



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

May 2025



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 collection in May is for **Practical Action**, a UK development charity that works on poverty and climate change, especially in Africa. Ola Oduku will speak to this. <https://practicalaction.org> for more info: donations button top right. More on p3.

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Area Meeting is at Victoria Terrace Meeting House at 7pm on **Tue 6 May**. Main item *What Next for SESAM and Quakers in Scotland?* following our threshing meeting on March 1st. Quakers in Scotland (QiS) is the new charity that is proposed to become the single charity for Scottish Friends. Emails include an explanatory paper; more background at <https://quakerscotland.org/qis>

South Edinburgh Book Group meets on **Thur 8 May**. *In the Rosary Garden* by Nicola White, 2pm at the home of Ian and Rosamond Robertson.

Princes St Gardens Meeting for witness and worship for peace at the Peace Tree **Sun 18 May**. Between fountain and the Ross Bandstand, 10.30-11.30. Coincides with meetings at Faslane. Dress for weather and bring something to sit on.

Britain Yearly Meeting is being held in London **Fri 23-26 May**. www.quaker.org.uk/ym

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

Coffee at Rachel's house, from 10.15 am on **Thur 15 and 29 May** (*usually first and third Thurs*). Please confirm with Rachel.

Central Book Group – third Sundays after soup: **May**: *Caledonian Road* by Andrew O'Hagan. **June**: *Crawford* by Elizabeth Gaskell. **July**: tbc.



Photo: MHT

This month's charity: Practical Action

Practical Action is an international NGO which evolved from the 2006 renaming of the Intermediate Technology Development Group, IFDG, formed by EF Schumaker. Schumaker's 1973 book *Small is Beautiful* remains central to its goals.

It works in countries and regions across Africa, Asia and Latin America, focusing on agricultural support, infrastructure provision (electricity and water), and climate resilience, through local economic empowerment. Key tenets are *for people, for the planet, and for big change*. Its commitment to working for change with the community remains as relevant in today's world as it was when Schumaker was alive in 1966. Core beliefs:

- *Where there's action, there's hope*
- *Societies and economies can work for the benefit of all*
- *We can live within the planet's means*
- *Innovation and cooperation can conquer any challenge.*

Further info and online donations at <https://practicalaction.org>

Arcadia: a vision of pastoralism and harmony, Utopia



Et in arcadia ego (I too was in Arcadia) by Finlay 1976, Poussin 1627.

The classic English Country Garden, often described as Arcadian, was modelled on the the dreamy imaginary landscapes of Poussin, with classical architectural features and characters, or shepherds/milkmaids set in beautiful but artificial scenes, with picturesque clumps of trees and surprise vistas. An exclusive and competitive feature of 18th century wealthy estates.

Ian Hamilton Finlay is best known for his beautiful, thought-provoking garden **Little Sparta** at the southern end of the Pentlands. Quite difficult to get to, with an uphill walk from the car park, and open for limited hours on limited days June to September. www.littlesparta.org.uk But **until Mon 26 May** he is also the subject of a free temporary exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art (Modern 2) in Edinburgh. It could include more about his life, but it's nearer and more accessible, and a useful reminder outside the visiting season.

Cycle/walk to Modern 2 from South Edinburgh via the splendid and still new Roseburn-Canal link!



Finlay's works often feature sardonic views of weapons and warfare, and his garden is a haven of peace.

Observation test

Hidden in this picture are 10 people, a horse, and an apple. They all come from the story of Snow White. Can you find them all? From Treasure magazine 1964, target audience 8 year olds. Via Helen Day @LBFlyawayhome

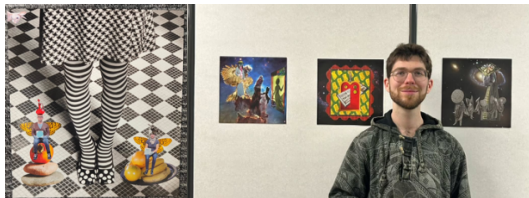
Artist Don Harley (1927-2021) illustrated many childrens books and magazines, but was perhaps best known for Dan Dare. <https://bit.ly/4iy70iY>



Other news and future events



Palestinian Museum – due to open in the private art gallery district, at 13A Dundas St on **17 May**. Fundraising event on **Thur 1 May**, 7-10 pm at Augustine United Church will feature Palestinian performances including music and poetry. Tickets (Zoom connection also available) at <https://bit.ly/4jW4CUP>
Why Edinburgh? <https://bit.ly/4iwuAwo>

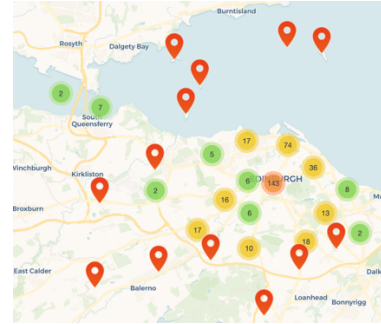


Jack's Art Exhibition – Jack Thomas has an exhibition at Rutland Court. Visits by appointment, jestermonk42@gmail.com
Photos of the exhibition and his work on Instagram, [@jestermonk.tzq](https://www.instagram.com/jestermonk.tzq)

Wiston weekend our annual all-age weekend near Biggar, is **Fri 5 – Sun 7 Sep** on the theme of **Building Community**. £140, or lower for concessions, and bursaries available. We have the whole venue this year, and the event is advertised across Scotland. More info and booking at <https://bit.ly/wiston25> or send Qs to QuakerWistonWeekend@gmail.com

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

Walk or read



Andy Arthur again. His fascinating **threadinburgh** series on the history and social history of Edinburgh localities, infrastructure, industry and population is heading towards 300 articles. Daunted? Narrow something down from <https://threadinburgh.scot/threadinburgh-map>

To read them as they appear, subscribe to [@threadinburgh.scot](https://twitter.com/threadinburgh.scot) on BlueSky.

200 years ago



In 1825 a respectable London Friend was imprisoned by the madam of a brothel for failing to come up with the fee. 1825 prints by Henry Heath (public domain).



'Oh that there was no such place as Elbow Lane'