



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

August 2021



Garden meeting with welcome to Esther

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings every **Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**. Zoom and limited in-person options are available. In-person includes limited numbers at the Open Door, and in a garden. If you'd like to join one of these, booking is essential.

Joining instructions for Zoom or in-person are sent via our South Edinburgh Announce email list. To be added, see <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>. Please let us know if you have technical problems

Midweek Meeting at Victoria Terrace has resumed in person. Details of how to book/join will be in emails, or Alison Burnley is keeping in touch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in August is for the **Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)**, which works to end the international arms trade. David Somervell will speak to this. The Edinburgh branch meets at Victoria Terrace Meeting House in better times and has information at www.edinburghcaat.org.uk – donate online at <https://caat.org.uk/donate>

QUAKER EVENTS

Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) is running online from **Fri 31 July** and **Fri 6 Aug**. www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Truth in the Era of Fake News. Journalist and great great grandson of Anna Southall (see April issue) Thomas Penny will be giving the **Swarthmore Lecture** at 7pm on **Sat 31 July**. More info and joining link via <http://bit.ly/swarthmore21>

Edinburgh children's programme

Sun 1 Aug - Blended AAW (see emails)

Sun 15 Aug - Central Edinburgh Children's meeting, probably Scottish Wildlife Garden, tbc

Sun 29 Aug - No children's meeting but Family BBQ at Vogrie in pm. Details in email or ask.

Current COVID restrictions affecting us may change in either direction. 'Permitted' does not mean 'safe for all', and over some aspects we may ask for restrictions beyond the minimum permitted. At a religious event there is no restriction on numbers, as long as other guidance (including distancing, masks, ventilation) can be followed.

South Edinburgh Friends are very welcome to join the following Edinburgh Central Meeting events. All via Zoom: details from rachel.frith@waitrose.com

Singing Group – resume 7 Sep (first Tue 7.30 pm)

Online coffee – resumes 19 Aug at 10.30 am.

The holiday-denying **Book Group** meets on **1 Aug** for *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. Then back to its 4th Sunday on **29 Aug** for *Speedboat* by Renata Adler. 12.15 after Central MfW.



Our most senior and junior Zoom operators, Sylvia and Esther.

Indoors or out

Activities with a nod to the location of this year's deferred, upset Olympics.

Read a book

I want to eat your pancreas by Yoru Sumino. Book and anime cartoon. In which [Sunny Extrovert Schoolgirl who is Dying]-san gets to know [Reclusive Classmate Who Knows my Secret]-kun. But not a tawdry tearjerker; intelligent, funny. They teach each other a lot. Reader, she dies. After finishing you may want to re-read, think more about the characters, and about living and dying.



Massively successful in Japan, so both translated and also made into a rather cheap-looking anime movie. This preserves highlights of the text, but loses some of the subtlety. It does the heartstring-plucking bits well though.

ANT

Soothing Art



Facebook isn't cool enough to have a regular Group of the month any more, but in private groups the excesses are at least less overt. We've previously featured the Association of Bad Friends, but this month's choice is **Pictures of the floating world: Japanese woodblock prints** (33,000 members). It shows a stream of beautiful, arresting, peaceful images. Sometimes broken by things to hide from your grandparents. The (left) 1921 print of Kamo Village on Sado Island was made by Kawase Hasui.

It's easy to see how these prints made such an impression on European art when discovered in the second half of the 1800s. There's a nice commentary on this at <https://bit.ly/3iKmh37> The anime image above, the group's header, reminds us that the influence didn't stop then.

Soothing food

Five items of fruit and veg a day – that's nothing. If you are following the **washoku** principle, every meal will include 5 flavours (salty, sour, sweet, bitter, spicy), 5 colours (red, green, yellow, white, black), and 5 preparation methods (boiled, steamed, grilled, fried, raw (but may be pickled)). Google *washoku*, or from the Japan Times <https://bit.ly/3e9qxub> you will also get Olympic updates (free login to read limited number of articles).



It's still dubiously safe to travel so you might consider **taking a walk**.

A short historic walk from the Open Door



1880s?

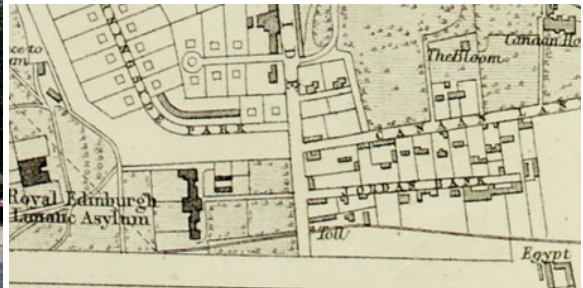
THE OLD TOLL-HOUSE
as it stood at the foot of Morningside Road



2021

Leaving the Open Door, turn left and walk 100 yards towards town, then look right, as in the photo below.

