



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

October 2023



### 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).

Notices and late changes 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 October is for **Wiston Lodge**, where we have had annual retreats for many years. Its main business is outdoor education and personal development for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Wiston suffered large losses through COVID. <https://wistonlodge.com> – donate online via <https://wistonlodge.com/donate>

### QUAKER EVENTS

Not many scheduled events in October but there is this significant one:

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

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From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central.

**Coffee** at Rachel's house, 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 pm at Victoria Terrace (that's a first Tue as usual).

**Book Group** – Usually 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW, but two this month.

Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*.  
Oct 22, Zadie Smith *On Beauty*.

### Wiston 2023



Dancing, foraging, and a sea shanty from Sue. More on p3.

## Notes from local meeting for business (LMfB) held on 3 September 2023

Full minutes have been circulated by email, but please ask if you need a paper copy. Key points:

- **Meeting places:** except for 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at Astley Ainsley, and a Princes St Gardens meeting on 12 Nov, through autumn and winter we will meet only at the Open Door (with hybrid online option). To be reviewed in the Spring.
- **Appointments:** Phil Noble will take on treasurership from Susan Robertson in January, and Dorothy Buglass will be our representative on AM Nominations, following Alison Burnley. The clerking team has space for a third member.
- **Hosting AM:** We agreed to host an all-day Area Meeting on 23 Nov 2024.
- **Next meeting for business:** After meeting for worship on Sun 3 December.

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## Climate change, ice, the sea, hobbits

### 50-word review

**Dimanche** (from the International Festival at the Churchill Theatre). Ingenious Belgian mime and puppetry. Humourously illustrating the ingenuity and helplessness of individuals against climate change. 3 people attempt to carry on a normal life as a gale howls through; 3 photographers try to stay on the same ice floe as it breaks up and melts. Horrifying and heartening.

*Deirdre Armstrong*

See a snippet at <https://youtu.be/Gfljcz-H2t8>



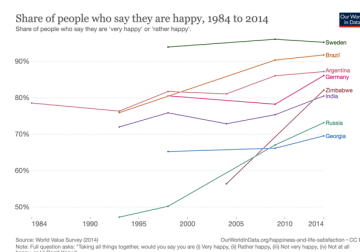
### Anything at all encouraging to say about climate – or anything, really?

Yes, Hannah Ritchie has truly positive things for a full 13 minutes in her TED talk. She is deputy editor of **OurWorldinData**, often cited here. “What gives me hope is the number of people who are working tirelessly on this problem. It's their work that gives us the opportunity to turn things around.”

[www.ted.com/talks/hannah\\_ritchie\\_are\\_we\\_the\\_last\\_generation\\_or\\_the\\_first\\_sustainable\\_one](http://www.ted.com/talks/hannah_ritchie_are_we_the_last_generation_or_the_first_sustainable_one)

**Twitter/ X account of the month:** Her tweets are guaranteed to make your timeline more interesting: [@\\_HannahRitchie](https://twitter.com/_HannahRitchie) (7,600 tweets, 77,000 followers).

Image shows share of people who say they are happy, in selected countries 1984-2017, from <https://ourworldindata.org/happiness-and-life-satisfaction>



### More Coleridge

Our August edition featured comments on Quakers from STC. Rosamond Robertson has been reading more.

**Mariner** by theologian Malcolm Guite, is a long but fascinating account of the life of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, centring on *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*. Guite is an outstanding theologian and his sonnets are quite breathtaking in their beauty and depth. Formerly Chaplain to Girton College Cambridge, he is a priest, an academic, writes sonnets, but also plays the guitar in a surprisingly non-establishment type of church and resembles a Hobbit.

