



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

August 2023



Piping in the sweet waters of Comiston

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, or remotely by Zoom (hybrid, except on the fourth Sunday of each month).

Garden and other options are added some weeks – *see late changes and notices sent by weekly email*. Join the email list via <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 August is for **River Garden Auchencruive**, which helps recovery from addiction. More on page 2. David Somervell will speak to this. [www.rivergarden.scot](http://www.rivergarden.scot) – donate button at top right.

### QUAKER EVENTS

**7 Victoria Terrace is Fringe Central this year**  
The Fringe is renting the premises throughout August to use as the Fringe Hub. So no 'Venue 40' this year. It will remain available for Quaker meetings on Wednesday and Sunday. Fringe staff will run it at other times.

No Princes St Gardens or Faslane meetings in July or August.

**Evening Meeting** by Zoom on first Thursdays at 7.30pm, so **Thur 3 Aug**.

**South Edinburgh's Local Meeting for Business** will be held after Meeting for Worship on **Sun Sep 3** at the Open Door.

**Wiston weekend** is Fri-Sun **8-10 Sep**. Details and booking at <https://bit.ly/46dnl7w> Deadline for booking, if there are still spaces, is 6 Aug.

### Quaker Week

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From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

**Coffee** at Rachel's house, Thur 3 and 24 Aug (usually first and third Thursdays) from 10.15 am. Please confirm with Rachel in advance.

**Singing group** is *on leave during August*.

**Book Group** – usually 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. *Resumes in September* with Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*.



Preparing to sleep through a garden meeting.

## Notes from meeting for worship for business held on Sun 25 May 2023

Full minutes have been circulated by email. Please ask if you would like a paper copy.

- We heard a memorial Minute for our Friend Rachel Howell.
- Roles: Sue Freshwater will coordinate nominations; Esther Shreeve special collections.
- Future roles: We are looking for a new treasurer from January 2024. Could this be you?
- We discussed the wearing of masks, which are no longer being worn in most environments now. 'It may be that Friends continue to choose to wear masks to Meeting for Worship.'
- David Somervell brought a report from Friends who met with Daniel Johnson MSP.
- Date of next Meeting for Business: Sunday Sep 3.

*Apologies for the delayed appearance of this note.*

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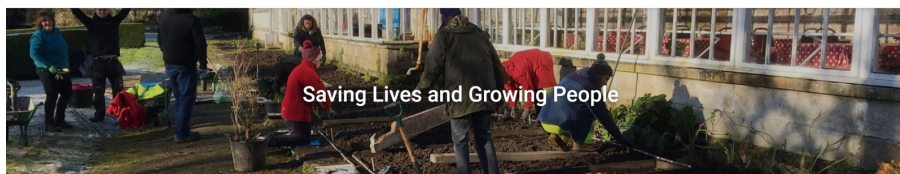
## Friends remember Bruce Kent



Nearly 20 people gathered on Saturday 8 July 2023 at Wiston Lodge to recall the life and the immense impact of Bruce Kent, lifelong campaigner for peace and justice.

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## River Garden Auchincruive – this month's appeal



River Garden Auchincruive helps people to leave behind their drug and alcohol addiction through a model of recovery that is different. Residents are given much needed time to reflect on their lives and to grow and flourish. They are given the means to do so through the communal support of their peers and their participation in on-site social enterprises. Over the 3 years they are residents, they are key partners in a model of social entrepreneurship, of education, of rehabilitation and the opportunity for transformative change. River Garden is exciting and full of hope. Our support for the project based in the former walled garden of Scottish Agricultural College Auchincruive near Ayr can turn people's lives round.

## REVIEWS Toddlers angst to teens, to look back on, or enjoy now

Warming up for August, first a **50 word review**:

**Are you there God? It's me, Margaret** (film, streaming)

From the New York Times book of the year 1970; 'frequently challenged' for depicting a child allowed to decide her religion, and mentioning periods and concerns about changing bodies. Funny, touching and realistic, great watching for anyone. Real concerns include the pull of different, traditional, parental religions.

