



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

June 2026



Eight Friends at May's Meeting for Peace in Princes St Gardens. Next occasion is 28 Jun. We heard Helen Stevens' statement from the dock in 1984 during MfW (QF&P 24.27). *David Somervell*

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 June is **Northern Friends Peace Board**, which has supported and encouraged 'the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth' since 1913. David Somervell will speak to this. www.nfpb.org.uk has more info and a Donate heading in the top menu. There's an impressive detailed history and more beneath 'About'.

QUAKER EVENTS

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

Outreach – *Quakers in SESAM: living the vision, growing our future*. Workshop – how might we let people know what their local Quakers offer. Facilitated by Elizabeth Allen and Rosemary Hartill. **Sat 30 May**, 10-1 (tea/coffee from 9.30).

Meadows Meet-up for children and young people, 11 am **Sun 31 May** outside Pavillion Café.

The Work That Reconnects – 5 evening sessions running again from **Mon 1 Jun**; see back page.

Quakers in Scotland meet in Glasgow (hybrid) on **Sat 6 June**. 10.30-4pm. Details by email.

Local Meeting for Business will be held after mfW on **Sun 14 June**, bring a sandwich, finished by 2.

Welcome to newcomers and recent attenders at Alison Chalmers house **Sun 21 June** 5-8 pm. Contact ros.robertsonpark@gmail.com or text Ros.

Book Group on *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier, **Thur 25 Jun**, 2 pm, home of Alison Robertson Morish. Then a break till September.

Meeting for Peace in Princes St Gardens **Sun 28 Jun**, 10.30 at the Peace Tree, between the bandstand and the Ross Fountain.

Tangled Roots: Swarthmore Lecture 2026 with lecturer Stuart Masters. 7 Victoria Terrace on **Sat 4 July** 10-4.30. Booking (£40; young people £20) and more info at <https://bit.ly/42BWAJC> Lecture recording at https://youtu.be/WCInrgAf_ck

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

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

Central Book Group – third Sundays after soup. June: *The Yield* by Tara June Winch.



Wild swimming at Jupiter Artland. 11-12 on Sat/Sun through the summer. Book at <https://bit.ly/4uk0nay>

Notes from Local Meeting for Business on 8 March 2026

These should have been included in last month's issue, apologies. Full Minutes were circulated by email, but key points were:

- Death café: discussion about holding/ joining one (demystifying death, not accelerating it).
- A possible one-off Meeting held at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital was mooted.
- Annual accounts were reviewed, guided by our treasurer Phil Noble. This included discussion around a legacy from Sue Freshwater. We have few fixed costs beyond renting the Open Door.
- We agreed to contribute £100 to Ramallah Friends School, and £200 to support our Friend Justin Kenrick's legal defence following his arrest for peacefully holding a sign for Palestine Action. This is in addition to donations from Area Meeting, and individual Friends have contributed also at www.crowdjustice.com/case/defend-our-juries-scotland
- Meetings with MPs are asked for (Daniel Johnson MSP and Ian Murray MP).
- Clerking team – additional help would be welcome.
- Open Door – Carol Jennings reported on work to make it financially sustainable by increasing paid and paying attendees during the week. Without this the financial future is not fully secure, and changes in staff have added challenges.
- A growing Meeting – We are cramped when full, and continue to review whether there could be good alternative venues.
- Next meeting Sunday 14 June after Meeting for Worship.

Sundays with Kiev Friends

Since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine, Friends in Kiev have held regular online Meetings for Worship. Somehow, I have found myself on the Sunday morning zoom meeting at 8.30 am promoted as being 'in the Ukrainian language' and, wherever I am based, I have continued to be there every week since the start of the war.

We are few in numbers and it feels to me like the meeting of a little family; it helps to know a little about those individuals who patiently continue to pray for peace in the midst of a terrible adversity that I can only imagine.



Banksy-style mural in Lviv by Andriy Yermolenko

I hold in the Light one Friend who enjoyed telling me about Ukrainian music composers; he suffered greatly following the death of his mother and just a few months later the burning of his home; he was in despair. He has since been 'mobilised'. I share relief that he is in an administrative post and not called to arms, and I understand the sense of stability he now feels with other comrades around him.

One Friend is a saxophonist and the leader of two orchestras; he is saddened that mothers are afraid to allow their children to leave their home to participate. When Yuri Sheiliazhenko is able to join us online he often ministers, firstly in English for me and then in Ukrainian. Yuri is a well known conscientious objector who was snatched from the street by Ukrainian police in March, arrested and tortured for his beliefs, then released following international outcry. And then there is our other Yuri who steadfastly manages to be there every time.

For a few weeks there have only been three of us in the meeting, sending each other hearts and waving each other an early farewell as I may be rushing off to get to meeting in South Edinburgh. Sometimes, being there with Friends and holding them in the Light is all we can do.

Contact details and a schedule of meetings at <https://friends.org.ua/contacts-and-online-worship-eng> or contact Jeanne.