Until 1888, number 259 was the Toll House. You can still see it – as the lodge at the entrance to the Hermitage, 10 minutes' walk up Braid Road. The house was moved stone by stone and reconstructed there after tolls were abolished in 1883. The old house number is still displayed over the blocked-off door.



Left: 2021; right, Bartholomew's map of 1870. The row of single-storey shops took the location and number of the toll house on the North bank of the Jordan Burn. That passes beneath Sainsbury's, Morningside Road, and the recently abandoned post office at 265. Jordan Lane was called Jordan Bank, and you crossed the burn on Morningside Road at Braid Bridge. 'Egypt' is Egypt farm, demolished to make way for Nile Grove circa 1880 (photo in Oct 2020 issue). Opposite Jordan Bank was the entrance to 'East House', the first building of the Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum in 1813. It was an isolated country villa before that. By 1898 this part of the hospital site had been redeveloped as shops and housing. Now the low buildings on both sides of the road provide the only clue to the Jordan Burn, which re-emerges at the bottom of back gardens down Nile Grove, and then at the South end of the Astley Ainsley site.

The toll house didn't stay long. It isn't on the 1852 OS map, tolls then being levied at 'Wright's Houses' at Tollcross, to the noisy protests of the increasing numbers living South of it. You had to pay twopence (2d) to pass in or out of the city. At some point the toll barrier was moved to Morningside.

Morningside Station opened in December 1884, speeding a flurry of development 1880-1900. The shop that became the Open Door was part of the network of streets constructed south of the Jordan Burn.

Competition Braid Road was the original route out of town from Morningside. Comiston Road was a later turnpike (tolls again) constructed to bypass the worst gradients. On your way up to pay your respects to the old Toll House at the Hermitage, in the road outside 66 Braid Road you will see these stones (right). Do you know what they are?



Credits: Most of this information is from *Historic Morningside* by William Mair (1947), from the library of Margaret Anderson, generously donated to new local residents. Map from the excellent <https://maps.nls.uk>

The 1859 report that recommended removal of tolls was impressively levelling and forward-looking. This and most else on the history of roads in Scotland is lucidly presented at www.oldroadsofscotland.com. Another astonishing web project by a solo individual, this one is from late Ayrshire road safety officer Gerald Cummins.

NEWS

Preparation for COP26 – the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow **1-12 Nov.** For some ways to influence and participate, see <https://quakerscotland.org/cop26>

More walks



The BLM murals walk illustrated is just one of 18 theme-based, self-guided walks around the city available from **Curious Edinburgh**. Look them up online at <http://curiousedinburgh.org> or download the app to your phone. Topics include brewing, Granton, India, a History of Charity, and more.

More play



Photo credits for this issue: Rici, Deirdre, ed.

This newsletter is published on the last Sunday of each month. Olympic odes to neilturn@gmail.com
This edition, plus archives of previous issues, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh

Online in Scots

Alright lads, our **Twitter account of the month** is **Signorina PunnyPennie** (95,700 followers), **@Lenniesaurus**. Start with pinned tweet *I'm no havin children*, <https://bit.ly/36sRTEU> but go on to listen to her Scots Word of the Day. 365+ 30-sec Tiktok videos, they are beez and brow.



Not online in Scots. A project for you?

There are quite good dictionary options, notably www.scots-online.org, apparently the massive individual project of Andy Eagle, and the heavily academic <https://dsl.ac.uk> Both are a bit clunky, in different ways, but likeable. But is there no modern thesaurus?

If you know one, send your recommendations. Or, this could be your public service challenge for the next 20 years. Wanchancy.

Also recommended: **@DrMDempster** includes poyums, and extends even to manga.

michael dempster • cyberscots • 🧠 🗣️ 🎵 🎵 @DrMDem... · Jul 8
Hairt sair, doon, dowie
Dreich, dour
Soort fae cowpt howp
Efter cowpt howp
Ken thon wey?
There a want wi me -
Reivit roch an rearin,
Teirin thro glaur an glabber
O ma ain muck midden
Ugsome guddle

But that's not the proper language for #therapy. "I'm a bit sad." I said

