



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2023



Spring springing in Fairmilehead Park

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). Garden or other locations may become possible during April!

Late changes and notices sent by weekly email. To join the South Edinburgh Announce email list, see <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 April is for **Reprive**, who are "investigators, lawyers and campaigners fighting for justice. We defend marginalised people who are facing human rights abuses, often at the hands of powerful governments." Sylvia Massey first brought this charity to us: Deirdre Armstrong will speak to it on April 9th. www.reprive.org (Donate button at top right).

QUAKER EVENTS

Funeral for Jenny Robertson 12 noon at Seafield Crematorium on **30 March**. More on back page.

Farewell to Rici Marshall Cross, our clerk, after meeting on **Sun 2 April**, and on to Alison Chalmers' house for lunch.

Evening Meeting by Zoom on first Thursdays at 7.30pm, so **Thur 6 April**.

A **Memorial Meeting for David and Ida Turner** will be held at Victoria Terrace Meeting House at 2pm on **Sun 16 April**.

Witness for Peace and meeting for worship in Princes St Gardens, **Sun 23 April** 10.30-11.30. Towards the West end of the park, just East of the Ross Fountain (illustrated below, more on p3).

Britain Yearly Meeting at Friends House, London, **28 Apr - 1 May**, has themes of Releasing our energy (simple, inclusive, sustainable structures), Revitalising our communities, Following the leadings of the spirit (focusing on truth and integrity). Book online at www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Quaker families in Scotland weekend at Pitlochry, **May 5-7**. Self-catering at the Atholl Centre. More details from Alastair Cameron, clerk.sesam@outlook.com, or to express interest directly QCYPadvocate@gmail.com

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

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

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

Book Group – 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. April: *The Valley of Amazement* by Amy Tan.



The Ross Fountain: "Grossly indecent and disgusting; insulting and offensive to the moral feelings of the community and disgraceful to the City". More on p3.

Getting to Know: Karina McIntosh/Williamson



Karina made me very welcome on a cold, blustery February afternoon. We settled down in her cosy sitting room and talked over a cup of tea. We found we had a lot in common. Conversation will doubtless continue at a future opportunity.

Why two surnames, you may ask? Karina's first husband was Colin Williamson, and she built her academic career under her married name. Colin died tragically young (1983); Karina married Angus McIntosh a few years later (died 2005). There is an easily accessible biography online: <https://scottishpen.org/book/contrary-voices-karina-williamson>

I had misjudged her, thinking she was in her 80s, but I was wrong. Karina was born in 1928 and is 94; she looks wonderful! She had a stroke a few years ago and this has affected her memory, so there were some gaps in what she wanted to tell me. We did not let this interfere with the narrative; if more memories surface, we may add to this account.

Born in Welwyn Garden City, she and her mother moved when she was a baby to London. Unknown to her for many years, her parents' marriage ended soon after she was born, but as her father lived abroad, she accepted their separation without question. She went to boarding school and had a very happy childhood; her extended family was very supportive, which compensated for her mother who was preoccupied with various good causes; she was an ardent socialist and took the young Karina on marches which she loved, especially if there was a band. Her mother wasn't good with money but they managed; her uncle was a businessman and philosopher, and her aunt was a psychologist (Susan Isaacs, author of 'The Nursery Years', which was ground breaking at the time). She went out to Singapore to visit her father after she left school and did the entrance exam for Oxford while she was there.

Karina and her future husband, Colin, both studied English at Oxford; both were destined for academic careers, but Karina took a back seat whilst bringing up their family of three, Bridget, Timothy and Toby. The collegiate system meant she could carry on tutoring and researching until she was ready for a formal academic post. They both worked in Edinburgh University for a time before returning to Oxford, and it was during this period that they got to know Angus McIntosh, who was senior to them. When Colin died, Angus wrote to Karina; some years after his own wife died, they were married and Karina returned to Edinburgh, which she was delighted to do. Publications include *Poetical Works of Christopher Smart* (1980-96), the 1828 novel *Marly; or, A Planter's Life in Jamaica*, (2005), and *Contrary Voices: Representations of West Indian Slavery, 1657-1834* (2008), along with many academic articles and a recently published digital resource about Bryan Edwards, historian of the West Indies. Although frustrated by the way her memory lets her down, there is no doubt of her abiding and keen interest in her research.

