.

It's a fascinating sequence of maps as it covers changing industries, new buildings, and the arrival of canal and railways.

Information from Frank Donald at <https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/tracing-the-lochrin-burn>

Intermediate meetings

In February QiS asked Local Meetings (LMs) to consider what have been referred to so far as 'intermediate meetings', which sit between QiS and LMs, and what names might be appropriate for such meetings.

The definition of Intermediate Meetings in papers online is broad and perhaps too wide. Their core purpose would be to conduct some elements of business that are currently considered at Area Meeting, where local consideration is highly valued. Membership applications have raised particular concern.

Central Edinburgh has issued this invitation:

Come and join us on Sunday 12th April at 7 Victoria Terrace between 1 and 2:30pm while we thresh through our thoughts on this, perhaps coming up with potential options. The following questions may help our considerations:

- As the shape and form of QiS begins to become clearer, what are the processes and functions that need to sit between QiS and LMs?
- What forms will best serve the fulfilment of these?
- How will these serve our spiritual needs?
- What names might we offer to reflect these forms and functions?

This Threshing Meeting will be facilitated by Elizabeth Allen of East Lothian Meeting. Friends from South Edinburgh and Portobello and Musselburgh and other local meetings within SESAM are invited to join us for this session and for our usual soup lunch after the 11:00am Meeting.

In politics

Lucy le Roux's monthly email (contact LucyR@quaker.org.uk to be added) is always interesting, her latest including:

Climate Change Plan: Gillian Martin released the final plan after months of consultation with organisations and individuals across Scotland. It has been criticised for not going far enough but we must now push the new parliament to take decisive climate action. You can see the plan in full at <https://bit.ly/48dgxJK> and the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) reaction (summary: inadequate) at <https://bit.ly/3PSgGvX>



Scotland Climate film: Quakers in Scotland were involved in the creation of a film where faith leaders, scientists, youth activists called for climate action in Scotland. The Royal Geographical Society pulled it together and I was involved when I worked at Christian Aid. It has lots of quite high-profile people in it including Jacinda Ardern and Ban Ki-moon who feature alongside Susan Mitchell the former Assistant Clerk of QiS!

It is 7 minutes long, please do share it with friends: <https://youtu.be/-TJiKsSijfo>

UK Government Aid Cuts: You can see analysis by the Scotland International Development Alliance and other Scottish voices in the sector at <https://bit.ly/4scmuhy>

This month's charity

Living Rent is a Scottish charity that campaigns on housing rights for tenants. As well as giving advice they support multiple small groups tackling social issues, for example in Gorgie they have taken up the issue of too much student housing and not enough for tenants at affordable rents. They write:

Scottish rents have increased by 61% since 2010 (104% in Edinburgh and 81% in Glasgow). Over 240,000 tenants are stuck on social housing waiting lists, and 66% of private rentals suffer from disrepair. Low-income renters—disproportionately young people, women, people of colour, and migrants—bear the brunt of this crisis. The poorest 20% of tenants spend over half their income on rent.

Many of us are owner occupiers who do not have to worry about ejection from our housing. Living Rent helps people in local neighbourhoods giving advice, helping people stay in their housing if their landlord has unreasonably tried to get them out, and helping them find better housing if they are in sub-standard accommodation. www.livingrent.org/donate

Deirdre Armstrong

Other news and future events

Camping at Comrie Croft Informal Friends gathering **22-25 May**. If interested please contact Anne Hitchen (anne.scattwell@gmail.com) of Inverness LM or Anna Densham of Glasgow LM (so_wilde@yahoo.co.uk).

Family Gathering at Pitlochry at the Youth Hostel **19-21 June**. A calling letter to all LMs will follow.

Shindig – the annual break for 11-17 year old Friends will again be at the FSC, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae. **25 July - 1 Aug**. Applications for attending or to join the staff, or more info, from summershindig@gmail.com

Pluscarden Weekend, an annual event established by North of Scotland Friends, will be held **28-30 Aug**. Piers Voisey welcomes expressions of interest to join from Friends across Scotland. More details to follow.



Wiston weekend will be **18-20 September**. More details to follow. (This date clashes with a QiS meeting in Inverness).

“In 2025 we shared many activities: puppetry, brambling, dialogue poetry, a nature walk, climbing Tinto Hill, a Friday evening bonfire, with Qi-gong after breakfast and a Saturday evening ceilidh.” This year we'll also offer some adventure activities.

We've once again hired the whole place - all facilities in the Victorian Lodge, the cabins and the camping dell.

More info and booking at <https://bit.ly/wiston26>

Woodbrooke programme for May-Oct 2026 now available. There's a wide range, mostly online with a few residential in the Lakes at Glenthorne, including a writing retreat to support your next contribution to this newsletter. Details at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses

Quakers in Scotland meetings are listed at <https://quakerscotland.org/qis/meeting-dates-and-papers>

Happy Birthday

These two worthy historic Quakers have April birthdays. Both have good Wikipedia pages.



Oliver Postgate (1925), creator of animation classics such as Bagpuss, Noggin the Nog, and the Clangers.

Abraham Darby I (1677), Shropshire ironmaster who introduced the use of coke instead of coal to blast iron. Famously at Coalbrookdale, where the Iron Bridge was the first substantial bridge made of cast iron, overseen by Abraham Darby III.

More art



Out of Egypt, ©Małgorzata Mirga-Tas 2024
textile and acrylic on canvas

The dead don't go until we do – Deirdre recommends this free exhibition at the Talbot Rice gallery (Old College, South Bridge) till 30 May. It shows four artists who demonstrate how we stand hand-in-hand with those who came before us.

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