



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

August 2024



Knockfarrell Ridge above Strathpeffer, Ross and Cromarty.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings usually **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am**

Held at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, or remotely by Zoom (hybrid, except on the 4th Sunday each month).

Notices, other options, 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.

Arrangements for children: 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, and eat your packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in August is for **Northern Friends Peace Board**. More info at <https://nfpb.org.uk> (donations link top right).

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Swarthmore lecture 2024, Ben Jarman: *Getting What We Deserve? Imprisonment and the Challenge of Doing*. 7pm on **Sat 27 July**. Live online at www.youtube.com/@WoodbrookeOrgUk

Fewer regular Quaker activities during August, but note that ...

Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House during the Festival this year is taken over by C-Arts as their **C alto** venue. Interesting programme – see online or at the Meeting House. It will remain available for Quaker Meeting on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Local Meeting for Business will be held after MfW on **Sun Sep 1st**. After a short break for lunch (bring a sandwich).

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

Coffee at Rachel's house, from 10.15 am on first and third Thursdays. Please confirm with Rachel.

Book Group – next meeting is **Sun 15 Sep** *Drive the plow over the bones of the dead* by Olga Tokarczuk.



Garden Meeting on the day with the highest world average daily temperature, July 21st 2024.

Get to Know: Eoin Rutter

Eoin is a very private person so I particularly valued our frank and honest conversation which I hope I have captured here.

Eoin was born in 1960 and lived in Whitnash, a small village near Leamington Spa in Warwickshire until his father, an engineering draftsman, was suddenly transferred to Edinburgh. Eoin attended Balgreen Primary school and his sense of being an outsider was fuelled by his English accent and pacifist upbringing.

Secondary School, Tynecastle Comprehensive, was worse. He endured two years of bullying before this behaviour was addressed. Eoin is now able to look back over these earlier years and recognise he had undiagnosed neuro diversity in the form of autism.

Although attaining brilliant maths results and preparing University Entrance papers for Cambridge, a clash with the Deputy Headmaster responsible for his year resulted in Eoin choosing to leave school before completing 6th year.

Odd jobs kept him going until a computer company initially employed him as an operator, then promoted him to a programming position in Monmouth which he enjoyed.

He left this to attend St Andrews University where he used a talent for playing bass guitar in several bands. Regrettably due to his lack of study skills, he became academically lost and never graduated. Five years in St Andrews followed, with R&B bands, RP gaming, typical student drinking, and his parents devastated at the death of his younger sister from a heroin overdose.

A more settled period followed, Eoin being employed at Scottish Widows in Edinburgh from 1989 and buying a flat in the High Street. Sadly he became increasingly depressed until he crashed out of work with mental health issues. Fortunately a close Friend (originally from Bearsden Meeting whom he met at a Quaker Summer School years earlier) 'rescued' him and helped him locate appropriate support. The depression has dogged him off and on since, culminating in him becoming unemployed in 2006.

So after turbulent and happy times how is life for Eoin now and where do Quakers fit in? Although Eoin could have claimed to be a birthright Friend, he considers Membership should come from conviction. Eoin feels an affinity with the title Friends of Truth rather than the Religious Society aspect of Friends. Describing himself as a Militant Agnostic, Eoin is tolerant of other views and those who have faith, his father being from a long line of august Friends – if one dare put it that way! (Paternal Grandmother from ancient Fox lineage) and his mother a very devout Christian Czech of Jewish descent who escaped to Britain during WW2.

He feels at home with South Edinburgh Friends but mentioned Stafford Street days (then the home of Central Meeting) where social activities outwith meeting, including regular impromptu invitations back for lunch to several homes of Friends contributed to a sense of belonging. Central has too many visitors now for him to feel at home there.

Hearing Eoin describe his 'ridiculously wide range of interests' gladdened my heart – singing in choirs, frequent Bridge playing, practising his guitar, global travel (although not recently) and taking part in wider peace marches and vigils. Eoin's life is full and he is content with his own company. Poor physical health however including a bilateral PE, a couple of TIAs, and diagnosis of Type Two diabetes, require vigilance and self care which can be a challenge.

'I've been an outsider all my life. I've always felt like a pink monkey'. Eoin had to explain this last expression to me. Scientists studying behaviour took a monkey from a colony and dyed its fur pink. On being returned to the collective it was attacked and killed. I found this a painful story. Can we be pleased if our Meeting and Friends in general provide a safe place of belonging? A Friend in search of Truth, responding to 'the good people' he finds in Friends.

Eoin spoke to Rosamond Robertson on 22nd May.

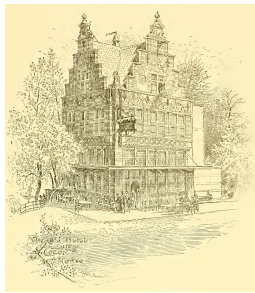


Internets: International exhibitions, hot drinks, historic curry, psychiatry walks

Inspired by John Lavery's (review p4) work at the huge **Glasgow International Exhibition of Science, Art and Industry** of 1888, where he was a young artist in residence. The Exhibition, at the height of Glasgow's commercial rise, attracted 5.75 million visitors over 6 months. That made it the biggest of a number of international exhibitions around this time, including in Edinburgh the 1886 show on the Meadows (2.75M visitors), and the Scottish National Exhibition in Saughton Park in 1908 (3.5M).