Karina's background was non-observant Judaism; at school she encountered a Quaker teacher who impressed her greatly when he refused to give to a military charity. She became an Anglican in due course. She and Colin attended the Quaker Meeting in Oxford intermittently and they sent their younger son to a Quaker school. The Quakers were always there in the background; after her second husband's death she became a member at Central Edinburgh in Edinburgh. She wishes she could remember more of what lay behind this journey. The feeling of what she calls 'belongingness' is of paramount significance for her; the fact that Quakers have no doctrine is also important. She says she has never had an experience of being in God's presence as such, but she is sure there is a spiritual world and dimension to life.

Esther Shreeve

Not a prayer

But for full effect, ask an ex-pupil of a church school to read this.

Our Cramond that Marchmont Newhaven, Holyrood Bruntsfield Grange; thy Colinton Comely-Bank; thy Liberton in Leith, Arthur's Seat Corstorphine; Granton Lasswade our Dalkeith Braids and Forthbrig us our Tollcrosses, as we Fairmilehead them that Grassmarket Cowgate us. Queensferry us not into Tynecastle but Dean Brig us Tron Mayfield, for St. Giles Inch the King's Park, the Powderhall, the Gorgie; for Waverley and Waverley. Dun Edin.

From *Carotid Cornucopius* (1964) by Sydney Goodsir Smith, poet, critic, and journalist. Best remembered for his contribution to the 20th century revival of poetry in the Scots language.

From www.astoft.co.uk – see foot of p3.

Notes from our Meeting for Worship for Business (LMfB) on 26 February

Full minutes have been circulated by email. Please ask if you would like a paper copy.

- We heard a memorial Minute for our Friend Peggy Bartlett.
- Susan Robertson delivered a financial report, and our accounts were agreed.
- Our monthly special collections were decided up till March 2024.
- A number of nominations for local meeting roles were agreed; others are still pending, including for our new clerk, to replace Rici Marshall Cross.
- We discussed the precautions we have continued to take against transmission of COVID and other respiratory viruses. Although there was a substantial feeling of wanting to align more closely with national guidelines now, we were not of one mind, and will continue asking that face-mask be worn by those who are able, and will continue opening the fire door for ventilation. We will continue to review our practice.
- Elders and pastoral care responsibilities: a proposed division is shown below. *It is the responsibility of all to support the Clerk, Elders and Pastoral Carers.*

Elders: Convenor	Pastoral Care: Convenor	Others in local meeting
Arrange Local Meeting representative at Area Meeting and General Meeting for Scotland	Convene Meetings of Elders and Pastoral Care team approx. every 2 months taking note of LMfB times Agenda Rotas for closing and tech at Meeting Take minutes Circulate minutes	Identify someone to monitor roles and whether they are coming up for end of periods of service. Identify which nominations are needing to be made: e.g. Clerk, Treasurer, Children's Convenor, also AM Nominations Committee rep
Attend/ arrange others to attend Area Mtg Pastoral Care and Elders Mtgs/ Quaker outreach worker's meetings	Attend/ arrange others to attend Area Meeting Pastoral Care and Elders Meetings/ Quaker outreach worker's meetings	Someone to facilitate social events/ times for people to meet
Respond to enquiries/ complaints re spiritual welfare	Check pastoral care lists are up to date and that people are in touch	Help with supporting one another
Be the contact for funerals and weddings and allocate tasks for these	Sort Meetings for Worship practicalities	Volunteering to be on rotas for opening the Open Door/ sorting the tech etc
Initiate re Meetings for Learning to encourage others to do them. Work with the other Elder on this		Help to enable Meetings for Learning – offer ideas and offer facilitating a Meeting to Elders
Work with Pastoral Care convenor and support our Clerk	Work with Elders convenor and support our Clerk	Share in the responsibility for Eldership and Pastoral Care and support our Clerk

