

SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

February 2023



Arlan and Sylvia, age difference 96 years, with Maeve between but nearer Arlan (via Deirdre).

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, or remotely by Zoom (hybrid, except on the fourth Sun of each month). *Late changes and notices sent by weekly email.* To join the South Edinburgh Announce email list, see <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>

On fifth Sundays in Winter, an option may be strolling/sitting in Astley Ainsley grounds.

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 February is for **Britain Yearly Meeting**. Probably everyone has a good idea what BYM does, and knows of current pressures nationally as well as locally, but there is more information at www.quaker.org.uk (Donate button at top right)

QUAKER EVENTS

Quaker organisation in Scotland – online consultation about possible radical changes to our structures, from GM's 'Options for Scotland' group. Important for our future.

- Tue January 31, 7pm
- Sat February 4, 10.30 am **note late change to Zoom link for this final session.**

More information about this via GM webpage <https://bit.ly/scotquaker-options>, or in your email with this newsletter, or contact your editor.

Evening Meeting by Zoom on first Thursdays at 7.30pm, so **Thur 2 Feb.**

Valentine's Day is **Tue 14 Feb.** Just to remind you that this is not a Quaker festival.

South Edinburgh Meeting's next **local meeting for business** will be held after Meeting for worship on **Sun 26 Feb** (Note: in place of 5 Feb previously announced). Other dates for the year tbc.

South Edin friends are welcome to these events organised by Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central.

Coffee – at Rachel's house, usually on first and third Thursdays from 10.15 am. Please contact Rachel in advance to ensure numbers OK.

Singing group, 7.30 pm on first Tuesday of each month at Victoria Terrace.

Book Group – usually 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. Note CHANGED FOR JANUARY to 29th (*The Valley at the Centre of the World* by Malachy Tallack). February book to be decided. You could suggest one.



Amid the flames, whose image in his locket for Valentines Day? By Nicholas Hilliard (1547-1619), via [@PP_Rubens](https://twitter.com/PP_Rubens)

Military imagery on our streets: bollards that look like cannons



Well, sometimes they are cannons. The bollard shown on the left is a contemporary 'Edinburgh' cast iron bollard, 33kg and £150 each from Broxap Street Furniture. Black Country Castings supply a different style of gun-like bollard that is also described as an Edinburgh bollard.

The photos on the right show cannons said to have been seized from French ships stripped after the Battle of Trafalgar (1805) and subsequently used as mooring posts and, as here, via [@LondonMudlark](#), as street bollards in East London. The story goes that this was so popular with the public that future bollards were deliberately made to resemble cannons.



However re-use of cannons this way was an international practice, and older, as outlined at <https://bit.ly/3ZU2HGB> (99% Invisible), and detailed in a long, learned, and richly illustrated article by Dr Martin Evans at <https://bit.ly/3D6wTV4>. He describes why he believes it highly unlikely that Trafalgar had anything to do with even the French cannons used this way. Whatever the explanation, the 18th century cannon-like shape has stuck as the classic bollard design to this day.

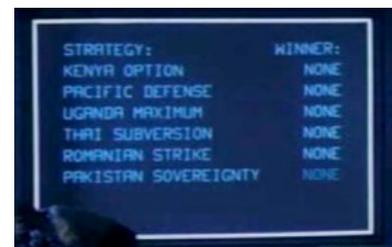


Our **Twitter account of the month** is the **World Bollard Association**, [@WorldBollard](#) (133,200 followers). Mostly played for humour, but don't go there if you could be upset by images of skewered vehicles.

War Games

In the 1983 science fiction thriller *War Games*, the computer in charge of American's nuclear armoury is made to play games against itself to ensure it understands the concept of mutually assured destruction. After running through all the possible nuclear war scenarios, it concludes

"A strange game. The only winning move is not to play."



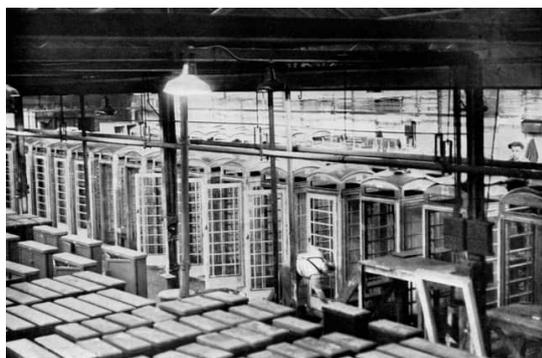
Via Ian Leslie's newsletter *The Ruffian*.

