



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

June 2022



**Peace and Plenty** – seems far from what we are getting at the moment. This was originally a slogan from the debate about import taxes on corn in the 1840s, associated with the Quaker MP John Bright. See page 2.

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings **every Sunday 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, sometimes in a local garden, and (hybrid) also remotely by Zoom. *Arrangements still subject to change. Please check emails on the day.* Joining information for Zoom is sent via our South Edinburgh Announce email list. To join this see <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>.

On the **First Thursday of each month** we also meet for **30 min at 8 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 June is for **Faite Edinburgh**, our Area Meeting's initiative to welcome and support a refugee family in the city. Esther Shreeve will speak to this. It is hoped that the family may arrive in the early summer. For more info on the project, and how to help or donate, see project webpage at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-east/failte-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-east/failte-edinburgh)

### QUAKER EVENTS

**Evening Meeting** by Zoom on first Thursdays at 8pm, so **Thur 2 June**.

**Local Meeting for Business**, for our own meeting, will be held after Meeting for Worship on **Sun 5 June**.

A UK-wide '**Giant Online Meeting**' for Children and Families meeting is scheduled for 5pm on **Sun 5 June**. See [www.quaker.org.uk/events](http://www.quaker.org.uk/events)

**General Meeting for Scotland** will be held in Glasgow on **Sat 11 June**. Details in Scottish Friend (available from GM page at [quakerscotland.org](http://quakerscotland.org)).

**Area Meeting** will be held in Kelso on **Sat 25 June**, morning and afternoon, children welcome. Details in the newly colourful SESAME (available from SESAM page at [quakerscotland.org](http://quakerscotland.org)).

**Britain Yearly Meeting** is just finishing or finished, but a series of short videos from it is being updated at <https://bit.ly/3t0H9ZU>

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These Edinburgh Central events are open to South Edin too. They are back to in-person only. Qs to Rachel Frith of Central meeting.

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

**Singing group** at Victoria Terrace, 3.30 pm on First Tuesdays. Will be on holiday during July and August.

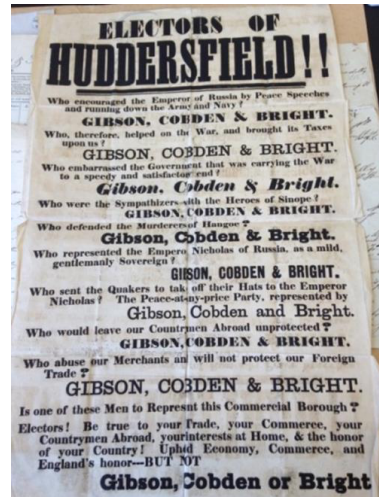
**Book Group** – meets 4th Sundays at 12.15 after Central MfW. June: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. For July: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.



Drain cover from the Bo'Ness Iron Co. The company lives on as Ballantine Castings, where you can get one of these, or railings or various other architectural metalwork. [https://ballantinecastings.co.uk](http://ballantinecastings.co.uk) and page 4.

## John Bright: Quaker, fashion historian, and ship

**Peace and Plenty** (page 1) was the slogan for Quaker MP John Bright's successful campaign with Richard Cobden against the Corn Laws 1838-46. These protected prices paid to British farmers while contributing to starving the poor. It became a popular cause with the public, most of whom did not have votes. The Corn Laws were finally repealed in 1846 at the time of the potato famine. Bright was a renowned orator who argued his moral positions so strongly that other politicians were at times reluctant to contradict.



John Bright, Thomas Milner Gibson, and Richard Cobden, the radical anti-war MPs who lost their seats in March 1857. By Honoré Daumier, Feb 1856, the year the Crimean War ended. © National Portrait Gallery (NPG D9862, CC-BY) Election poster March 1857 from Manchester Central Lib via Luke Heselwood PhD thesis 2016, Univ Manchester.

Bright is also remembered for his opposition to the Crimean War of 1853-6. This campaign was unpopular with press and public. It is blamed for him losing his Manchester seat as an MP, as did the other two pacifist MPs in the Daumier lithograph. However Bright was quickly taken on by Birmingham, where he remained MP for another 30 years. His Wikipedia page receives 69 views/day.



