



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

June 2023



From the top of the Braid Hills

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, or remotely by Zoom (hybrid, except on the fourth Sun of each month). Garden or other locations may also be notified.

*Late changes and notices sent by weekly email.* To join the South Edinburgh Announce email list, see <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.

### 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 June is for the **Prison Phoenix Trust**, which offers meditation and yoga to prisoners Margaret Anderson will speak to this. [www.theppt.org.uk](http://www.theppt.org.uk) (Donate button at top right).

### QUAKER EVENTS

**Evening Meeting** by Zoom on first Thursdays at 7.30pm, so **Thur 1 June**.

**Witness for Peace** and meeting for worship in Princes St Gardens, **Sun 25 June** 10.30-11.30. Towards the West end of the park, just East of the Ross Fountain.

**General Meeting for Scotland** will be held in Edinburgh on **Sat 10 June**. The agenda will include consideration of the 'Options for Scotland' group's recommendation that Quakers in Scotland unite as a single body. More on this at <https://bit.ly/scotquaker-options>

**Woodbrooke in Edinburgh** – Reading the Bible with Early Friends, led by Stuart Masters. From 10 am on **Sat 17 June**. Book at <https://bit.ly/3GI6Zc5>

The **Area Meeting** originally scheduled for Sat 24 June will now be held on **Sat 1 July**. (This clashes with BYM extra session, p4.)

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From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

**Coffee** at Rachel's house, generally on first and third Thursdays from 10.15 am. Please contact Rachel in advance to confirm numbers.

**Singing group**, 7.30 pm on first Tuesday of each month at Victoria Terrace.

**Book Group** – usually 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. June: Annie Miller's *Basic Income - A Short Guide*. Apply to Annie for a copy.



*Wind Doesn't Know for Borders*, a tapestry by Minna Rothman [www.mzrstudio.com](http://www.mzrstudio.com). *The wind knows no national origin or allegiance; it ... is a symbol of unity and freedom, reminding us that all people are connected. But people are all like the grains of a sand dune .... We flow together in our humanity, united in our differences.* Via Carol Jennings.

## Rachel Howell Memorial Minute

Rachel was born on 20 August 1974 and died 6 September 2022 after a very short illness. A Memorial Meeting was held on 19 November 2022.

In her early life, Rachel was a Catholic, but over time she met with Quakers and later studied at Pendle Hill Quaker centre in Pennsylvania USA. She lived for some time in two Catholic Worker community houses and wrote a beautiful account, "Strangers and Pilgrims" which gives an insight into her struggle to find a way to live her faith, and to work unswervingly for justice. She served her Quaker communities as co-clerk on Living Witness, a Quaker sustainability project, and as Quaker Chaplaincy Rep at the University of Edinburgh.

Rachel then chose academia coming to Edinburgh University for a Masters in Environmental Sustainability followed by her PhD. She joined South Edinburgh Local Meeting, inspiring them to support charities such as the Prison Phoenix Trust and encouraged them in changing their lifestyles to be more sustainable. Her postdoctoral research took her to Aberystwyth - a place she loved for its warmth and its walks - and she joined Aberystwyth Meeting.

In 2015 Rachel returned to Edinburgh, creating and running a University course in Sustainable Development. Her students voted her as Best Personal Tutor in 2012 and 2017. She was also deeply involved with the UCU and their fight for better pay and conditions for all staff.

Rachel's life was full and varied, with her deep faith and commitment to justice being her backbone. This Memorial Minute only touches on the surface of a life that touched so many people. Rachel's spirit is perhaps captured in a poem by her friend Marie McCusker:

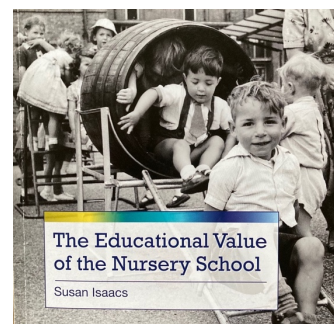
'And still her love and life and laughter  
Nourish my life as she gladdened many'.

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## The educational value of the nursery school

In Getting to Know (April newsletter), Karina McIntosh said that her aunt was Susan Isaacs, who was a ground breaking nursery teacher from the 1920s and 30s. She wrote *The Educational Value of the Nursery School* (1937), a book I have valued a lot. She was one of the first to carefully observe children and their ways of learning. She described how at that time children were in families with as few as 3 or 4 children, so really needed the nursery to socialise! What would she find now?

