



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

November 2023



Alicja Kwade, *Stella Sella*.
<https://bit.ly/3QfTynF> (audio)

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).

Check notices, other options and late changes 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.

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 November is for the **City Mission's** Christmas hampers for refugees. Esther Shreeve will speak to this. Read more about their work to support refugees and asylum seekers at <http://edinburghcitymission.org.uk/ministry/salaam> You can donate online via button at top right.

QUAKER EVENTS

General Meeting for Scotland is being held at Perth on **Sat 11 Nov**.

Alternative Remembrance Day Quaker Meeting House in Victoria Terrace, **Sun 12 Nov**. 1.30-3 pm after Edin Central meeting for worship, final part a walk to place a wreath at the Peace Tree. Details at <https://pj12nov.eventbrite.co.uk>

The same day at 10.30 - 11.30, **Meeting for Worship for Peace at the Peace Tree**, West end of Princes St Gardens. This is the last of six of these meetings this year.

More on peace, Against Hate, and on Israel and Gaza, with events **Nov 13** and **Nov 27**, on page 2.

South Edin book group – first meeting at 2pm on **Thur Nov 16**. Please contact Alison C, Catriona, or Richard if you are interested.

Woodbrooke in Edinburgh – Naming the Mystery What are we waiting for in meeting for worship? What listening to? 10 – 4 pm on **Sat 18 Nov**. Details and booking at <https://bit.ly/45SyXvB>

Area Meeting will be held at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, on **Sat 25 Nov – note change** from previously advertised date of 4 Nov The theme will be diversity and inclusion. Discussion good for older children; separate session for younger.

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

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

Singing group 7.30 pm at Victoria Terrace on first Tuesdays. Needs more members or may need to stop in 2024! Contact Janet Grimwade.

Book Group – 4th Sundays (usually) at 12.15 after Central MfW.



Alex and Richard were married at Victoria Terrace Meeting House on the 17th October.

Gaza

Five solidarity actions you can take for Palestine and Israel.



Image: Muhammad Sabah, B'Tselem

From the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme, at the BYM blog, <https://bit.ly/499lqTk> or use QR code below. Includes detail on the origins of Israeli-Palestinian antagonism since 1945 (a 6 min video made 10 years ago by Jewish Voice for Peace), recent insights into life in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as things you can do.



More events seeking peace

Edinburgh Communities United Against Hate

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, **Mon Nov 13**, 6.30 – 8 pm

Organised by the Edinburgh Interfaith Association with the Oxford Foundation and St Mary's Cathedral. The first time this has been held in Scotland. In London it was entitled, 'United Against Extremism', coming after London terrorist attacks, aiming to promote peace and understanding. In Scotland changed to 'United Against Hate'. Please register to attend at www.ticketsource.co.uk/edinburgh-interfaith-association

Christian Aid event

Augustine United Church, **Mon 27 Nov**, 2 – 3.30 pm

Organised by Christian Aid and the Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem & Tiberias. Speakers from Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem will give a presentation of their work. If you would like to attend or would like more information please email atomlinson@christian-aid.org

There is also good news

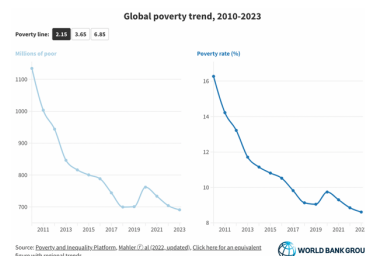
It's easy to forget. A few recent headlines from the resiliently good news source Future Crunch www.futurecrunch.com

Global poverty rates are falling – the remarkable downward trend over the recent decades stalled during Covid, but seems to be back on track.

Access to electricity – The number of people without access to electricity has fallen by almost 40% from 1.1 billion in 2010 to 675 million since 2010.

Clean water – In 2000, just half of Sub-Saharan Africans had access to an improved water source. By 2020, that was nearly 80% along with 94% of people worldwide.

Clean energy – This year, for every \$1.00 invested in fossil fuels, \$1.70 will go to clean energy, led by solar, which will in 2023 attract more capital than oil for the first time. Much of this is down to a massive solar investment programme in China. (via Financial Times)



Get to Know: Helen Pilling



I was Glasgow born and bred, living right in the centre of Glasgow in Maryhill. I went to school there, but just before I was fifteen, I decided I'd had enough of school and got up in the middle of class one day and ran out, got on a bus and asked for a job in a shoe shop. I started there when I reached fifteen, earning £3.10 a week, and loved it! I enjoyed meeting people and helping them, and my friends would come into the shop and get the best bargains.

