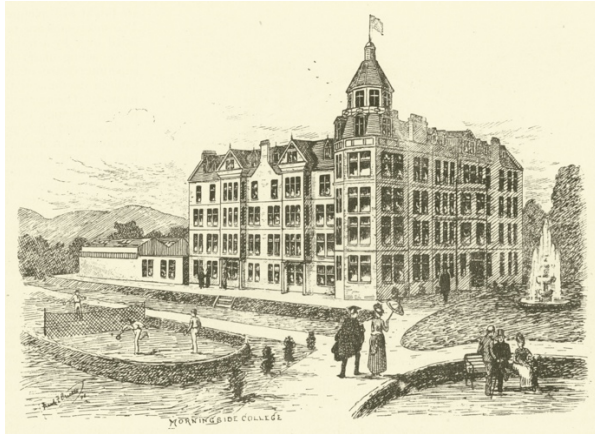




SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2024



Morningside College. Hydropathic hotel, school, Royal Hospital for Sick Children – all once near us (see p2).

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings usually **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** Held at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, or remotely by Zoom (hybrid, except on the 4th Sunday each month).

Notices, other options, 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.

Arrangements for children: 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 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 **The Welcoming**, which supports asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in Edinburgh. Esther Shreeve will speak to this. www.thewelcoming.org

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Special General Meeting to discuss the idea of a single Quaker organisation for Scotland, Quakers in Scotland (QIS). **Sat 6 Apr**, 10am-1pm, online only, link by email. Advance info at <https://quakerscotland.org/general-meeting/qis-news>

Our experiences of becoming Quakers – an opportunity to share what led us to becoming Quakers. Central Edinburgh after meeting, 12.45-2pm on **Sun 7 April** (Juliet Henderson).

Quakers and Prison Abolition: A conversation organised by the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network. Glasgow Meeting House, 10-3.30, **Sat 13 April**. Hybrid. Contact anneke.kraakman@gmail.com to register in person or with Qs, or join by Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3Te8mGI> About the Community Justice Network: <https://quakerscotland.org> – click on Our Work. Relevant programme:

Prisons on the Brink, a 1h documentary featuring Perth prison, is available *till 10 April*. iPlayer at <https://bbc.in/3TpiP0q>

Meeting for Witness for Peace in Princes St Gardens, 10.30 am on **Sun 21 April**.

See back page for further opportunities for public witness on peace and sustainability.

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

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

Book Group – Now on third Sundays after soup at Central MfW. April: *Trust* by Herman Diaz.



Unfortunately the café at the Open Door is expected to close at the beginning of April. It has struggled to cope with rising costs and the number of competing local coffee shops. That doesn't hold any immediate implications for our Sunday use of the lower floor.

Notes from local meeting for business Sun 3 March 2024

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

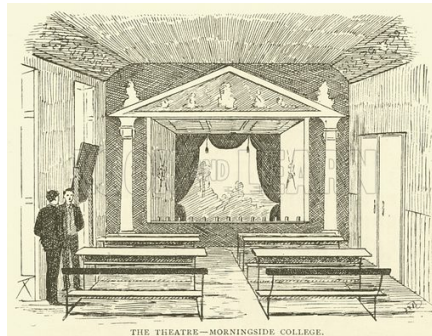
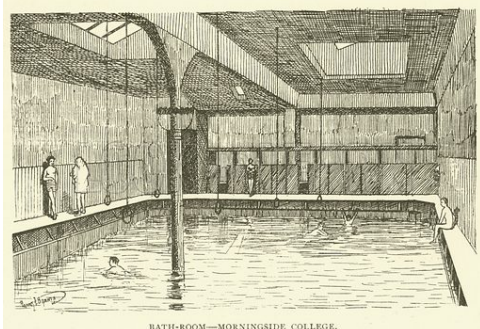
- We welcomed two new members, Angela and Rosamund, and noted the number of new attenders that we have welcomed recently.
- We recorded memorial minutes for three Friends (Sue, Jenny, Annette).
- Accounts – our rent for the Open Door (around £80 per week) is now £1000 per annum greater than income into our local meeting. Area Meeting and BYM face larger financial challenges. This 2 min video (aimed at treasurers) outlines BYM work <https://vimeo.com/917485955/6f59f72a5d>
- Charities for 2024-5 were agreed.
- A meeting to discuss progress towards coming together as Quakers in Scotland, a single charity, was arranged (and subsequently held).
- We're still looking for a third person to complete our clerking team.

Hidden and not in plain sight

Morningside Hydropathic – Morningside College – Royal Hospital for Sick Children

At the West end of Craiglea Drive, just by the boundary of the Craighouse estate, you can see a row of Victorian houses that don't look so very different from others in the area. But they sit on the site of a substantial building with a short life. Its entrance was on Morningside Drive shortly before it turns sharply North and downhill (see map at top of p3). The Eastern boundary of its grounds was St Clair Terrace.

