



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

July 2022



Edinburgh University Library. *Sinking?* (p 3)

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, or sometimes in a local garden, and (hybrid) also remotely by Zoom. *Please check emails on the day.* Joining info is sent via our South Edinburgh Announce email list. To be added see <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>.

On the **First Thursday of each month** we also meet for **30 min at 8 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 July is for the **Development Organisation of Rural Sichuan (DORS)**. Sichuan is a poor province in South West China, where DORS has worked since 1997 to relieve poverty by implementing small-scale projects that promote sustainable rural development. Alison Hardie will speak to this.

Information about the charity and their projects at [www.dors.org.uk](http://www.dors.org.uk) Donate beneath 'About us'.

### QUAKER EVENTS

**Meeting for Worship for Peace** will be held at 10.30 am in Princes St Gardens on **Sun 26 June**. Details on page 2.

**Visual art and how it may influence us.** Susie Reade is leading this online Meeting for Deepening on **Mon 4 July**, 7.30-9 pm. No need to book. Use the same Zoom link as for Sunday Meetings. All are welcome. If you have an image or object you would like to share, please have that to hand, along with: 1 sheet of paper (A4 or larger), 1 piece of card (e.g. cereal packet), and a pen/pencil.

**Friends after Covid** – also **Mon 4 July**, 7 for 7.30, in person at Victoria Terrace. Emily Provence, an American Friend travelling in the ministry, on What membership means, and on coming out of the pandemic, including the use of blended meetings.

There's a third event on 4 July evening – see p4.

**Evening Meeting** by Zoom on first Thursdays at 8pm, so **Thur 7 July**. Half an hour with time to talk afterwards.

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These Edinburgh Central events are open to South Edin too. They are back to in-person only. Qs to Rachel Frith of Central meeting.

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

**Singing group** is on hols during July and August.

**Book Group** – meets 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. For July: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

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From Robert Blomfield's photos of 1960s Edinburgh. More on page 3.

## Summary of South Edinburgh Local Meeting for Worship for Business 5 June 2022

Full minutes have been circulated by email. Please get in touch if you would like a printed copy.

- In general, we are happy with our current arrangement of holding Meeting for Worship in 3 ways on Sunday mornings (Zoom, Open Door, and garden) and on the first Thursday evening of the month. Our elders and pastoral care group will consider holding an occasional Meeting for Worship in person only, as some Friends expressed that these feel quite different to a blended meeting.
- We will ask Zoe Prosser, Local Development Worker for Scotland, to facilitate a RESTORE (Recognise, Empathise, Safety, Trauma, Opportunity, Relationships, Engagement) workshop in the Autumn.
- We will commence holding Meeting for Worship to Witness for Peace in Princes Street Gardens on the same days as Meeting for Worship is held at Faslane. The next one will take place at 10.30 am on **Sun 26 June**, at the site of the planned conscientious objector memorial, which is to the east of the fountain at the west end of Princes St Gardens). Future dates are **25th Sep, 13 Nov**.

Our next Meeting for Business is scheduled after Meeting for Worship on Sunday 14 August.

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## Our pioneering neighbours, the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

The latest all-colour Scottish Friend, whose production standards raise the bar worryingly for Quaker editors, has an item on The Retreat. This pioneering York psychiatric hospital is closing after 300 years. But we should not forget that the Royal Edinburgh Hospital was close behind, and espoused many of the same principles.

The Retreat opened in 1796. William Tuke, local Quaker tea merchant, was influenced by the death of Quaker Hannah Mills in 1790 in inhuman conditions in a new local asylum. She had been admitted with 'melancholy'.

The death of poet Robert Ferguson in Edinburgh's Bedlam in 1774 was said to have triggered his physician Andrew Duncan to launch a campaign to build a better place in 1792. The hospital opened in 1813 on a 4-acre site on the West side of Morningside Road, previously a mansion, just beyond the modern Sainsbury's. This was East House, demolished to make way for the housing and shops we see now in 1896. West House had opened for poorer patients in 1842, and remains as Mackinnon House on the main hospital site.

The work undertaken for wealthy patients in East House moved to the very grand new Craighouse Hospital in 1894. This splendid building, just above 16<sup>th</sup> century Craig House, is 20 mins walk from the Open Door along Balcarres St. It was a Napier University building for 20 years, now being redeveloped as housing. The whole site is impressive, with walks and views around about.



OS map 1877-85. Development has barely crossed the Jordan Burn – perhaps because of the toll. So no building yet at the site of the Open Door next to Morningside Rd station. That had just opened in 1884. The East House of the Royal Ed survived just over a decade longer before being replaced by tenements and shops.