After that, I made boxes for Swan Vesta matches and then graduated to putting the pink sulphur topping on the matches. Breathing in the sulphur all day was not good for health and I left after a short time.

The next part of my life could be described as 'adventurous'. In the late 60s I signed up for a job as a nanny in the USA. I worked for the family of Jerry Lewis, taking care of the youngest of his six children for nine months and then for a short time was a nanny for the director of 'Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm'.

After a short holiday back home, I took off to California with my friend, Nancy. We had nothing and slept under a pier on the beach for two months or so before living in a hotel room with other friends in a sort of commune. I did nursing training for two years and then came back home and did auxiliary nursing here. I was homeless and couch surfed for a time before working in a hotel in Aviemore. I loved it, though there was a difficult time when I was wrongly involved in a criminal activity and beaten up and lost all my belongings. My hotel manager looked after me and I met my first partner, JP, who took care of me, and we had two sons together. We all went to Arkansas for a year and then I came home with the boys and JP stayed in the USA. I then met John, and we have been together for over forty years. We are friends with JP and his new wife and meet up from time to time.

I was brought up as a Roman Catholic and have always been a 'spiritual shopper', exploring Buddhism and the Hari Krishna movement, though never committed to other faiths. Then, through Woman in Black, I met Alison Burnley and went with her to a Quaker meeting and immediately felt it was 'right'. I was warmly welcomed and was happy not to have religious beliefs pressed on me. Through Women in Black, I also came into contact with Singing in Harmony and joined the choir. All in the one weekend! And the rest is history.

I love singing and walking and going to see films and have a happy family life with three granddaughters.

Helen Pilling shared her life story with Alison Chalmers.

Morningside Justice and Peace Group

Arranges talks **every Wednesday** during the autumn and spring months from 10.30am to 11.30am at the **The Eric Liddell Community**, Holy Corner (15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DP). Since 2010; formerly a user of the Open Door. Meetings open to all. You are invited to pay £30 per term or £3 per talk. In person, but they say that a Zoom link is available. <https://morningsidejandp.org/about>

- Nov 1 Colleen McCulloch, Independent co-ordinator and former Soil Assoc. Scotland farming lead.
'Soil Association Scotland – How does growing flax for linen relate to the climate & what we eat?'
- Nov 8 Ben Parker, Green Councillor for Morningside, City of Edinburgh Council. Co-Convener, Green Group and Climate & Environment Spokesperson.
'What are Greens doing in Edinburgh and Scotland?'
- Nov 15 Jean-Matthieu Gaunaud, Edinburgh Climate Action Network Coordinator.
'Edinburgh Climate Action Hub – what's that?'
- Nov 22 Dr. Patrick Utz, PhD from Edinburgh University, formerly at Centre on Constitutional Change.
'Cross-border identities in a changing Europe since WWI.'
- Nov 29 Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, Professor of American history emeritus at the University of Edinburgh and author of *A Question of Standing: The History of the CIA* (OUP, 2022).
'What has the CIA contributed to peace?'
- Dec 6 Dr Sunny Bains, Scientist/Journalist, University College, London.
'Artificial Intelligence: Promises and Threats.'
- Dec 13 Luke March, Professor of Post-Soviet and Comparative Politics, University of Edinburgh.
'Russia's war for its past and future.'

News and future events



Our Friend **Annette May** died on 17 Sep at Cluny Lodge Care Home. She was 88. A memorial service was held on 4th October.



The Mistake "A dramatic treat". The 2023 run of Michael Mears play about the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan has just finished. A 2-min video showing micro-extracts from the play as it ran in the Edinburgh Festival 2022, with Emiko Ishii, is at <https://youtu.be/9wnRLvy-T8U>



The Astley Ainsley is 100. There is an exhibition 8.30 – 2 pm daily in the Blackford Pavilion, an outside display, and a 4 min video

<https://vimeo.com/836931545/9eeffc0a3d>

Nominations – an online course from Woodbrooke, starring our own Marilyn Higgins. Thursday evenings by Zoom, **2 Nov to 7 Dec.** <https://bit.ly/45He9XA>

Climate Justice gathering in Derby on the weekend of Nov 19-21. Also available by Zoom, but it won't be the same. Details at <https://bit.ly/46DnNfo>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing a very happy birthday to **Ted**, who will be 13 on the 24th.



Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday of each month. Noeltide novelties to neiltun@gmail.com Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh



The clocks went back