**Not Quaker Grey** This splendid 1830-1840 waistcoat is from the John Bright Collection at just time of the debate about the Corn Laws – take that, Morningside Parish Church yarn bombers? Unfortunately this is not the same John Bright. An easy mistake to make though, Wikipedia's **John Bright (disambiguation)** page lists a dozen John Brights.

The contemporary John Bright displays 25 more splendid waistcoats not worn by Quakers at [www.thejohnbrightcollection.co.uk](http://www.thejohnbrightcollection.co.uk) and it's worth a visit. He is a theatre and film costume designer who runs Cosprop, a place you can go if you suddenly need outfits for a period drama. The website shows 300 items from historical garments collected over 50 years, originally to inform accurate costume creation. Wonderful things created between 1720 and 1990.

**The right John Bright, but –** The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich holds this painting of the tea clipper 'John Bright', built in 1847. While named after the Quaker JB, it is notable both that it has gun ports, and that it is recorded as trading with China during the Opium Wars. These were condemned by pacifists at the time, and even more difficult to come to terms with in retrospect. (Wikipedia on Opium Wars: 1,181 views/day). Later in the century the John Bright took shiploads of emigrants, 700 at a time, to the United States. It was cheaper than by steamer. Lurid accounts of Mormon journeys to Salt Lake City survive *"we went on board ship the 4th of June [1868]. It was a sail called John Bright. We were on the sea six weeks and two days. The sea was very rough, at times, and I was very sick."*



<https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu> and [www.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/rmgc-object-14786](http://www.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/rmgc-object-14786)

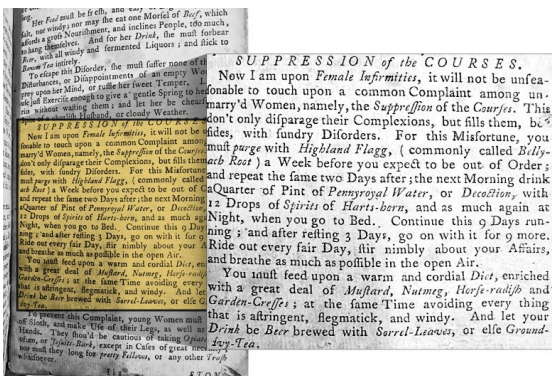
## SHORT AND LONG

### Grand Union Canal 1938



Wistful and calming 10 min film on canals that were still working 100 years after the birth of railways. Manual loading and unloading. Some still pulled by horses. At 8 mins we see families who lived and worked on them. From the BFI, free at <https://bit.ly/3lmRoDy>

### A US abortion guide



The multi-talented Benjamin Franklin published a self-help book *The American Instructor* in 1748, including mathematics, advice about writing, and a section on health. The latter included guidance on how to induce an abortion with herbal medicines, (efficacy unknown), <https://bit.ly/3wh99L0> (Slate).

Franklin was a writer and signatory of the Declaration of Independence. His impressive **Wikipedia page of the month** (6,700 views/day) documents his achievements in an astonishing range of fields. He gave up his slaves and opposed slavery, was a vegetarian, and promoted smallpox vaccination. He was described by John Adams as a mirror in which people saw their own religion: he wasn't, but 'Friends believed him a wet Quaker'.

Franklin spent time in Edinburgh, and encouraged others to study here. Some became founders of the first North American medical schools.

### The wrong concerto

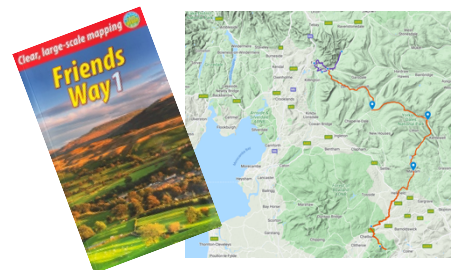


In 1999 Maria Joao Pires was soloist for a Mozart piano concerto. As the introduction started up, she realised that she had rehearsed the wrong concerto. Share the agony in a short video at [https://youtu.be/CJXnYML\\_SuA](https://youtu.be/CJXnYML_SuA)

Did you ever have that dream in which you turn over an exam paper to find only questions that you have not studied? Apologies to those taking exams now, but there can be a happy ending –

In the piano concerto example, a panicked, whispered conversation with the conductor follows. In the end she is brilliant, and it is uplifting. Nice comments beneath.