Jordan Burn

Toll House – removed in 1884 and rebuilt at the entrance to the Hermitage of Braid

## Shorts

Free photos and short films while waiting for the Festival to begin.

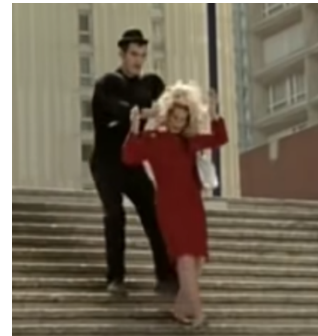
### Children of the 60s



Robert Blomfield took hundreds of atmospheric photos of Edinburgh in the 1960s while a student. There is a free exhibition displaying them in the entrance to the University Library in George Square until 1st Oct. 10 am to 6 pm Mon-Sat. More online at [www.robertblomfield.co.uk](http://www.robertblomfield.co.uk)



### 'People don't seem to like me'



'Mr W.' 2 minutes with an important message. No spoilers please. [https://youtu.be/2mTLO2F\\_ERY](https://youtu.be/2mTLO2F_ERY)

### Watch your meters!



Energy saving has gained acute further urgency. This eccentric 1 min film was made during a continuing energy shortage after WW2 in 1947. <https://bit.ly/3NqM6TD> urged caution to help the nation. Coal rationing continued for 11 more years. By the still extraordinary Richard Massingham, who also had a 1 min bath in *Five Inch Bather* in 1942 <https://youtu.be/6VNJI0XKFw>

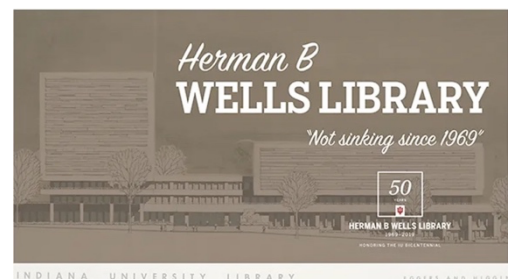
Sadly still topical, in two more public service shorts at <https://bit.ly/3tHJfOC> Dr Massingham tells you about the risks from coughs and sneezes.

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## Is Edinburgh University Library sinking beneath the weight of its books?

A longstanding rumour suggests this, as the University library architects (Basil Spence, 1967) failed to account for the weight of books in their plans. But you may not need to worry.

Similar myths have apparently afflicted university libraries around the world, leading to at least one including 'not sinking' in its byline. For an entertaining response to a Freedom of Information request along these lines at Nottingham, and wider comments that include Edinburgh, sample the Wonkhe blog at <https://bit.ly/3mM834m>





## NEWS

**Britain Yearly Meeting** is over, but you can watch the Swarthmore Lecture and some other sessions and extra recordings at <https://bit.ly/3t0H9ZU>

**The burning case for climate reparations:** Colonialism, corporate power and restorative climate justice. **Mon 4 July**, 7.15–9pm, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge. With Lumumba Di-Aping from South Sudan, chief negotiator for the G77 group of developing countries at the landmark UN climate talks in Copenhagen in 2009. More info and bookings at <https://bit.ly/3y2Bupq>

Woodbrooke has study materials on Responding to Ecological Crisis at [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/crisis](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/crisis)

**Meetings for Witness for Peace** in Princes St Gardens (see notes from MfB page 2) will be held on Sundays **25 Sep, 13 Nov**.

## Local Friends

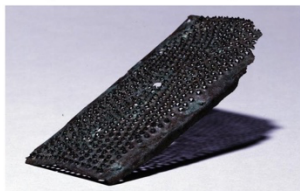
**The wrong Sylvia** – apologies for naming the wrong Sylvia in last month's newsletter. It has been corrected in the copy online. Sylvia Massey is now back home, and Dorothy Buglass is closely in touch.

*Do you have someone to mention here?*

## INTERNETS

Our **Twitter account of the month** is **@DorsaAmir** (24,400 followers, 2,400 Tweets). She investigates 'how culture shapes the mind', but her topics are interesting and varied. For example, this post on inventions that are older than you'd think. Grating cheese looks very much the same as 2,500 years ago <https://bit.ly/3kNjmlE>

*Cheese grater, Ancient Greece, 5th century BC*



*Man grinding cheese, circa 500 BC*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Very happy 0<sup>th</sup> birthday to **Arlan**, born to Maeve and Chris on Wed 15 June.



But also to **Sue Freshwater**, who was 80 in June. Here at her celebratory lunch are Sandra Riddell, Sue, Annie Miller, Mary Steven, Dorothy Buglass.



Our newsletter is usually published near the last Sunday of each month. July jubbly 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)