*Rosamond Robertson*

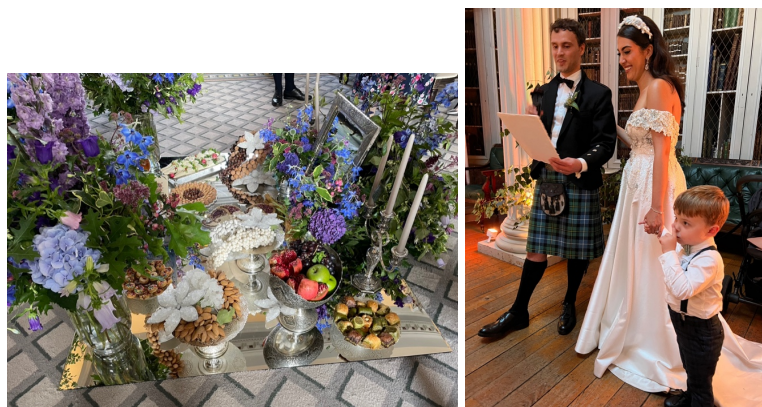
Does he resemble a hobbit? See in one of his learned, eccentric videos at <https://youtu.be/YRAuu7WhGU> His remaining 189 videos (20,000 subscribers) are mostly about poems, but include readings from The Hobbit. His blog is more religiously oriented, but also has many poems, and the website has more about him: <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com>



## Wiston 2023



Friends from our Area Meeting at Wiston Lodge, 8-10 September



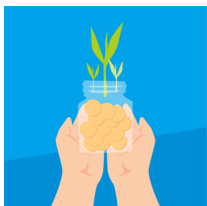
The same weekend Sam Turner and Jasmine Jahromi were married in a humanist ceremony in grand surroundings with readings from William Penn and Rumi, an Iranian Sofreh table, a ceilidh, and a nephew.

## News and future events

**Coming into meeting** Friends are asked to remember to gather in silence. “The meeting starts as soon as the first person enters the room.”

What are we like today? **Please complete the British Quaker Survey** to get a picture. Every 10 years or so. It takes 20 mins but has interesting questions at <https://bit.ly/3Zwv65W>

**Giving Advocates** Could you talk about money and giving with Friends in your local or area meeting? Could you offer encouragement to Friends who may not know how vital their support is to Quakerism? If yes, BYM needs you to be part of our network of



**Giving Advocates** – Friends from all over Britain supported by the BYM Fundraising Team. Some are treasurers or collectors but others simply want to make sure that the work of area meeting and yearly meeting is resourced. *‘Quaker work cannot live on air and love alone’.*

We meet four or five times a year via Zoom. Email Beth Follini [bethf@quaker.org.uk](mailto:bethf@quaker.org.uk) for more information.

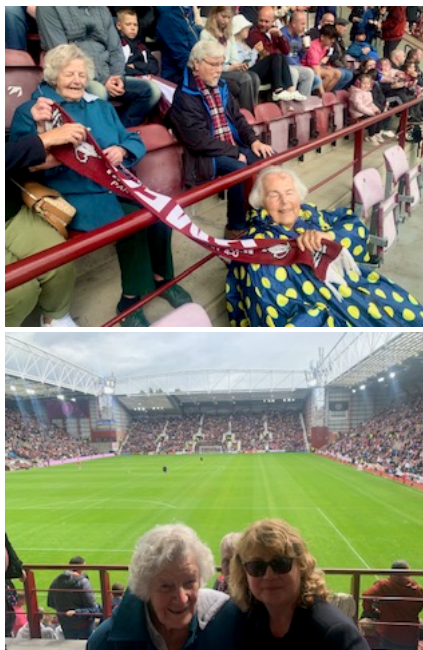


Beth Follini’s great grandmother took the strikingly modern 1896 family photo we showed in March. Here is a later pic of one of her own children.

## Towards a Quaker view of Barbie

Quaker reviews of the Barbie movie are now appearing. The one in the latest Friend is heavy, not reflecting the tone of the film. Leaving scope for yours! The title of the New Yorker’s review was *Why Barbie Must Be Punished*. It was lighter. Your further impressions and insights, in up to 50 words, awaited.

## Footballing Friends



## Local history update



[@diarmidmogg](#) adds colourful history and residents’ lives for 28 George IV Bridge, beside Greyfriars Bobby, in his 26 Sep post. Including the story of McCall Barbour’s Christian Book and Bible Shop on the first floor. <https://bit.ly/3LCgqMI>

Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday of each month. Send your wedding photos 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)