(47 words)

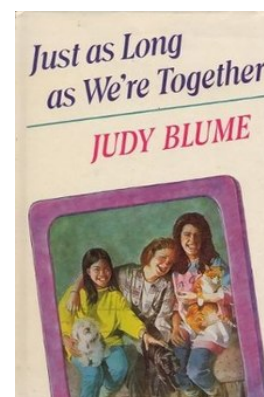


**More than 50 word reviews:**

**Just so long as we're together**, by Judy Blume (book, 1978)

Blume is better known in North America than the UK, but is famous for writing a string of successful books in the 1970s and 80s centring on the concerns and preoccupations of pre- and early-teen girls. A film of her early novel *Are you there God, it's me Margaret* (1970) has recently been released, to excited reviews from those who remember reading her books in the 70s, 80s, 90s. But 50 years on they still have a great deal to offer.

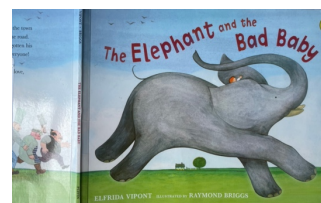
This is good writing: amusing, realistic, unpatronising. Best friends fall out, tweens behave selfishly in a cinema. Appalling treatment of parents struggling with their relationship. All portrayed neutrally, leavened with humour, and it feels believable, often typical. There's an adoptee, a smart nerd, and casual racial mix. Anxieties abound around development, appearance, and relationships. And there are boys. These are shallower, boy-band-like creatures, but that is said to be attractive at a certain age. Ending in a crisis at the school dance, partial resolution, reconciliation. Phew. Thank goodness it is still in print.



**Compare and contrast 1970s with 1950s**

**The Lark in the Morn**, by Elfrida Vipont (book, 1948)

The 14 July Friend had an item by Kate Macdonald on two books by Elfrida Vipont (1902-92), rightly famous for *The Elephant and the Bad Baby* (1969), which had illustrations by Raymond Briggs. *The Lark on the Wing* won a Carnegie medal as the outstanding book of 1950, and it remains a great read, though never likely to achieve such a wide audience as Judy Blume. Young woman in 20s in London flat (independently with two others, and a neighbouring flat of similarly aged men – shock!) achieves ambition to sing against obstacles.



This and its prequel are unashamedly Quaker. Their families speak in thees and thous. Other language and expectations are those of the 1940s-50s, Enid Blyton and Brief Encounter, but pushing for progress and equality for women. Elfrida Vipont had 4 daughters, but curiously her first novels were adventures for boys.

*The Lark in the Morn* (1948) is closer to Judy Blume's targets, young teenagers. But it is the 1950s, so periods or changing bodies here. Boys are better portrayed, in more depth but in somewhat predictable types: most are nice, gentlemanly or usually at most mildly rascally. This is an educated group, who go to Quaker boarding schools (modelled on those in York), but the stories wrap you in.

It's difficult to find these books in print now, but maybe you can find them in or via a library. The Moray House library (University of Edinburgh's school of education) has copies.



## NEWS and future events

**Thinking about membership? 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.

## Interweb X



Our **Twitter account of the month** is [@diarmidmogg](https://twitter.com/diarmidmogg) who posts research into the former inhabitants of tenements. For example, **52 Marchmont Crescent**—nine flats on three storeys above two main-door flats, built around 1880 in the Scots baronial style mandated by the Warrender family, on whose grounds the tenements were built. <https://bit.ly/47d4TwG> Home across the years to a double-decker bus driver who demolished a wall avoiding a tractor near Newtongrange; a travelling jewellery salesman who did well; a soldier in the Tank Corps who was one of 30 members of his battalion killed in WW1 in March 1918; a 55 year old solicitor who died after falling from a high window, as had his wife 12 years before. There is more on this address and on many others.

*Our newsletter is usually published near the last Sunday of each month. Festival frolics and reviews 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)*

## Your 50 word Festival reviews

It's always good to hear what people have enjoyed – or, sometimes, not enjoyed. Please send your short Festival tales for the next edition! *What does 50 words look like?* See the top of p 3.

## Not in the Festival: The Mistake



Shorter, and better reviews, than *Oppenheimer!*

Last year many Friends saw Michael Mears moving, thought-provoking short drama about the dropping of the first atom bomb, *The Mistake*. It isn't coming back to Edinburgh this year, but will be touring England and Wales during September and October. Perhaps you have friends who should see it? Places and dates listed at <https://michaelmears.org/dates-for-your-diary>

Michael wasn't able to secure Arts Council funding, so has appealed for support at <https://bit.ly/3KllqES> He has a very impressive showreel, a short video with vignettes from some notable acting roles across the years, at <https://vimeo.com/528015552>



Alternative uses of a bicycle if you have too many: drying garlic. *JJ&ST*