Lavery's prolific output at the Glasgow exhibition led to a high-profile commission to paint Queen Victoria's visit, giving his career and reputation an early boost.

The Dutch Cocoa House and café culture



A popular attraction was this early 17th century cocoa house. Building and contents were transported from Holland and erected near the main entrance. Coffee houses appeared around the same time as cocoa in Britain in the 1650s. The coffee story is nicely told (for London) at <https://bit.ly/3WjRLRw>. Very quickly, green tea began to be offered in the coffee houses, but it was very expensive. Samuel Pepys' 1760s diaries record frequent visits to coffee houses, taking chocolate occasionally, and tasting tea for the first time.

The Ceylon Tea Room and an early celebrity chef

A Ceylon Court and Ceylon Tea Room promoted what is now Sri Lanka, described as 'one of the most beautiful and productive of Britain's many possessions in the East'. Its teas were a novelty; apparently the coffee, tried first, became diseased. All tea came from China until 1836, when it was introduced to North India and thence Ceylon. This made it more affordable in Britain, and the locks came off the tea caddies. Daniele Santiago, one of few exhibitors portrayed by Lavery, describes himself as a waiter at the Tea House, but was really there to promote his very successful book on another future British standard from the East:

The Curry Cook's Assistant (or Curries, how to make them in England in their original style). *By Daniele Santiago, General Servant, son of Francis Daniel, Butler and Fiddler, Trichinopoly, Madras, India, and Colombo, Ceylon.*



Cook it online yourself from www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/34107 (3rd edition 1889).

Saughton, Mavisbank: enlightened psychiatry and walks

Saughton Park was purchased by the City Council in 1900 because of concerns that they were going to lose Harrison Park. It was used for the Scottish National Exhibition of 1908, then the park opened to the public in 1910. The old house had been a private mental asylum for over 100 years. Dr John Batty Tuke (1835-1913), a psychiatrist from the Quaker Tuke family, took over management in 1873. The regimen was praised. William Tuke had opened the York 'Retreat' in 1796, and in 1864, Thomas Harrington Tuke had refused to commit Charles Dickens' wife to a mental hospital in London. The Royal Edinburgh Hospital opened on Morningside Road in 1813 after nearly 20 years of fund raising, and after the West House was built the private wing moved to the enormous, splendid new facilities at Craighouse (Old Craig house 1978, new Craighouse 1894, <https://bit.ly/3YhG9RJ>).

In 1906 JB Tuke moved his smaller enlightened asylum to Mavisbank House near Loanhead. Old Saughton Hall also passed to the Council, and was subsequently demolished.

Now after a long campaign, the ruins of the once remarkable Mavisbank house are on the verge of restoration (<https://bit.ly/4cTeb31>). The grounds, like Craighouse, provide an interesting, dog-friendly place for a walk.



Refs: The Lavery exhibition at the RSA (see p4), and *Pen and Ink Notes at the Glasgow Exhibition*, by T Raffles Davison 1888 (electronic copy via Glasgow Trades House Digital Library www.tradeshouselibrary.org)

News and future events

Online: The Priest's Tale – remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki. CND event, **Thur 8 Aug.**



Michael Mears (3 minute showreel at <https://vimeo.com/528015552>) will perform his adaptation of a bomb survivor's story with violinist Chihiro Ono. Then peace poet Antony Owen will read from and talk about his work.

The performance (in London) will be streamed live, video also available to attendees later. Donations requested. More info and booking at <https://bit.ly/3YbORAP> (click on 'Access Online').

Changed dates in September

Wiston weekend is **Fri 13 – Sun 15 Sep**

Area Meeting on **Wed 18 Sep**, 7-9 pm (change from 4 Sep).

General Meeting in Inverness, **Sat 21 Sep** (to avoid Wiston weekend).

Childrens Rights – Key provisions of the United Nations Convention on Human Rights for Children have been incorporated into Scottish law, and came into force on 27 July. www.cypcs.org.uk/incorporationuncrc has more info, or speak to Carol Jennings.

Accommodation – could you? Central Edinburgh's **Quaker B&B Scheme** supports AM expenses and Edinburgh Meeting House. If you have a spare bedroom, could you sometimes accommodate travelling Quakers and Quaker-connected people? In return for meeting interesting people, reimbursement of your costs, and a donation by visitors to AM funds. Please contact judith.a.benton@gmail.com (phone number in book).

In other newsletters

Zoe Prosser shares **5 reasons to love Nominations Committees** in the BYM blog *Quake*, <https://bit.ly/3XXsgYF>

This comes on top of her item in *The Friend* prohibiting 'should'. You should see qualifications to this dictat in her regular email.

Quest for decent coffee. Robert Ashton writes on the outreach and inreach value of good fresh coffee. He also mentions biscuits, but mainly beans. <https://bit.ly/3Wvjsbn> (*The Friend* 28 April). More coffee on p3 and below.

Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday of each month. Soup up September by sending your Festival reviews to neilturn@gmail.com Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh

First Festival reviews



John Lavery, (1856-1941) at the Royal Scottish Academy (£) till 27 Oct, is attractive and impressive. Labelled an 'Irish Impressionist', but his career is shown moving from Glasgow Boy, through France and North Africa, to becoming a successful London society painter and 1917 War artist.

Coffee – the Malawi coffee at the café in Summerhall is excellent. www.summerhall.co.uk/mf-coffee-shop