



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2023



Little Sparta (p4)

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; late changes and notices sent by weekly email. You can 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.

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 September is for **Bridge End Farmhouse**, Old Dalkeith Road. It runs projects from gardening to arts and crafts and community meals, as well as hosting other community organisations. www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk and www.justgiving.com/bridgendfarmhouseecs for donations.

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Area Meeting on **Wed 6 Sep**, 7-9 pm, is at Edinburgh Meeting House (Victoria Terrace).

Evening Meeting by Zoom on first Thursdays at 7.30pm, so **Thur 7 Sep**.

Wiston weekend Fri-Sun **8-10 Sep**. Too late to book, but many will be there.

General Meeting for Scotland is at Inverness on **Sat 16 Sep**.

Thinking about membership? In-person in Falkirk on **Sat 23 Sep**. Further details and booking by contacting Mariot Dallas, dallasfalkirk@btinternet.com or 01324 639245.

Princes St Gardens meeting for worship (coincides with Meeting at Faslane) **Sun 24 Sep**.

Quaker Week runs Sep 23 – 1 Oct. The theme for 2023 is **Simple. Radical. Spiritual**. Climate vigils are suggested at <https://bit.ly/3YYrpWg>

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central: *note changed dates for September*. Back to usual in October.

Coffee at Rachel's, from 10.15 am on Thur 7 and Sat 30 Sep (usually first and third Thursdays). Please confirm with Rachel in advance.

Singing group resumes Tue 5th, 7.30 pm at Victoria Terrace (that's a first Tue as usual).

Book Group – Sunday 1 October at 12.15 after Central MfW. Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. (Usually 4th Sundays). Suggestions for October welcome.



World on fire

W Penn mentioned here is Admiral William Penn, father of the Quaker William Penn. Samuel Pepys worked with him at the Admiralty offices. In Summer 2023 the content is relevant for additional reasons.

Tue 4 September 1666

Up by break of day to get away the remainder of my things; which I did by a lighter at the Iron gate and my hands so few, that it was the afternoon before we could get them all away.

Sir W. Pen and I to Tower-streete, and there met the fire burning three or four doors beyond Mr. Howell's, whose goods, poor man, his trays, and dishes, shovells, &c., were flung all along Tower-street in the kennels, and people working therewith from one end to the other; the fire coming on in that narrow streete, on both sides, with infinite fury. Sir W. Batten not knowing how to remove his wine, did dig a pit in the garden, and laid it in there; and I took the opportunity of laying all the papers of my office that I could not otherwise dispose of. And in the evening Sir W. Pen and I did dig another, and put our wine in it; and I my Parmazan cheese, as well as my wine and some other things.

The Duke of Yorke was at the office this day, at Sir W. Pen's; but I happened not to be within. This afternoon, sitting melancholy with Sir W. Pen in our garden, and thinking of the certain burning of this office, without extraordinary means, I did propose for the sending up of all our workmen from Woolwich and Deptford yards (none whereof yet appeared), and to write to Sir W. Coventry to have the Duke of Yorke's permission to pull down houses, rather than lose this office, which would, much hinder, the King's business. So Sir W. Pen he went down this night, in order to the sending them up to-morrow morning; and I wrote to Sir W. Coventry about the business, but received no answer.



Unknown artist (1675) showing view from a boat near Tower Wharf on the evening of Tue 4 Sep 1666. To the left is London Bridge; to the right, the Tower of London. In the centre, old St Paul's Cathedral is outlined by flames. Public domain, via Wikipedia.

This night Mrs. Turner (who, poor woman, was removing her goods all this day, good goods into the garden, and knows not how to dispose of them), and her husband supped with my wife and I at night, in the office; upon a shoulder of mutton from the cook's, without any napkin or any thing, in a sad manner, but were merry. Only now and then walking into the garden, and saw how horridly the sky looks, all on a fire in the night, was enough to put us out of our wits; and, indeed, it was extremely dreadful, for it looks just as if it was at us; and the whole heaven on fire. I after supper walked in the darke down to Tower-streete, and there saw it all on fire, at the Trinity House on that side, and the Dolphin Taverne on this side, which was very near us; and the fire with extraordinary vehemence. Now begins the practice of blowing up of houses in Tower-streete, those next the Tower, which at first did frighten people more than anything, but it stopped the fire where it was done, it bringing down the houses to the ground in the same places they stood, and then it was easy to quench what little fire was in it, though it kindled nothing almost. W. Hewer this day went to see how his mother did, and comes late home, telling us how he hath been forced to remove her to Islington, her house in Pye-corner being burned; so that the fire is got so far that way, and all the Old Bayly, and was running down to Fleete-streete; and Paul's is burned, and all Cheapside. I wrote to my father this night, but the post-house being burned, the letter could not go.