The Ross Fountain and another Admirable Obsession

The Ross Fountain in Princes Street Gardens (p1) was donated to the city by local gunsmith Daniel Ross. “*At the top a figure holding a cornucopia, below that four figures depicting Art, Science, Poetry and Industry. On the bottom tier lion's head spouts and mermaids.*” Beautifully designed and cast in iron in France. A version was an exhibit at the Great Exhibition in South Kensington in 1862, one of the follow-ons from the ‘Crystal Palace’ Exhibition of 1851. Mr Ross’ interesting tastes included living in the extraordinary Rockville Manor, Napier Rd, which was demolished in 1966 (right; Canmore images). The quote on p1 was from Dean Ramsay of nearby St John's Episcopal church, 1872.



More about the fountain from <https://rossbandstand.org/stories/ross-fountain-brief-history>, though the bandstand is named after a different Ross. But also from an impressive **Website of Admirable Obsession**, www.astoft.co.uk created by Allan Soedring. He displays many pictures of Edinburgh architecture (www.astoft2.co.uk/edinburgh), and of some places in England, along with Scottish literary locations.

Quaker Relevance: 8%

NEWS

'Woke' Bible Study – are there white people in the Bible? One-off Woodbrooke online session, 7-8.30 pm on **Mon 27 March**. More on Woodbrooke under 'turmoil' below.

Summer Shindig for those aged 11-16 is being held at Ackworth School, **29 Jul-5 Aug**. Details at <https://summershindig.wordpress.com> and there is further detail in March SESAME.

Glenthorne Quaker Guest House at Grasmere, in the English Lakes, is a place you can still stay while joining interesting Quakerly and other events, listed at <https://glenthorne.org/events-programme-2023>



Quakerly Turmoil

Woodbrooke Centre is closing after 120 years. Their work will continue, but not from Woodbrooke: indeed, Victoria Terrace is one of the locations they might hold events. There is a clear statement explaining the decision at <https://bit.ly/3SRkdrS>

The affordability of **Edinburgh Meeting House** in Victoria Terrace is causing concern, and was the subject of an article in March's SESAME and discussion at AM. Your input is welcome.

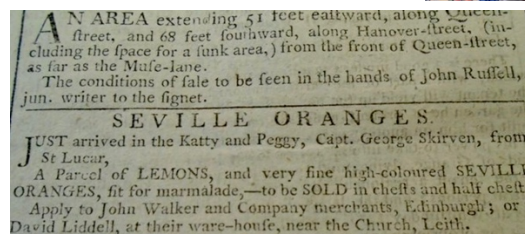
Options for Quakers in Scotland – the group looking at our organisation has published its final report at <https://bit.ly/scotquaker-options> It recommends that there should be a **single body for Quakers in Scotland**, combining all our AMs, GM, and charities. For discussion at AM in May, and GM in June. Neil Turner represented SESAM on the group and is happy to answer Qs.

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

BIRTHDAYS

To **Jacob**, who will be 12 on the 2nd. Have a lovely day, and dream of this culinary treat.

Marmalade. Wondrous and nutritious, but being tragically usurped on the breakfast table by microwaved sweetened oats with powdered milk and emulsifier.



In 1778, national newspapers advertised the arrival of a shipload of Seville oranges (@RCPEHeritage).

Competition



These stone markers '5' and '7' in a Canaan Lane wall are repeated in Whitehouse Loan. What are they about? *Esther S and the family of the editor are barred from winning prizes in this exciting competition.* Esther MC is not. Answers in May.

News of Friends

Jenny Robertson – Our Friend Jenny Robertson died on 9th March. Her funeral will be held at 12 noon on **Thur 30 March** at Seafeld Crematorium, EH6 7LD. In a June 1998 *Getting to Know* she summarised her life in Fife, Edinburgh, and Durham, as well as her work in teaching and in counselling, and described finding Quakers.