Jeanne Steinhardt

An experience that changed me

In 1946 I was in the Army, in the Intelligence Corps, expecting to go to Germany to chase Black Marketeers and people stealing Army property. The war in Europe had finished a year before and activities were closing down on the Continent. As a result, some of us were offered the chance to become officers in a different regiment instead. For me that involved hanging around where I had been and doing various boring jobs such as being a temporary storeman until there was a place at the officer training unit.

One day I was summoned to the Company Commander's office and asked if I would help a young soldier in another regiment who couldn't read or write. When I left school I had intended to become a schoolteacher after Army service, so this was an opportunity to be welcomed. We met in a reading room two or three times, and it soon became clear that this young soldier could read and fill in his football pools, read the results in the newspaper and read his girl friend's letters and reply. What he couldn't do was read the Orders on the Company notice board, telling him to be on parade at 6.00 a.m. next morning!

Thinking about this, I realised that knowledge is not enough; there needs to be motivation as well. This led to something that had been floating around at the back of my head for some time, and eventually to offering myself for ordination as a priest in the Church of England. For forty years I had an active ministry, mostly in parishes, but also as a hospital chaplain, a school chaplain, teaching physics and chemistry, and a short period of research.

What would have happened if I hadn't met someone who his colleagues would have called a 'skiver'? Who knows?

John Hampton

A Quaker song

Rosemary Hartill contributes a song from Andrew Carter performed at York Meeting House in 2002. Apply to Rosemary or the editor for more verses; first and last of 6 run:

I'm a Quaker, I'm a Quaker,
With a direct line to my Maker.
No vicar, no priest, no bishop or pastor,
The long road to heaven is travelled much faster;
It's so very easy without a set creed;
We've abandoned all music, there's really no need
For the Quakers, for the Quakers.

I'm a Quaker, quite a Quaker,
And I'm proud that I'm not a law-breaker;
Though I do like a very occasional tippie,
The odd tot of gin, or a double, or triple.
I ponder sometimes where the spirit is leading:
They've fined me again for habitual speeding.
Keep it dark - I'm the Clerk!
And a Friend, world without end.

On the interwebs



Aarnevesch (Daughter) 'A teen girl hits a crossroads'. An absorbing portrayal of rural Iranian life in which a teenager is torn between duty and future – staying home to look after her disabled father versus further study and a rewarding career in a remote city. 25 minutes at <https://bit.ly/4wZDIr8>

Lego animations – Eddy Izard Parody by Lego animation is topical, but these from [@lckletoonies](https://www.instagram.com/@lckletoonies) on Instagram are older, and based on older-still stop-motion versions. There is one on Paul's letters, but most have tenuous bearing on Quakers or religion, and the very best is notable for profuse use of F words. That's a

strong caution, but if you're OK with that, enjoy *Death Star Canteen* in which superiority and pomposity are nicely speared www.instagram.com/p/DWYvWP2iK5y



Other news and future events

The Work That Reconnects group are running five Monday evening workshops starting **1st June** facilitated by Chris Booth, Jane Lewis, Jonathan Baxter. For anyone engaged with the climate and ecological crises. Full details at <https://artandecology.earth/work-that-reconnects> (scroll down for booking link).

Living our Peace Testimony – a gathering at York Meeting House 10.30-4 on **13 June**, organised by NFPB (this month's charity). Book at <https://forms.gle/8NPLdiuv5cSnMoqM7>

Later events at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

Quakers in Scotland meetings are listed at <https://quakerscotland.org/qis/meeting-dates-and-papers>

Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday each month. Niche expertise and eccentric interest-based content to neilturn@gmail.com Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh

Happy Birthday

Notable Quakers with both June birthdays and Wikipedia pages include:

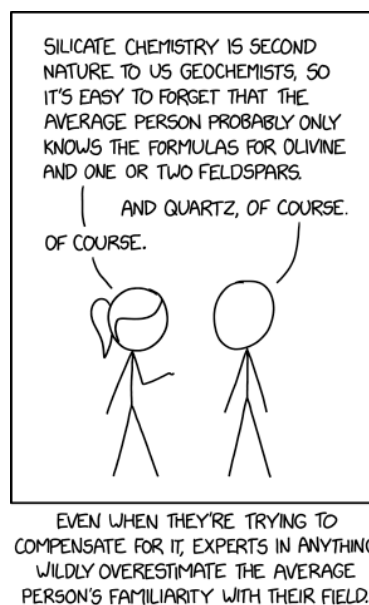
Samuel Galton, Birmingham arms manufacturer, member of the Lunar Society, and philanthropist (273 years). Featured in this newsletter in June 2017.

Kathleen Rutherford, Glasgow-born and trained doctor, humanitarian worker, and peace campaigner (130 years).

Paul Eddington actor in the ever-relevant *Yes Minister* series and others (99 years).

Your eccentric niche expertise

Could make fascinating content here.



Silicates are everywhere! It's hard to throw a rock without throwing one! (xkcd.com – Creative Commons)