From the diary of Samuel Pepys, via Samuel Turner. <https://pepysdiary.com/encyclopedia/10336>

Reviews

London Symphony Orchestra, Usher Hall – sitting behind, but almost within, a huge symphony orchestra, (photo page 1) and being part of the spectacle, as well as so close to the action, was a wonderful experience. Seats beside the organ were the only ones left, and a revelation. Shostakovich 11 has wild percussion. *HSC*



Lankum, Queen's Hall. Tremendous 'Radical Irish Folk' foursome with mesmerizing style and themes. Trad and newer songs. Multitalented and musical, though the additional percussionist was a mixed blessing. For a small-venue feel, see <https://youtu.be/kCLFShptAIA> *NT, DA, CC*

Mariza, Festival Theatre. Mariza played a big part in the World Music discovery of the Portuguese Fado tradition. She has a unique and tremendous voice and group of musicians, and tells the story between songs. *EL, MT*

Oppenheimer

Continues to elicit conflicting opinions. Janet Fenton's 2 word summary is pithy, while she compliments skilful film-making, and it gains very high scores from critics, though they do tend to give high ratings to anything that looks like a documentary. Some have criticised that the urge to convey information led to shallow characterisation. Janet concedes that some negativity is because it isn't the film that peace-oriented critics would like to have seen made. It is, as its title suggests, Oppenheimer-centric, yet incomplete as a biography, majoring on the Manhattan project. It does not detail the impact on bombed civilians, hardly contains any developed female characters, and is 3 hours long. Maybe someone else could watch it and report back.

Shorter:

- **Oppenheimer himself** reflects 'was the bomb necessary', 8 mins at <https://youtu.be/AdtLxltrHg> The full 1965 NBC documentary is 90 mins at <https://youtu.be/-JWxIVVeV98>
- **Music:** British composer **Jocelyn Pook's** *Oppenheimer* is just 6 mins, beginning with the sound of wind and Oppenheimer's voice. Then it atmospherically and spine-tinglingly moves to Yemenite Jewish liturgy and Catholic requiem. Don't miss this at <https://youtu.be/-yOkFVhMEL4> or <https://open.spotify.com/track/2um7IRHarQnMtEix53mg8a>

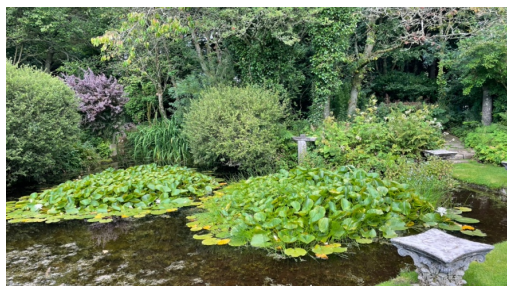


Alison's lovely needlecraft displayed by Nia and Finlay

NEWS and future events

Alex and Richard are getting married at Edinburgh Meeting House at 3 pm on **Sat 7 Oct**.

Safeguarding training for adults working with children, aligned with updated Scottish Quaker guidelines. Online, **Tue 3 Oct** at 7 pm.



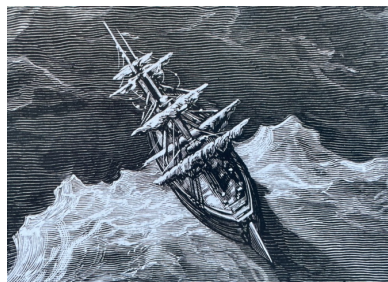
Little Sparta – if you have never been, you have the remaining Thur-Sun afternoons in September before having to wait till summer 2024. An hour from Edinburgh followed by 700m walk uphill through fields to a magical garden, set about with sculptural objects and poetic phrases. Caution: minimal facilities, no public transport, assistance dogs only. Read about it at www.littlesparta.org.uk

Thomas Crapper and the flush toilet

Our **Wikipedia page of the month** is [List of common misconceptions](#). He didn't invent the flush toilet. Vaccines don't cause autism. The Minute Waltz takes two minutes to play. The 'forbidden fruit' in Genesis is not an apple. Frankenstein was the inventor not the monster. Discover your fallibility, pick your favourite. Hundreds of entries and 830 references.

*Our newsletter is usually published near the last Sunday of each month. Fall feelings to neilturn@gmail.com
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh*

A Quaker is made up of ice and flame



Gustav Dore illustration from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1877 edition; poem first published 1798).

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's views on Quakers are summarised by Jonathan Wooding in *The Friend* of 18 Aug. In general the author of the Ancient Mariner's rhyme, and *Kubla Khan*, seems to have been strongly attracted to George Fox's teachings, and early Quakers. He felt he had '*something of the Quaker's mind ... inclined to wait for the spirit*'.

However in 1811: '*After dinner he told us a humorous story of his enthusiastic fondness for Quakerism, when he was at Cambridge, and his attending one of their meetings, which had entirely cured him.*' And in 1816-17, '*Learning, and more particularly theological learning, is more rare among them ... than among any other known sect of Christians.*' In 1833, '*A Quaker is made up of ice and flame. He has ... no mean temperature ... becomes a fanatic.*'



Tortoise and hare, Little Sparta.