Our nearest telephone box in the 1960s



Left: View of Balcarres St and Morningside Road in the era of the wooden-framed Morris Minor Traveller, from the tenement above The Hermitage pub. Bairds bootmaker was for many decades the shop on the corner now occupied by the Bank of Scotland. Behind it, Morningside Station, and to the left, James McDonald, Monumental Mason. Right: And now your phone is in your pocket– photographing a flooded and frozen over Blackford Pond, January 2023.

Websites of admirable obsession



The phone box probably didn't have to travel far. The photo (left) shows production of the K6 cast iron phone box at Carron Co in 1958 (Falkirk Herald). There's a concise history of the local manufacture of red telephone boxes at <https://bit.ly/3YZdVt3> – one of many entries on the fascinating history website Our Stories Falkirk. Iron Bru to everything. The story of the in-house magazine, the Cupola, is just one to recommend.

Tales of iron by Duncan Comrie, who spreads his enthusiasm for one subject across Twitter, Facebook, newspapers, and more, in impressive breadth and depth.

Our **Wikipedia page of the month** is its admirably illustrated **Red Telephone Box** page (303 visitors per day).



The Carron Company also made postboxes from 1860. Via [@FalkirkMade](#)

NEWS

A **Neurodivergent Quakers Group** has been set up and monthly Zooms scheduled Feb-April. <https://quakerdisabilitygroup.org.uk/calendar>

Quaker Rainbow. Philip Corrie-Hawes is setting up a local Quaker group for this LGBTQ+ initiative. Contact him (details in book).

Witness for Peace in 2023 – Friends in West Scotland will be holding meetings for worship at the North Gate of Faslane naval base (HMNB Clyde) on **12 Mar, 23 Apr, 21 May, 25 Jun, 24 Sep, 12 Nov**, from 11 am. More info, and to confirm, contact Mary Alice Mansell of Glasgow LM.

On the same Sundays, Edinburgh Friends are invited to worship and witness in Princes St Gardens at 10.30 am.

Revising Quaker Faith and Practice – two samples from the revision group are raising a lot of interest. Read these and learn more about the long long project at <https://bit.ly/3WwOxIZ>



Susie Reade recommends the series of creative art workshops **Plants are our Teachers**, run by Sarah Gittins, at the Chapter House and outdoors at St Mary's Cathedral. Bimonthly sessions at weekends, suitable for all levels of experience. ££. <https://artandecology.earth/plants-are-our-teachers-2>

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

Plan ahead

A **Writing Retreat** (Sun-Fri) at the Briary Inn in Ilkley, Yorkshire, **19-24 March**. £955 covers accommodation and all meals, alongside progress with your novel, thesis, or other writing, in the company of Friends pursuing similar ends. www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/writing-retreat

More from Woodbrooke, mostly shorter and less ££, at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses ... for instance **Meeting for Worship Through Dance** by Zoom, with live music. **Fri 23 Feb** 2-3pm. www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/meeting-for-worship-through-dance-feb (optional donation).

Glenthorne Quaker Centre and Guest House at Ambleside, Grasmere, Lake District, offers a fascinating series of workshops, each a weekend or 2-4 weekdays. www.glenthorne.org/events or see p23 in January's SESAME, which also points to events at the **Quaker Centre in Languedoc**, South of France.

You can book for BYM already. London, 28 Apr-1 May. www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings

News of Friends

We were delighted to welcome Alex Taylor of South Edinburgh Meeting into Membership at Area Meeting on Jan 16, and local meeting on 22 Jan.



Our Friend **David Turner** died on 4th January, aged 98. David and Ida were members of South Edinburgh Meeting for many years until the establishment of Portobello and Musselburgh Meeting. They moved to Stirling in 2020, where Ida died a year ago.

David was an inspiring campaigner for peace and other causes, often advertised on his bicycle. A Quaker memorial service is planned.