

SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

March 2026



Crovie, Moray Firth

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We meet on **Sundays 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, and remotely by Zoom (hybrid).

Recent notices 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.

Children are welcome anytime. For details of planned activities, 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, you can eat your packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our charity in March is the **Israeli coalition against house demolitions (ICAHD)**. Its title speak its purpose: campaigning to end Israeli violations against international law and arguing for a just peace. Ian Robertson will speak to this. <https://icahd.org> has more info and a Donate button.

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Local Meeting for Business after Meeting for Worship on **Sun 8 Mar**. Bring a sandwich. Start 12.15. Hybrid. Agenda and details by email.

Meeting for Peace in Princes St Gardens **Sun 15 Mar**, 10.30 at the Peace Tree, between the bandstand and the Ross Fountain. To coincide with meetings at Faslane.

Quakers in Scotland meet *online only* on **Sat 28 Mar**, 09.30 – 13.30. Details by email.

Fifth Sunday – Meeting for Worship will be 30 mins and followed by 30 mins worship sharing – more info to come by email.

Book Group on *Ice* by Ella Lena Lundberg, **Thur 2 April**, 2 pm, location tbc.

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

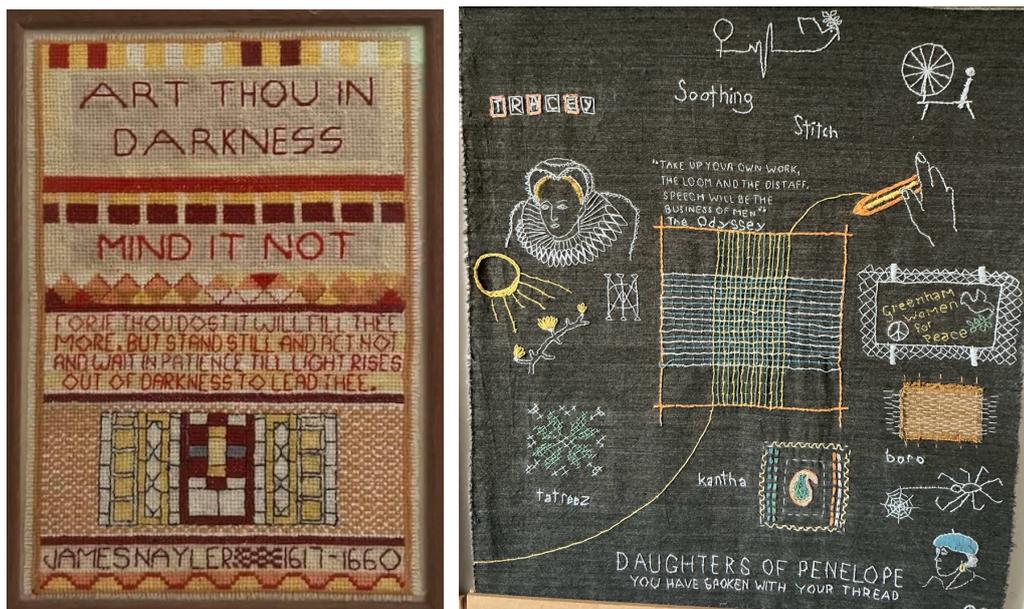
Coffee at Rachel's house usually on first and third Thursdays, please confirm with Rachel.

Central Book Group – third Sundays after soup. March: *Intermezzo* by Sally Rooney.



Simplicity 1964 style (p3). 25 shillings plus postage.

Quakerish fabrics



Catriona Courtier: James Nayler panel, and Daughters of Penelope.

Daughters of Penelope is a tribute to women who have expressed themselves through thread. In Homer's "The Odyssey" she is weaving a shroud for her husband Odysseus who has not returned from the battle of Troy and is presumed dead. Suitors gather for her hand. She goes down to the great hall of the palace to address them but her son tells her to return to her loom: speaking in public is only for men. Penelope tells him she will remarry when the shroud is completed, but every night she unpicks what she has woven during the day. Unpicking is sometimes called the Penelope stitch.

Other women who have expressed themselves through stitches are indicated: Mary Queen of Scots, Greenham Women (Catriona was one), Louise Bourgeois and female spiders, and Tracey Emin. The spinning wheel represents great great grandmother. Ask Catriona about the central tateeaz Palestinian stitching and its colours, and boro (mended/mending) stitching used by Japanese peasants.

Meeting arrangements – from Elders and Pastoral Friends

For those setting up, or who wonder where things are and why

Publications on the table. We will put only Quaker Faith and Practice, bibles, our newsletter, the collection bowls (plus any details of the month's charity), flowers, water, and the notebooks to help those who are deaf. Other publications to be laid out on the table under the TV screen.