This was conceived as Morningside Hydropathic Hotel, built in 1879 but just too late, at the end of a craze for such establishments. It was located at the foot of Easter Craiglockart Hill, overlooking open country and fresh air. It never opened as a hotel, but in 1882 opened as Morningside College, a high school for boys. It must have seemed well equipped, with its swimming bath and theatre, and generous grounds. Its principal moved to establish another, smaller Edinburgh school after a few years, and the College seems to have closed around 1889.



Bath room, theatre, and a corridor on the classroom floor.
Images from *A Pictorial Review of Knowledge* (W Kent, 1888), with permission (copyright Look and Learn).

From 1890 to 1895 the building was renamed Plewlands House and accommodated the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC). The RHSC had to leave its inadequate premises at the foot of Lauriston Lane after a fatal outbreak of typhoid. The staff were impressed by the ward space in the new building, but found its size daunting, and its location too distant from the centre of medicine in Edinburgh. The swimming bath was converted to a laundry. In 1895 the hospital moved out to their grand, purpose-built hospital in Sciennes.

Plewlands House was demolished in about 1900. Morningside Grove was driven through its grounds, and new housing built over most of its site. Only the sizeable nursery garden to the South remained a while longer. Today it's hard to picture any of this history, though there are signs of the perimeter, and probably there are re-used stones in the houses that replaced it.



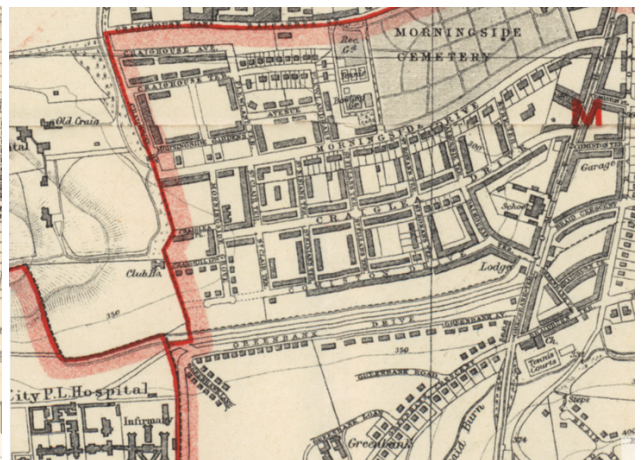
Morningside Grove

Craiglea Drive

Plewlands House
(RHSC) 1890



1882 1890



1902 1932

Maps all from National Library of Scotland. At <https://bit.ly/3PyRYxQ> you can fade in and out a modern map, and change the map shown. It opens at 1882 as in the middle left map above.

News and future events

Woodbrooke Where You Are – AM's programme of five whole-day sessions at Victoria Terrace continues on **11 May** with *What happens in meeting for worship*. For booking arrangements see <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

Bayard Rustin – a remarkable Quaker who made a major contribution to the philosophy and organisation of Martin Luther King's organisation, including the landmark 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Learn more about his life and faith in four Friday pm Woodbrooke online sessions, **April 5-26**, £48/£24, <https://bit.ly/3P5eJZY> (suggested by David Somervell). There's a 44 min free intro from BBC Radio at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vcqr



Family weekend in Pitlochry. Held at the Atholl Centre at Pitlochry Mon **3-5 May**. Contact Mary Troup.

Ecumenical accompaniers wanted – spend 3 months in Palestine and Israel monitoring human rights. Expenses covered. Details at www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/eappi/get-involved

Shindig – between 11 and 16 on 30 June? It's for you. **27 July – 3 Aug**, nearer home this year, at Millport Field Studies Centre, Isle of Cumbrae (West of Largs). Info and booking link at <https://bit.ly/3VoMedy> and more at <https://bit.ly/3wuHloR>

Wiston weekend 2024 – help needed. The venue is booked for **Fri 6 – Sun 8 Sep** but organisers are still required. Please contact iandouglassedwards@gmail.com

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

Happy Birthday

A very happy birthday from all of us to **Jacob**, who will be 13 on the 2nd April .



Hey ChatGPT, could you make me a picture of a dog driving a Tesla, in the style of a woodcut?

Recently encountered, ready for Edinburgh's Low Emissions Zone (LEZ): a Tesla airport taxi.

Vigils

Climate vigils – Christian Climate Action Scotland continues to hold a vigil outside the Scottish Parliament on the last Tuesday of each month, 12-2 pm. This month **Tue 30 April**.

Women in Black (for justice, against war, <https://womeninblack.org>) meet **every Saturday** at the East end of Princes St from 1-2pm. Contact Alison Burnley or Helen Pilling.