*Deirdre Armstrong*



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## In other newsletters

**The Friend** reports on FWCC's event around internet promotion of misogyny and 'toxic masculinity'; has an item and a letter on the pros and cons of the Vanguard model of automated investing without inflating City salaries; letters on the place of Christ and religion in Quakerism today; and how Virginia Woolf knew Quakers (Qs), and once pitched an article on a Q meeting to an editor, but never wrote about Qs. *Or did she?*

**SESAME** is a bumper issue and it's in your inbox and mail. Worth a detailed read.

## Revisit me

**The Museum of Edinburgh** [www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/museum-edinburgh](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/museum-edinburgh)

Free, at Huntly House in Canongate (closed May 28). A lovely little museum with a maze of rooms with hundreds of things of interest from Edinburgh.

Relevant to the May newsletter, has Robert Louis Stevenson's golf ball dug up by the gardener at Swanston, along with a small piece of oatmeal biscuit said to belong to Jean Armour (don't ask ' how Robert Burns' widow with 6 children could still have a piece of oatmeal biscuit to leave to posterity).

Currently (till September 28) also has a small exhibition of photos and contributions from people who have come to Edinburgh – 'Local Foreigners'. Some photos below, with more plus the fascinating stories behind them at <https://localforeigners.org>



*Deirdre Armstrong*

*Quaker Relevance: 78%*



Granton Road Station then and now (via Facebook)

## NEWS

**BYM additional session** In person (London) or remotely, on **Sat 1 July**. Trustees report and financial statement, membership patterns, and further discussion of new ideas for simple, sustainable, inclusive organisation. More details at <https://bit.ly/3II3P94>

**Summer Shindig** for those aged 11-16 is being held at Ackworth School, **29 Jul-5 Aug**. Details at <https://summershindig.wordpress.com> and there is further detail in March SESAME.

**7 Victoria Terrace is Fringe Central this year**  
The Fringe is renting the premises throughout August. This means that there will be no 'Venue 40', but that it will be busy, while remaining available for Quaker meetings on Wednesday and Sunday. Fringe staff will run it at other times.

**Thinking about membership? Please do!** In-person in Falkirk on **Sat 23 Sep**. Further details and booking by contacting Mariot Dallas, [dallasfalkirk@btinternet.com](mailto:dallasfalkirk@btinternet.com) or 01324 639245.

**Are we being good ancestors?** Lesley Morrison (Tweeddale meeting) gave a short reflection at the Scottish parliament. Video <https://bit.ly/3MtdjYr>  
Text available to download from right column at [www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/parliamentary-engagement](http://www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/parliamentary-engagement)

## Watch me



*Ma'agalim* by the Israeli singer Jane Bordeaux with an ingenious 3D animation by Uri Lotan. *In a forgotten old penny arcade, a wooden doll is stuck in place and time.* <https://vimeo.com/162052542> (3 mins)

Our newsletter is usually published near the last Sunday of each month. July jumble to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)  
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to **Esther** (Minor), who will be 3 on the 20th. Sending very best wishes to you and all the family in France.



Yorkshire curd tart with British strawbs.

## 50 word review – Third Culture Kids

*Pollock, van Reken, Pollock. Paperback £10-20.*

Explanation and guidance for/about TCK; those who grew up overseas till at least 18. An experience that often includes many moves. Catalogues blessings and curses. *Pro*: adventures, multi-languages, world knowledge. *Cons*: repeated loss of friends, places, things; detachment, may not easily bond with 'stable' people. It's my life story!

*Sue Freshwater.*

## Tweet of the month

Remarkable set of scores in the Canaan Premier League



Jonathan Wilson  
@jonawils

Remarkable set of scores in the Canaan Premier League.

and in the south country; <sup>e</sup> the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites:  
<sup>9</sup> <sup>1</sup> The king of Jericho, one; <sup>g</sup> the king of Ai, which is beside Beth-el, one;  
<sup>10</sup> <sup>1</sup> The king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one;  
<sup>11</sup> The king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one;  
<sup>12</sup> The king of Eglon, one; <sup>o</sup> the king of Gezer, one;  
<sup>13</sup> <sup>r</sup> The king of Debir, one; <sup>s</sup> the king of Geder, one;  
<sup>14</sup> <sup>t</sup> The king of Hormah, one; <sup>u</sup> the king of Arad, one;  
<sup>15</sup> <sup>v</sup> The king of Libnah, one; <sup>w</sup> the king of Adullam, one;  
<sup>16</sup> <sup>x</sup> The king of Maon, one;

From Joshua 12, King James version. It refers to the kings that Joshua and the children of Israel 'smote'. (Clarification: not a good thing).