Notice at door out to ramp: put a notice on a small easel outside the door asking for people to knock if they find it closed. Esther's husband Chris kindly offered to make stand and David will make notice.

Leave right hand half of side door slightly open for latecomers unless wind or cold make it best not to.

Notice on reserved chairs: Alison Burnley's because she is arriving later. We are already labelling one by the side door for Catriona.

Cups Washed cups to be left on the drying rack – we understand that the Open Door puts them in the dishwasher on Mondays.

Lifts Several people may need lifts at present: Alison B, Dominick, Kate. We need a small group of possible lift givers who can liaise with one another. Margaret often needs one to get home which Deirdre offers when possible.

If you could help with opening up and setting up sometimes, please speak to the Friend closing meeting.

Simplicity and its opposite, fashion

Recent ministry around our testimony on simplicity coincided with the 200th anniversary of the death of John Kay. His etchings of famous Edinburgh Enlightenment characters are very well known – but mostly of men. Andy Arthur takes an anniversary opportunity to draw attention to his portrayals of women, centred on the very successful and prominent milliner Sibilla Hutton, and to changes in women's fashion as portrayed by Kay. <https://threadinburgh.scot>



The evolution of hats by John Kay (1742-1826). 1786, Sibbie Hutton with Mr Robert Johnston (Edinburgh City Libraries); 1787, Sir Robert Dalrymple-Horn-Elphinstone and Penelope Hamilton (née Macdonald), Lady Belhaven (Nat Galls Scotland); 1801, A porter ('caddie'), Captain Hew Crawford, his sister and her companion (City Library).

Visit some later fashion

Biba at Dovecote Studios – at pool floor level of the old Infirmary Street baths the bright, cheery, affordable items of icon of the swinging sixties, Biba, are displayed. Sold mostly by mail order. Early designs were delightfully simple, but with bold colours and patterns. Strikingly innovative approaches and design led by Barbara Hulanicki and her husband. To get the full flavour, read the memories of visitors who were 60s teenagers – or add to them – in the last room. **Until 27 June.**

From 18 July to the end of 2026 the Dovecot exhibition switches to costumes made for historic productions in theatre, film, TV, by the **Cosprop company** founded in 1965 by John Bright (not JB the Quaker politician opponent of the corn laws and (unpopularly) the Crimean War). Dressed Maggie Smith in *Downton Abbey*, Colin Firth in *Pride and Prejudice*, and many more.

From **Fri 3 April** the Dundee V&A promises '**Catwalk, the art of the fashion show**', a 100 year history.



Other news and future events

Scottish Parliamentary Elections



Scottish election 2026 A guide for Quakers

Polling day for election of MSPs is **Thur 7 May**. Download an info pack from the Quaker Scotland website at <https://bit.ly/4aDGCUf>

It is concise and clearly written around 4 key priorities: Truth and integrity; Climate and economic justice; Peace; Compassionate justice and the prisons crisis. It includes more information about each, questions to ask candidates, and how to register and vote.

More information from PEWG, the QiS parliamentary engagement working group, at www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/parliamentary-engagement

Historic birthdays

Memorable Quakers with March birthdays:

John Fothergill (1712), an early student at Edinburgh Medical School who became a highly regarded Quaker physician and botanist. From the diary of John Fothergill's 17 year old niece Betty, who while staying with him was blowing hot and cold over a boy at home:

My Uncle Dr. possesses the most virtues the fewest failings of any man I ever saw and his acquaintance whose knowledge of mankind is much more extensive than mine allow the same ...

He drew us forth into a dispute upon the prerogative of husbands and wives. He insisted upon blind obedience of the latter to the former and we strenuously opposed him. After he had diverted us a little, he placed the affair upon a proper footing: that there should be no obligation on one side more than another, but a mutual endeavour to promote each others happiness. We all concurred in this sentiment and so the affair was amicably adjusted.

William Tuke (1732) founder of The Retreat in York, the pioneering humane psychiatric hospital.

Bayard Rustin (1912) civil and gay rights activist.

Gerard Hoffnung (1925) musical humourist. Replay his classic 1956 *Surprise Symphony* (orchestrated by Donald Swann, also a Quaker) at <https://youtu.be/aXd6cCHp9WM> and still funny Bricklayers Tale <https://youtu.be/LOy2GuaP8Mo>
More: Wikipedia and <https://gerardhoffnung.com>

Happy Birthday

Sylvia was 100 years old on 4th February. Visitors included her old friend, ex-Barnado's boy John Dunn from Australia, Dorothy, and a number of other South Edinburgh Friends.



Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday each month. Art, articles and April aspirations to neilturn@gmail.com
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh



The Harp Tuba, 1955, from The Hoffnung Symphony Orchestra © Gerard Hoffnung