### Walking cheerfully



62 miles broken into 7 suggested sections for doing one at a time, or serially in a week with backpack and B+B's. The route revisits George Fox's journey of 1652, starting at Pendle Hill. Then via Malham Cove, Wharfedale, Ribblesdale Viaduct, ending in Sedbergh, with two day trips from there, including Brigflatts Meeting House. Very nicely set in context and presented in a pocket sized book or eBook, [www.rucsacs.com/book/friends-way-1](http://www.rucsacs.com/book/friends-way-1)

Book 2, 'Margaret Fell's Journey', Sedbergh to Swarthmoor Hall, is due to follow next year. Other routes in Scotland and England also available.

## NEWS

**Wiston Weekend – Fri-Sun 9-11 Sep** promises a wide range of outdoor and indoor activities, shared experiences, for all ages. For those both new and old to Quakers. Wiston is a little beyond Biggar. Stay in the lodge/ cabins/ camping. More info and booking at <http://ctzn.tk/QWW> – book early! Deadline is 10 July. You can sign up to the mailing list at <https://bit.ly/3MJrJkH>

**Fàilte update** – the Home Office has approved SESAM as sponsors. Updates on this project to support a refugee family are posted at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-east/failte-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-east/failte-edinburgh) It is hoped to welcome a family in early summer.



**Building bridges** – citizen diplomacy with Russian People – guidance at [www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/ukraine/citizendiplomacy](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/ukraine/citizendiplomacy)

### From Woodbrooke

A selection. For further info search by date or title at [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses)

**Claiming our collective power:** social witness among Friends. Online course runs **1-26 Jun**. Joint with Pendle Hill (US); final weekend is intense.

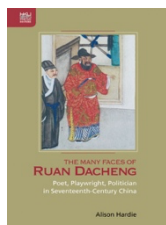
**Changing the conversation on Asylum.** Online event **16 Jun** 7-8.30 pm.

**Young adult Climate retreat.** Physically at Woodbrooke **30 Sep – 2 Oct** for those aged 18-35.

### Local Friends

Congratulations to **Sue Sierra**, who has been appointed Professor of Non-Commutative Algebra. Sequence is important Friends. Shoes before socks? More at <https://edin.ac/3slNJdr>

**Alison Hardie's** latest academic work, on the poet, playwright, politician and 'treacherous official' Ruan Dacheng (1587-1646), is out now. Ask her to bewilder you with a mistaken-identity drama.



**Sylvia Massey** is hoped to be well enough to return home with her fixed hip soon.

*Do you have someone to mention here?*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to **Esther**, who will be 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

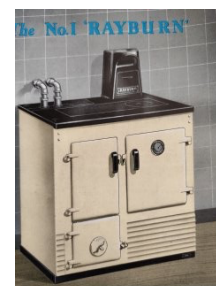


This image of some children's slippers from the 1950s may one day be an interesting reminder of our binge on fossil fuels.

## INTERNETS

### Cast iron Friends

Our **Twitter account of the month** is **Falkirk Cast Iron Made Friends** @FalkirkMade (408 followers). Not Scottish Quakers made of iron, though some of these do exist. Instead, snippets about the iron industry, conditions, and social circumstances between Bo'ness and Falkirk.



For example, did you know that the Gowanbank foundry was the largest producer of baths in the UK in the 1920s? Or that 100 years ago there was stiff competition between local companies to produce the best domestic stoves. 1900 and 1946 illustrations shown.

*Our newsletter is usually published near the last Sunday of each month. Summer surrealism to [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com)*

*Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)*